

### Mark of the Beast

Hab 3: Sometimes we have to go outside our traditional eschatological picture and look at ALL the applicable scriptures to arrive at truth. It's never easy; sometimes the results are disturbing and take us out of our comfort zone. The Mark of the Beast is one example. First of all, anyone who receives the Mark of the Beast is going to spend an eternity in Hell - no reprieve.

That is a Scriptural given!

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. Now, let me ask you, for how many sins does a person go to hell?

Just ONE!

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:

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:

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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.

Here we read that if someone rejects the Lord Jesus, 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 Holy Spirit in our hearts by which we know 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). But now, according to some, we have a third potential sin that could send you to Hell - taking the Mark of the Beast. So let me ask you again: How many sins sends a person to hell?

According to Jesus, there is just ONE sin that damns a man - and it's a spiritual sin, not a physical one.

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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. I repeat: 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 tattoo or a device implanted within one's body would not send someone to Hell. To paraphrase Samuel one more time: Man is looking on the computer chips; "the Lord looketh on the heart." For a tattoo or an electronic device to be that mark, one's final rejection of Jesus Christ would have to accompany its acceptance. It would have to be understood that the receiving of such a device was prima facie evidence before God that the person receiving it had rejected the Lord Jesus as his Savior.

As to neither buying or selling - People's indebtedness to the world system grows worse by the day (1.7 trillion in the United States alone), and many have 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, and worse, 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, China, some southeast Asian

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nations, and in all the lands under Mohammedan rule. Worldwide, over 30,000 Christians a week are dying for the name of Jesus. 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 Mohammed as his prophet -- Serbia 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 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 to date include the public school science teacher, who refused to teach evolution (and lost her job as a consequence.) Without a job, she lost her ability to buy or sell.

Y2k may do the same to us all. If so, God Help us.