

The Dragon and His Pawns: Part 2

ANNOUNCE

Pastors conference

Women's conference follow me

Grace10

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Rev 13:11-18 NKJV] 11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. 12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. 13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. 15 He was granted [power] to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. 16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number [is] 666.

INTRODUCTION

As we continue our panoramic overview of God's story throughout history and into the future, the finer details of the future world empire begin to emerge. Daniel spoke of these things over 2600 years ago, but he was told, *"Therefore seal up the vision, for it refers to many days in the future (Daniel 8:26).*

- But when the final seven years begin, the prophecy becomes clear.

Last week, we discussed the unholy imitation trinity, in which Satan seeks to establish Himself as God by imitating the features of God, but to a wicked end. The Dragon, the Beast from the Sea (Antichrist), and the Beast from the Earth (False Prophet) work in tandem, unified in forcing the worship of the Dragon and the Beast over all humanity.

- Sadly, the deception is so strong, and the hearts of the world so hard, that it's not the beast's force that woos the unbelieving world into loyalty; they do so willfully.
- They are impressed with the beast's resurrection and fear him for his mighty power and works. They refused to give glory to the true God, so God has now allowed them to have hearts that welcome and embrace the lie of Satan (**Jeremiah 5:3, 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12**).

BEAST FROM THE SEA

The Beast from the Sea:

- From the sea of divided humanity, the beast rises in power and strength, slowly making his way into a position where he ultimately receives overarching authority from 10 regions of world power. He begins by ceasing and overcoming three world powers (**Daniel 7:8, 24**), and ultimately, every nation, tribe, and tongue will be of one mind to come under the dominance of the beast.
- Much like the Roman Empire dominated by incorporating much of the Eastern world into their culture, the final empire of the Antichrist will dominate by creating a singular culture surrounding the beast. This will be a mighty political force that is initiated by

promises of peace and safety. The beast will initially show great magnanimity in his dealing with Israel, the Middle East, and the other nations of the world. However, halfway into his diabolical reign, his true colors show. His Satanic drive is revealed when he gains the upper hand.

[Dan 7:25 NKJV] 25 He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.

[Dan 11:36-39 NKJV] 36 "Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. 37 "He shall regard neither the god of his fathers (*possibly Jewish, but possibly breaking from the religious heritage of his ancestors*) nor the desire of women (*he either doesn't desire women, or, more than likely, doesn't regard the Messiah who has the biblical title "desire of women."*), nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all. 38 "But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. 39 "Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god (*The dragon*), which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.

BEAST FROM THE EARTH

In addition to the mighty political and military force established by the Antichrist, a religious system of sorts rises up and is administrated by a false prophet. The prophet appears as a lamb, but his speech exposes him. He wows and awes the world through supernatural signs and wonders that make even the greatest atheist acknowledge divine power within the beast.

- This religious system enforces loyalty and worship to the beast and the dragon. He establishes some sort of international idol or image of the world ruler that he gives the "pneuma" or "breath of life."
- Whether through scientific feat or supernatural wonder, the world bows down in fear and amazement, and his power and authority is broadcast to every nation, tribe, and tongue.
- **The beast is "from the earth" in that his system of worship is carnal and man centered. Its doctrine is humanism. Its god is man. Its savior is a human dictator. Its**

paradise, or heaven, is a socialistic state where autonomy is eradicated, and everyone's life comes under the centralized control of the Antichrist's government.

BIBLE PASSAGE

16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

THE MARK OF THE BEAST'S NAME AND NUMBER

As we look at this marking system that the religious rite of the Antichrist implements, we see three main points:

- *It's a mark of Loyalty.*
- *It's a Mark of Identity.*
- *It's a mark of Unity.*
- *It's a Mark of Conformity.*

1 A Mark of Loyalty

APPLICATION

He CAUSES all...

