

All Animals Go To Heaven

Like man, animals were created with a body, and a soul and spirit that live on after their bodies have died. Unlike man, all animals' souls and spirits return to God upon their physical deaths.

Job 12:7-10

⁷ But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee:⁸ Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee.⁹ Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this?¹⁰ **In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.**

In Ecclesiastes, Solomon wrote that whatever God does lasts forever. That would include the creation of the animals. Their souls and spirits last forever.

Ecclesiastes 3:14-15

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 him¹⁵ That which hath been is

now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.

Solomon also wrote that there is “no new thing under the sun.” Since that is so, everything on earth--under the sun--would have to be a copy of something found in heaven. There are animals in heaven.

Ecclesiastes 1:9

The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and **there is no new thing under the sun.**

You may have been told that animals do not have a soul, but you will see that “creatures” and “souls” refer to man and animals. Here is another way to explain that man is not the only creature with a soul. Joshua broadens the definition of “all the souls” to “all that breathed” by a simple re-statement.

Joshua 10:39-40

³⁹ And he took it, and the king thereof, and all the cities thereof; and they smote them with the edge of the sword, and **utterly destroyed all the**

souls that were therein; he left none remaining: as he had done to Hebron, so he did to Debir, and to the king thereof; as he had done also to Libnah, and to her king. ⁴⁰ So Joshua smote all the country of the hills, and of the south, and of the vale, and of the springs, and all their kings: he left none remaining, **but utterly destroyed all that breathed**, as the LORD God of Israel commanded.

The breath of God is discussed in several places in the Bible. It gives life to all things. It is His breath (spirit) that connects God to everyone—man and animal—that has ever drawn breath. It is not just man that has received the breath of life, but animals, too.

Genesis 2:7

And **the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**; and man became a living soul.

Job 27:3

All the **while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils**;

Job 33:4

The Spirit of God hath made me, and the **breath of the Almighty hath given me life.**

Job 34:14-15

If he set his heart upon man, **if he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath; All flesh shall perish together,** and man shall turn again unto dust.

Genesis 6:17

And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy **all flesh, wherein is the breath of life,** from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.

Genesis 7:15

And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two **of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life.**

Acts 17:25

Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing **he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;**

The following verse, written by Solomon, tells us

what happens to man and beast when the dust (which is the earthly body) and the spirit (breath of God) separate at physical death. The dust returns to the earth. It is the spirit that returns to God when the body dies.

Ecclesiastes 12:7

Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and **the spirit shall return unto God** who gave it.

God is the God of the spirits of all flesh, so all flesh has God's spirit. Not every man has the Holy Ghost indwelling his heart, but every creature has the spirit of God as long as he is breathing.

Numbers 16:22

And they fell upon their faces and said, **O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh,** shall one man sin, and wilt thou be wroth with all the congregation?

Numbers 27:15-16

And Moses spake unto the LORD, saying, **Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh,** set a man over the congregation,...

One thing you may not know, or have thought about, is what happens to animals, specifically our pets, at the Rapture of believers. Paul lets us know that animals, too, will be getting immortal, incorruptible bodies for eternal life in heaven. Remember, all animals will go to heaven. There are no “unbelievers” in the animal kingdom.

Paul’s description of the Rapture in Romans is from the prospective of “the creature.” We know that Paul is speaking of animals in this verse because he identifies them as being subject to vanity, not of their own fault, but because man, who has dominion over the animals, became subject to vanity—sin—when Adam and Eve committed the first sin. But God has given man certain hope and so the animals, too, have the same hope.

Romans 8:20

For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

Below, Paul explains the hope that man and animals share. The animals will be delivered

from the bondage of corruption, their earthly bodies, just as man will. Note, the following passage says, “the creature itself also shall be delivered...into the glorious liberty of the children of God.”

Romans 8:21

Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Paul says that the “whole creation (all creatures who can feel pain—both man and animal) groaneth and travaileth in pain together...”

Romans 8:22

For we know that **the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.**

Then Paul says that not only the animals, but we who have the firstfruits of the Spirit—indwelling Holy Ghost—groan as we wait for the adoption (the Rapture) when our bodies will be redeemed.

Romans 8:23

And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Animals figure prominently in Paul's discussion of the Rapture in the first letter to the Corinthians, too. Much of the 15th chapter focuses on the different types of bodies in creation and how they will be changed when they are raised at the Adoption. Paul compares the different bodies to seeds which have to be sown and then become something completely different.

Notice how he starts with the different types of living flesh. He then uses the sun, moon, and stars to show that each, though different, has its own glory. He goes on to say that with the resurrection of the dead, bodies change from corrupt to incorrupt, dishonourable to glorious, weak to powerful, and natural to spiritual.

1 Corinthians 15:39-44

All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. **There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.** There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

Paul makes no distinction between the flesh of men and the flesh of beasts, fishes, and birds when it comes to death and resurrection. The event described in the following verses is the Rapture, the Adoption, that we read about in Romans. Flesh and blood are changed from corruptible to incorruption and mortal to immortality—of both man and animal.

1 Corinthians 15:50-53

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

The Bible says a lot about animals and their place in God's plans. Animals, like man, were created by God with a body, a soul, and a spirit. Since the creation, animals have shared the fate of man here on earth. Because of man, animals are subject to the curse of sin, with all of its suffering, disease, and death. Unlike man, all animals know God. All of their souls and spirits return to God when their earthly bodies die.

Man also has a body, a soul and a spirit, but our souls return to God only if we believe that the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ paid for our sins. After death, believers'

souls and spirits return to God to be reunited with believing family and friends we have known here on earth. We will also know believers that we have never met before!

We animal lovers, who have had special relationships with pets here on earth can look forward to seeing our special animal family members in heaven, too.

We cannot know everything now about our lives in eternity. We do have God speaking to us through His word, the Bible. We can study to get a glimpse of the wonders that await believers after we die. Seeing our wonderful pets again in heaven is one of the wonders.

1 Corinthians 13:12

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; **but then shall I know even as also I am known.**