

Do Animals Go to Heaven?
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Text: Topical

Central Idea of Message: God cares for animals and may well have included them in heaven with people.

Introduction: Illustrations: (1) Al. (2) Smokey. (3) Joey.

Have you ever wondered where animals fit in God's creation and where they go after death? Well, you are not alone in your thinking! While I do not purport to be able to answer, definitively, the question of whether our pets go to heaven, I was interested enough in the question to peruse the Bible and search for some clues which might lead to an answer. Here is the result of my study.

1. Gen. 1:24-25
 - a. "24 Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind'; and God saw that it was good. 25 And God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good"
 - b. **God created animals on the sixth day and declared that this creative activity and its resulting life were good (Gen. 1:24-25)**
 - c. **God cares for animals**
2. Gen. 1:26
 - a. "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth"
 - b. **God entrusted mankind with the stewardship and oversight of animals (Gen. 1:26)**
 - c. God cares for animals
3. Gen. 2:18-20
 - a. "18 Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.' 19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed

every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. 20 And the man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him"

- b. These verses expand upon the creation account given in Gen. 1:24-25
- c. **Part of God's intention for creating animals is so that mankind would not be alone (Gen. 2:18-20)**
- d. **Animals were created to be a type of companion for humans (Gen. 2:18-20)**
- e. **Adam named the animals, thus signifying a very special friendship with them (Gen. 2:18-20)**
- f. **God thought highly enough of animals to include them in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:18-20)**
- g. God cares for animals
- 4. Gen. 3:1-5
 - a. **A snake talked in a language Eve could understand, perhaps suggesting an initial capacity animals were created with for communicating with humans before the Fall [sin], in keeping with the companionship for man purpose (Gen. 3:1-5)**
 - b. **A talking creature [animal] may also suggest a restored capacity for animals in Christ's millennial kingdom and beyond [in heaven] (Gen. 3:1-5)**
 - c. God cares for animals
- 5. Gen. 7:1-10
 - a. **God thought highly enough of certain animals to include them on the ark for preservation (Gen. 7:1-10)**
 - b. God cares for animals
- 6. Gen. 9:8-17
 - a. **God promised Noah that he would sustain all flesh with his grace (Gen. 9:8-17)**
 - b. **Grace is extended in some capacity even to animals (Gen. 9:8-17)**
 - c. God cares for animals
- 7. Num. 22:21-39
 - a. **Balaam's donkey talked in a language Balaam could understand, had a greater spiritual intuition than Balaam himself, and even expressed pain to the false prophet (Num. 22:21-39)**
 - b. God cares for animals

8. Deut. 22:10
 - a. "You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together"
 - b. **God's care for animals extends to equalizing a workload so that one animal is not over-burdened by an unequal yoke (Deut. 22:10)**
 - c. God cares for animals
9. Deut. 25:4
 - a. "You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing"
 - b. **Work animals have the right to eat (Deut. 25:4)**
 - c. God cares for animals
10. Ps. 50:10-11
 - a. "10 For every beast of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills. 11 I know every bird of the mountains, And everything that moves is Mine"
 - b. **Animals are God's special possession (Ps. 50:10-11)**
 - c. God cares for animals
11. Ps. 136:25
 - a. "Who gives food to all flesh, For His lovingkindness is everlasting"
 - b. **God's love toward all creation is evident in that he continually cares for all his creatures (Ps. 136:25)**
 - c. God cares for animals
12. Prov. 12:10
 - a. "A righteous man has regard for the life of his beast, But the compassion of the wicked is cruel"
 - b. **Compassion for animals is a godly trait (Prov. 12:10)**
 - c. God cares for animals
13. Prov. 27:23
 - a. "Know well the condition of your flocks, And pay attention to your herds"
 - b. **Man is seen as tending to the needs of livestock and other tame animals (Prov. 27:23)**
 - c. God cares for animals
14. Isa. 11:6-8
 - a. 6 "And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the kid, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them. 7 Also the cow and the bear will graze; Their young will lie down together; And the lion will eat straw like the ox. 8 And the nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. 9 They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea"

- b. **Paradise like that in the Garden of Eden will be restored, presumably during the millennial kingdom of Christ and certainly in heaven [the holy mountain of the LORD], which will eventually descend to earth (Isa. 11:6-8; Rev. 21:2, 10)**
 - c. **Wolves, lambs, leopards, goats, cattle, lions, bears, and cobras are all listed as present on the holy mountain of the LORD, so it is not a stretch to believe there are other animals present as well, including dogs and domesticated cats smaller than leopards and lions (Isa. 11:6-8)**
 - d. God cares for animals
15. Isa. 40:11
- a. "Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs, And carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes"
 - b. **The image of the shepherd caring for his lambs is a powerful metaphor expressing God's compassion for his people (Isa. 40:11)**
 - c. God cares for animals
16. Isa. 65:25
- a. "'The wolf and the lamb shall graze together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox; and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain,' says the LORD"
 - b. **Animals will be present in the millennial kingdom of Christ and, it appears, in heaven as well (Isa. 65:25)**
 - c. God cares for animals
17. Matt. 6:26
- a. "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?"
 - b. **God personally sees to it that even birds have food to eat (Matt. 6:26)**
 - c. God cares for animals
18. Matt. 10:29
- a. "Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father"
 - b. **God sees animals in crisis, even the seemingly most insignificant ones, and he watches over them (Matt. 10:29)**
 - c. God cares for animals
19. Luke 14:5

- a. "And He said to them, "Which one of you will have a son or an ox fall into a well, and will not immediately pull him out on a Sabbath day?"
 - b. **Care for a domesticated animal is paralleled with care for a son (Luke 14:5)**
 - c. God cares for animals
20. Rev. 19:11
- a. "And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war"
 - b. **There is significant biblical evidence of animals in heaven, namely, a horse (Rev. 19:11)**
 - c. God cares for animals
21. Rev. 19:14
- a. "And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses"
 - b. **There is even biblical evidence of a plurality of horses in heaven (Rev. 19:14)**
 - c. God cares for animals

Conclusion: Principles.

(1) **God cares for animals.**

(2) **It is very likely that animals, especially domesticated animals like pets, are going to be in the millennial kingdom of Christ and in heaven.**

(3) **God gave mankind animals for work and companionship. There is a good reason why dogs are called, "Man's best friend," and it is because "friend" is an excellent analogy.**

(4) **We should thank God every day for the good people and things in life which he has given us, and not forget to thank him for our pets too, even after they are gone. We should thank God that he allowed them to come into our life at all, even if only for a short while, because the joy they brought was actually a result of the source of joy God himself provided.**

(5) **Since the Bible is clear in expressing God's care and compassion for animals, it is equally clear that humans, having been created in God's image, are even more valuable than any animal!**

(6) **God created humans to bring him and others joy!**

(7) **Is your life bringing God and others joy?**