

Animals In Heaven

*This study is dedicated to
Bandit, Tutti, and Tigger, and
to anyone who has ever loved
and lost a pet.*

“If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went.”

— Will Rogers

Anyone who has ever loved an animal knows what Will Rogers was talking about in this quote. But there are a lot of people who do not believe that dogs, or any animals, go to heaven. You may even hear that from pastors or other church leaders. They don't believe that animals have spirits and souls!

This study will use the King James Bible (unless otherwise specified) to show that animals do have spirits and souls and do go to heaven when they die. Passages used are taken verbatim from the King James Bible (KJV) including spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

The narrative in this study will be followed by the Bible passage being discussed. We will start by looking at a verse that is mistakenly used to show that God gave souls only to people.

Genesis 2:7 (KJV)

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; **and man became a living soul.**

If you take a closer look, you will notice that the verse does not say “and man *received* a living soul.” The verse says, “and man *became* a living soul.” Man was made alive by God breathing into his nostrils: “became a *living* soul;” putting the emphasis on the word “living,” not the word “soul.” The word “soul” in this verse is used like the word “person,” or “being,” as in, “and man was made a living being.”

In fact, the New International Version Bible literally translates the word “soul” in this verse as “being.”

Genesis 2:7 (NIV)

Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, **and the man became a living being.**

God gave life to Adam by putting His breath into Adam's nostrils. In this study you will find that when God breathed into Adam's nostrils, God also gave Adam His spirit (notice the little "s" in spirit.)

The King James Bible equates God's breath with God's spirit. This spirit is not the Holy Ghost, but the spirit (breath) of God.

Let's look at some other verses to explain that God's breath is God's spirit. In the Bible, many things are defined by restating them, and changing a word or phrase to show that the substituted word or phrase is equivalent to the first word or phrase. For example, Job is saying that as long as his breath is in him, he has the spirit of God (little "s,") in his nostrils. Job's breath equals God's spirit.

Job 27:3

All the while **my breath** is in me, and **the spirit of God** is in my nostrils;

The Bible defines itself by restating an idea and changing some of words to show it means the same thing. Isaiah tells us that God gives breath to the people on the earth. This is restated immediately by changing “breath” to “spirit” and “people upon it” is changed to “them that walk therein.”

Isaiah 42:5

Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; **he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:**

Remember the prophecy of the dry bones, Israel, when the people will be reassembled? God will reassemble their bones, give them breath, cause them to live, and go into their land. In verse 5, Ezekiel states that God will cause *breath* to enter into them and they will live. In verse 14, he restates that God will put *His spirit* in them and they will live. God’s breath equals God’s spirit.

Ezekiel 37:5, 14

Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones;
Behold, **I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:**

¹⁴ **And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live,** and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord.

Next is a verse from Job that shows the difference between the Holy Spirit and God's spirit. The Spirit, capital "S" is the Holy Spirit, or Holy Ghost, who has created Job. Then, God's breath, His spirit, little "s," gave Job life. There are 2 events here, first is Job's creation by the Holy Spirit, and then his quickening, or being made alive, by the breath, the spirit, of God.

Job 33:4

The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

Now here is the real exciting part. God put His breath into animals, too. Job says that not only man, but all flesh depends upon God's spirit, God's breath, to live. If God takes back His

spirit—His breath—all creatures, including man, die.

Job 34:14-15

If he set his heart upon man, if he gather unto himself **his spirit and his breath; All flesh shall perish together**, and man shall turn again unto dust.

The psalmist tells us that when God takes His breath from His creation, we die, and when He sends forth His spirit, we are created. The words “breath” and “spirit” are interchangeable (try it) in this passage. All creatures have received the breath of God, which is the spirit of God.

Psalm 104:29-30

Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: **thou takest away their breath, they die**, and return to their dust. **Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created**: and thou renewest the face of the earth.

When God gave Noah His plan for destroying the earth with a flood, God called His breath, “the breath of life.” God tells Noah that His breath is

in “all flesh,” meaning not just people, but animals.

Genesis 6:17

And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy **all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven**; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.

Noah took 2 by 2 of all flesh (every animal) for the ark, “wherein is the breath of life,” also known as, the breath of God that gives life to all flesh.

