

Section 2. Animals of the Bible A to H

In this section, we will explore God's beloved animals found in the books of the bible. The list of animals and verses associated with them, was compiled by Mary Fairchild - Updated November 07, 2018 - <https://www.learnreligions.com/animals-in-the-bible-700169>

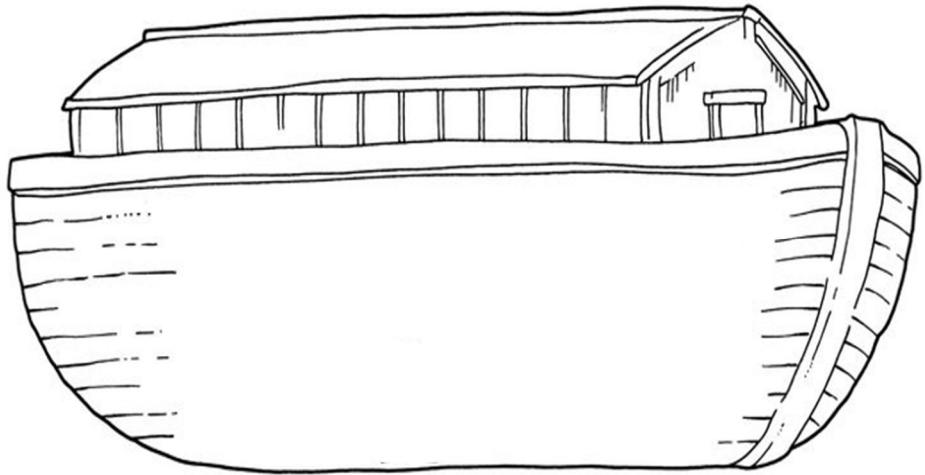
Let us pray,

God of all that is good and whole, your creation is filled with magnificent diversity, beautiful array of colors and creatures of all shapes and sizes. Open our hearts, minds and spirits to recognize your very image, your DNA in all that you have created. Give us the courage and strength, to treat all your animals with the respect and honor you have given each of them. In your loving name we pray. **Amen.**

No animal left behind.

It's time for bible calisthenics...

We will break into two groups – each group will be given a few bible verses to use to search for animals. Write the animals in the ark and then cross them off the whole list. Every animal should be accounted for in the Ark. Designate one person to speak for the group as you share the animals you placed into the ark and why.



Answer these questions in your group:

What & Why is the animal(s) mentioned?

What did you learn about the animal(s)?

15 minutes

Group 1		Group 2	
Passage	Answers	Passage	Answers
Deuteronomy 14:4-5		Leviticus 11:30	
Leviticus 11:13-19, Job 40:15-18		Leviticus 11:20-23	
Proverbs 6:6 and 30:24-26		1 Samuel 17:34-37, 2 Kings 2:24, Isaiah 11:7, Daniel 7:5	
1 Kings 10:18-22, Matthew 23:24		Isaiah 11:7, Daniel 4:25,	
Ant, Antelope, Ape/Monkey, Goat, Deer, Bald Locust, Bat, Bearded Vulture, Black Vulture, Chameleon, Conies/Badgers, Cricket, Gazelle, Gecko, Falcon, Fisher/Barn Owl, Heron, Hoopoe, Grasshopper, Cow, Gnat,			

Be ready to answer when we come back together:

- What did you experience with your group in this exercise?
- Did any animal jump out at you that you did not know was in the bible?

Let us play with the animals... be gentle and don't scare them.

Especially the **Camel** –

What do you call a frozen camel? Lost

A camel is an even-toed hoofed mammal in the genus *Camelus* that bears distinctive fatty deposits known as "humps" on its back. Camels have long been domesticated and, as livestock, they provide food (milk and meat) and textiles (fiber and felt from hair). Camels are working animals especially suited to their desert habitat and are a vital means of transport for passengers and cargo. There are three surviving species of camel. The one-humped dromedary makes up 94% of the world's camel population, and the two-humped Bactrian camel makes up 6%. The Wild Bactrian camel is a separate species and is now critically endangered.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camel>



