

# Really – Do pets “go to heaven” when they die?

*Is there an “afterlife” for our pets? What does Scripture say on this topic?*

Philip Shields sermons  
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All scriptures are NKJV unless otherwise noted.

Note: I often refer to God as YHVH; to Jesus as Yeshua.

**Summary:** When our beloved pet dies, will we ever see it again? Is it up in heaven, as some now believe? What is mankind? What is an animal? WHY does all this even matter? It matters a lot. Are animals and humans the same in God’s eyes? And what’s the place and future for man and animals in scripture? Are there animals in heaven? How much does God love animals? All this and more....

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This December 2013 there will be a new book released titled, “Do Our Pets Go to Heaven?” Perhaps this teaching will even *increase* the sales of that book. It’s an intriguing concept whether you believe that when a person dies he/she goes to heaven or you believe in a resurrection and living here on a millennial “heavenly” earth. It’s intriguing to wonder if we’ll ever get to see our favorite pets again – you know, the ones that died.

***Now right off the bat, let me admit that I realize some brethren and ministers seeing this title will wonder why I’m even spending any time on it.*** Those people probably are not “animal lovers”. But I’m also convinced that there are many people out there who are truly wondering, especially people who are “animal lovers” and people who have had pets they felt closer to than some of their very own extended human family! Let’s admit it: for animal lovers, when a dearly loved pet dies, many people will grieve deeper and harder for that beloved dog or cat or other pet than they did when their great-aunt or uncle died.

Don’t shake your head in disbelief. We’re all made unique and different, and it’s especially for people who love animals that I dedicate this sermon.

The main point of this sermon: will we ever get to see our favorite deceased pets again? Our hearts want to say “I hope so”. Even mine. But all our thoughts have to square with what is revealed by scripture.

***But we’ll also cover these other themes:***

- How does God himself view animals, pets and wildlife?
- Is God an “animal lover”?
- Are animals and mankind co-equals on this planet? What does God say?
- What does scripture say about animals in the kingdom of God?
- Do animals have a “soul” or an “afterlife”?
- What DOES scripture say about animals and pets after they die?
- Will you ever again see your pets that have died?
- What possibilities might there be?

Many theologians imply that people’s pets have a soul, or go to heaven when they die. Let’s examine all that. Even **C.S. Lewis** speculated that tame animals may have a portal to heaven through humans! He wrote in *The Great Divorce*, that when we name animals, they “become themselves” and “our salvation flows into them.”

Wow, is that right? What scriptures did he cite for that? Opinion is fine, but when we speak theologically, we must surely base our opinions on what Scripture actually says.

But I understand how hard it can be to think you’ll never see your beloved pet again. Pets have a special place in our heart. It’s not unusual to see pets in nursing homes, as they so often bring a healing quality to people’s lives. Let’s face it, many people grow closer to, and more fond of, their pets -- than they might to an uncle or aunt or even a grandparent! I’m not saying it should be that way, I’m just admitting what it often becomes!

It wasn’t that long ago that **our latest family pet, actually my son’s tiny but adorable pug** – started having difficulties and finally we put it out of its misery at the Vet’s office. Actually our mid-20’s son was the one who took his beloved companion, yes the pug, down to the Vet’s office and sat with it a while before having to say good-bye. I know it was terribly painful for him, as it was even for us. Even now, I still feel some painful sadness – both for losing our pug, and for the pain and sorrow I know our beloved son went through.

In my *own* mid-twenties, we had a most remarkable and loving **English Springer Spaniel named Duchess**. Her lineage was a combination of show-stock (beautiful) and hunting stock (loved to be outdoors and hunt!). Inside our home, Duchess was well mannered, calm, loving and – always there. I loved how she would snuggle down at my feet when I’d be working away on sermons or projects. When we’d let her outside, she would be a non-stop rocket on steroids! Have you ever noticed a Springer’s non-stop wagging tiny tail? What a hunting dog she was! Sometimes I didn’t even care if I came home with game or not. I just enjoyed watching her work the field. But alas, all pets have a sad ending. Always. Every single one, every single time. They die, and break our hearts. I was heart-broken for a long, long time.

And I have to admit, I hoped that somehow, some way, I could expect to someday see and be with my beloved Duchess again.

I’ve had many other beloved pets. I had a **parakeet** that would whistle and talk. It loved to kiss its own image in the bathroom mirror. He loved to whistle and would say “down with cats”... that later became simply “down, down, down cats”. We had a cat. It must have felt insulted because one day our cat won. Now, will I ever see Chirpie again?

