

~ANIMALS (697)

[Hebrew, *behe-mah'* domestic animals, beasts, *re'mes* creeping things *chai-yah'*, wild animals, Greek *zo'on*, living creature]

- Clean And Unclean Animals
- Illustrative Usage
- Proper Use And View Of Animal Creation

- Living souls that are not human.
- And as a tax for Yehowah you must take away from the men of war who went out on the expedition one soul out of five hundred, of humankind and of the herd and of the asses and of the flock. (**Numbers 31:28**)
- The Hebrew *behe-mah'* refers to larger four-footed creatures, usually domestic **animals** but occasionally wild beasts. It is rendered domestic animals, beasts, livestock, and cattle.
- And God went on to say; Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and the domestic **animals** and all the earth and every moving animal that is moving upon the earth. (**Genesis 1:26**)
- And with every living soul that is with you, among fowls, among **beasts** and among all living creatures of the earth with you, from all those going out of the ark to every living **creature** of the earth. (**Genesis 9:10**)
- Then their possessions and their wealth and all their livestock, will they not be ours? Only let us give them our consent that they may dwell with us. (**Genesis 34:23**)
- And he blesses them so that they become very many, and he does not let their **cattle** become few. (**Psalms 107:38**)
- The Hebrew *re'mes* denotes moving **animals** or creeping things and comes from the root *ra-mas'*, meaning move, creep.
- Of the flying creatures according to their kinds and of the **domestic animals** according to their kinds, of all **moving animals** of the ground according to their kinds, two of each will go in

there to you to preserve them alive. ([Genesis 6:20](#))

- So I went in and began to see, and, look! There was every representation of **creeping things** and **loathsome beasts**, and all the dungy idols of the house of Israel, the carving being upon the wall all round about. ([Ezekiel 8:10](#))
- Further, God blessed them and God said to them, Be fruitful and become many and fill the earth and subdue it, and have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and every **living creature that is moving** upon the earth. ([Genesis 1:28](#)), Footnote
- Also, the [Hebrew](#) term *chai-yah'*, literally meaning **living creature**, is used to refer to wild beasts or wild **animals**.
- And Yehowah God proceeded to say to the serpent: Because you have done this thing, you are the cursed one out of all the domestic **animals** and out of all the wild beasts of the field. Upon your belly you will go and dust is what you will eat all the days of your life. ([Genesis 3:14](#))
- All you wild **animals** of the open field, come to eat, all you wild animals in the forest. ([Isaiah 56:9](#))
- The parallel [Greek](#) term is *zo'on*, living creature, also rendered animal.
- And the first **living creature** is like a lion, and the second **living creature** is like a young bull, and the third **living creature** has a face like a man's, and the fourth **living creature** is like a flying eagle. ([Revelation 4:7](#))
- But these men, like unreasoning **animals** born naturally to be caught and destroyed, will, in the things of which they are ignorant and speak abusively, even suffer destruction in their own course of destruction. ([2 Peter 2:12](#))
- Yehowah God formed all the **animals**, each family kind having its own originally created representatives, for the record assures us that God made them each one according to its kind.
- And God proceeded to make the **wild beast** of the earth according to its kind and the **domestic animal** according to its kind and

every **moving animal** of the ground according to its kind. And God got to see that it was good. ([Genesis 1:25](#))

- In this article we shall consider particularly **land animals**.
- In view of God's granting perfect man dominion over the various creatures of the earth, it was most appropriate that Adam be privileged to name these creatures.
- And God went on to say; Let us make **man** in our image, according to our likeness, and let them **have in subjection** the fish of the sea and the **flying creatures** of the heavens and the **domestic animals** and all the earth and every **moving animal** that is moving upon the earth. ([Genesis 1:26](#))
- Now Yehowah God was forming from the ground every wild beast of the field and every flying creature of the heavens, and he began bringing them to the man to see what he would call each one, and whatever the man would call it, each living soul, that was its name. ([Genesis 2:19](#))
- So the man was calling the names of all the domestic **animals** and of the flying creatures of the heavens and of every wild beast of the field, but for man there was found no helper as a complement of him. ([Genesis 2:20](#))
- Mans having the **animals** in subjection placed upon him a stewardship for which he would always be accountable to God.
- But the one that did not understand and so did things deserving of strokes will be beaten with few. Indeed, everyone to whom much was given, much will be demanded of him, and the one whom people put in charge of much, they will demand more than usual of him. ([Luke 12:48](#))
- **Animals** were so created that they would have a fear and dread of man as their superior.
- And a fear of you and a terror of you will continue upon every living creature of the earth and upon every flying creature of the heavens, upon everything that goes moving on the ground, and upon all the fishes of the sea. Into your hand they are now given. ([Genesis 9:2](#))

