

Can Animals Worship God?

It may seem foolish to wonder if animals can worship God. Many people would say that the answer is obviously no, and that the whole concept is ridiculous. However, what the Bible has to say about this topic is very interesting. I believe many people have an unbiblical and worldly view of animals – one that sees animals as less than they really are.

The Bible tells us that we must use our spirit to worship God:

John 4:24: “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

This means that, at a minimum, you need a spirit to worship God. As it turns out, animals do indeed have a spirit:

Ecclesiastes 3:20-21: “All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?”

I haven't found any passage in the Bible which clearly states that animals have a soul. However, animals do have a spirit, and that spirit lives on after death. That means animals meet the minimum requirements of what's needed to worship God.

Do animals have a relationship with God? Well, God said that the day is coming when He'll make a covenant with them:

Hosea 2:18: “And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field and with the fowls of heaven, and with the

creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.”

This passage is referring to the millennium, when there will be peace in the animal kingdom. The book of Isaiah describes the results of this covenant in greater detail:

Isaiah 11:6: “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.”

Isaiah 65:25: “The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent’s meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord.”

The reason the wolf will be at peace with the lamb, and animals will eat straw instead of each other, is because God will make a covenant with the animals. That covenant will cause them to be at peace – both with one another and with mankind.

The Bible tells us that there are times when animals cry out to God:

Joel 1:19-20: “O Lord, to thee will I cry: for the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field. The beasts of the field cry also unto thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness.”

There are many verses which tell us that God cares about

the animals He created. God is clear that *He* is the one who provides food and water for the animals:

Matthew 6:26: “Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?”

Luke 12:24: “Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?”

Psalm 104:10-12: “He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field: the wild asses quench their thirst. By them shall the fowls of the heaven have their habitation, which sing among the branches.

Psalm 104:25-27: “So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts. There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein. These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season.”

Psalm 145:15-16: “The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.”

Psalm 147:9: “He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry.”

God sees what happens to every animal, and He doesn't

forget them:

Luke 12:6: “Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?”

Not only does God provide for the animals, but He says that the animals honor Him for doing so:

Isaiah 43:19-20: “Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen.”

This isn't the only passage that talks about animals giving honor to God. In the book of Psalms the animals are commanded to praise Him:

Psalms 148:7-13: “Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps: Fire, and hail; snow, and vapours; stormy wind fulfilling his word: Mountains, and all hills; fruitful trees, and all cedars: Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl: Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth: Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children: Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.”

In this passage the psalmist commands animals, insects, and birds to praise God because of His great glory and excellency. Now, some may claim that this passage is just being poetic, and

that animals can't actually praise God. However, the book of Revelation tells us that in Heaven the animals will indeed praise the Lord:

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.”

Who is praising God? Every creature that's in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and in the sea. *All* of them are praising and glorifying God. This means the day will indeed come when the animals will praise the Lord.