

## Wild Beasts of the Earth

*"... Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth "* [Rev 6:8](#)

This has puzzled me for a long time. With the 1) degradation of the environment, 2) destruction of habitat and 3) extinction of species, how could wild animals ever again be a significant problem for mankind?

Some have suggested that we should think small, not big, and that the wild beasts here might well be disease organisms. But if that were the case, would not God be repeating himself having just mentioned *pestilence* in the same verse? That interpretation does not seem quite right to me.

At creation: *"God made the beasts of the earth ... and God saw that it was good."* [Gen 1:25](#) If the animals killed and ate each other like now, would God have called it *good*?

God gave Adam the task of naming all the animals: *"Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field ..."* [Gen 2:19-20](#)

As one would expect of a perfect world, at creation the animals were tame.

Later when Adam sinned, God cursed the ground, and sacrificed some animals for the benefit of Adam, Eve and all mankind.

Much later it appears clear that the animals that went into the Ark with Noah were still tame: *"...Enter the ark...take with you... two, a male and his female; also of the birds of the sky, by sevens, male and female..."* [Gen 7:2-3](#)

Finally, after the flood of Noah, it seems that the animals became wild for the first time: *"The fear of you and the terror of you will be on every beast of the earth and on every bird of the sky; with everything that creeps on the ground, and all the fish of the sea, into your hand they are given."* [Gen 9:2](#)

In the future Millennium they will become tame again, and will not kill each other: *"The wolf and the lamb will graze together; and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent's food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain," says the Lord*" [Isa 65:25](#) So, God is in control of the nature of the animals, and can change it at any time.

God is now restraining evil: *"For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. Then that lawless one*



*will be revealed...*" [2 Thes 2:7-8](#) Could it be that part of God's restraint now applies to the animals, and just imagine if pets and farm animals suddenly became vicious and began attacking and even killing humans. Could this be the wild animals referred to by God in the opening passage? I think it is likely.

But most important of all, **the salvation of your soul** is a personal matter between you and God and does not depend on rites, clerics, tradition, good works, or belonging to any church or religion: "*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works...*" [Eph 2:8-9](#) No matter what kind of person you are or what you have done: "*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to*

*cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" [1 John 1:9](#) Pray today to put your faith in Jesus Christ alone: "*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*" [John 3:16](#) Then study the Bible to live pleasing to God: "... *if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*" [2 Cor 5:17](#)

**Please pray like this with all sincerity:**  
"Dear Lord Jesus, I confess I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died to forgive my sins and rose from the dead. I trust and follow you as my Lord and Savior. Please guide my life and help me to do your will. In the name of my Lord Jesus Christ, Amen."

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