



"Let his heart be changed from a man's, and let a beast's heart (nature) be given to him ..."

(Daniel 4:16)

WHAT IS THE BEAST SYSTEM?

BEASTS

In several books of the Bible we read of beasts. To a typical English Bible reader the term "beast" may initially evoke a vision of a terrible creature that is evil, scary, or wild. In some passages this would be correct, as in Revelation 13. However, in some cases the Bible speaks of beasts that are domesticated and clean to eat, as in Genesis 1:24-25, and 7:2 when Noah put "clean beasts" into the ark.

The English translators used the word "beast" to translate several different Hebrew and Greek words and they don't all mean the same. However, overall it is safe to think of a beast in Bible reference as a rudimentary or lower form of life compared to other life forms. Some beasts are wild (like the serpent in Revelation 13), and some are just ordinary cattle (as in Genesis 1 & 7).

However, there is a particular kind of beast in the Bible that I want to focus upon - and is the point of this article.

In both Hebrew and Greek, the term "beast" generally implies a lower nature. The term "beast" is accordingly used in the Bible to refer to men of lower spirit; men that know not God. Their minds function on a low level. That is not to say that such "beasts" are not clever. They often are. But they have no understanding of God's law. These men have a lower level of awareness and understanding; they have a lower spirit. They are men without God.

On the other hand, there are men whose minds do relate to God and his law. Another way of saying this is that some men receive the "light" and the "life" (i.e., spirit) that John speaks of in John 1:4-5. Some do, but some don't:

4. *In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*
5. *And the light shines in darkness; and the darkness (beast nature) comprehends it not.*

Thus, men with the beast nature do not relate to God. They are incomplete; without spirit (thus, they are called "dead"). They are basic creatures without holy spirit. They have a lower spirit. But those who have God's holy spirit have "eyes to see and ears to hear." They can comprehend

the "life" and the "light." They can think on a higher plane and understand on a higher level. By this we can identify the spiritual level of a person (or a system).

A SYSTEM FOUNDED BY BEASTS

In my own writings I often refer to "the Beast System." So for the sake of clarity I should explain what this means.

Men exist on different levels. To illustrate the point, consider what the Bible teaches about a "child" as compared to a "son." These are two different Hebrew and Greek terms which signify two levels of existence.

A child (in the Greek tongue) is either a "teknon" [a child]; a "paidion" [a child in training, from which comes the English word "pedagogue": a child tutor, or "schoolmaster" as stated in Galatians 3:24-25], or a "brephos" [a new born babe, a young child, or a neophyte].

In English Bibles, all these are generally translated as "child." But to a reader who doesn't understand Hebrew and Greek translation this leaves them without understanding important things about a Biblical family. According to the Bible, an offspring is considered a "child" until he becomes a "son" (Greek - "huios"). There is an important difference between a child and a son. A child is carefree, immature, and irresponsible. A child may be destined to become a son and heir, but as a child he has not yet come of age, and he has not yet matured to his position as a son. This illustrates how God views stages of man's life.

Paul explains this Biblical family structure:

1. *But I say, as long as the heir is a babe (young child), he differs nothing from a servant, though he be [destined to be] lord of all;*
2. *But is under guardians and managers until the time appointed by his father.*
3. *And so when we were babes under the rudiments of the world (system), we were in bondage:*
4. *But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth*

his Son, born out of a woman, born under law,

5. *That He might purchase (ransom) those under law, that we might receive sonship (become responsible).*

6. *For that you are sons, God sends forth the spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.*

Galatians 4:1-6

“Huios” is Greek for “son.” “Huiotesia” is “sonship” (not “adoption” as in the KJV). Adoption is the wrong word. It implies a non-relative taken into your family. That, however, is not what sonship means. Sonship is a rite of passage within a family when a child comes of age and becomes a son and heir. He becomes a responsible authority in the family. At this point the father, the head of the family, bestows full confidence and authority upon his offspring who is now a son. This is according to God’s law about family.

Thus, it is clear that God recognizes different levels of existence among men. Accordingly, when God has a chore for a man to do He chooses a “son” with higher understanding who can be trusted to be responsible and loyal. These usually don’t fit well in worldly societies. They are the sons that God can trust and use. He gives these men authority to act on his behalf. In modern legal terms, we could compare this to “power of attorney” (authority granted to do family business in the father’s name). That is what it means to be a son as compared to being a child who has no authority. Some people remain children all their lives. They never grow up to accept responsibility.

LEVELS OF EXISTENCE

So we learn in the Bible that there are stages or levels in a man’s life. We go through stages as we grow. Children can grow up and develop into sons, but many don’t. Those that remain at a low spiritual level don’t accept the invitation to become sons of God. They continue existing and thinking at the level of a child – that is a level of existence without a fully functional mind. Man’s mind is created with potential to function at a level in which God can communicate with it. But a beast-level mind cannot hear God.

