

## Message #51 of *Scripture Beneath The Surface*

*"Beasts Do Not Walk Uprightly"*

With Randy Smith

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### **Broadcast Schedule**

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Hello! Thanks for being with us. And thanks again to those who have requested CDs and transcripts. We are very pleased to give you copies of these messages. And once again I want to point out that no one who has requested CDs or transcripts has been put on any mailing list, and no one has been solicited for donations. We don't want to sell the word of God. No, I'm not suggesting that people can't sell Bibles, or people can't sell items of ministry. But what I am suggesting is that we feel that the most important thing is that people get what they need. Yes, every ministry has financial need. I'm not trying to point my finger at ministries. But God is the supplier of everyone's need, including ours. So we won't ask you for money, but we definitely will ask you to pray for us. So if there are messages that you hear, and you would like to hear them again, just write to us. You can use either e-mail or regular mail, and we would be glad to send them to you, free of charge.

And let me take a moment to say something again about the image of the beast series. We have never broadcasted the complete image of the beast series because it is so difficult to follow over a long period of time. We only have a weekly program, and it would take a daily broadcast in order for people to be able to follow the train of thought from the beginning to the end. However, the image of the beast series is available to anyone, also free of charge. If you have a significant interest in end-time prophecies, please request it. It has four CDs, which give over four hours of explanation of Bible concepts centered around chapter 13 of Revelation. Included with the CDs is the written transcript so that you can follow along with the CDs when you listen to them. The image of the beast is a concept that is not well understood in our current church

society. Very few Christians understand that the image of the beast is already here and that it is causing a great amount of destruction. Although Christians know very well that Satan is a deceiver, most Christians do not realize they are also deceived in one way or another. We are all deceived. If I asked you in what areas you were deceived, you might think about it, but you couldn't answer that question. And the reason you can't answer that question is that when you are deceived you don't know how you are deceived. If you knew how you were deceived, you wouldn't be deceived. Satan is pretty good at what he does. He's had a long time to practice his art of deception. And, he's also had a long time to determine how he would attempt to overcome God. The image of the beast, spoken of in Revelation 13, is in the world now. The reason it can't be seen is because Christians have been programmed to look for it in the form of natural man's eyesight instead of through the eyes of the Holy Spirit.

This program you're listening to is called, Scripture Beneath The Surface. The reason this program was conceived was to point out to Christians those things which are not easily seen. We try to go beneath the surface view of things in order to give a clearer picture. Everything that you see in this world is not necessarily what it seems to be on the surface.

But think about this one thing. If Satan is a deceiver, don't you think that he would not only bring about the image of the beast, but at the same time wouldn't he also bring about a deception so that you would not see it coming? Like I said a minute ago, Satan is good at deception. No, I'm not bringing any glory to him by saying this. Even the Bible plainly states that the serpent, Satan, was more subtle than all the beasts of the field. The word subtle, means deceptive. Satan, according to God's word, is the most deceptive beast of all the beasts of the field. If Satan is the, quote, most deceptive beast, unquote, then we, as Christians, should recognize that his deception will be so great that we can easily be deceived unless God opens our eyes and ears. That's what we want this program to be all about. We want to help Christians see what Satan is trying so hard to hide.

Someone might say, "Randy, who do you think you are? Are you trying to say you know more than anyone else around you?" The answer to that is, no. I don't think I'm something. And if you knew me better, like some of my close acquaintances, you would know that I have a great difficulty having confidence in myself. I have to work at. But when I'm in the teaching mode I usually sound like I have a great deal of confidence in myself, but that's because God is working through me. It's those other times, when I'm not teaching, or counseling, that I struggle with feeling like the biggest idiot in the world. So please don't think I'm trying to lord it over anyone when I share these things. They come from my heart. And when they come from my heart, I share them with confidence because I want others to see what I have seen.

God called me to tell people about the deception. He told me I was to have a ministry of preparation. That's why our organization is called, Preparation Ministries. God wants to prepare his people for what is coming. But when Christians don't think anything is coming, then, they can't see anything. And this is just exactly what Satan wants. He wants Christians to ignore end-time prophecies so that no one will see through his smokescreen. But the smokescreen is

significant, and he has managed to cloud the vision of most of today's church. If you don't believe me, and if you don't think that Satan has blinded us concerning the end time events, then ask yourself this question. "When is the last time you heard a message from the pulpit concerning the image of the beast, or the name, number, or mark of the beast?"

This is a question I asked myself several years ago. I wondered why no one taught on Revelation except the ministers who held special seminars, and also those ministers who told us that the rapture would occur before all these end-time events took place, so we didn't have to worry about it. As I pondered these things, it occurred to me that something wasn't quite right. I kept thinking, "why would God put all these things in the Bible if we weren't supposed to pay any attention to them?" Well, I've come to the conclusion that God does want us to pay attention to these things. But I've also come to the conclusion that many ministers teach a form of end-time doctrine that explains the events in a strictly human way as seen through the eyes of natural man and not through the eyes of the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus was here on earth he spoke in parables. And he made it very plain to his disciples that his reason for speaking in parables was so that the truth would be hidden from those people who have their eyes closed. No, I'm not suggesting that every person that does not understand the book of Revelation has their eyes closed. But, what I am saying is that many people cannot see with spiritual eyes, so they look at end-time to events through the eyesight of natural man. But God never meant us to understand the deep hidden things of his word by interpreting everything according to natural man's eyesight. It is spiritual eyesight that God wants us to have.

