

Scriptural echoes in Peter's vision of a sheet filled with animals

The Flood story: God's desire to save all kinds of animals

The same three sets of animals are named many times: Gen 6.7, 19, 20; 7.8, 14, 21, 23; 8.1, 17, 19, e.g., "And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every reptile of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive." (Genesis 6.19-20)

1 Enoch's Animal Apocalypse: animals as symbolic of peoples/nations

The vision covers early biblical history, culminating in the universal transformation into "white bulls," the symbol of the Messiah earlier in the vision, e.g., "And I saw that a white bull was born, with large horns and all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air feared him and made petition to him all the time. And I saw till all their generations were transformed, and they all became white bulls." (1 Enoch 90.37-38)

Leviticus: use of "four-footed creatures" (Greek, *tetrapoda*)

Leviticus deals with categories of "clean" and "unclean;" however, *tetrapoda* is only used in relation to prohibited sex; e.g., You shall not have sexual relations with any four-footed creature and defile yourself with it, nor shall any woman give herself to an four-footed creature to have sexual relations with it: it is perversion. (Leviticus 18.23)

1 Maccabees 1: sacrificing/eating "common" (Greek, *koinou*) animals

In response to Antiochus IV Epiphanes' demands, the issue of "common animals" becomes key to what follows; e.g., "The king ...directed them to follow customs strange to the land.... to build altars and sacred precincts and shrines for idols, to sacrifice swine and common animals,...But many in Israel stood firm and were resolved in their hearts not to eat common food." (1 Maccabees 1.44, 47, 62)