

How Each Card Works: Breaking Down Each Detail

Every scripture creature is designed around one specific idea that relates to a main biblical theme. For a deeper explanation of biblical themes, check out our other video focused around this. So, each creature embodies a biblical concept in a specific story.

Its name and its appearance captures that key idea so children can visualize that concept and understand it better. But, this biblical idea can be found in other portions of the Bible as well, which we'll get to in a minute.

#1 Key Idea

Let's use Salvatross from our Jonah Story Set as an example. You'll find the name of the creature here. And, the key idea that Salvatross represents. You'll see what story this card focuses around here.

This is important because we'll see this same idea in other stories, where this same creature takes on a different "story form." (Show Salvatross Noah Story form) For example, we see this same idea in the Noah story where God provides a rescue vessel for someone.

This helps children recognize how scripture is unified, by learning how to trace biblical ideas across the entire Bible, throughout different stories. But, the creature maintains some distinct characteristics in whatever story form it might take, that way children can visually recognize the consistent design to associate that creature with that biblical concept.

#2 Scripture

Then, you have the specific bible verse this idea comes from in that biblical story, that way kids have biblical truth to ground that idea in. We always want to reinforce these ideas with the word of God. We want them to see where this idea comes from and memorize scripture.

#3 Order In The Story

You'll also notice that Salvatross has a number, which tells us its place in the story. This will help children learn how to string together each individual part of a biblical story.

#4 Application

Then you'll see at the bottom, there's an application. This is the practical wisdom that we can draw from this biblical truth for our own lives.

#5 Element

And, finally, one of the most important components of this card, is the element of the creature. Each element corresponds to a main theme in the Bible. We call these big ideas. And, there are 8 of them (at least as far as these cards are concerned).

Everything you read in the Bible will fit into one of these 8 big ideas (biblical themes). For a deeper explanation of each element and its corresponding theme, and why we chose that particular element, please check out our other instructional videos.

Salvatross is a "steel" element. This element corresponds to the main theme of "redemption" in the Bible. This means, this particular idea (God's rescue vessel) in the Jonah story, is connected to the big idea of redemption in the Bible. This is where children will learn how to meditate on Scripture and make connections in God's word for deeper understanding.

#6 Form Progressions

The last thing I will note, is that you might see certain creatures develop into bigger forms throughout that particular story. We refrain from the language of "evolution" and like the term "forms progressions."

When you see a higher level form for a creature, that means that particular idea is appearing once again in that story. We want to keep track of how ideas repeat and develop throughout the Bible. And, these form progressions, help children learn to recognize that development.

Depending on how frequently an idea occurs in a story, you'll see that same number of form developments for that particular creature.

For example, Profecal develops into Profetik (its second form). Both of these creatures represent the idea of God sending the prophet. But, this theme of the prophet's call appears twice in Jonah's story. These form developments help us recognize repetition in stories.

What does each element represent?

In the Bible we see 8 major themes (big ideas). God's Image. Creation. God's Kingdom. God's Judgment. God's Presence. Redemption. Covenant. And Chaos. With Scripture Creatures, there are 8 elements that represent each of these big ideas in the Bible.

When you combine all of these big ideas, you get the story of the Bible: God made the world and made people in His image to reflect Him, live in His good creation, and enjoy His holy presence as their loving King. But when chaos and sin bring God's judgment, God makes promises, rescues and redeems His people, and builds His kingdom so everything can be made right again.

What is a theme? A big theme (element) vs. a big idea (on the card)

A major biblical theme is a big, important idea that shows up over and over in the Bible. It is like a strong thread that holds many stories together. A small key idea is a bit different. Small key ideas are one part of a dingle story and they can connect to these bigger themes, but a major theme is something that keeps showing up in many stories throughout the Bible. These big important ideas show us what God is like and what He is doing in the entire story of the Bible.

Earth element represents the image of God.

