



WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT... “THE MARK OF THE BEAST”

The mark of the beast is an important subject that should be carefully studied and clearly understood. Religionists and secularists alike often speculate on this crucial topic. Over the years, many theories have been put forth regarding the identity of the beast, what constitutes its mark, and what the meaning of the cryptic number 666 symbolizes. Modern technological advances have heightened the discussion and resulted in many drawing the conclusion that the mark of the beast constitutes a microchip that will be implanted in the right hand by the government. Some also suggest that a barcode will be tatooed under the skin that will enable those with the mark to buy or sell. Others believe that the mark will be an ID card. While no one knows with certainty every intricate detail regarding the future implementation of the mark, one thing is certain, God does not want any human being to receive the mark of the beast! Thankfully, God's Word provides abundant insights that will enlighten the believer's understanding of the identity of the beast, what constitutes its mark, and what the cryptic number 666 symbolizes. Let's begin our study and learn What God Says About..."The Mark of the Beast."

DANIEL AND THE FOUR GREAT BEASTS

Note: Before we identify the beast and its mark, we must first lay a Biblical foundation by briefly studying Daniel 7:1-8. This will help us to better understand the identity of the beast and what its dreadful mark entails.

1. **In vision, what did the prophet Daniel see the four winds of heaven striving upon? How many different beasts rose from the sea?**

¹"In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters. ²Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon _____ ³And _____

_____ came up from the sea, diverse one from another." *Daniel 7:1-3*

Note: In symbolic Bible prophecy, seas or waters represent people, multitudes, nations, and tongues (see *Revelation 17:15*). Hence, the prophet Daniel observed in vision four great beasts rise amidst the turmoil and strife of nations.

DANIEL IDENTIFIES THE FOUR GREAT BEASTS

Note: As we prepare to identify the four great beasts of *Daniel 7*, it is important to establish that these beasts symbolize earthly kings or kingdoms that rose and fell successively (see *Daniel 7:17* and *23*). These kingdoms are identical to the four successive kingdoms outlined as devaluing metals in *Daniel 2*. In *Daniel 7*, additional information is introduced regarding the fourth kingdom. *Daniel 2* lays the foundation for the prophecies of the book of *Daniel* (see Exhibit 1-A).

2. What symbolic beast did Daniel see rise first out of the sea?

"The first was like _____, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it." *Daniel 7:4*

Note: The first beast that Daniel saw in vision was a lion with eagle's wings. This beast symbolizes Babylon—the great golden city of antiquity. The lion corresponds with the head of gold on the image of *Daniel 2*, and it is identified as Babylon in *Daniel 2:38* of which Nebuchadnezzar was the ruling king. Babylon ruled the world from 605 B.C. to 539 B.C.

3. Which symbolic beast did Daniel see rise second from the sea?

"And behold another beast, a second, like to _____, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh." *Daniel 7:5*

Note: The second beast that Daniel saw in vision was a bear raised up on one side with three ribs in its mouth. This beast symbolizes Medo-Persia which overthrew Babylon in 539 B.C. The bear corresponds with the chest and arms of silver on the image in *Daniel 2* and the Ram with two horns in *Daniel 8* (*Daniel 8:20*). The three ribs in the mouth of the bear represent the territories that Medo-Persia conquered: Babylon, Lydia and Egypt. The higher leaning side of the bear represents the Persians which were stronger than the Medes. Medo-Persia ruled the world from 539 B.C. to 331 B.C.

4. Which symbolic beast did Daniel see rise third from the sea?

"After this I beheld, and lo another, like _____, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it." *Daniel 7:6*

Note: The third beast that Daniel saw in vision was a leopard with four wings of a fowl and four heads. This swift moving beast symbolizes Greece which overthrew Medo-Persia in 331 B.C. The leopard corresponds with the belly and thighs of brass on the image in Daniel 2 and the he goat with the notable horn between its eyes in Daniel 8 (Daniel 8:21). Alexander the Great, who conquered with swiftness, was the first king of Greece. The four wings on the back of the leopard represents the speed in which he conquered the world. The four heads of the leopard represent the four generals that took over after his death: Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus and Ptolemy. Greece ruled the world from 331 B.C. to 168 B.C.

5. How did the prophet Daniel describe the fourth beast that arose from the sea? What type of teeth did this dragon-like beast have? How many horns?