- Every moving **animal** that is alive may serve as food for you. As in the case of green vegetation, I do give it all to you. (**Genesis 9:3**)
- According to naturalists, wild creatures, such as the leopard and the king cobra, normally prefer to retreat from man's presence, although they do attack when provoked, wounded, cornered, or suddenly surprised. It has been suggested that tigers become man-eaters, for example, by force of circumstances, such as old age or injury that would greatly limit the tigers ability to procure its normal game, or the depletion of the tigers game through man's hunting.
- Already prior to the Flood, **animals** were killed to provide clothing for man and for sacrificial purposes.
- And Yehowah God proceeded to make long garments of skin for Adam and for his wife and to clothe them. (**Genesis 3:21**)
- But as for Abel, he too brought some firstlings of his flock, even their fatty pieces. Now while Yehowah was looking with favor upon Abel and his offering. (**Genesis 4:4**)
- However, not until after the Deluge did Noah and his family receive permission from Yehowah to add flesh to their diet, with the stipulation that it must be drained of its blood.
- Every moving **animal** that is alive may serve as food for you. As in the case of green vegetation, I do give it all to you. (**Genesis 9:3**)
- Only flesh with its soul, its blood, you must not eat. (**Genesis 9:4**)
- While this made it proper for man to kill **animals** for necessary food, he was not authorized thereby to indulge in needless slaughter for the sheer thrill of the hunt or to display personal prowess, as Nimrod, the rebel against God, undoubtedly did.
- He displayed himself a mighty hunter in opposition to Yehowah. That is why there is a saying; Just like Nimrod a mighty hunter in opposition to Yehowah. (**Genesis 10:9**)
- Some have contended that the presence of **animals** on isolated islands like Australia and New Zealand is an indication that not all land **animals** outside the ark perished in the Deluge. However, the findings

of oceanographers indicate that at one time land ridges connected what are now isolated land areas.

- For example, oceanographic studies indicate that the Mid-Atlantic Ridge may have crossed that ocean above the surface. Possibly there were also other ridges, and **animals** could have migrated by means of these before such ridges sank below the surface of the ocean.

- Other oceanographic studies have turned up evidence that once there existed a huge South Pacific continent that took in Australia and many of the South Sea isles. If such was the case, then, of course, the **animals** had no difficulty in migrating to these lands.

•• Clean And Unclean Animals

- A classification of **animals** is to be noted in God's instructions to Noah to take with him into the ark seven of each clean **animal** and two of each unclean **animal**.

- Of every clean **beast** you must take to yourself by sevens, the sire and its mate, and of every **beast** that is not clean just two, the sire and its mate. (**Genesis 7:2**)

- Also of the **flying creatures** of the heavens by sevens, male and female, to preserve offspring alive on the surface of the entire earth. (**Genesis 7:3**)

- Of every clean **beast** and of every **beast** that is not clean and of the **flying creatures** and everything that moves on the ground. (**Genesis 7:8**)

- They went in by twos to Noah inside the ark, male and female, just as God had commanded Noah. (**Genesis 7:9**)

- Since a flesh diet had not yet been authorized, this distinction between clean and unclean was probably determined on the basis of what was acceptable to Yehowah as a sacrifice. Hence, on emerging from the ark, Noah knew which creatures were clean and suitable for offering upon the altar.

