

Genesis 3:14-15 Does Not Teach that All Animals are Cursed with Death ¹

The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, **Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life;** And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; **He shall bruise you on the head,** And you shall bruise him on the heel."(Gen 3:14-15)

The bruising of the head of Genesis 3:15 refers to Satan, not the serpent. Romans 16:20 states, "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet."

The serpent's going on it's belly and eating dust all the days of its life indicates humiliation, not death.

Other animals are LESS cursed than the serpent. So even if the serpent were cursed with death, Genesis 3:14 would not necessarily be indicating that other animals were cursed with death since they were cursed less than the serpent.

The specific comparison in Genesis 3:14 is with cattle and the beasts of the field, not with birds, fish, or other animals. Cattle and the beasts of the field are the animals with which people work. The fact that the curse of Genesis 3:17-19 is on the ground's agricultural productivity suggests that the curse on animals would be specific to these animals, not to all animals.

The comparative Hebrew word *min*, translated "more than" in Genesis 3:14 does not necessarily mean that all animals are cursed. It is the same word translated "more" in Genesis 3:1: " Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field." Does this mean that all beasts of the field are crafty?

¹ Adapted from John Beckman.