

The Mark of the Beast (Message # 31)

Revelation 13: 16-18

Tonight we have come to a portion of Scripture that has produced much intrigue, mystery, and debate for centuries. Mankind has a fascination, as well as a fear, for the mark of the Beast.

The explanations are varied and the possibilities seem endless. I remember as a child hearing that the Visa card would become the mark of the Beast, referring to ancient numeral systems for the # 6. The fact is we just don't know exactly what method Antichrist will use to mark mankind.

There is however enough information in the text to get a reasonable understanding of how the process of placing this dreadful mark will happen. Let's see what is revealed about: [The Mark of the Beast](#).

I. The Prominence of the Mark (16a) – [And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:](#) There will come a day when all this speculation will end and the mark will become reality. This isn't just a legend or fairy tale, or just a script for a Hollywood horror film. During the Tribulation the mark will be found worldwide. Notice:

A. The Requirement of this Mark – [And he causeth all...](#) He in this verse refers to the False Prophet. He will be the one who devises and dictates this mark. The word [causeth](#) means “*to force someone to do something*.” This won't be a mark of choice, but one that is mandated by Satan and his unholy trinity. It will promote the worship of Antichrist.

B. The Recipient of this Mark – [Both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond](#) will be forced to receive this mark. The mark of the Beast will be a universal mark. All of the world will be expected to receive this mark. It won't just involve a few nations, geographic locations, or races of people, but all men will line up to receive their mark identifying them with Antichrist. There will be no exceptions, from the rain forests of South America to the penthouses of Manhattan; all will bear the mark of the Beast.

- It is likely that many will be deceived as they receive the mark, believing that it will bring an end to the poverty and needs of all people. The world will stand united, bearing the Beast's mark. Those who receive it will pledge their allegiance and worship to the Antichrist.

I. The Prominence of the Mark (16a)

II. The Placement of the Mark (16b) – We find that the mark will either be placed in the [right hand or in the forehead](#). The word [mark](#) means “*a stamp or an imprinted mark.*” It will be a permanent mark that is placed in the flesh of those who receive it. This mark will quickly identify their status as followers of Antichrist.

- Now is probably a good time to discuss the possibilities of this mark. Some believe that it will be some sort of tattoo or bar code that is imprinted on the skin and scanned. This is certainly possible with the technology that we have today. There are currently security measures that scan fingerprints and retinas of the eye to gain access to highly sensitive and secure areas.

- Some suggest that it might possibly be a credit card of sorts. We are seeing more of their use on a global scale. The use of paper currency is becoming a thing of the past. It is looking like, in our near future, that money as we know it will cease to exist. Paychecks will all be electronically transferred and purchases will be transacted in the same manner.

- Another possibility that is gaining popularity in our day is a tiny microchip about the size of a grain of rice. The tiny devices can store a wealth of information and can be placed painlessly under the skin. These little chips have the ability to store all our personal information, financial transactions, medical records, social security numbers, etc... They are already being placed in pets to prevent them getting lost or stolen, and there are those who are pushing for their use in newborns and Alzheimer’s patients.

- Consider the article in the Sept. 07 issue of *The Eagle* publication, pgs.12-13. It is not beyond possibility that our generation may see this technology becoming widely accepted and used around the world. Could this be the tool that the Antichrist will use for his mark? We don’t know for sure, but we do know that men will be expected to receive his mark, whatever it is.

III. The Purpose of the Mark (17) – [And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.](#) The mark of the Beast will be promoted as a means to secure the welfare of mankind. The world will believe that this mark will ensure all men the rights and provisions needed to survive. It will appear that all will have equal access to their basic needs.

- The Antichrist has a much different motive for this mark; he desires to control the world. It will be this mark that brings about universal control. If you remember, we learned that all nations will bow to his authority and rule. The mark will ensure that he maintains control. Let’s look at his control.

A. He will Control the Economy (17) – We find that [no man can buy or sell without the mark](#). He will have ultimate control of the amount of goods that people buy. They won't be able to make a single purchase without the mark. He will be able to control the amount of goods that are sold.

- Under this type of system he will be able to regulate the profit margins of corporations. He will be able to limit the amount of money and influence that men have.
- Consider the idea of anywhere you go to buy or sell requiring a mark. You couldn't fill up with gas, shop at the grocery store, eat at a restaurant, or even buy clothes for your children without the mark. You couldn't sell anything in a public market without the mark. People won't be admitted to the hospital or receive medical treatment without the mark.
- Every aspect of the global economy will be controlled by the Antichrist through his marking system. It will take a lot of faith and a strong will to resist the mark.

B. He will Control Society (17) – [And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name](#). Can you begin to imagine the power that this will give the Antichrist? When he sets up control over the economy, food, clothing, energy sources, utilities, medical care and so forth, he will gain absolute control over society. He will be in control of everything that people need to survive. Their physical existence will literally depend on this mark. There will only be two options, accept the mark or resign to an awful death.

- Imagine a single mother at home with an infant. If she doesn't accept the mark the baby can't eat or get the medical attention it needs. Imagine living in the cold regions of the world and not being allowed to buy fuel for warmth without the mark. Imagine the husband who has a large family but can't support them without the mark of the beast. Imagine those stricken with affliction and disease being turned away from treatment centers because they haven't received the mark.
- Are you beginning to see the persuasive influence that Antichrist will have on society? If people desire to live, and we all do, they will have to accept the mark, no exceptions! Once they receive the mark they have eternally identified themselves with Satan and his Antichrist. Aren't you glad that Jesus offers mercy and grace rather than total dominance to draw men unto Him?

I. The Prominence of the Mark (16a)

II. The Placement of the Mark (16b)

III. The Purpose of the Mark (17)

IV. The Profession of the Mark (18) – Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six. The chapter closes with a call for wisdom. It warns men to be wise of the deception of Satan. There will be those who refuse the mark, but they will pay an awful price for their choice. This mark will identify those who possess it with Antichrist. It will be an outward testimony of their allegiance to Satan's superman. Those who bear his mark will bear his name and his number.

- The Antichrist's number is the number of man. Six is used in the Bible as the number of man. God created man on the sixth day. Man's number comes up short when compared to the number of God's perfection, 7.
- Antichrist will arise from the masses of sinful humanity. He will possess all the wickedness and rebellion toward God that his father possesses. The number "666" speaks of the defiled nature of the Beast. This unholy trinity is represented by the number of sinful men. All who receive this mark have submitted to the evil system and order of Satan in rebellion to the true and living God.

Satan will mark those who belong to him with his number. To much of the world today we are just a number. My social security number has a lot more influence than does my name. But, I'm glad that to my blessed Lord I'm not just a number among millions; He knows my name. He has recorded my name among the redeemed!

The church will escape this dreadful time of suffering, but those who are left will face the mark of the Beast. Those who receive this mark are sealing their eternal destiny to a devils' hell. For those who choose to receive the mark and worship the Antichrist, they have chosen to reject God.

Please be sure that you know that you have been saved. Don't be left after the trumpet sounds to face the difficulties we've discussed. Which will it be for you? Will you be a number or a name when you stand before the God of heaven?