

His behavior brings joy and delight to his parents (10:1; 15:20; 23:15-16; 23:24-25). And nothing delights them more than to see him walk in the path of righteousness.

What a beautiful home he has, because he builds it on the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding he has learned from God (24:3-4).

He shows no partiality in his judgment of others (24:23-25), no matter how large or small the inducement may be—“to show partiality is not good, but for a piece of bread a man will do wrong” (28:21).

He does “not overwork to be rich”, because he knows riches “fly away like an eagle toward heaven” (23:4).

He does not squander his money (21:20), but he is generous with it (11:25).

He possesses other qualities related to wisdom, qualities which either lead to wisdom or become the by-products of it: **humility** (15:33), **mercy** (14:21), **diligence** (12:27), **self-control** (16:32), **integrity** (28:6), **prudence** (22:3), **fear of the Lord** (23:17-18)

Written by; Brian Gibson (Plain Words from God’s Word Facebook Group)



What the Beast Teach

The Bible is replete with men and women of God performing mighty acts of valor, standing for the faith, resisting the devil and doing their part to fulfill God’s designs. This is only fitting, seeing as humans are God’s ultimate creation. But we should not forget that even the humble beasts have their part to play in God’s universe, and there are many instances in scripture that focus on animals and their deeds or their aspects.

Consider many of the famous offerings we hear about. From Abel to Abraham. From Moses to Solomon. While these animals could never take away the stain of sin, they served as our schoolmaster for what would ultimately be fulfilled through Christ, the Lamb of God. Through all the blood offerings of the Old Testament we learned that sin must be addressed by blood, and nothing less can suffice, as Cain’s offering of fruit also shows. Jesus’ blood is the ultimate offering for sin, yet we would not have been prepared to understand and accept that fact if we did not already know that sin must be resolved through a blood offering; though it would require something far greater than a bull or a goat.

Consider Noah’s ark, which famously carried a great many animals. While God cares far more about a human life, this shows us that He also cares about His lesser creations and wished to preserve them for the post-flood world as well. There were cows and goats on the ark, there were also rats and cockroaches, and yes, dinosaurs too. ...

Marietta church of Christ

8150 Driggers St.
Jacksonville, FL 32220

Times of Worship

Sunday:

9 am - Bible Study / 10 am - Worship / 5 pm - Worship

Wednesday:

7 pm - Bible Study/Worship

Evangelist: Devin Barber

www.mariettacoc.com

That God loves His animals is also echoed in Jonah 4:11 “And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons.... and much livestock?” Humans are always God’s priority, but it is clear that God also cares for and provides for the beasts He put on this Earth with us.

Of course, I would be remiss to not mention one of the most famous animal stories of the Bible, that being Balaam’s donkey. It’s hard to imagine a more humble messenger of God than a donkey, but it happened. It’s also hard to imagine how Balaam thought it appropriate to argue with his donkey rather than be surprised that she talked. Yet of all things that have been used to enact God’s will, a donkey stands among them. Truly, God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise (1 Corinthians 1:27).

Two of the most impressive creatures God has ever put on His Earth are of course the Behemoth and Leviathan. We read of these in Job 40 and 41, and considering God had already told Job of several other “Real” animals, I see no reason to doubt that Behemoth and Leviathan were actual creatures that actually existed. Their descriptions make them sound quite like what we would today call a dinosaur and a sea dragon respectively. Oftentimes I’ve wondered what was the point of creating such mighty beings. Consider Job 40:19 and 41:33. When you think about the other incredible animals we have today such as electric eels or blue whales, could it not be that God created some creatures simply to show His might? And to show that He ultimately can do anything? Is God *unable* to create a fire-breathing sea dragon? To ask is to answer.

Even in the New Testament we see animals taking part in God’s plans. When Jesus was baptized by John, the Spirit of God descended upon Him like a dove. During the triumphal entry, the Lamb rode upon a (different) humble donkey, rather than an impressive warhorse. Animals were featured in many parables, such as the shepherd seeking his one lost sheep. They were used as examples, like a camel going through the eye of a needle.

God did not put mankind alone on Earth, but gave us many furry, scaly, feathery creatures to live with. Should we be surprised then that they too have been used by their God just as we have? ...

From these and many more examples, it is clear that animals are more than simply sources of food or companionship for us. As is true of all things, they ultimately have their part to play in God’s grand design just as humans do.

Written by; Daniel Young

Wise Guys

The Book of Proverbs says a great deal about wisdom, including what we act and sound like when we have it. How does God describe a wise man, in the Book of Proverbs?

He realizes he still has a lot to learn, so he takes advantage of every opportunity to “hear and increase learning” (1:5; see also 2:1-5; 9:9; 10:8, 14; 18:15; 24:5-6).

He welcomes wisdom and advice from others, knowing “in the abundance of counselors, there is safety” (11:14).

A rare virtue for sure, but a wise man actually loves those who rebuke him (9:8). He knows he needs people like that to get him back on the right track. “Blows that hurt cleanse away evil” (20:30)—he’s willing to absorb those painful blows because he wants to get better.

He will never trust his soul to what *seems* right; he wants to *know* what is right (16:25).

He is much too humble to do things his way; it’s the Lord’s way or else (3:5-7).

He “restrains his lips”, or “spares his words”; he doesn’t say everything on his mind; he doesn’t speak just to be heard, or to impress others (17:27; 29:11; 14:33; 10:19).

When he does speak, he uses to tongue to teach (15:7), rebuke (25:12), encourage or help others (12:18), and win souls (11:30).

When dealing with angry people, he is especially wise in choosing his words (15:1; 16:24; 29:8), which has made him very adept in bringing calm to tense situations.

He stays alert to temptations; he “foresees evil and hides himself” (22:3); he “fears and departs from evil” (14:16).

Continued on Back...