

THE END – Part 11

MARK OF THE BEAST

[Revelation 13:16, 17](#)

This, of course, is a reference to the “mark of the beast.” Most of us have at least *heard* that in the last days people will receive a “mark,” and no one will not be able to buy or sell unless they have this mark in their hand or in their forehead. Now, there’s a lot of speculation as to what this mark will look like. Some say it will involve some device (like a computer chip) that will be inserted in the body. Personally, I believe we should be less concerned about the *physical* mark of the beast and more worried about his *spiritual* mark!

Most people are unaware that there’s a *spiritual* mark (or *spiritual aspect* to the mark). The reason we know there’s a spiritual element to the mark of the beast is because the Bible also talks about people receiving the mark or *name of God* in their foreheads.

[Revelation 14:1](#)

Now, no one really believes that in the last days God will *physically* or literally write His name on people’s foreheads. Therefore, the emphasis in this passage must be on receiving some kind of *spiritual* mark!

[Deuteronomy 11:18](#)

Here God commanded Israel to keep His word AS A SIGN upon their *hands* and AS FRONTLETS (ornaments) *between their eyes*. Many Jews took these words literally and began *fastening* scriptures to their hands and foreheads. Over time these ornaments (or phylacteries) were used as *charms* to ward off evil spirits.

Now, did God want them to literally place His word upon their hands and upon their foreheads, OR did He want them to keep His word in remembrance in their WORKS and in their MINDS? I believe the same is true concerning the *mark of the beast*. God doesn’t want us to be superstitious concerning the mark. Instead, He wants us to avoid receiving the *spiritual* mark of the beast, both in our *minds* and in our *works*.

What is the *spiritual* mark of the beast? And how can we recognize it?

First, we need to understand what this *mark* is. The word that is translated “mark” in **Revelation 13** actually refers to *a stamp* or something *engraved*. Moreover, every mark creates or reproduces an “image.” Therefore, when we ask, “What is the *mark* of the beast,” we are really asking, “What is the *image* of the beast?”

[Revelation 13:18](#)

Here in this passage the *mark* of the beast is *symbolized* by the number **666**. The reason I say the mark is “symbolized” by the number 666 is because the REAL mark of the beast is not the number 666. The number 666 is symbolic of something else—MAN. Therefore, “man” is the *real* mark or image of the beast!

[Romans 6:6](#)

Notice that in the **SIXTH** verse, of the **SIXTH** chapter, in the **SIXTH** book of the New Testament, we’re warned not to serve *sin* or the **old MAN**. I believe this is a clue that those who serve *sin* or walk according to the *old man* (or the flesh) will receive the spiritual mark of the beast!

[Philippians 3:17-19](#)

Notice, Paul tells them to “mark” those who: 1) serve their “bellies” or *fleshly* appetites, 2) “glory” in their pride and 3) “mind” is on *earthly things*. Therefore, anyone who operates in one or more of these things are in the flesh and in danger of receiving the *image* of the beast. [Matthew 16:23](#)

Anyone who receives the *spiritual* mark is in jeopardy of also receiving the *physical* mark! [Revelation 13:14](#)

The “he” in this verse is the *false prophet*. This passage actually points back to the time in the wilderness when Aaron (representing the *false prophet*) instructed everyone, except Moses, how to *form* the image of the beast (the golden calf). Why not Moses? Because, unlike the rest of the Israel, Moses was UP on the mountain and not DWELLING ON THE EARTH! Therefore, this tells us that anyone dwelling on the earth (minding earthly things) are at risk of *forming* (or being *conformed to*) the image of the beast.

[Revelation 13:15](#)

Here we’re told the false prophet will have the power to give “life” (or a *spirit*) to the image (or anyone *with* the image). Moreover, the ‘life’ or *spirit* that comes from the false prophet will cause anyone with the *image* to “speak” in line with the beast, AND to “kill” (persecute) anyone who does not speak in line with the beast!

[Revelation 13:16](#)

Finally, anyone who “speaks” or “acts” according to the beast (or flesh) WILL receive the physical mark! (Incidentally, anyone who receives the *physical* mark of the beast will be tormented in hell!)

[Revelation 14:9, 10](#)

Let’s review....

We said to you that in the last days many will receive the physical *mark of the beast*. This mark will identify them as a member of the beast. (Like a *trademark* identifies a product with a particular *company*.)

However, we said to you that our focus shouldn’t really be on not receiving the *physical* mark of the beast. Instead, our focus should be on not receiving the *spiritual* mark of the beast. This is because everyone who receives *spiritual* mark WILL receive the *physical* mark! Moreover, we said to you that the *spiritual* mark of the beast is received when we *walk after the flesh* and when we set our *minds on earthly things*.

Finally, we said beware of false prophets (both religious and secular) because they are the ones who help people to *form* (or be *conformed*) to the image of the beast! False prophets also have the power to impart “life” or evil spirits into men causing them to both speak and act in line with the world (beast)!

[2Corinthians 11:4](#)

What if you suspect that you might already have the *spiritual* mark of the beast? Does this mean that you’re doomed? No. Everyone has, at some point, born the spiritual image of the beast.

[1Corinthians 15:49](#)

There’s still time to bear the image of the heavenly image (put on Christ) but we must act now! Everyone who has not put on the image of Christ before the middle of the Tribulation will *fall away* and receive the physical mark of the beast.