

The Special Animals in the Bible

	Animal(s)	Passage	the main negative(s)	the main positive(s)
1.	Naming the Animals	Genesis 2:19-20	No fitting helper was found for Adam, because he was not an animal.	Adam learned much about animals & himself. (Soon after, God made Eve.)
2.	Noah's Dove	Genesis 8:8-12	The selfish raven didn't return, and the dove couldn't find any land at first.	The dove encouraged Noah by bringing back an olive leaf the second time.
3.	Behemoth	Job 40:15-24	The greatest (extinct?) land animal could not be controled by any man.	This great beast was used to show Job how small he was as a mere man.
4.	Leviathan	Job chapter 41	The greatest (extinct?) sea creature was proud. Job was a bit so as well.	This even greater creature was used to show Job how small men are.
5.	The Plague of Frogs	Exodus 8:1-15	The creepy frogs were in Egyptian beds and their bread making bowls.	Through the frogs, the Lord showed that he is the true Giver of life.
6.	The Quail	Numbers chapter 11	The people complained and wanted meat, but many died eating quail.	The quail showed God's anger and power. Many who opposed Moses died.
7.	The Fiery Serpents	Numbers 21:4-9	Vipers bit many of the people who had continued to complain. Many died.	The people repented, and God provided the brazen serpent (John 3:14-16).
8.	Balaam's Donkey	Numbers 22:22-35	The loyal donkey was mistreated by money-mad Balaam (2 Peter 2:15-16).	The donkey was enabled to express its thoughts about the mistreatment.
9.	The Scapegoat	Leviticus 16:1-34	The many sins of the people needed to be atoned for and forgiven.	One of two sacrificial goats was sent away, representing sins removal.
10.	Samson's 300 Foxes	Judges 15:4-5	Samson had no army, and it took a long time to catch 300 jackals.	The jackals with torches became Samson's army, a bit like Gideon's 300.
11.	Elijah's Ravens	1 Kings 17:2-7	Elijah lacked human help and had to hide in a barren, isolated place.	The ravens were led to provide meat and bread twice a day to Elijah.
12.	Elisha's Bears	2 Kings 2:23-24	Two female bears killed the 42 youths who mocked Elisha.	The bears showed that Elisha was God's prophet. People feared God more.
13.	Daniel's Lions	Daniel chapter 6	Opponents tricked the king, and Daniel was put into the lions' den.	Daniel came out alive (like a resurrection), and the king believed.
14.	Jonah's Great Fish	Jonah 1:17-2:10	Being in the great fish was much like being dead and in the grave.	The great fish released Jonah in a resurrection like way (Matt. 12:39, 16:4).
15.	The Donkey's Colt	Matthew 21:1-11	The colt had to be borrowed and had never been ridden (Mark 11:2).	The colt and its mother sensed Jesus' humility in line with Zechariah 9:9.
16.	Paul's Viper	Acts 28:3-6	A deadly viper bit Paul while he was gathering firewood.	Miraculously the viper didn't harm Paul, who was confirmed as apostle.
17.	The Earth's Wild Beasts	Revelation 6:8	Hungry wild beast will kill people during the great tribulation period.	Most carnivorous beasts apparently died, since they are only seen in 6:8.
18.	The Kingdom Animals	Isaiah 11:6-9	Wolves, leopards, lions, and vipers have often killed livestock and children.	All millennial animals will be changed to like they were before the Fall.

Directions: **First**, consider and discuss the negative and positive points above. Do you agree with them? **Second**, look for repeated themes: Where is sin seen? (What kinds of sin?) Where is there interaction between the natural and the miraculous? (How was God in control of both?) Where is the Messiah directly seen or foreshadowed? **Third**, make practical applications. © 2022 by Jon F. Mahar, Hakusan, Japan, & Alexander, Maine, U.S.A.