hearts for these beloved furry family members, then we may be sure that he loves them far more than we do (James 1:17). As the animals in the Ark shared the salvation of Noah and his family, so we can have every confidence that our beloved pets who have been adopted into our families will also share in the blessings in Redemption. Our Lord Jesus Christ came to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found. In Christ the curse of the Fall is reversed. Christ proclaims: “Behold, I am making all things new,” Revelation 21:5

Will Extinct Animals be in Heaven?

When speaking to Job, God pointed to the great land and sea creatures, including dinosaurs, who reflect something of the glory and greatness of our Creator (Job 40:41). We can expect to see extinct creatures, such as dinosaurs, in Heaven.

Animals in Heaven

There is no doubt that animals will be in Heaven. The Bible is clear: "Now I saw Heaven opened, and behold a white horse…" Revelation 6:1. The Bible describes the angels around God’s throne as having features and characteristics like that of a lion, a bull and an eagle (Ezekiel 1). God Himself is likened in Scripture to a lion, a leopard, a bear (Hosea 13:7-8) and to an eagle (Deuteronomy 32:11). God made a good and perfect earth, populated by many animals. God directed Adam to name the animals – indicating relationship.

Animals in Heaven

God’s People and God’s Creatures

When Adam was created, God surrounded him with animals.

When Noah was protected from the Flood and when God made a Covenant with him, he was surrounded by animals.

When Abraham was led to the Promised Land, he was accompanied by many animals.

When God led Moses and the Children of Israel through the Red Sea, provided for them in the wilderness and made a Covenant with them, they were accompanied by many animals.

When our Lord Jesus was born, He was surrounded by animals in the stable.

When our Lord returns to establish the new Heavens and the new earth, we can have every expectation that He will again be surrounded by the animals He has created.

Every Creature

The last book of the Bible presents the final climax of the ages when all Creation faces the Creator. First the four living creatures (the animal-like angels around God’s throne, as described in Ezekiel 1) praise God, then the twenty four elders, then the Redeemed people of God, then the angels (Revelation 4:8; 5:12). Finally the great scene is described when all living beings present their worship to Almighty God. “And every creature which is in Heaven and on earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: blessing and honour and glory and power be to Him who sits on the Throne and to the Lamb, forever and ever!” Revelation 5:13

Consider the Sparrows

God created all the animals (Psalm 104). All animals belong to God (Psalm 50:10). God cares for the animals. “Jesus said: ‘are not the five sparrows sold for two copper coins and not one of them is forgotten before God.’” Luke 12:6. It is that Scripture which inspired the first act of the Union of South Africa, the minting of the half cent coin and later the one cent coin with two sparcors on it – reminding us that God cares for the very least.
Animals Matter to God

There are those who say that animals do not matter, but the Lord Jesus taught that His people are worth more than many sparrows (Matthew 6:28). If a Sparrow is worth a thousand, then what is the value of you? A hundred times zero equals zero. A million times zero still equals zero. For you to be of great value, those who are worth more than a hundred sparrows.

Animals included in Noah's Ark

Noah's Ark was the premier Biblical picture of Salvation. God provided a way of salvation from the judgment of the Flood. Noah, his family, and for multitudes of animals. In his commentary on Genesis, John Calvin wrote: "It was a kind of restoration of the former state of things when God brought to Noah those animals, which He intended should be preserved through Noah's labour and service. . . . Moses explains the manner in which the animals were gathered together into the Ark and says that they came of their own accord..." It shows that the blessing of God rested on the obedience of Noah, that in a moment such an assemblage of all animals should take place. "Then God remembered Noah and every living thing and all the animals that were with him in the Ark..." Genesis 8:1.

Stewardship over Creation

The most revealing Old Testament picture of God's Redemptive work is Noah's Ark. God took great care to save the animals from the Flood. In God's instructions to Noah we see many details (Genesis 6:1-8). All animals were God's animals (Psalm 50:10). We are answerable to God for our care to save the animals from the Flood. In God's Creation, all animals are to be cared for. The animal is God's servant, not God's servant. In Genesis 9:1-2, God commanded the creation of the Ark for the animals. All animals have a soul. God spoke to the animals and gave them assignments. A raven aware that every puppy and kitten has its own spirit. Yet the Psalms and Revelation repeatedly speak of animals worshipping God. Yes, animals are not created in the image of God – but neither are angels and they will be in Heaven.

Do Animals Matter?

The Ark of Noah

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Do Animals have Souls?

The Hebrew word nephesh is translated soul more than 130 times in the Old Testament (KJV). The same Hebrew word nephesh, which is translated soul whenever it refers to man, is translated as beast; living creature or life when referring to animals. In Genesis 1:27, when referring to God's creating of the whales and every living creature which moves and the birds in the air, the same word nephesh is used. When God made a Covenant with Noah and every living creature, the word nephesh is used again to refer to the animals (Genesis 9:9-10). Proverbs 12:10 says, "A good man is kind to his animals, but the wicked are cruel to theirs." Proverbs 12:10

Do Animals have Spirits?

The Hebrew word ruwach, which is translated as soul when referring to animals, including Psalm 74:19, and Job 12:7-10. Those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:24. To worship God must one a spirit, for it is the spirit in the bond that makes us what we normally mean by our soul. Those who have been privileged to have lions, leopards and cheetahs as friends also appreciate the depth of character and deep affection that they are capable of.

Will our Pets be in Heaven?

Throughout the years my family has rescued and adopted many cats and also some rabbits and ducks. When I was growing up, I had the joy of having a lioness, Vivian and a leopard, Malcolm, as my stuffed animals. When any of our pets have died, we have grieved and wept and buried them with Scripture reading, Hymn singing and prayer, thanking God for all the happy memories and committing our beloved pet into the hands of our Creator. When my children have asked if we will see and recognize our pets in Heaven, I could answer with an emphatic, Yes!

Together Forever

"The wolf also shall dwell with the Lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them." Isaiah 11:6.

"Search from the Book of the Lord, and read; not one of these shall fail; not one shall lacks her mate; for My mouth has commanded it, and His spirit has gathered them. He has cast the lot for them and His hand has divided it among them with a measuring line. They shall possess it forever; from generation to generation they shall dwell in it." Isaiah 34:16-17.

The Source of Love

God is the source of all love. God is the giver of every good and perfect gift (1 John 4:16). It is impossible that we could love our pets more than God does. If God has put such deep love in our