

Bible study

A NOTE ON WILD BEASTS IN THE MILLENNIUM

By C M White
Version 2.2

What will the place for wild predators be in the World Tomorrow?
Will they be miraculously changed from carnivore to herbivore?
Will they be fed meat or be totally non-meat-eaters? Does the Bible
give us any clues to these questions that have perplexed many?



**“A righteous man has regard for the life of his beast,
but the mercy of the wicked is cruel.”
(Proverbs 12:10)**

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History Research Projects

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Introduction

The Garden of Eden, so graphically portrayed in Genesis, was a place which, by all reasonable deduction, was originally meant to eventually envelop the earth. The entire planet, it seems, was to become paradise – a garden of peace, plenty, interaction between humans and animals, and sheer joy. But it was not to be.

Instead, man sinned and was driven from the garden. Animals became hostile to man and each other. To this day male lions kill the cubs of rival male lions if they take over their pride. Lions hunt down and kill the cubs of other species and visa versa.

Many animals learnt to hunt, maim, kill and devour other species. Was this always meant to be the case? Or was the Garden of Eden a place without predatory animals? Speculation abounds to the origin of animals devouring each other and the solution. Amongst these views I list the following:

- God created the wild beasts with the potential to devour each other, but it was not intended to be that way
- Satan genetically engineered the beasts to become carnivorous
- God will instantly change the nature and internal structure of these animals to become herbivores in the millennium
- Humans will genetically engineer these creatures to become herbivores

The Bible does not tell us exactly how some animals began to devour each other or how it will all end.

The very first chapter of Genesis suggests to some that both man and beast were totally vegetarians:

Gen 1:29 And God said, Behold! I have given you every herb seeding seed which *is* upon the face of all the earth, and every tree in which *is the* fruit of a tree seeding seed; to you it shall be for food.

Gen 1:30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the heavens, and to every creeper on the earth which *has* in it a living soul every green plant *is* for food; and it was so.

Some say that man did not even consume milk products or eggs because fruit and vegetables may have been much more nourishing at that time than today. Given this logic, then walking around naked would be fine because Adam and Eve did not wear clothes at first.

However, the very structure of human digestion and teeth suggests that we are meant to eat meat, as Christ Himself did. And given that man was given dominion over all the creatures on the earth suggests that this may include eating those that God has sanctioned (Lev 11). There is not a word against the eating of meat and milk products anywhere in the scriptures.

But Bible prophecy predicts a time when there will be no more animals hunting, killing and consuming other animals – evidently during the millennium.

Isa 11:6 Also the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the cub lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

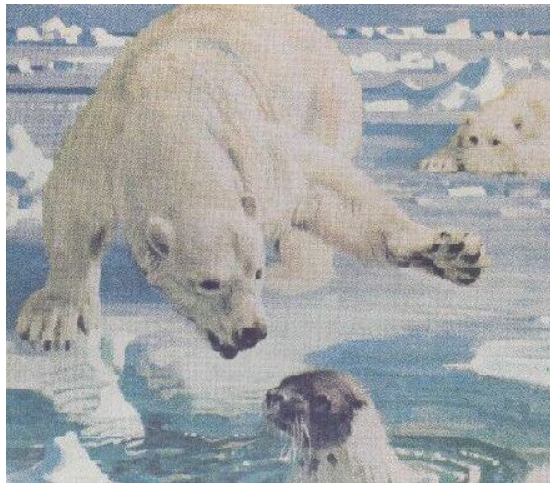
Isa 11:7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

Isa 11:8 And the suckling child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

Isa 11:9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea.
(compare Job 5:22-23; Hos 2:18)

Here we are told that lions will eat straw, although that does not mean that is all they will eat, as straw certainly does not provide sufficient nutrients for cats and in particular large, predatory cats. Rather, it seems that straw represents an increased vegetarian diet.

But it is not only the Bible that shows that a golden age was once extant in the days of old.



Today animals devour one another – but not when the Messiah returns

A Golden Age

Many early 'Christian' Fathers continued the belief of the original Apostles in the millennium, such as Justin the Martyr (100-165AD):

"But I and others, who are right-minded Christians on all points, are assured that there will be a resurrection of the dead, and **a thousand years** in Jerusalem, which will then be built, adorned, and enlarged, the prophets Ezekiel and Isaiah and others declare.

