

Psalm 8:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;

Analysis

This verse continues the recitation of humanity's dominion over creation from verse 6. The specific mention of domestic animals (sheep and oxen) and wild animals (beasts of the field) reflects the Genesis mandate where humanity was given rule over all creatures. The Hebrew 'aleph' (oxen) and 'tson' (sheep) represent humanity's agricultural dominion. This dominion was damaged by the Fall but ultimately restored in Christ, the second Adam. Hebrews 2:6-8 applies this psalm messianically, noting we don't yet see all things subject to humanity, but we see Jesus.

Historical Context

Written in contemplation of creation's order, this psalm celebrates God's design where humanity serves as God's vice-regents over creation. Ancient Israel's economy was predominantly agricultural, making sheep and oxen central to daily life. The inclusion of wild beasts shows comprehensive dominion, though the Fall disrupted this harmony (Genesis 9:2).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does your stewardship of creation reflect God's original mandate?
 2. In what ways do you see Christ's restoration of humanity's proper relationship with creation?

Interlinear Text

שְׂדֵה	בְּבָמָה וְתַ	כָּלְמַ	וְאַלְפַּיִם	צָנָה
All sheep	and oxen	H3605	H1571	yea and the beasts

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 2:20 (Parallel theme): And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

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