

THE BEAST WITHIN US

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We all know that the Beast with the seven heads and ten horns is coming to usher in the Great Tribulation. The purpose of this article is to help us realize that the Beast to watch for is not only someone else 'out there', but also something within our own selves. The following scriptures will show throughout the Bible how we can recognize and repent of the 'beast' within ourselves. As Ec. 3:18 says, "I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts." Psalms 49 and 73 tell us that this is so not only because man is temporary and returns to dust just as beasts do, but also because of his 'beast-like' lack of spiritual understanding. These scriptures will also help us to better understand the beast with the seven heads and ten horns that the Lord is bringing against his people as punishment for their sins. We all need to repent and draw near to God so that he will save us from the power of the beast from within or without and bring us into his everlasting kingdom.

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Note: The serpent was the most subtle of all beasts and deceived the woman. First, Satan is seen as a serpent. Later he is seen as a great beast structure, a series of worldly governments with seven heads and ten horns bearing rule over God's people. How do governments deceive people? Isa 3:12 says, "O my people, they which LEAD thee cause thee to err and destroy the way of thy paths." Rom 6:16 says, "Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to OBEY, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness." Eve obeyed Satan instead of God and therefore became his servant. He became her government. Examine whom you follow, listen to and obey. It is a 'beast' government if it leads you to disobey God and sin.

Lev 20:24 But I have said unto you, Ye shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and honey: I am the Lord your God, which have separated you from other people.

Lev 20:25 Ye shall therefore put difference between clean beasts and unclean, and between unclean fowls and clean: and ye shall not make your souls abominable by beast, or by fowl, or by any manner of living thing that creepeth on the ground which I have separated from you as unclean.

Note: Notice in verse 24 of the law of clean and unclean meats that beasts are symbolic of unconverted people whom God has separated from his people as unclean. Jesus gave an example of this principle when he spoke to the Gentile woman in Mat 15:21-28 saying, "It is not meet to take the children's bread and to cast it unto the dogs." To refer to her as a dog was not uttered from a bigoted racist attitude, but as a spiritual truth. Notice 2 Pe 2:22 which says of those who were once converted and then turn back to their former pagan ways again, wallowing in the pollutions of the world, "The dog is turned to his own vomit again, and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." This shows that before conversion, just as the Gentile

woman, any person is spiritually an unclean beast just as a dog or a sow in God's sight. And if you turn back to the world after conversion, you become as a dog or a sow again.

Lev 26:3 If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them...

Lev 26:6 And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land...

Lev 26:21 And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins.

Lev 26:22 I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, and destroy your cattle, and make you few in number; and your highways shall be desolate.

Note: This is a prophesy and a promise concerning God's people that if they will keep his covenant, (applying this to the new covenant) he will rid evil beasts out of the land, but if not, he will send wild beasts among them. Notice how this can fit together with the command against eating unclean beasts. If we do not obey his command concerning not eating them, we ourselves will bring unclean beasts within us. Jo 6:57 shows that, spiritually, what we eat is what we live by. Notice the function of beasts which is to rob you of your children, destroy your cattle, and make you few in number. Think of this in a spiritual sense as the function of the 'human' beasts who are unconverted rulers over God's people.

Deut 32:5 They have corrupted themselves, their spot is not the spot of his children: they are a perverse and crooked generation.

Deut 32:6 Do ye thus requite the Lord, O foolish people and unwise? is not he thy father that hath bought thee? hath he not made thee, and established thee...

Deut 32:15 But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.

Deut 32:16 They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger.

Deut 32:17 They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not.

Deut 32:18 Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee.

Deut 32:19 And when the Lord saw it, he abhorred them, because of the provoking of his sons, and of his daughters...

Deut 32:24 They shall be burnt with hunger, and devoured with burning heat, and with bitter destruction: I will also send the teeth of beasts upon them, with the poison of serpents of the dust.

