

Psalms 148:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl:

Analysis

Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl: The summons to praise extends to the animal kingdom, using four categories that recall Genesis 1:24-25's creation taxonomy. **"Beasts"** (chayah, חַיָּה) refers to wild animals, while **"all cattle"** (vekhoh behemah, וְכֹל־בְּהֵמָה) designates domesticated livestock. **"Creeping things"** (remes, רֶמֶס) includes reptiles, insects, and small ground creatures. **"Flying fowl"** (tzippor kanaf, צִפּוֹר כָּנָף, literally "bird of wing") encompasses all birds.

This comprehensive catalog emphasizes that every category of animate life owes existence to the Creator and participates in cosmic praise. Animals praise God by fulfilling their created design—lions hunt (demonstrating strength God gave them, Psalm 104:21), birds sing (displaying beauty in God's design), livestock serve (showing usefulness in creation's order). Romans 8:19-22 declares creation itself "groaneth and travaileth" awaiting redemption, suggesting even non-rational creatures participate in longing for restoration.

Jesus pointed to animals as theological teachers: "Consider the ravens" (Luke 12:24), "Behold the fowls of the air" (Matthew 6:26). Animals trust God's provision instinctively; humans must learn this trust consciously. The inclusion of animals in cosmic praise foreshadows Isaiah's vision of peaceable kingdom where "the wolf also shall dwell with the lamb" (Isaiah 11:6) and Revelation's new creation where redeemed humans join all creatures in worship (Revelation 5:13).

Historical Context

Ancient Israelites lived in close proximity to animals—shepherding flocks, using oxen for plowing, observing wildlife. Levitical law distinguished clean and unclean animals (Leviticus 11), regulated animal sacrifice, and mandated Sabbath rest for livestock (Exodus 23:12). Yet all animals, regardless of ceremonial status, are here called to praise. This universal inclusion reflects Genesis 1's affirmation that God saw all creation—including animals—as "very good" (Genesis 1:31). Noah's ark preserved animals alongside humans, and God's covenant after the flood included "every living creature" (Genesis 9:10).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing animals as participants in cosmic worship affect Christian understanding of creation care and environmental stewardship?
2. In what ways do animals 'praise' God through instinctive behavior, and what can believers learn from observing this?
3. How does the inclusion of all creatures (wild beasts, cattle, reptiles, birds) in worship point to the comprehensive scope of God's creative and redemptive purposes?

Interlinear Text

בְּחַיֵּה הַחַיָּה	וְכָל	בְּהֵמָה הַ	רֶמֶשׂ	וְצִפּוֹר	כָּנָף:
Beasts	H3605	and all cattle	creeping things	fowl	and flying
H2416		H929	H7431	H6833	H3671