

666 Ubiquitous Mark of the Beast

(Sermon Notes)

By: Warren Zehrung

1/16/2016

We do not yet understand everything about the Beast in the end-time, but we will understand. The mark of the beast will soon be everywhere. That is what Ubiquitous means.

The mark of the beast is a very **clear concept** in the Scriptures. We are told “Not to get it.” We are told “What will happen if we get it.” We are told “What will happen if we do not get it.”

Revelation 15:2 I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the **victory** over the **beast**, and over his image, and over **his mark**, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.” [Marriage of the Bride of Christ]

That is what we want. This mark thing is so sly and devious – we really need to be aware and prepared because there is great reward if we avoid this mark.

Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had **not worshipped** the beast, neither his image, **neither** had received his **mark** upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and **reigned** with Christ a thousand years.

All who will rule and reign with Jesus for 1000 years, will have **rejected** the Mark of the Beast. We are even told what the **mark of the beast is** – but that has been a little elusive to most people.

Revelation 16:2 And the first went, and poured out his vial [of God's wrath] upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the **mark of the beast**, and upon them which **worshipped** his image.

That concept of **worshipping** the Beast is a **big** part of the Mark of the Beast.

Daniel 12:9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and **sealed till the time of the end**.

Daniel 12:10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the **wise shall understand**.

All things being equal – we will understand who Mr. 666 is. We will know him by name and reputation. The world will remain wicked and in the dark until the very end. We have so much given to us, but for His own purposes, God will not make it all clear to anyone until the very close on the age.

Last time we saw Nebuchadnezzar's dream and how it represented the history of the Gentile Kingdoms that subjugate Jerusalem up until the moment that Jesus returns and establishes the Kingdom of God on earth.

Later Daniel had his own vision about the specifics of the kingdoms that are extant in the last days. Daniel saw four beasts with attributes of a **lion**, a **bear**, a **leopard** and a dreadful and **terrible** Beast. We will look at those specifically today.

Here is what we know about the Beast. The Beast is influenced by Satan.

Satan wants more than anything to destroy the Plan of God, and he does not care who he uses to accomplish his goal – he hates God and those that God loves (the Church brethren) that much.

Revelation 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a **leopard**, and his feet were as the feet of a **bear**, and his mouth as the mouth of a **lion**: and the **dragon gave him his power**, and his seat, and great authority.

Revelation 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

Let's understand that some nations consider themselves to be "Christian" nations – but according to God they will all be Satanic in nature at the end.

Revelation 13:4 And the [entire world] **worshipped** the **dragon** which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?

The answer is, the Beast is too powerful to go to war against. The entire world will also be **worshipping** the Beast, and Satan who empowers him.

Revelation 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. [3½ years]

Revelation 13:6 And he opened his mouth in **blasphemy** against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

The Beast Will Blaspheme God and His Name—cursing, swearing and speaking irreverently of God.

Daniel 7:25 And he shall speak **great words against the most High**, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. [3½ years]

None of the saints who are still alive and functioning in society will be able to keep the Sabbath and worship God publically. Perhaps in secret places – but no longer in the open – like now – on the internet, teleconferences, church halls and Feasts of Tabernacles.

Revelation 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to **overcome** them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

Revelation 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall **worship** [the Beast], whose **names** are **not** written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Revelation 13:9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

God is saying that it really important to understand these factors.

Revelation 13:9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

The Beast Will Fight Against Christ and the resurrected saints.

Revelation 19:19 And I saw the **beast**, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against [Jesus Christ] that sat on the horse, and against his army [the saints of God].

Revelation 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the **mark of the beast**, and them that **worshipped** his image. These both were **cast alive into a lake of fire burning** with brimstone.

What is this ubiquitous mark of the Beast that the entire world will accept? First of all we need to be acutely aware of how God feels about this Mark of the Beast.

Revelation 14:9 ...If any man **worship** the beast and his image, and receive his **mark** in his forehead, or in his hand,

There is nothing more severe than the wrath of God and the torment of His indignation.