Note: Here again is the testimony concerning God's people (old covenant and new) that if they corrupt themselves, grow fat and lazy, lightly esteem or forget God, and end up in idolatry, he will bring upon them evil beasts as symbolic of the serpent, Satan the Devil.

Ps 49:12 Nevertheless man being in honor abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish.

Ps 49:20 Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish.

Note: If you read this whole psalm, the first scripture talks about a man being like a beast by virtue of his not 'abiding', i.e. not being able to continue his life. The second shows that a man is symbolic of a beast if he is in a position of honor - or rulership, yet is lacking spiritual understanding. This is true of each of the seven heads and ten horns of the beast.

Ps 73:1 Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.
Ps 73:2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.
Ps 73:3 For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
Ps 73:13 Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency.
Ps 73:16 When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;
Ps 73:17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.
Ps 73:21 Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.
Ps 73:22 So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.

Note: Notice here that a spiritual beast is foolish and ignorant in relation to the truth of God. David came to see and repent and be saved from his beastly condition. And this was not even a great doctrinal issue, but a wrong attitude; thinking that while the wicked were prospering, he had been serving God in vain. We need to ask God to save us from all our foolishness and ignorance, wrong attitudes and false doctrines lest we are as beasts ourselves and not know it.

Ezek 5:1 And thou, son of man, take thee a sharp knife, take thee a barber's razor, and cause it to pass upon thine head and upon thy beard: then take thee balances to weigh, and divide the hair.
Ezek 5:2 Thou shalt burn with fire a third part in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled: and thou shalt take a third part, and smite about it with a knife: and a third part thou shalt scatter in the wind; and I will draw out a sword after them...
Ezek 5:5 Thus saith the Lord God; This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her.
Ezek 5:6 And she hath changed my judgments into wickedness more than the nations, and my statutes more than the countries that are round about her: for they have refused my judgments and my statutes, they have not walked in them.
Ezek 5:7 Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because ye multiplied more than the nations that are round about you, and have not walked in my statutes, neither have kept my judgments, neither have done according to the judgments of the nations that are round about you...
Ezek 5:11 Wherefore, as I live, saith the Lord God; Surely, because thou hast defiled my sanctuary with all thy detestable things, and with all thine abominations, therefore will I also diminish thee; neither shall mine eye spare, neither will I have any pity...
Ezek 5:17 So will I send upon you famine and evil beasts, and they shall bereave thee; and pestilence and blood shall pass through thee; and I will bring the sword upon thee. I the Lord have spoken it.

Note: We need to take this to heart as a prophesy for us today, not just for Jerusalem of old. If we change God's judgments into wickedness, and do not walk in his statutes, but fill his sanctuary with detestable things (WE are the spiritual sanctuary 1Co 3:16), we shall end up with spiritual beasts among us who shall bereave and diminish us. We shall have 'famine of the word' because our 'beast leaders' will not feed us properly with the word of God. Notice how similar verse 17 is to the description of the four horsemen in Revelation.

Ezek 14:13 Son of man, when the land sinneth against me by trespassing grievously, then will I stretch out mine hand upon it, and will break the staff of the bread thereof, and will send famine upon it, and will cut off man and beast from it...

Ezek 14:15 If I cause noisome beasts to pass through the land, and they spoil it, so that it be desolate, that no man may pass through because of the beasts:

Ezek 14:16 Though these three men were in it, as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither sons nor daughters; they only shall be delivered, but the land shall be desolate.

Note: This is a promise that when God does send beasts that the righteous only shall be delivered from them, not even sons or daughters.

Ezek 34:2 Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks...

Ezek 34:4 The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.

Ezek 34:5 And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered...

Ezek 34:22 Therefore will I save my flock, and they shall no more be a prey; and I will judge between cattle and cattle.

Ezek 34:23 And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd...

Ezek 34:25 And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land; and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods.

