

Personal Questions that the Bible Answers

Will my pets join me in heaven?

Many Christians believe that God *will* allow our pets to cross over, into heaven, after the beloved pets die. They'll be with us eternally. . . However, many other Christians *don't* believe that any of our pets will cross over and be with us.

After checking *numerous* Bible verses on this question, it's clear that God *doesn't specifically say* — one way or the other — whether or not any of our pets will accompany us in heaven.

The best we can do is to put together and evaluate the Scriptures about animals and then make our *own speculative* guess at answering this question. **Q.** Will we or won't we see our pets in heaven? **A.** We'll see who answered this question correctly . . . once we're up in heaven.

Q. Are there Scriptures that tell us that our pets will accompany us to heaven? **A.** Unfortunately, the Bible doesn't give any explicit teaching on whether pets (or animals) have "souls." Neither do the Scriptures say whether we'll find pets in heaven.

But I've got some good news for you! We can use *general biblical principles* to develop some clarity on the subject. That will enable us to correctly answer this question.

Q. Can you guess where in the Bible you'll find Scriptures about the nature of animals? **A.** Genesis. But before you open your Bible to Genesis, answer these two questions:

Q. 1. Were there animals and other living creatures in the Garden of Eden? **A. 1.** Yes. **Q. 2.** Did God create animals and other living creatures before he created man? **A. 2.** Read [Gen. 1:24–28](#).

Yes, animals were created *before* man. Father God provided man with all that was needed to exist in that wholesome garden.

Realize this: If God *didn't* see animals, fish, and birds as being *important* in his amazing creation and his eternal scheme of things, he'd have never created creatures in the first place!

There's one passage about "an animal in heaven" that Apostle John wrote. He tells us: When Jesus gets ready to come back to us in his second coming, he'll come back down to us **riding on a white horse**... Not only will he be riding a white horse, but so will his army of angels when they come back down to Earth with him, riding horses! Read aloud [Revelation 19:11–14](#).

In fact, *Genesis* states that man and animals have the "breath of life." **Q.** Why does having the "breath of life" help answer if our pets will accompany us in heaven? **A.** To answer that question, let's read these passages about *man* and *animals*.

- **Man:** We're told about *man* having the "breath of life" in [Gen. 2:7](#). Read that verse in any version.
- **Animals:** About animals having the "breath of life," you need to read for four Genesis verses: First, read [Gen. 1:30](#). Next read [6:17](#). Then read these two verses in **chapter 7: vv. 15** and **22**.

We know that God had Noah put all of these precious animals, two of a kind, on his ark, so they'd all be preserved when God unleashed the big flood on our planet. That shows us how much *God loves and cares for every animal he personally created*.

Because man and animal have the "breath of life," both are living beings. **Q.** But what sets man apart from animals? . . . **A.** The primary difference between human beings and animals is that humanity was to be created in the image and likeness of God; animals weren't! We see that in [Gen. 1:26–27](#).

Remember: "Animals in heaven" is definitely a "secondary" issue! Please review my "[Primary vs. Secondary Theologies](#)" * hand-out. Look at the "secondary" list on page 2.

Q. Were animals also created in the image of God? **A.** No.

Q. Do you think that distinction is important? . . . If so, why do you think so?

Here's what I learned from theologian RC Sproul. "Being made in the image and likeness of God means this: Human beings are like God in some ways; they're capable of spirituality; . . . they have a mind, . . . humans also have emotion and a will; . . . part of their being continues after death. For pets and animals, if (and "if" is a very important word!) they do similarly have a 'soul,' its soul must be of a different, *lesser* quality. Such a difference *possibly* means that pet and animal 'souls' *don't* continue to exist after death."

But there's another factor to consider regarding whether pets will be in heaven with us: Animals are a big part of God's creative process. He intentionally created animals, after which he said that they were good ([Gen. 1:25](#)). Realizing that, in my opinion, there's no reason why we wouldn't see pets and animals in the "*new heaven and on the new earth*" ([Rev. 21:1](#)).

We must wait patiently to find out if our pets will join us in heaven. Thankfully, animals will definitely be present during the coming millennium kingdom. That's the future period when Jesus will reign over an earthly kingdom for 1,000 years. God will enable animals to exist in the coming millennium kingdom. There, his Son, Jesus, will rule our earth, directly from the city of Jerusalem. We see that in Prophet Isaiah's writing. Read about "animals living in the new heavens and the new earth" in [Isa. 11:6-9](#); next, read [65:17, 25](#).

Chances are, because we'll find wolves, leopards, lambs, goats, calves, lions, and cobra snakes in the coming millennium kingdom, we'll probably find a lot of the *other* animals that God had previously created.

Let's consider what we've already read:

- God made sure to create a wide variety of animals and creatures when he first created our world.
- After the fall of Adam and Eve, God allowed humans to keep and care for animals and creatures on our earth.
- God plans to allow some animals and creatures to live with us during the coming 1000-year Millennium Kingdom.

Realizing those three key biblical points, it's logical to assume that God will continue his plan by allowing animals and creatures to *always* live with us in the coming New Heaven and on the New Earth. Hopefully, we'll find that our adorable pets have been included in Father God's big plan for each of his children.



Question: Do pets go to heaven?

Answer: It's impossible to say conclusively that some of the animals we'll see in heaven will be one of the pets that we loved on earth. . . But, we know that God is just. In addition, when we get to heaven, we can be sure that we'll find ourselves in complete agreement with *his* decision on this issue, whatever it may be.

Our Bible says in Luke 1:37: *"Nothing is impossible with Father God."* Realizing that: He could easily resurrect from the grave any of our passed pets. He could bring them back to life in some type of spiritual, flesh-and-bone body, similar to what we'll become, after we die and meet Lord Jesus personally.

Closing note: John 16:24 tells us encouragingly to ask in his name for what we desire. Therefore, don't be hesitant to ask, perhaps as one of your rewards, that your pets be there with you in heaven. *"Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."*

* Open and print Warren's "[Primary and Secondary Theologies](#)."

— Enjoy the "[Rainbow Bridge](#)" story *and* [this touching graphic](#)!