

Good Grief!

The Human-Animal Bond

God's Glory - Our Gift



FHL Ministries

JESUS OUR PROMISE KEEPER A CELEBRATION OF LIFE!



**"Your righteousness is like
the highest mountains, your
justice like the great deep.
You, Lord, preserve both
people and animals. How
priceless is your unfailing
love, O Go People take
refuge in the shadow of your
wings.**



**For since the creation of the
world God's invisible
qualities—his eternal power
and divine nature—have
been clearly seen, being
understood from what has
been made, so that people
are without excuse.**

Romans 1:20

**The righteous care for the
needs of their animals, but
the kindest acts of the
wicked are cruel.**

Proverbs 12:10



**"Ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds
of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth,
and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform
you. Which of these does not know that the hand of
the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every
creature and the breath of all mankind."**

Job 12:7-10

**I consider that our present sufferings are not worth
comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19For
the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of
God to be revealed. 20For the creation was subjected to
frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one
who subjected it, in hope 21that h the creation itself will be
liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the
freedom and glory of the children of God.**

Romans 8:20-21

**Isaiah 65: The lion shall lie down with the lamb they shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain for the earth shall
be full of the knowledge of the Lord.**



God is not a man,
that he should lie,
Neither the son of **F** man,
th**A**t he should repent
Has he sa**I**d,
and will he no**T** do it?
Or has **H**e spoken,
and will he not make it good?
— Numbers 23:19 WEB
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Grief

The human experience concerning grief is clearly documented throughout the Bible and the history of mankind. Loss of all kinds, disappointments, pain, and suffering is all around us even in this age (John 11:35; Matthew 23:37-39). Jesus was a man of great sorrows and He too wept while experiencing the sting of grief. The Bible tells us that Jesus is a high priest who can “sympathize with our weaknesses” (Hebrews 4:15).

Overcoming Grief

Overcoming grief starts with having the right perspective gained through the eyes and heart of God Himself through the life of Jesus. Grief is an emotion given to humans for the purpose of coping with our losses and suffering. Ecclesiastes 7:2 reassures us that grieving is a natural part of the human experience yet there is a time to grieve and a time to let go of our grief “Weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning” (Psalm 30:5).

How can this be so when we experience the loss of a loving pet or service animal? God created humans and the animals He is the original author of the human-animal bond a relationship which He will preserve for all eternity as the enclosed Scriptures attest. May this booklet bless you, encourage you, and comfort you as you adopt this fresh view of your loss through the eyes and heart of God the lover of your soul.



The Valley of the Shadow of Death

Psalm 23:4 is well known for its words of hope ever reminding us that God does not leave us alone in our grief in fact He often uses it to draw us closer to Him. Psalm 56:8: "You have kept count of my tossing's; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?" These verses are among a host of others that reassure us in our time of need. God works all things together for the good of those He has called according to His purposes (Romans 8:28).

Expressing Grief

The book of Psalms is filled with human accounts of people who experienced intense grief; interestingly, however, when they shared their grief with God their perspective changed for the better. No one understands where you are at better than the One who created you (Psalm 139:2) so tell Him all about it.

Sharing our grief with others is part of overcoming it (Galatians 6:2) mourning with those who mourn is one of the ways God honors our grief (Romans 12:15). Telling our story, what we have and are experiencing, including our thoughts and feelings in a safe place with safe people begins the healing process. The way God helps to carry this heavy load is through others usually people who can relate to us people who have had similar experiences (Matthew 11:30).

The Next Time will be Forever!

There are many good books in the marketplace concerning overcoming grief, nevertheless, the one that has comforted me the most is the Holy Bible. Gaining God's perspective gives me not just hope and assurance but a guarantee that the next time I see my furry companions will be forever; never again to be separated.

Imagine spending eternity with Jesus and the animals where there are no more tears or grief. Until then; know that you are not alone. Hold onto His promises and ask Him for His supernatural healing that only comes through seeing your grief through His eyes and heart instead of your own.



GOD'S GLORY - OUR GIFT



The Human-Animal Bond is a gift from God whereby people and animals are loved just for being. When we love one another as God has loved us; we are reminded that we are in God's very presence and delight the Lord {John 13:34}.

Animals were and are still important to God; He thought about them often, this is clearly demonstrated throughout the Bible (Example: See Genesis 6:19). The Holy Bible often refers to animals to reveal spiritual truths about God and Jesus, while conveying spiritual principles such as the message of Jonah who lived three days in the belly of a whale {Matthew 12:39-41} or Moses and the bronze serpent in {John 3:14}.

