

## Are There Animals in Heaven?

*(All Biblical quotations in this article are from the King James Version of the Bible)*

Animal lovers believe that heaven will reunite them with beloved pets. Many passages in the Bible confirm God's love and concern for all of His creation. Genesis 1:25, "And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good."

God included every living creature in His covenant with Noah after the flood, Genesis 9:16. God told Jonah of His concern for the people *and animals* in Nineveh, Jonah 4:11. God delighted in telling Job of the beauty and majesty of His creatures and how He cares for them, Job 38:39—Job 39:30. Nathan used an example of a pet lamb to show David that he had sinned. 2 Samuel 12:3, "But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter." There are two witnesses recorded in the Bible who saw animals in heaven. Peter, in Acts 10:10-12, and John, in Revelation 5:13.

King Solomon, known for his great wisdom, wrote in Ecclesiastes 3:14, "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him." Verses 19-20, "For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. <sup>20</sup>All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again." He wrote in Ecclesiastes 12:7, "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

Isaiah was given a glimpse of the new heavens and new earth to come. Isaiah 65:25, "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They

shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD."

The Psalms are full of references to God deserving praise from all living creatures because he created and cares for them. In Psalm 50:10-11, "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. <sup>11</sup>I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine." Psalm 104:24,30, "O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. <sup>30</sup>Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth." King David wrote in Psalm 145:9-10, "The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works. <sup>10</sup>All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee." Psalm 148:5, "Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created." Psalm 150:6, "Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD."

Many of the events in Jesus' life were shared with animals: His birth, Luke 2:7, "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." After His baptism, Mark 1:12-13, "And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness.<sup>13</sup>And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him." On Palm Sunday, when he rode into town on a donkey, Matthew 21:5, "Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass."

Throughout the Bible animals have been included in God's plan for His creation. This includes the life to come.

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