



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

The Bible's Teachings on Protecting Animals and Nature: Study Companion

***Questions & booklet by Lewis Regenstein, president, Interfaith Council for the
Protection of Animals and Nature, for Humane Society Animals & Religion***

Questions

- 1) What is the Bible's main message on how we should treat animals and nature?
- 2) What was the very first commandment given by the Lord? (Gen 1:22)
- 3) What was the first commandment given to humans? (Gen 1:28)
- 4) What is the significance of the first two commandments being about our treatment of animals?
- 5) God declared each creature He made to be "good; what did He call the completed Creation? (Gen 1: 29-31)
- 6) Do the Ten Commandments forbid mistreating animals? (Exodus 23; Deut 5:14)
- 7) When the Lord gives humans "dominion" over animals (Gen.1:26), does this mean we can do what we want, or wise stewardship? Discuss.
- 8) What does the Bible tell us about Jesus' diet? Did he ever eat meat or fish?
- 9) Would today's factory farming industry, where animals are crowded together by the thousands in filthy conditions, be approved by the people of the Bible?
- 10) What are the two types of people Proverbs describes according to their treatment of animals? (Prov 12:10)
- 11) The Bible strictly forbids working on the Sabbath. What exceptions to this rule does Jesus cite (Luke 13:15; 14:5);

- 12) How does the story of Rebecca at the Well teach us about caring for animals being a sign of good character? (Gen.24:19)
- 13) When the Lord spared the city of Ninevah from destruction, which animals were cited as a reason for the Lord's decision? (Jonah 4:11)
- 14) Does the Bible really tell us that "The lion shall lie down with the lamb?" (Isaiah 11:6-9)
- 15) Jesus is twice quoted as saying the God cares for even the lowliest of His creatures. Which species did Jesus cite as examples of this? (Matthew 10:29; Luke 12:6)
- 16) When the Israelites first entered the Promised Land, what conservation measure were they ordered to undertake? (Leviticus 19:23)
- 17) What natural resources does the Bible forbid us to destroy when waging war? (Leviticus 19:23)
- 18) What does Job tell us we can learn from animals and nature? (Job: 12-7-9)
- 19) Does the Bible suggest that animals have souls and may go to Heaven? (Ecclesiastes 3: 19-21)
- 20) When God saved Noah and his family, what animals were also included? (Gen 8:11)
- 21) When the Lord promises never again to destroy the earth with a Great Flood, what creatures are included in this Covenant? (Gen 9:12)
- 22) Are there any animal protection groups we can join that try to educate the public about the Bible's teachings on protecting animals?

Resources

Humane Society Animals & Religion links:

http://www.hsus.org/religion/resources/the_bibles_teachings_on.html

http://www.hsus.org/religion/acgs/childrens_resources_all.html

<http://www.hsus.org/allcreatures>