So what does SCRIPTURE say? Amazingly enough, the Bible has a lot to say about animals. But – to the point of this teaching – how does holy scripture treat animals? What does it say about what happens to animals, and specifically your favorite pet – when they die? There’s no point in discussing what we think or hope. We have to discuss what scripture SAYS. That must be the bedrock and our foundation on everything we believe and think.

So let’s get the whole picture on animals first – then zero in on the answer.

### 1) The Creator LOVES the animals and creation HE created

I believe it's clear that the Creator dearly loves the animals HE designed and created. In fact he dearly loves ALL of his creation. Of course I don't believe in evolution. It takes FAR more faith to believe in evolution, than in a very smart, loving and amazing CREATOR who designed each living thing perfectly and even all the symbiotic inter-relationships in nature – perfectly. It saddens and angers Him to see how we have treated his creation. I have a sermon in fact about our Responsibility to be stewards over the creation.

God created all the fish, sea creatures and birds on the 5th day of creation. Then on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of creation according to Genesis 1, God created all the land mammals and creatures and creeping things and bugs by speaking them into existence. He simply commanded the earth to bring forth each living creature after its kind (Gen 1:20-25), and it was so. They didn't evolve slowly over millions of years. NO, there was a Creator **who knew each creature he created**. (Genesis 1:20-25).

Here are some of the scriptures which show how God loves his creation:

- God saved the animals alive in the Flood, as well as humans (**Gen 6:20; 8:1**).
- The sabbath was made to give us rest – but not just mankind. **The 4<sup>th</sup> commandment** also clearly states that the rest was also for the livestock and animals to have rest (Exodus 20:8-11). We are to do no work on the sabbath, “neither you, nor your family –NOR YOUR LIVESTOCK”, it says. SO God cares for the welfare and wellbeing of our work animals too.
- When God provided water out of the Rock, it was for both man and beast (**Num 20:8,11**).
- Harvesters were to regard the life of nesting birds (**Deut 22:6-7**) they would come across.
- There were laws which prohibited unequally yoking our livestock. Neither was an ox to be muzzled while treading out the grain. God wanted them to be able to eat and be nourished as they worked. And look what He says about a lost or overburdened ox or donkey:

#### **Exodus 23:4-5**

4 "If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him again. 5 If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden, and you would refrain from helping it, you shall surely help him with it. (**Deut 22:1-2**—adds this applies even if it's your brother, not just for enemies!)

So surely it's clear – God has a heart for animals. **Scripture is clear! God is an animal lover. He loves HIS Creation.** (But God's not an “animal lover” in the sense of the animal activists who put animals above humans, or give them more rights, etc.)

#### **Psalms 50:10-11**

For every beast of the forest is Mine,

And the cattle on a thousand hills.  
***I KNOW ALL the birds of the mountains,***  
And the wild beasts of the field are Mine.

He loves his creation. He knows each and every one of them! You know what? I do too. I love watching NatGeoWild channel – all about animals. I glorify their Maker as I learn more and more about each one. In fact, Romans 1:20- says that we can understand a little about God’s divine nature and what he’s like BY THE THINGS which He has created. That’s what it says. **(Romans 1:20)**

David said he would look out into “nature” – into the heavens – and he says the very heavens proclaim God’s glory (Psalm 19). Well, so does a hummingbird and so do a heron or a frog. Everything is wonderful and beautiful in its own way and speaks of the care and loving wisdom of its creator.

He knows every star by name (Psalm 147:4; Isa 40:26). He knows when a sparrow falls to the ground – or captured by a marauding cat.

### **Matthew 10:29-31**

“Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And ***not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will.*** But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

**Luke 12:6** says “**not one of them is forgotten before God**”.

Now this verse tells us a few things from the One who created them (John 1:1-3). He implies He knows even when a sparrow falls – and therefore knows everything about us as well. And then he clearly says, despite what we hear from the “animal rights” folks – that **we humans are worth more than animals and wildlife**. Humans and animals and wildlife do NOT all have the same value to God.

There are so many verses about how much God is involved in animals.

