



## **Millennial Missions—Topic 2: Friendly Animals**

### **What God's way is, and what He promises to those that love Him and follow in His way:**

And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. (Genesis 1:24-26)

And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. (Genesis 9:1-2)

### **What God's Word warned would happen, because people have chosen to disobey God and allowed evil into their lives:**

Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. (Genesis 9:3-4)

And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. (Numbers 21:6-7)

And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him.

And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth. (Revelation 6:7-8)

The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing. (Psalm 34:10)

And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. (1 Samuel 17:34-35)

**What God tells us to do about the problem for now, until the time is right for Him to make everything nice on Earth:**

*[Receive the gift of Salvation and get God's power to protect from harm: ]*

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. (Mark 16:16-18)

*[Receive God's angelic protection: ]*

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. (Psalm 91:11-13)

**What might it be like on Earth during the 1,000 year time at the end of this world's History, when the world is renewed and refreshed and Jesus Christ rules as King over all:**

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:6-9)

## **Promises for Princes and Princesses of God:**

No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there:

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Isaiah 35:9-10)

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## **Millennial Missions Stories**

*Imaginary Stories—taking place in the future time of the one thousand year “Millennium” that the Bible speaks of, when Jesus Christ rules all with love and justice, and the Earth is made pleasant again.*

- **Story 1--The Sad Old World: In a Struggling World**

“Ahh-ow!” the child screamed. The snake in the grass had bitten her nearly bare feet, as she ventured in the brush to collect bugs to feed their chickens. She used to go with the dog, who might have warned her. But he had gotten ill and passed away from one of the many troubles that dogs and animals get in a struggling world of pests and disease.

Her big brother came quickly over to rescue his sister and dispose of the critter that now put his sister’s life in danger.

He looked at the pattern on its skin and knew it was one of the worst and most poisonous in the area. He quickly carried the girl back to their hut to get help.

He too had a brush with death earlier that month, and still was recovering from the multiple jellyfish stings he had acquired in the sea near his home.

His mother lay in bed, she was very ill from the painful and debilitating disease that the mosquitoes were responsible for spreading around.

Was there anywhere safe?

Father secured his little girl on to him as he roared off on his motorbike to the nearest clinic. They would know what to do, as it was all too common of a situation.

The older brother did his best to make his mother comfortable, and serve some fruit to his little brother. After cutting out the bugs that were trying to make it their home, the grateful boy enjoyed this fresh meal.

He did his daily check around the hut for poisonous spiders and scorpions and the such; or perhaps a family of mice that were trying to move in and raise a whole new set of scurrying, swift thieves.

Weary with the struggle, and worried too about his sister, he sat down near the foot of his mother's bed. She turned and gave him a weak smile.

"Here mother, I've boiled and cooled this water for you," he said.

Mother tried to sit up as best as she could and took a drink.

He noticed some insect bites on his mother's ankles.

"The mosquitoes getting you again?" he asked.

No, she nodded. "We've been keeping them away for the most part with the smoking repellent; this time it's something else that has moved in and is much harder to get rid of—bed bugs!"

"Oh, no," her son nearly groaned. Was there ever to be relief?

Mother sensed his weariness and tried to get his mind thinking on the good.

“Well, it’s better than it is for others. Let’s be glad that we have a house at all, beds to sleep in, a door and windows that we can shut to keep trouble out. We can see, and hear, and smell. We can all get around.

“You were spared and are recovering from your trouble in the sea, and I know your sister will be just fine. Just think of the many who have no access to help, because they live so very far away. We have much to be glad about,” mother encouraged.

“Let’s play the ‘at least game’,” Mother suggested. “You start!”

The boy thought a moment, “At least the beg bugs aren’t as big as lions, and we aren’t in danger of them creeping into our house; or as big and rough as some elephants are, where people have to sleep on their rooftop because the elephants barge in, ruining their house and putting them all in danger.”

“That’s right!” Mother acknowledged, then added her own, “At least it was only a snake and not a crocodile, like many who live in other places have to watch out for.”

Her son took another turn, “At least we have medical help not too far away when poison from animals troubles us, and that we have survived each encounter.”

Before mother could say another one, the youngest boy who was finished his fruit, came over to join in and said,

“At least the fruit is fresh, and doesn’t have poisons sprayed on it to take away the bugs, and instead those poisons would make us sick. And I’m glad that my bee sting is nearly all better!”

They all nodded. Though things were tough sometimes, and more so on some days than others, at least things weren’t as bad as they could be.

But it seemed that in each area of the world, where one difficulty existed, there seemed to be something else that was pleasant that made things better—better in some way than others had. They had much to be glad about.

That evening father and sister were able to come home.

