



Animals of the Bible

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First printing: September 2014

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Master Books®, P.O. Box 726, Green Forest, AR 72638

Master Books® is a division of the New Leaf Publishing Group, Inc.

ISBN: 978-0-89051-843-4

Library of Congress Number: 97-073934

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the New King James Version of the Bible.

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44 Animals of the Bible

ANT

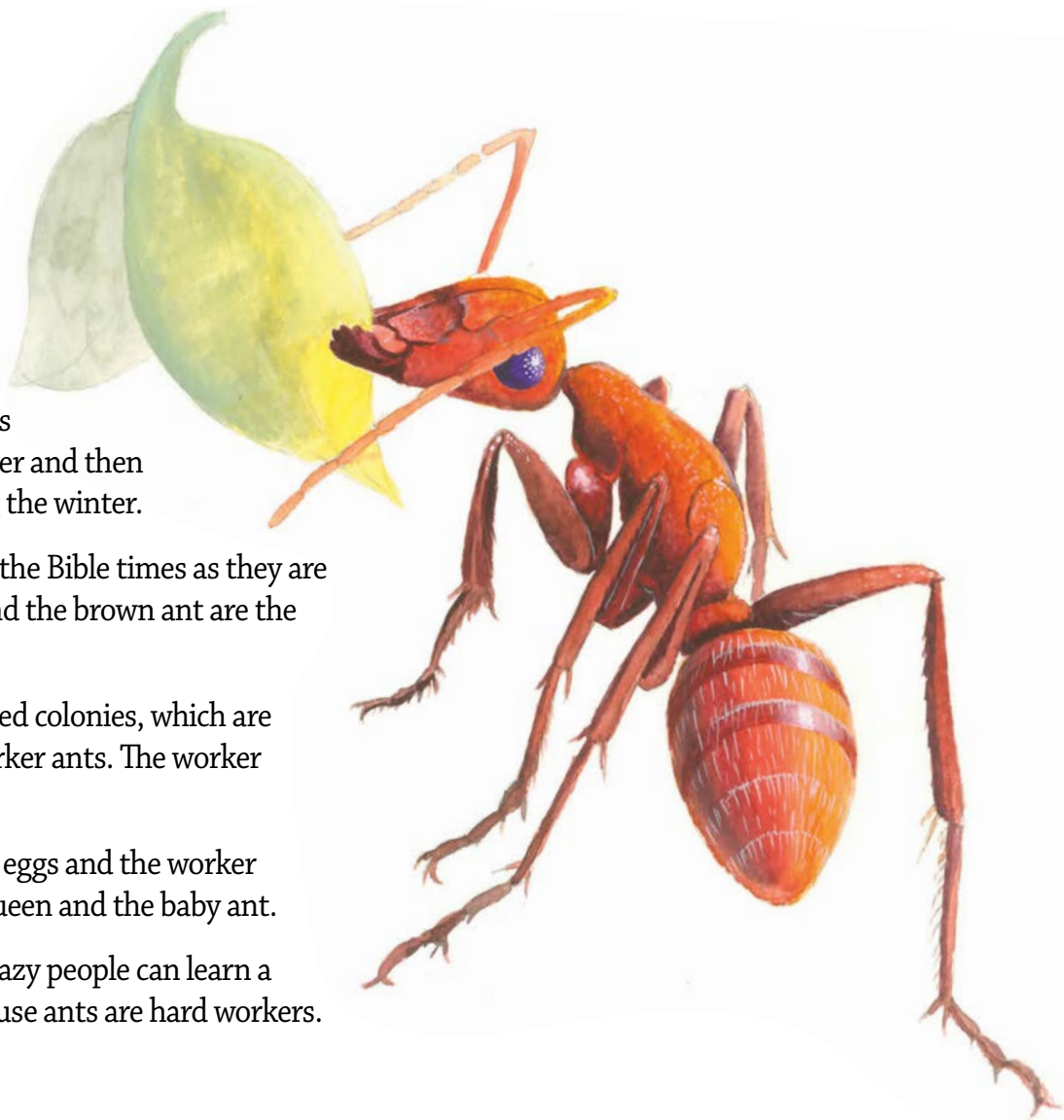
The ant is a tiny but wise creature. The Bible tells us this insect has no leader, but is a very busy worker. The ant collects food during the summer and then stores it for use during the winter.