Note: This is the prophesy of Ezekiel, that though God's people have been scattered and made prey of beasts because of false shepherds, God would save his flock, bringing them again under one shepherd, and cause evil beasts to cease. This is therefore a prophesy of the end of the beast of Rev 13 and the coming of the Kingdom of God when David shall be raised up again to reign as a shepherd over God's people. Some have said that the scattering of God's people today is a good thing because Satan then has many small targets instead of one large one. However, this scripture shows that the scattering of the flock is actually an evil thing. It can cause God's people to be a prey to many evil beasts instead of gathered together under one 'godly' shepherd.

Daniel 4:16 Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him.

Note: This was when God removed the spirit of man from the first beast, King Nebuchadnezzar, and gave him a beast's spirit for seven years. It is interesting that this was the very beginning of the beast system of seven heads and ten horns ruling over God's people, and shows the very cause of becoming a spiritual beast, which is the lifting up of the self in pride. This tells us how to recognize a beast today. A modern beast will have the attitude of heart as Nebuchadnezzar did: "This is MY people and MY kingdom, and for MY glory", rather than God's people and God's kingdom for his glory. This attitude can apply not only to how ministers view the church, but to how we view our families, and even individually - our own bodies.

40 Scriptures Showing Spiritual Beastly Characteristics

Note: The following scriptures in 2 Peter and Jude yield 40 attributes of spiritual 'beasts' who feast among God's people. I have underlined each of the attributes and then given

comparison scriptures and some commentary. Many sermons could be preached expounding on each of these attributes. As we meditate on these scriptures, may we have the wisdom to watch for the coming beast of Rev 13 and watch especially for the beast coming from within ourselves.

2 Pet 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the (1)unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

2 Pet 2:10 But chiefly them that (2)walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and (3)despise government. (4)Presumptuous are they, (5)selfwilled, they are (6)not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

2 Pet 2:11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

2 Pet 2:12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, (7)speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

2 Pet 2:13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that (8)count it pleasure to riot in the day time. (9)Spots they are and blemishes, (10)sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;

2 Pet 2:14 Having (11)eyes full of adultery, and that (12)cannot cease from sin; (13)beguiling (14)unstable souls: (15)an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

2 Pet 2:15 Which have (16)forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness...

2 Pet 2:17 These are (17)wells without water, (18)clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.

2 Pet 2:18 For when (19)they speak great swelling words of vanity, (20)they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

2 Pet 2:19 While (21)they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

2 Pet 2:20 For if after (22)they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

Jude 1:10 But these (23)speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

Jude 1:11 Woe unto them! for they have (24)gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the (25)gainsaying of Korah.

Jude 1:12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, (26)feeding themselves without fear. (27)clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; (28)trees whose fruit withereth, (29)without fruit, (30)twice dead, (31)plucked up by the roots;

Jude 1:13 (32)Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; (33)wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever...

Jude 1:16 These are (34)murmurers, (35)complainers, (36)walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, (37)having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

Jude 1:19 These be they who (38)separate themselves, (39)sensual, (40)having not the Spirit.

(1) Unjust

Compare Ezek 18:5-9 where we find the principle of being just vs. unjust - "But if a man be just, and do that which is lawful and right, And hath not eaten upon the mountains, neither hath lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, neither hath defiled his neighbour's wife, neither hath come near to a menstruous woman, And hath not oppressed any, but hath restored to the debtor his pledge, hath spoiled none by violence, hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment; He that hath not given forth upon usury, neither hath taken any increase, that hath withdrawn his hand from iniquity, hath executed true judgment between man and man, Hath walked in my statutes, and hath kept my judgments, to deal truly; he is just, he shall surely live, saith the Lord God."

(2) Walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness

Compare Gal 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like.. This particularly focuses in on uncleanness which is only one of the lusts of the flesh. The Bible shows several ways to make oneself unclean. Unclean beasts (Lev 11, 17) Unclean by giving birth (Lev 12) Unclean by leprosy (Lev 14) Unclean by issues from the flesh (Lev 15) Unclean by touching dead body (Num 19) These physical uncleannesses are types of spiritual unconversion. Compare 2Co 6:14-18 and Ezek 36:17. On the other hand we achieve spiritual cleanness by 'the washing of water by the word' (Eph 5:26, Jhn 15:3) and by the 'washing of regeneration and renewing of the living water of the holy spirit' (Tts 3:5, Jhn 7:38-39)

(3) Despise government

The rule of God over your life - Compare Rom 8:7 The carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the laws of God.