- And Noah began to build an altar to Yehowah and to take some of all the clean beasts and of all the clean flying creatures and to offer burnt offerings upon the altar. (**Genesis 8:20**)

- At that time no restriction existed with respect to the type of **animals** that Noah and his family could eat, as is indicated by Yehowah's words.
- Every moving **animal** that is alive may serve as food for you. As in the case of green vegetation, I do give it all to you. (**Genesis 9:3**)
- God's Law to the Israelites, therefore, introduced a new distinction when it classified certain **animals** as clean and fit for food and others as unclean and prohibited as food. The scripture specifies:
- Every creature that splits the hoof and forms a cleft in the hoofs and chews the cud among the beasts, that is what you may eat. (**Leviticus 11:3**)
- This is the sort of beast that you may eat, the bull, the sheep and the goat, the stag and gazelle and roebuck and wild goat and antelope and wild sheep and chamois, and every beast that splits the hoof and that forms a cleft into two hoofs, chewing the cud among the beasts.
- You must eat no detestable thing of any sort. (**Deuteronomy 14:3**)
- This is the sort of beast that you may eat, the bull, the sheep and the goat. (**Deuteronomy 14:4**)
- The stag and gazelle and roebuck and wild goat and antelope and wild sheep and chamois. (**Deuteronomy 14:5**)
- And every beast that splits the hoof and that forms a cleft into two hoofs, chewing the cud among the beasts. It you may eat. (**Deuteronomy 14:6**)
- **Animals** lacking one or both of the above-mentioned features were not to be eaten by those under the terms of the Law covenant. The prohibited **animals** included the rock badger, the hare, the pig, the camel. Also, creatures going upon their paws were prohibited, this doubtless embracing such creatures as the lion, the bear, and the wolf.
- Only this is what you must not eat among the chewers of the cud and the splitters of the hoof, the camel, because it is a chewer of the cud but is no splitter of the hoof. It is unclean for you.

(Leviticus 11:4)

- Also the rock badger, because it is a chewer of the cud but does not split the hoof. It is unclean for you. (**Leviticus 11:5**)
- Also the hare, because it is a chewer of the cud but it does not have the hoof split. It is unclean for you. (**Leviticus 11:6**)
- Also the pig, because it is a splitter of the hoof and a former of a cleft in the hoof, but it itself does not chew the cud. It is unclean for you. (**Leviticus 11:7**)
- You must not eat any of their flesh, and you must not touch their dead body. They are unclean for you. (**Leviticus 11:8**)
- As for any beast that is a splitter of the hoof but is not a former of a cleft and is not a chewer of the cud, they are unclean for you. Everyone touching them will be unclean. (**Leviticus 11:26**)
- As for every creature going upon its paws among all the living creatures that go on all fours, they are unclean to you. Everyone touching their dead bodies will be unclean until the evening. (**Leviticus 11:27**)
- Only this sort you must not eat out of those that chew the cud or that split the hoof, cloven, the camel and the hare and the rock badger, because they are chewers of the cud but do not split the hoof. They are unclean for you. (**Deuteronomy 14:7**)
- The pig also, because it is a splitter of the hoof but there is no cud. It is unclean for you. None of their flesh must you eat, and their carcasses you must not touch. (**Deuteronomy 14:8**)
- These dietary limitations applied only to those who were under the Mosaic Law, for the statement of;
- You must not eat any of their flesh, and you must not touch their dead body. They are unclean for you. (**Leviticus 11:8**)
- They are unclean for you, that is, for the Israelites. With the abrogation of the Law on the basis of the sacrificial death of Christ Jesus, the prohibitions were canceled, and once more all human's could consider themselves under the same broad provision announced to Noah following the Deluge.

- Furthermore, though you were dead in your trespasses and in the uncircumcised state of your flesh, God made you alive together with him. He kindly forgave us all our trespasses (**Colossians 2:13**)
- And blotted out the handwritten document against us, which consisted of decrees and which was in opposition to us, and He has taken it out of the way by nailing it to the torture stake. (**Colossians 2:14**)
- Stripping the governments and the authorities bare, he exhibited them in open public as conquered, leading them in a triumphal procession by means of it. (**Colossians 2:15**)
- Therefore let no man judge you in eating and drinking or in respect of a festival or of an observance of the new moon or of a Sabbath. (**Colossians 2:16**)
- For those things are a shadow of the things to come, but the reality belongs to the Christ. (**Colossians 2:17**)
- Every moving animal that is alive may serve as food for you. As in the case of green vegetation, I do give it all to you. (**Genesis 9:3**)
- Only flesh with its soul, its blood, you must not eat. (**Genesis 9:4**)
- Since the restriction concerning unclean foods was taken out of the way with the rest of the Law, a question may arise as to why Peter, about three and a half years later, still had not eaten any unclean **animals**.
- But he became very hungry and wanted to eat. While they were preparing, he fell into a trance (**Acts of Apostles 10:10**)
- And beheld heaven opened and some sort of vessel descending like a great linen sheet being let down by its four extremities upon the earth. (**Acts of Apostles 10:11**)
- And in it there were all sorts of four-footed creatures and creeping things of the earth and birds of heaven. (**Acts of Apostles 10:12**)

