

“The Mark of the Beast”

(Rev. 13:11-18)

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I. Introduction

A. The Constitution

1. 200 years old
2. Incredible masterpiece
3. Protects the rights of every person
 - Endowed by our Creator with “certain inalienable rights”
 - Life, liberty, pursuit of happiness
4. The First Amendment
 - Part of the Bill of Rights
 - Ratified Dec. 15, 1891
 - *“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...”*
5. Why?

B. When politics and religion are mixed

1. The abuses the founders had seen in England
 - a. The Church of England
 - b. Anglican....or else
 - c. Henry VIII
2. The Holy Roman Empire and Roman Catholics

- a. The influence of the Pope
- b. The Spanish Inquisition

C. The Middle East today

1. The revolution in Iran
 - a. When the Ayatollahs overthrew the Shah of Iran
 - b. Shiite Muslims
 - c. Preparing for the 12th Imam
2. Want the country ruled under “Sharia Law”
 - a. To follow the Koran
 - b. Fear and opposition in moderate countries like Turkey

3. Ahmadinejad and the 12th Imam

- a. His U.N. speech

“Oh, Allah, give me the strength to hasten the return of the promised one.”

- b. Not talking about Jesus

- c. The 12th Imam

1. Call him the “Mahdi”
2. Will return when the world is at war
3. Ahmadinejad wants to initiate that war
4. Mahdi will promise peace
5. Will rule the world for seven years
6. Must destroy the Jews and Christians
7. Will make Islam the one world religion

- d. Is the 12th Imam the Antichrist?

1. Increasing speculation

e. The growing sense of urgency....

D. During the End Times...

1. The unholy alliance
2. Politics and religion in its most evil form
2. Two brilliant leaders working together

II. Review

A. The Seven Major Players Introduced in Chapters 12-14

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1. The Woman | = | Israel |
| 2. The Dragon | = | Satan |
| 3. The Male Child | = | Jesus |
| 4. The Remnant | = | Saved Israel |
| 5. Michael | = | The Archangel |
| 6. The Beast from the Sea | = | The Antichrist |

- a. The leader of the final world government
- b. Possessed by Satan
- c. Recovered from a near fatal injury
- d. Rules the revived Roman Empire

C. Now...the 7th and final character

7. The Beast from the Earth = The False Prophet (Rev. 13:11-18)

- a. The Antichrist's "side-kick"
- b. Batman had Robin...The Lone Ranger had Tonto
- c. The Antichrist will have someone called—"the False Prophet"

III. Text....Rev. 13

A. The Appearance of the 2nd Beast (v. 11)

1. A second “beast” appears.....v.11

“Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon.” (v.11)

- a. The 1st from the Sea
 - *the 2nd from the Earth
- b. Two separate leaders
 1. 1st Beast
 - a. Antichrist
 - b. Political leader
 2. 2nd Beast
 - a. False prophet
 - b. Religious Leader

2. ***“Out of the Earth”***

- a. Some say “earth” refers to “Palestine”
 1. Believe he will be a Jew
- b. They may be right, however...The land of Palestine
 1. Wrong word for “Palestine”
- c. We don’t know

3. He appears harmless

- a. Two horns like a lamb
- b. Do lambs have horns?
 - ==yes!
 - ==two knobs on babies
- c. Appears like a gentle lamb

4. Yet he doesn't sound harmless
 - a. Will speak like a dragon
 - b. The Dragon = Satan

B. Characteristics of the False Prophet

1. He will appear harmless, but be capable of great damage

1. False prophets appear warm and cuddly
 - a. Yet doing the bidding of Satan
 - b. False prophets at Tri-City
 1. Mark R.
 2. Poisoning the well
 - c. Not limited to leaders
 1. Mrs. Den.
 2. Dawn B.
2. Characteristics of a false prophet:
 - a. Appear to be so sincere
 - b. Appeal to the emotions
 - c. Hard and selfless workers
 - d. Giving
 - e. Appear genuinely humble
 - f. Pride themselves for having a "critical spirit"
 - g. On the wrong side of key issues
 - h. Seem to oppose vision
 - i. Their actions cause people to turn from God

