

# **The Ark and its Animals**

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What really was the condition of the animals inside Noah's ark?

While many have offered their conjecture on this issue, it will be our purpose in this short article to begin searching the Scriptures for the answer to this question by contrasting the situation inside the ark with the nature of animals both before and after the flood.

## **The Curse on Animals in the Ark**

Following the miracle of the original curse (cf. Gen. 3:14-19), there was another miraculous event.

During the year of the Genesis flood, the curse on animals was suspended. The two lions that entered the ark were no threat to Noah and his family, nor to the other animals with them. And they remained harmless throughout the entire year of the flood – even though they were still lions.

The key word that sheds light on this situation is “remembered.”

“Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that *were* with him in the ark” (Gen. 8:1). This verb, with God as the subject, means that God took special care and provided every need. (The same word was used by the believing thief on the cross next to Jesus: “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom” [Luke 23:42]).

Since all people in the world were now believers – all others outside the ark were dead – the curse on animals was suspended. The Bible teaches that there is a highly significant connection between the function of animals and the relationship of mankind to God.

Animals were created for human beings. They are among God's spectacular gifts to us. Men are not now animals – and never were. Only people have the image and likeness of God (cf. Gen. 1:26; 9:6). Nevertheless, we learn from the animal kingdom something of the wisdom and power of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible says of Him: "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made" (John 1:3; cf. Col. 1:16, Heb. 1:2).

It was by His mere spoken Word that animals were created (cf. Gen.1:20, 24; Ps. 33:6-9) and it is by His power that they continue to exist (cf. Job 12:7-10; 34:14-15; Ps. 104:29; Col. 1:17).

In Christ's earthly kingdom, just as in the world before the curse and the world during the flood, men and animals will be in harmony with each other again.

### **The Curse on Animals before the Flood**

From the very beginning of world history, flesh-eating animals have been a threat to people. This was especially the case during the initial intensity of the Edenic curse when "the earth was filled with violence" (Gen. 6:11). Not only did murderous and demonic men attack each other (cf. Gen. 4:15-24; 6:5), but also carnivorous animals (including dinosaurs such as Tyrannosaurus Rex) helped to create a world "red with tooth and claw."

Desperate for relief, Lamech cried out to God concerning his baby son Noah (i.e., "comfort"): "This *one* will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed" (Gen. 5:29; cf. 3:17-19).

### **The Curse on Animals after the Flood**

When they saw all the mammals, birds and reptiles (including dinosaurs – cf. Gen. 7:8) emerging from the ark (cf. Gen. 8:17), Noah and his sons must have been haunted by the horrors of the pre-flood world from which they had escaped by the grace of God (cf. Gen.

6:8). Now that the year-long suspension of the curse was ending, they envisioned another earth “filled with violence” (Gen. 6:11, 13).

But it was not to be! “The fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move *on* the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand” (Gen. 9:2).

The backbone of dinosaur (and other carnivore) dominion had been broken by the global catastrophe of the flood. Lamech’s prayer had been answered. The original curse had now been modified – but not yet cancelled. Men could safely migrate to the ends of the earth without being constantly threatened by animals.

This is, of course, a mere introduction to subjects related to creation, the fall, the curse and the flood. It is my hope, however, that it has caused you, dear reader, to consider more deeply than ever the amazing truths which the Bible gives us – truths which provide clarity even in an age of skepticism and unbelief.

For we know that, “Faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17).

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