



A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE END TIMES

Week 68: The Mark of the Beast

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Review:

- A. Our study in “A Biblical View of the End Times” has been a bit choppy as of late. The current war in Israel has directed our attention to a couple of special studies. Also, for the past two weeks, we had the excellent teaching of Dr. Dan Starcevich.
- B. Dan wanted me to communicate to this class his gratitude for your warm reception. He enjoyed meeting you and visiting with you. He commented that it was unusual to find a body of believers so attuned to issues of Bible Prophecy and so knowledgeable about current events.
- C. This week, we return to **Revelation Ch. 13** where we have been giving focus to the second beast in the book of **Revelation**, which is the False Prophet.
- D. We’ve learned he is the ‘go to guy’ for the antichrist. In various ways, he implements the antichrist’s plan. The antichrist and the False Prophet are not only a team, but they both gain their source of power from Satan.
- E. It is the False Prophet’s job to carry out the agenda of the antichrist, and as such, we learned he has a very deceptive presentation:
 1. The Bible says he has “*two horns like a lamb*” which may very well mean he seems to be religious, pious, and he may even have that sort of pedigree.
 2. But this would be nothing more than deception, as the Bible tells us he also “*spoke like a dragon.*” So, outwardly, he seems to be one thing, but inwardly, his motives and ambitions are completely Satanically driven.
 3. The False Prophet is able to perform “*great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven...*”
 4. So, it will appear to the deceived and depraved earth-dwellers of this future time that the False Prophet is completely legit. He is able to back up his words and claims with a show that is supernatural, again, powered by Satan himself.
 5. Lastly, we learned that the False Prophet gives “*breath to the image of the first beast so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.*” As we learned, there is evidence in Scripture to suggest that this is some sort of miraculous event rather than a technological issue.

NOTE: This is more or less where we left off in our last lesson. A point we have had emphasized several times in the last couple of studies is that the antichrist and the False Prophet operate together with a single, Satanic, murderous, globalist agenda where public deception plays a major role.

- I. Now we come to **vss. 16-18 of Revelation Ch. 13** where we drill down into a singular issue about which there is much discussion and debate:
 - A. Some general high-altitude thoughts:

1. The “Mark of the Beast” is an event that happens at the midpoint of the Tribulation. This is clear from several Bible passages.
2. The “Mark of the Beast” is a term and even a matter that many people have heard something about.
 - a. It’s like the term “Armageddon.” Even the unsaved and hedonistic populations have heard this term and have imagined some things about it.
 - b. The Mark of the Beast has the same dynamic. Many people who have never darkened the doorway of a church have talked about the MOB. It’s a term and an issue that has crept into popular culture.
3. As a result, there have been many impulsive and uninformed reactions to various systems and technologies that have emerged over the past few decades.
 - a. When I was a kid on the mission field, someone wrote my family a letter. Enclosed in the letter was a sample of one of the first ‘barcode’ labels that had come out on a standard retail product. They were convinced this was the Mark of the Beast.
 - b. Over the years, we’ve seen similar discussions and frenzies about implantable microchips, certain types of tattoos, and lately, even so-called “vaccines.”
4. But, if we are going to get an accurate, Bible-based view of the Mark of the Beast (what it is, what are the ramifications of it, who gets it and why, etc.) we have to divest ourselves of popular culture and invest ourselves into truth.
 - a. The Scriptures give us several clues about the Mark of the Beast, and we will look at those today.
 - b. As we do this, we will discern a couple of important things that we need to keep in the top of our mind:
 - First, the Mark of the Beast is pregnant with spiritual ramifications. One’s eternal destiny is at stake when it comes to the Mark of the Beast.
 - Second, the Mark of the Beast is also a tool for mass control. It is a means to achieve worldwide conformity to one agenda. Everybody doing the same thing. Global unity is really about global conformity.
5. I want to make a comment here about “unity” vs. “conformity.” Many churches are going down the wrong path here, and they do not recognize they are emulating the tactics of a depraved godless agenda.
 - a. Many church leaders are doing everything in their power to pound the idea of “unity” into their congregants. There is a lot of damage being done in churches today around this one issue.
 - b. It’s not “unity” they want, it is really “conformity” that they want. It is obvious when they make it clear they do not want any debate, discussion, or disapproval of their choices.