Revelation 14:10 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:

One year of God's wrath at the end of the 3½ year Tribulation follows 2½ years of Satan's wrath.

Revelation 14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascends up forever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who **worship** the beast and his image, and whosoever receives the **mark** of his name.

Revelation 14:12 Here is the patience of the **saints**: here are they that keep the Commandments of God [including the Saturday Sabbath], and **the faith** of Jesus.

The faith of Jesus Christ – what is that all about now? It is important to understand. Contrast this with those who have their names written in the Book of life.

Revelation 14:1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb [Jesus Christ] stood on the mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having His **Father's name** written in their foreheads.

We need to understand about the Beast and his mark. As we begin, I wish to assure you that the Mark of the Beast is not something as mundane, commonplace or tedious as most TV evangelicals would suppose:

The mark of the Beast is not your Social Security number, drivers license number, a barcode, tattoo or 666 branded on your forehead or arm – like the Jews of WWII being carried off to the extermination camps.

The Mark of the Beast will not be recognized for what it is except by those who are spiritually astute. With the coming of technologically advanced electronic devices, speculation has turned toward devices implanted inside the body. Radio-frequency identification - RFID chips hardly larger than a grain of rice have been implanted in pets for identification for many years.

That is not the Mark of the Beast. Neither are electronic chips, trademarks, credit card numbers, copyrights, barcodes, or scannable QR (Quick Response) codes.

In spite of the fact that governmental surveillance and invasion of personal privacy has increased to an Orwellian magnitude, their spying will have nothing to do with the Mark of the Beast. They can track us by our cell phones and tell what we are watching on TV, but the Mark of the Beast is much more profound than that.

Certainly, those encroachments and others right up to and including human trafficking and slavery will be widespread – but that is not the mark of the Beast.

No one will receive the mark of the beast by force or accident. Unlike the mutilation of their daughters by Muslims (The ritual removal of some or all of the external female genitalia), the mark of the Beast will not be imposed or inflicted by force on anyone. It will be a matter of personal character and choice.

We see in Rev 13:15 that the Beast will kill those who do not have his Mark – but he will not be able to force his mark on anyone against their will. Our loving Creator God is not so capricious as to make something like a brand or tattoo the object of His wrath. The Mark of the Beast is much more profound than that. The Bible has a lot to say about marks.

We saw last time that Nebuchadnezzar's image was a vision on the "times of the Gentiles," leading up to the return of Jesus Christ when the Promised Land and Jerusalem would be restored to Israel, Judah and the Kingdom of God.

Jerusalem has floated in the middle of a sea of Islam, most notably the Ottoman Empire, and even today a pagan, Islamic temple sits on top of the Temple Mount.

Nebuchadnezzar was not the first Babylonian king. His significance lies in the fact that God raised up a Gentile king to subjugate and rule over the Promised Land, and especially over Jerusalem.

A very common view of the book of Daniel is that Daniel, in his first vision in chapter 7, saw the same thing that Nebuchadnezzar witnessed in his dream of chapter 2.

It is often assumed that the two visions are essentially the same, and that Daniel's vision "interprets" Nebuchadnezzar's dream. However, an objective analysis shows that there are actually more differences than similarities. The fact that Nebuchadnezzar's dream actually contains **five** kingdoms rather than **four**, helps to clarify the inconsistencies.

It was God Himself, who gave the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream through Daniel, as we saw. However, Daniel's vision was interpreted by **an angel** (Daniel 7:16-27).

Daniel knew what Nebuchadnezzar's dream meant—because God had opened that knowledge up to Daniel—but he **did not know** what his own vision meant. The angel had to give the interpretation to Daniel because he had no idea what he had seen. Yet the meaning of Nebuchadnezzar's dream was entirely known to him.

We must draw the conclusion, then, is that Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar did **not** see the same thing.

Nebuchadnezzar's dream shows sequential kingdoms—one succeeding another, particularly in its possession of the Promised Land. But Daniel's vision actually shows contemporary powers that all exist at the end time.