What Is The Image of God Theme? God made people to be like Him in special ways, so we can reflect His love, goodness, and rule in the world. This theme is all throughout the Bible.

Water element represents the theme for creation.

What Is The Creation Theme? God made everything for His good purpose. God makes things new, beautiful, and full of life. When God brings new beginnings or new life, this is creation. This theme is all throughout the Bible.

Darkness element represents the theme of chaos.

What Is The Chaos Theme? Chaos is what happens in the world when things fall apart because of sin. Sin and death cause chaos. That chaos moves the world away from God's good design and order. We see this theme all throughout the Bible.

Lightning represents the theme of God's judgment.

What is God's Judgment? God's judgment is when He steps in to stop evil and make things right. As the Judge and Creator of the world, He must confront darkness. This happens all throughout the Bible.

Fire represents the close presence of God.

What is the presence of God? God wants to be close to His people. He wants to live with them and care for them and guide them. God's presence means His closeness or His nearness. When God shows up and comes close to people, you will often see fire involved, because God's presence is special and sacred. This theme is all throughout the Bible.

Ice represents the theme of God's Kingdom.

What is the Kingdom of God? God's kingdom is where He rules as King and everything is the way it is supposed to be. God's Kingdom is not just WHERE God rules from but HOW He rules as the King of the Universe. It involves His government, structure, and citizens. This theme is all throughout the Bible.

Steel element represents the redemption theme.

What is the redemption theme? Redemption is when something is purchased, and restored back to its original owner. God rescues people from sin and brings them back to Himself. Redemption is rescue that requires a certain cost. It is restoring one's rightful possession.

Wind element represents covenant in the Bible.

What is the covenant theme? A covenant is a special promise that God makes to people. God is faithful to His covenant promises. It is an agreement between people that involves specific conditions they agree to. Sometimes covenants are promises God makes without any conditions.

Scripture Creatures: Why Each Element Corresponds To Its Biblical Theme

Why Did We Choose Earth To Represent 'The Image of God' Theme?

We see in the Bible that:

- Genesis 1:26-28 - humans made in God's image; commissioned to rule and fill the earth.
- Genesis 2:7 - God forms the man from the dust of the ground and breathes life into him as an earth creature.
- Genesis 9:1-7 - humans greatly impact affect the earth they live in because our bodies are made from the earth and they return back to the earth.

Why we chose the earth element:

- In Genesis, "dust/ground" is the material God uses to make humans - earth is "human identity."
- We are earth creatures made special in God's image and likeness. We represent God in the earth,

Explain it simply:

Earth creatures remind us: "We were made from the ground, and we were made to represent God in the world." Where you see this theme, you will see people affecting the world by their decisions, because they are God's chosen representatives on the earth.

Why Did We Choose Water To Represent Creation?

We see in the Bible that:

- Genesis 1:2, 6-10, 20-22 - Waters are present in the creation story; God forms the world out of the waters. Water is the raw material God uses to create the world.
- Genesis 2:5-6 - We see the need for water/mist in the creation story of Genesis 2. The presence of a river signals the act of creation. It splits off and nourishes the ground so creatures can live. God uses water to bring about and sustain life.
- Psalm 104:10-13 - God sustains the earth with springs and streams of water.
- Ezekiel 47:1-12 - The final vision of God's life pouring out into the world to bring new creation is symbolized by water flowing from God's presence to make dead places live again. This water pours forth to bring God's new creation and new life.

- Revelation 22:1-2 - In the final vision of the Bible, God's good world is pictured as having a river of life in the new creation. This life-giving water produces the fruit and trees that heal the nations.

Why this works (the pattern):

- At the beginning, God creates by ordering and filling the waters, not by removing them. And, where you see new creation, you will see God's Spirit. Often, God's Spirit is represented by images of liquid, like in Genesis 1, or in the baptism of Jesus, or when God anoints a King by pouring out oil. The spirit is poured out or fills you up, which are both liquid metaphors.
- Water sustains life daily (streams, springs), so it becomes a symbol for "creation continuing."
- In restoration visions, water symbolizes God making the world alive again - new creation. Water often represents the life-giving environment God orders and uses to bring forth living things. It can also picture new creation - a fresh start that produces life. God's life-giving water is necessary for life.

