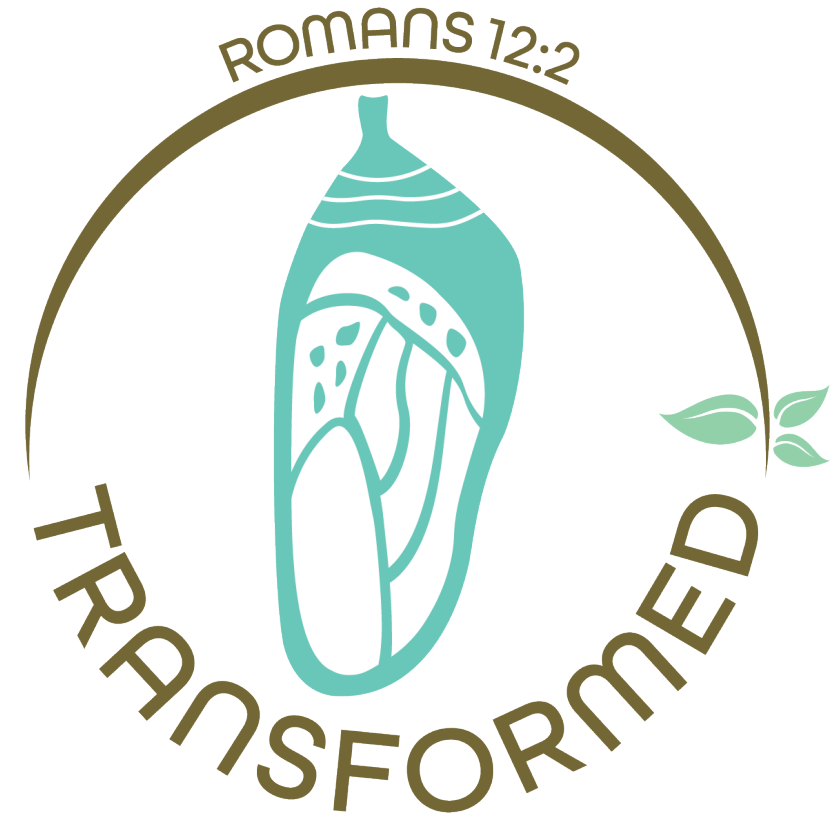
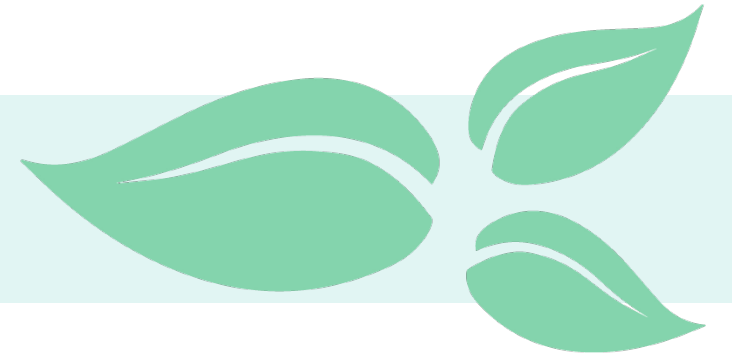




Christian Veterinary Mission

Sharing Christ's Love
Through Veterinary Medicine





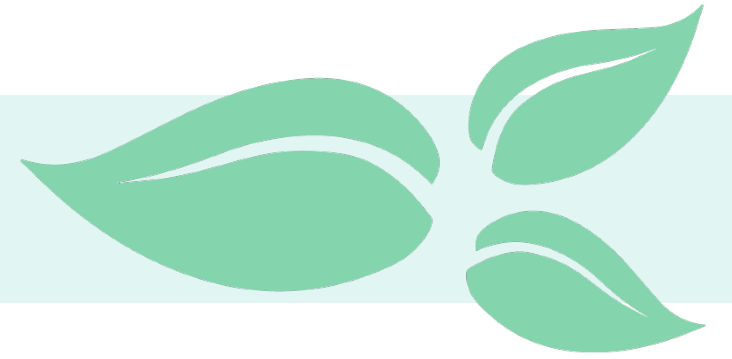
What Does the Bible Really Say About Animals?

And What Does that Mean for Us?