Ants were common in the Bible times as they are today. The black ant and the brown ant are the most common.

Ants live in groups called colonies, which are made up mostly of worker ants. The worker ants are female ants.

The queen ant lays the eggs and the worker ant takes care of the queen and the baby ant.

The Bible tells us that lazy people can learn a lesson from ants, because ants are hard workers.



ASP

The asp is a snake similar to the cobra. The asp, like the cobra, is a poisonous snake. It is found in many parts of the world. This snake lives in a hole in the ground. Its venom (or poison) is fast-acting, and affects the nervous system of its victims. The asp eats small birds and toads.

This snake is a viper, as is the adder. The Bible tells us that wicked people are like the asp, because they lie, and bad things which they say are as bad as the poison of the asp.



Romans 3:13

*Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit;
The poison of asps is under their lips...*

BADGER

The Bible tells us the badger is a wise animal. It is not big, but manages to make a home in the rocks.

The badger has short, strong legs, with toes made for burrowing in the ground. It looks like a weasel, and is nocturnal and hunts at night. The fur of a badger was valuable during Bible times.

Its skin was used as an offering to God and was also used to make shoes and sandals.

Badgers eat gophers and other pests, and its face looks like a raccoon's. It is also a shy animal, but can be very powerful and vicious when cornered.

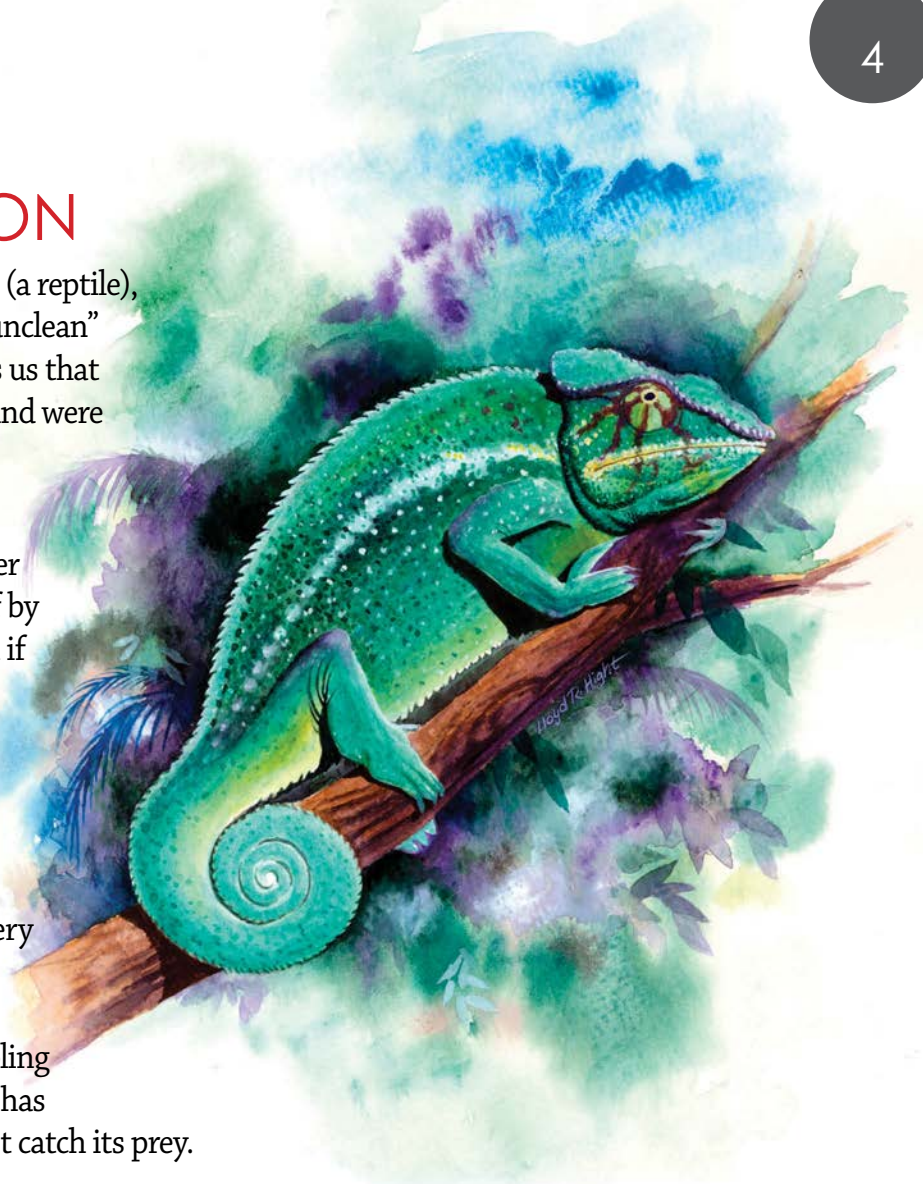


CHAMELEON

The chameleon is a type of lizard (a reptile), and was considered one of the “unclean” animals. The Old Testament tells us that certain creatures were unclean, and were forbidden as food.

The chameleon is a small lizard (perhaps reaching a length of over a foot long), and it protects itself by changing color. It will turn green if it stays in a grassy or tree-filled environment, and it will turn brown if living in rocks, sand, or desert.

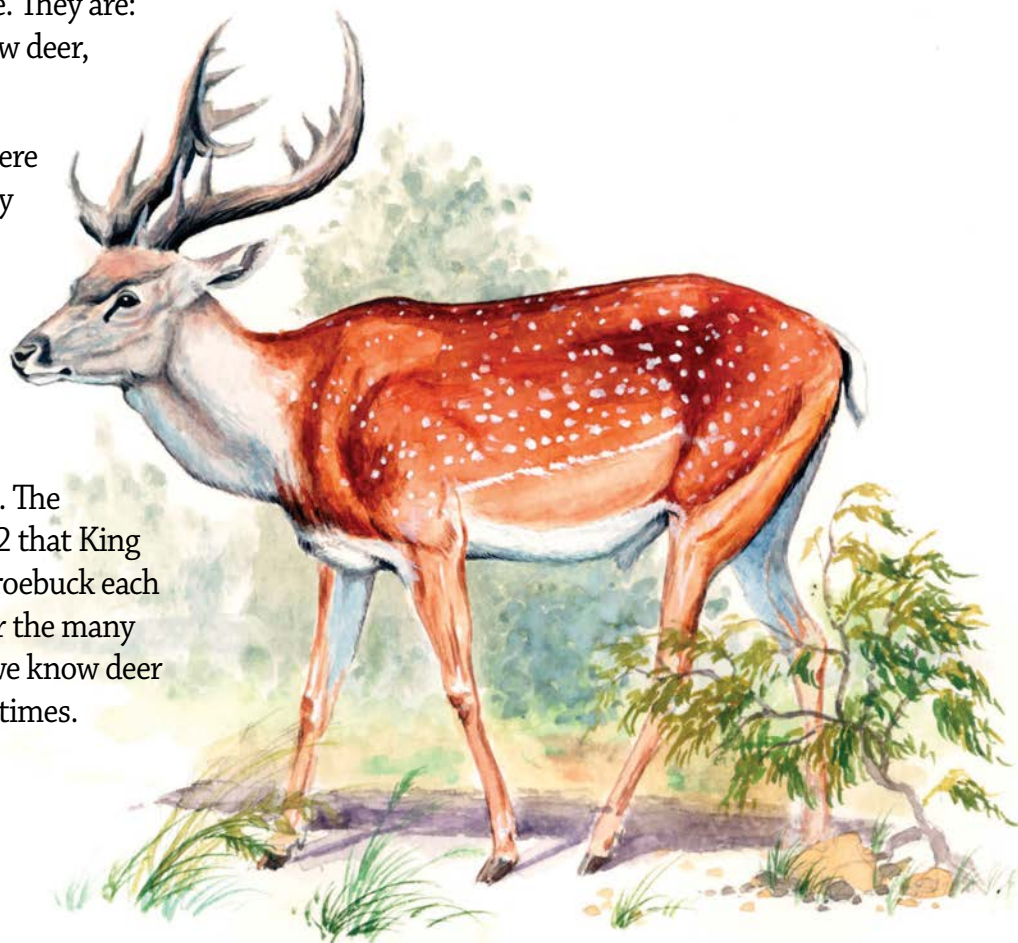
There are more than 80 types of chameleons. This animal has a very short neck, and a head that does not turn. Instead, its eyes move separately from each other, enabling it to see from side to side. It also has a very long tongue, which helps it catch its prey.



