



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

The Humane Society of the United States Presents:

Karen Swallow-Prior: Hannah More & Animals

In association with Blessed Earth

INTRODUCTION

*“One drop of water helps to swell the ocean;
a spark of fire helps to give light to the world.”
-- Hannah More*

Hannah More is one of my heroes. A gifted writer and educator, Hannah is best known as a social reformer who worked tirelessly alongside her friend, William Wilberforce, to end slavery and help the poor. After a religious conversion in her early forties, Hannah dedicated her life to caring for all of God’s creation, including compassion and concern for animals. Like Hannah, I began my vocation first as an educator and then as a writer. And like Hannah, in my early forties I became a follower of Christ, which led me to apply my newfound “faith of the heart” to all areas of life. Blessed Earth, the nonprofit my husband and I founded, views the ethical treatment of animals as a central part of our stewardship mandate.

Hannah More believed that a community of people could make a difference in the world—all for the glory of God. This, most of all, is why you will delight in Karen Prior’s introduction to Hannah More’s legacy. These wonderful HSUS films inspired me, as I am certain they will inspire you!

Nancy Sleeth is the co-founder, along with her husband Matthew, of Blessed Earth, an educational nonprofit that inspires and equips people to become better stewards of the earth.

WATCH: VIDEO 1

Notes

RESPOND

1. Hannah More was an accomplished playwright and believed that art plays an important role in shaping one's moral imagination. In what ways does "story" have the unique power of shaping worldview? Give an example of a work of art you have encountered that displays this view.

WATCH: VIDEO 2

Notes

RESPOND

1. What biblical stories or scriptural passages call for us to be aware of our treatment of animals?
2. In what ways has your faith has made you think differently about the treatment of animals?

WATCH: VIDEO 3

Notes

RESPOND

1. What other issues was Hannah More involved in? How did her worldview guide her to institute social reforms in these areas?
2. How did Hannah More's personal faith motivate her to action? What connections do you see between the lives of Wilberforce and More? What differences do you notice?

WATCH: VIDEO 4

Notes

RESPOND

1. Hannah More tried to live in the “middle way.” Should Christians aim to transcend the polarization of culture that we see today? Why or why not?
2. Does the Christian worldview offer us any guidance on how to source the food we eat? If so, what does it say?
3. How can we avoid being defined by different animal “issues” yet still engage with animal welfare in our daily lives?