

## Appendix A: Animal Names in the Bible with Explanations

In the opening pages of God's message to mankind, we find that animal names can be very important:

And 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 his name. (Genesis 2:19, NASB)

The list presented below contains the animal names as they appear in the sixty-six books of Scripture along with a few notes of explanation to enhance the reader's ability to understand the animals involved.

Keep the following in mind when studying the list:

- The primary focus of the study is on the role the animals play in the Bible, not on developing a scientific taxonomy of the animal each name represents.
- Disease causing organisms, such as *pestilence*, are not considered animals.
- The names in **bold** are used in the King James Version (KJV); whereas, those in *italics* are some examples of how those names appear in other translations.
- (OT) indicates the name appears only in the Old Testament; (NT) indicates the name appears only in the New Testament; (OT+NT) indicates the name appears in both.
- The names marked with an \* are not animals per se, but their names refer to animals (e.g., *shepherd*, *goatskin*, etc.) See also the \* note at the end of this document.

**adder**, *cobra*, *horned snake*, *viper* (OT)

**ant** (only occurs in Prov. 6:6) (OT)

**ape** (OT)

**asp**, *cobra* (OT+NT)

**ass**, *donkey* (OT+NT)

**badger**, *dugong*, *porpoise* (OT)

**bat** (OT)

**bear** (Most occurrences of this word are not nouns referring to the animal but are action verbs, e.g., to bear a child.) (OT+NT)

**beast**, *camel*, *cattle*, *creature*, *hyena* (Sometimes generic for animal; frequently differentiated from birds; figuratively, a destructive political power, Antichrist, or the False Prophet.) (OT+NT)