(4) Presumptuous

Impertinent, boldly arrogant or offensive behavior or language, forward

(5) Selfwilled

Are we doing the will of ourself or the will of God? YLT reads: self-complacent which means self-satisfaction, smugness

(6) Not afraid to speak evil of dignities

A similar verse in Jude 8-9 gives the specific example of a 'dignity' whom even the great archangel Michael would not revile or speak evil of - Satan himself. Even though Satan is indeed an evil ruler, Michael would not bring against him a railing accusation but said, "The Lord rebuke thee." This attitude of Michael is paralleled in the Old Testament story of how David would not do anything to hurt Saul, his king, even though Saul tried to kill him. I have heard ministers who in their preaching speak evil of dignities, for example calling the US president names like 'Slick Willie'. We should not be ignorant of the faults of a ruler, but rather, watch our own attitudes, giving anyone in a position of authority the respect due to that office, not being disrespectful, nor speaking evil of nor reviling him.

(7) Speak evil of the things that they understand not

This verse is given immediately after the one about speaking evil of dignities, so has a specific application to that, and also to any subject on which an opinion is formed without really understanding all the facts involved.

(8) Count it pleasure to riot in the day time

YLT reads 'pleasures counting the luxury in the day' This seems to indicate having the heart focused all the day on pleasures and luxuries.

(9) Spots they are and blemishes

1Tim 6:11-14 exhorts us to be content with what we have, flee from love of money, and pursue the attributes of godliness, keeping this command 'without spot'. Also remember that the church is to be holy and without spot or blemish. (Eph 5:27)

(10) Sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you

This shows that even if a person attends God's church and God's feasts, he can still be deceived. Here are some scriptures showing how we can be deceived:

Mat 24:4-5 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

Mat 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if [it were] possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

1Cor 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

1Cor 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Rom 16:17-18 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

Eph 4:14-15 That we [henceforth] be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, [and] cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, [even] Christ:

(11) Having eyes full of adultery

In Mat 5:32 Jesus says, whoever shall divorce his wife except it be for fornication (she has committed fornication) causes HER to commit adultery - because she will likely marry again especially if she is a young woman. In Mat 19:9 he says whoever divorces his wife except it be for fornication and marries another commits adultery. In Mat 5:32 he says whoever shall marry her that is divorced commits adultery. In Mat 5:28 the law is not only in the letter, but is now a spiritual matter of the heart. Whoever looks at a woman to lust after her has committed adultery already in his heart. Finally, Ja 4:4 says that friendship with the world is also spiritual adultery.

(12) Cannot cease from sin

Cannot stop self from sinning! We can meditate on these definitions of sin to examine whether we have a problem putting an end to some sin within ourselves.

Pro 21:4 An high look, and a proud heart,

Pro 21:4 [and] the plowing (labor) of the wicked, [is] sin.

Pro 24:9 The thought of foolishness [is] sin

Rom 14:23 whatsoever [is] not of faith is sin.

Jam 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth [it] not, to him it is sin.

1Jo 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

1Jo 5:17 All unrighteousness is sin:

(13) Beguiling

To beguile means to deceive, cheat, divert

(14) Unstable

Ja 1:8 says that if you ask God for something and waver in faith, you are like a wave of the sea, a double minded man, 'unstable' in all his ways.

(15) An heart they have exercised with covetous practices

To covet is to earnestly desire what does not belong to you. A forbidden thing, (for example, Eve desired the tree of the knowledge of good and evil though it was forbidden. Col 3:5 says that covetousness is also idolatry because the forbidden thing becomes an idol in your heart. Jesus took the opportunity in Luk 12:13 when he told the men who were fighting over their inheritance to "beware of covetousness, for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of the things which he possesses". He went on to tell the parable of the rich man who desired and laid up treasures for himself till he had far more than he needed, but was not rich toward God. These are examples of exercising your heart with covetous practices. When you covet you tend to seek some gain and advantage for yourself and put God and others last and least.

