

Dear Judy,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You asked why all the animals are dying.

We do not know why so many animals, particularly bees and other insects, bats, birds, snakes, toads, frogs, fish, etc.) have died recently. Some experts blame a proportion of the deaths on crude oil from the Gulf of Mexico. Others say that secret testing of biological weapons and frequency waves is responsible. Besides the mass animal die-offs that have taken place, the rate of extinction of various species has also increased. Some key findings from Global Species Assessment are:

- * Over the past 20 years, 27 documented extinctions or extinctions in the wild have occurred but this underestimates the true number that have taken place.

- * While the vast majority of extinctions since 1500 AD have occurred on oceanic islands, over the last 20 years, continental extinctions have become as common as island extinctions.

- * Humans have been the main cause of extinction and continue to be the principle threat to species at risk of extinction.

- * Habitat loss, introduced species, and over-exploitation are the main threats, with human-induced climate change becoming an increasingly significant problem.

Are these occurrences signs of the end? Are they an evidence of God's impending judgment? We will not speculate. Although man has been responsible for exploiting the earth's resources, her animals and their habitats, we know that when God's kingdom is established on earth, these injustices will be rectified. Will all the animal species that we see on the earth today exist in the kingdom? We do not know. Some may indeed become extinct since there will be no need for them. The food chain, as we know it will be changed. Animals that are carnivorous will become vegetarians. We know that in God's kingdom, soon to be established on earth, man and beast will co-exist in peace and harmony. Isaiah 11:6-9 gives us a beautiful picture of that peaceable kingdom. "The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea."

Why are all the animals dying? We do not know. What we do know is that God's plan for man, the earth and its creatures is all encompassing and will be more wonderful than our imperfect finite minds can fathom. We look forward with great anticipation to the day when suffering, sickness and death of man (and God's beloved animals) will be but a distant memory.

We hope we have shed some light on your question. Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind at www.christianquestions.net. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,

Christian Questions Radio