Daniel 7:3 says, "And four great beasts **are coming** up from the sea, diverse one from another." (This is a correct translation)

Even though the four beasts are described sequentially—they are all seen at the **same time** but in separate locations. The Aramaic translation is awkward. The word "before" can mean 'prior in a time sequence' – but here in Daniel it means 'in front of.'

Thus the last part of Daniel 7:7 it is saying is that "the fourth beast was different from all the beasts that were in its presence, and it had ten horns." The three beasts are in the presence of a superior entity, and so they are described as being "before" it. And since we know that the fourth beast is in existence at the time of Jesus Christ's return at the end-time, it means the other three beasts, which are shown to be in its presence, also exist at the time of the end.

That helps us to understand Daniel 7:11-12 where we see that the fourth, the dreadful and terrible beast – the beast that has the "little horn," is killed and thrown into the fire, but the other three apparently are not as bad.

God has mercy on those three and prolongs their lives for a while, though their dominion is taken away because at that point all authority will belong to Jesus Christ. That happens at the same time that the fourth beast is slain and thrown into the fire (Revelation 19:20).

There is a big time difference between Nebuchadnezzar's dream and Daniel's vision. When we think of Daniel, we often think of him as a 16 year old young man. He was in his teens when he came to Babylon from the Promised Land. He was 18 years old when he gave Nebuchadnezzar the interpretation to his dream.

But in Daniel chapter 7, he is about 83 years old! At least 65 years passed between Nebuchadnezzar's dream and the first year of Belshazzar – Nebuchadnezzar's grandson.

Just think, Nebuchadnezzar, the "head of gold" in the dream, had died 23 years before! Belshazzar sees the writing on the wall and is slain. At that point we've come to the **end** of the prophecy of the Head of Gold when Daniel receives his vision.

Nebuchadnezzar's dream was well into its fulfillment, while Daniel's vision was of things **yet** in the future. This is significant because of what it says in Daniel 7:17. The King James Version rightfully says that these beasts "are four kings which **shall arise** out of the earth."

If the two dreams were the same, and the head of gold represented the same thing as the **lion** with the eagle's wings in Daniel's vision, the lion would have been **dead** for over 2 decades.

Daniel saw four **future** kings, and he saw them after the “head of gold” had already reigned and died. That may seem like a small detail, but it greatly affects how we understand Daniel’s vision. In Daniel 2, Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, the last image is shown as an amalgamation—a mixture.

In Daniel’s vision in Chapter 7, the end-time power is shown with multiple nations, and ten leaders or kings come out of just one of those kingdoms. It is the fourth kingdom that is shown as being dominantly strong (Daniel 7:7, 19-20), while the other beasts were weaker.

God does not consider them all to be uniform in their transgressions because they are not uniform in their hearts. They are a mixture of brutal strength and relative weakness. As Daniel 7:3 says, the four kingdoms are “diverse one from another”—too different to be truly unified in strength.

Both visions, Nebuchadnezzar’s and Daniel’s are related in that they both contain a glimpse of the end time Beast at Christ’s return.

However, Nebuchadnezzar’s image spans roughly 2500 years, ending with the return of Jesus Christ, while Daniel’s vision is of things immediately preceding the return of Jesus Christ.

What Daniel sees—and had to have **explained** to him by an **angel**—takes place during the time of Nebuchadnezzar’s fifth empire that, “feet partly of iron and partly of clay.” The ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream appear to correlate with the ten horns of Daniel’s vision.

Daniel’s vision contains even more details of this **Final Beast Empire**. There is a very similar prophecy found in the book of Hosea that further helps us to understand what Daniel was seeing in an overall sense. That prophecy stretches from Hosea 4 to Hosea 14.

It is a terrifying indictment against the houses of Israel and Judah for turning completely away from God. But it also contains reassurances of hope that Israel will return to God after the punishment is over. Hosea 13:6-9 contains a figure that very closely resembles what Daniel saw in his vision: Ephraim (England and America in this case) became rich and well fed and forgot God, so God became Ephraim’s adversary.

Hosea 13:6 According to their pasture, so were they filled; they were filled, and their heart was exalted [that is us today]; therefore have they forgotten me.

