

Animals of the Bible

- Notes:*
1. Significant difficulty exists in identifying a number of animals mentioned in the Bible
 2. Some representative scriptures are listed - actual translations may differ
 3. Many times a Hebrew word covers several different animals, may be interchangeable

Domesticated Animals:

- o Ass (Donkey?)(Num 22:28; Deu 22:10; Judges 5:10; 10:4; 1 Sam 9:3; Matt 21:2)
- o Camel (Gen 12:16; 30:43; Lev 11:4; Judges 6:5; Job 1:3; Matt 19:24; 23:24)
- o Cattle (Ox; Bulls; Lambs)(some 450 times)(Ex 29:11,36; Lev 4:4; Num 15:8; Ps 66:15)
- o Colt or Foal (young Horse)(Deu 17:16; Job 39:19; Psalm 32:9; 33:17; Isa 31:1; many figurative)
- o Dog (figurative useage)(Deu 23:18; Ecc 9:4; Matt 15:26ff; Phil 3:2; Rev 22:15)(loathsome to the Jew)
- o Goat (Gen 15:9; 27:9; Lev 4:24; 16:15; Judges 13:19; 2 Chron 29:23)
- o Mule (offspring of Horse by a Donkey; 2 Sam 13:29; Psalm 32:9)(Lev 19:19 forbids this breeding)
- o Sheep (mentioned some 470 times; metaphorical, figurative, and literal references)
- o Swine (Lev 11:7; Deu 14:8; Matt 7:6; 8:30; Luke 15:15; 2 Peter 2:22)(loathsome to the Jew)

Wild Animals:

- o Ape (loanword from Egypt: Monkey; Macaques; Langurs; Baboons? 1 Kings 10:22)
- o Antelope (Oryx & Addax?)(Isa 51:20)
- o Bat (Lev 11:9; Deu 14:18; Isa 2:20)
- o Behemoth (Job 40:15; most scholars believe it is the Hippopotamus; how about a Dinosaur?)
- o Brown Bear (1 Sam 17:34; 2 Sam 17:8; 2 Kings 2:24; Prov 17:12; Isa 11:7; Amos 5:19)(proverbially)
- o Bubal Hartebeest (extinct?)(Deu 1:5; 1 Kings 4:23)
- o Deer (Red deer; Fallow deer; Roe deer)(Deu 14:5; 2 Sam 2:18; Psalm 42:1; Prov 6:5; Isa 35:6)
- o Dragon (most figurative, translated: sea monsters, serpent, whale (Gen 1:21; Ex 7:9-10,12; Job 41?))
- o Elephant (not mentioned directly, but ivory is)(1 Kings 10:22; 2 Chron 9:21)
- o Foxes (and Jackals?)(Judges 15:4; Neh 4:3; SS 2:15; Matt 8:20)
- o Gazelle (Acts 9:36 Dorkas - Gazelle)
- o Hare (Lev 11:6)
- o Hedgehog (creature of desolation: Isa 14:23; 34:11; Zeph 2:14)
- o Leopard (Cheetah; Jungle Cat?)(SS 4:8; Isa 11:6; Jer 13:23)(used proverbially or figuratively)
- o Lion (some 130 times; Dan 6:19; Deu 33:22; Prov 17:12; 30:30; literal & metaphorical, royalty symbol)
- o Mountain Sheep (extinct form of Mouflon?)
- o Mouse (Lev 11:29; 1 Sam 6:4; Isa 66:17 (symptoms imply Black Rat - carrier of bubonic plague fleas))
- o Nubian Ibex (or Pygarg; Psalm 104:18)
- o Seacow (popular name for Dugong, large marine mammal)(Ex 25; Num 4)
- o Syrian Rock Hyrax (or Rock Badger, Coney? Lev 11:5; Deu 14:7; Psalm 104:18; Prov 30:26)
- o Weasel (Lev 11:29)
- o Whale (Jonah 1:17; probably not a "great fish")
- o Wild Ass (Onager) (Deu 5:21; Job 39:5-8)
- o Wild Boar (Psalm 80:13; 68:30?)
- o Wolf (Isa 11:6; Matt 7:15; John 10:12)(most metaphorical, half time for one in authority (Zeph 3:3)

