

**“Humans are Not Animals”
Genesis 1:20 - 27**

Big Idea – God gave humans sovereignty over the animals.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is attempting to convert Christians to its philosophy that eating meat is wrong. This radical animal rights group believes it is cruel to kill animals for meat. Ingrid Newkirk, founder of PETA, said, "The smallest form of life, even an ant or a clam, is equal to a human being" and "there really is no rational reason for saying a human being has special rights." The Bible teaches something very different.

Animals and People Are Different Creations

(Genesis 1:24 – 28; 2:7; Luke 12:5 – 7)

1. The first thing to note from Scripture is that animals and mankind are two different creations. Man is not a higher animal. Evolution is a lie. Man was created distinctly in the image of God (Ge. 1:24-28).

Animals were not made in the image of God.

Animals do not have a living soul. They are not eternal beings; man is (Ge. 2:7).

Man is infinitely higher than and different from the animal kingdom.

The Lord Jesus Christ referred to this fact

Luke 12:5 “I’ll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell. Yes, he’s the one to fear.

6 “What is the price of five sparrows—two copper coins? Yet God does not forget a single one of them.

7 And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.”

There are two important truths in this passage about animals and man.

1. we see that God does care for animals; he does not forget even the tiny sparrow.
2. we see that man is infinitely greater in value than the animals because man has an eternal soul. Man will be held accountable for his actions. Without a Savior, sinful man will spend eternity in Hell.

Animals Were Made for Man's Pleasure

(Psalm 8:4 – 8; Proverbs 12:10)

We see further that the Bible says animals were made for man's pleasure and use. Man was not made for the world; the world was made for man. Even the stars of the universe were made for man

Psalm 8:4 "Why are people important to you? Why do you take care of human beings?
5 You made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.
6 You put them in charge of everything you made. You put all things under their control:
7 all the sheep, the cattle, and the wild animals,
8 the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that lives under water."

The Psalmist sees the animal kingdom under man's feet.

This does not mean that man has a right to be cruel toward animals; it means man has a divine right to rule over the creation and to use it for his purposes and needs.

The Bible enjoins kindness even toward the dumb creatures of this world

Proverbs 12:10-11 10 Good people take care of their animals, but even the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel.

11 Those who work their land will have plenty of food, but the one who chases empty dreams is not wise.

Animals Are For Man's Food

(Genesis 9:2, 3; Exodus 12:5 – 10; Matthew 26:17 – 19; Acts 10:10 – 13; 1 Timothy 4:1 – 5; Colossians 2:16; Romans 14:2,3,6)

From the time of Noah until today God has authorized man to eat animals

Genesis 9:2 "Every animal on earth, every bird in the sky, every animal that crawls on the ground, and every fish in the sea will respect and fear you. I have given them to you.

3 "Everything that moves, everything that is alive, is yours for food. Earlier I gave you the green plants, but now I give you everything for food."

The nation Israel ate meat. The Lord Jesus Christ ate meat. The Passover meal was lamb (Ex. 12:5-10), and Christ ate the Passover (Mt. 26:17-19).

What about Christians? The Apostle Peter was certainly a Christian, and in a vision from God he was commanded to eat meat (Ac. 10:10-13). Turn to Acts 10:10-13

The vision was to impress Peter that Gentile believers were not unclean, but the fact remains that God commanded Peter to eat of the various meats. God would not have done that if He abhorred meat eating. The vision in Ac. 10 also shows that God has removed the O.T. dietary restrictions. Some would have us believe that restrictions against pork and other meats were for medical purposes. That's not the case. Those restrictions were for the purpose of making

Israel separate from the nations and for teaching her the difference between holy and unholy. God has removed all such dietary restrictions.

In fact, the Bible warns against those who would promote vegetarianism.

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons.

2 These people are hypocrites and liars, and their consciences are dead.

3 They will say it is wrong to be married and wrong to eat certain foods. But God created those foods to be eaten with thanks by faithful people who know the truth.

4 Since everything God created is good, we should not reject any of it but receive it with thanks.

5 For we know it is made acceptable by the word of God and prayer.

Here we are told that this is a doctrine of devils! The Bible clearly says that God created animals to be eaten. It is not cruel to kill an animal in hunting or fishing, and to eat it. It is not cruel to slaughter animals for food. That is one of the reasons God made animals. Christians are free to eat meats or not to eat meats. Paul discussed this at length in Romans 14:2,3, 6.

Forget those dietary laws which purport to be Christian. If a Christian wants to eat a certain kind of food--only vegetables, for example--that is fine. If he wants to avoid something such as sugar or pork, fine. Let him eat what he feels God would have him eat, and what he feels will best benefit him. But let that one be careful that he not make his own conscience a law for others. The N.T. forbids dietary laws for religious purposes.

Colossians 2:16 "So do not let anyone make rules for you about eating and drinking or about a religious feast, a New Moon Festival, or a Sabbath day

God used sacrificial animals to illustrate man's salvation

(Genesis 3:21; Exodus 12:3 – 13; John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:18, 19)

Animals were used by God to illustrate salvation to the human race. In the Garden of Eden, when the man and woman had sinned, God made "coats of skins, and clothed them" (Ge. 3:21). Where did God get those coats of skins? From innocent animals that died that man might have a covering for his sinful condition. And note that it was God who provided the covering. God must provide salvation.

Moses and the Passover Lamb

Exodus 12:3-13 Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man must get one lamb for the people in his house.

4 If there are not enough people in his house to eat a whole lamb, he must share it with his closest neighbor, considering the number of people. There must be enough lamb for everyone to eat.

5 The lamb must be a one-year-old male that has nothing wrong with it. This animal can be either a young sheep or a young goat.

6 Take care of the animals until the fourteenth day of the month. On that day all the people of

the community of Israel will kill them in the evening before dark.

7 The people must take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs.

8 On this night they must roast the lamb over a fire. They must eat it with bitter herbs and bread made without yeast.

9 Do not eat the lamb raw or boiled in water. Roast the whole lamb over a fire—with its head, legs, and inner organs.

10 You must not leave any of it until morning, but if any of it is left over until morning, you must burn it with fire.

11 “This is the way you must eat it: You must be fully dressed as if you were going on a trip. You must have your sandals on and your walking stick in your hand. You must eat it in a hurry; this is the LORD’S Passover.

12 “That night I will go through the land of Egypt and kill all the firstborn animals and people in the land of Egypt. I will also punish all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD.

13 But the blood will be a sign on the houses where you are. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. Nothing terrible will hurt you when I punish the land of Egypt.

John the Baptist in John 1:29 said, “Behold the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world.”

1 Peter 1:18, 19 “...redeemed...with the precious blood of Christ, like a lamb without spot and blemish.”

Man cannot earn it himself. Salvation is a gift of grace, "not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ep. 2:9). From Eden to Calvary, the blood of animals was shed to illustrate salvation.

God saved His breath for the creation of human beings.

Gen. 2:7 says, "the Lord God...breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being." We are created in the image of God and endowed with His very breath to live. That is sacred.