

Elder Vernon Johnson Animals

Cattle Overview

Often in the scriptures specific animals are associated with various bible subjects. Frequently, it is the characteristics or qualities or uses of the animals that the Holy Spirit uses to teach various spiritual lessons.

Cattle are called in the scriptures by different names. The following names all have reference to what we would call cattle today: bull, bullock, cow, kine, ox, oxen, heifer, and calf.

Cattle produce milk, provide meat, have useful hides, and are used as animals of labor in drawing carts or wagons and in plowing in the fields.

Cattle were often used in the sacrifices and offerings of the children of Israel in their ordinances and tabernacle and temple worship. Frequently we find they were associated with the sin offering, the burnt offering, and the peace offering.

Bulls will fight one another to have control over the herd of cows. The term, bully, is derived from the characteristics of bulls to push, fight, and seek control over other bulls and over the herd of cows.

Oxen were often yoked together to plow or to draw wagons.

In our upcoming essays, we will attempt to show how these characteristics of cattle are used to illustrate important bible subjects and spiritual lessons.