THE MARK OF THE BEAST

“And it is causing all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the slaves, that they may be giving them an emblem on their right hand, or on their forehead, and that no one may be able to buy or sell except the one having the emblem of the wild beast, or its name, or the number of its name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has a mind calculate the number of the wild beast, for it is the number of mankind, and its number is six hundred sixty-six.” (Revelation 13:16-18)

There are so many different ideas about what the mark of the beast is that it has to be one of the greatest mysteries in the scriptures. At one time many taught that it is a literal mark that will be visible to all. A mark that would be tattooed on the forehead, or the right hand of all who accept it, and all who do not accept it cannot buy or sell. It does not say what they cannot buy or sell, although many assume it means groceries, and any other items that one would need to survive. The idea is, that many will be forced to take this mark, but the scriptures say something completely the opposite, it is something that all give themselves; verse 16 from the Emphatic Diaglott NT:

“And he (should read “it”, CLNT, Dabhar, Young’s) causes all, the little and the great, the rich and the poor, the free man and the bondman, that they should give **themselves** a mark, on the right hand or on the forehead.”

“And it is causing all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the slaves, that they may be giving them(**selves**; Emphatic Diaglott) an emblem on their right hand, or on their forehead.” (CLNT)

There are those who teach the mark, when decoded, reveals the name of the one they believe John is writing of (the wild beast), who they believe, or have been taught, will be the coming antichrist. Some believe that name was Nero, others believe Titus. Others believed Napoleon, Hitler, Stalin, Kaddafi, Arafat, Kissinger, Obama, were that wild beast (who they also believe is “the” antichrist), until they died, or lost power, then they had to shift their belief to another, now it is believed to be Trump. This list is not the entire list of who’s who in the naming of antichrist

Some today believe the implementation of wearing a mask is a precursor to the mark of the beast, as many shops and stores are now making wearing masks mandatory, and no mask means no shopping here. Others are now teaching the latest vaccine will be the mark of the beast, and with this vaccine there will be some sort of a tracking device in it that will monitor our every move. These types of understanding usually come from a teacher who claims John must have been very perplexed, or in the dark, when he wrote this portion of scripture (actually all of Revelation), as he wondered what the future would be like, and how this mark of the beast will become a global phenomenon. I doubt John was that clueless when all this was revealed to him, as well as those who read this letter addressed to the seven churches.

You have to go outside of scripture to make any sense of the above scenarios. You have to go to the events that are read in the daily newspapers and watched on the news programs of the world.

Personally I doubt any of the above scenarios have anything to do with what John was writing to the seven churches of, when he wrote the above verses. They knew full well what the “mark” was.

As I said, many assume that there is going to be a literal mark of three numbers, yet John in verse 17 tells us of two other applications of the mark (emblem CLNT) of the wild beast, they are its name, or the number of its name.

I believe he is telling us the mark (emblem) is one 6, the name is one 6, and the number of its name is one 6, all three are one. John, then, in verse 18 gives a clearer understanding of what this “mark” is. It is the number of mankind/man. Not an individual man, as many teach, but all of mankind. There is a footnote for verse18 where it says “number of man” in The Source NT which says [it has also been suggested that this sentence means: “for it is the number of humanity”] The wild beast, I believe must be a product of mankind, the false system of Babylonian religion, not one man, but what affects all mankind (read Revelation 13:11-18 CLNT).

According to biblical numbers 6 is the number of man.

Here is what Stephen Jones writes about the number 6

Six (vav)

Man; Humanity

**Vav**is a nail or peg in Hebrew. It is also a conjunction (“and”), for it takes a nail to connect two things.

Six is the number of man, for man was created on the sixth day ([Gen. 1:24-31](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Gen.%201.24-31)). Man was also to labor for six days before entering into the Sabbath rest ([Ex. 20:8-11](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Exod.%2020.8-11)), and the Hebrew slave was to serve for six years ([Ex. 21:2](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Exod.%2021.2)).

Moses had to wait for six days before he was allowed to go up the mount to meet the Lord ([Ex. 24:16-18](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Exod.%2024.16-18)). Even so, has man had to wait six thousand years to meet the Lord in the second coming of Christ.

Israel compassed the walls of Jericho for six days before the city fell on the seventh ([Joshua 6:14](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Josh%206.14), [15](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Joshua%206.15)). This is a type of 6,000 years of labor in spiritual warfare before the world system falls.

In Daniel 3, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon erected an image of gold by which the gold standard was created. Verse 1 says that it was 60 cubits high and 6 cubits wide. The dimensions of this image are too thin to be the statue of a man. It was more likely something else with a gold object on the top or head. But it does speak of man's effort to establish a system of economic control by means of the worship of gold and money in general.

Hence, Paul writes in [1 Tim. 6:10](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/1%20Tim.%206.10) that “the love of money [greed] is the root of all evil.” Also, the works of the flesh in [Gal. 5:19-21](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Gal.%205.19-21) lists witchcraft as the sixth vice. Witchcraft is simply man's attempt to manipulate others against their will. For this reason, Saul's rebellion against God was “as the sin of witchcraft ” ([1 Sam. 15:23](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/1%20Sam.%2015.23)). What is not generally understood is that man's religion is largely a matter of doing rituals to manipulate one's god (or gods) into doing things that are beneficial to them.

