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The Mark of the Beast.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

The Mark of the Beast.

Topics.

- The literal and spiritual meaning of the mark.
 - The mark and slaves, sailors, Romans, convicts and criminals.
 - The mark and monarchs and Jews, adulterers, drunkards and heretics.
 - The mark and Prostitutes, Idol worshippers, Papal Church.
 - The symbolism of the right hand, the forehead, the mark and Israel.
 - The evolutionary progress of money and number of the ten-horned beast.
 - The mark 666, bar codes and implanting micro and nanochips into the body.
 - The new world order and the final mighty global world power.
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A PERSONAL NOTE

Though I have always loved reading and studying the Scriptures and have now walked with Christ and in God's grace for around fifty years the following studies should not be taken to be dogmatic, inflexible or the final word on the matter since I am fully aware that my mind is limited by mortality and that greater understanding of God's revelation is continually becoming clearer before our eyes as we move closer to the time of Christ's glorious return in glory.

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THE LITERAL MEANING OF A MARK

The word mark comes from the Greek word (*charagma*), it means a scratch or graven etching, (i.e. stamp or mark as a badge of servitude), or sculptured figure such as a statue or images of idols. It can also apply to a mark cut in or stamped on a coin. Applied to people, it was used to denote some mark or stamp on the hand or elsewhere as in the case of a servant whose hand or arm the name of the master was marked (i.e., tattooed) or of a soldier who was marked to denote the company to which he belonged.

THE SPIRITUAL MEANING OF THE MARK

Revelation chapter seven and twenty-two speaks of God's faithful servants being sealed in their foreheads that testified they belonged to God. (Rev. 7:3) (Rev. 22:4). Those who deny God also have a mark signifying that they belong to the secular world. It is not necessary to take this mark literally, any more than we take the seal of Christ literally. The mark that seals us for Christ is a spiritual seal of faith which is outwardly manifested in the godly character and actions of the faithful believer. Likewise, the mark of the world refers to the willing submission and heartfelt acceptance of the world without God and all that it represents. When is associated with the beast spoken of in the book of Revelation it is specifically applies to a system that is antichristian.

Spiritually the mark of the beast on the forehead refers to those:

- Who live according to the flesh (i.e., the lower ungodly nature) and are driven by worldliness and the love of money and obtaining an abundance of materialistic possessions.
- Who follow the spirit and collective consciousness of the antichristian world and give themselves over to sinful pleasures and worldly temptations.
- Who give their mind, intellect and heart in allegiance to the head of the final global beast power and embrace his political messages and willingly give him control, authority and dominion over their lives.

Following are some example of individuals being literally marked:

- **Slaves:** it was a common thing for masters to put a mark on their slaves denoting their ownership and to prevent their escaping since such a mark would make them easily identified. Romans, Europeans, Americans and other colonial slave traders and owners branded millions of slaves during the period of trans-Atlantic enslavement. In some communities' runaway slaves (and robbers) were marked with the letters FGV (for fugitivus, meaning to flee as a fugitive).
- **Sailors:** voluntarily had stamped on their arms a mark (tattoo) identifying the captain under whom they served or the ship or their rank. It is common even today for sailors to voluntary tattoo their names or the names of their vessels or a picture of an anchor etc., on their hands or arms to identify themselves as sailors and to the ship they sailed on.
- **Romans:** imprinted marks on their servant's foreheads and the arms of their soldiers, so it would be known to who they belonged to and easily identified if they fled.
- **Convicts:** under criminal law branding convicts with a hot iron was a form of punishment that combined physical pain with public shaming and humiliation, especially if it was marked on a visible part of the body, normally the forehead. In later times the mark was often chosen as a code for the crime (i.e., in Canadian military prisons "D" symbolised desertion and, "BC" bad character).
- **Criminals:** during the Roman era who were condemned to fight in gladiatorial arenas were branded on their forehead for easy identification.
- **Monarchs and masters:** stamped a mark of identification on their servants for the purposes of denoting their ownership.
- **Jews:** bound their phylacteries by leather straps upon their arms and foreheads, to put them in mind of the law of God, and their obedience to it.
- **Adulterers, drunkards and heretics:** during different periods of history prostitutes were branded with an "A" on their chest as a sign of shame, while drunkards were branded with a "D" for drunkenness and heretics a "B" for blasphemy.
- **Prostitutes:** to gain more customers and earn more money, openly put their names over their doors and others bound them on their foreheads, so men seeking such women would easily know who they were.
- **Idol worshippers:** willingly had branded on their bodies, arms or faces some type of image, mark or tattoo that symbolised the pagan deity they were devoted to and the idols or gods that they worshipped. These marks generally consisted of some hieroglyphic characters, or of the name of the god expressed in flamboyant and elaborate lettering, or of the name disguised in numerical numbers. Receiving such a mark symbolised that the person had given over their heart and life to the one the mark symbolised.