Notice some things that the Bible says concerning Satan. We know that the Bible says that Satan is the serpent that deceived Eve. And the Bible says that the serpent was not only deceptive, but more deceptive than all the beasts of the field. Notice that the Bible is equating Satan, the serpent, with beasts. This was the first instance in the Bible that began to tell us of the beast nature. God didn't mean that all the animals of earth were deceptive. I mean, think about it. Since when is an animal deceptive? Other than the instances in the Bible, when does an animal even talk? Animals don't talk, and animals don't deceive us. What God was telling us is that the animal nature is opposed to the nature of God. God is not deceptive, but Satan is. And there is nothing about the nature of God that is evil, but, Satan is evil. Therefore, God spoke of Satan in connection with animals because it is the animal nature that is opposed to the nature of God. When Satan opposed God and began to twist God's word for the purpose of deceiving mankind, he was demonstrating a beast nature.

To be a beast, as I've said many times before, is to be without reason, because animals don't have this ability. If you use proper reason, you will realize that the nature of God is better than any other nature or any other attitude. But Satan acted like a beast. God talks about Satan in the Bible as being a serpent, as being the serpent in the bottom of the sea, as being Leviathan, which means sea monster, and as a dragon. A dragon is nothing more than a huge monstrous fire-breathing serpent. Therefore Satan, the Devil, is a great monstrous serpent, a great monstrous sea serpent. He is the beast that rose up out of the sea.

If you can make the connection with the animal concept, if you can make the connection with the beast nature concept, then you can begin to understand what Revelation thirteen is referring to when it says that the beast rose up out of the sea. Satan would like all of us to act like beasts. In fact, the Bible refers to this beast nature also rising up in the earth. This is also in Revelation thirteen, and refers to mankind following in the path of Satan and also acting like beasts of the field, in that most humans shun the nature of God and embrace the carnal nature of the world. When we begin to see that it is the beast nature that is the embodiment of Satan, then we begin to see that the reference in Revelation 13, concerning the image of the beast, is referring to an image of the beast nature, which is the embodiment of evil. Satan chose to embrace this evil nature instead of embracing the righteous nature of God. God is righteous. Satan is unrighteous. The world caters to the flesh. It caters to the carnal nature of man. God hates the carnal nature of the world, and the carnal nature of the world is in complete opposition to God. You find this stated very plainly in Romans 8:7 and James 4:4.

Yet, most Christians have very little comprehension that when they seek after the things of this world, when they enter into the buying and selling of this world's goods, they are drawing closer to Satan. No, I'm not talking about buying and selling necessities. I'm talking about buying and selling in the sense that you are acting with a carnal nature, instead of the spiritual nature of God. I'm talking about putting a major emphasis on the things of this world, and putting very little emphasis on the spiritual things of God. Many people attend church once a week and then spend the rest of their time trying to get as much stuff as they can get. But God did not call us to do that. God did not call us to have all the nice things. The things of this world were put there for our use, but we are to use them in moderation. But the term moderation is little understood by most Christians. Moderation is not moderate just because you have less stuff than rich people have. Neither does moderation mean to have absolutely nothing, and be a monk in some mountain cave. Moderation means that you bridle your self when it comes to buying and selling. It means that you don't try to get everything you can get, but rather it means to get what you need and not try to fulfill all your wants. In the book of Ezekiel, there is a reference to Sodom and to what the real sin of Sodom was. The story of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis only describes a specific sin that was committed by the people of Sodom against Lot and his family. But in Ezekiel 16:49, we see that the overall sin of Sodom was that they were full of bread and idle. This means that they had lots of stuff and lots of food and they used their time to play rather than being occupied with good works. In essence, they were Old Testament couch potatoes. They took as much as they wanted for themselves and instead of being industrious for the Lord and reaching out to the poor, they fiddled their time away with things of vanity.

This is a fairly accurate picture of many Christians. They continually want more, and they are not content until all their desires are satisfied completely. The credit card debt of Christians proves this. Instead of being content with a moderate amount of the necessities of life, they continue to push for more and more. They fill their houses with trinkets. Their houses are filled with extras. They do not look to the poor, and their prayers to God are filled with prayers for more money or extra things. They become so wanton, so lustful, that they finally end up attending churches where the minister will tell them that God wants them to be rich. And if you

listen to these people for very long, you will hear them say something like, “God wants us to have nice things.” They never really hear the scriptures that tell Christians that God wants us to set our affections on things above and not on things of the earth. It is this refusal to use good reason that puts their actions into the beast category along with Satan.