“We made it in time,” father said, “And thankfully there weren’t many other people in line waiting. I think we’re going to be fine now.

Sister went to rest near her mother. They were glad, extra glad to be together that night, after going through the challenges. Though things weren’t easy, they were going to make it.

Now it was time for mother and the girl to also play the ‘At least’ game, to help them relax and try to get some rest, while recovering.

Father and the oldest son let them have some quiet, while they went out to work on removing the wasp hives that were starting to get built on the eaves of their house.

The youngest boy helped to wipe the table, and make sure that food was put away, so the flies and cockroaches and ants wouldn’t get too excited and move in to enjoy a feast.

Keeping a clean house, keeping food tucked away and covered, having no still and standing water uncovered, keeping doors and windows screened, staying alert and watchful, and praying for safe keeping, helped them manage through this less-than-ideal world of today.



- **Story 2—The 1000 year Reign of Jesus Christ as King over all the world: Mr. Harthaven’s Grand estate—Part 1**

Elaine and Matilda pranced happily down the stone and dirt pathway that wound down the hill that led from their estate to the meadow pastures.

They each carried a basket filled with flowers of all sorts, the wild flowers they had picked on their merry walk to check on the grazing animals. This was no ordinary farm in fact, one could hardly recognize it for its splendour and idyllic conditions.

These two sisters were also best friends and would go everywhere together, never wanting the other to miss something neat that might happen. It was fun to have someone special to share life’s joys with. There weren’t many others around in this luscious area where their family was granted permission by the King of kings to live. They were really living now!

It had been many years since the King of kings had established his reign on Earth, and things were so different now. In the old world, people their age would have been considered old, starting to get grey hair, and certainly living a life of stress. But in this new world even someone of 30, 40 or 50 years old felt young and energetic, and had a long life still ahead of them. They had time to enjoy the lovely world and their life—rather than rushing through a busy short existence. Things were just very different.

With so much time to live, and with less hardships that stole a lot of the joy and peace from the hearts of Earth’s inhabitants, people’s lives were flowing with happiness. In the old world it was like life was on fast speed, and years passed so fast. You hardly were through a short childhood, and before you knew it, the next part of life had begun and you were expected to work hard, and stress filled your adult life.

Everything back then had to be learned very fast. It was odd to think of it, but it wasn't uncommon in the old world for children as young as two or three years old to be sent away from learning and living at home, to try to "get a good start on education".

They had to spend most of their time during the day in a building crammed with many other unruly children, in an attempt to help them learn.

Of, course it did the opposite, and the children instead picked up on all the wrong kind of ideas and behaviour, and it stunted the creativity and natural growth of their young minds. But the pressure of the shortness of time made people do all they could do to prepare their children for a difficult life of survival.

It wouldn't be long, it seemed, until a young one had to not only care for themselves, but likewise raise money for a family, and would need to be prepared to do it in the cleverest ways.

Ah, but that was before Jesus Christ, the King of kings, made things right. Day-by-day with the help of His Heavenly Children—those who had lived on Earth before and went to live with Him—He and they were helping to teach people the best ways to live.

Elaine and Matilda enjoyed this long walk on the enormous property that their family managed or looked after. But who would be grazing on their "farm"? There were some oxen of course, used for their occasional trips to the next town an hour or more away, by ox cart.

Their property was rich in quality trees, and every now and then their father would cut some needed wood to take to the town for those trying to build.

Also grazing were a few zebras. These were for the girls to ride, bare back, through the forested area, whenever they were in the mood to explore, or when they helped father with his wood cutting missions.

The zebras always knew the way back to their favourite grazing spot, so there wasn't a danger in getting lost while the girls rode off to explore. It was easy to talk with and interact with the animals now. There wasn't a barrier between humans and animals, with animals always being either afraid of people, or making people afraid of them.

Elaine and Matilda always saw plenty of birds in the meadow and pasture, and would point out to each other when they saw a new type.

Sometimes they saw birds with huge wingspans hovering and soaring overhead, until at last coming to perch in a tall and strong big old tree that could support such a bird on its wide branches. Other times the very long legged and long necked birds would be dancing and walking around making quite a show for others to see.

There were the cute and small little birds that would fly in synchronized unison as a flock, all attuned to the movements of the others, and land or rise nearly at the same moment. When a large flock would fly together they always made varied and artistic formations in the sky. You never knew what would be seen next.

The large or small parrots of various colours were always pretty to see. They would land on the branch of one of the wild growing fruit or nut trees, and use it as a giant bird feeder. Ah, everything was so peaceful. Their rainbow colours and hues of shades matched so well with the many lovely colourful sunsets that were enjoyed in this now paradisiacal land. You'd never guess what it used to be. God had made it all new now.

