

Mark OTB

The Lord's message to us through the Bible is spiritual, and God didn't want to make it difficult for man to grasp. So the Bible sometimes uses natural things that everyone knows about, in a figurative way, to describe conditions that exist in the unseen spiritual world. This is what the "Mark of the Beast" is all about. The Lord is using a common 1st century object to figuratively describe a spiritual condition. When we read about this satanic mark, we need to place ourselves in the historic position of the prophet John and ask, "What did seals and marks mean to people back in Bible times?"

Back in those days, prior to shipping, hot wax was melted onto the edge of the scroll or package. Then before the wax hardened, an authorizing mark or signet was stamped into the hot wax. That's what signet rings were really all about. The wax seal prevented tampering while the mark identified the sealing personage, be he a king, a governor, or some other delegated authority. An official seal was considered untouchable, and no unauthorized person would dare break one, on pain of death. That seal and mark placed the shipment under the authority and protection of the person who marked it.

Now, let's look at seals and marks from a biblical standpoint. In 586BC, just before Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians, the prophet Ezekiel saw a mark on the foreheads of the faithful Jews. It was placed there by a holy angel:

Eze 9:4, 6 And the LORD said unto him [an angel], Go through the midst of the city . . . Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof . . . Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary.

There is ample biblical record of the fall of Jerusalem, but nowhere in that record does an ordinary witness write about seeing that mark. Just Ezekiel saw it, and he saw it only in a vision.

Mark OTB

Here is the parallel account, written by a historic chronicler, who saw the of the fall of Jerusalem through his natural eyes:

2Ch 36:17 Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.

Compare those two verses. They are obviously different accounts of the same event, but the writer of II Chronicles didn't write about that mark, nor those angels. Why? Because he didn't see them. Those seals and angels that Ezekiel saw were visible only in the spiritual world. That mark was a spiritual mark. Eze 9:6 also states why the mark was given. It was given by that holy angel to identify and protect faithful Jews from the angels of destruction who were about to slay the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Those faithful Jews were sealed with an invisible mark that showed them to be under the authority and protection of the Lord God!

In Rev 7:4, there is another spiritual sealing. In this verse the 144,000 of Israel are sealed, but this time, they are sealed at the beginning of the Christian Era. In Rev 14:1, the great eternal Name of that sealing authority is revealed:

Rev 14:1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

These are repetitive prophecies about the same Israelites, and about the same sealing. There is no historic record of any such sealing being seen at any time during the Christian Era, so this would also appear to be an invisible spiritual sealing. Note what this mark is. It is the name of "God the Father." In other words, Israel was struck with a spiritual mark which showed to the destructive angelic beings of Rev 7:1-3 that the Jews were under the protection and authority of our Sovereign God.

Christians are sealed in like manner. with the Holy Spirit of promise (Eph 1:13). The Holy Spirit

Mark OTB

placed a mark on each of us when we were saved. Undoubtedly, it is the same seal that we read about in Rev 14:1, "the name of His Father." It is a very real seal, but we don't see it on anybody, do we? No, so our seal is also invisible in the natural world. The Holy Spirit's seal is invisible. However, His seal is indeed a real seal and glows bright and clean in the spiritual world! What a wonderful truth.

So if God's mark is invisible in the natural world, isn't it reasonable to conclude that Satan's mark is also invisible in the natural world? Having found the day-years and much of Bible prophecy already fulfilled, isn't it possible that the "mark of the beast" is at least in the process of being fulfilled and we haven't seen it? Couldn't Satan's seal be an invisible mark that identifies his servants in the unseen spiritual world? If that is the case, then it is likely that evil men have been so marked throughout human history. The mark of the beast would then be Satan's name, or his empire's name struck into the spiritual hands or foreheads of his servants.

Some will undoubtedly accuse me of "spiritualizing" this passage, but examine those Scriptures yourself. Rev 13 is full of "beasts, horns, leopards, lambs" and other obviously figurative words. Isn't it poor theology to choose a few verses at the end of a figurative chapter and arbitrarily decide to interpret them literally? Of course, and that is what we are doing if we believe the "Mark of the Beast" to be a computer chip.

What Does The 666 Mean?

Since Revelation is spiritual in nature, could 666 be God's way of describing the spiritual characteristics of Satan's hidden seal? And if we really understood what 666 meant would we be able to discover who the servants of the enemy are? Let's see if we can by looking at biblical examples of 666 and all the other sixes. Besides Revelation, there are only three other places in Scripture where 666 is mentioned:

1Ki 10:14 Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred

threescore and six talents of gold.

2Ch 9:13 Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred and threescore and six talents of gold.

Ezra 2:13 The children of Adonikam, six hundred sixty and six.