- c. This is the very same tactic that cults use. Power-hungry leaders with delicate egos and immature character cannot handle anybody challenging them. They misquote and misuse various Scriptures to try to make the case that unity is important when they really, in fact, do not want their personal authority to be tested.
- d. The Bible makes a very clear case that we are all different. We have different strengths and weaknesses, different temperaments, and even some different perspectives on ministry. These things are normal in a healthy body of believers.
- e. In **1 Corinthians 12:15-26**, Paul even makes this case using the human body as an illustration: some of us are hands, some are feet, some are ears, others are eyes, and so on. In other words, we are all different, we are diverse, and that is by God's design.
- f. Any efforts by churches and church leaders to force everyone to yield to their authority, to do and say the same thing, to believe the same thing, to teach the same thing, and so on is rarely (if ever) a noble or proper pursuit. It is usually a sign of very immature and unqualified leadership.
- g. It is possible, in fact it is even proper, to develop unity within a mix of diversity. We should be unified around responsible teaching and interpretation of Scripture, we should be unified on what the Gospel is, we should be unified in the ambition to equip and edify the saints, and we should be unified in our goals to reach a lost world.
- h. Outside of that, diversity and differences help to make those things happen. If that were not so, then the whole Biblical concept of "*iron sharpening iron*" (**Cf. Proverbs 27:17**) means nothing.

II. Let's drill down into what the Bible tells us about the Mark of the Beast:

A. First, the False Prophet "forces" everyone to take the mark (*Cf. vs. 16*).

NOTE: Some of your translations may use the word "require," or "cause," or even "compel," but it all means the same thing. It's an authoritarian act; it is despotic, and it is "forceful."

1. This is not optional. It's law. It's a requirement.
2. There are consequences for doing anything differently.
3. That is why it is a universal mandate (Note "*the small and great, the rich and poor, etc.*").
4. This applies to everyone. This is not one of those cases where Congress gets to exempt itself of those things it wants you and I to do. This is not another situation of "this is for thee, but not for me." Again, the Mark of the Beast applies to everyone.
5. The reason is not technological, epidemiological, cultural, environmental, or anything else. The reason is spiritual, and we will look more at that in a few moments.

6. But for now, I want you to grasp that it is the False Prophet that drives this agenda of the Mark of the Beast forward. He is the one to force and enforce this universal conformity.
- B. Second, the Mark of the Beast is placed on the recipient's body in one of two locations. NOTE: It's either the right hand or the forehead. We are not given any suggestion that it could be placed any other location.
1. I believe this rule of the Mark of the Beast to be literal. I do not believe the Bible is overlooking other options. It's only the right hand or the forehead.
 2. The question is "Why?" I think the answer is given within the clue which follows: *"...so that no one could buy or sell."*
 3. Here we see a couple of things:
 - a. There is an economic or transactional element associated with the precise placement of the Mark of the Beast.
 - b. My guess is there is some sort of scanning or biometric recognition technology which will be employed as part of the Mark of the Beast system.
 - c. That is probably why the easy-to-access places of the forehead or the right hand will be used. It is easy to scan and verify a person's compliance this way.
 - d. It would be much harder and more inefficient if one received the MOB behind their left knee, on the back of their neck, or elsewhere.
 - e. There seems to be an intention here to have quick and easy access to one's status. The globalist powers of that time will want to know quickly and readily who is conforming and compliant, and also who is not.
 4. "What does 'mark' mean?" What does it look like?
 - a. The Greek term here is *"charagma"* and it literally means *"to engrave."* Other commentators have suggested the idea of etching, imprinting, or branding.
 - b. Whatever the implications of all this are, I personally conclude that it means the Mark of the Beast is somehow mechanically imposed into or onto the body. The Mark is intended to be PERMANENT and it is introduced into / onto the body and is irreversible.
 - c. From the context here, we can conclude that the Mark of the Beast is probably of a specific design so as to be quickly recognizable. I think it is visible, which is my guess.
 - d. The MOB is unlike the "seal of God" which is placed on the 144,000 Jews of ***Revelation Chapters 7 and 14***. The seal of God is probably invisible, but it is discernable by supernatural powers.
 - e. However, the Mark of the Beast is probably visible, and it's probably visible by mandate of the policies of the antichrist.
- C. Third, I want to unpack the *"buy and sell"* element a bit more. NOTE: There is a lot of misunderstanding about this phrase.

