

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

The Beast from the Earth

Revelation 13:11-18

INTRODUCTION:

Our scripture this morning is Revelation 13:11-18. It is going to describe the beast from the earth which is the **false prophet**, the **mark of the beast**, and **the number 666**. Our goal is simple. It is to cut through the sensationalism and bring clarity to the scripture by identifying the mark of the beast, and determine how to calculate the number of the beast which is 666.

All Stand and Read Scripture

Revelation 13:11-18 (NASB)

¹¹ Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon. ¹² He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. ¹³ He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. ¹⁴ And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who *had the wound of the sword and has come to life. ¹⁵ And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed. ¹⁶ And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, ¹⁷ and *he provides* that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, *either* 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 the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.

Prayer

Father we thank You for Your word and for this book of Revelation where You have revealed to Your church these events that are marking this age of tribulation during the last days. I pray that You might give to us the very wisdom that You call us to have so that we might see and understand what is here. Let that wisdom bring a maturity in our faith and help us to endure the various challenges that we face in this life and overcome.

In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Throughout the book of Revelation, we have seen a clear picture of what life will be like for

the church. We have been shown that there is a spiritual battle going on behind the scenes. We saw that the dragon had been defeated at the cross and was cast out of heaven to the earth. He was full of rage, because he realized that he had but a little time left. So he went out to make war against those who "**keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus**" which is the church.

BODY:

I. THE FALSE PROPHET.

Revelation 13:11-15 (NASB)

¹¹ Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon. ¹² He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. ¹³ He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. ¹⁴ And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who *had the wound of the sword and has come to life. ¹⁵ And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

This is who our battle is against. It is against the great counterfeiter. Satan tries to imitate Christ and deceive the whole world. Now we will see that the beast from the sea does not wage this war alone. He also has an ally which is the beast from the earth.

This beast would be the satanically inspired governments that would reign throughout this entire age of the last days. They will be employed by Satan to bring persecution upon the people of God. We see that the beast is busy doing that very thing throughout this entire age. As we have one government after another of God hating, and church persecuting kingdoms arise. Starting with Nero and much of the Roman empire in the first century and continuing on through the centuries to the modern times with **Hitler and his third Reich** and **Stalin in his soviet socialist republic** and most recently with **Kim Jong Un in North Korea**.

We have seen these God hating, church persecuting kingdoms and governments arise all throughout this time. And they do so because they are satanically inspired to wage war against the saints. When the Christians refuse to quit worshipping God in order to worship their Gods or to perform their acts of immorality, they will be cast from normal society.

Only unbelievers – those who have rejected Christ – will embrace this counterfeit Messiah and worship him. Their names are not written in the Lamb's book of life.

II. THE MARK OF THE BEAST.

Revelation 13:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, ¹⁷ and *he provides* that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, *either*

the name of the beast or the number of his name.

Over the past 50 years or so, prophetic teachers have gotten people so scared of the prophecy about the "mark of the beast" that many faithful church goers have made nuisances of themselves fighting any attempt by our government to use Social Security numbers, identification cards, microchips, or anything of the sort. If there's even the hint that "666" will end up being part of their phone number, Social Security Number, Street Address, or even a total on a receipt, some people just go berserk.

WHY?

Because they fear that "the mark of the beast" might be placed upon them unawares.

There are all kinds of suggestions on what the mark of the beast is. But what many fail to understand is that this is not something that will happen only at the very end of time prior to Christ's return. It is something that has existed throughout the time of Christ's ascension until the time of His return.

We will learn back in chapter 7 that Christians are sealed with the seal of God on their foreheads. Here we learn that just as the Christians are sealed on their foreheads, the "earth dwellers" will have the "mark of the beast" on their right hand or forehead.

We are actually told later in Revelation **how** "earth dwellers" receive this mark.

Revelation 14:9-10 (NASB)

⁹Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "**If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,** ¹⁰he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

According to this verse the ones who receive the mark of the beast are those who worship the beast. And then John gives us another perspective on it.

Revelation 20:4 (NASB)

⁴Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I *saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, **and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image,** and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Here we see that the only ones who **do not** receive the mark of the beast are those who **do not** worship the beast.

This ties in perfectly with what Jesus told the Pharisees.

Luke 16:13-15 (NASB)

¹³No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

¹⁴Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and were scoffing at Him. ¹⁵And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is

detestable in the sight of God.

With God there is no compromise. Either you are serving Him or you are serving the beast. The world wants whatever feels good to them. They want everything the world has to offer them, even if it means hurting other people to get it. But the things of the world are only temporary.

1 John 2:15-16 (NASB)

¹⁵ Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

When we love the world we seek not only greed, but we also seek immorality and have evil desires.

So the question is, if you receive the mark of the beast by worshipping him, how do you actually worship the beast?