### **Psalms 147:7-9**

Sing to YHVH with thanksgiving; Sing praises on the harp to our God,  
Who covers the heavens with clouds,  
Who prepares rain for the earth, Who makes grass to grow on the mountains.  
**HE gives to the beast its food, and to the young ravens that cry.**

One of the things I enjoy doing is going down to the pond near our home – and there are usually some sand cranes and ducks there. So far the ducks are very skittish, but because I bring them food every time – kernels of corn – they now start swimming towards me every time they see me. I enjoy feeding them. God does too:

In fact Yeshua had this to day:

### **Matthew 6:25-26**

“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? **Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?**

So don't make fun of someone who is an animal lover or enjoys feeding the birds and animals. In fact every night we have 4-5 deer that come to our back yard and one little doe, barely no longer a fawn, is starting to come right up to me.

God Almighty cares so much about animals that He made a special point to save them alive in the worldwide flood – see **Genesis 6:18-19**. You know, the story of Noah's Flood. It really was God's Flood, by the way. But my point is: YHVH saved the animals alive in the ark.

### **Genesis 6:18-21**

But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark — you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. 19 And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, **to keep them alive with you**; they shall be male and female. 20 Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, *and of every creeping thing of the earth* after its kind, two of every kind **will come to you to keep them alive**. 21 And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself; **and it shall be food for you and for them.**"

Can you hear/feel God's love there?

In the story of **JONAH** – at the very end, God upbraided Jonah for being so concerned about the plant that died, that here's what YHVH said. I want you to notice PART of what God was concerned about:

### **Jonah 4:9-11**

9 Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "It is right for me to be angry, even to death!" 10 But YHVH said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night. 11 And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left — **and much livestock?**"

WHY am I reading all this? Because if you're NOT a person who cares about animals, maybe – if you want to be more and more like GOD – maybe you need to rethink that. God deeply cares about animals. If we are growing in his image, so will we!

It's very clear that in the millennial reign on EARTH – not in heaven, but on earth – there will be lots of animals. And their very nature will be changed so they won't be a danger to us and our children anymore.

### **Isaiah 11:6-9**

6 "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.  
7 The cow and the bear shall graze;  
Their young ones shall lie down together;

And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole,  
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.  
9 *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,*  
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
As the waters cover the sea.

So the Creator wants samples of ALL his creation around during the millennium – except of course Satan and his demons, who will not be around for most of that time. But these are not the same animals that were on the earth before, but new animals. These are not former pets. And this is not in heaven – but here on a millennial earth. So scriptures like Isaiah 11 do NOT at all prove there are flesh and blood animals in heaven!

Also, the book of Revelation speaks of Christ and his Bride and the “armies in heaven” coming back to earth after the Wedding Supper, **on “white horses”** (Revelation 19:14). Some believe this proves Jesus is an equestrian who loves to ride horses up there in heaven and that he has stables full of horses as we know horses, in heaven. But also keep in mind that the book of Revelation speaks of demons that were as “frogs” (Rev. 16:13).

So I personally have believed for a long time that these “horses” we’ll be coming back on are not flesh and blood horses, but are spirit angelic beings that look like horses but are spirit. They can travel through time and space – for they are spirit horses, angelic. At least the way I see it. After all, even the cherubim, which have 4 faces, have parts that look like part of various animals – ox, eagle, lion, for example – but they themselves are not oxen or lions, but are powerful arch-angels. You can see that in **Ezekiel 1:10 and Ezekiel 10:14**.

**See Revelation 4:6-8** also for example – where four Living Creatures, with six wings (Seraphim?) are described as looking like these animals we know so well, but not four-faced, as described in Rev 4.

Now let’s transition back to creation week. What did God do after He spoke the animals in to existence? Are mankind and animal kind of the same value to God? I’ve already read to you that we are worth far more than many sparrows. This part of the sermon will begin to clarify the distinctions between man and beast – and how that explains God’s plan for each.

### 2) **ONLY Mankind was hand-made in the image of God**

Now we come to the distinctions. EVERYTHING else that was created in creation week, was spoken into existence. Let there be light – and there was light. Let the waters bring forth fish and sea creatures – and they did. Let the earth bring forth animals and creeping things – and that happened. We serve a God who speaks out stars, animals, mountains and galaxies!

**“He commanded and they were created” - - Psalm 148:5**

**Psalms 33:6 –**

**By the word of YHVH** the heavens were made, [the Word of YHVH is Yeshua!]  
And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

But after creating the animals, God did NOT just speak mankind into creation. No, first we are told that mankind – and mankind alone – was made in the very image and likeness of GOD himself.

That is not said of any other creature. **Man alone looks like God.** And God looks like us. Humanity alone is made in God’s image. That blessing, that purpose, that intention – was for humanity alone. Nothing in scripture says all animals are made in God’s image. God’s creation REVEALS who the Creator is, but being in his image and likeness was a gift for mankind alone. That’s what Genesis 1:26-27 says.

