

What is the Mark of the Beast?

MANY YEARS AGO, I WAS IN THE CHECKOUT LINE AT A TARGET STORE. **The total of my purchase came to \$6.66.** When the young lady operating the cash register saw the total, I heard her whisper under her breath, “Mark of the beast.”

➤ IRVIN BAXTER JR.

I quickly inquired, “What did you say?”
“I didn’t say anything,” she denied.
“I was sure I heard you say, ‘mark of the beast,’” I said.

With a sheepish grin, she confessed, “I did.”

“How much do you know about that?” I asked.

“Not much,” she admitted.

“I know quite a bit about it,” I said. The line building up behind me did not allow for any more conversation, so I left my card and suggested she call me if she ever wanted to learn more.

What do you think of when you hear ‘666’ or ‘mark of the beast’? Occultism? Scary movie? Sign of the Devil?

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE ACTUALLY SAY?

The term ‘mark of the beast’ comes from a prophecy in the Bible written about 2,000 years ago. The prophecy is found in Revelation, chapter 13.

The first eight verses of Revelation 13 foretell a World Government and a World Leader who will rule the world for forty-two months immediately before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Verses 7 and 8 describe the reign of the world leader known as the Antichrist like this:

“... and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

Verses 11-15 describe the global religious system that will work hand-in-hand with the one-world government. The leader over this world religious system is described as looking like a lamb, com-

monly used in scripture to symbolize Jesus Christ, but speaking like a dragon, which is used to symbolize the devil.

In another place in scripture, this leader, who looks like Jesus but speaks like the Devil, is called the False Prophet. The prophecy indicates that this famous but fake religious leader will use his spiritual influence to convince the people of the world to give their allegiance to the Antichrist.

THE MARK OF THE BEAST

The one structure on earth today designed to be a world government is the United Nations. The number-one weapon the UN uses to enforce the compliance of nations to its edicts is economic sanctions.

Verses 16-17 describe the use of economic sanctions by the endtime world government, not just against nations, but also against individuals.

“And he causeth 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 or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”

This prophecy foretells a time when every individual on earth will be required to have a number without which he or she will not be able to buy or sell.

In order to get this number, each person will be required to pledge allegiance to the reigning system of world government or to the man who will be ruling the world at that time. This will be the ultimate implementation of economic sanctions. It will be used to force obedience to the one-world government and the reigning world religious system.



“Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is **six hundred threescore and six.**”



On the other hand, the prophecy states that any person who takes this pledge of allegiance will be sentenced to eternal damnation by God Himself (Revelation 14:9-11).

Since this prophecy was written in approximately 96 AD, its fulfillment has never been possible - until now! The ability to give every person on earth a number and to control that person's ability to buy and sell has never before existed.

With the invention of the computer and the birth of the Internet, the fulfillment of this ancient prophecy has become all too possible!

How did the prophet know 2,000 years ago that someday all we would need to buy things would be a number? How did he know we would be able to travel around the world using just a number or a card to buy and sell?

Once again, we should remember: this 2,000-year-old prophecy could not possibly have come to pass until now.

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The last verse of Revelation 13 comments about the mark of the beast:

“Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is six hundred threescore and six.”

Scripture defines the mark of the beast as the mark of his name or the number of his name. Somehow, when the Antichrist appears, we will be able to calculate his name to equal 666. There has been endless speculation concerning names of leaders and names of governments that might be calculated to somehow equal 666. As of this time, we have not found a calculation that fulfills this scripture beyond doubt.

A CHIP UNDER THE SKIN

The original Greek words in Revelation 13:18 that were translated 666 are: chi xi stigma, pronounced khee xee stig'-ma. It is interesting that the last word 'stigma' comes from a primary word 'stiz.' It means:

to stick or prick: a mark incised or punched—for recognition of ownership. (Strong's Greek Dictionary)

Major problems exist with ID cards. One report said that twenty percent of all national ID cards are lost or stolen each year. ID card counterfeiting and identity theft continue to plague the attempt to establish secure ID.

Applied Digital Solutions from Florida has provided a high-tech solution. A person can now have a computer chip about the size of a grain of rice injected under the skin with a needle. This injected chip stays with the individual for life and is virtually counterfeit-free and impossible to steal.

For years, that technology has been used for ID in dogs, cats and other animals. In 2004, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the injection of chips under the skin of human beings for the maintenance of medical records. If a patient is unconscious, his records can still be accessed by scanning the chip embedded in his arm. Health conditions, present medications and allergic reactions are all available to health care providers.

In Barcelona, Spain, the Baha Beach Club offers vacationers a means to pay for services without the bother of wallets or purses. After a painless injection, food and drinks are paid for with the wave of a hand. That's right. A computer chip injected under the skin is being used for buying and selling right now.

Remember, the word 'stigma' means to stick or prick with a mark denoting ownership. Could this indicate that the mark of the beast will actually be given by the injection of a computer chip under the skin?

The mark of the beast will be required for a person to buy and sell. The national ID, which will be implemented in America between now and 2008, will be required to hold a job or open a bank account. How much buying and selling will a person be able to do without a job or a bank account? Will the national ID soon become the mark of the beast? □

► **RECOMMENDED DVD: 666—HOW CLOSE? BY IRVIN BAXTER: AVAILABLE FROM WWW.ENDTIME.COM OR 1-800-ENDTIME.**