Explain it simply:

Water creatures remind us: "God makes life grow and gives fresh starts - like water bringing a dry place back to life."

Why Did We Choose Darkness To Represent Chaos?

We see in the Bible that:

- Genesis 1:2-5 - In the beginning the world is wild and waste. There is darkness over the waters and God speaks into the dark, formless world to bring order and structure. God's word and His light brings order to the chaos and darkness.
- Exodus 10:21-23 - Chaos involves darkness as judgment to disrupt the order in Egypt. Chaos and darkness come together.
- Psalm 74:13-14 - When God creates the world by His word, He is overpowering the great sea-monster known as "Leviathan." This sea dragon represents chaos in God's good world. God tames it.
- Isaiah 45:7 - God rules over light and darkness; He is not threatened by chaos.
- Mark 4:35-41 - Jesus stills the storm; chaos submits to His authority and word.

Why this works (the pattern):

- Darkness marks a world that is “not-yet-ordered” and this darkness becomes associated with chaos and disorder.
- Throughout Scripture, storms, the deep, and darkness overlap as images of chaos threatening God’s world. Darkness is the natural element that symbolizes chaos.
- God’s repeated action is to overcome chaos with His word and light. Darkness represents unformed chaos, danger, confusion, and the absence of God’s ordering light. In the Bible, God defeats chaos by speaking light, giving boundaries, and bringing order.

Explain it simply:

Creatures with the darkness element remind us: “Chaos is real, but God overcomes chaos by bringing light, order, and peace.”

Why Did We Choose Lightning To Represent God’s Judgment?

Core idea: God’s judgment is when He steps in to stop evil and make things right. As the Judge and Creator of the world, He must confront darkness. This happens all throughout the Bible.

Key Bible anchors:

- Exodus 19:16-19 - thunder and lightning at Sinai as God reveals His holiness and authority. It is a serious moment for Israel to meet their Maker.
- Psalm 29 - the “voice of the LORD” thunders; God rules with kingly authority and cosmic power.
- 1 Samuel 7:10 - the LORD thunders against enemies to deliver His people. God’s thunder represents His judgment of evil.
- Revelation 8:5; 11:19; 16:18 - thunder/lightning appear with scenes of final judgment.

Why this works (the pattern):

- Storm imagery signals God’s divine presence that is both majestic and terrifying when He comes to deal with sin.
- Lightning is sudden, unavoidable, and decisive - a fitting picture for judgment.
- In both OT and NT, thunder/lightning often accompany moments when God asserts His kingship publicly.

Explain it simply:

Lightning creatures remind us: "God sees injustice and will make things right - His judgment is real and powerful." Thunder and lightning are classic signs of God's awesome power - especially when He deals with evil.

Why Did We Choose Fire To Represent The Theme of God's Sacred Presence?

Core idea: God wants to be close to His people. He wants to live with them and care for them and guide them. God's presence means His closeness or His nearness. When God shows up and comes close to people, you will often see fire involved, because God's presence is special and sacred. This theme is all throughout the Bible.

Key Bible anchors:

- Exodus 3:1-6 - We see God come down in the burning bush with Moses. God is present, He is close, and that means the ground is holy for Moses and Moses must respect that sacred space.
- Exodus 13:21-22 - We see God show up in the pillar of fire to guide and protect His people.
- Exodus 19:18 - We see God come down on the Mountain called Sinai in fire and smoke: God's sacred presence is on the mountain.
- Leviticus 9:23-24 - We see fire from the LORD consumes the offering to show God accepts the gift.
- Hebrews 12:28-29 - We see God is a consuming fire, He is holy, and His close presence purifies and marks a space as special and sacred (holy).