**v. 26- “Let us make MAN (mankind) in OUR image, according to OUR likeness....”.**

### **Genesis 1:27**

**“So God created man in His own image;** in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

### **3) Only mankind was given God-breathed life and “Spirit in Man”**

**Genesis 2:7** – when creating Adam, YHVH – who came as Jesus Christ 4,000 years later – GOD knelt in the ground and formed a man. By hand. Not by divine fiat, not by the spoken word – as He had done everything else he had created. This is important. Mankind is special and unique.

### **Genesis 2:7**

**“And the Lord God (YHVH Elohim) formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;** and man became a living being.”  
(KJV – soul)

We have something of God inside all humanity – his very breath. Animals do not. That breath of God, I believe, imparted into mankind the **“Spirit in man”** which makes us so different from animals. It’s what gives us intellect, mind power, the ability to reason, think, enjoy fine art, and to use our minds – unlike most animals that run purely on instinct. Some animals and life forms are VERY intelligent – dolphins, whales, elephants, the ape family – but they still are nowhere near what God put into humans.

Nowhere else do we find a verse saying “and God breathed into the dog’s nostrils the breath of life”.... It’s simply not there. I love animals as much as anyone. I loved my pets as much as anyone. But I have to be honest with scripture. Humanity is given a very, very special place – and that is what marks us as being so different from the rest of animal life.

**We are not animals. We are not just another animal, just like a dog or cat, and somehow we got some evolutionary breaks that catapulted us to the top of the heap. No, no, no. That’s not how it happened, if you want to go by Scripture, as I do. We are humans made in God’s image,** the only life form into whom God breathed his very own breath into our nostrils through father Adam, from whom also came Eve – so all humankind has that God-breath in them. THAT is what makes us so dramatically different from animals.

**IN a nutshell, the spirit in man is what gives us the ability to think and reason like humans.** I believe it also acts like an interface to God’s spirit – the Holy Spirit – and it’s the Holy spirit that allows us to understand spiritual things. Without the holy spirit we cannot

understand spiritual things. *But it was YHVH blowing into Adam’s nostrils that gave us understanding and mind power.*

### **Job 32:8**

**“But there is a spirit in man, And the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding.”**

**1 Corinthians 2:11-12** Then God adds HIS spirit, which helps us understand spiritual things.

**“For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.”**

There you have it in black and white. Animals did not receive the God-breathed spirit into their nostrils. This gave man the “Spirit in man” that also gives him understanding – and makes us have minds, rather than just instinct. So Man is in a very special category.

### **1 Cor 1:11-16**

**For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.**

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

**14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. 16 For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.**

Animals – as far as I can see anywhere in all the Bible – are not given the “spirit in man” to give them a mind, the ability to reason as humans do. Neither are animals ever given the holy spirit or ever offered it. Now we’re beginning to understand the REAL differences between mankind and animal-kind, and which will explain the futures of each.

### **4) Mankind was given dominion over the animals and creation**

After the mankind was created, God put mankind in charge of the creation. That’s right, animal rights folks – humanity is in charge. God says that several times.

### **Genesis 1:28**

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; **have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing** that moves on the earth."

### **Genesis 9:1-3, after the flood waters were subsiding:**

So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. 2 **And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast**



*of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand.”*

**Psalms 8:4-8**

4 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?

5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels,

And You have crowned him with glory and honor.

**6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands;**

**You have put all things under his feet,**

**7 All sheep and oxen —** Even the beasts of the field,

8 The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea

That pass through the paths of the seas.

Mankind’s destiny is to rule the universe with Christ. We are to inherit all things with Him, it says in Romans 8. We are brothers and sisters of the Messiah and he is not ashamed to call us his brothers! **That makes us real sons and daughters of God our Father.**

**2 Corinthians 6:18**

"I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

We’re not called to just be angel-like – but sons and daughters. REAL children of God.

**Hebrews 2:11-12**

11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He **is not ashamed to call them brethren**, 12 saying:

"I will declare Your name to My brethren;

In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."

I urge you, please – if you haven’t heard my series on the wonderful, awesome good news about the secret mysteries of God as to what your purpose is – **hear my series given Jan2013, Feb 2013, March 2013 – “YOUR BREATHTAKING DESTINY”**. Your calling is sky high.