DEER

There are a number of different types of deer mentioned in the bible. They are: the hart, the hind, the fallow deer, and the roe or roebuck.

In Old Testament times, there was once a wise and wealthy king named Solomon. God was pleased with King Solomon and gave him much wisdom. He had a very large kingdom, and needed many supplies each day for meals. The Bible tells us in 1 Kings 4:22 that King Solomon needed deer and roebuck each day to help provide food for the many people in his kingdom, so we know deer were often hunted in Bible times.



I Kings 4:22–23

Now Solomon's provision for one day was thirty kors of fine flour, sixty kors of meal, ten fatted oxen, twenty oxen from the pastures, and one hundred sheep, besides deer, gazelles, roebucks, and fatted fowl.

DOVE

The dove was the most important bird in Bible times. On the ark, Noah sent out a dove to find the first sign of land after the great waters of the flood had subsided.

Doves are found throughout the world. They are a member of the same group of birds as pigeons, but are smaller. They stay on the ground or in trees, and they eat seeds, fruit, and insects. Doves can fly great distances. They make a cooing sound. They often live in nests and bushes.

Doves were used in Bible times for sacrifice (offering) at the altar. These birds were kept in large numbers in the temples because they were used so often for sacrifice.

The dove is a symbol for the Holy Spirit. It is a gentle bird, and represents the gentleness of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the comforter that God promised He would send to us for help.