Why this works (the pattern):

- Fire is both comforting (light, guidance) and dangerous (cannot be handled casually). God's presence marks a space as sacred and special.
- God's presence purifies and removes that is unclean. If something is not pure it cannot survive God's holy fire without being affected in a powerful way.
- Fire imagery connects to worship and God dwelling among His people. It shows us that God wants to be close, but if it can't survive the fire of His presence, it will be burnt up. Something can only be near to God if it is holy. Otherwise, it cannot survive His fiery presence.

Explain it simply:

Fire creatures remind us: "God is close and He is holy (sacred) - His close presence guides us like light and purifies our hearts like fire."

Why Did We choose Ice To Represent God's Kingdom?

Core idea: God's kingdom is where He rules as King and everything is the way it is supposed to be. God's Kingdom is not just WHERE God rules but HOW He rules as the King of the Universe. This theme is all throughout the Bible.

Key Bible anchors:

- Job 37:10, 38:29 - Ice represents God's creative power as King to command the forces of nature according to His Kingdom purposes and divine will. He sends forth ice.
- Psalm 147:16-17 - As King, God commands the ice and snow to be hurled down upon the earth.
- Job 24:19, Psalm 148:8 - Snow is commanded by God to go forth to note His sovereign power over Creation as King ice and snow obey His word as King, these untamable forces of nature submit to his will
- Psalm 51:7, Isaiah 1:18, Lamentations 4:7 Scripture uses snow as an image of absolute purity, which is a defining characteristic of God's rule and Kingdom throughout Scripture
- Daniel 7:9, Revelation 1:14 describes the Son of Man and Messiah as being white as snow
- Exodus 9, Isaiah 28, Haggai 2 God uses hail to bring down rebel human kingdoms exalt His name and Kingdom

Why this works (the pattern):

- Much Kingdom language in the Bible is about God's permanent rule, His justice, pure reign and His peace, which are all captured by the image of ice.
- Ice works as a symbol because it communicates firmness ("cannot be shaken") and clarity/purity.
- It also fits the idea of a world being "stilled" and set in order under God's reign (peace after turmoil). Ice symbolizes God's kingship as unshakeable, pure, and unstoppable - and it highlights the Bible's "already/not-yet" hope: God's rule brings peace, order, and renewal to the world.

Explain it simply:

Ice creatures remind us: "God is King forever. His kingdom is strong, steady, and full of peace. His Kingdom takes over everything and cannot be stopped."

Why Did We Choose Steel To Represent Redemption?

Core idea: Redemption is when God rescues people from sin and brings them back to Himself. Redemption is rescue that requires a certain cost. It is restoring rightful possession.

Key Bible anchors:

- Exodus 6:6 - God redeems with an outstretched arm (a strong arm) and God rescues His people from the iron furnace of Egypt, because it was a prison where they were slaves. And, it had strong gates and bars that God overcame to rescue them. This impenetrable prison, God broke them out of.
- Isaiah 59:16-17 - Often we see redemption imagery includes armor (breastplate/helmet), these different metal items bring protection the way God's redemptive hand does.
- Malachi 3:2-3 - When God redeems, He refines and purifies like a metalworker does, and this comes through fire. Being rescued by God often involves going through the fire with Him leading.
- Redemption comes at a price, and this price in Scripture is often literal currency such as ancient Israelite coins made of metal. This reminds us of the price God paid to rescue us.
- Yes, metal, steel and iron are different, but it gets the same essential point across for children.

Why this works (the pattern):

- Redemption often includes payment which coin currency can represent. And, it involves God bringing people out of impenetrable iron prisons to set them free so they can belong to Him.
- Refining imagery communicates: God uses heat/pressure to remove impurity and make something stronger. Metal imagery (refining, armor, building) captures the Bible's idea of God forging a people through trial and restoring them as His own.
- This metal imagery throughout the Bible can often communicate the strong fortress that God is to His people, his strong hand and how we're safe with God as our strong fortress. God is a fortified tower that protect us from any force. Redemption results in protection, belonging, and new strength
- Metal speaks to the prison He rescues us from, the strength of His hand, His unstoppable protection, His process of refining and strengthening us, and the high cost God paid redeem us. But we'll see in the Bible people aren't the only thing redeemed.

