

Elder Vernon Johnson
Animals
Leopard

Often in the scriptures the characteristics and qualities of an animal are used to illustrate to us spiritual lessons. This is true of the leopard. The following verses of scripture illustrate this principle:

1. Is. 11:6 “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.” The wolf, the leopard, and the lion all have characteristics as predators that devour the weaker animals. Whereas, the lamb, the kid, the calf and the fatling are domesticated animals. They are generally considered gentle and peaceful. These creatures are often used to represent God’s people that have been born of the Spirit. The lesson seems to point to the fact that God’s people have two competing natures. We have the nature of the flesh which is ruthless and shows forth a predatory nature. We also have the inner man which cannot sin. These two natures dwell and lie down together. When we are humbled, as a little child then we are being led by the Spirit and mortifying the deeds of the flesh.

2. Jer. 5:6 “Wherefore a lion out of the forest shall slay them, and a wolf of the evenings shall spoil them, a leopard shall watch over their cities: every one that goeth out thence shall be torn in pieces: because their transgressions are many, and their backslidings are increased.” The leopard is known to carefully watch its prey from a high perch before it moves in for the kill. The leopard is known to slay all kinds of animals as well as humans. It is reported that in Africa one leopard killed as many as 400 people before it was slain. The lesson above is that God’s people, Israel had fallen prey to worshipping idols and God was giving them over to judgment.

3. Jer. 13:23 “Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.” There are some things that we cannot change. For instance it is impossible for the leopard to change his spots. This teaches us that we cannot change our flesh nature which is accustomed to do evil. God adds to us another nature in the new birth and that without the cooperation of the flesh.

4. Dan. 7:6 “After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.’ Also, Rev. 13:2 “And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion:

and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.” These two verses give us nature of the seven-head, ten horned beast, which represents multinational kingdoms under the spiritual direction of the dragon. The Leopard has three colors. It has black spots. It has a yellow undertone. It also has a white underbelly. There are three races of people whose skin colors are generally considered black, yellow, and white. This depicts the multinational and ecumenical nature of the beast. The leopard is a predatory beast. The kingdom builders of this world are blood thirsty and ruthless. It is estimated that Stalin presided over the ruthless killing of several tens of millions of people. Likewise Mao was equally as ruthless having put to death an estimated 80 million people. Hitler was responsible for killing millions of people including 6 million Jews. Surely, the leopard, the lion, and the bear are symbols to represent the ruthless, predatory nature of the kingdom builders.

5. Hos. 13:6 “According to their pasture, so were they filled; they were filled, and their heart was exalted; therefore have they forgotten me. 7 Therefore I will be unto them as a lion: as a leopard by the way will I observe them: 8 I will meet them as a bear that is bereaved of her whelps, and will rend the caul of their heart, and there will I devour them like a lion: the wild beast shall tear them.” In this, we are taught that God will eventually bring his people who forget him and commit idolatry into timely judgment. As we have noted before the leopard is known to observe its prey from a lofty level before the kill. God observes his disobedient people for a time before he brings timely judgment upon them.