For Isaiah spake thus concerning this space of a thousand years: 'For there shall be the new heaven and the new earth, and the former shall not be

remembered, or come into their heart; but they shall find joy and gladness in it, which things I create' ... For as Adam was told that in the day he ate of the tree he would die, we know that he did not complete a thousand years. We have perceived, moreover, that the expression, 'The day of the Lord is as a thousand years,' is connected with this subject. And further, there was a certain man with us, whose name was John, one of the apostles of Christ, who prophesied, by a revelation that was made to him, that those who believed in our Christ would dwell a thousand years in Jerusalem; and that thereafter the general, and, in short, the eternal resurrection and judgment of all men would likewise take place." (Dialogue. Chapters 80-81)

Many Jews also believed in the concept. For instance **Rabbi Ketina**:

"The world endures **six thousand years** and one thousand it shall be laid waste, whereof it is said 'The Lord alone shall be exalted in that day'. As out of seven years every seventh is a year of remission, that God alone may be exalted in that day."

Sumerian Mythology contains a similar description, but of a past paradise, rather than a future one. At the mouth of the Euphrates, the pagan priests recalled a Golden Age of peace and plenty. They claimed that their predecessors dwelt in the paradise of Dilmun known as the 'Pure Place'.

"That place was pure, that place was clean. In Dilmun the raven utters no cry ... the lion mangled not. The wolf ravaged not the lambs".

Another Sumerian text noted:

"There was no unrighteousness in the land, no crocodile seized, no snake bit in the time of the First Gods".

The concept of a Golden Age of peace and abundance is found throughout the art, architecture and religion of early civilisations. All over the ancient Middle East, the Golden Age is chronicled and recalled in various texts. The Greeks called it "the age of Kronos" and was described as follows:

"They lived like gods, and their souls knew neither sorrow nor toil. Neither were they subject to age, but ever the same in hand and foot, they spent their time in leisure apart from evil ... The bounteous earth bare fruit for them of her own will, in plenty and without stint. They lived in peace and quiet in their lands with many good things, rich in flocks and dear to the blessed gods" (*Work and Days*, lines 108-130).

Later, the Latin tradition of the Golden Age was recorded by Ovid:

"The first millennium was the age of gold;

Then living creatures trusted on another;
People did dwell without the thought of ill; ...
Nor helmets marched the streets, country and town
Had never heard of war: and seasons travelled
Through the years of peace. The innocent earth
Learned neither spade nor plough". (*The Metamorphoses*, pages 33-34)

In China, the historian Kwang Tze (c400BC) also wrote of an idyllic age:

"In the age of perfect virtue ... They were upright and correct ... they loved one another ... they were honest and leal-hearted". (*Myths of China and Japan*, page 276) (leal = faithful, loyal or true)

Finally, in the sacred literature of the Hindis, the *Mahabharata*, explains that man needed nothing, was without disease and

"there was no lessening with the years; there was no hatred, or vanity, or evil thought whatsoever; no sorrow, no fear." (*Indian Myth and Legend*, pages 107-108)

The Bible predicts that another golden age is in front of us – the Messiah shall reign over the entire earth, bringing peace and justice for all peoples and even for the animals. There will be no more fear, tension or stress. All will enjoy harmony and a full, abundant life.



God's Cute Animal Creation – an endless fascination and joy for mankind

Carnivores in the World Tomorrow?

Certainly at the end of the Day of the Lord animals will be used as scavengers to eat the dead bodies (Rev 19:17-18) and later near the beginning of the millennium (Ezekiel 39:17-20). This lends weight to the following discussion.

Let us return to Isaiah 11 where we are told that lions will eat straw and will dwell peacefully with other animals.

How can this be when lions' and other predators' build, teeth and internal organs are created for eating meat? If they suddenly changed to a vegetarian diet, they would conceivably wither away or become extremely slow and useless. Witness the giant Chinese Panda bear. It's digestive system and teeth demonstrate that it must have been a carnivore at some time, but somehow switched to a vegetarian diet. As such, they are now very slow and ponderous given that their diet does not contain the necessary proteins to provide adequate energy for such a large beast.