Do you have to go out into the middle of a forest and perform a satanic ritual by starting a fire, stripping off your clothes, encircling the fire by joining hands, dancing around the fire naked while enchanting satanic chants, and then sacrificing a person to Satan?

No. We receive the mark of the beast when we realize that we are sinners. The only way to avoid that mark is through the saving grace of Jesus Christ and living your life for Him.

Colossians 3:4-7 (NASB)

⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

⁵ Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. ⁶ For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.

The way Revelation describes the mark of the beast it's obvious that Christians won't be marked by it one day and then suddenly discover the next day that they've been hood winked. Our mark is determined by how we live.

So how about the number of the beast--666?

III. 666 - THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST.

Revelation 13:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.

The number 666 is always on the forefront of people's minds. The number has been abused for quite some time. In the time of the reformation, Martin Luther's name was transformed into 666. In the 1930's people figured out a way to make it equal Hitler. The pope's name has been transformed into 666. People even took the name Ronald Wilson Reagan which has six letters in each name and asked if the 666 is referring to him.

The problem with Revelation is that we get so focused on the details that we may be

analyzing one tree, but we are missing the entire forest. So, even though I want to give you an answer to what we do with the mark of the beast, I don't want you to get lost in this one tree.

But, there is an answer. And this answer may bore you because it is just too simple. The answer to the question 666 is really not that exciting and it would never sell a book. But I think the answer to this question is important because it is one tree that can get us to focus on the forest.

I find it interesting how this one number has received a ton of press in our society, yet it is only mentioned just one time in the Bible. A food for thought: any time one builds an entire theory or theology off of just one verse that is usually a red flag.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.

The phrase "the number is that of a man" is somewhat misleading. It sound like the number should be calculated from the name of a specific man. Actually the Greek meaning suggests that it is a "human" number, not a specific man's number.

The latter part of Revelation 13:17 suggests what the number actually refers to "**either the name of the beast or the number of his name**". 666 equals its name. You see the same thing in Revelation 15:2

Revelation 15:2a (NASB)

2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name,...

So we see that the number has something to do with "ITS NAME". Hold on to that thought for a moment.

Another thing I want you to understand is a practice in the ancient world known as **gematria**. Gematria was the practice of Jews, Christians , and even Romans of taking names and phrases and transferring them into numbers. Every letter was attached to a number. Children were taught not only how to write, but also how to do numbers by this method. It was a common practice to use numbers to point to a name or a phrase.

In the city of Pompeii in 79AD a huge volcanic eruption occurred. It resulted in preserving Pompeii in the exact condition that it was in at the time of the eruption. When you look at the ruins today you can see people and objects exactly as they were when they were encased by the lava. One of the things that they have found was a piece of graffiti that has been preserved with the volcanic ash that reads like this: "I love whose name is 545". The person had changed the name of the person he loved into a number. This allowed him to both reveal it and conceal it. Those with wisdom and the person it was referring to would recognize who it was. Others would not.

So we have gematria and we have 666 attached to its name. So what does this number translate into? It is really very simple.

The Greek word for "beast" is thareon (thair e on). When you transliterate it into Hebrew and add up the value of the Hebrew letters. It adds to 666.

What does the number refer to? **Its name. Whose name? The neuter name BEAST!**

So why does it talk about putting it on their right hand and their forehead if it is just the beast? John was no doubt borrowing from a passage in Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 6:5-8 (NASB)

⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.

This developed into a Jewish practice known as phylacteries. Jews would literally strap these small boxes containing scriptures on their arm and on their foreheads.

Jesus referred to them in...

Matthew 23:5 (NASB)

⁵But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments.

Phylacteries were a key symbol of identity. Our identity should be obvious to everyone around you based upon how you live your life. The identity of who you belong to in this spiritual battle should be so clear that it is as if the seal of God were marked on your forehead. Even down to the smallest things of who you are. Look at the very next verse in chapter 14.

Revelation 14:1 (NASB)

¹⁴Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb *was* standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.

Remember chapter 7? The 144,000 represented the complete people of God.

Want to hear something interesting. If you take the Greek word for God (Theos) and take the Greek word for lamb (Arneon) and transliterate it to Hebrew. Guess what it adds up to? **777**. The number **seven** stands for completeness. The number **six** falls short of completeness.

What John is saying is this...the trinity that you belong to should be as clear as if it were written on your hand or your forehead.

CONCLUSION:

In the scriptures **worship** is everything that you are. It is what you believe. It is what you do. It is who you pledge allegiance to.

Don't worry about the microchips. Our salvation is not dependent upon technology. You don't accidentally fall into salvation anymore than you accidentally fall out of it.

Who is it that **you** belong to? Who is it that you are worshipping? Are you still living for yourself and intentionally practicing immorality or are you trying to live like Christ?

This is the Day!