

TEXT - Revelation 4:6-8

These marvelous beings appear several times in the Bible, to tell us about God.

-Genesis 3:24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

-Exodus 25 & 26 - the tabernacle; on the veil and on the atonement cover

-1 Kings 6 - the temple

-Is 6

-Ezekiel

Each time they are associated with God dealing with sin

-something about judgment and punishment for sinners

-something about mercy and forgiveness for sinners

So we are to understand in this vision all those things we learn about God from the OT scriptures where these beings are mentioned. This will help us to fear God, and so not to fear anything else. This will help us be sure that we want God to deal with us not according to wrath and judgment and punishment and death, but according to mercy and forgiveness and eternal life.

These beings also will play a prominent part in the prophetic visions in the rest of Revelation.

But let's work this evening on what to call them!

The old Bibles called them "beasts," while the newer Bibles call them "living creatures."

Was it wrong for the old Bibles to call them "beasts"?

In today's culture, can we rightly call these beings "beasts"?

G2226 zoon a living (thing) from verb G2198 “to live”

creature

Revelation 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

G2938 *ktisma* from verb G2936 *ktizo* to create

in NT 4 times, 2 in Rev, always “creature”

VUL *creaturam* Wycliffe and all others creature

So, one weakness of the translation “creature” is that there is a Greek word for “creature” right here in Revelation, but this is not it.

beast

used to refer to what we now call “animals,” those living, moving things other than man

“animal” was very rare in English in 1500s and 1600s

“beast” was used to mean that

“beast” was translation for Latin *animal*

in Middle English, “beste” was the word for mythical, imaginary beings that were neither man nor real animal

lamya - a beste hauende the bodi lic a women and horse feet

certeyn bestes...fauni & satori

mermaid

Beauty and the Beast

So, if your Bible says...