1. I have read those forums where Christians are convinced they are going to go through the Tribulation, and they will somehow need to get around the Mark of the Beast.
2. I read their short-sighted comments that they are stocking up so they won't need to buy anything or sell anything in order to survive.
3. This is limiting the implications of this phrase "*buy and sell.*" The proper way to look at this phrase is one will not be permitted to engage in ANY element of the economic system of that time:
 - a. You cannot make your house payment.
 - b. You cannot use or pay on your credit cards.
 - c. You cannot receive any healthcare.
 - d. You cannot dispense or acquire any services which contribute to life and living.
 - e. You cannot get gasoline or plug in your electric vehicle.
 - f. You cannot pay your phone bill or use The Internet.
 - g. The point is you cannot do or participate in anything which requires a standard transactional process.
 - h. About the only way anyone is going to get around the Mark of the Beast at this future time is to proverbially live far out in the woods, in a small cave, carefully lighting any cooking fires to avoid infrared detection, and returning to whatever "hunting and gathering" means are available.
 - i. Remember, by this point, one third of the vegetation will be burned up, and it gets worse. Fresh water has become poisoned and has been turned into blood. It keeps getting worse here as well.
 - j. Meantime, every technology, every resource, and every personnel is employed to find dissenters and kill them. The odds are not good.

D. Fourthly, let's look at the number issue: the number 666:

NOTE: Like the terms "Armageddon," and "Mark of the Beast," the number "666" is even known by the unsaved masses as having association with ultimate evil. That is why it shows up on so much occultic materiel, on tattoos and hardcore metal albums, and so on.

1. If you are wondering if I will decipher the meaning of 666 here, I will disappoint you. The text here says, "*This calls for wisdom,*" but I am not that wise.
2. Daniel is regarded in Scripture as being one of the wisest men ever, but concerning certain events about the end times, Daniel records in **Chapter 12 vss 8 and 9** that he did not understand all the prophecies that were given to him.
 - a. Daniel was instead told that: "*the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end.*"
 - b. It will be the saints that have to endure these traumatic events in this future timeframe that will have the wisdom to understand the precise meaning and application of 666.

- c. This is a principle that is reinforced in **2 Thessalonians 2:3** where we are told that the antichrist cannot even be revealed until the church is raptured.
 - d. The bottom line is this: as end times events continue to unfold and evolve, and as significant prophetic events take place, more knowledge about eschatological details will be revealed.
 - e. A time is coming when all the cryptic language around '666' will become very clear. The text suggests that insight will be known at some point.
 - f. Certain people, wise in the ministry and teaching of the Holy Spirit at that future time, will say, "Oh, now I get it. Now I can see what 666 means."
3. But here is what we DO know in the meantime. The Bible says:
- a. *"It is the number of the beast."* Somehow, probably in the antichrist's name, the number 666 will make sense.
 - b. *"It is man's number."* Somehow, probably in the antichrist's physical heritage, the number 666 will also make some sense.
 - c. It is perhaps significant that this number of 6 or 666 is reinforced in some of the most overt godless and occultic elements of history past and present:
 - For example, many of the Nephilim were recorded as having six fingers and toes. Goliath, a giant, was also recorded as having a height of *six* cubits, *six* pieces of armor, and a spear's head weighing *six* hundred shekels of iron.
 - Nebuchadnezzar's idolatrous image in **Daniel 3:1** was sixty cubits high and six cubits wide.
 - The Washington Monument, considered by many to be an occultic symbol, stands 6,660 inches high. Some claim the base is 666 inches square, however, that is not accurate.
 - You get the point. The number 6, and more specifically derivations of the number 666, show up in many occultic and godless elements.

