

in Daniel 4:16, Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar of the judgment which God, speaking through an angelic messenger in a dream, has pronounced upon the king: "Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let him be given the mind of an animal, till seven times pass by for him."

In II Peter 2:12, Peter, speaking of the false teachers who will come among the believers, says, "But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish."

And in Jude 10, Jude, speaking of the godless men who have crept in among believers, who "pollute their own bodies (with sexual immorality and perversion), reject authority and slander celestial beings," says: "Yet these men speak abusively against whatever they do not understand; and what things they do understand by instinct, like unreasoning animals -- these are the very things that destroy them."

Human intelligence is usually seen to be evidenced by the development of culture. Actually, the history of culture does not bear witness to a straight-line development. Human history tells us that various people have risen to high levels of knowledge and cultural sophistication in such fields as art, mathematics, astronomy, etc., only to fail back into decline, decay, and loss of such knowledge. The Egyptian, Babylonian, Greek, Chinese, Roman, Mayan, and Incan civilizations all show such rises and falls. Of course, the technological developments of the 19th and 20th centuries have encouraged some human beings to believe themselves to be much more intelligent than any human beings in the past. But whether mankind as a whole is more intelligent today than those who lived before the Flood, or during the golden ages of Egypt or Greece or Rome, is arguable. It is true that some modern human beings know a great deal more than those who lived thousands or even hundreds of years ago. But it is also true that, with the advent of the knowledge explosion, human beings are able, relatively speaking, to know more and more about less and less. Besides, the acquisition of a great deal of knowledge does not in itself demonstrate a high level of intelligence, especially if the knowledge cannot be integrated with previously-acquired knowledge, or cannot be used to solve new problems. In fact, if intelligence is defined as "the capacity to apprehend facts and propositions and their relations and to reason about them" (Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary), one can at least wonder whether modern man's intelligence is significantly higher than that of his ancestors. On the other hand, man's intelligence can at least be