

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT ANIMALS?

I. ARE ANIMALS & MANKIND THE SAME CREATION?

THE BIBLE SAYS: GEN 1:24-28 GEN 2:7 LK 12:5-7

FROM THIS WE LEARN:

1. Man is not just a higher animal; man was created separate & in the image of God. Gen 1:24
2. Man has a living soul. Gen 2:7 Animals are never mentioned in this form, nor is it ever taught that animals are eternal.
3. God does care for animals. Lk 12:5-7-- Says that He does not forget even a tiny sparrow.
4. Man is much greater in value because of eternal soul. Gen 2:7

II. WHAT PURPOSE DO ANIMALS SERVE IN GOD'S CREATION?

THE BIBLE SAYS: PSA 8:4-8 PRO 12:10 EX 20:24

FROM THIS WE LEARN:

1. Animals are under man's dominion – rule, control, use, purpose. Ps 8:4-8
2. Animals were made for man's use & pleasure – all works of God's hand are for man. All things are under his feet. Ps 8:6
3. Entire animal kingdom is under man's feet – does not mean that man has the right to be cruel or to misuse. Pro 12:10 Man has the right to rule over, manage it for his purposes.
4. Animals were made to be used in Old Testament for sacrifices to God. Ex 20:24

III. IS IT RIGHT TO USE ANIMALS FOR FOOD?

THE BIBLE SAYS: GEN 9:3 EX 12:8 I KINGS 17:6
ACTS 10:10-13 LEV 10:9-14 I KINGS 17:6

FROM THIS WE LEARN:

1. From the time of Noah, GOD has intended for man to eat the flesh of animals. Gen 9:3
2. Israel ate flesh; Jesus ate meat; & the Passover meal was a lamb Ex 12:5-10
3. Peter was specifically told to eat meat by God. Acts 10:10-13 (kill and eat) All dietary restrictions were removed by God. He would not have done that if He was opposed to eating meat for food.
4. God commanded His people to eat flesh & provided it for the ministry. Lev 10:9-14
5. God fed Elijah by the hands of the ravens. I Kings 17:6

IV. IS IT WRONG TO EAT PORK AND CERTAIN OTHER FOODS?

THE BIBLE SAYS: ACTS 10:10-13 1 TIM 4:1-5

FROM THIS WE LEARN:

1. No. Those dietary restrictions were only for Israel to teach them separation from other nations & the difference between Holy & unholy. God removed all restrictions. Acts 10:10-13
2. The Bible warns against those who promote vegetarianism. I Tim 4:1-5 (doctrine of devils)
3. Bible clearly teaches that animals were created to be eaten.
4. Not cruel to hunt animals for pleasure and food.
5. Not wrong to fish – not being cruel – that's what animals were created for.

V. IF I CHOOSE NOT TO EAT MEAT, IS THAT WRONG BEFORE GOD?

THE BIBLE SAYS: ROMANS 14:2, 3, 6

FROM THIS WE LEARN:

1. Christians are free to eat or not to eat.
2. Christians should eat what suits them best.
3. Must be careful not to make your conscience a law for others.