-Curtiss Gibbs

Curtiss and Shannon Gibbs, and Elko





We are going to learn from each other today.

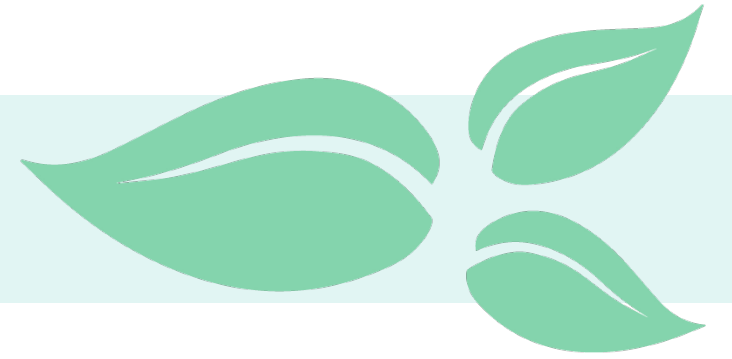
What are some of your favorite scripture references about animals ?

Favorite Bible stories that involve animals?



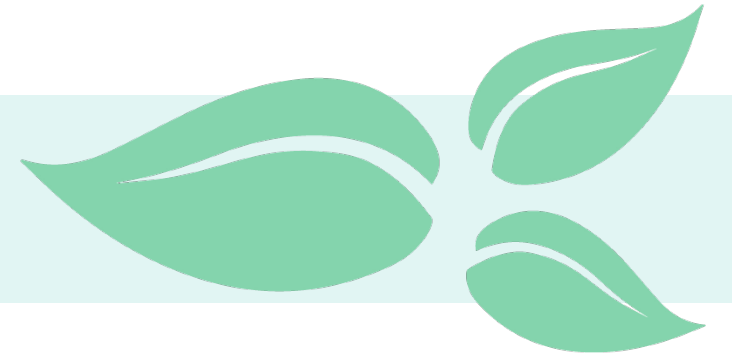
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We are going to learn from each other today.

What are some of your biggest questions about what Bible does, or does not say, about animals?



What have you heard about animals and their souls/if they have a soul?

What do you say if asked this question?



**DO PETS GO
TO HEAVEN?**

What and where is Heaven anyway?





The Bible does address many issues about animals and our role.

The Bible also leaves many questions unanswered.

At times, we fight for the right/wrong reasons.





And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1: 20-25

In Genesis, we see sphere being created & filled.



²⁰ And God said, "Let the water teem with **living creatures**, [נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה - **nephesh chayyah**] and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky."

...²⁴ And God said, "Let the land produce **living creatures** [נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה - **nephesh chayyah**] according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so.



נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה

nephesh chayyah
“soul/breath of life”

ψυχὴ ζῶσα

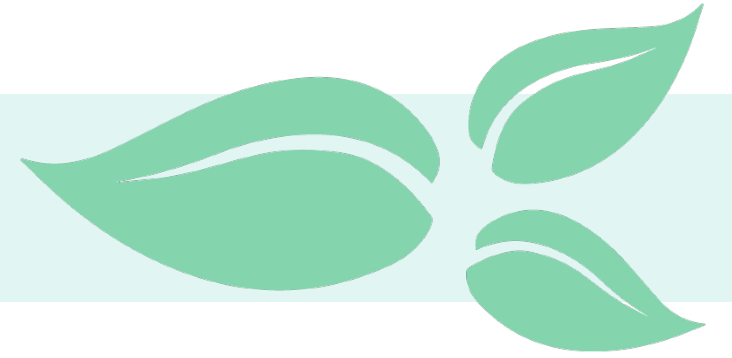
psuchon zoson
“soul living”



There is a difference between these images of God's Creation.



