

follow Paul's advice to never eat meat again (1 Corinthians 8:13; Romans 14:21).

9. Does how we treat animals affect our salvation?

Jesus said to give to those who cannot repay us (Luke 14:13-14) and to go the extra mile when it comes to matters of kindness (Matthew 5:41). By extending love to everyone, including animals, we fulfill the whole law (Romans 13:10). If our motivation is to only show the minimum amount of mercy, then it says in James 2:13, "judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful." Instead of striving to be minimally merciful, we should strive to be wholeheartedly and abundantly merciful, "just as your Father [God] is merciful" (Luke 6:36). If we are stubbornly refusing to show mercy to the most vulnerable among us (Matthew 25:45), have we truly accepted the God of mercy as our lord and savior (John 14:15, James 2:17)?

10. Is the existence of a loving God reconcilable with the existence of animal suffering?

Yes. God, who is love (1 John 4:8), created us in that same image of love (Genesis 1:27) and instructed us to be loving caretakers of the animals (Genesis 1:30, Isaiah 11:6). We were deceived into acting contrary to our nature (Genesis 3:13), which

caused death and suffering to enter into the world (1 Corinthians 15:21), but God promises that when we forsake our evil ways and turn back to God's ways of love that God will forgive us and heal the whole earth (2 Chronicles 7:14). God loves us so much that Jesus came to earth and suffered and died to show us the way back to God (John 3:16). The reason the kingdom Jesus prayed for in Matthew 6:10 hasn't come sooner is that God is patient with us, "not wanting any to perish but all to repent [turn back to God's way of love]" (2 Peter 3:9). When that glorious day finally comes, God "will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4). Every creature eagerly awaits that day (Romans 8:19)!

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"They will beat their swords into plowshares" (Isaiah 2:4)

Ten Frequently Asked Questions & Answers regarding Animals and Stewardship in the Bible

1. Can someone be vegan and also have faith in God?

Absolutely! The bible declares that "God is love" (1 John 4:16) and instructs us to "do everything in love" (1 Corinthians 16:14). Extending love to animals instead of withholding it from them is therefore not only consistent with faith but is a more complete expression of it (Matthew 5:46-48)!

2. Will animals be in the kingdom?

Certainly! The bible says God breathes life into humans and animals alike and that we each share the same fate (Ecclesiastes 3:19). The bible also says animals praise