This high calling is not common to animals. It isn’t. It’s for human kind made in the image and likeness of GOD.

**5) What happens at death to a man – and to an animal?**

**The spirit of man vs. the breath/spirit of an animal**

*So what happens at death? Turn to Ecclesiastes 3:18-22 and let’s read it together.*

**Ecclesiastes 3:18-21**

18 I said in my heart, "Concerning the condition of the sons of men, God tests them, that they may see that they themselves are like animals."

19 For what happens to the sons of men also happens to animals; one thing befalls them: as one dies, so dies the other. Surely, they all have one breath; man has no advantage over animals, for all is vanity.

20 All go to one place: all are from the dust, and all return to dust.

**21 Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward, and the spirit of the animal, which goes down to the earth?**

Now be turning to **Ecclesiastes 12:6-7** please. Man and beast all die. They’re the same in that way. But then in verse 21, we are told – BUT, the spirit of mankind goes up, back to God who gave it (Eccl. 12:7), whereas the breath/spirit of animals just goes down into the dust.

**Ecclesiastes 12:6-7**

Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed,  
Or the golden bowl is broken, Or the pitcher shattered at the fountain,  
Or the wheel broken at the well.

7 Then the dust will return to the earth as it was,

***And the spirit will return to God who gave it.***

In a resurrection, that “spirit in man” returns to the one being resurrected, as it clearly says about **Jairus’ daughter for example – “her spirit returned” – Luke 8:55.**

**I think Ecclesiastes 3:21** is one of the clearest verses that explains the difference between the human spirit and the animal spirit or breath – man’s goes back to God who gave it, **and the animal’s breath ---stays right here on earth.**

**Our pets do NOT go to heaven when we die, no matter how many books come out that say so. We must base it on the Bible.** But don’t give up yet, there’s some GOOD news for you pet lovers yet. Hang in there with me.

**Our SPIRIT in man goes back to God for safekeeping until the resurrection.** The spirit in man is not the conscious person, but is God’s record of everything about that person to be able to recreate/resurrect that person in the resurrection.

**John 3:12-13**

“If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 **NO ONE (no man- kjv) HAS ASCENDED TO HEAVEN but He who came down from heaven,** that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.”

These are Jesus’ very own words! He’s not lying, folks. NO ONE has ascended to heaven except Christ himself. No one. Now if no man, or no one, has ascended to heaven, why would we think ANIMALS have?

**So mankind will be resurrected.** There’s no need for a resurrection, is there, if when we die our full consciousness goes to heaven. Why resurrect the righteous in that case? Now turn quickly with me to Acts 2:34-35.

**Well, it’s because even righteous King David is not in heaven.** His “Spirit in man” is up there awaiting his resurrection and change to spirit, but not the PERSON King David. In Acts 2, Peter is making the point that Jesus is up there, but DAVID is not in heaven. Of course, Jesus had said earlier that NO ONE has ascended to heaven. NO one, according to Jesus. So why would pets be there?

**Acts 2:34-35**

**34 "For David DID NOT ASCEND INTO THE HEAVENS, but he says himself:**

'The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand,  
35 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'"

If righteous David is not in heaven, do we really think our pets are up there?

Now **Elijah** was taken up in a fiery chariot to “heaven” – but that does not mean the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven or where God lives, but just taken away for a time. It was time for another man – Elisha – to succeed him. I know this because YEARS later, we read of King Jehoram of Judah receiving a LETTER from Elijah! See **2 Chronicles 21:12-15**, if you aren't familiar with this.

### 6) SALVATION AND ETERNITY is reserved for Saved Humans

Now here's the crux of the matter: God so loved the world – mankind – that He sent his one and only Son to come live and die for us, for humanity, to be saved. You all know John 3:16. He lived and died and was resurrected for people who believe in him. All this was done primarily for people – not animals.

That salvation comes after we repent of our sins and acknowledge Yeshua (Jesus) as our Savior. We are believers – by believing in Christ and accept Him as our king and Master. Nothing like that is ever said about animals. Nothing like that is ever offered to animals.

All creation – including all wildlife -- will praise and glorify God (**Revelation 5:13; Psalm 148:10-13**). That's awesome, but it's not about salvation.

**Animals don't sin because they're only doing what they've been pre-programmed by their Creator to do. Animals therefore have no need of a Savior, no need of repentance**, no matter how many times you think your cat should repent for toying with a wounded mouse or chick it has found. Ha, ha. It's only doing what cats do. It's doing nothing wrong, really. But if you or I were toying with a wounded animal just to bedevil it, now that WOULD be wrong for us. We know better. We weren't programmed to act like that. We have free moral agency and understanding.