- **Causes - Poieo - [Mat 4:19 NKJV] 19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."**

While it is clear that the antichrist is mandating this mark, it's also clear that he "causes" people to take it by impressing them to the point of willing submission.

- It would almost be like **Jim Jones** "causing" his followers to drink the Kool-aid. They were forced, and at the same time, they drank to their deaths willingly, swayed by his charismatic, deceptive power.
- Those who take the mark will do so as a sign of loyalty to the system and the person of the Beast.

"Deception tied to manipulation gives tyrants the ability to control the actions of unsuspecting sheep."

This is why Jesus is so committed to the truth. The truth will make one free. Jesus doesn't deceive and manipulate His followers through fear and half-truths to get them to do something. Jesus brings us into the light and invites us to walk in His truth.

The willing submission of the world to the Father of lies:

No one will decry the deaths of those who do not worship the beast. Quite the contrary, they will more than likely advocate for such an end to those who resist.

- The recent COVID pandemic did more than enough to convince me that there will be people who would rather have you dead than decent or challenge "the science" or "the authority" of the government. I once had someone so mad at me that I refused a vaccine that I think they might have had me arrested and sent to death row if they had the authority to do so.
- Consider how effective Hitler's regime was at turning entire communities into hate centers toward Jews, shutting down their businesses, stealing their goods, and shipping them off to their deaths.
- Consider the effectiveness of the enemy in our own nation's history of violence, hatred, and crimes against people of color.
- Consider the total numbness of our culture to the slaughter of helpless, defenseless babies in the womb.
- **Is it really a stretch for us to believe that there will be a day when the Beast has so mesmerized the world that any decenters will be gladly handed over to death?**

2 Mark of Identity

APPLICATION

On the right hand or forehead:

Gorbachev has the mark of the beast on his forehead!

- We have no great reason to believe that this isn't a literal location.
- Chapter 20 simply says "hands" not specifically the right hand.
- The forehead is where God places the mark of His seal over the tribulation believers, so this again could be Satan's imitation game.

The word "mark" indicates an imprint, such as is made by branding a horse. Its main purpose is to indicate ownership. It also gives us a picture of an engraving, like a stone sculpture with an image carved into it. The beast wants to engrave and brand his image onto humans.

- It should be noted that this stands in contrast with the word "seal" that is used for how Jesus marks His followers. A seal was a mark of authenticity. A scroll with a king's seal on it lets you know that the document is authentic.
- Satan, on the other hand, is only interested in brute property ownership. He desires to exploit mankind to bear his image.

3 Mark of Unity

APPLICATION

Notice who receives the mark. No category of persons is left out: **both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave...**

- The beast is not only concerned with controlling the rich and powerful, he wants every person under his control. In the name of equity, he exploits people to gain control. We are going to make everyone equal! But it's not about equality at all, it's about ceasing

3:26



4 Mark of Conformity

APPLICATION

17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

APPLICATION

Some people do not believe this is a literal, visible mark but rather some sign of loyalty. I think it probably is a visible mark because the beast wants to conform everyone to his image; He wants control over people's very bodies.

Also, notice the limitations imposed by the Beast.

The beast has no interest in free enterprise, entrepreneurship, or independent wealth for the people of Earth.

- The world's economy runs on His terms or no one's terms. He wants complete control over trade, healthcare, agriculture, banking, and business creation.

There have been some who have read this and equated it to some form of economic system; the mark is somehow a microchip with financial information or some type of human barcode system. With technology as it is today, it's not difficult for us to imagine such a system.

- Things like this have been implemented in certain countries throughout history. Even today, the Chinese have pretty much implemented full control of tracking and enforcing standards through digital means. One article states, ***"In particular, the Chinese are adapting the ubiquitous "reputation rating" system by which online platforms try to get feedback on vendor and customer reliability. The government is beginning to roll out its social credit system, which is designed to "raise the awareness of integrity and the level of trustworthiness in Chinese society." It will focus on four aspects of behavior: "honesty in government affairs," "commercial integrity," "societal integrity" and "judicial credibility."***
- ***Who decides the standards you are rated by? The government. How convenient!***

APPLICATION

There will be those Jews whom God supernaturally provides for during this time, and there will be some who find a "black market" alternative to the global economic system. But without a doubt, the only way Christians survive until Jesus returns is entirely off the grid. Many of them will lose their lives. Many of them will be faced with bread for their babies or complete isolation from the global marketplace.