A beast, as the word is used in the Bible, is a mortal life form that lacks awareness of God. That awareness must be awakened in us. Man, without that awareness, is a beast in a similar sense as was Nebuchadnezzar when he lost his understanding and became “a beast” in Daniel 4:16-33. He was a man, but his understanding became as that of a beast. His understanding returned only after he repented.

These things show us that the Bible term “beast” signifies a lower level of understanding. Cattle, for instance, are beasts. They are lower than man. By this reasoning a man without the spirit of God is called a beast. He is lower than a son of God. This answers the question of why some people can’t hear truth like you hear it. We are to “*come out from among them and be separate*” (2 Corinthians 6:17).

The beast nature is the basic nature of any creature – man or animal. But the beast nature in a man can be changed when he acquires the “life” and the “light” in Christ.

This process is called “being born from above” or “born again.”

4. *In Him (Jesus) was life; and the life was the light of men.*

5. *And the light shines in darkness; but the darkness (lower beast nature) comprehends it not.*

John 1:4-5

This is the key. John explains the higher form of “life” for men. When we have this “life” and “light” we are enabled to see, hear, and understand things that are not perceived by others who don’t have “life” and “light.” These levels are separations between those who are spiritually “alive” in Christ, and those who are spiritually “dead.” Those who seek the LIFE that Christ gives become “new creatures.”

17. *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

2 Corinthians 5:17

In the new regenerate man the beast nature has been “mortified” (killed) and his new spirit in Christ has awakened. He no longer follows or emulates others who live by the lower “beast” nature; those who cheat and lie.

13. *For if you live after the flesh (beast nature) you shall die (be spiritually dead): but if you through the spirit do mortify (kill) the deeds of the body (beast nature), you shall live (be spiritually alive).*

Romans 8:13

5. *Mortify (kill) therefore your (beast nature) members which are upon the land (lower level); ...*

Colossians 3:5

9. *... you have put off the old man (beast nature) ...*

10. *And have put on the new man (son nature), ...*

Colossians 3:9-10

Jesus explains the blessing of being able to hear truth.

16. *But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.*

Matthew 13:16

He explains that unregenerate man refuses truth:

3. *Except a man be born again, he cannot perceive the kingdom of God.*

John 3:3

6. *That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the spirit is spirit.*

7. *Marvel not that I said to you, You must be born again.*

John 3:6-7

14. *For as many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

Romans 8:14

A born again man has a new, higher spirit. His lower beast spirit ("the old man") no longer rules him.

17. *This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you henceforth walk not as other nations walk, (as beasts) in the vanity of their mind,*

18. *Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:*

19. *Who being past feeling have given themselves over to lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness (because they are beasts).*

20. *But you have not so learned Christ;*

21. *If so be that you have heard Him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:*

22. *That you put off concerning the former conduct the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;*

23. *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;*

24. *And that you put on the new man (the new life) which is created in accordance with God ...*

Ephesians 4:17-24

The beast level of life is defined succinctly in 1 John:

15. *Love not the world, neither the things in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him (he is as a beast).*

16. *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (beast nature), is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

17. *And the world is passed away (dead), and the lust of it: but he that does the will of God abides in this age.*

1 John 2:15-17

In the title scripture (page one – Daniel 4:16), God gave Nebuchadnezzar the "heart" (i.e., mind or spirit) of a beast. His understanding and awareness was taken away, and this made him a beast.

In scripture the word "heart" usually infers "mind" or "spirit." The heart of a beast, in this sense, would imply the lower mind or lower level of thinking. See also Psalm 73.

The word "beast" in scripture is used in various contexts always referring to a lower animal or man.

The Hebrew Old Testament beast is a "chay," "chayah" (a basic life form), or "behemah" (cattle).

In the Greek New Testament, beast is "ktaymos" (beast of burden), "dzoay," "dzaho," "dzoon" (a basic life form), or "thayra," "thayrion" (wild animal).

But the point of this article is to focus on what the Bible says about man, specifically, and his levels of existence. We read of this from Moses, Jesus, John, and most of the writers of the New Testament letters.

In Deuteronomy 30, Moses reflects on the fact that he had delivered the laws of God to the Children of Israel. He tells them if they respect and follow those laws they will have "life," but if they refuse they will have "death."

15. *See, I have set before you this day life and good, and death and evil;*

16. *In that I command you this day to love Yahweh your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that you may live and multiply: and Yahweh your God shall bless you in the land where you go to possess it.*

19. *I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both you and your seed may live:*

Deuteronomy 30:15-16,19

Here Moses equates "blessing" with "life," and "cursing" with "death." Life is mentioned in the sense of a higher mental/spiritual awareness. We can choose to live like this.