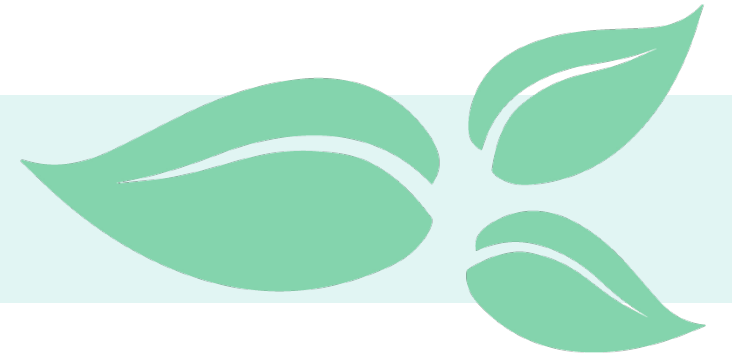
God uses animals in the Bible



Balaam's assinine speech. – Numbers 22:28

“Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, ‘What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?’”

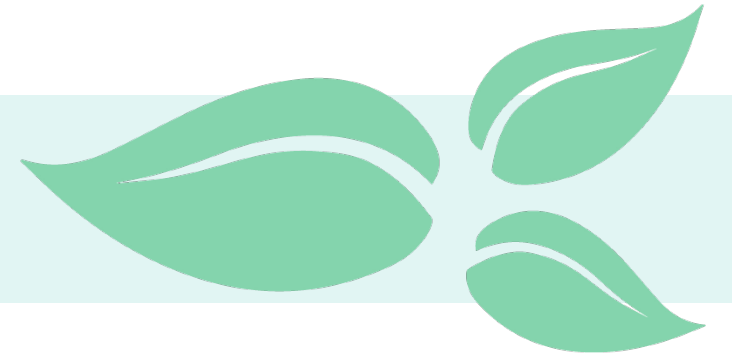
God uses animals in the Bible



Jesus enters on a donkey. -Matthew 21:5

“Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

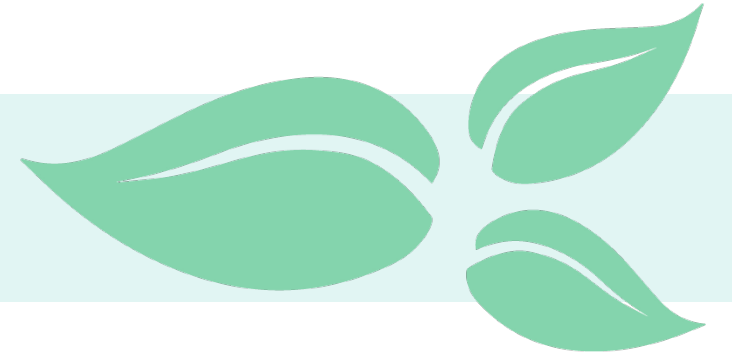
God uses animals in the Bible



The king of canines obey. –Daniel 6:22

“My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm.”

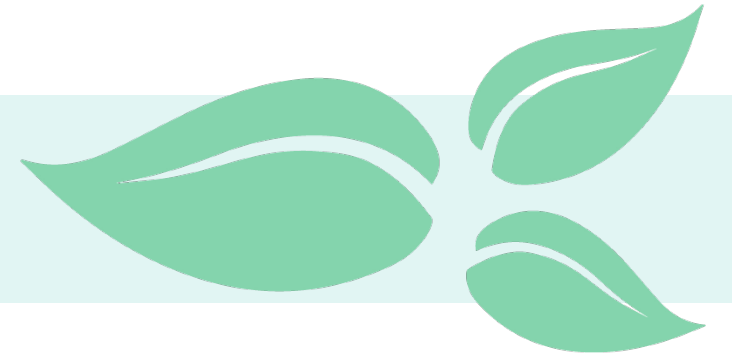
God uses animals in the Bible



Jonah's piscine timeout. –Jonah 1:17

“And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”

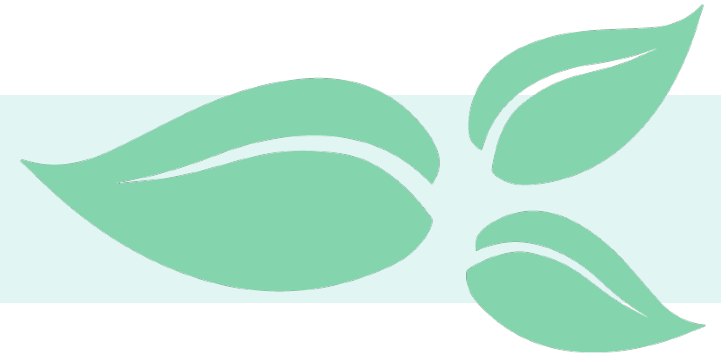
God uses animals in the Bible



Avian appearance at Jesus's Baptism – Luke 3:22

“...and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in a bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: ‘You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.’”