It is to HUMANS that Scripture addresses the hope of the resurrection – which you can easily read in **1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 as well as the last 12 verses or so of 1 Cor. 15**. We are to comfort each other with the knowledge we will see our son who died as a baby, or our dear dad who died. Surely somewhere in scripture it would be crystal clear that if we are to see our beloved Fido again, our pet – it would tell us.

I have other questions too:

- If beloved pets go to heaven, as some sincerely believe and teach, are we even-handed and say that bad pets or man-eater animals are burning in hell?
- And if the favorite dog or puppy is up there, again I ask – how about the gold fish or pet boa, or one's horses, ponies, cows, goats and sheep? Are all the hundreds of thousands of slaughtered sheep for Passover and other times also up there? And which animals get to go to heaven? Do we ban insects but accept dogs and cats?
- Why limit it just to pets or tame animals, as C.S.Lewis apparently speculated. And it is speculation! Why not have all living things that die end up in heaven – all the

trillions of bugs, spiders, cockroaches, alligators, komodo dragons – everything? You see, it’s speculation, and that’s what happens when we speculate instead of using scripture.

Plus, let me say again, let’s not confuse the scriptures about the Millennial reign on earth – where there WILL BE animals for sure – with scriptures about the heavenly realm where God is at present.

### **7) BUT – WHAT WE WILL HAVE, WILL BE BETTER THAN ANYTHING WE COULD HAVE IMAGINED**

This one thing I know: God knows how much you’d like to be reunited with your favorite pets someday. God knows that. I do know this: ***what God plans for each of us will be far more exciting, thrilling, wonderful and amazing than we can ever imagine.***

#### **Ephesians 3:20-21**

Now to ***Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think***, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**Be turning next to 1 Cor. 2.** Is it possible God will allow each of us to create our own pet? It won’t be the same pet exactly, but we could perhaps be allowed to create a dog or cat or parrot or whatever to be as close to the one we had as we like – for we will be sons and daughters of GOD. We will be able to create, I believe, if God so wills it.

God the father is God the Father - - but the actual one who spoke things into existence was the Word, who became flesh and we now know as Jesus Christ. I’m just speculating: but is it possible you and I will be allowed to create a perfect pet for ourselves, with all the right markings, without the hip dysplasia or the diabetes or cancer tumors that killed it? Just think. I don’t know – but this I know: we are going to be singing the hallelujahs when we see what God has actually prepared for those of us who love him!

#### **1 Corinthians 2:9**

But as it is written:

***"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man  
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."***

We haven’t even BEGUN to imagine it. We can’t! Not until we see it, God says. What surprise He has for us is so profound, so truly awesome and amazing, that even the glimpses that John and Paul were given were just that - -glimpses.

#### **Psalms 31:19**

***"Oh, how great is Your goodness, Which You have laid up for those who fear You, Which You have prepared for those who trust in You in the presence of the sons of men!"***

#### **Romans 8:28-30**

And we know that ***all things work together for good*** to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the

firstborn among **many brethren**. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

I am CERTAIN, that whatever the final answer will be, we will be ecstatic about it.

I don't believe my Duchess is in heaven. But I do believe what Abba (Father) will do for me is going to be far greater than I could have imagined, because that's what he tells me! And I trust Him. I believe Him. I'm going to be beyond-satisfied for what my Abba has in store for you and me who are animal lovers. Go with what scripture clearly tells us. We don't need to add or take away from it.

So come soon, dear Yeshua. Abba, our father, send our Savior, our Beloved Husband soon. We can't wait to be with you, can't wait to see what exciting surprises you have in store for those who love you and walk in your Way, by your Spirit. And thank you, for all that you are, and all you will be for all eternity.

And to all of you who listen and read on this website, this has been your brother Philip asking God on High that may YHVH bless you, and keep you, and may his face shine upon you, may be beam with delight when He thinks of you as you live in Christ. May He protect and guide you and bring you every blessing according to His will for you.

May He strengthen you when feel weak, may He lift you up when you are down. Receive His blessing, receive His joy, receive his loving forgiveness and his eternal favor on you... and may you walk in His paths, may you study His word, may you be One with Him and IN Him, in Yeshua's mighty loving name, Amen.

*(If this and/or other teachings on this website have blessed you, tell others about it, to the glory of our Father and our Savior.)*