- And a voice came to him; Rise, Peter, slaughter and eat! (**Acts of Apostles 10:13**)
- But Peter said; Not at all, Lord, because never have I eaten anything defiled and unclean. (**Acts of Apostles 10:14**)
- And the voice spoke again to him, the second time; You stop calling defiled the things God has cleansed. (**Acts of Apostles 10:15**)
- It must be remembered that the cancellation of the Law resulted in great changes in the lives of Christ's followers, and therefore, it reasonably took some time for them to appreciate all that was involved.

·· Illustrative Usage

- The outstanding traits of **animals** are alluded to and used by Bible writers to symbolize a variety of qualities and powers. At times **animal** features may portray excellent qualities, divine as well as human.
- And as for the likeness of their faces, the four of them had a man's face with a lion's face to the right, and the four of them had a bull's face on the left, the four of them also had an eagle's face. (**Ezekiel 1:10**)
- That is the way their faces were. And their wings were spreading out upward. Each one had two joining to each other, and two were covering their bodies. (**Ezekiel 1:11**)
- And before the throne there is, as it were, a glassy sea like crystal. And in the midst of the throne and around the throne there are four living creatures that are full of eyes in front and behind. (**Revelation 4:6**)
- And the first living creature is like a lion, and the second living creature is like a young bull, and the third living creature has a face like a man's, and the fourth living creature is like a flying eagle. (**Revelation 4:7**)
- In other instances **animals** may be employed to represent wild, beastlike ruling powers that oppress and crush peoples.

- Daniel was speaking up and saying; I happened to be beholding in my visions during the night, and, see there! The four winds of the heavens were stirring up the vast sea. ([Daniel 7:2](#))
- And four huge beasts were coming up out of the sea, each one being different from the others. ([Daniel 7:3](#))
- The first one was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I kept on beholding until its wings were plucked out, and it was lifted up from the earth and was made to stand up on two feet just like a man, and there was given to it the heart of a man. ([Daniel 7:4](#))
- And, see there! Another beast, a second one, it being like a bear. And on one side it was raised up, and there were three ribs in its mouth between its teeth, and this is what they were saying to it, Get up, eat much flesh. ([Daniel 7:5](#))
- After this I kept on beholding, and, see there! Another beast, one like a leopard, but it had four wings of a flying creature on its back. And the beast had four heads, and there was given to it rulership indeed. ([Daniel 7:6](#))
- After this I kept on beholding in the visions of the night, and, see there! A fourth beast, fearsome and terrible and unusually strong. And it had teeth of iron, big ones. It was devouring and crushing, and what was left it was treading down with its feet. And it was something different from all the other beasts that were prior to it, and it had ten horns. ([Daniel 7:7](#))
- And I, for my part, kept on considering, and, look! There was a male of the goats coming from the sunset upon the surface of the whole earth, and it was not touching the earth. And as regards the he-goat, there was a conspicuous horn between its eyes. ([Daniel 8:5](#))
- And it kept coming all the way to the ram possessing the two horns, which I had seen standing before the watercourse, and it came running toward it in its powerful rage. ([Daniel 8:6](#))
- And I saw it coming into close touch with the ram, and it began showing bitterness toward it, and it proceeded to strike down the ram and to break its two horns, and there proved to be no power in the ram to stand before it. So it threw it to the earth and

trampled it down, and the ram proved to have no deliverer out of its hand. (**Daniel 8:7**)