Dromedary / Arabian camel

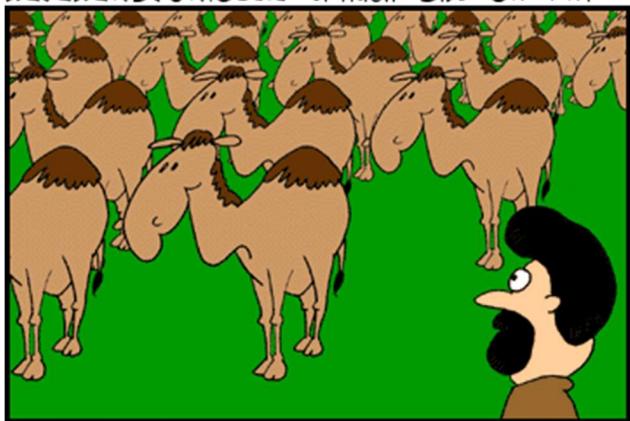
Camelus dromedarius

Middle East, the Horn of Africa and South Asia

- ❖ (Genesis 24:10-11 CEB) The servant took ten of his master's camels and all of his master's best provisions, set out, and traveled to Nahor's city in Aram-naharaim. He had the camels kneel down outside the city at the well in the evening, when women come out to draw water."
- ❖ (Leviticus 11:4 CEB) But of animals that rechew food and have divided hoofs you must not eat the following: the camel—though it rechews food, it does not have divided hoofs, so it is unclean for you...
- ❖ (Isaiah 30:6 CEB) An oracle about the beasts in the arid southern plain. Through a land of distress and danger, lioness and roaring lion, viper and flying serpent, they will carry their wealth on donkeys' shoulders and their treasures on camels' humps to a people who won't profit...
- ❖ (Matthew 3:4 CEB) John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey.
- ❖ (Matthew 19:24 CEB) In fact, it's easier for a camel to squeeze through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter God's kingdom.
- ❖ (Matthew 23:24 CEB) You blind guides! You filter out an ant but swallow a camel."



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Thanks to Patti Couture
WITH A SHUDDER OF HORROR JOHN
REALIZED THAT HE HAD FORGOTTEN WHERE
HE HAD PARKED HIS CAMEL

Questions – what say you?

- As we read through these bible verses, what is your first impression of the importance of camels in the life and livelihood of early biblical peoples? List the functions that camels served among the people.
- As we read through scripture, you might have noticed the do's and don'ts of the use of animals for food. Can camels be used as a food source? Why?
- What about Jesus' camel jokes (okay not really jokes)? What do these verses emphasize about camels? Why does Jesus use them to make his point?

Where the **Deer** and the ... there's a song in there somewhere
What did the selfish beaver say to the deer that asked him to help stop the flooding affecting her grazing grounds? Frankly, my deer, I don't give a dam.

Most likely the fallow deer... a Eurasian deer that was a native to most of Europe during the last interglacial. In the Holocene, the distribution was restricted to the Middle East and possibly also parts of the Mediterranean Basin, while further southeast in western Asia was the home of the Persian fallow deer, which is bigger and has larger antlers. In the Levant, fallow deer were an important source of meat in Palaeolithic cultures (420,000–200,000 BCE), as is shown by bones, also used for conserving the marrow to be eaten weeks after the kill, found in the Qesem cave, but the numbers decreased in the following Epipalaeolithic Natufian culture (10000–8500 BCE), perhaps because of increased aridity and the decrease of wooded areas.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fallow_deer

The Persian fallow deer lived in the past in forests and woodlands in Israel. But it seems that the last deer in Israel were hunted about 100 years ago. The reversal came in the 1970s when a core breeding group of the animals was brought to Israel from Iran in a daring rescue mission as the Islamic revolution was about to begin there in 1979. Today core breeding groups exist on Mount Carmel and in the Biblical Zoo in Jerusalem.
<https://theworldnews.net/il-news/comeback-kids-persian-fallow-deer-reestablish-themselves-in-israel-s-north>



- ❖ (Deuteronomy 12:15 CEB) "However, whenever you wish, you may slaughter and eat meat, as the LORD your God sees fit to bless you with such in your cities. People who are polluted and people who are purified can join in the feast, as they would if they were eating gazelle or deer."
- ❖ (Psalm 42:1 CEB) "Just like a deer that craves streams of water, my whole being craves you, God."
- ❖ (Proverbs 5:19 CEB) "She is a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts intoxicate you all the time; always be drunk on her love."
- ❖ (Isaiah 35:5–6 CEB) "Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be cleared. Then the lame will leap like the deer, and the tongue of the speechless will sing. Waters will spring up in the desert, and streams in the wilderness."
- ❖ (Lamentations 1:6 CEB) "Daughter Zion lost all her glory. Her officials are like deer that can't find pasture. They have gone away, frail, before the hunter."
- ❖ (Habakkuk 3:19 CEB) "The LORD God is my strength. He will set my feet like the deer. He will let me walk upon the heights."