Elaine stopped and looked silently as Matilda pointed out to her what was suddenly seen grazing in the meadow.

"Is that a lion?" Matilda said, stopping in her tracks, while pointing it out to her best-friend sister.

“Oh, my, you’re right, it is!” Elaine said in a hushed whisper. “I’ve heard they now eat grass like the oxen, but this is the first time I’ve seen it with my own eyes! Imagine that!”

“Yes,” replied Matilda, “Look, there are the zebras nibbling away at the abundant grass. They aren’t running away. It’s as if some family member has just entered the playground. No one minds their presence. The peace and camaraderie all nature seems to now have makes things so pleasant.”

Elaine smiled, “And they are comfortable too, without the bugs and flies and pests that used to trouble the wild animals in the world before the King changed things for the better. Every part of creation can truly rejoice, be at peace and enjoy what God made.”

After a good feed, the lion stretched out in the sun and took a long nap. The zebras ran off then for a gallop, energised by their meal, and the oxen rested under the shade of one of the many trees. This was not like a farm pasture in the world before, where trees had purposely been cut down to make a wide land expanse for easy cattle rounding up and such. But here was a more natural way for the animals to thrive and grow and enjoy life too, along with the people who lived close by without fear.

Just then the girls felt a rumble on the ground and before too long they saw a friendly elephant cow and her calf along with a few others in their small herd, make their way across the path the girls were walking down.

Though big, these animals were gentle spirited now. They were used at times to help humans pull heavy loads, as that was easy for them; or for transportation across the land. But they no longer were compelled to use their strength against others, as they had been in times past; nor did they harm people, but were respectful of humans.

The animals were both friendly and useful, but also knew their place. Even the animals knew God was their creator, and that God had told people to look after the Earth. They knew they were to respect and obey the humans, and do the job God gave them on Earth to do.

After watching the elephant herd pass, the girls went on down the pathway and found their way to the cosy corner filled with abundant flowers. They were coming to check on a deer family and their sweet fawn.

On their way, Elaine spotted the fig tree and saw it was filled with ripe figs. Metilda helped pick some of the figs that were higher up, as she was the more agile climber of the two. The figs were carried in the pouch formed from Elaine's upfolded long shirt she was wearing. Still carrying their baskets to collect yet more flowers to fill the vases for their evening meal, quietly they walked down the little side dirt path that would lead to the deer's resting spot.

"We've brought you some figs," Elaine said softly, when Mrs. Deer looked up to see who her visitors were and gave an approving nod. The girls approached and fed the mother a few of these treats. She was very pleased.

Nearby some water bucks were drinking water from the pond formed by a fresh stream that bubbled into it. There was abundant water here now, in this new lovely world that was more like a very big garden.

A few other deer meandering walked silently and gracefully over to the girls who gave each one a fig as well. Each grateful deer would thank them by nudging their head on the girls' arms or side.

With a splash followed by a gliding sound announced that a team of ducks had just entered the pond. This shady spot under the covering boughs and large bushes was as tranquil as it was lush, and contained all that was needed for these lovely creatures.

Before leaving, a fast fox was seen darting across to then find its way through an old hollow log in search of fresh berries; but a nibble of leaves and a nap on a log was good enough for him too.

The ducks hardly stopped to notice; they were too busy making wavy patterns on the pond as they swam or at times seemed to run with wings flapping over the surface of the water.

(Continued in Story 2 in *Millennial Missions—Booklet 3\_living space: “Mr. Harthaven’s Grand estate—Part 2”*)

- **Story 3—Heavenly Ambassadors and Angels Living with Jesus Christ and Reigning with Him over the world: Outside Their Palatial Home**

The children were playing on the grass outside their palatial home in the Heavenly City. The tiger cub was in a jolly mood and jumping and batting for the little toys the children were using to get their attention. It was like a kitten, soft and gentle, and not rough or dangerous in the least.

This wasn’t the only pet that visited the home of these happy children. An elephant calf often strolled in to pick some of the fruit with its trunk. He would eat some, and hand some to the little ones who would hop on to take a ride. There was no danger of falling—there was no danger at all in this place called Heaven. Just joy, and lots of fun learning adventures.

A handful of seeds were thrown on the ground for the flock of visiting parakeets to nibble on. They didn’t fly away when the toddler crawled over to them to get a closer look.

The animals were so varied and interesting, and in no way posed a threat to the children. They could play with them, or bid them to run and enjoy somewhere else, and the animals would obey them.

A mother sat in the rocking chair holding her little baby, watching all the other young ones who were having a great time of play with the visiting animals.

Just then a giraffe, tall and stately, strolled past in the large meadow nearby, followed by a couple of racing zebras, who suddenly seemed to take off into the air and fly a bit before landing once again on the lush green land.