We must note that those who chose "death" and rejected God's word did not necessarily die physically. But they died spiritually - they chose the beastly level of existence. Moses called this "death." It is called "death" throughout the Bible. Those who choose death are throwing away the life God offers, and they become beastly. This leads them into great difficulties and minds that are unsound.

Indeed, this was the message the prophets brought to apostate Israel after they had abandoned God and were living in the nations under the laws and mores of the heathen kings whom they chose to follow. They lost their lives; their minds became beastly.

18. *And you shall cry out in that day because of your king which you shall have chosen you; and Yahweh will not hear you in that day.*

19. *Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us;*

20. *That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.*

1 Samuel 8:18-20

The Israelites of that day committed spiritual suicide when they insisted that they no longer wanted Yahweh to be their king, but instead wanted a man king like the other nations. For the Children of Israel that began an age of being lost and without a national covenant with Yahweh. Israel no longer existed as a nation. Instead, they were under the kings, governments, and cultures of the nations of the heathen. This was their condition when Jesus came to

them. They were existing as beasts in beast systems. Jesus came to them to give them new life and light, to deliver them from the beast systems they had chosen.

A graphic explanation of this was penned by the prophet Ezekiel in chapter 37. He was sent to prophesy to the Israelites who were in captivity in Babylon. He described the Israelites as being "dry bones" (i.e., dead). They were existing as beasts - in the beast system of Babylon.

Ezekiel also prophesied the coming of Jesus to offer life to dead Israel some 600 years later. God used Jesus to call them back to Him; back to life.

Some woke up and answered Jesus' call, but many did not. It's the same today. The dead (the beasts) are all around us. They walk blind and they choose not to hear.

God sent Isaiah to the Israelites to explain this:

9. *Go, and tell this people, Keep on hearing, but do not understand; and keep on seeing, but do not perceive.*
10. *The heart of this people is made dull, and their ears heavy, and their eyes shut; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and return to be healed.*
11. *Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate,*
12. *And Yahweh has removed men far away, and many places are forsaken in the midst of the land.*

Isaiah 6:9-12

Paul quoted from Isaiah again in Acts 28, pointing out that many in his day were still choosing to exist as beasts preferring to live as blind and deaf:

27. *For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.*

Acts 28:27

VESSELS OF HONOR OR DISHONOR

When I, or Scripture, refer to "beasts," please take into consideration the context in which the term is used. And remember that a beast is not necessarily a wild or evil thing, although it can be - depending upon its context. In terms of this discussion please remember that we are primarily examining the term "beast" as it refers to people who are either ignorant of God's law or choose to ignore his guidance. In other words, these are people who are missing the vital piece that makes them whole and complete. They are missing that spiritual/mental connection with God and they are not fully functional. These are unusable, unfinished vessels. They are "unfit" and unable to hear God's guidance. They are therefore beasts; broken or defective vessels - in a state of being unusable.

19. *Nevertheless the foundation of God stands sure, having this seal, The Lord knows them that are his. And, Let every one that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*
20. *But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honor, and some to dishonor.*
21. *If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and fitting for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.*

2 Timothy 2:19-21

We are born as vessels with potential to mature and be used of God. We can follow God's light and achieve fulfillment. Or we can reject God and choose to exist in darkness. It all depends upon what we choose: God's spirit, or the lower spirit that cannot perceive Him. If we choose to live as beasts we remain incomplete and unusable vessels, unable to see or hear the truths of God. These are the beasts among us who refuse to hear God or hear truth. We are unable to communicate with them. By choosing to exist as beasts their minds are on a different level from us. They cannot hear us because they are different. They have not yet attained the higher and better life. They may well achieve money from their worldly enterprises. But their inner lives cannot find happiness.

This answers the question of why some people just can't understand what is obvious to us. They are broken or incomplete vessels, unsound of mind and heart. They exist as beasts, without spiritual understanding. Their minds are not functioning as God designed them to function.

BEAST SYSTEM = SYSTEM OF THE DEAD

What happens when beasts, as described above, with dysfunctional minds, invent their own system of law and government? Will that system work?

No! It won't. That was the sin of Adam. He chose to rely upon his own ability to know good and evil. Beasts like to think they don't need God. They make their own systems.

Jesus told his disciples:

13. *But He answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father has not planted, shall be rooted up.*
14. *Let them alone: they are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.*

Matthew 15:13-14

This explains the great gulf between the called-out ones (the ecclesia) and the beast-level people. We are separate from them because we think differently. We worship God. They worship themselves.

Ben Williams