- **Papal Church:** The Roman Catholic Church in the 16th century branded German Anabaptist with a cross on their foreheads for refusing to recant their faith and join the Papal Church.

The statement, they were marked on the right hand or forehead can carry the idea that some received the mark in one place and some in another.

BANNED FROM BUYING AND SELLING

Following are some example of societies and individuals being banned from trading and selling in their communities:

- Emperor Charlemagne, during his reign refused to accept traditional Catholicism, and banned them from buying and selling.
- William the Conqueror would not permit any one in his power who he found disobedient to the Church of England's doctrines and teachings to buy or sell anything.
- The Roman emperor Diocletian published an edict, that stated: if Christians refused to burn incense to the Roman gods no one should sell or administer anything to them.

Following are example of Popish councils and synods banning people from trading and selling merchandise:

- The bishop of Armagh, in his book *Deu Successione Ecclesiae*, gives an account of a canon of a synod in France, which forbids receiving heretics and giving them protection and in express terms forbids any trade concerning buying or selling with them.
- Pope Martin the Fifth in his bull added to the council of Constance, prohibits Roman Catholics to suffer any heretics to have any dwellings in their countries, or to make any bargains, or use any trades, or to perform to them any civil offices.
- The Lateran ecclesiastical councils or synods of the Catholic Church held at Rome in the Lateran Palace next to the Lateran Basilica under Pope Alexander the Third, made laws against the Waldenses and Albigenses, that no one was to entertain or cherish them in their house or on their land, or trade with them.
- Pope Martin the Fifth, ordered by a bull that no contract should be made with heretics, and that they should not do any business and merchandise with those who did not make a public profession of the Papal religion.

These ruthless laws could be seen as an early example of an enforced mark of the beast. The idea was to deprive people of the comfort of humanity, so that they would be compelled to repent of the error of their way and embrace and submit to the authority over them

A LITERAL OR SYMBOLIC MARK

Some interpret these highly figurative words to mean a literal mark implanted in the right hand or the forehead, but nobody believes the beast refers to a literal animal beast, which means the mark of the beast could be taken to refer to a literal mark (i.e., some type of trading mark tattooed on the body or a nanochip implanted in the body) or to a spiritual mark (i.e., a strong belief engraved in the mind).

THE RIGHT HAND SYMBOLIZES

Strength, authority, power, work, service and social contact, communication and interaction with others.

THE MARK ON THE FOREHEAD

When in the context of the final global beast empire it can refer to a literal visible mark or tattoo, but can also symbolises some indelible sign that clearly shows with absolute certainty that a person's thoughts and belief are in total harmony with the final ungodly global beast empire and have willingly given their life mind, will and allegiance to its authority, much like faith and godly speech marks those who belong to God. If we put the symbolism of the hand and the forehead together, it could be said that much of the world today already have the mark and name of the beast, because worldly behaviour is evident in many political systems and greed is rampant in the corporate world and most of the world exhibits behaviour that is motivated not by the Spirit of God, but by the spirit of the world. But the mark is not limited to these, because whatever this mark is the following verses show that it involves the ability to buy and sell.

- No one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. (Rev. 13:17).

The practise of good Bible study is never to build doctrines upon only two verses, but it is possible that this enormously controlling scheme is only mentioned here, because such financial system will affect the entire world and it cannot occur until we are very near the final-end. Added to this there has been no other generation that could implement such a system worldwide, but now with our technology and the internet not only could such a global system easily be implemented but is already in the process of being established worldwide.

OLD TESTAMENT PEOPLE BEING MARKED

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Following is an Old Testament sample of people being marked: in the book of the prophet Ezekiel we read:

- The LORD said to him (a man clothed in linen), "Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it." (Ezek. 9:4).