A father with his young boy came out of the house and decided that a ride on semi-flying zebras would be a perfect activity for now. The father whistled and called out. An angel who was near to the zebras motioned for them to go over to the man and his son. With a joyful gallop they immediately came over. They were glad for this opportunity. On to one zebra the father placed the boy, then he climbed on the other.

“Let’s go!” the father called out, and off they went for a good ride all around.

At last they stopped at the “Petting Zoo”. They thanked the zebras and waved them goodbye. With a neigh and a shake of their heads, as if to say “you’re welcome” they then turned and galloped off, over hills and through streams they went.

“Thank you for taking me here!” said the boy.

“Each time we come here, there are new and interesting animals on display. None of them stay here all the time, just long enough for children to get a chance to see them. They like being honoured and exclaimed at, when people appreciate how amazing God made them. It’s their way to thank God for making them in such spectacular ways. I wonder what we’ll see here today?”

This was a place the boy and his family liked to frequent. It was set up in such a way that those visiting could see under what climate and living conditions these types of animals lived while on earth.

Even though here in heaven things were perfect for the animals, and many of the features they needed for surviving on Earth weren't needed for survival here in Heaven, still it was interesting to see all the variety in form and shape, and colour.

All the animals here were safe, and didn't need to use things such as camouflage, still it was fascinating for visitors to learn about all the types of animals and what they could do, when on Earth.

As one of the features of this animal education "Petting Zoo", an animal of a certain type would walk along through all these different displays of climates, and would appear to change according to the need. Visitors could see what it might have looked like in different types of places in the world, in different seasons.

There were displays here of the many different types of animals' homes. Some were made extra large, very very large, so that visitors would climb inside and see what it was like. For example, what it was like to be curled up in a bee hive cell, or rest in a bird's nest, or crawl up through the water into a beaver's lodge.

And to make the experience really fun, there was usually those types of animals around, created the right size to fit with a home of that size. And displays were changing all the time. There was always something new to learn about and see and experience.

Of course, some of the most favourite were kept always there, and didn't change, so children that always wanted those could have something familiar to visit again with. One of those "always there" displays was a replica of the nativity stable, the place where Jesus Christ was born, on Earth. Some of the types of animals that often were kept in that type of stable were around.



The only difference is that this stable, and the manger and all, was very clean—for in Heaven there was no dirt, no filth, no flies, no bad bugs. Nothing pesky or bothersome—for the people or for the animals.

There were no ticks or fleas or biting flies. Nothing harmful. All was clean and beautiful.

There was another feature of this beautiful place of animals—something that was available all throughout heaven as well. At last the animals could communicate well with the people, and the people with them. They seemed to have a good understanding of each other. This helped keep things harmonious.

The animals knew they were to obey the heavenly people and the angels. They knew their role was to be a help and to provide fun and something of interest. They weren't to do anything that their creator wouldn't like. When everything and everyone did what it was meant to, then all was peaceful and beautiful—animals included.

There was an interview happening with a famous animal of history. It was the donkey that carried Jesus long ago, while the people cheered and shouted "Hosanna". God had let this creature be recreated here, as a living feature in a museum of things and places and animals from the life of Jesus Christ while He was on Earth. Today the donkey was visiting the Petting Zoo, and people could ask questions and understand the answers.

The father encouraged the boy to line up and get a ride on this famous donkey, and ask him something.

When the boy's turn came, he stroked it and said, "Thank you for letting Jesus ride you. Was He heavy for you to carry, since you never carried anyone before, and you weren't even fully grown yet?"

The donkey's answer was something to the effect of, "Even if something seems new, or a bit difficult, if it's what you were made to do, it feels good to do it. It feels right. And you are glad you did it."

After a nice time with the animals, it was time for the father and boy to return to their heavenly abode.

Again the father whistled for an animal ride home.

This time two very large and colourful birds came and landed beside them, offering to be of service. On the riders went, and off the father and son team flew to their home—by bird transportation. They were let off on the roof of their house. They waved to the birds, and then floated down to land softly on the grass.

The boy ran over to his mother and gave her a big hug. He had lots to share with her about all the animal adventures and learning he had just done.

She smiled. She remembered when she and her husband had knelt in prayer, while on Earth, to receive the gift Jesus offered, of eternal life. They were glad to be part of God's big, loving family. Now they and these children God had given to them, were having a marvellous time.

It hadn't been easy to be a Christian—a true Christian—while on Earth; and life on Earth was tough. But because of their love for Jesus, and their kindly caring of many orphans while on Earth, teaching them the ways of God's Kingdom, now they had this lovely mansion to live in and happy children around who enjoyed every day of their life!

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