Questions – what say you?

- As we read through these bible verses, what is your first impression of the importance of deer in the life and livelihood of early biblical peoples? List the functions that deer served among the people.
- As we read through scripture, you might have noticed the do's and don'ts of the use of animals for food. Can deer be used as a food source? Why?
- Oh deer... how about that passage from Proverbs? How does this emphasize the importance/reverence of the deer among the people?
- You notice???? No deer in Christian Scriptures 😞

Please clean up after your ... **Dog**

What do you get if you cross a dog and a lion? Well you won't be getting any mail, that's for sure.

The Canaan Dog, also known as the Bedouin Sheepdog and Palestinian Pariah Dog, is a breed of pariah dog from the Middle East. This dog is found in Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, the Sinai Peninsula, and these or dogs very similar are found in Egypt, Iraq, and Syria. There are 2,000 to 3,000 Canaan dogs across the world, mostly in Europe and North America. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canaan_Dog

The Canaan Dog is the national dog breed of Israel.[8] The Canaan Dog is a member of the pariah-type dogs, a sub family of the spitz group of dogs. The Canaan Dog has been very common in the Southern Levant region, from Sinai to Syria.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_national_symbols_of_Israel



- ❖ (Exodus 11:7–8 CEB) “But as for the Israelites, not even a dog will growl at them, at the people, or at their animals. By this, you will know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel. Then all your officials will come down to me, bow to me, and say, ‘Get out, you and all your followers!’ After that I’ll leave.” Then Moses, furious, left Pharaoh.”
- ❖ (Psalms 22:20 CEB) Deliver me from the sword. Deliver my life from the power of the dog.
- ❖ (Proverbs 26:11 CEB) Like a dog that returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats foolish mistakes.
- ❖ (Proverbs 26:17 CEB) Like yanking the ears of a dog, so is one who passes by and gets involved in another person’s fight.
- ❖ (Ecclesiastes 9:4–5 CEB) “Ecclesiastes 9:4 Whoever is among the living can be certain about this. A living dog is definitely better off than a dead lion, Ecclesiastes 9:5 because the living know that they will die.”
- ❖ (Tobit 6:2 CEB) So their son departed, with the angel alongside him. Tobias’ dog also went with him and accompanied them on the journey. They both journeyed until the first night fell upon them, and they set up camp along the Tigris River.
- ❖ (Tobit 11:4 CEB) So they both went on together, and Raphael said, “Get the gallbladder ready.” The dog came with them, still following behind.
- ❖ (Mark 7:27–28 CEB) He responded, “The children have to be fed first. It isn’t right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.” But she answered, “Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”
- ❖ (Luke 16:21 CEB) Lazarus longed to eat the crumbs that fell from the rich man’s table. Instead, dogs would come and lick his sores.” (Mark 7:27–28; Luke 16:21 CEB)

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I KNOW YOU LOVE THE DOG JESUS, BUT
YOU'VE JUST GOTTA STOP RESURRECTING
HIM LIKE THAT

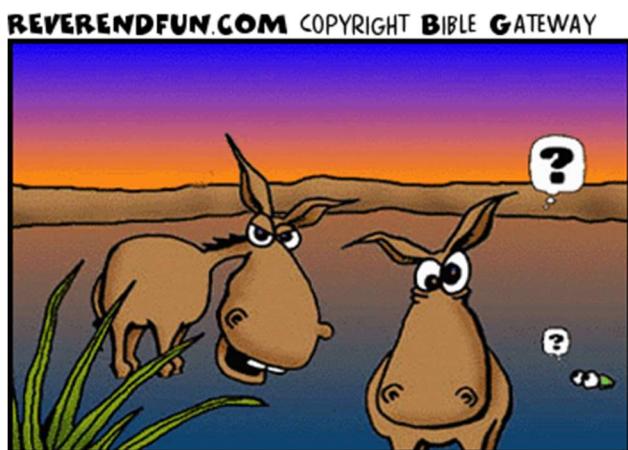
Questions – what say you?

- As we read through these bible verses, what is your first impression of the importance of dogs in the life and livelihood of early biblical peoples? List the functions that dogs served among the people.
- Does it seem that dogs get a bad rap?
- Tobit is a book of scripture that is not found in the full canon but is used by some Christians and Jews. Doesn't this scripture read like an episode of Lassie? Does it seem familiar?