This suggests that meat is still a necessity in their diet and by extended thinking, I wonder if there will be no predators but still be carnivores in the Millennium. By this I mean that a carnivore can still be meat-eating without being a predatory hunter. Will they be fed meat by humans or will carnivores be miraculously changed to herbivore? Is it something they will learn gradually? Or will they be fed meat by humans, given that their entire digestive system is oriented to eating huge amounts of meat?



God's amazing animal creation

In a documentary on “An animals world: Lions” shown on Discovery Channel (Australia), January 2002, Sydney, Australia, the commentator lamented that too much emphasis was given to the predatory nature of lions. In fact, he said, lions food source can be up to 60% derived from scavenging dead animals rather than hunting. Other carnivores similarly scavenge.

From the above I deduce the following:

- today’s predators (land, air and water –based), who learnt to kill under the influence of Satan, will once again join the other scavengers to clean up dead animals but with an increased vegetarian diet (of interest is that scientists are now saying that T-Rex was a scavenger and not a predator! They question whether T-Rex could even run at all to enable them to catch prey).
- there will be such a preponderance of wildlife, that there will be more dead animals to clean up than ever before. Predators will be essential to maintain the ecological balance.
- no longer will they kill young animals, the sick and the aged. This is contrary to God’s nature which is to help the young, sick and aged – whether they be animal or human. The spirit of competition, strife, killing, injuring and fear will no longer be extant when the Messiah returns to the earth.
- the prophecy seems to only refer to mammals and higher order animals. Whether it pertains to insects and many sea life, is something that would be interesting to discuss further, but insects have an important role in the ecological cycle, including eating other dead insects and animals. Isaiah’s prophecy does not preclude foods other than straw being eaten by lions. It shows peace between animals and that none will be predators, but does not negate them being scavenging carnivores.

As such, the earth shall be restored to its original beauty and peace shall reign:

“Therefore repent and convert so that your sins may be blotted out, when the **times of refreshing shall come** from *the* presence of the Lord.

And **He shall send Jesus Christ**, who before was proclaimed to you, whom Heaven truly needs to receive until the times of **restoration of all things**, which God has spoken by *the* mouth of His holy prophets since the world began.” (Acts 3:19-21)

From time-to-time we see cases of human service and love that must emulate what the world was supposed to be in the garden of Eden. We even see this in the animal kingdom where a dog goes around adopting other strays, or adopts a cat. Or a cat adopts a bird and so on.

Well, take a look at the attached article “Lioness looks after its prey” which conjured up thoughts of the way it will be in the World Tomorrow. It is a fascinating article showing that even in this world, sometimes species may dwell together peacefully. About mid-2001 news

emanating out of China was similarly fascinating. It detailed how a missing 2 year-old child was found in a bear's den. The bear had adopted the child and cared for it, even feeding it milk for some weeks! Not the slightest physical harm was detected on the child. Other similar stories of dolphins and dogs rescuing humans are wonderful testimonies to God's creation and how humans will interact with animals in the millennium.

Soon, the world will be at peace, and no animal will devour another, but will live at peace with all other species in perfect harmony.



There will come a time when it will be common place to play with wild animals

Appendix One

The Millennium

From the Living Church of God website:

Question:

"Where do you get the idea that mankind has been appointed 6,000 years of self-rule to be followed by a 1,000-year reign of Christ?"

Answer:

As Genesis shows, God reformed the earth and created the progenitors of all present life upon it in a six-day period, then rested on the seventh-day Sabbath. This began a weekly cycle in which man is to work for six days and rest every Sabbath (Ex. 20:9–11). In Hebrews 4:5–11, the Apostle Paul explained how the seventh-day Sabbath pictures the wonderful era of peace and rest that will follow the current age of man's activity. In the book of Revelation, John was inspired to write that this coming era, beginning with Christ's return to set up His Kingdom, will last 1,000 years (20:1–4)—often referred to as simply the "Millennium?"

As the seventh day of the week, then, represents a thousand-year period in God's plan it follows that the previous six days of the week represent thousand-year periods as well. In explaining what some would perceive as a delay in Christ's return, Peter brought up this principle as something the Church should not be ignorant of: "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (2 Peter 3:8 KJV).

