

7C ANIMALS AS APOLOGETIC

(by Paul)

I have long been fascinated with the unique aspects of the animal kingdom and the variety –and the “personality” of various species. Classical literature is full of fables and observations from animals:

- The wily fox
- The kingly lion
- The proud peacock
- The frightened rabbit
- The slow turtle
- The lazy sloth
- The soaring eagle
- The industrious ant
- The sneaky snake
- The filthy pig
- The slow snail
- The rapid cheetah
- The stubborn mule
- The savage bear
- The strong ox
- The bridled horse
- The faithful dog

The Bible contains multiple descriptions of animal characteristics, often in terms of lessons for us:

“Those that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles.” (Isa. 40:31)

“Go to the ant, sluggard. (Observe her ways)” (Prov. 6:6-8)

“Don’t be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose mouth must be restrained with bit and bridle or they won’t come to you.” (Ps. 32:8-9)

“A lizard can be caught in your hands, yet it lives in king’s palaces.” (Prov.30:28)

“Behold I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore, be wise as serpents but harmless as doves.” (Mt.10:14)

“All of us, like sheep, have gone astray. We have each turned to our own way. But the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” (Isa. 53:6)

“Where there are no oxen the manger is clean, but gain comes from the strength of the ox.” (Prov. 14:4)

“Like a gold ring in the snout of a pig is a beautiful woman without any discretion (virtue).” (Prov. 11:22)

“Like a roaring lion and a prowling bear is a wicked man ruling a helpless people.” (Prov. 28:15)

As we look at the animals of our world, it seems that they were specifically made for us-

- To provide food
- To provide clothing in colder climates
- To transport us
- To work for us (before steam power and electricity)
- To domesticate as pets
- To study for medical education
- To provide lessons for us, both in Scripture and in classical literature.

When He made them, God knew that the animals would provide not only food for us but also anatomical knowledge and spiritual lessons.