C. The goal of the 2nd Beast (v.12-13)

1. (v.12) *He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.*

2. *He will become the leader of a one world church*

2. Key Role

a. Cause people to worship to the Antichrist

- The one with the deadly wound

b. Appears to be the leader over the world church

- We'll see in Rev. 17

c. Rises to power with the 1st Beast in middle of the 7 years of Tribulation

3. Politics and religion will join hands to control people

a. One of Satan's oldest tricks

b. Presidential candidates appealing to religious groups

c. People need to worship something

1. Pascal—"There is a 'God-sized' vacuum in each of us which only God can fill"

d. Mankind is naturally religious

1. Seeks his creator

e. Dictators have built substitutes

1. Nebuchadnezzar's image

2. Rome—emperor worship

3. *His goal will be to get people to worship Satan (verse 12)*

4. The False Prophet will turn the world church into the worship of Satan

a. Will be composed of all the world's churches

- b. From Roman Catholic → Baptists
- c. True believers will be in hiding....not in churches

5. The great counterfeit

4. *He will try to imitate the power of God*

“And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men.” (v.13)

- a. Imitates God’s signs and wonders
- b. Even fire from heaven
 - Like Elijah (I Kings)

D. The Deceit of the Beast (v. 14-15)

“(14) Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. (15) He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.”

5. *He will kill those who oppose the worship of Satan*

1. Makes an image (likeness) of 1st beast....v.14
 - a. In Jerusalem
 - b. Like Nebuchadnezzar’s?
2. A likeness of the Antichrist
 - a. Yet it can speak
3. Either through
 - a. Technology -or-
 - b. Magic
4. Will kill those who refuse to worship the image.....v.15
 - a. Yet many escape and try to hide

- b. He comes up with another device
- 5. Caesar worship
 - a. Burn incense, receive a mark
- 6. Catholics and the conversion of natives
 - a. Convert or die!

E. The Mark of the Beast (v. 16-18)

6. He will institute the dreaded “mark of the beast”

666

“(16) He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, (17) so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name. (18) This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man’s number. His number is 666.”

- a. Bulgarian after Communist oppression....the ration card

“You cannot understand and you cannot know that the most terrible instrument of persecution ever devised is an innocent ration card. You cannot buy and you cannot sell except according to that little, innocent card. If they please, you can be starved to death, and if they please, you can be dispossessed of everything you have; for you cannot trade, and you cannot buy and you cannot sell, without permission.” (Crisswell)

- b. Rationing during WW II
 - 1. Have the money—but, can’t buy it!
- c. The Mark of the Beast
 - 1. Necessary to buy or sell
 - 2. Steals the idea from God
 - The 144,000
 - Have the Father’s name written on their foreheads
 - Satan can’t touch them

- d. We now have the technology to allow him to do it
1. Satellite technology
 2. Massive computers
 3. Implanted chips
- e. Yet, will be used to starve those who refuse to worship
1. Won't be easy to hide
 2. Cameras everywhere
- f. The key to the mark?

“This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man’s number. His number is 666.” (v.18)

1. Appeals to the wise
 2. The number is 666
- g. Incredible speculation regarding who will it be?
- h. Giving numerical value to names

(A = 1 B = 2 C = 3)
(Alpha Beta Gamma)

1. Adolph Hitler

- A = 100 B = 101 C = 102 D = 103 ...etc.

H = 107

I = 108

T = 119

L = 111

E = 104

R = 117

666

2. Nero Used Latin values for his name

N = 50

E = 6

R = 500
O = 60
N = 50 Had to add the Latin ending
666

3. Even worked out in Hebrew

- Nero Caesar = 666

k. The men probably were Satan's chosen forerunners

1. Makes sure they add up

2. But, the final one will not be seen until middle of Tribulation

l. The key to the number?

1. Six is the number of MAN

--Created on the 6th day

2. Satan, the great imitator

3. Yet, never quite makes it!

IV. Summary

A. The heavy burden of leadership

1. Elders and the Marion Jones article

*seven other ladies will lose their medals

2. Let the "team" down

a. Everyone of us is on a team

3. My quest for integrity

a. The weight I feel to not let you down

b. Next week..... "Blameless"