

WHAT ABOUT ANIMALS?

1. Do animals have an intrinsic value?
2. What did God intend man's relationship with them to be?
3. Do they have souls? Are their souls immortal?

2

Does an animal have an intrinsic worth?
Does God consider its life as sacred in any way?

Genesis 1:20-25

Day 5 – Sea creatures, Sky creatures

Day 6 – Land creatures

Genesis 1:20-25

- 1) Created by God
- 2) Blessed by God
- 3) Declared "good"
- 4) Fellow species to man

Genesis 6 – 9

- 1) Deliberate plan to save animals
- 2) Covenant with animals
- 3) Permits killing for food
- 4) Blood: symbolizes sacredness of life

Deuteronomy 5:13-14

Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals . . .

Deuteronomy 25:4

Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.

Deuteronomy 22:10

Do not plow with an ox and a donkey yoked together.

Deuteronomy 22:6

If you come across a bird's nest . . . do not take the mother . . .

Proverbs 12:10

The righteous care for the needs of his animals, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel.

Matthew 6:26

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

Matthew 10:29-31

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Psalms

OT Prophesies

- 1) Animals do have an intrinsic worth, and that worth is not determined by how useful they are to man.
- 2) This worth is not minimal or nominal; God himself uses the word "good" to describe their value, and this is reinforced by how he cares for them, and how expects us to do the same.
- 3) Animals do not have the same intrinsic value as humans.

What did God intend man's relationship with animals to be?

How do we honor this sacredness of life that God's creatures enjoy? What liberties are we afforded?

What are our obligations/responsibilities?