Get off your **Ass/Donkey** ... saved the best for last.
Who is the most famous donkey in history? Donkey-ottie

Donkeys (or asses) are mentioned many times in the Bible, beginning in the first book and continuing through both Old and New Testaments, so they became part of Judeo-Christian tradition. They are portrayed as work animals, used for agricultural purposes, transport and as beasts of burden, and terminology is used to differentiate age and gender. In contrast, horses were represented only in the context of war, ridden by cavalry or pulling chariots. Owners were protected by law from loss caused by the death or injury of a donkey, showing their value in that time period. Narrative turning points in the Bible (and other stories) are often marked through the use of donkeys — for instance, leading, saddling, or mounting/dismounting a donkey are used to show a change in focus or a decision having been made. They are used as a measure of wealth in Genesis 30:43, and in Genesis chapter 34, the prince of Shechem (the modern Nablus) is named Hamor ("donkey" in Hebrew). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_references_to_donkeys

(Numbers 22:20–34 MESSAGE) “20 God came to Balaam that night and said, “Since these men have come all this way to see you, go ahead and go with them. But make sure you do absolutely nothing other than what I tell you.” 21 Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went off with the noblemen from Moab. 22 As he was going, though, God’s anger flared. The angel of GOD stood in the road to block his way. Balaam was riding his donkey, accompanied by his two servants. 23 When the donkey saw the angel blocking the road and brandishing a sword, she veered off the road into the ditch. Balaam beat the donkey and got her back on the road. 24 But as they were going through a vineyard, with a fence on either side, 25 the donkey again saw GOD’S angel blocking the way and veered into the fence, crushing Balaam’s foot against the fence. Balaam hit her again. 26 GOD’S angel blocked the way yet again—a very narrow passage this time; there was no getting through on the right or left. 27 Seeing the angel, Balaam’s donkey sat down under him. Balaam lost his temper; he beat the donkey with his stick. 28 Then GOD gave speech to the donkey. She said to Balaam: “What have I ever done to you that you have beat me these three times?” 29 Balaam said, “Because you’ve been playing games with me! If I had a sword I would have killed you by now.” 30 The donkey said to Balaam, “Am I not your trusty donkey on whom you’ve ridden for years right up until now? Have I ever done anything like this to you before? Have I?” He said, “No.” 31 Then GOD helped Balaam see what was going on: He saw GOD’S angel blocking the way, brandishing a sword. Balaam fell to the ground, his face in the dirt. 32 GOD’S angel said to him: “Why have you beaten your poor donkey these three times? I have come here to block your way because you’re getting way ahead of yourself. 33 The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If she hadn’t, I would have killed you by this time, but not the donkey. I would have let her off.” 34 Balaam said to GOD’S angel, “I have sinned. I had no idea you were standing in the road blocking my way. If you don’t like what I’m doing, I’ll head back.””



YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE LOOK ON
BALAAM'S FACE TODAY WHEN I HOLLERED
AT HIM ... IT'S LIKE HE'S NEVER HEARD
A DONKEY TALK BEFORE

Questions – what say you?

- Why was God so mad with Balaam?
- Why was the donkey being stubborn? What was Balaam's response?
- How does God respond to Balaam's anger at the donkey?
- Who is the smartass now – The Jewish Study Bible 2nd Edition says, “This episode of Balaam and the she-ass derives from a different tradition that contradicts the favorable view of Balaam expressed by the main story. In this version God is angry with the prophet and in-turn depicts the donkey as the actual visionary.” What are your thoughts on this?
- Balaam got a big surprise... how would you respond if this happened to you?

As we End this Session

Any new take-aways – aha moments – new questions, you have gathered from this study time?

CANTICLE OF CREATION - Francis of Assisi, 1225 A.D.

Be praised Good Lord for Brother Sun who brings us each new day. Be praised for Sister Moon: white beauty bright and fair, with wandering stars she moves through the night. Be praised my Lord for Brother Wind, for air and clouds and the skies of every season. Be praised for Sister Water: humble, helpful, precious, pure; she cleanses us in rivers and renews us in rain. Be praised my Lord for Brother fire: he purifies and enlightens us. Be praised my Lord for Mother Earth: abundant source, all life sustaining; she feeds us bread and fruit and gives us flowers. Be praised my Lord for the gift of life; for changing dusk and dawn; for touch and scent and song. Be praised my Lord for those who pardon one another for love of thee, and endure sickness and tribulation. Blessed are they who shall endure it in peace, for they shall be crowned by Thee. Be praised Good Lord for sister Death who welcomes us in loving embrace. Be praised my Lord for all your creation serving you joyfully.