Hosea 13:7 [God says, I will be unto them] Therefore I will be unto them as a **lion** [lion]: as a **leopard** by the road I will lurk: [Daniel 7:4]

Hosea 13:8 I will meet them as a **bear** that is bereaved of her whelps, and will rend the ribcage of their heart [pericardium], and there will I devour them like a lion [Lion here is a different word meaning - **great fierce stout lioness**]: the wild beast shall tear them [Israel]. [Daniel 7:7 says dreadful, terrible and strong]

Hosea 13:9 O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help.

The themes here are definitely end-time in nature Hosea 13:12-13 contain the symbol of “the sorrows of a woman in childbirth,” which is the way Jacob’s Trouble is described in a number of other verses:

There is something about this fourth beast that goes beyond the pale. Something about this fourth beast apparently crosses the line, and goes outside of the will of God. God allows it, but then God utterly destroys that Beast, whereas He does not do so with the others. An example of this same principle can be found in God’s words to Assyria (Isaiah 10:5).

Isaiah 10:5 O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation.

There the nation of Assyria is identified as “the rod of My anger and the staff in whose hand is My indignation.”

God sends Assyria against “an ungodly nation,” and gives it charge (authority) “to seize the spoil, to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.” However, even though Assyria is being used by God, Assyria goes further in its punishment than God wants:

“Yet he [Assyria] does not mean so, nor does his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy, and cut off not a few nations. For he says, 'Are not my princes altogether kings?'" (Isaiah 10:7-8)

The ancient Assyrians used sheer, unadulterated terror to subdue their enemies. It was Assyrian King Ashurbanipal's policy to always demand that examples be made of those who resisted them; this included **deportations** of entire peoples and horrific physical punishments. There is an inscription from a temple in the city of Nimrod that recorded the fate of his enemies.

King Ashurbanipal enslaved, tortured, flayed, skinned, starved and impaled his enemies upon sharpened wooden stakes. He raised their children in pens like animals to be used in forced labor camps. His cruelty was unimaginable.

2Kings 19:6 And Isaiah said unto them, Thus shall ye say to your master, Thus saith the LORD, Be not afraid of the words which thou hast heard, with which the servants of the **king of Assyria** have **blasphemed me**.

It started with Assyria and it will end with Assyria. Two-hundred years and 19 kings after the time of Solomon (the last king over a united Israel), the northern kingdom of Israel fell to Assyria.

It was because they of idolatry and Sabbath breaking – they had so forsaken God.

Amos 4:2 The Lord GOD hath sworn by his holiness, that, lo, the days shall come upon you, that he will take you away with **fishhooks**, and your children with fishhooks. [big hooks on a rope line]

Amos 4:3 And ye shall go out at the breaches, [The holes broken in their fortified walls]

As the Assyrians led Israel captive, they followed their typical custom. When the Assyrians depopulated and exiled a conquered community, they led the captives away on journeys of hundreds of miles, with the captives naked and attached together with a system of strings and fishhooks pierced through their lower lip.

God made sure they were led in this humiliating manner through the broken walls of their conquered and fallen cities (Amos 4:2-3).

The same is going to happen soon to America and Britain – and it looks to be Germany doing the deporting.

In the end, when God is finished using Assyria to chasten Israel, He says, "I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his haughty looks (Isaiah 10:12)."

This is because the king of Assyria takes the credit away from God and is too harsh with the captives of America and Great Britain. And so, Assyria, the instrument of God's wrath upon Israel likewise receives God's wrath for its own sins—especially pride.

This appears to be what is happening in Daniel 7, where the fourth beast is destroyed but the other three are left alive. The notable horn in Daniel 7 not only speaks pompous words, but those words are spoken against God Himself!

Daniel 7:25 And he shall **speak great words against the most High**, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. [3½ years]

Revelation 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth **speaking great things and blasphemies**; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. [3½ years]

It is no wonder that God destroys the Beast, while leaving the **lion**, **leopard**, and **bear** alive.

