

The Mark of the Beast

In the book of Revelation (chapters 13 & 14) there is a prophecy concerning an end-time dictator who is scheduled to rule the whole world. In symbolic language he is called The Beast! Elsewhere in scripture he is known as:

The Man of Sin

The Man Lawlessness

The Son of Perdition

The Little Horn

The Antichrist

When this Beast appears he will order everyone on earth to receive his mark, his identifying sign or signature in their foreheads or right hands. No one will be able to buy and sell without first accepting the mark. That will be economic sanctions on a scale the world has never known. Regardless of nationality, color or creed, it will apply to everyone who refuses to receive the Mark of the Beast. You may be sure it will be a testing time for all mankind and comparatively few people will pass the test.

I'm not here to tell you who the Beast is but I will point you to two sure things.

In the same prophecy the Almighty God of Israel, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob warns mankind that all who accept the Mark of the Beast will experience the full measure of His wrath, which is to be poured out undiluted, 'without mixture, into the cup of His indignation.'

I have read many Bible commentators endeavor to interpret this prophecy; and there is no shortage of explanations available.

Some say the Mark of the Beast is:

An invisible, coded tattoo, discernible only by high-tech equipment or some kind of X-ray.

The diabolic brand mark of an evil spirit.

A computerized society in which all business transactions will be done by credit cards.

A silicon identity chip inserted under the skin. etc. etc.

There are probably as many explanations of the Mark of the Beast as there are religious denominations; . But to be honest, we have to admit that nowhere in the Bible does the Almighty categorically say what the Mark of the Beast is. To be sure, the Bible has given us some very good clues. Two are:

- (1) Trade sanctions imposed on all who refuse to receive the Beast's Mark
- (2) The divine penalty for those who ignore God's warning and accept it.

Revelation 13:16-17 "And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy and sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the Beast, or the number of his name."

Revelation 14:9-11 "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, if any man worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark in his forehead, or in his right hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured without mixture into the cup of His indignation have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receives the mark of his name."

We realize that God has by no means left His people in hopeless ignorance concerning this matter. In the Bible He has given us several meaningful clues, which if followed through will guide the interested believer to the correct understanding of this puzzling prophecy. The Most High has, in fact, here set before mankind a spiritual riddle, And when the answer is finally revealed in God's good time the answer will amaze us all. to which is so amazing that once you have learned it, you will never again wonder what the Mark of Beast is. He has left us with two clues as to the identity of the Beast.

1. To begin with the Mark is described in Revelation 14:11 as The Mark of his name. What the Beast's name is we are not told; but it would appear from this clue that the Beast's mark is in some way related to his name.

2. Secondly we are told in Revelation 13:16 that the mark is to be placed in the foreheads or right hands of those who accept it.

Understanding Bible prophecy is not the product of human intellect or will power. It is a gift from God. Understanding must come from above.

11 Peter 1:20 "Yet first you must understand this, that no prophecy Scripture is (a matter) of any personal or private or special interpretation". Without the Holy Spirit it is virtually impossible to correctly understand, appreciate or even believe a Bible prophecy.

Despite the many speculations as to who this Beast is, God has not chosen to give his name, location or other particulars about him at this time except for those clues shown here.

However, He has revealed to us His special sign for His people.

Exodus 31:13 "Verily my Sabbaths you shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that you know that I am the Lord that sanctify you."

Ezekiel 20:12 "I even gave them my Sabbaths to be a sign between me and them, so that they might learn that I, Yahweh, am the one who sanctifies them."
(Jerusalem Bible)

Ezekiel 20:20 "Keep my Sabbaths holy, let them be a sign between me and you, so that men may learn that I am Yahweh your God." (Jerusalem Bible)

And there you have it.

Revelation 14:1 "And I looked and lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having the father's name written in their foreheads."

The Sabbath days in the Almighty's law are His signature, the special identifying sign He places on His people to signal to the universe that they are His: and that He has set them apart to sanctify them.