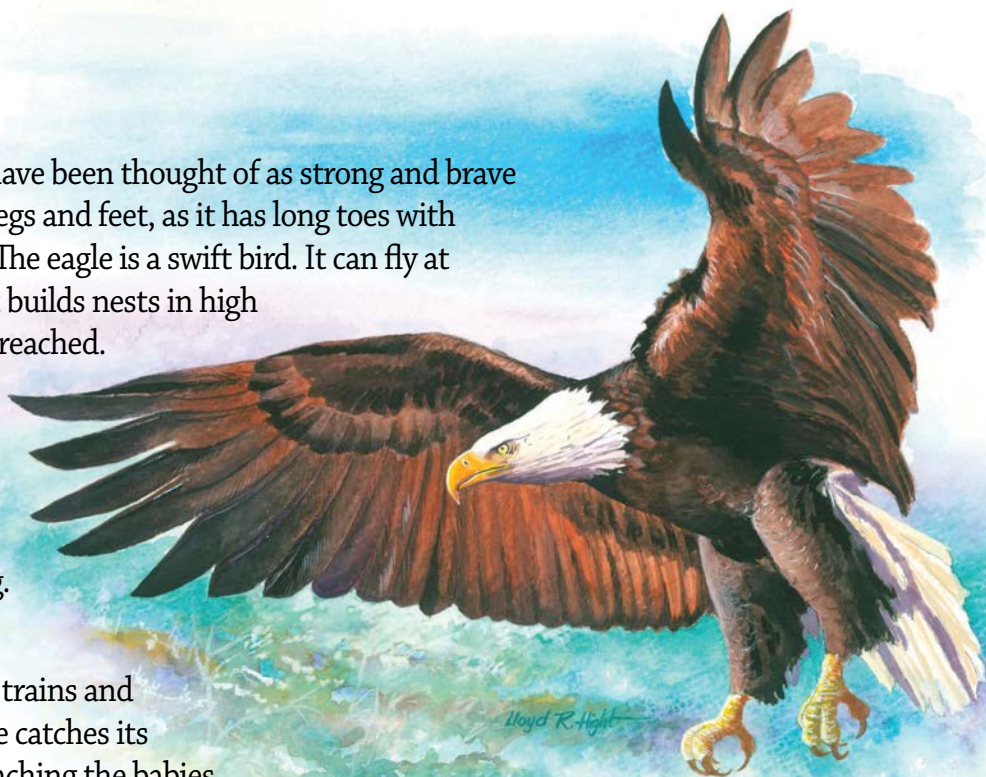
EAGLE

From ancient times eagles have been thought of as strong and brave birds. The eagle has sturdy legs and feet, as it has long toes with curved claws, called talons. The eagle is a swift bird. It can fly at very high altitudes, where it builds nests in high places that cannot be easily reached.

In Bible times the eagle was a symbol of great faith, since it's a bird that was so well thought of: strong, brave, and good to its young.

The eagle lives in high rocky mountain areas. It carefully trains and cares for its young. The eagle catches its young on its wings when teaching the babies to fly. This way they are protected from falling from great heights before they can fly easily on their own.

There are a number of places in the Bible which tell about the swiftness (quickness) of the eagle. In the Old Testament, we find the eagle was a bird that was not to be eaten. The bald eagle is pictured on the Great Seal of the United States. For Americans, it is a symbol of strength and courage, just as it was to people in Bible times.



FLY

The fly is a two-winged insect. There are about 80,000 different types of flies, and they can be found throughout the world. They like warm places. They have six legs, and can cling to almost any surface. For example, this is why a fly can walk upside-down on the ceiling.

Flies destroy crops, and also carry diseases. In Bible times, God sent swarms of flies onto the people of Egypt, because they would not let Moses and his people (called the Israelites) out of the country.

In the Book of Ecclesiastes, the Bible tells us that dead flies cause a bad odor.



Exodus 8:21

Or else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand.

FOX

The fox is the smallest member of the dog family, *canidae*. The fox has thick fur, triangle-shaped ears, and a long, bushy tail. They are fast runners and can reach a speed of 30 miles per hour.

In Bible times, foxes were trouble-some. They caused much damage to vineyards (where grapes were grown). Special watchtowers were built in the vineyards to keep foxes away, because they liked to eat grapes. They also liked to eat animals, birds, and other fruit.

The Bible tells us foxes are found in deserts and live in holes.

Foxes are known to be crafty or sly, meaning they are tricky animals.



Matthew 8:20

And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

FROG

In Old Testament times, there was a man with the title Pharaoh, who was king of Egypt. He tried to keep the people of Moses in his country, and he would not let them leave. God told Moses to give Pharaoh a message: if he did not let Moses' people go, God would send swarms of frogs onto the land.

The king would not listen to Moses, so God sent millions of frogs into the country. The frogs were everywhere, and even in people's beds. The Bible tells us about this in Psalm 105:30.

Frogs like to be in moist places where there is water. Their body absorbs water through their skin. Some frogs live in trees, but most live near water. Frogs eat insects, worms, and spiders. The frog's tongue is covered with a sticky substance which helps them catch their prey.

Some frogs are edible, which means they can be eaten. People still eat frog legs, and they are served in some restaurants.



Exodus 8:1–2

And the Lord spoke to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me. But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all your territory with frogs..."