Now, let's look at the **Mark of the Beast**

Revelation 13:16 And he [the image of the first beast] **causes** all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a **mark** in their right **hand**, or in their **foreheads**:

Let's notice the two ways here: God's way – the correct way to live, or the Beast's way – they are opposite.

Deuteronomy 6:8 Moses told God's people to "keep all His statutes and His commandments," noting, "You shall bind them as a sign on your **hand**, and they shall be as **frontlets** between your eyes."

Again, a choice is to be made about what God tells us we are to **do** and what we are to **believe**, as opposed to what the Beast will espouse and demand. Are there good marks? Yes!

Ezekiel 9:4 And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of 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.

Ezekiel 9:5 And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:

Ezekiel 9:6 Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but **come not near** any man upon whom is **the** [good] **mark**; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.

Revelation 13:17 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 the title of today's sermon. **6-6-6** the Ubiquitous Mark of the Beast

Revelation 13:18 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. [666]

This should send chills up the spine of any one of us who is aware of the "**mark**," which will exclude us from being a part of society. This Beast system will derive from socialism and atheism we see growing in the world. God warns us about this coming system. It is going to be so much worse than any of us can imagine. We will not be able to buy or sell without the 666 identification.

The Final Beast Empire will very much be a religious system of socialism and atheism which is going to be imposed on all the peoples of the earth.

This Beast system is spoken of widely throughout the Scriptures—called:

The Beast (multiple Scriptures)

The fierce beast with teeth of steel (Daniel 7:7)

The man of sin. (2Thessalonians 2:3-10)

The little horn (Daniel 7:8)

The son of perdition (2Thessalonians 2:3)

The Final Beast Empire will be bound and destroyed in the end by Jesus Christ. (Daniel 7:8-9; 2Thessalonians 2:3; Revelation 19:20).

The Beast Claims to be God and is **worshiped** (2Thessalonians 2:3-4).

He will blaspheme God (Daniel 7:8-9; 2Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 13:11-14).

He will be a miracle worker (2Thessalonians 2:9; Revelation 13:13-15; Revelation 19:20).

[Here we begin to identify what the **Mark of the Beast** actually consists of.]

The Beast leads people into **idolatry** (2Thessalonians 2:4, 9-10; Revelation 13:12,14).

And notice that the Beast Comes Back to Life working with the False Prophet.

Revelation 13:12 And he exercises all the power of the first beast [the Man of Sin] before him, and causes the earth and them which dwell therein to **worship** the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. [**Worship** belongs only to God – not a short lived political/religious/economic system]

Revelation 13:13 And he [False Prophet/miracle worker] doeth great wonders, so that he makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

Revelation 13:14 And **deceives** them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he [False Prophet] had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an **image to the beast** [idolatry], which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

Brethren, we keep our eyes open because this **image** to the beast in verse 14 may be a reference to the Abomination which makes desolate. And we are still talking about the Mark of the Beast having to do with idolatry.

2Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man **deceive** you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that **man of sin** be revealed, the **son of perdition**;

2Thessalonians 2:4 Who opposes and exalts himself above **all** that is called God, or that is **worshipped**; so that he as god [he's not] sits in the temple of God, **showing himself that he is God**.

2Thessalonians 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the **working of Satan** with all power and signs and **lying** wonders,

99.9999% of the world and churches will be deceived and put on the Mark of the Beast.

2Thessalonians 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in **them that perish**; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

There is a very strong **sorting out** that is coming fast.

2Thessalonians 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

Here is a big, big clue to the Mark of the Beast.

2Thessalonians 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had **pleasure in unrighteousness**.

Big question: Who **revels** in unrighteousness? Who will go along with the Beast by either making war against the saints or by causing those who would **not worship** the beast to be put to death? (Daniel 7:21; Revelation 13:15). All of these Scriptures are describing the Final Beast.

The Bible shows that this person great political power and religious influence - a personage and with prophecies of global significance.

Who is going to jump on the Beast's bandwagon? Who is going to hitch their wagon to his star? Who is going to ride on his coattails to fame and fortune? It is going to be the **greatest** movement the world has ever seen.