The idea of each day of the week representing a thousand years of God's plan was well-known to the Jews of Peter's day. About 200 years before Christ, Rabbi Elias wrote, "The world endures six thousand years: two thousand before the law, two thousand under the law, and two thousand under Messiah." The famed historian, Edward Gibbon, wrote that "the tradition was attributed to the prophet Elijah" (*Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, p. 403). The *Encyclopedia of the Jewish Religion* (art. "Millennium," Adama Books, 1986, p.263) reports that the tannaim—rabbis of Christ's day—based such an interpretation on Psalm 90, written by Moses: "For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night" (v. 4). The tannaim said that, as there were six days of creation, the world would last for 6,000 years. The seventh "world day" would be 1,000 years of the Messiah (Sanhedrin 97a; Avodah Zarah Sa)...

As a final scriptural point, God told Adam that in the "day" he ate of the forbidden fruit, he would die (Genesis 2:17). Yet Adam lived to be 930 years old (Genesis 5:5)! How is that possible? One way is just as Methodius and other early church commentators explained: since a day with God was a thousand years, Adam had to die before the first 1,000-year day was completed—and he did.

Appendix Two

Example 1 – Garden of Eden attributes still found today in the animal world

**The Daily Telegraph, 9 January 2002, page 31
(Sydney)**

Lioness looks after its prey

NAIROBI: A grown lioness baffled experts in Kenya by adopting a baby oryx, a kind of antelope Africa's top predator likes to eat.

But the unusual alliance ended sadly when the lioness lost her companion to a hungry male lion with a strictly traditional diet.

The lioness came across the oryx shortly after it was born two weeks ago in Samburu National Park, finding it lying in wait for its mother who had gone to search for food, staff at the nearby Samburu Lodge said this week.

Defying nature, the lioness quickly adopted the oryx, giving it affection and protection from other predators as if it were her own cub, though strangely still allowing the mother oryx to come and feed her calf occasionally before scaring her away.



Baffling...a grown lioness walks along with her adopted baby oryx. Picture: AFP

"The baby oryx was very close to the lioness," Patrick Muriungi, a receptionist at the lodge said.

The lioness – weakened by a lack of food after two weeks of protecting "her" baby – on Monday led the oryx to the river.

Hiding behind bushes was the lion, which pounced on the oryx when its mother figure took a nap.

Nature expert Vincent Kapeen said the lioness may have adopted the calf because she had lost the company of her pride and was feeling lonely.

"What is baffling is why the relationship lasted so long," he said.

Lioness Has Now Developed Unusual Fondness for Oryx

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200201270032.html>

The Nation (Nairobi)

January 26, 2002

Posted to the web January 27, 2002

Mugumo Munene

The lioness that stunned the world recently by adopting a baby oryx in a wildlife sanctuary is now trailing herds of the same species.

Wildlife experts from the Samburu National Reserve believe that the lioness, in complete contrast to its own nature, has developed unusual fondness for the oryx species - which it would ordinarily make a meal of.

The national reserve's warden-in-charge, Mr Simon Leirana, said the lioness, which has since been named Larsen has been going hunting and has since the death of the baby oryx managed to kill and feed on a warthog and an impala.

"We have been monitoring Larsen's movements and most of the time during the day, she is trailing Oryx groups," Mr Leirana said.

The lioness puzzled wildlife experts, game watchers and villagers in Samburu after it struck a friendship with an oryx calf, escorting and protecting it around the game reserve for 15 days.

The calf was attacked and killed by a lion which Mr Leirana says is old and toothless.

"The big debate in Samburu now is whether we should intervene and assist in conserving this most unusual lioness by feeding her, or just let nature take its course. Larsen has been kept on close watch since," he said.

Tourists and game workers had watched in disbelief as the lioness and the frail brown baby oryx walk side by side and lay down to rest - with all the intimacy of a mother and calf - at the foot of Koitogor hills, near the Serena Samburu.

The two animals are quite different in behaviour and feeding habits.

Lions are voracious carnivores and commonly prey on browsers like antelopes, water bucks and zebras. The oryx is a gentle herbivore which survives on grass and leaves and spends much of its time dodging predators such as Big Cats, mainly by its speed.

The lioness sleeps for up to 16 hours a day and is active for only eight while the oryx spends 65 per cent of its time browsing.

Lions rely largely on their sight while oryx survives by its sharp sense of smell.

The oryx is a big antelope with beautiful black and white marks on its head. There are two other varieties, the fringed eared oryx and the Gemsbok.