(16) Forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness...

Compare Rev 2:14 Thou hast them there that hold the doctrine of Balaam who taught Balak to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols and to commit fornication. Also compare Jude 1:1 ...and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward. We see from these scriptures that to cause stumblingblocks to be cast before God's people for reward is the error of Balaam. Here are some scriptures which have to do with causing God's people to stumble: Jer 18:15 Because my people have forgotten me, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways from the ancient paths. Mal 2:8 also says, "But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law...". You can cause brethren to stumble by teaching them to depart from 'the law' and 'the way'. Rom 14 and 1Co 9 explain that you can also cause them to stumble by deliberately doing things which are actually lawful to do, but which wound the conscience of weak brethren.

(17) Wells without water

Compare Jo 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. Living water is symbolic of the holy spirit. Therefore, a person with an unconverted mind is like an empty well.

(18) Clouds that are carried with a tempest

Tempests are violent attacks of wind. Here are some scriptures which show spiritual winds by which we can be carried about: Isa 41:29 Behold, they are all vanity; their works are nothing: their molten images are wind and confusion. Isa 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. Jer 5:13 And the prophets shall become wind, and the word is not in them... Pr 27:15-16 A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike. Whosoever hideth her hideth the wind... Other spiritual winds are discussed in the second article, "The First Three Beasts". Perhaps some of these spiritual winds have to do with the 'four winds' which are spoken of in the book of Revelation striving upon the great sea out of which the beast ascends.

(19) They speak great swelling words of vanity

Watch conversation! There are two meanings of vanity. One has to do with self-love, and the other has to do with something that is thought of as great and wonderful, but is actually worthless or vain from God's point of view.

(20) For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness

This tells us that the content of these great words of vanity has to do with alluring us to follow the lusts of the flesh. Compare with Gal 5:19 that lists the lusts of the flesh. "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like." Some definitions of wantonness are: unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, shamelessness, insolence.

(21) They promise them liberty, but they themselves are the servants of corruption

The promise of liberty sounds a lot like political speeches. They do not practice what they preach.

(22) For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein and overcome...

They do not continue in the faith, but draw back into the pollutions of the world.

(23) Speak evil of those things which they know not,; but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves

Speaking evil of things you do not know implies a lack of righteous judgment in not having fully investigated before you have something to say about a subject. To corrupt yourself in things you know naturally as a brute beast seems to point to natural knowledge without the spirit of God. Compare with what happened to Nebuchadnezzar when he lost the spirit-of-man or his human 'senses' and lived as a beast with 'natural knowledge' or 'instinct' for seven years.

(24) Gone in the way of Cain

How did Cain go? First, he offered a sacrifice that God was not pleased with and did not accept nor bless. Then he was angry and jealous of his brother. Compare 1Jo 3:12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. Watch attitude toward the brethren.

(25) Gainsaying of Korah.

Gainsaying means denial, contradiction, opposing. Num 16 tells how Korah incited many to deny God's choice of Aaron as priest. He also accused Moses of lifting himself above the congregation.

(26) Feeding themselves without fear

This indicates a partaking of the spiritual nourishment of the Sabbaths and Feasts without fear of God.

(27) Clouds they are without water

Deut 32:2 shows that good doctrine falls like the rain from a cloud, giving life to the earth. Clouds without water are like teachers without good doctrine. Pr 25:14 says that whoso boasts himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain.

(28) Trees whose fruit withereth

Here is a Christian who did have good fruit of the spirit, but it withered away.