God uses animals in the Bible



Equines at the End – Revelation 19:14-16

The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. 'He will rule them with an iron scepter.' He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

King of Kings and Lord of Lords.



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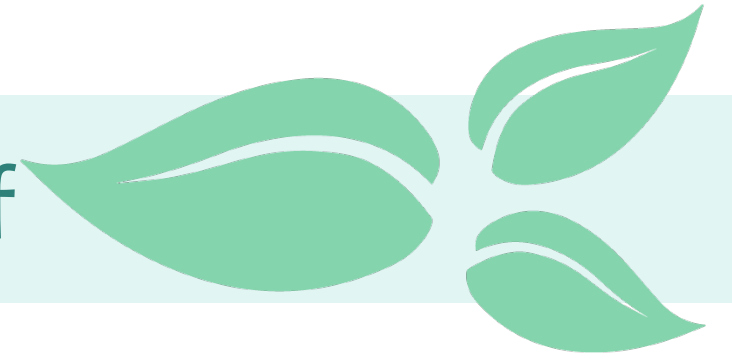
God uses animal imagery for Himself



Lamb – John 1:29

“Behold the lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”

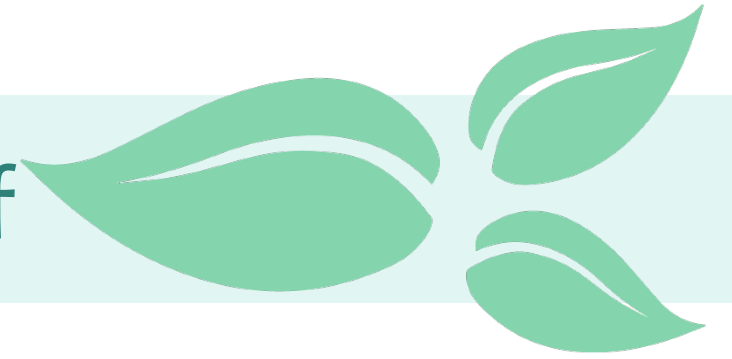
God uses animal imagery for Himself



Lion – Revelation 5:5

“Then one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.’”

God uses animal imagery for Himself



Wings – Psalm 91:4

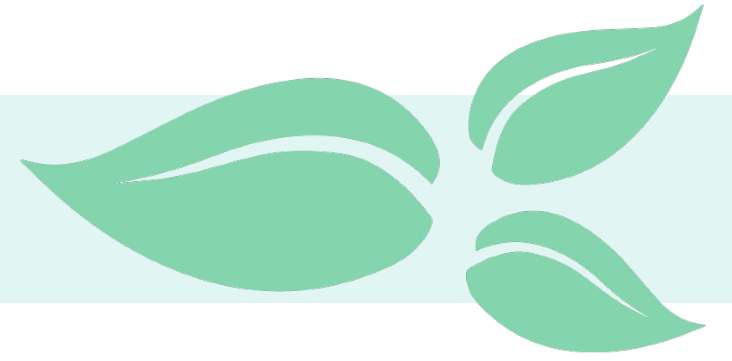
“He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and
rampart.”



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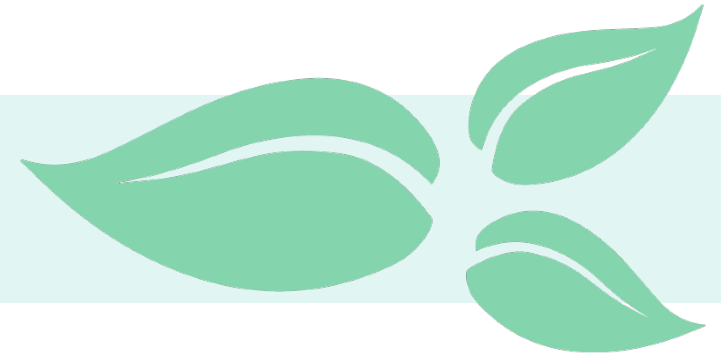
Commonalities with animals and us



Creation –Genesis 1:31

“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.”