In this chapter, a cherub, (also called the LORD) (v9:3-4) said to a man clothed in linen (a symbol of righteousness) to walk through the city of Jerusalem and mark the forehead of everyone who mourns and weeps over all the wickedness they see in the city. This is not a literal visible mark, but an invisible and spiritual mark which is God's seal for salvation to eternal life for those who morn over sin. After the faithful were marked six executioners are told to slaughter everyone who has not received the mark in their forehead beginning with the heads of the House of God who have defiled the courts of the temple and then all others who polluted the LORD'S House.

The executioners are, a symbol of the armies of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon who God used as His servant (Jer. 25:1-9) to bring judgment upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem for their gross idolatry, rebellion and wickedness. Many with the mark may have been mortally killed when Babylon's armies (symbolised by the executioners) invaded the city of Jerusalem, but everyone who had been marked in the forehead by the man clothed in linen would have been remembered by God, counted righteous and at the appointed time will be resurrected to eternal life. Just as those who mourn over sin today and have faith in Christ are marked for salvation and eternal life and will be raised on the glorious days of the resurrection. The mark in this context refers to a person being spiritually sealed by the Holy Spirit and by God's love and grace and by faith in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The book of Revelation speaks of a mark on the right hand and on the forehead:

- He (the two-horned beast like a lamb) causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads (in their right hand, or in their foreheads in KJV). And that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name (Rev.13:16-17).
- I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgement was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshipped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years (Rev.20:4).

From these verses we learn the following four things:

1. Whoever refuses to receive this mark will not be able to buy or sell.
2. The mark is the name and number of the beast which we know is 666.
3. The mark is linked to worship of the image of the beast.
4. Those who refuse the mark will be resurrected and reigned with Christ for a thousand years (Rev.20:4).

THE MARK AND ISRAEL

Concerning Israel Isaiah wrote, "I know that you are obstinate, and your neck is an iron sinew and your forehead brass." (Isaiah 48:4). Jeremiah told Israel, "You have the forehead of a whore; you refuse to be ashamed." (Jer. 3:3) and Ezekiel, prophesied, "Israel will not be willing to listen to God, because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart. (Ezek. 3:7). In these verses the forehead has nothing marked upon it that is outwardly seen, but symbolises what is within it (i.e., in the mind), which is the attitude of stubbornness and rebellion toward God and His prophets. Likewise, the mark of the beast on the forehead, can refer to an attitude of mind, which in this context would be a willing allegiance to the latter day antichristian global beast empire.

THE EVOLUTIONARY PROGRESS OF MONEY

though all the above symbolisms are true, the primary focus of the mark on the right hand and forehead in these verses is upon buying and selling, today we live in an age in which it is very easy to see that such a mark is only a step away. Today's technology is such that the next evolution stage of money, is a cashless society. The world's financial system has gone from trading and bartering goods for services and services for goods, to brass, silver and gold coins for trade, to metal coins being given a monetary value, to cheques, bar codes and bank cards and to mobile apps for financial trading, with the next evolutionary stage being some type of mark on or in the body, such as facial recognition or a nanochip.

THE MARK, NAME AND NUMBER OF THE BEAST

The mark is the name or number of the ten-horned beast: (v17) no one will be able to buy or sell unless they have the mark, which is, the name of the ten-horned beast (the final world empire) or the number of its name. The meaning is, that people will need some type of mark that identifies them with the trading system of the world that the ten-horned beasts set up. The two-horned beast like a lamb causes all, people to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless they have the mark, which is, the name of the beast or the number of its name

which is 666. (Rev. 13:16-18). This means that the mark has something to do with trading, buying and selling. Notice also, that the mark is of the ten-horned beast not the two-horned beast like a lamb, so it should have nothing to do with the Papal Church or doctrines (as many teach), since the focus is, trade, commerce, buying and selling. It appears to be some type of mark on the body that allows a person to use the global world financial banking system that the ten-horn global beast empire sets up in the latter days.

THE MARK 666 AND BAR CODES

We are told that without the name of the beast which is 666 no one will be able to trade which implies that the name and the number 666 has some numerical meaning that links it to buying and selling. It is interesting that the computer number for six is a set of two vertical thin lines, almost every barcode on almost every product worldwide begins with these two thin lines and has in the middle another set of 2 thin lines and ends with a final set of two thin lines which means almost every barcode in the world begins with six, has a six in the middle and ends with 6 = 666 which very clearly shows that the name and number of the beast 666 is linked to the global world's financial trading system.