- And the male of the goats, for its part, put on great airs to an extreme, but as soon as it became mighty, the great horn was broken, and there proceeded to come up conspicuously four instead of it, toward the four winds of the heavens. (**Daniel 8:8**)
- The ram that you saw possessing the two horns stands for the kings of Media and Persia. (**Daniel 8:20**)
- And the hairy he-goat stands for the king of Greece, and as for the great horn that was between its eyes, it stands for the first king. (**Daniel 8:21**)
- And it stood still upon the sand of the sea. And I saw a wild beast ascending out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, and upon its horns ten diadems, but upon its heads blasphemous names. (**Revelation 13:1**)
- Now the wild beast that I saw was like a leopard, but its feet were as those of a bear, and its mouth was as a lion's mouth. And the dragon gave to the beast its power and its throne and great authority. (**Revelation 13:2**)
- And I saw one of its heads as though slaughtered to death, but its death-stroke got healed, and all the earth followed the wild beast with admiration. (**Revelation 13:3**)
- And they worshiped the dragon because it gave the authority to the wild beast, and they worshiped the wild beast with the words; Who is like the wild beast, and who can do battle with it? (**Revelation 13:4**)
- And a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies was given it, and authority to act forty-two months was given it. (**Revelation 13:5**)
- And it opened its mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme his name and his residence, even those residing in heaven. (**Revelation 13:6**)
- And there was granted it to wage war with the holy one's and conquer them, and authority was given it over every tribe and

people and tongue and nation. ([Revelation 13:7](#))

- And all those who dwell on the earth will worship it. The name of not one of them stands written in the scroll of life of the Lamb who was slaughtered, from the founding of the world. ([Revelation 13:8](#))
- If anyone has an ear, let him hear. ([Revelation 13:9](#))
- If anyone is meant for captivity, he goes away into captivity. If anyone will kill with the sword, he must be killed with the sword. Here is where it means the endurance and faith of the holy ones. ([Revelation 13:10](#))
- And I saw another wild beast ascending out of the earth, and it had two horns like a lamb, but it began speaking as a dragon. ([Revelation 13:11](#))
- And it exercises all the authority of the first wild beast in its sight. And it makes the earth and those who dwell in it worship the first wild beast, whose death-stroke got healed. ([Revelation 13:12](#))
- And it performs great signs, so that it should even make fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the sight of mankind. ([Revelation 13:13](#))
- And it misleads those who dwell on the earth, because of the signs that were granted it to perform in the sight of the wild beast, while it tells those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the wild beast that had the sword-stroke and yet revived. ([Revelation 13:14](#))
- And there was granted it to give breath to the image of the wild beast, so that the image of the wild beast should both speak and cause to be killed all those who would not in any way worship the image of the wild beast. ([Revelation 13:15](#))
- And it puts under compulsion all persons, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the slaves, that they should give these a mark in their right hand or upon their forehead. ([Revelation 13:16](#))
- And that nobody might be able to buy or sell except a person

having the mark, the name of the wild beast or the number of its name. (**Revelation 13:17**)

See Also BEASTS, SYMBOLIC

.. Proper Use And View Of Animal Creation:

- In connection with worship under the Mosaic Law, cattle, sheep, and goats were among the creatures acceptable for sacrifice. Such **animals** were to be sound ones, and no castrated animal was admissible.
- As for a bull or a sheep having a **member too long or too short**, you may make it a voluntary offering, but for a vow it will not be accepted with approval. (**Leviticus 22:23**)
- But one having the **testicles squeezed or crushed or pulled off or cut off** you must not present to Yehowah, and in your land you should not render them up. (**Leviticus 22:24**)
- And any of all these from the hand of a foreigner you must not present as the bread of your God, because **their corruption is in them**. There **is a defect in them**. They will not be accepted with approval of you. (**Leviticus 22:25**)
- The use of **animal** blood for food or for any purpose other than sacrifice was prohibited.
- As for any man of the sons of Israel or some alien resident who is residing as an alien in your midst who in hunting catches a wild beast or a fowl that may be eaten, he must in that case **pour its blood out and cover it with dust**. (**Leviticus 17:13**)
- For the soul of every sort of flesh is its blood by the soul in it. Consequently I said to the sons of Israel; You must not eat the blood of any sort of flesh, because the soul of every sort of flesh is its blood. Anyone eating it will be cut off. (**Leviticus 17:14**)
- Worship of any representation of an **animal** or other created thing was strictly forbidden.
- You must not make for **yourself a carved image or a form like anything that is in the heavens above** or that is on the earth underneath or that is in the waters under the earth. (**Exodus**

