

QUESTION #30 – Will we ever see our animal pets again in heaven?

This is an interesting question and one that is on the minds of any animal lover. We must draw our conclusions not on sentimental speculation, but on Biblical Revelation and based on that, here are some Biblical facts:

Fact #1 - God created the animal world and God classified it as good. Gen. 1:24-25

No animal was created in the image of God as man, but every animal was created to bring glory to God and it still does. There is a difference between humans and animals; but both were in fact created by God.

Fact #2 - God formed the animal world out of the ground just as He did humans. Gen. 2:19/2:7

God brought the animals to man for his inspection and naming.

Fact #3 - God made man a “living being” (Gen. 2:7) and He uses the same word “nephesh” pertaining to animals. Gen. 6:17; 7:15, 22; Eccl. 3:20-21

Fact #4 - God spared every kind of animal when He destroyed the world by flood.
Gen. 6:19-20

God spared the animals just as He spared Noah and his family. God is very concerned about animals in judgment, just as He is humans (Jonah 4:11).

Fact #5 - God made a covenant with Noah, after the flood that included the animals.
Gen. 9:9-17

Now what we may conclude from this is that animals are very important to God. He wanted them in existence after a worldwide judgment. He did not want His word to be without animals.

Fact #6 - When an animal dies the life does go someplace, just as a human goes someplace.
Eccl. 3:20-21; Psalm 104:29-30

Solomon did not know everything about this, but he certainly knew this fact. The life of the beast goes someplace. The body goes back to the ground but God does take the spirit someplace.

Fact #7 - Paul included all “creation” in a curse that causes it to groan and to an anxious longing for the return of Jesus Christ. Rom. 8:19-22

This would lead us to conclude that the animal world, too, could experience relief from the curse.

Fact #8 - God said a wise, godly person takes good care of his animals and sees that they are in good condition. Prov. 12:10; 27:23

Fact #9 - God has used animals to do some amazing things in regard to Him and His program.

- 1) God used the sacrifice of unblemished animals to point to the unblemished sacrifice of His own Son. Heb. 9-10
- 2) God used ravens to help take care of Elijah, His prophet. I Kings 17:4, 6
- 3) God used a great fish to swallow Jonah so he would not drown. Jonah 1:17
- 4) God used a donkey to actually speak to Balaam to prevent him from doing evil.
Numbers 22:20-35

Obviously this was a very special donkey in regard to Balaam and God used that donkey in his life.

- 5) God used a fish to teach His disciples a lesson of how He can provide. Matt. 17:27

Fact #10 - God's care for animals is seen in the famous ten commandments in a context that concerns His own people. Ex. 20:9-10

Fact #11 - Some people in the Bible did have animals as pets. II Sam. 12:3; I Kings 1:33, 38, 44

Fact #12 - God says that all the animals belong to Him. Ps. 50:10-11

Fact #13 - God says he cares for and provides for all His animals. Ps. 104:10-28

Fact #14 - We do know there will come a time when all animals will praise God. Ps. 148:7-12; 150:6

Fact #15 - We do know that animals will exist in the millennium. Is. 11:6-9

Fact #16 - We do know that animals will exist in the new earth. Is. 65:17, 25

Fact #17 - We do know that there are horses in heaven. Rev. 19:11, 14

Fact #18 - We do know that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Matt. 21:1-9

Now since we know there will be animals in existence in the new earth, just as we humans will exist there, God has three options:

- 1) He could create brand new animals;
- 2) He could bring back to life all animals that suffered and died in the curse;
- 3) He could do both—create some new and bring back some old.

Based on all of these Biblical facts, we are not wrong to conclude that we could very well see our pets again. It is very possible that they would even be able to speak (Rev. 8:13; 5:13).