THE MARK AND CHIP IMPLANTS

The next evolutionary step for banking and trading maybe facial recognition, but more likely move from banking apps on mobile phones to having a microchip or nanochip implanted in the body, that contains a unique ID number that can be linked to information contained in an external database, such as personal identification, banking, medical history, medications, allergies and contact information. At this present time (2018) bionic chips are about the size of a grain of rice and cost about \$US99.

The core market is a handful of dedicated geeks including a few in Australia, but this type of customer is slowly expanding, and smartphone RFID chips are becoming more common for instant, digital payment transactions, which facilitate credit card payments in a matter of seconds with a simple tap. There is growing interests (especially amongst global multinational companies) to push towards a cashless society, where ease of transactions and detachment from money encourages impulse spending, and everyone's spending habits are automatically logged, which then allows the company to target its customers with online advertising.

Chip implants are not too far removed from the way much of the world population daily buy and sell using binary transactions of bank cards, swipe cards tap cards and mobile phones, which all have serial numbers traceable back to our personal ID. Currently security flaws can be overcome with the addition of passcodes or PINs which can be added to smartphones or wearables, but not to implants in the palm of the hand (yet), but these problems will be overcome prior to the rise of the final latter day antichristian beast empire.

IMPLANTING THE CHIP INTO THE BODY

Getting a chip implanted in the body is incredibly easy. It's a nonsurgical procedure. A person (who is trained and regulated as someone who pierces ears at a jewellery store) injects the chip under the skin. The most common place is on the top of the hand between the thumb and index finger. Once the chip is implanted, its outline can be seen and felt under the skin. People who have had the chips removed say it's easy, much like removing a splinter. When nanochips are perfected they will be so small that the human eye will not be able to see them.

There is no doubt that a New World Order is the evolutionary step in global financial currency is preparing the last stage for the final ten horned antichristian beast empire which will very likely appear as an alliance of ten sovereign nations or countries (perhaps something like NATO today) controlling the world. Since the right hand signifies strength, labour and work the fact the mark is mentioned as being in the right hand may simply signify that without this mark no one will be employed or able to work, while being on the forehead may simply mean that those who have this mark are totally given over to and dependent upon the final world's banking and financial system. There is no-doubt that the world is moving toward a cashless society which began with bank cards and is moving to smart phones (2018) and from there to some type of mark on or in the body that allows a person to buy and sell.

CONTROLLING THE MONEY

He who has the control of the money has control of the world: the underlying aim of all global world rulers and empires throughout history has been to gain control, and dominion over nations, the population of the world and its trade and wealth, in order that they would establish a New World order and be the head of it. This was the enormous pride, ego and goal of the king of Babylon (Isaiah 14:4) who said in his heart:

- I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High. (Isaiah 14:13-14).

The arrogance, pride and ego expressed in these verses will perfectly apply to the final man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV) (an antichrist and son of destruction) (1 John 2:22) who will oppose existing religions exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. (2 Thess. 2:1-4). However, like the king of Babylon he will be brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit. (Isaiah 14:15). The following verses show that the statement, "No man might buy or sell," (Rev. 13:17) refers to the final mighty world power having control over the finances and trade of the global world and that they will be crushed when the day of their judgment comes:

- The merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore, ¹²cargo of gold, silver, jewels, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, all kinds of scented wood, all kinds of articles of ivory, all kinds of articles of costly wood, bronze, iron and marble, ¹³cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves, that is, human souls. (Rev. 18:11-13).
- In a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste. "And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off ¹⁸and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning, "What city was like the great city?" ¹⁹And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, crying out, "Alas, alas, for the great city where all who had ships at sea grew rich by her wealth! For in a single hour she has been laid waste. (Rev. 18:17-19).

