

### **Will There Be Animals in Heaven?**

By Randy Alcorn...February 3, 2010...[emp.org](http://emp.org)...

<http://www.epm.org/resources/2010/Feb/3/will-there-be-animals-heaven/>

Elijah was taken up to heaven in a chariot pulled by horses (2 Kings 2:11). We're told there are horses in heaven (Revelation 6:2-8; 19:11). In fact, there are lots of horses, enough for the vast armies of heaven to ride (Revelation 19:11; 2 Kings 6:17). Other animals aren't mentioned in the Revelation passages, presumably because they don't play a role in Christ's second coming (an army bringing deliverance rides horses, not Dalmatians or hedgehogs). But isn't it likely that since there are innumerable horses in heaven there are all kinds of other animals too? Why wouldn't there be? Why would we expect horses to be the only animals? If there were no other animals, there wouldn't be horses. In Isaiah 65:17 God refers to creating a New Heavens and a New Earth. In subsequent verses the text seems to move back and forth from the millennial kingdom to the New Earth. God makes clear he will have animals living there—either in the millennium or the New Earth or both (Isaiah 65:25).

Some also argue for animals being in heaven based on Ecclesiastes 3:19-21, which says "Man's fate is like that of the animals...all go to the same place." However, in the larger context of Ecclesiastes Solomon is simply talking about the outward appearance of death. Men and animals both die and we can't see where they go. Scripture tells us elsewhere, however, that man has an eternal soul. It tells us he goes one of two places at death. Animals are not said to have eternal souls. They are not said to relocate when they die. The presumption would be that at death they cease to exist. However, this doesn't mean beloved animals won't be in heaven. I once read Billy Graham's response to a little girl's question, "Will my dog who died this week be in heaven?" Graham replied, "If it would make you any happier, then yes, he will be." Animals aren't nearly as valuable as people, but God is their maker and has touched many people's lives through them. It would be simple for Him to recreate a pet in heaven. I see no reason to believe he wouldn't if it would bring his children pleasure. Romans 8:18-22 says that the whole creation was subject to suffering and futility because of human sin. The creation groans in longing for the liberation that will come to humans, and thereby to all creation itself. Creation is under man's dominion and will share the rewards of his redemption just as it shared the punishment for his sin. Animals are a central part of that creation, next to man himself the most significant part. After all, besides his wife, Adam was called upon to give names only to one other part of the creation—the animals (Genesis 2:19-20). He worked the garden, but he wasn't invited to name the vegetation. Clearly, the animals had certain qualities that set them above other creation. They were to be special to man, and his naming them makes his connection with them personal.

HeavenIf the New Earth is all the best of the old earth and more, then we should expect it to contain animals. If animals weren't part of the New Earth, this would seem an obvious oversight. Eden was ruined through sin and will be restored through Christ's reign of righteousness. All that was part of Eden, and then made wrong through the sin of the first Adam, we would expect to be part of the New Earth, made right through the virtue of the Second Adam. Would God take away from us in heaven what he gave, for delight and companionship and help, to Adam and Eve in Eden? Would he revoke his earlier decision to put animals with man, and under man's care? If he remakes the New Earth with new men (who look very much like the old men, only perfect), wouldn't we expect him also to make new animals (who will presumably look like the old animals, only perfect)? Note: For more information on the subject of Heaven, see Randy Alcorn's best seller book, "Heaven," found at [emp.org](http://emp.org), [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and others.

[http://www.answers2prayer.org/bible\\_questions/Answers/animals/pets.html](http://www.answers2prayer.org/bible_questions/Answers/animals/pets.html)

#### Do Animals Have Souls?

Most of us have heard all our life that animals do not have souls. Yet the first chapter of Genesis indisputably contradicts that position. The Hebrew word for soul is nephish and refers to the part of our being which lives on after physical death. The first chapter of Genesis not only proves that animals have a soul, but it also proves that plant life does not! Here are the verses: Genesis 1:20 And God said, Let the waters swarm with swarms {fish} having a living soul and let the birds fly over the earth, on the face of the expanse of the heavens. Genesis 1:21 And God created the great sea animals and the creeping things all having a living soul...

Genesis 1:24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth souls of life according to its kind, the cattle, the beasts of the field, and creeping things according to its kind. Genesis 1:30 To every animal of the earth, and to every bird of the heavens and to every creeping thing on the earth, in which is a living soul, every green plant is given for food. In all four of the above verses the Hebrew word nephish is used which is the exact same word used of man in Genesis 2:7. Most modern translations give no hint that this is in fact the case, but most older King James bibles do give a footnote: Hebrew, lit: soul for each of the above verses. It is this same "soul" which David refers to in Ps. 16:10 when he says: "You will not abandon my soul to sheol." {Sheol is the place for the souls of those who have physically died.}

<http://christianity.about.com/od/whatdoesthebiblesay/f/animalsinheaven.htm>

#### Do Our Pets Go to Heaven?

The prophet Isaiah says God will include animals in the new heavens and a new earth: "The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord." (Isaiah 65: 25, NIV) In the last book of the Bible, Revelation, the Apostle John's vision of heaven also included animals, showing Christ and the armies of heaven "riding on white horses." (Revelation 19:14, NIV) Most of us can't picture a paradise of unspeakable beauty without flowers, trees, and animals. Would it be heaven for an avid birdwatcher if there are no birds? Would a fisherman want to spend eternity with no fish? And would it be heaven for a cowboy without horses? While theologians may be stubborn in classifying animals' "souls" as inferior to those of humans, those learned scholars must admit that descriptions of heaven in the Bible are sketchy at best. The Bible does not give a definitive answer on the question of whether we will see our pets in heaven, but it does say, "... with God, all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26, NIV)

My Cairn Terrier, Charlie, is an important part of my life and I often feel he is a gift God has given me. You probably feel the same way about your pet. That's why I like the story about the elderly widow whose beloved little dog died after fifteen faithful years. Distraught, she went to her pastor. "Parson," she said, tears streaming down her cheeks, "the vicar said animals have no souls. My darling little dog Fluffy has died. Does that mean I won't see her again in heaven?" "Madam," said the old priest, "God, in his great love and wisdom has created heaven to be a place of perfect happiness. I am sure that if you need your little dog to complete your happiness, you will find her there."

PS from [FactorReady.com](http://FactorReady.com): See book "Imagine Heaven" at [ImagineHeaven.net](http://ImagineHeaven.net) by Pastor John Burke which sites NDEs (Near Death Experiences) confirming Heaven with the Holy Scriptures. Remember, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9 NKJV)...