The Great Chain of Being

Typically when we love someone you talk about them often. God mentions animals throughout the Bible from beginning to end. In the Old Testament animals were sacrificed to pay the penalty for sin, but thanks to Jesus Christ - the once for all sacrificial Lamb of God - animal sacrifices were put to an end. This was the one sacrifice that conformed to God's Will - the sacrifice of obedience which resulted in true and lasting forgiveness. [Read more...](#)



DO ANIMALS HAVE A SOUL?



The Bible makes the distinction between and the roles of mankind's' physical body, spirit, and soul. The soul is summed up as being man's mind, will, and emotions. Since man was made in the image of God and animals were not some people argue that our pets/service animals do not possess a spirit or a soul. The Spirit of God reflects the heart of God. Authentic religion is the perfect union between God and the precious souls He Created. That being said, let's take dogs as an example almost without exception most dogs face life with a sense of adventure, joy, and good-will rooted in the spirit of their God-given temperament with a compelling desire to please their master. They possess a divine ability to love (express unconditional affection, acceptance, respect, willingness to please...), because God created them to be that way. What man serves God with such loyalty? Our eternal companions show us how to enjoy the present. Unlike humans they do not regret the past or fear the future.

Restoration of All Creation

Animals are part of God's magnificent creation, therefore, we have every reason to hold fast to our belief that our furry companions will be in Heaven with us, because God will restore all of His divine creation to its original intended state. Romans 8:21 tells us that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God (Genesis 1:25 & (Revelation 21:1). There will also be animals during the millennial kingdom (Isaiah 11:6; 65:25).

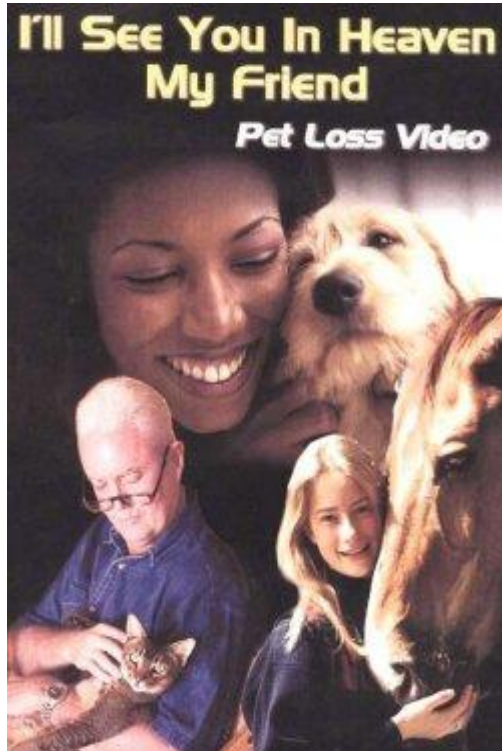
God purposed to show for eternity that His redemptive plan for mankind included removing the curse for all His Creation which includes the animal kingdom.

Although the Bible does not specifically say that our pets and service animals will be in Heaven (New Eternal Kingdom) we can trust that God is just in all He does and has planned for those who love Him.

"Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the ocean depths. You care for people and animals alike, O LORD." (Psalm 36:6)



WILL OUR PETS AND ANIMALS IN SERVICE BE IN HEAVEN?



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Grief – A Biblical Perspective

One step in overcoming grief is having the right perspective on it. First, we recognize that grief is a natural response to pain and loss. Read more

Jim Venable's book called *Do Animals Go to Heaven?* is one good source that reveals the Biblical perspective and response to this age-old question. The Book of Job 12:7-10 is a prime example, "But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In His hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.

Proverbs 12:10 tells us, "A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel."



GOD'S PROMISE – OUR HOPE



God's Promise Our Hope!

"The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy my entire holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea." (Isaiah 11:6-9)

Animals Weep Too!



"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him alone belongs the glory forever and ever. Amen!" (Romans 11:36 and Genesis 9:8-16 - The Rainbow Covenant)

Animals feel losses too and we need to help them to experience and overcome their grief with the same compassion and patience we express towards humans. The better we are at managing our grief God will surely bring us along side people and sometimes even animals to help them manage theirs. We comfort others with the comfort we have been given. This is God's way of transforming tragedies into triumphs.





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