Explain it simply:

Steel creatures remind us: "God rescues us and redeems us to make us stronger, protect and treasure us as His own possession, and to be safe in His loving hands."

Why Did We Choose Wind To Represent The Theme of Covenant?

Core idea: A covenant is a special promise that God makes to people. God is faithful to His covenant promises. A covenant is an agreement that involves certain conditions between people.

Key Bible anchors:

- Genesis 1:2 - This becomes important for the covenant God makes with Noah and the earth. God's breath becomes connected to His word, and sometimes is synonymous since they both can be seen as proceeding from His mouth. In Genesis 1, God is speaking to create the world by His word and His Spirit/wind/breath (ruach) hovers over the waters as ordered life begins, signaled by the presence of His Spirit (wind).
- This connection in Scripture is important. God's spirit (wind) is present in moments of new creation as God's agent of bringing about new creation and new life. Also, think of God's spirit, as what energizes and animates all of creation, including all living creatures.
- Wind links to covenant because the Bible uses one main word (ruach) for wind/breath/spirit. Covenant is a living relationship agreement sustained by God's word (promises), and it is His Spirit (wind) that becomes associated with these covenants. The Spirit is like wind: unseen, powerful, life-giving.
- Genesis 8:1 - God sends a wind to subside the waters; and bring about new life, and consequently, God establishes a covenant with this new world by His word. His word and wind are both associated with the covenant He makes to never flood the earth again.
- Ezekiel 37:9-14 - Ezekiel sees the future where God promises to breathe life into dead things. God's spirit/breath/wind is what brings things to life; and this is all framed up by a covenant, which involves God's promises of covenant restoration, which He gives by His word. This becomes the new covenant and God's breath/wind is central to it.
- Acts 2:2 - We see the Spirit come on the day of Pentecost where the new covenant is "activated" and this is signaled by the rushing wind sound along with the Spirit empowering and indwelling people.
- Jeremiah 31:33 - God also promises with the new covenant, His word would be written on hearts by His Spirit. This wind/breath/animating spirit of God is central to the new covenant benefits again.

Why this works (the pattern):

- Wind/breath/spirit is a unified biblical symbol for God's active, life-giving presence.
- Covenant is not only words on paper; it is God binding Himself to a people and sustaining them according to His own faithfulness and promises.
- Specific "new beginning" moments involving covenant feature wind/Spirit imagery.

Explain it simply:

Wind creatures remind us: "God keeps His promises and is faithful to do what He says - His Spirit gives life and is central to the terms and benefits of the new covenant. God's own breath/life/spirit is the assurance and downpayment of His own faithful promises. His faithfulness is the basis for it."

Why Certain Creatures Have Development Forms

In Scripture Creatures, form developments are not about “getting older.” They show how a Bible theme becomes clearer and stronger as it repeats.

Simple explanation for kids:

- When a theme shows up once in a story, the creature starts as a basic form.
- When the same theme shows up again, the creature develops (it grows stronger).
- Each extra time the theme appears is like another “power-up.”
- A full development chain means the Bible keeps repeating that idea on purpose - it matters!

Simple explanation for parents:

- The Bible teaches through patterns. Repeated words, images, or events are the Bible’s way of underlining what’s important.
- So each development represents another clear occurrence of that theme in the story.
- Development chains help kids track repetition across a passage and remember what God is emphasizing.

One quick example:

If “covenant promise” appears three times in a story (God says it, confirms it, then seals it), a Wind-type creature might have three forms. Each form represents the theme appearing again and becoming stronger.

Development forms show repeated themes. The more God repeats it, the more the creature powers up.