

**HEALING STREAM MINISTRIES** presents...

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

- **cleansing 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**

---

---

### **#56 – Where the Beast Lurks**

Every day we are making experiments in the Lab of Life. The way we handle daily trials and irritations is an indication of how we will handle the end-time deceptions of the beast. The prophet Jeremiah asked, *If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein you trusted, they wearied you, then how will you do in the swelling of Jordan?* (Jeremiah 12:5).

In every trial we are making choices – Will we trust God or will we depend on ourselves? If we do not trust in God's sufficiency, we will then invent methods and strategies to compensate for our distrust in Him. These ways will always lead to idolatry – the inventing of substitutes, idols (beasts), to do God's work for Him because we do not believe that He is competent to run our lives.

Remember that it was when the Israelites, camped at the foot of Mt. Sinai, grew impatient with Moses' absence and God's silence, that they constructed a 'beast,' – a golden calf. The golden calf was just a symptom of their problem. Their root problem was disbelief in God's leading.

This disbelief was based on replacing the truths of God, as evidenced in the deliverance from Egypt, with subtle lies such as...

- "Where is our God now that we need Him?" In their trials the people resorted to *tempting the Lord, saying, Is the Lord among us or not?*" (Exodus 17:6).
- "The 'good old days' in Egypt are preferable to our current hardships." Food was of greater importance to them than deliverance from slavery. Ungratefulness fueled by conveniently selective memories produced in them a toxic self-deception. All beast (idol) worship is rooted in ingratitude.

In Romans 1:21 Paul reminds us that when people cease to be thankful to God, they will then replace the truths of God with lies of the own invention. The end result is that we become like beasts (Romans 1:23), worshipping the creature rather than the Creator. **Question:** What is your personal beast, your sacred cow, your hobby horse on which you depend for personal significance rather than trusting in God?

The beast lurks not only in certain last-day events. The beast also lurks behind everyday trials and tribulations, especially when we fail to respond to such with attitudes of gratitude.

This is why genuine worship is the greatest protection against the worship of the beast. Genuine worship is to serve God with our praises that He may serve the needs of people with His sufficiency.

How do we protect ourselves against becoming like “beasts” when we face difficult situations? Here are some practical steps:

- **Practice the gratitude attitude.** Gratitude is the antidote for discontent. Discontent lays the foundation for murmuring.
- **Let go of all murmuring and complaining.** When we murmur and complain we are “tempting God.” We are saying that He is not sufficient to handle our problems. And if we believe that He is not enough, we will then invent beast-like strategies to solve our problems.
- **Trust the covenant faithfulness of God.** Trust the One, who in His loving-kindness has already done so much for us.
- **Worship God according to His sufficiency described in His many glorious names – Jehovah Rophe, Jehovah Shalom, Jehovah Nissi, Jehovah Jireh - et cetera.** Every difficult situation we encounter becomes an opportunity for God to display His glory. Our major concern should not be relief from personal hardships, but that in our responses we will give Him the opportunity to glorify Himself.

*Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the people. Sing unto Him, sing psalms unto Him, talk ye of all His wondrous works. Glory ye in His holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD. (Psalm 16:8-10)*