In those 1Ki and 2Ch quotes, gold, the current medium of exchange, was shown as 666. The nations surrounding Israel were in economic bondage to Solomon and had to give him 666 talents of gold. Looking at Rev 13:17, we note "no man might buy or sell" unless he has the mark. Neither can a man "buy or sell" if he doesn't have gold or some other acceptable kind of money. So this mark is related to a person's economic bondage. Let's say it again. Having the mark of the beast shows a person to be in economic bondage.

Daniel is such a marvelous book. It has so many prophetic guidelines hidden away in it. In Dan 3, Nebuchadnezzar built an image of what? Gold! He decreed that all should bow before his image or be thrown into a fiery furnace. That image was 6 cubits wide by 60 cubits high. That is 666666666666 which, from a symbolic standpoint, is a lot of 666's. This would be guesswork if we didn't have the following verses from the same chapter:

Dan 3:5 That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:

Dan 3:10 Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image:

Dan 3:15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

Well, our God is certainly able and He did deliver Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, but did you count the number of musical instruments in each verse? There are six in each, and there are three such verses. Now, the Lord did not have Daniel repeat six musical instruments three times as an exercise in High Syriac grammar and sentence structure. It should have a symbolic meaning. If six is repeated three times, we have 666.

Babylon was the center of world commerce, worshipping the almighty gold daric. The seat of governmental authority in Babylon was Nebuchadnezzar the king. He was an absolute monarch.

At the sound of 6x6x6 kinds of music, he commanded everyone in his empire to bow down and worship his 6 x6666666666 image of gold. The king in essence said: "I order you to worship this gold. I have made gold my god. I worship it; you must make it your god, too. I support it with my authority, and I will make it sound enticing for you." Governments today bow down before the economic system and order their citizens to support it.

Sixty years pass, or ten sixes (now that is a strange coincidence) and on the night Babylon fell, Belshazzar the king held a great feast for the empire's dignitaries. He invited all the Babylonian court nobles and their ladies to attend. After they had partied a bit, in a supreme act of defiance, he had the vessels of the temple of the Lord brought before him, so he and his friends could drink a little wine from them:

Dan 5:2-4 Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein. Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them. They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.

Mark OTB

Did you count the number of gods? There are six. So we see another six, this time six false gods. These gods are made of the major building blocks of all manufactured goods: gold, silver, brass, iron, wood, and stone. These multiple sixes in the Old Testament are not there by accident, are they?

Ever since God marked Cain, who slew his brother Abel, there have been marks: one for God's servants and one for those belonging to the enemy. Throughout the ages, Satan has tried to turn man away from God. He has used false gods, disguised as materialism of every kind. Gods of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood and stone. We have them with us today. They are wrapped in packages that appeal to our western minds and have more interesting labels. We are too sophisticated to bow down to some stone idol, so we call our idols automobiles, jewelry, furniture, televisions, computers, and boats. We bow down to these present-day gods without any problem at all. Same gods, 20th century names. We worship them, so they are a stumbling block to us. Using music, Satan makes our modern gods sound pretty as can be. Advertising jingles and spotlights on the rich and famous market this world's goods. We are told that in material riches lies success, power, and sexual prowess. We have been programmed to believe that's all there is to life.

"O Lord, how has Satan been able to deceive Thy people so?"

Rev 13:16-18 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. 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 [i.e., 666].

Since God's mark is invisible in the natural world, Satan's mark of Rev 13:16 is probably also invisible unless we can find Scripture that leads us to believe otherwise. The author could find no

Mark OTB

such Scriptures, so from a biblical standpoint, Satan's mark is probably an invisible spiritual mark.

When someone turns himself totally over to the love of this world and excludes the Living God from his life, he has a mark on him that angelic beings see. It may be hidden in his hand as a credit card or struck between his eyes as the consuming thoughts of a depraved mind. He is under the authority of the ruler of this world and has become his blind slave. If he becomes openly evil, that mark may even become visible to Christians. The greed and wanton pleasure-seeking, the drugs, the immorality, and egocentricity become a spiritual "mark of the beast" on him that won't wash off. You can see the sin in his face. It is a brand that sears his soul. Though you hope desperately that it isn't there, if you look carefully you can see it. He is without any hope, and his final end is eternal fire:

Rev 14:9-11 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Does Two-Horns Also Give A Physical Mark?

In the Two-Horned Beast (Rev 13:12), the verses following read, "and he causes . . . and he gives . . . and he performs . . . and he deceives" Since the "he" throughout the rest of Rev 13 is the Two-Horned Beast, then the Two-Horned Beast is the one who gives that final mark! It can no longer be argued that Two Horns is other than the western so-called "Christian" nations, and the western world controls world economies. Notice that "no one can buy or sell." Two-Horn's mark is an economic bondage.

Mark OTB

People's indebtedness to the world system grows worse by the day, and many have almost sold their souls to keep their material possessions. Sooner or later, this global economic system will become so oppressive that the public will be forced to choose between Jesus and the world.