III. Now we need to move beyond our text in **Revelation 13:16-18** and go to **Revelation 14:9-11**. It's in this second passage that we gain more insight into the Mark of the Beast. Several additional pieces of information about the MOB become clear in this latter passage:

- A. The Mark of the Beast is directly associated with the worship of the antichrist (*vs. 9*).
 - 1. This is worship by force. It's what dictators and despots throughout human history have always done, they coerce compliance and force conformity by threats and punishments.
 - 2. In the case of the Mark of the Beast, the threat is not being able to survive, but the goal is to force worship of the antichrist as divine.
 - 3. The Bible says this very clearly in **Revelation 13:15b** ("*[he] will cause all who refused to worship the image [of the antichrist] to be killed*")

4. The daunting challenge of surviving in a world where you are not permitted to 'buy or sell' likely results in one's ultimate death as well. Force and coercion is clearly at play here.
 5. But the GOAL of the Mark of the Beast is worship of the antichrist. The angel here says as much. Receiving the Mark of the Beast and worshipping the antichrist are inseparable matters.
- B. Receiving the MOB is a guarantee of one's eternal damnation in hell.
1. The angel is very clear about this point. He details out what that will look like, how long it endures (forever), and where it takes place (hell). The angel reinforces these facts so there is no confusion or excuse.
 2. I want you to see clearly here that this is more than just idol worship. People have been idolatrous and have worshipped Satan, and then they have converted to full Christian faith throughout human history. This situation is different.
 3. This is a situation where God's mercy and God's grace no longer apply. It's not that God's mercy and God's grace are any different at this future point than they have been at any point prior. Those things about God do not change.
 4. This is a situation where the terms have somehow changed. The situation is different. What we are reading here in **Revelation 14:9-11** is these people who have taken the Mark of the Beast have become unredeemable. That's why their eternal damnation is guaranteed if they receive the Mark of the Beast.
- C. **QUESTION: 'Why do those who take the MOB become unredeemable?'** To answer this question, let's rule out some things here.
1. It's not that God's grace and mercy no longer have application in salvation at this future point. People will still be saved by placing their full trust and faith in Jesus Christ during the Tribulation. The convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit will still be in play.
 2. It's also not that one sin (here: worshipping the antichrist) is somehow too big or too great for God to forgive. The Bible reminds us in **Romans 3:23** "*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*" Whatever our sins are, God is able to forgive us, cleanse us, and redeem us.
 3. Therefore, something is different here. Here, the decision to take the Mark of the Beast has eternal consequences. It's a mortal decision with an immortal penalty.
- D. **ANSWER:** From all I know and understand, those who take the Mark of the Beast become unredeemable because they no longer qualify as being 100% in the image of God. Their bodies have been changed to become something else.
1. They may still 'look' human, or perhaps they may look a little unique. We don't know.
 2. At this point in my own studies, I believe that in taking the Mark of the Beast, they take some physical element OF the antichrist, some genetic element that has been mass-produced and which now bonds them to him in some way. That technology is now mostly available.

3. The result is their genetic composition is changed to some degree. They are no longer the 100% human they once were. In effect, they are now a Nephilim, and just like the Nephilim of old, they cannot be saved. They are no longer “in the image of God,” and so they are unredeemable.
4. I think this idea is supported in **Revelation 16:2**. Here, in the First Bowl Judgment, those who took the Mark of the Beast break out in ugly and painful sores.
 - a. Clearly, the MOB has a physiological impact on their bodies. It’s not a simple surface brand, tattoo or anything like that.
 - b. They took some sort of element INTO their bodies as a result of receiving the Mark of the Beast, and their bodies are reacting against it.
 - c. So, in the First Bowl Judgment, we see the Mark of the Beast affects a physiological state. This argues that something WITHIN these people is now different.
5. Just as we see the antichrist and the False Prophet bypassing the Great White Throne judgment and being tossed directly into the flames of Hell (**Cf. Revelation 19:20**), so we see here in **Revelation 14:10** that those who take the Mark of the Beast will also end up in Hell.
6. I think there is a direct connection between the fate of the Antichrist and the False Prophet on one side, and those who take the Mark of the Beast on the other side. All of them are unredeemable because (I believe) they are no longer fully human.