

HEALING STREAM MINISTRIES presents...

THE UNDILUTED, FULL STRENGTH, THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES with enough power to...

- **cleanse from all sin**
- **set us free from all bondage**
- **break all the power of the enemy over us**
- **restore us to total spiritual health**
- **develop immunity to all last-day deceptions**

#15 - The Beast – It is All About Self

For years you have heard all about the beast. With intense interest you have watched the unfolding prophecies of current events. With amazement you saw how “all the world wondered after the beast” at the funeral of the late pontiff. These great prophetic way-marks have given you encouragement that the ‘journey is almost o’er.’ But as your confidence in these sure and certain applications of the beast to apostate religious movements have increased, have you ever looked at the traits of the beast in your own life? Is it possible that the beast symbol has far wider applications than you have ever imagined?



Does God want you to fear the beast? Whatever you fear will control you. If you fear the beast, the beast will control you. If you fear God, God will control you. Martin Luther in his great reformation hymn, *A Mighty Fortress*, wrote, “*The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him, his rage we can endure, for, lo, his doom is sure...*” It was Ellen White who wrote - “*self is the enemy we most need to fear*” (*Gospel Workers*, p. 475). What if you knew all about the historical beast, but you were the last one to recognize the behavioral traits of the beast and his deadly ‘virus of self’ in your own life? Come then to the Bible’s cartoon gallery, the Book of Revelation for a look, not at others, but at yourself. As you look the beast cartoon, don’t just limit its applications to nations and counterfeit religious movements in history, but open your mind to see its intensely practical applications to your own life.

The beast is an anti-christ. He is someone guilty of blasphemy, trying to do God’s work for Him. The beast lives to impress both God and others. Just look at his multiple heads, mouths, horns, and crowns. He uses his power to get his own way. The methods of the beast can be any or all of these: force, fear, threat, coercion, intimidation, control, manipulation. The beast is self-protective, self-advancing, self-confident, self-satisfied, self-sufficient, self-reliant, self-willed, self-indulging, and self-focused. The self-centered emotions of anger and fear are everywhere. Pride and arrogance is written all over him. The beast is all about SELF!

What is God's cure for the beast virus? It is found in the first angel's message (Revelation 14:6,7). Look upon this message as heaven's prescription for the cure of your personal sin-disease of SELF.

- The everlasting gospel. In the gospel God tells us that our salvation is not based on our own good works (or the absence of bad behaviors), but it rests solely on the substitutionary death of Christ for our sins. The gospel tells us that we are saved by a righteousness outside of ourselves, found in Another, who took our place and is even now seated in heavenly places at the right hand of God. When upon His ascension God welcomed and embraced His Son, He also at the same time accepted us in the Beloved. Therefore, we are now seated with Him in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6). Because of the gospel we stand amazed that God in Christ can justly declare us righteous and without fault. But this gospel of justification by faith is also "*the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself.*" (*The Faith I Live By*, p. 111). When we see the immensity of God's love for us, self-love vanishes. Only the cross will deal a deadly blow to pride, which of all sins is the most dangerous and incurable. The cross of Calvary decentralizes us from our man-made role of trying to play god without God.
- "Fear God." The "fear of God" is a positive and healthy fear that conquers all other self-focused fears: fear of punishment, fear of failure, fear of judgment, fear of the future, and fear of others. The gospel of Jesus Christ makes us so secure in the unfathomable covenant-love of Jesus that all unhealthy fears evaporate. Because He lives, all fear is gone! When you serve God you can experience both joy and fear simultaneously. "*Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling*" (Psalm 2:11). This God's invitation to a life of delighting yourself in the One who repeatedly in Scripture says, Fear not!
- "Give glory to Him." The gospel is not about us. It is all about God. Our continual pre-occupation with SELF is an evidence of the severity of our sin-disease. Salvation by our own works causes us to focus even more on self, wondering if we are good enough and if we have done enough. Salvation as a do-it-yourself project can also cause us to end up in the self-focused ditch of pride of righteousness by comparison. "*Dear Lord, I am thankful that I am not like so and so...*" Through the gospel God performs radical surgery on our lives as He uses the scalpel of His cross to cut away pride. No wonder Paul exclaimed, "*But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world*" (Galatians 6:4). Legalism, dependence on our own good works as the basis of salvation, is actually an illegal way to be saved. It is illegal because it bypasses the shed blood of Christ for our sins; it can cause us instead to adhere to standards, even church standards, for the purpose of exalting SELF.
- "Worship Him." So much conventional worship asks the question, What do I get out of it? Genuine worship asks, What does **God** get out of it? Worship, the adoration and praise of our great God, is a decentralization of self, a death to pride, arrogance and self-sufficiency. When we truly worship, we join with the jury in heaven's open courtroom in declaring – "*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and glory and blessing*" (Revelation 5:12). Notice that the Lamb, unlike the beast, does not coerce us to give these. He is only ready to receive these. But for Him to receive these, you must first give them to

Him. Have you ever thought that your life could be a whole lot better if you just had more of any one of these seven things – power, riches, wisdom et cetera? When you **give** the Lamb power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory and blessing, then you will find that the Lamb will be your power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory and blessing. Genuine worship is God's way of curing us of our deadly addiction to SELF, believing that within ourselves resides something with which to escape pain and to make life work better for us. To worship is to serve God with our praises and the needs of people with His sufficiency. This will do away with all self-sufficiency, dependence on self to save self and to impress God and others.

In Revelation 15:3,4 you can read about redeemed people singing about their victory over the beast. There is no evidence in their song of praise of any absorption with self. They make no reference to their own accomplishments. They do not sing: *Oh that will be, glory for me!* Rather, these people have taken the first angel's message as God's medicine for their own lives. (See how many references you can find in this song to the first angel's message). Notice also the seven references to God in the pronoun YOU or YOUR. Lost in wonder, love, and praise they exclaim, *"Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested."*

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The Undiluted Three Angels Messages
– *God's Medicine for Your Life Today*

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