But understand this: The world as we once knew it is going to be turned entirely **upside down**. Our world – especially in the glory days of Britain and America – were days of decency.

People worked hard, paid their bills, loved their families, were just and moral law keepers. We believed in our country, its constitution and laws. There was a sense of right and justice. People wanted to associate with the “good guys” they saw in the movies.

It is kind of hard to imagine how that is all going to change in the world of the Beast Power – but it is already in the offing, and is beginning to happen and will appear soon. At first the changes are subtle: Things are different at the movies – the bad guys are becoming the heroes...

The new movies contain an inordinate amount of demonic involvement, walking dead, zombies, ghosts, evil beings, and strange alien creatures without natural affection, outside the law, unmerciful men all possessing a disdain for God and His love. What is that doing to men's minds?

The US Constitution is held in derision by the President and his people... Christian rights are being severely eroded... The Ten Commandments are being removed... The American flag is stomped on... American soldiers, sailors and airmen are lied to despised by the President... Let me give you one small piece of anecdotal evidence:

I am personally appalled at the irreligious conduct and lack of character of our President and his staff on down. They have all remained silent – except in their admiration of the perpetrators of this bold law-breaking misconduct.

And our news services and press corps have already sold their hypocritical souls in their allegiance to the coming Beast Power. They did so by refusing to acknowledge the nasty **religious abuse** heaped on one **female** member of our 10 American sailors.

She had a filthy Muslim garment (a make shift hijad) thrown over her head by Iranian loyalists in total violation of her holy and sacred rights as a woman, as a member of our armed forces, and as a citizen of the USA.

Can you imagine the outcry if we had captured an Iranian woman and **abused** her in the same exact way by removal of her hijad [religious head scarf that must be worn by Muslim women] – exposing her head?

We would never hear the end of having violated Islam. Our Washing officials would find it "**Justified**," (Secretary of State, John Kerry) if the Islamists carried out another Paris like slaughter in retaliation. That immoral conduct by the President and the news media is symbolic of the **mark of the beast**—a total deference and high regard to all things evil.

Isaiah 5:20 Woe unto them that call **evil** good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

They put **down** up and **up** down – turning our world **upside** down. The **ubiquitous mark of the Beast** will be instrumental in destroying the world to the point that it is **past** redemption.

Matthew 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved alive: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Twenty trillion dollars of deficit will soon be 40 trillion – the entire money system will be **abandoned** and deserted in favor of something else. The condition of our nation is broken, morally, spiritually, politically, and racially and economically...

All Europe is on the verge of having its social services **overwhelmed** already. Add to that the **coming** Islamic incursion and resurgence. Only 10 per cent of Syrian and Iraqi migrants **who are coming**, have reached Europe so far and "eight to ten million are still on the way!" There is a **crisis** – a disaster looming – what is going to give??? Germany's right-wing **anti Muslim**, immigrant party, is **surging** ahead in popularity and has hit a new all-time high number of constituents.

We see some of the inner workings of the Beast Power in these verses. These are characteristics, attributes and techniques that will be employed by, and describe the last Beast: The beast is against God and His people.

Daniel 11:32 And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by **flatteries**: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do **exploits**. [‘exploits’ means that some of God’s people will take a stand and make a big difference]

By flatteries – it means he has a glib tongue and promises everyone greatness – if they stick with him.

Remember that the beast will be working hand in hand with the False Prophet – perhaps a Pope or the Muslim Cleric – or better yet a combination of the two – a Mahdi figure – an incarnation of a false messiah working miracles.

Daniel 11:34 Now when they shall fall, they shall be helped with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries.

In God’s Church there are a few who will cry aloud and spare not.

Daniel 11:35 And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.

Daniel 11:36 And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

Daniel 11:37 Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.

He will rule by force – and not use gold to back his currency. He will incorporate an entirely new economic basis.

Daniel 11:38 But in his estate shall he honor the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honor with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.

Daniel 11:39 Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.

Daniel 11:40 And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.