Genesis 7:15

And they went in unto Noah into the ark, **two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life.**

(There were 7 pairs of each clean animal that Noah was to take into the ark. Remember, Noah made animal sacrifices to God after the flood—so He needed more than 2 of the clean animals.)

Genesis 7:1-2

And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. **Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.**

Repetition in the Bible signifies something of importance. We are told, again in Genesis, that during the flood, all flesh that moved upon the earth died. “All flesh” is even defined for us here as, fowl, cattle, beast, every creeping thing, and every man. Then, it is explained, that all of these things have the breath of life, God’s breath, in their nostrils.

Genesis 7:21-22

And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.

As further proof that God's breath, His spirit, is in all animals, Moses and his brother Aaron called God, "the God of the spirits of all flesh." All flesh has God's spirit. Recall that God told Noah that His breath, God's spirit, gives every creature life. Note: in the following passage "wroth" means "angry."

Numbers 16:20-22

And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment. And they fell upon their faces, and said, **O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh,** shall one man sin, and wilt thou be wroth with all the congregation?

Again, the book of Numbers records Moses calling God, "the God of the spirits of all flesh," signifying, by repetition, something of importance. God has put His spirit in all of His creation and giving them life.

Numbers 27:16-17

Let the LORD, **the God of the spirits of all flesh,** set a man over the congregation, And Moses

spake unto the LORD, saying, Which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; that the congregation of the LORD be not as sheep which have no shepherd.

Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, wrote that men and animals have the same breath (the breath of life, or spirit of God,) and all have earthly bodies that return to dust when they die.

Ecclesiastes 3:19-20

For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; **yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.**

Solomon completes the thought in chapter 12 of Ecclesiastes. The spirit—breath--that God breathes into every creature returns to Him upon their deaths, and the dust of which all flesh is made, returns to earth as dust again.

Ecclesiastes 12:7

Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was:
and **the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.**

We have established that every creature, including man, draws breath because God's breath, His spirit, is in our nostrils. The breath, or spirit that God gives us, returns to God when that person or animal dies.

Now we need to talk about the soul, which we already know is the essence of a person that will go to heaven or hell upon that person's death. This "soul" is different from the meaning, "being," or "person," that we have already discussed on page 4.

Job tells us that every living thing has a soul, man *and* animals. In fact, Job tells us that we need to learn from the animals about God. He says the beasts will teach us, the fowls of the air will tell us, the earth itself, will teach us, and the fish will declare unto us about the Lord. They all know that the Hand of the Lord has created them and all things. Job says that the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind is in God's hand.

Job 12:7-10

But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee. Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this? In whose hand **is the soul of every living thing**, and the breath of all mankind.

We have seen in Ecclesiastes 12:7 on page 14, that God's spirit, placed in every man and all animals, returns to God upon their deaths

Job tells us that animals' souls are in God's hand, and they return to God when they die. Animals have never sinned against God. All animals know God, The only thing that God told them to do is to "Be fruitful, and multiply." They have obeyed God for thousands of years!

Genesis 1:21-22

And **God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth**, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every

winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. **And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply,** and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

Animals have always followed God's commandment to be fruitful and multiply. But man was given dominion over the animals.

Genesis 1:28

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: **and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.**

Unfortunately for animals, man disobeyed God. Remember the story of Adam and Eve?

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Animals have never sinned, but they were put under the curse of sin (made subject to vanity, described below) because man, who had dominion over them, sinned and was put under

the curse of sin. Animals suffer with man on this earth, because we have dominion over them, but they will be delivered from the bondage of corruption of their bodies like us (the children of God.)

Romans 8:20-23

For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, **Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. **And not only they, but ourselves** also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.****

All animals' souls return to God with their spirits because all animals know about and believe God (Job 12:7-10 on page 15-16.) This is not true of all people. Only people who believe the gospel of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ paid for our sins are saved, and their

spirits *and* souls will be going to heaven upon their deaths.

Romans 10:8

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

When an unbeliever dies, God's word, using the gospel of salvation like a sword, separates the spirit that God gave him from the unbeliever's soul. God's breath, the spirit of God, that gave life to the unbeliever, returns to God, and the unbeliever's soul descends into hell.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

All people have a soul and a spirit, but not all people go to heaven when they die—only those

who believe that the Lord Jesus Christ paid for their sins.

It should not be the case that people question whether or not they will see their pets in heaven, but whether or not their pets will see them in heaven!