Birds:

- o Cormorant (food lists of Lev 11:1-47 and Deu 14:3-20 only)
- o Crane (Isa 38:14; Jer 8:7)
- o Crow (Hooded Crow & Raven; Gen 8:7; Deu 14:14; 1 Kings 17:4; Ps 147:9; Prov 30:17; Luke 12:24)
- o Dove (Psalm 68:13; SS 6:9; Matt 3:16; 10:16)
- o Eagle (Matt 24:28)

- o Foul (1 Kings 4:23; Hen (Matt 23:37; Luke 13:34); Cock (Mark 13:35; Matt 26:74-75))
- o Griffin Vulture (Micah 1:16)
- o Hawk (Job 39:26; and food lists of Lev 11:1-47 and Deu 14:3-20)
- o Hoopoe (food lists of Lev 11:1-47 and Deu 14:3-20 only)
- o Kite (Lev 11:14; Deu 14:13; Isa 34:15)
- o Night-Hawk (food lists of Lev 11:1-47 and Deu 14:3-20 only)
- o Osprey (food lists of Lev 11:1-47 and Deu 14:3-20 only)
- o Ossifrage (or Lammergeier or Bearded Vulture)(Lev 11:13)
- o Ostrich (Job 39:13-18; Lam 4:3)
- o Owls (creature of desolation; Isa 34:14; Screech Owl; Night Hag; Nightjar; Lilith; Tawny Owl?)
- o Partridge (1 Sam 26:20; Jer 17:11)
- o Peacocks (1 Kings 10:22)
- o Pelican (Psalm 102:6)
- o Pigeons (Gen 15:9; Lev 1:14; 5:7; 12:8; 14:22; Luke 2:24)
- o Quail (Ex 16:13; Num 11:31)
- o Sea Gull (food lists of Lev 11:1-47 and Deu 14:3-20 only)
- o Sparrows (Matt 10:29; Psalm 84:3; Psalm 102:7 (Blue Rock Thrush?))
- o Swallow (or Swift or Martin)(Psalm 84:3; Prov 26:2)
- o Turtle Dove (Gen 15:9; Lev 1:14; Num 6:10; Luke 2:24)
- o Vulture (Lev 11:18; Deu 14:17)
- o Water Hen (food lists of Lev 11:1-47 and Deu 14:3-20 only)
- o White Stork (Lev 11:19; Psalm 104:17; Jer 8:7)

Reptiles:

- o Crocodile? (believed by some to be Leviathan of Job 41:1)
- o Frog (Ex 8:2ff; figuratively in Rev 16:13)
- o Lizards (also: Agama, Rainbow Lizard, Rock Gecko, Chameleon, Skinks (Lev 11:29ff))
- o Serpent (or fiery Serpent or Dragon (Gen 3:1; Num 21:6-9; Isa 14:29; 30:6; Ex 7:9ff))
- o Snake (Cobra (Psalm 58:4-5); Asp (Isa 11:8); Fiery Serpent (John 3:14; Rev 12:9; Carpet Viper (Num 21); Adder (Prov 23:32); Desert Vipers (Jer 8:17); Pharisees are Vipers; Viper (Acts 28:3))
- o Tortoise (Lev 11:29?)

Insects and Other:

- o Ant (Prov 6:6, 30:25)
- o Fleas (1 Sam 24:14; 26:20)
- o Fly (Ex 8:21ff; Psalm 78:45; 105:31; Isa 7:18; Ecc 10:1)
- o Gnat (Matt 23:24; or Tick in Ex 8:16-18)
- o Honey Bees (Jdgs 14:8; Psalm 118:12; Deu 1:44; figuratively in Isa 7:18)
- o Hornet (Ex 23:28)
- o Leech (Prov 30:15)
- o Locusts (mentioned some 56 times in OT; Joel 1:4; Ex 10:13)
- o Moth (Job 4:19; Luke 12:33)
- o Scorpion (used proverbially in 1 Kings 12:11; Luke 11:12)
- o Snail (Psalm 58:8)
- o Spiders (Job 8:14; Isa 59:5-6)
- o Worm (used figuratively Matt 9:48)