Daniel 11:41 He shall enter also into the glorious land, (you know the story)

How is all this going to play out? Herbert W. Armstrong died thirty years ago today. We came to “The Countdown to the Return of Jesus Christ” # 666 on this anniversary! It does cause one to **pause** and consider where we are... In some ways the time has gone by quickly. And in other ways we’ve seen so much change in the world and in the Church.

The mark of the beast will soon be everywhere. Mr. Armstrong taught that the Bible is basically a spiritual book, and that the mark of the beast will be something with **strong spiritual** overtones. I certainly believe that is true.

Mr. Armstrong believed that whatever the **mark** was, it would be something that would be a **contrast** to the **sign** that shows we are God’s people—the the Sabbath.

Exodus 31:13 Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a **sign between me** and **you** throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.

And so the mark, he said, will include the **veneration of Sun-day** as the official day of worship, and a prohibition against gainful employment on that day. And so one of the things we can look for is the observance of Sunday.

Those who keep Sunday will bear "the mark of the beast." We believe that Sunday Worship will most assuredly be demanded by the Beast. This move is specifically targeted at **Jews** [Saturday observance] and **Muslims** [Friday observance] – and of course – **Sabbath keepers** as ourselves. Muslims typically gather for worship at a mosque on "gathering day" which corresponds with Friday.

The Beast either thinks to change times and law—changing the law of God—or he sets himself in the Temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. The implication is that he has the authority to do these things.

Daniel 7:25 He shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to **change times and laws**:

We will not be able to hold Sabbath services or to buy – to earn a wage or salary, or to engage in business anytime at all. That is only a **part** of it – but I'm sure there is much **more!** I do not think that the Seven Day Adventists and Jews who observe the Sabbath – even Messianic Jews, will be able to avoid the mark of the Beast.... The keeping of the Sabbath is **not** enough to fully avoid his **mark!!**

Those groups will acquire the Mark of the Beast along with the entire world. They will still try to go to church on Saturday and they will not get any 666 tattoos – but they will still receive the Mark of the Beast. And that is because there is **more** to the Mark of the Beast.

The Mark of the Beast goes much **deeper** than that. We need to understand this because everyone who has succumbed to the **attitude** and **mind-set** of the Beast system will endure the seven last plagues – after going through the Tribulation.

Those who have the mark of the beast will **be like he is** – same motivations, desires, philosophy of life, temperament and way of thinking, and behaving. They will have the same attitude and spirit as the Beast.

So, brethren, **spiritually**, the total picture goes much deeper. The beast represents a governmental system. He will be the **personality** of the beast system. The Beast system is going to have an extremely dark side: It will be a philosophy of life - that puts people into fear.

Hitler's Europe was only a facsimile of the terror to come. In a spiritual sense "the mark of the beast" is a **Satan's attitude** that is mean spirited, deceptive, cruel, cunning and destructive. No wonder Revelation 13:4 says, "Who can make war against the beast?"

You remember the "Mark of Cain," he too was cruel, hateful, destructive and a murderer.

1Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour.

The mark is nearer than we like to believe. Oh, we wish it were far away and easily rejected. This world is going to move over to the dark side in mass. We do not like to think that we still have murderous traits within us.

Would we take advantage of each other? We like to believe that we would never sell anyone out - especially a brother or sister in Christ. Most of us have not had to deal with a minister that has sold his soul for the corporate organization. Satan is cunning - that minister thinks that he has done God a favor (John 16:2) when he disfellowships you. You want to know about the spirit in man:

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind [the mind that is marked by the spirit of Satan the Devil] is **enmity** against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

That spirit will be emanating from the beast in **power**, and marking men. Will you be a part of his pyramid scheme - ride the system to the top with promises of untold power, wealth, acclaim and even immortality! The Beast power is a great Satanic Ponzi scheme that will leave Bernie Madoff in the shade.

There will be no concern for the welfare of others, no empathy in a dog eat dog culture - where only the well placed will survive. Allegiance to Satan's attitude will be required. The Beast will be suave and debonair, cultured and refined, a man going places, a flatterer and one who rewards. Remember how Satan appeared to Eve - as a very attractive and beneficial character. One-third of the angels fell because of him and are forever in bondage to him. The Beast will be that persuasive and attractive.

