

The Mark of the Beast (Revelation 13)

Prologue:

Charles Spurgeon once said: “Discernment is not knowing the difference between right and wrong, it is knowing the difference between right and almost right.” (Matthew 7:7-11 and Matthew 10:16)

A). 4 ways to interpret the Book of Revelation

- 1). **Preterist*** (partial or full)- teaches that all or part of the Olivet Discourse found in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21 had come to pass by 70 A.D. and Preterist believe that John wrote the book of Revelation before 70 A.D. therefore it had been fulfilled also. Biblical historians place the writing of Revelation around 93-96 A.D.
- 2). **Futurists***- believe that events in Revelation lie in the future.
- 3). **Historicism**- views Revelation as a symbolic prophecy of the entire history of the church down to the return of Christ and the end of the age. One prevailing feature of this interpretation has been the view that the Beast is the Roman papacy, and the false prophet is the Roman church.
- 4). **Idealism**- this liberal approach is reluctant to identify any particular historical events, institutions or people with the visions of the book of Revelation. Instead, the approach views the visions of Revelation as a portrayal of the church’s struggle throughout the entire period between the 1st and 2nd coming of Christ.

*False doctrine? Jesuit creation as part of the counter-reformation.

B). Review of the 4 ways to interpret biblical scripture

- 1). **Literal**- interpreting according to the “plain meaning.”
- 2). **Moral** (topological)- seeks to establish exegetical principals by which ethical lessons may be drawn.
- 3). **Allegorical**- i.e. a story that uses symbols to convey a hidden meaning.
- 4). **Anagogical** (mystical) seeks to explain biblical events as they relate to or prefigure the life to come.

A serious study of Revelation has to include a companion study of the book of Daniel.

Daniel

27th Book in the Old Testament
End Time Prophecy – Dan. 12:4,9
Beast from Sea – Dan. 7:2-3
Beast with 10 horns. – Dan. 7
Beast blasphemes – Dan. 7:8,11,20
Beast destroyed – 7:11
Sealed book – Dan. 12:4
Antichrist in Dan. 7, 11
Historical Fulfilment
Organized as 2 equal parts- Dan. 1-6 & 7-12
Persecution for 1260 days – Dan. 7:25

Revelation

27th Book in the New Testament
End Time Prophecy- Rev. 1:3
Beast from Sea – Rev. 13:1
Beast with 10 horns. – Rev. 13
Beast blasphemes – Rev. 13:5-6
Jesus destroys the beast – Rev. 19:20
7 Seals – Rev. 5:1
Antichrist in Rev. 11, 12, 13, 17, 18
Historical Fulfilment
Organized as 2 equal parts – Rev. 1-11 & 12-22
Persecution for 1260 days – Rev. 13:5

C). Revelation 13:1-18

D.) The Beast System (Remember Babylon)

1). **What is it?** It represents a governmental system (not a person) and that system's philosophy of life and from that system's point of view, people have no value. It uses terror and fear to control its subjects. Its influence permeates the family, the church, education, media, arts and entertainment as well as business and the economy. (7 mountains)

2). **Symbols of the 1st Beast** (Rev. 13:1-10)

- Like a leopard
- Feet like that of a bear
- Mouth like the mouth of a lion

The dragon (who was a serpent in the book of Genesis) is the real source of power for the beast, a king of pride, a powerful beast beyond human control—ferocious, dangerous, repulsive, unmitigated power—the quintessential carnivore, seeking to devour*. See why Rev. 13:4 says who can make war against the beast? Notice in Rev. 13:7 that God is giving this “beast system” permission to be hostile against His people.

3). **Symbols of the 2nd Beast** (Rev. 13:11-18)

- 2 horns like a lamb but spoke like a dragon

Matthew 7:15-20 (read together)

Note: the lamb is the symbol of Christ, and the dragon is the symbol of Satan.

*1Peter 5:8

Fruits of the Dragon

-overweening pride that shows up as:

- Hostility
- Animosity
- Hatred
- Malice
- Deceit
- Anger
- Cunning
- Competition
- Resentment
- Bitterness
- Self-pity
- Intellectual vanity

Every single one of these divides people from each other. It is the spirit of anti-Christ that drove people to kill Jesus. (Ant farm)

Satan divides nations, ethnic groups, families, the body of believers through denominations. The animals describing the beast are hostile, predatory, and adversarial.

Which of these do we see most in our modern world? (Zeitgeist – increase in anger and hostility)

Fruits of the Spirit/Lamb Gal. 5:22-23

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control

Jesus taught us to “Love thy neighbor as thyself” (Leviticus 19:18 and Matthew 22:39) And to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44)

Christ gives us an example of lamb-like meekness, making peace right up to his death. Only once did he show anger and it was more zeal than anger.

E). The Mark of the Beast (Rev. 13:16-18)

- 1). What does the mark on the right hand or forehead represent? (Deut. 11:18) It's also in Deut. 6:8)
- 2). Will people take the mark unknowingly or will they have to make a conscious decision to take it?
- 3). What role will the “digital ID” play in this mark?
- 4). Is it possible that people have already taken the mark? (See fruits of the Dragon)
- 5). What role will the 7-day sabbath play in the mark?
- 6). Do some Christians have more fruits of the Dragon than they do the Lamb?
 - a). What triggers the negative emotions associated with the beast system?
 - b). Are we fighting the wrong enemy?

F). The Seal of God (Rev. 7 and Rev. 9)

-This is the mark of redemption. Those who are covered in the blood of the Lamb.

According to the book of Revelation, those who took the Mark of the Beast will receive the 7 bowls of judgement. However, those who receive the Seal of God will be spared.

G). **What's our job?** (Matthew 28:18-20)

Words of Comfort

“And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night.” Exodus 13:21

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”. Philippians 4:6-7

The Bible tells us 365 times to Fear not.

Remember how God protected his children during the first Passover. When the angel of death saw the lamb's blood on the doorway of the Israelites, it passed over them. A foreshadowing of the coming Messiah.

Also, remember the story of the widow and the oil in 2 Kings 4:1-7.

Epilogue:

“Prevent truth decay: Read the Bible”

Medical Implications of Hatred:

- feelings of anger, fear that lead to mental health issues as well as
 - depression
 - anxiety
 - PTSD
 - suicidal behavior

Physical ailments:

- diabetes
- hypertension
- obesity

Medical Implications of Anger:

Physical ailments:

- increased risk of heart attack and stroke
- Gastrointestinal issues
- Skin problems i.e.: eczema, psoriasis, rosacea, etc.
- Headaches, insomnia, anxiety, depression
- High blood pressure
- Lowered immune response

Mental Health:

- Personality disorders
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Bipolar disorder and other mood disorders.