Both sexes have long, almost straight horns, the females being more slender.

Appendix Three

Example 2 – Garden of Eden attributes still found today in the animal world

Mother of the Year



In a zoo in California, a mother tiger gave birth to a rare set of triplet tiger cubs. Unfortunately, due to complications in the pregnancy, the cubs were born prematurely and due to their tiny size, they died shortly after birth.

The mother tiger after recovering from the delivery, suddenly started to decline in health, although physically she was fine. The veterinarians felt that the loss of her litter had caused the tigress to fall into a depression. The doctors decided that if the tigress could surrogate another mother's cubs, perhaps she would improve.

After checking with many other zoos across the country, the depressing news was that there were no tiger cubs of the right age to introduce to the mourning mother. The veterinarians decided to try something that had never been tried in a zoo environment.. Sometimes a mother of one species will take on the care of a different species. The only orphans" that could be found quickly, were a litter of weaner pigs. The zoo keepers and vets wrapped the piglets in tiger skin and placed the babies around the mother tiger. Would they become cubs or pork chops?? Take a look ... you won't believe your eyes!!





Appendix Four

Example 3 – Garden of Eden attributes still found today in the animal world



14/12/06 - News section

How one leopard changed its spots ... and saved a baby baboon

By ZOE BRENNAN

She is the ultimate predator - a sleek and stealthy killer. Pouncing on her prey, she silences the baboon with one swipe of a vicious paw. Then, suddenly, something stirs in the dead animal's fur, and the law of the jungle is rewritten.

• GALLERY: Jungle queen becomes mother

From the bedraggled pelt of her kill crawls a tiny infant - a one-day-old baboon. In that moment, this young leopard forgets she is a hunter, and nurtures the baby baboon as if it were her own cub.

Smelling blood, a pack of hyenas gather to finish off the kill. Legadema, as she has been named by the camera crew who took these moving shots, carefully carries the baby baboon high up into a tree for protection. There, she cuddles the newborn to her for warmth through the long, African night.

"It was as if nature had turned on its head completely," says Dereck Joubert, a filmmaker who followed Legadema for three-and-a-half years in her natural habitat, the Okavango Delta of Botswana - the verdant flood plains known as Africa's Garden of Eden.

"She had killed the mother primate, but then found this live new-born on the ground. The little baboon called out, and we thought we were going to hear a major crunch and the leopard smacking its lips, but instead the baby baboon put its paws out and walked towards the young leopard.

"Legadema paused for a moment, apparently not knowing what to do. Then she gently picked it up in her mouth, holding it by the scruff of its neck and carrying the infant up a tree to keep it safe."

Baboons are arch enemies of the leopard, and one of their major food sources, but Legadema - the local Setswana word for "light from the sky" - was in the transitional stage between cub and predator, and it seems her maternal instincts came to the fore.

The film crew kept watch through the night. "Several times, the baby baboon fell out of the tree," says Joubert. "Each time, Legadema raced down to pick her up before the hyenas descended, and carried her back up to safety.

"The baboon clearly thought of Legadema as a surrogate mother. For several hours, they nestled in the tree."

He adds: "Legadema was like a cat looking after her own kitten, rather than predator and prey. She was part inquisitive cub, part mother -and forgot momentarily that she was a hunter. It was quite extraordinary and very moving to watch."

Tragically, when morning came, the camera team realised that the tiny baboon was no longer showing signs of life. "We think it was simply too small to survive the night without its natural mother and the sustenance she could provide," says Joubert. "As the sun came up, Legadema realised that the baby had died, and moved on."

Joubert observed this scene while filming a wildlife documentary, *Eye Of The Leopard*, which follows Legadema from birth to adulthood. "We came across a mother leopard and her eightdayold cub, Legadema, and followed her as she grew up," he explains.

"We were filming the adult leopardess when this adorable little cub stuck her head out of the log which was their den. It was possibly the first time she had ventured into the outside world, and she stumbled around in the sunlight, falling over as if she were drunk."

On finishing their project, the film crew left Legadema to follow her own path in the wild - but they still check up on her occasionally.