20:4)

- You **must not bow down to them nor be induced to serve them**, because I, Yehowah your God, am a God exacting exclusive devotion, bringing punishment for the error of fathers upon sons, upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation, in the case of those who hate me. (**Exodus 20:5**)
- The Bible inculcates just and merciful treatment of the lower creatures. Indeed, Yehowah represents himself as the Loving Provider for their lives and well-being.
- The righteous one is caring for the soul of his domestic **animal**, but the mercies of the wicked one's are cruel. (**Proverbs 12:10**)
- To you the eyes of all look hopefully, and you are **giving them their food in its season**. (**Psalms 145:15**)
- You are opening your hand and satisfying the desire of **every living thing**. (**Psalms 145:16**)
- The Mosaic Law enjoined proper care of **domestic animals**. When found straying, **domestic animals** were to be returned safely to their owner, when crushed under a burden, they were to be relieved.
- Should you come upon your **enemy's bull or his ass going astray**, you are to return it without fail to him. (**Exodus 23:4**)
- Should you see the ass of someone who hates you lying down under its load, then you must refrain from leaving him. **With him you are without fail to get it loose**. (**Exodus 23:5**)
- They were to be worked humanely.
- You must not plow with **a bull and an ass together**. (**Deuteronomy 22:10**)
- You must not muzzle a bull while it is threshing. (**Deuteronomy 25:4**)
- They, as well as man, were to benefit from the Sabbath rests.
- But the seventh day is a Sabbath to Yehowah your God. You must not do any work, you nor your son nor your daughter, your

- slave man nor your slave girl **nor your domestic animal** nor your alien resident who is inside your gates. (**Exodus 20:10**)
- Six days you are to do your work, but on the seventh day you are to desist, in order, that **your bull and your ass may rest** and the son of your slave girl and the alien resident may refresh themselves. (**Exodus 23:12**)
 - But the seventh day is a Sabbath to Yehowah your God. You must not do any work, you nor your son nor your daughter nor your slave man nor your slave girl **nor your bull nor your ass nor any domestic animal of yours** nor your alien resident who is inside your gates, in order, that your slave man and your slave girl may rest the same as you. (**Deuteronomy 5:14**)
 - Dangerous **animals** were to be controlled or destroyed.
 - And, besides that, your blood of your souls shall I ask back. From the hand of every living creature shall I ask it back, and from the hand of man, from the hand of each one who is his brother, shall I ask back the soul of man. (**Genesis 9:5**)
 - And in case a bull should gore a man or a woman and that one actually dies, the **bull is to be stoned without fail**, but its flesh is not to be eaten, and the owner of the bull is free from punishment. (**Exodus 21:28**)
 - But if a bull was formerly in the habit of goring and warning was served on its owner but he would not keep it under guard, and it did put a man or a woman to death, **the bull is to be stoned and also its owner is to be put to death**. (**Exodus 21:29**)
 - Crossbreeding of different sorts was forbidden.
 - You people should keep my statutes; You **must not interbreed your domestic animals of two sorts**. You must not sow your field with seeds of two sorts, and you must not put upon yourself a garment of two sorts of thread, mixed together. (**Leviticus 19:19**)
 - God-fearing men see in **animals** part of God's generous provision for human welfare. **Animals** have served man as burden bearers, as sources of food and clothing, as sanitation agents, and as helpers in the vital activities of plowing and harvesting. Their variety of form and color has delighted his eye, their habits and instincts have been and

still are an extensive field for inquiry into the marvels of God's creative work. Though **animals** die in the same manner as man, they do not share his hope of a resurrection.

- But these men, like unreasoning **animals** **born naturally to be caught and destroyed**, will, in the things of which they are ignorant and speak abusively, even suffer destruction in their own course of destruction. (**2 Peter 2:12**)
- Additionally, see individual **animals**, birds, insects, reptiles by their individual names,

See Also BIRDS

See Also FISH

See Also INSECTS