

Animals on a Mission!

Exodus 8:1-15

It is fascinating how God directs animals to fulfill His will, as they perfectly obey their Maker. Exactly the right number and sex of animals came to Noah (*Gen. 6:21*), and a dove was sent to signal the time to leave the ark (*Gen. 8*). Four of the ten Egyptian plagues involved animals who followed God's orders: frogs, lice, flies and locusts. Deadly snakes ambushed the murmuring Israelites (*Num. 21*); lots of quail flew to the Israelite camp (*Exodus 16:13*); a donkey disobeyed Balaam in order to obey God (*Num. 22:23*). Bees were sent to make honey in a lion's carcass (*Judges 14:8*); and a donkey dropped dead at the right time, in the right place to provide a weapon for Samson (*Judges 15-16*). Cows pulled the ark, going away from their calves, contrary to their strong maternal instincts (*1 Sam. 6:9-10*). Ravens brought nourishment to Elijah (*1 Kings 17:6*); bears were sent to maul Elisha's mockers (*2 Kings 2:24*); dogs were commissioned to eat the dead body of Jezebel (*2 Kings 9:36*). A great sea creature was sent to swallow God's disobedient prophet (*Jonah 1*). Lions followed orders to close their mouths with Daniel but to later devour his enemies (*Dan. 6*). Jesus was unharmed by wild beasts (*Mark 1:13*). On two occasions, fish stayed away from fishing nets and then rushed into those same nets (*Luke 5:4-7; John 21:3-8*). A fish with a coin in its stomach was directed to just the right hook (*Matt. 27:27*). Large birds will be sent to clean up Armageddon's carnage (*Rev. 19:17-18*).

Such animals send a strong rebuke toward those made in the image of God: "The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, My people doth not consider" (*Isa. 1:3*). **May we gladly and willingly and consistently choose to obey our loving Creator!**



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