The earth is full of ferocious beasts. Even the Bible says that Satan is like a roaring lion, seeking who he can devour. Satan devours the righteous by tempting them with the goods of this world as replacements for the things of God. He has worked very hard in creating a world market where the only things to buy and sell are those things which stimulate the animal nature rather than the spiritual nature. If you go out into the marketplace today, you can plainly see that there's very little out there concerning Jesus Christ. There are very few things out there which glorify God. But the social system, the great market, that Satan has developed in the world, is open for business, and you can buy every shiny trinket you can imagine. However, if you allow yourself to concentrate on the things of this world, then you cannot concentrate at the same time on the things of God. In Revelation 18:12-13, we see a list of a few things that the world offers which cater to our animal nature. Some of these things are gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen, silk, ivory, precious wood, marble, perfumes, ointments, and fine flour.

The animal nature of man desires all these things. And because the desire for these things is rooted in the flesh nature of man, there is no end to them. And no one who caters to the desires of their flesh is ever satisfied. But many of today's Christians, who have been told in scripture that they are to take up their cross and follow Jesus to Calvary, do not comprehend that to stimulate your flesh nature instead of your spirit nature, is contrary to God. They do not realize that instead of heading up the hill to Calvary, they are heading downhill toward Satan's sea of destruction.

But the beast nature, and the nature of God, can never co-exist. As it says in Romans 8:7-8, “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”

Because the carnal mind, the animal nature, is opposed to the righteousness of God, its ultimate destruction is necessary. One major step in God's plan toward this ultimate destruction of the animal nature was to cast Satan out of heaven and down to the earth. With his beast nature he had tempted the angels, and as it tells us in Revelation 12:4, he had drawn a third of them away by using his tail. Once again the Bible is referring to Satan by using the animal concept. Animals, beasts, have tails. Satan is described as using his tail, in order to point out the concept of the animal nature. When Satan left behind the concept of thinking reasonably, and chose to reject God, he acted like an animal. When we seek after the things of this world and delight ourselves in the baubles and trinkets that are offered in Satan's market, we also leave behind the concept of reason and place ourselves in the category of brute beasts. Instead of reasoning within ourselves concerning what is right and what is good, we cease to use reason at all, and become like animals; just beasts, trying to get to all we can get and more.

When the Bible warns us concerning the image of the beast, it is not telling us that this is some statue molded from a chunk of metal or wood, but that it is a picture, or graphic display. Most of you have images of your family. They are graphic displays depicting your children, parents, relatives or friends. We call them pictures. But whether an image is two dimensional, as in a picture, or three dimensional, as in a statue, it is still an image. But the only images which speak are those on the TV, in movies, or on similar devices. These images are forms that represent both physical things and mental concepts. In Revelation 13, the term, image of the beast, is referring to a form which represents the animal nature of Satan, which is the same thing as the animal nature of humans. It is an image of the nature of beasts, as opposed to an image of upright ones who follow after righteousness. The term upright is always used in the sense of goodness, because being upright also refers to no longer acting as a base animal. Animals do not stand upright, but go on all fours. In Psalms 15:1-2, David asks the question, "LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?" Then he answers that question and says, "He that walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart." We were never meant to act like animals. We were meant to be an upright people. We were created by God to set our minds on his righteousness, not on the works of the flesh.

When you watch secular TV or movies, you are watching forms that represent the carnal nature. If you watch the TV and see an image, a form, which does not display the righteousness of God, then you are seeing an image that is displaying the beast nature. God has given us his word to show us the difference between acting reasonably and unreasonably. But Satan has twisted the word of God in order to convince mankind that seeking after the things of this world are good and not bad. Satan first convinced Adam and Eve that they could eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, even though God had told them not to. When God says, set your affection on things above, not on things of the earth, he means it. But Satan comes along, just as he did with Adam and Eve, and says, "Oh, it's OK. After all God created the world and everything and it, so everything is good, and God wants you to enjoy it to the full. So go ahead, take as much as you want for yourself. That's what God would want for you."

This deception is so subtle that most Christians buy it, hook, line, and sinker. Because we humans have been put into these bodies of flesh, we are deceived over and over again. If it wasn't for the flesh, Satan would not be able to tempt us so easily. But we listen to Satan's lies because we want to be able to take the things of this earth for ourselves. We want them so badly that we set aside reason in order to get them. If you think about this concept, think of how Eve must have felt. It wasn't like she hated the thought of eating the fruit. According to scripture, she considered it to be desirable and wanted to eat it, but she just needed a good excuse. Satan gave her that excuse by twisting the truth, and because of her fleshly instincts, she accepted the lies. If she didn't have the lust of the flesh, she would've recognized the temptation and the deception. And that's why Christians are deceived. Their flesh likes the gold and silver. Their flesh likes the precious wood, the perfumes, the jewelry, the expensive clothes and the flashy cars. Their flesh likes having everything in abundance. And because there is such a love for the things of this world instead of the things above, Christians are deceived. And once again, I will refer you to the scripture of 2 Thessalonians 2:10, which explains to us that the reason Satan's

deception is successful is because people do not have a love for the truth of God. Yes, mankind does have a love for the things of this world because our bodies of flesh desire it. But that's why we must be born-again. We have to be born again in spirit so that we can put to death the beast nature that Satan has caused us to accept.