- The people of God during the tribulation period will be fully dependent on one another's generosity, care, and sacrifice in order to survive.
- I pray and hope that no one here or their children will have to experience these kinds of conditions in our lifetimes in America, but the kind of world we live in is sending foreboding warning signs that the Spirit of Antichrist is alive and well in the world today.

5 Mark of Humanity

BIBLE PASSAGE

18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

APPLICATION

Has there been a verse in the Bible that has been the source of more interpretations or conspiracy theories? I reckon not.

QUOTE

“The interpretations of this number form a jungle from which escape is apparently hopeless.”

unknown

A. THE NAME WILL BE KNOWN TO THOSE TO WHOM IT APPLIES

Many have had psychotic breaks trying to figure out who or what the antichrist is. But I think we missed something very important.

- Here is wisdom - Some look and say, "John wants us to have wisdom and figure this out." I think what John is saying is that when wisdom is needed to know the nature and identity of the antichrist, wisdom will be given to those who need to know. Those who know Jesus and know His word will be able to put the pieces together.
 - **I believe we can't put the pieces together today, not because we are stupid, but because it's not time.**
-

QUOTE

“**For the tribulation Saints, 666 will not be a matter of speculation but confirmation.**”

THE NUMBER OF A MAN

It could also be translated as "the number of humanity."

- God's perfection is represented in sevens. A triple repeat is an emphasis. "Holy, Holy, Holy..." The beast's attempts to be like god will always fall short of perfection. 666 falls short of 777. God rested on the 7th day, but man was created on the 6th.
- Goliath who had a height of six cubits, six pieces of armor, and a spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron ([1S. 17:4-7](#)); Nebuchadnezzar, whose "image" was sixty cubits high and six cubits wide ([Dan. 3:1](#)); and even Solomon's wages of six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold ([1K. 10:14](#)).

Some suggest that John was indicating gematria as the method of calculating the beast's name. This was an ancient numbering system associated with Hebrew letters that was utilized during John's time. Sadly, many have utilized these methods to make every name known to man fit into the number 666.

- I even had a little fun and typed this into a **gematria calculator (vaccination = 666 in English)**
- The problems of people trying to do this are endless: which language is to be used? How do you know you have the right spelling or are using the right calculation method?

Here are some other sneaky 666 examples:

- **Monster drink (vav vav vav = 666 in Hebrew)**
- **The three Greek symbols for the numbers 600, 60, and 6 look early like the symbols in the Islamic statement of faith, the Shahada declaring the name of Allah and His prophet Mohammed.**
- **Hey, even Google Chrome has a 666!**

I'm stopping now!

QUOTE

“ You can't have the mark of the beast without the beast!

APPLICATION

You aren't getting the mark of the beast if you have a digital payment system, if you get a vaccine, or even if you get a microchip in your hand. Here's what I would say as a cautionary warning. The believer should THINK and consider that the spirit of antichrist is at work in the world. Many antichrist figures exist in the world. If the world is trying to force me into something that doesn't resemble something that would honor Christ, I should have second thoughts about it. Not because it's the mark of the beast but because we understand that not everything the world suggests we do is good or godly. Not everything the government tells us to do is good or godly.

[Rom 12:2 NKJV] 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what [is] that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

APPLICATION

As we will see next week, while the consequence for not taking the mark of the beast is physical death, the consequence for taking the mark is far costlier. Eternal death and torment await those who vow their loyalty to the beast and give their bodies to be marked.