"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, _____ and _____, and _____; and it had great _____: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had _____." *Daniel 7:7*

Note: The fourth beast that Daniel saw in vision was a dragon-like beast with great iron teeth, and it had ten horns. This beast, diverse from the others, symbolizes pagan Rome which overthrew Greece in 168 B.C. Its iron teeth corresponds with the long legs of iron on the image in Daniel 2, and it is described as the "little horn" in Daniel 8. Incidentally, Daniel 8 uses the terminology of "little horn" to refer to both pagan and papal Rome. The Bible does not name the fourth beast, but it gives obvious clues that the iron monarchy of Rome is the fourth kingdom that ruled the world. The ten horns represent the ten divisions of Rome that emerged when Barbarian tribes swept down and broke up the Roman Empire. The ten horns parallel the ten toes on the image in Daniel 2 (see Exhibit 1-B). Pagan Rome ruled the world from 168 B.C. to 476 A.D.

THE LITTLE HORN—PAPAL ROME

6. In vision, what did Daniel see rising among the ten horns?

"I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them _____, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things." *Daniel 7:8*

Note: While considering the ten horns of the fourth beast, Daniel saw a little horn with "eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things" rise among the ten horns of Western Europe and pluck up three horns by the roots (see Exhibit 1-C). This power was different from the other kingdoms before it in that a religious leader was the head of this system. It was a union of church and state in which the church controlled the state. The Pope of Rome was now Caesar's successor, and he had supreme authority! Papal Rome reigned for 1,260 years from 538 to 1798 A.D. in the period known in history as the Dark Ages.

THE BEAST OF THE SEA

Note: A careful study of Bible prophecy reveals that the little horn of Daniel 7 and the sea beast of Revelation 13 are identical. Undoubtedly, the sea beast is a composite of the four beasts of Daniel 7. Furthermore, Revelation 13 provides a striking description of two beasts—a sea beast and a land beast. In the final events of earth's history, the two beasts of Revelation 13 will unite resulting in the institution and enforcement of the mark of the beast.

7. While in vision, what did John the Revelator see rising out of the sea? What terrible name was upon his heads?

"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw _____ rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of _____." *Revelation 13:1*

Note: The beast that rises out of the sea is a blasphemous beast. This characteristic is similar to that of the little horn of Daniel 7. See Mark 2:7 and John 10:33 for the Bible definition of blasphemy.

8. What did the body, feet, and mouth of the sea beast resemble? What three things did the dragon give the beast?

"And the beast which I saw was like unto a _____, and his feet were as the feet of a _____, and his mouth as the mouth of a _____: and the dragon gave him his _____, and his _____, and _____." *Revelation 13:2*

Note: We see that this beast is composed of the same beasts of Daniel chapter 7. Daniel saw the four beasts from the perspective of his day looking forward into the future. He saw a lion, bear, leopard, and the dragon-like beast in successive order. Whereas John the Revelator, looking back on history, saw the dragon-like beast, the leopard, bear, and lion in the reverse order. The prophecy began in Daniel's day, while he was in Babylon, and John saw the prophecy or successive kingdoms while

living during the time of pagan Rome.

9. What happened to the sea beast? What happened to its deadly wound? Who wondered after the beast?

"And I saw one of his heads as it were _____; and his deadly wound was _____: and _____ wondered after the beast." *Revelation 13:3*

Note: *The Roman Papacy of the Dark Ages ruled the world for 1,260 years. This religio-political power in which the church controlled the state was a persecuting power. Conservatively, fifty million Christians were put to death for believing the Bible and not adhering to the traditions and dogmas of the Roman Church. The Papacy received a "deadly wound" in 1798 when the French General Berthier marched into the Vatican, captured the Pope, and placed him in exile resulting in the Pope's death. Hence, the Dark Ages ended. However, prophecy predicts that the Papacy's deadly wound will be healed. In the future, the papacy will re-emerge on the prophetic scene as the dominant religious power and demand universal worship. It will utilize its political savvy to accomplish its deadly designs.*

10. The dragon gives power unto whom in the last days? In what way does the world reverence the beast?

"And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto _____: and _____, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?" *Revelation 13:4*

Note: *The central issue regarding the mark of the beast is worship in the last days.*

11. How much time was granted for the sea beast to speak blasphemous words?

⁵"And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue _____ and _____. ⁶And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and all that dwell in heaven." *Revelation 13:5, 6*

Note: *Forty-two months equals the 1,260 year papal rule during the Dark Ages (see Exhibit 1-D).*

12. Who did the sea beast receive power to make war with and overcome? Who else did he receive power over?

"And it was given unto him to make war with _____, and to overcome them: and power was given him over _____, and _____, and _____. " *Revelation 13:7*

13. The inhabitants of the earth, whose names are not written in the book of life, will do what to the sea beast?

"And all that dwell upon the earth shall _____, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. ⁹If any man have an ear, let him hear." *Revelation 13:8, 9*