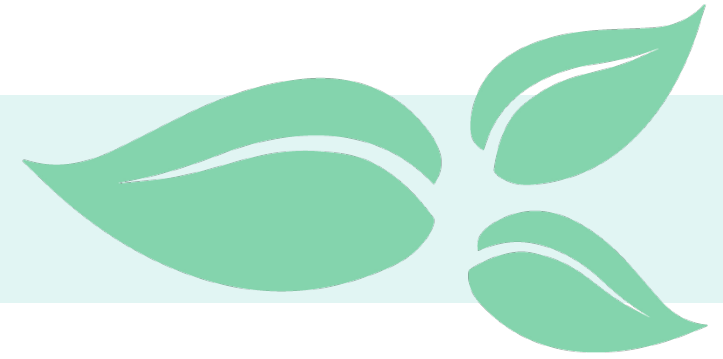
Commonalities with animals and us



Judgment –Genesis 6:11-13

“Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw that the earth was corrupt, for all *flesh* had corrupted its ways upon the earth. And God said to Noah, “I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; now I am going to destroy them along with the earth.

Commonalities with animals and us



A common call –Psalm 148:7-14

Praise the Lord from the earth,

you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle,
small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations,
you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and women,
old men and children. Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.”



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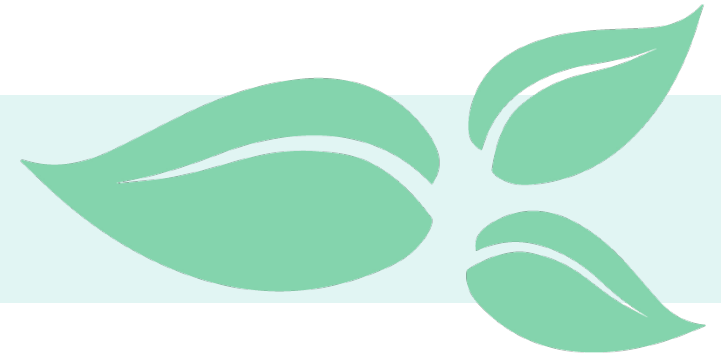
Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Genesis 1: 26-28

A distinct purpose from God



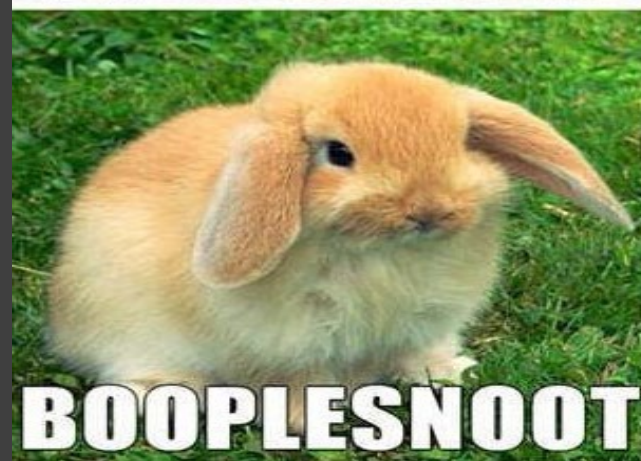
Stewardship –Genesis 1:28

“Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Distinct participatory purpose began with Adam.

“So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.”

-Genesis 2:20



“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”
-Exodus 20:8-11



COME TO ME, ALL OF YOU
WHO ARE STRUGGLING AND BURDENED,
AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.

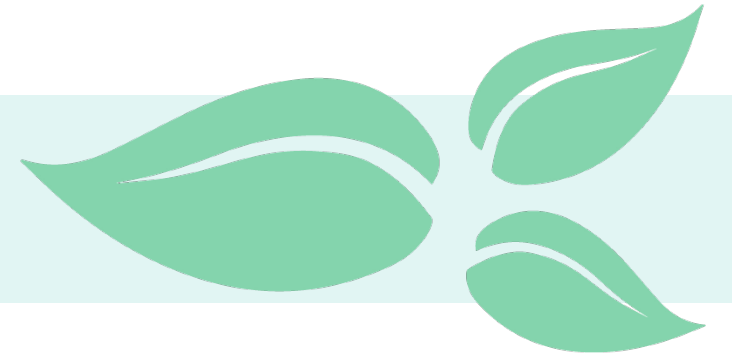
MATTHEW 11:28 (CJB)

It's nearly Shabbat!

“Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.”
-Deuteronomy 25:4



A distinct purpose



Stewardship & Care – Proverbs 12:10

“The righteous care for the needs of their animals,
but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel.”

What does this mean about food?

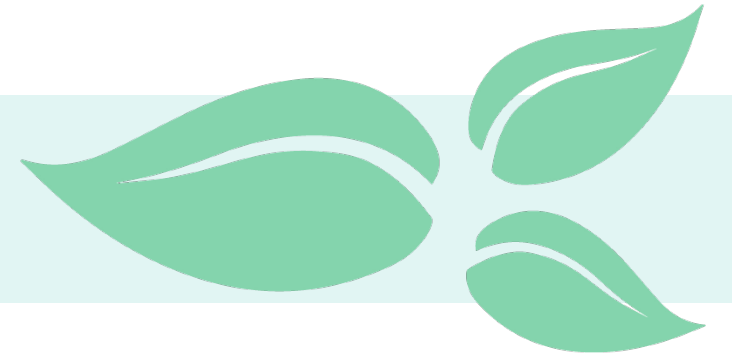


Nothing could be clearer. God does not want us to eat meat. People are made in God's image and animals are not, but this spiritual difference is not sufficiently morally significant to allow killing animals for food. Killing another person is a capital crime and a sin. Killing an animal is just a sin.

So God has a change of heart and strikes what I consider to be a perfect spiritual balance. God is saying that being a vegetarian is clearly the higher way, but it is not the only way. Meat is not murder, but it is not the highest moral level to which we can elevate our diet. - Rabbi Gellman, News Star

Anyone who has so much as seen the outside of a Bible knows for a fact that not only has God spoken out against animal rights and veganism, he holds the concepts in disdain. – Angelo Stagnaro, Natl. Catholic Register

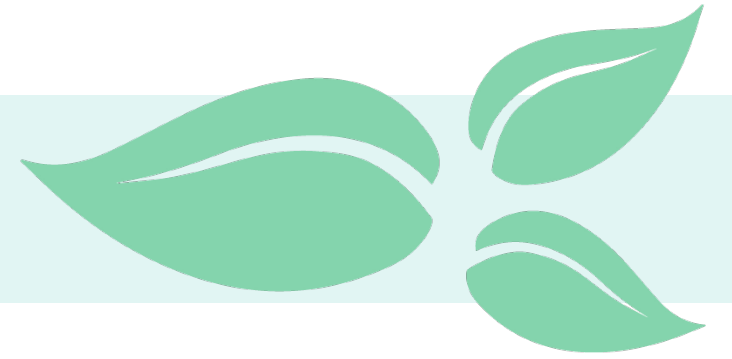
What does Scripture say?



Jesus celebrated Passover –Matthew 26:17-19

Now on the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, “Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?” And He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, “My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.”’ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.

What does Scripture say?



Jesus & Fishing (and John counting the fish) –John 21:10-14

Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

What does Scripture say?

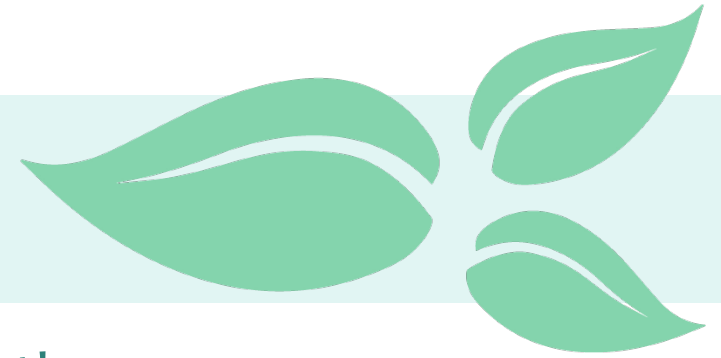


Jesus declares all foods clean and warns us. –Mark 7:17-23

After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. “Are you so dull?” he asked. “Don’t you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? For it doesn’t go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body.” (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.)