(29) Without fruit

Here is a Christian who has no fruit. Compare Jesus' cursing the fig tree because it had no fruit. Also compare with what John the Baptist said to Pharisees who were coming to his baptism. "Bring forth fruits meet for repentance...every tree that brings not forth good fruit shall be cut down and cast into the fire". Compare with Ps. 1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly... but his delight is in the law of the Lord... he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water which brings forth his fruit in his season. Compare also Jo 15:8 Herein is my father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

(30) Twice dead

Remember the context of these verses is characteristics of beasts who feast among God's people. So this phrase cannot mean a person who is literally dead, nor can it be talking about the future event of the second death in the lake of fire. This is talking about a spiritual death that takes place in those who have once been called and given the holy spirit. Then they do not continue in the faith, but let it die. Compare with these scriptures which show spiritual death:

Eph 2:1 And you hath he quickened, which were dead in trespasses and sins;

1Tim 5:6 But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.

Rom 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Rev 3:1-2 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write;,,, I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things that remain, that are ready to die; for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

(31) Plucked up by the roots

A Christian is like a plant who has roots. These are the spiritual roots we are to have: Eph 3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love for God and for each other.

Col 2:7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving

Plucked up by the roots means a Christian whose roots in these things have been pulled out and destroyed. Compare Mt 13:20 (the parable of the sower) about those who hear the word and with joy receive it, but have NO ROOT in themselves. They endure in the faith for awhile, but when some tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, they become offended. There are also those, as explained in Isa 5:24, whose root shall be as rottenness, because they have cast away the law of the Lord and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. And there are those (as explained in Heb 12:15) who are 'rooted in bitterness' by which many fail of the grace of God and become defiled. Do a health check to make sure you have sound roots.

(32) Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame

As we saw in #14, Ja 1:6 says that if you ask God for something, ask in faith, nothing wavering, for he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. Wavering then, is a condition of flopping back and forth between believing and unbelieving.

(33) Wandering stars

YLT reads 'stars going astray' Rev 1:20 tells us that stars are symbolic of angels. "The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches." However, the context of this phrase is not about angels. We find that stars can also be symbolic of God's people. In Gen 37:9 Joseph's dream about the sun, moon, and stars, was interpreted by his father. The stars were symbolic of his brothers. So wandering stars would be Christians who wander away from the true faith or who are going astray.

(34) Murmurers

As we recall, the children of Israel murmured at Marah, three days journey from Egypt (Ex 15:24) because of the bitter water. The Lord showed Moses a tree which when he had cast it into the water, the water was made sweet. They murmured again in the second month (Ex 16:2) because they had no food. The Lord gave them manna. They murmured again at Rephidim (Ex 17:3) because there was no water. The Lord made water to come out of the rock. They murmured when they were told there were giants in the promised land (Num 14:1). Then the Lord said they would remain in the wilderness 40 years until all those who murmured were dead. They murmured with Korah against Moses saying that Moses had made himself a prince over them (Num 16). When the Lord made the earth swallow up Korah and his people, the congregation murmured again saying, "You have killed the people of the Lord". This is a lesson for us that instead of murmuring when we are faced with problems, we should believe in the Lord, remembering all the good things he has done for us. 1Co 10:10 says, "Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer."

(35) Complainers

Similar to murmuring - to be discontented, repine, fret Num. 11:1 And when the people complained, it displeased the Lord: and the Lord heard it, and his anger was kindled, and the

fire of the Lord burnt among them and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp.

(36) Walking after their own lusts (desires)

Here are other things you should not walk after

Deu 8:19 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods...

Jer 3:17 ...neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.

Jer 18:12 And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices...

And what you should walk after

Deu 13:4 Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

Rom 8:1 [There is] therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2Jo 1:6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

(37) Having men's persons in admiration because of advantage

(38) Separate themselves

From God, from right attitudes and deeds, from sound doctrine, from fellowship with true believers

(39) Sensual

The sensual carnal-minded nature with its subjection to appetite and passion

(40) Having not the Spirit.

Remember the scriptures showing how we received the holy spirit, repentance, baptism, obedience. The spiritual beast either has never had the spirit because he has not responded to God's calling or has lost the spirit because of apostasy from God.