

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

#16 – The Hiding Places of the Beast

When we allow the Bible to be its own interpreter in decoding the Book of Revelation, we will be amazed at all the places where the “beast” is hiding. The symbol of the beast also has applications to personal living that go far beyond its application to last-day historical-prophetic fulfillments of prophecy. If we want to develop immunity to ALL of the enemy’s last-day deceptions, it is not enough to just gather information about the historical/prophetic beast. We must, above all, discover the “beast principle” wherever it is found – often inside of us, and often without our knowledge or consent.

The ‘beast’ is also a caricature or cartoon of the futility of believing in a false gospel, trusting a replacement Savior or an anti-christ, and trusting such an idol (a lesser god) to do the work that only our Creator God can do. An idol is anything, which gets more glory than God.

- Paul describes the results of people’s departure from the worship of the true and living Creator God as reducing God’s glory in their lives into an image of beasts. *“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things”* (see Romans 1:21-24).
- Peter describes rebellious people as being beasts. *“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”* (2 Peter 2:11,12).
- When the Israelites quit worshiping Jehovah as their all-sufficient God, they made for themselves a replacement god, an idol, the beast of a golden calf (Exodus 32).
- The results of not accepting the gospel of Jesus Christ, Paul says, caused destructive beastlike behaviors in the churches of Galatia. *“But if you bite and devour one another, take heed that you be not consumed one of another”* (Gal. 5:15).
- Paul described the enemies of the gospel as “dogs” (Philippians 3:1,2).
- People not under God’s control are described as horses and mules. *“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you”* (Psalm 32:8,9). The psalmist speaks about the futility of trusting in beasts, *“A horse is a vain hope for safety; neither shall it deliver any by its great strength”* (Psalm 33:17).
- The beast ‘principle’ is that attitude of mind, which thinks, “I can do it in my own strength, and I don’t need god.” Remember how Nebuchadnezzar’s pride transformed the proud monarch into a beast for seven years (Daniel 4:27,28).

Notice how even in our language we use “beast-language” to describe our hobby horses, our sacred cows, and our dog-eat-dog attitudes of wanting to be top-dog.

Here’s how you can detect the beast virus in your own life. Ask yourself these questions:

- What kind of person do I become when things do not go my way?

- In what ways do I try to control the lives of others in order to accomplish my own purposes?
- Under what circumstances do the traits of the beast (anger, force, threat, coercion, control, pride, intimidation, manipulation etc.) come out of hiding in my life?
- Are there any beast-like traits in my life, which have damaged the lives of others?

There is only one cure for the beast virus. It is the genuine worship of the Lamb, worship that willingly and lovingly joins with the jury in heaven's courtroom in exclaiming, "*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). Worship is such adoration and dependence on our God and His Son Jesus Christ that there is no way we will ever trust any lesser gods. The pursuit of such idols can change us into beasts. The worship of the Lamb will produce in us the traits of the Lamb.

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