Those who make a final decision to turn aside from the Lord Jesus and become enslaved to the worldly and material pleasures of this Beast will have Satan's mark upon their foreheads. They will be the bondservants of the enemy. They are doomed forever.

Throughout the Christian Era, saints without number have refused to submit to godless systems.

This has resulted in terrible economic deprivation, torture and death for millions of the brethren.

Many have been driven from their farms or lost their employment. Millions have been imprisoned and killed. They could neither "buy nor sell." Second and third-century Church

records show that during the Roman persecutions, many Christians could not trade in local

markets unless they sacrificed to Caesar and confessed his deity. From then on, all the way down

through Adolf Hitler, like conditions have existed in various parts of the world.

Today, these conditions still exist in parts of Africa, some southeast Asian nations, and in every

land under Muhammadan rule. Worldwide, over 30,000 Christians a week are dying for Jesus'

name. Besides getting shot, strangled, and crucified, many Christians can neither buy nor sell

because they will not bow down to the New Age humanists, Lenin, or Allah, nor accept Muhammad as his prophet -- Somalia being a good example. In this country, we are so isolated

from the suffering of the faithful brethren that we forget that the Nazis murdered 6,000,000 Jews

and countless Christians, Pol Pot killed 1,500,000 or so Christians, and the Communists are

estimated to have killed more than 8,000,000 in the Gulag. Praise God, those faithful brethren did

not take the mark. They have joined the saints standing under the altar who cry, "How long, Oh Lord, how long?"

The enemy's mark is not a sign of the Antichrist, nor is it a sign that we are in the "Great

Tribulation." Instead, biblical evidence would lead us to believe that the mark of

Mark OTB

the beast is Satan's mark, on his servants, which in one form or another has existed throughout time.

Conditions in this country will worsen soon. We too, may not be able to buy or sell unless we pledge allegiance to a system which would require that we deny the Lord. Examples include Christian business men who are black-balled for exposing unethical practices and public school teachers who refuse to teach evolution. Without employment, they lose their ability to buy or sell and religious persecution of that type is increasing all over the country.

Could a Computer Chip be the Mark?

Western science has the technology to implant a record-keeping and identifying micro-chip under a person's skin, and by law, world governments could require their citizens to accept such an implant. However, the implantation of a physical device under the skin (regardless of its function) would not mean that someone had taken the "Mark of the Beast." For an electronic device to be that mark, some declaration of one's spiritual position would have to accompany its acceptance. It would have to be understood that receiving such a device was prima facie evidence that the person receiving it had rejected the Lord Jesus as his Savior. Here is how you know that to be true:

1. A device could be implanted in a person's body without his knowledge or approval (while under anesthesia) or it could be implanted by force, totally against his will. A person goes to Hell because he rejects the Lord Jesus as his Savior, not because of something that happens to him in the flesh. So merely having a physical device implanted within one's body would not send someone to Hell.

2. While Jesus was casting demons out of a blind and dumb man (Mat 12:22-24), He told the surrounding Pharisees about the unforgivable sin. Since worshiping the beast and receiving his mark are also unforgivable, identifying that sin is the key to understanding the mark of the beast:

Mark OTB

Mat 12:31-32 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

Notice that EVERY sin except blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will be forgiven a man. That is absolutely the only sin that God will not forgive! John the Baptist, through the Holy Spirit, also told his disciples about an unforgivable sin:

Joh 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

We also read, if someone rejects the Lord Jesus, that he will NEVER be forgiven. But wait a second. Isn't blasphemy against the Holy Spirit the only unforgivable sin? Yes, indeed, so rejection of the Lord Jesus and blasphemy against the Holy Spirit have to be one and the same sin, or there would be TWO sins that are unforgivable! Let me explain.

No one comes to Jesus through his own volition. God the Father, through His Spirit, draws us all to His Son (Joh 6:44, Joh 12:32). The Holy Spirit witnesses in our hearts that the Gospel is true, to the point that we KNOW it to be so down in our innermost being. If we stand against the Holy Spirit's irrefutable witness, we are turning against God with the sure and certain knowledge that we are turning against the truth. That is what happened to those Pharisees. The Lord of Glory was standing before them casting out demons. Meanwhile the Holy Spirit was witnessing in their hearts, saying:

Mat 17:5 This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

The Pharisees who hardened their hearts against that irrefutable witness committed blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. The unforgivable sin is rejection of the witness of the

Mark OTB

Holy Spirit in our hearts through which we know without question that Jesus is the Christ. Once we understand that doctrine, the implantation of an electronic credit device would have to be accompanied with some final rejection of the Lord Jesus for it to be the "Mark of the Beast." Man is looking on the computer chips; "the Lord looketh on the heart" (1Sa 16:7). None of God's children can ever get Satan's seal upon them. God's children have been transferred out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of His dear Son, Col 1:14. In the mind of God, that was not a temporary transfer. The children of God are forever sealed with the name of God the Father on their foreheads (Rev 14:1).▲