Joubert adds: "We have just heard that she will soon have her own baby to care for, just as she cared for that tiny day-old baboon." *Eye Of The Leopard premieres on National Geographic HD Channel on Sunday, December 17, at 8pm and launches the new channel Nat Geo Wild in March 2007*

Find this story at http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in_article_id=422784&in_page_id=1770

Appendix Five

Who Are the Real Animals?

A commentary by Gramme Marshall

Pastor of the United Church of God congregation in Ottawa, Canada

<http://www.ucg.org/commentary/realanimals.htm>



I read a shocking news report not long ago. A Quebec woodsman on a Jet Ski tried to kidnap a bear cub swimming across a river.

Its mother and sibling were already on the other side, and this cub was slow in making it across. Grabbing it by the scruff of the neck, the man on the Jet Ski was attempting to capture it to take it back home as a pet.

The bear cub broke free eight times by clawing at him, only to be grabbed again. To wear out the cub, the woodsman started running over it with the Jet Ski, forcing the cub's head under water.

The 55-year-old woodsman got his best grip by holding the cub upside down by a hind leg. He then dunked it again and again under water in a cruel attempt to drain the cub's energy. The cub was now moaning, desperately trying to breathe.

Eventually wildlife officers turned up and captured the bear to release it as an orphan in another part of the forest. It's feared the cub will not survive on its own.

Letters to the editor published in the newspaper were peppered with such words and phrases as "disgusting," "outrage," "upset," "no sane explanation for his behavior" and "too bad we can't dunk the man by his hind leg—maybe he would learn to treat animals with respect." For the woodsman's part, he said that if given a chance, he'd do it again.

Is it man's destiny to ride roughshod over animals? In today's world, greed and superstition are two powerful forces more important than the welfare of animals. Consider, for example, Africa and Asia.

Sometime in the late 1970s half the white rhinoceros population of Uganda suddenly disappeared. Only two were left in the country and the last was shot, probably by poachers.

To be fair, it might be hard to blame genuinely poverty-stricken, hungry people in Uganda if they shoot animals for needed cash or food. But after Idi Amin's reign of terror, tens of thousands of weapons were available and gangs today are often better armed than the rangers who guard park reserves.

Poachers mostly go for ivory, but if they come across a rhino they'll shoot it as well. But they only take the horn, leaving the carcass to rot.

In northern Tanzania poachers have wiped out 90 percent of the rhinos in the past 10 years. It's

reported that the greatest demand for rhino horn is South Africa , especially in *mutu* shops of Johannesburg and Pretoria .

Mutu is a Zulu word for "medicine," and in these shops an array of herbal and animal products—including rhino—are sold. Zulus buy a little powdered rhino horn mixed with dried lice, which they swallow to treat jaundice.

But rhino hide sells more than the horn. Zulus sometimes burn a piece of the hide inside their homes believing the vapors will drive away evil spirits. They also eat a bit of rhino hide to stop a nosebleed or ill effects from snakebite.

North Yemen is a large illegal importer of rhino horn. More than 80 percent of Yemeni men wear daggers called *jambiyya*, and the best handles are made from rhino horn. This market has increased the value of rhino horn 15-fold—leading to the deaths of thousands of animals.

Probably the oddest medicinal superstition for the rhino product is the practice of zookeepers in Rangoon , Burma , who collect the urine of a baby rhino which they drink as a cure for sore throats and to ward off asthma attacks. The Calcutta Zoo earned \$750 in just one year from the sale of an old rhino's urine. At least in these cases the animal isn't killed.

But is this man's destiny, practicing medicinal cures through the slaughter of game animals?

God is a compassionate God. His nature is one of mercy and kindness. We are to become like Him in our attitude and character. His conversation with Jonah showed He cared for animals, too, when debating the destruction Nineveh , which had many thousands of people "and much livestock" (Jonah 4:11). Scripture tells us that God cares for the birds and plants of the field (Matthew 6:25 -30).

This, then, is a great God who cares for the entire physical environment—chief of which are human beings made in His image. When He created the first man, He gave human beings responsibility over His creation, placing Adam in Eden "to tend and keep it" (Genesis 2:15). Man was given a responsibility to rule over the creation, but that rulership must be in wisdom, love, justice and mercy, reflecting the mind and attitude of God Himself.

After all, this life is a training ground for our ultimate destiny. Read our booklet **What Is Your Destiny**—it's one greater than that of animals. And it's one that requires humans to exercise love and compassion to all living things.