He went on: “What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

What does Scripture say?



Be Transformed and Stand Firm –1 Timothy 4:1-10

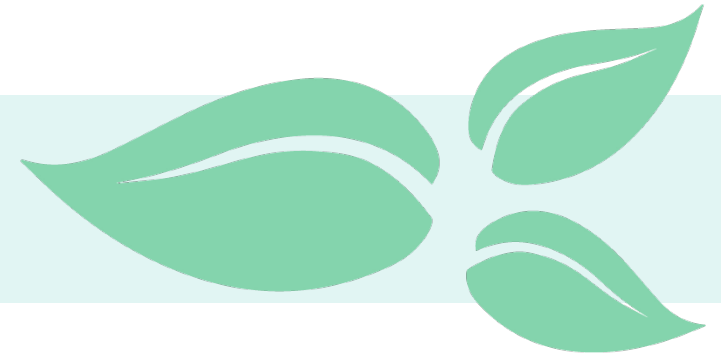
Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will renounce the faith by paying attention to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared with a hot iron. They forbid marriage and abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, provided it is received with thanksgiving, for it is sanctified by God's word and by prayer. If you put these instructions before the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant[c] of Christ Jesus, nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound teaching that you have followed. Have nothing to do with profane and foolish tales. Train yourself in godliness, for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and suffer reproach, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.



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What does Scripture say?



Respect One Another-Life Together –Romans 14:1-9

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand. One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.



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The Humane Society

CARING FOR GOD'S CREATIONS: THE STEWARDSHIP OF ANIMALS

The earth and animals are important to God, and as a caretaker for God's creation, stewardship of animals is important. You are God's deputies.

The life of every living thing is in His hands and the breath of every human being.

Job 12:10



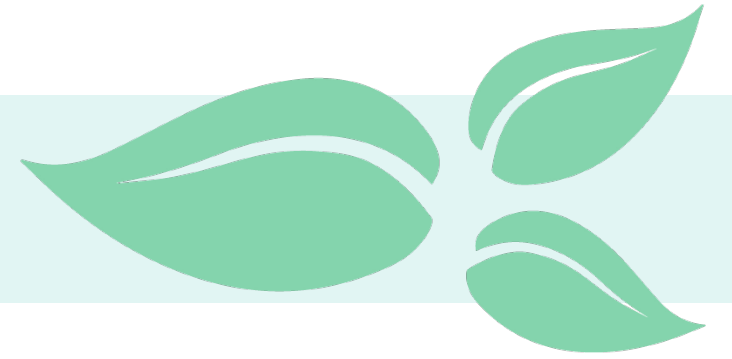
THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Celebrating Animals | Confronting Cruelty

The Genesis Awards

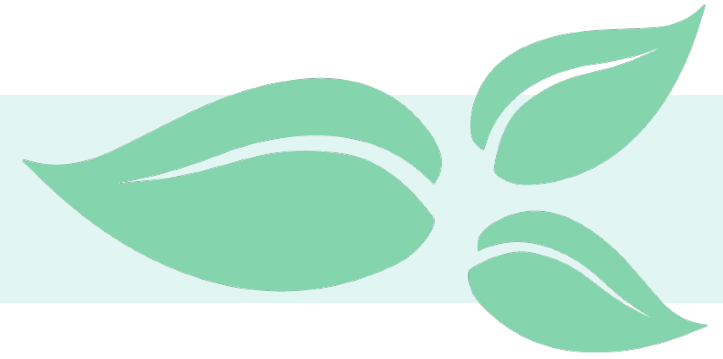


A Challenge to Live Our Calling



- Are there areas where we can be better stewards of God's Creation?
- Where can we transform the world, including for animals, to better reflect God's Word?
 - Where are we being transformed?

More Resources



Podcasts: *Disciple Dojo, Bible Talks, The Bible Project*

Books: *What the Bible Says About Animals* by Jacquelyn Wilkins

The Bible and Ecology by Richard Bauckham

Stewards of Eden by Sandra Richter

Creation Care and the Gospel by Colin Bell & Robert White (Lausanne)

Denomination responses: <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/facts-and-faith>

*“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, **but let God transform you** into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”*



- Romans 12:2