**bee** (OT)

**beetle** (only occurs in Lev. 11:22) (OT)

**beeve**, *cattle* (OT)

**behemoth**, *hippopotamus* (only occurs in Job 40:15) (See note at the end of this document.) (OT)

**bird** (OT+NT)

**bittern**, *hedgehog*, *screech owl* (OT)

**boar**, *wild hog* (only occurs in Ps. 80:13) (OT)

**bull**, *antelope* (OT+NT)

**bullock**, *bull*, *ox* (refers to a castrated bull) (OT)

**calf**, *ox* (OT+NT)

**camel**, *steed* (OT+NT)

**cankerworm**, *locust* (OT)

**caterpillar**, *locust*, *grasshopper* (OT)

**cattle**, *animal*, *beast*, *flock*, *livestock*, *sheep* (OT+NT)

**chameleon**, *lizard* (only occurs in Lev. 11:30) (OT)

**chamois**, *mountain sheep* (only occurs in Deut. 14:5) (OT)

**chicken**, *chicks* (only occurs in Mt. 23:37) (NT)

**cock**, *rooster* (NT)

**cockatrice**, *adder*, *serpent*, *viper* (OT)

**colt** (OT+NT)

**coney**, *hyrax*, *rock badger* (OT)

**cormorant**, *desert owl*, *pelican* (OT)

**cow**, *heifer*, *ox* (OT)

**crane**, *dove*, *swift* (OT)

**cuckow**, *gull*, *sea gull* (OT)

**deer** (only occurs in Deut. 14:5) (OT)

**dog** (OT+NT)

**dove** (OT+NT)

**dragon**, *crocodile*, *jackal*, *monster*, *red dragon*, *sea monster*, *serpent*, *wolf* (OT+NT)

**dromedary**, *horse*, *steed*, *stud*, *young camel* (OT)

**eagle**, *vulture* (OT+NT)

**ewe** (female sheep) (OT)

**fallow deer**, *gazelle* (only occurs in Deut. 14:5) (OT)

**fatling**, *fat animal*, *fat beast*, *yearling* (OT+NT)

**ferret**, *gecko* (only occurs in Lev. 11:30) (OT)

**fish** (OT+NT)

**fisher** (All occurrences refer to people who fish, not the animal.) (OT+NT)\*

**fisherman** (NT)\*

**fishhook** (only occurs in Amos 4:2) (OT)\*

**fishing** (only occurs in Jn. 21:3) (NT)\*

**flea** (OT)

**flock** (OT+NT)

**fly** (Only occurs in Is. 7:18 as an animal; all others refer to an action.) (OT)

**foal** (OT+NT)

**fowl**, *bird* (OT+NT)

**fowler** (OT)\*

**fox** (OT+NT)

**frog** (OT+NT)

**gier eagle**, *carion vulture*, *osprey* (OT)

**glede**, *red kite* (bird of prey) (only occurs in Deut. 14:13) (OT)  
**gnat** (only occurs in Mt. 23:24) (NT)  
**goat**, *kid* (OT+NT)  
**goatskin** (NT)\*  
**grasshopper**, *cricket, locust* (OT)  
**greyhound**, *strutting cock, strutting rooster* (only occurs in Prov. 30:31) (OT)  
**hare**, *rabbit* (OT)  
**hart**, *deer, doe, stag* (OT)  
**hawk** (OT)  
**heifer** (young cow; cow who has not had a calf) (OT+NT)  
**hen** (NT)  
**herd** (OT+NT)  
**herdman** (OT)\*  
**heron** (OT)  
**hind** (female hart) (OT)  
**hornet** (OT)  
**horse**, *mare, stallion* (OT+NT)  
**horseback** (OT)\*  
**horsehoof** (only occurs in Judg. 5:22) (OT)\*  
**horseleech**, *leech* (only occurs in Prov. 30:15) (OT)  
**horseman** (OT+NT)\*  
**kid** (OT+NT)  
**kine**, *cow, ox* (OT)  
**kite** (bird of prey in the falcon family) (See also *glede*.) (OT)  
**lamb** (OT+NT)  
**lapwing**, *hoopoe* (a shore bird) (OT)  
**leopard** (OT+NT)  
**leviathan**, *crocodile, sea monster* (See note at the end of this document.) (OT)  
**lice**, *fly, gnat* (OT)  
**lion** (OT+NT)  
**lionlike** (OT)\*  
**lizard** (only occurs in Lev. 11:30) (OT)  
**locust**, *cricket* (OT+NT)  
**mole**, *chameleon* (OT)  
**monster**, *jackal* (only occurs in Lam. 4:3) (OT)  
**moth**, *spider* (OT+NT)  
**mouse**, *rat* (OT)  
**mule** (OT)  
**ospry**, *black vulture, buzzard* (OT)  
**ossifrage**, *vulture* (OT)  
**ostrich** (only occurs in Job 39:13) (OT)  
**owl**, *ostrich, white owl* (OT)  
**ox** (OT+NT)  
**palmerworm**, *caterpillar, gnawing locust, locust swarm* (OT)

**partridge** (OT)  
**peacock** (OT)  
**pelican**, *jackdaw, owl* (OT)  
**pigeon** (OT+NT)  
**pygarg**, *ibex* (only occurs in Deut. 14:5) (OT)  
**quail** (OT)  
**ram** (OT)  
**raven** (OT+NT)  
**roe**, *doe, gazelle* (OT)  
**roebuck** (only occurs in 1 Ki. 4:23) (OT)  
**satyr**, *ostrich, shaggy goat, wild goat* (only occurs in Isaiah 13:21, 34:14) (OT)  
**scorpion** (OT+NT)  
**serpent**, *snake* (OT+NT)  
**sheep** (OT+NT)  
**sheepcote**, *sheepfold, sheep pen* (OT)\*  
**sheepfold**, *sheep pen* (OT+NT)\*  
**sheepmaster**, *sheep breeder, sheep raiser* (only occurs in 2 Ki. 3:4) (OT)\*  
**sheepshearer** (OT)\*  
**sheepskin** (only occurs in Heb. 11:37) (NT)\*  
**shepherd** (OT+NT)\*  
**snail**, *sand reptile, skink, slug* (OT)  
**sow** (Only occurs in 2 Pet. 2:22 as a reference to a pig. All other occurrences refer to sowing seed.) (NT)  
**sparrow**, *bird* (OT+NT)  
**spider**, *lizard* (OT)  
**sponge**, *sponge* (NT)  
**stork** (OT)  
**swallow** (OT)  
**swan**, *barn owl, white owl* (Swans are not in the Holy Land.) (OT)  
**swine**, *pig* (OT+NT)  
**tortoise**, *great lizard* (only occurs in Lev. 11:29) (OT)  
**turtle**, *dove, turtledove* (This is a bird, not a reptile.) (OT)  
**turtledove** (OT+NT)  
**unicorn**, *wild ox* (OT)  
**viper**, *adder, snake* (OT+NT)  
**vulture**, *falcon, hawk, kite* (OT)  
**weasel**, *mole, rat* (only occurs in Lev. 11:29) (OT)  
**whale**, *creature* (OT+NT)  
**wolf** (OT+NT)  
**worm**, *maggot* (All worms mentioned in the Bible are larvae of insects; earth worms are not mentioned.) (OT+NT)  
**wormwood**, *bitter plant* (OT+NT)\*

## Notes:

“Two great creatures, behemoth and leviathan, are described by God in Job. Some commentators have suggested behemoth was an elephant or hippo, but the description simply doesn’t match (behemoth ‘moves his tail like a cedar’). It appears God is describing a sauropod dinosaur and a fearsome, now-extinct sea creature” (Steel 2001).

“Obviously behemoth is represented as the primeval beast, the king of all the animals of the dry land, while leviathan is the king . . . of all those of the water, both alike unconquerable by man” (Singer 1912, 8:38).

\* These are not animals per se, but their names refer to animals. All are nouns except for *lionlike*, which is an adjective and is used to describe people.

## **References**

Steel, Allan. 2001. “Could Behemoth Have Been a Dinosaur.” Answers in Genesis. August 1, 2001.  
<https://answersingenesis.org/dinosaurs/could-behemoth-have-been-a-dinosaur/>.

Singer, Isidore, ed. 1912. *The Jewish Encyclopedia: A Descriptive Record of the History, Religion, Literature, and Customs of the Jewish People from the Earliest Times to the Present Day*. 12 vols. New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company.