The statement, "no one might buy or sell except by its permission," shows that this beast has absolute control over the wealth of the world. Revelation chapter seven and twenty-two speaks of God's faithful servants being sealed in their foreheads which testified that they belonged to God. (Rev. 7:3) (Rev. 22:4). The power of Satan also has its mark, which in this context is some type of mark that symbolises money and profit. Jesus referred to money as mammon (Matt. 6:24) (Luke 16:13), which comes from the Greek word (*mammonas*) and means confidence, figuratively it carries the idea of wealth, (personified) and avarice, greed

and materialism (deified) and of being a false object of worship and devotion. It is the force that makes people try to become as rich as possible and the belief that this is the most important thing in life. It embraces greed, and dishonest worldly gain and carries the idea of setting up worldly riches and materialism as an idol in the heart. In Revelation chapter eighteen the great city of Babylon with all its avarice and greed, is a symbol of the world given over to the spirit of mammon.

Just as Wisdom is personified in (Prov. 1:21-33), mammon is personified in the following words of Jesus:

- No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money (mammon in KJV). (Matt. 6:24) (Luke 16:13).

The focus here is of worldly riches being the supreme love and focus of the mind and of worldly riches and materialism sitting as an idol in the heart, in contrast to God being the supreme love and focus of the mind and sitting not as an idol, but as King of the heart. It contrasts the worship of the material world and the worship of God and highlights the sinister and deceptive nature of materialism to seduce humanity away from God and eternal life, which are the true riches. Worship of mammon is not limited to a continual lust for more money, it can show up in many ways, when we envy another person's wealth, crave more than we need or disobey God (i.e., act dishonestly and deceive or oppress others) for greater gain and such like things. When we do these things, worldly riches sit as an idol in our heart and our priorities are out of balance concerning the temporary wealth of this world and the eternal wealth of God's world.

The apostle Paul wrote:

- The love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (1 Tim. 6:10).

When we love money more than we love God, it can be rightly said, money is the idol of our heart, mind and life. Solomon, the richest man in the world during his generation, wrote of the futility of chasing after money:

- He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. (Eccles. 5:10).

After years of hoarding worldly wealth to himself Solomon concluded whoever loves money and wealth never has enough, nor are they ever satisfied. This is because, lust of any kind is never satisfied no matter how much time or effort is poured into the pursuit of the object of lust. In the following verse Jesus rebukes the religious rulers who refused to hear His warning to choose God over mammon:

- The Pharisees, who were lovers of money (mammon in KJV), heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. ¹⁵And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God. (Luke 16:14-15).

The thing that the Pharisees where exalting was money over God. In the book of Luke Jesus tells a parable of a rich fool who lives to increase his wealth yet in the end he loses his soul because he was not rich toward God. (Luke 12:13-21). Jesus in the following verse warns of the deceitfulness of money and its ability to choke the Gospel and make it unfruitful.

- The cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. (Mark 4:19).

Mammon cannot produce peace in us, and it certainly cannot produce righteousness. The love of money shows that worldly riches are the king of our mind and heart and not God and the Lord Jesus Christ and that our priorities concerning our relationship to God are grossly out of balance.

The final mighty global world power will control the trade of the world, and endeavour to make trade and commerce of all nations serve its own purposes, consider the following verses:

- Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, merchants of the earth that grew rich from the power of her luxurious living (Rev. 18:2-3) weep and mourn for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore (Rev. 18:11). In a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off (Rev. 18:17) crying, “Alas, alas,” for the great city that grew rich has fallen. (Rev. 18:19).

These verses highlight the foolishness of building one’s life on the temporary mammon of this world. The statement, “it causes all to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless they have the mark (Rev. 13:16-17) shows that this beast has absolute control over the wealth and financial system of the world. Revelation chapter fourteen states: “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on their hand, they will also drink the wine of God's wrath.” (Rev. 14:9-10). This is a universal warning; in the context of money the meaning is that whoever loves money more than God will be judged as idolaters. This is because those who chose money over God have made money the idol of their heart, mind and life. A person does not have to literally bow down and worship before an object for it to be an idol of the heart, whenever a person chooses to deny God and instead fully gives their mind, heart and life to chase after a thing (whether it is a person, worldly riches, fame etc.), that thing can be said to be an idol of the heart. This does not mean that it is wrong to have strong passions for such things and be driven to achieve one’s goal and passion in life, it only becomes an idol when:

- God is completely denied so one can chase after their dream
- God is given second place in the mind and heart and considered to be of less importance to the thing being sought after.

For further information click or tap [Overview of Topics in Revelation](#) and select the following titles:

- 666.
- Babylon.
- Ten Horned Beast and the Man of Sin.
- God’s Name Written on the Forehead and Being Sealed.

FOOTNOTE

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.