

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

ANIMAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

The following are some quotes from some leaders in this movement:-

1. "It can no longer be maintained by anyone but a religious fanatic that man is the darling of the whole universe, or that animals were created to provide us with food, or that we have divine authority over them, and divine permission to kill them." Peter Singer ("Earth Day 1990," The Christian News, Apr, 9, 1990).
2. " Human beings, as a species, have no more value than slugs." - Uni of Calif professor Kenneth Watt (Cited by Gary Benoit, 'The Greatest Sham on Earth,' The New American Mar, 26,1990
3. "There really is no rational reason for saying an human being has special rights.A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy" She compares the killing of chickens with the Nazi Holocaust. " Six million people died in concentration camps" she told the Washington Post, " but six billion broiler chickens will die this year in slaughterhouses." - Ingrid Newkirk, PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals)founder, Reader's Digest, June 1990.

Animals are being bought to a place where they have precedence over people and their needs. We must 'save the whales' and not allow a dam because it may leave some snails without an home etc! We are seeing Rom 1:22,23 being lived out in our day. At one time that used to be confined to countries like India and Burma who believe in reincarnation.

One of the things that helps drive this movement is the support of the teaching of evolution - single cell to man ie man is just an higher animal! Animals in cartoons etc help to show their similarity and perhaps equality with humans! The Word of God declares that man is unique in God's creation because we are made in His image. There is no 'missing link'!!

The first reason for animals (indeed all of creation) is found in Rev 4:11 - they were created for God's pleasure.

The second reason for animals is for man to have dominion Ps 8:4-8 - we are to exercise good stewardship over what God has given unto us.

- eg domestic animals - give them food, water, protection, care etc (God feeds them in the wild, Matt 6:26)

The Animal Rights people tell us that animals should not be killed for food and clothing etc

NOTE: (1) God clothed Adam and Eve with animal skins - Gen 3:21

(2) God commanded animal sacrifices to be made in the OT

- Lev 1-5 (to point to the Lamb of God John 1:29)

- parts were for the priests to eat.

(3) Animals are to be eaten:-

In OT - Lev 11:1-47 - clean/unclean; teaching them to be different to the other nations and also that they were to be holy people

In NT - All meat acceptable to eat - 1Tim 4:1-5

- The Lord Jesus ate fish Luke 24:42,43;

the passover lamb Matt 26

There is another reason that God created the animals and birds etc - to teach us lessons eg Job 40:15 - 41:34; Prov 6:6-; Prov 30:24-28

All animals and birds and other creatures were created for God's pleasure and we are to be good stewards over that which God has given unto us.