Such a view proceeds from the assumption that God does not want to do what man thinks He ought to do. Thus, men set out to change His mind, either by bribery, appeasement, or even by going “on strike.” Saul was a type of Pentecostal, being crowned on Pentecost, the day of wheat harvest ([1 Sam. 12:17](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/1%20Sam.%2012.17)). Thus, he serves as a type of the leavened Church that often operates unknowingly by a spirit of witchcraft today.

Psalm 6 describes the voice of all the martyrs beginning with Abel. Yet the oppressed condition of the martyrs is only part of the general condition of all oppressed men in the earth. It is the condition of all men since Adam who labor six days in **bondage** to sin.

I highlighted “**bondage**”, more on that later.

Here is what Bullinger says about the number 6, from his Companion Bible:

**SIX**. Denotes the *human number*. Man was created on the *sixth* day; and this first occurrence of the number makes it (and all multiples of it) the hallmark of all connected with man. He works six days. The hours of his day are a multiple of six. Athaliah usurped the throne of Judah six years. The great men who have stood out in defiance of God (Goliath and Nebuchadnezzar and Antichrist) are all emphatically marked by this number.

Although I disagree with his inclusion of Antichrist as one person, we can see from these two men, that six is the number of man, mankind, humanity, and denotes all of their characteristics.

Here is verse 16 from Jonathan Mitchell’s NT

**And so it is continually making** (causing; forming) **all** (everyone) **– the little** (small; = insignificant) **ones and the great ones, the rich ones and the poor ones, the free ones and the slaves – to the end that they could** (would; may; [some MSS: it will] **give to them an imprinted mark-effect** (an engraved work; emblem; result of sculpting; carve-effect [note: same root from which we get the word "**character**"]) **upon their right hand, or upon their foreheads**,

Here we read in the notes after; “mark-effect” [note: same root from which we get the word "character"]

Each letter in the Greek alphabet has a numerical value. I read somewhere there are only five words from the Greek scriptures that have the numerical value of 666: they are; scattered, side, wealth, tradition, perish. No name in the Greek scriptures has the numerical value of 666.

I find it interesting that tradition is one of the five words (Matthew 15:6, Colossians 2:8)

**666= Oppression-Bondage**

Many translate this number six hundred and sixty six. Rotherham and Mitchell as well as The Source NT have 666. I believe they are simply three sixes: 666, as I stated above: the mark (emblem) is one 6, the name is one 6, and the number of its name is one 6, all are one. as we read from the scriptures it is the number of man/mankind (Revelation 13:18), which is 6, not six hundred and sixty six. All three are one, and all three have to do with humans, you could say 6 is the perfect number of imperfection.

“The wisdom goes like this: if you have sense count the number of the creature” (The Source)

The footnote to this verse in The Source NT reads: Interesting choice of word here. It is not the word used throughout the N.T. for “calculate”. Instead it means “count”.

If we add these three sixes, 6+6+6=18.

The spiritual significance of the number eighteen is “Oppression-Bondage”; from Stephen Jones booklet, Biblical Meaning of Numbers:

**Eighteen (yod-chet)**

**Oppression, Bondage**

To write eighteen in Hebrew, they wrote two Hebrew letters: **yod-chet.** These signify the hand (outworking) of a fence (prison), which brings men into bondage or oppression.

Eighteen is the number of oppression or bondage. The 18th time *Abram*is mentioned is in [Gen. 12:18](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Gen.%2012.18), where his wife was in the house of Pharaoh (bondage). After *Abraham*is mentioned for the 18th time in [Gen. 18:19](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Gen.%2018.19), the Lord speaks of Sodom and Gomorrah who were in bondage to sin.

The 18th time Israel is mentioned is found in [Gen. 46:8](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Gen.%2046.8), at the beginning of their Egyptian bondage:

**8 Now these are the names of the sons of Israel, Jacob and his sons, who went to Egypt …**

The 18th time Jesus is mentioned in the gospel of Luke is in [Luke 5:19](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Luke%205.19), where a man oppressed by paralysis was trying to come to Jesus for healing. [Luke 13:16](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Luke%2013.16) also says,

**16 And this woman, a daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound for eighteen long years, should she not have been released from this bond on the Sabbath day?**

**End quote.**

That, I believe is the mark of the beast; oppression and bondage. Oppression and Bondage of a religious system, a political system, an economical system, bondage to all that mystery Babylon has to offer, of which much of Revelation is about. I do not believe the scriptures speak of a literal mark, brand, tattoo, barcode, or vaccine as being the mark of the beast, or a one man antichrist, it is the oppression and bondage that the systems of man would, and have placed all under, all that Christ came to free all of us from. Our character that constantly reveals who we serve, what we are bound by, and to Whom/whom we are bound to.

Paul in Galatians writes:

“For freedom Christ frees us! Stand firm, then, and be not again enthralled with the yoke of slavery.”

No slave is free, they are in bondage, under the yoke of oppression.

If today we were told it is mandatory to get a vaccine (I only use this scenario because that is what some now believe, and teach the mark is), or we wouldn’t be able to buy or sell, or travel, would taking that vaccine remove holy spirit from any who are believers, and place them in the camp of mystery Babylon? Would it cause you to renounce Christ, and worship the gods of the world, or pledge your every being to the political systems that are believed to run the world? Would it put you in bondage to the powers that be? If the answer is yes, than Christ has less power in you than He claimed He would (Romans 8:38-39).