14. What will happen to the sea beast? What must happen to this beast that killed with the sword?

"He that leadeth into captivity _____: he that killeth with the sword _____, Here is the patience and the faith of the saints." *Revelation 13:10*

THE BEAST OF THE EARTH

15. From where did the two-horned beast arise? What did its two horns resemble? How did this beast speak?

"And I beheld another beast coming up out of _____; and he had two horns like _____, and he spake _____." *Revelation 13:11*

Note: The land beast with lamb-like horns symbolizes America which rose in a sparsely populated land around 1798. Its shores were opened to the persecuted pilgrims who fled the Old World of Europe. In America, the pilgrims established a government based on civil and religious freedom. Their intent was to never again be ruled by a king or a pope. However, according to the prophecy, the character of this lamb-like "Christian" nation will change! It will speak as a dragon and enforce the religious dogmas of the sea beast who will re-emerge poised to persecute in the last days.

16. What did the lamb-like beast force all the inhabitants of the earth to do?

"And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to _____, whose deadly wound was healed." *Revelation 13:12*

Note: Clearly, the Roman Papacy and America will work together in the last days. According to the prophecy, the role of America, the second beast, is to force the entire world to worship the first beast, the Papacy.

THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST

Note: An image mirrors the object that it reflects. Therefore, in order for America to create an image to the religio-political power of the Papacy, the first beast, there must be a union of church and state. Hence, America and the Papacy must unite. After which, mandatory false worship will be enforced by the government very similar to when King Nebuchadnezzar commanded all to bow to the golden image (see Daniel 3).

17. **What does the lamb-like beast cause to come down from heaven? What does he use to deceive the inhabitants of the earth? What does he command them to make?**

¹³"And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh _____ come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, ¹⁴And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those _____ which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an _____ _____ _____, which had the wound by a sword, and did live." *Revelation 13:13, 14*

Note: The fire spoken of in this prophecy is a symbol of a false manifestation of the Holy Spirit demonstrated through false tongues—namely glossolalia. Spiritualistic phenomenon, false miracles, and the deceptive influence of apostate religious powers will help cement America and the Papacy's union which will ultimately result in the establishment of the image of the beast—mandatory false religious worship.

18. **Unto what does America have power to give life? What is the penalty of refusing to worship the beast's image?**

"And he had power to give life unto _____, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should _____." *Revelation 13:15*

Note: Nations "speak" through its legislation, and they also enforce their legislative actions. John the Revelator is saying that in the future America will breathe life into the image of the beast or the newly organized "church and state union." America will then enforce, by penalty of death, its false religious decree.

THE MARK OF THE BEAST

Thus far, we have studied the two beasts of Revelation chapter 13 and learned that they will work together in the last days. In this section, we will discover the dreadful mark of the beast. Previously, we studied that all the

world will reverence the beast. Therefore, false worship will be central regarding the issue of the mark of the beast. Daniel 7:25 reveals that the little horn (the Papacy) would "think to change times and laws." History records that Rome did so by replacing the seventh day Sabbath with the first day of the week and instituted it as a religious day of worship. Rome unashamedly admits to changing God's law: "Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act. . . And the act is a Mark of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters." Letter, Oct. 28, 1895, from C. F. Thomas, Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons (see Exhibit 1-E for further statements on Rome's attempt to change the true Sabbath). According to Bible prophecy, the mark of the beast is Sunday worship, the first day of the week. However, no one receives this dreadful mark until America enforces Sunday worship through legislation, sometime in the future. When America does so, every other nation will follow (Revelation 13:3, 8, 12, 16 and 17).

19. What must people have in order to buy or sell in the last days?

¹⁶"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to _____ in their _____, or in their _____: ¹⁷And 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." *Revelation 13:16, 17*

Note: God has not revealed exactly how the mark of the beast will be implemented from an economic standpoint. However, Sabbath keepers will be restricted from buying and selling.

20. Who does the cryptic number of the beast represent?

"Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of _____; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six." *Revelation 13:18*

Note: See Exhibit 1-F regarding who the number 666 represents.

SUMMARY

The mark of the beast is an important subject that should be carefully studied and clearly understood. The Bible provides abundant insights on this vital subject. The little horn of Daniel 7 and the sea beast of Revelation 13 are identical. Both Daniel and John the Revelator saw the four beasts. Daniel looked forward in the future and John looked back on history. The Papacy will re-emerge as the dominant religious power in the last days. America's role is to force the world to worship the first beast—the Papacy. These powers will unite and Sunday worship will be enforced by legislation.

21. Dear friend, are you willing to acknowledge that the central issue regarding the mark of the beast is worship? _____