Negative attitudes will prevail with those who have the mark of the beast. The mark is the worst thing that has ever happened. It is the **attitude** that **killed** Jesus Christ – Savior and Son of God – all the time fully believing in the **right** of the satanic authority to commit such an atrocity.

Let me give you a scenario of how things might just work out: This is **speculative** on my part – but I try to imagine how all this is going to come together. Notice how rapidly this **posture** of a wrong way of thinking is already beginning to permeate our society. It is taking over.

The world has long relied on a gold standard as a currency and value in trading... Every nation is right now getting in serious financial and economic trouble because of violations of God's financial laws. The whole world is about to go belly up.

There is a good chance that the Beast will ascend – possibly on a rising tide of global financial despair. After all, the world is in serious economic straits.

But, what if this new world order relies on another **fiat** currency – not backed by gold or any other commodity – but by something else? What if the Beast did away with gold and said, "Let's rely on something with a more intrinsic value – – **like human life.**"

Everyone will say, "That is really neat – there is nothing so valuable as life itself." Financially, everyone will have unlimited credit! It is like everyone would win the Billion dollar lottery.

The problem is we forget the Assyrian mind-set. "Yet he [Assyria] does not mean so, nor does his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy, and cut off not a few nations. For he says, 'Are not my princes altogether kings?'" (Isaiah 10:7-8)

That means the Germans are "More Equal" than everybody else.

Some people would still get themselves into hock – and others who used to end up with all the money – would end up owning hoards of people and their properties. Something like that is going to happen. We saw:

Daniel 11:39 Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to **rule over many**, and shall divide the land for gain.

We've seen that they are also more cruel than everybody else. But just like in WWI and WWII – nobody but Winston Churchill saw their **detestable** traits until it was too late. At that point the Beast rules and all of his groupies are along for the ride.

They join in following and supporting the Beast – aiding and abetting his every scheme, they jump on the Beast's bandwagon, hitch their wagon to his star and ride on his coattails to power fame and fortune? At that point everyone will be throwing caution to the wind.

That Satan inspired attitude of greed, power, and cruelty, will be gripping everyone with a passion. It will be truly a dog eat dog world.

The Beast could articulate the grievances of the masses by instituting and implementing an entirely new system – like a constitution and Bill of Rights all rolled into one. It would be based on the inestimable value of every living soul. Everyone's **credit** limit would be limitless.

We have the **dollar**, Germany has the **Mark**! Another interesting point. What we are talking about here is the **New German Mark**.

Industry, economy, building and expansion would immediately expand exponentially as everyone purchases their dreams and desires.

We in God's church would be **greatly tempted** to be a part of that incredible system – with untold profits, happiness and dreams fulfilled.

But it is all a Bernie Sanders like socialists Ponzi scheme – and very soon they are going to run out of other people's money.

Daniel 11:36 And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, **and shall prosper** – – – till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

It is going to crash hard! What I think is going to happen is too horrendous to talk about. Lives by the billions will be left in cruel slavery to this curse. We are into the Tribulation at this point as the Beast tries desperately to regain his domination by tightening controls.

Brethren, the world is simmering as we speak – and will soon break out into a raging fire. We have been warned not to have anything to do at all with the Beast – because we could easily get caught up in his mark.

It is going to be incredibly tempting to go along with the Beast – and that is what the **mark of the Beast** is all about. Everyone will be getting rich and prospering (Daniel 11:36) while the true people of God will be being persecuted. The miracles will be astounding (Revelation 19:20).

We must walk in the **faith** of Jesus Christ (Revelation 14:12) by living our Christianity in a world gone mad. We must continue to forgive, serve, reconcile, sacrifice and lay our lives down as Jesus gave us example. In that way we will not be deceived.

Matthew 24:24 For there shall arise false messiahs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall **deceive the very elect**.

End: 666 Ubiquitous Mark of the Beast