

Session 11

The Image and the Mark of the Beast

A. Introduction

1. The image and mark of the Beast are two of the most important and significant things that will happen during the End Times. They are connected with each other, are real and literal things, and will have global impact at the End of the Age.
2. The “mark of the Beast” especially is one of the most important subjects pertaining to the End Times because God wants us to take this subject seriously. Our understanding of this subject will greatly affect our decision-making especially during the End Times.

B. Why it is so Important to Understand the Image and Mark of the Beast?

1. The Bible exhorts us to seek understanding (Rev. 13:18)
 - a. The Bible gives sufficient details about the mark so that anyone who desires to know the truth about it can avoid being deceived.
 - b. The Bible also declares that it is wisdom to search out the issues related to the mark of the Beast by calculating the number of the Antichrist.
 - c. God will grant understanding and expose deception to all who seek wisdom (Rev. 13:18).
2. There are serious consequences to worshipping the image of the Beast and receiving the mark of the Beast (Rev. 14:9–11)
 - a. All who take the Mark will become demonized, reprobate and receive eternal judgment.
 - b. Rev. 14:9–11 gives us one of the most intense and severe descriptions of the eternal judgment that is directly linked to receiving the mark of the Beast.
 - c. Why such severe punishment? The mark of the Beast is more than just a “mark” that allows or forbids trading. It is a mark that signifies one’s allegiance and loyalty to Satan and the Antichrist.

3. Multitudes will be persuaded or intimidated into receiving the mark of the Beast.
 - a. Many will be deceived by demonic miracles into believing that the Mark is good (Rev. 13:13);
 - b. Many will also be pressured to receive it through financial sanctions and the threat of persecution (Rev. 13:17).

4. This is one of the most important truths for the Church to understand.
 - a. Whether someone takes on the mark of the Beast is an issue of going to the eternal Lake of Fire. Thus, this subject is one of the most important truths to understand and proclaim as hundreds of millions of people will be deceived and/or pressured into taking the mark.
 - b. It represents one of the most important decisions that anyone can make in the End Times. We must not over dramatize or minimize these prophecies that are of unparalleled importance to all.
 - c. The Church must develop clarity and depth in understanding so as to firstly avoid it and then to proclaim against it with boldness.

C. What is the Image of the Beast?

1. Revelation 13:12, 14–15 give details about the image of the beast and who creates it.

2. The False Prophet is the one who will convince people to make an image that is associated with the Antichrist, the “image of the Beast”, which will likely be set up in the temple in Jerusalem (Rev. 13:12, 14–15). (The issue of a temple existing in Jerusalem will be elaborated on in a subsequent session.)
 - a. The False Prophet will deceive the leaders of nations into making an image of the Antichrist. Many local leaders will likely also have a duplicate image of the Antichrist that will be demonically and technologically connected to the “primary” image in Jerusalem.
 - b. The result will be a global network of local “Antichrist worship sanctuaries” that may include high-tech images of the Antichrist.

3. The False Prophet will be granted power and permission by God to use Satan’s authority to “give breath” to these images or to give them a false appearance of “life”.

- a. The image of the Beast will speak, thus, it will appear to “think freely”. It will do this via demonic spirits.
 - b. The image of the Beast will most likely be an idol of the Antichrist that will combine cutting edge technology with supernatural demonic elements that can cause this image to breathe and speak.
4. Those who refuse to worship the image of the Beast will be killed. New legislation will be enacted to legally kill all who refuse to worship the Beast.
- a. The False Prophet will cause all the nations to worship the Antichrist as God. All will be required by law to worship the Antichrist.
 - b. As the image speaks it will establish new legislation that legalizes murder of all who refuse to worship the Antichrist. They will be seen as enemies of the state. The nations will see the image establishing laws in a supernatural way and thus, will conclude that these laws are from God (Rev. 12:6, 14, 16).

D. What is the Mark of the Beast?

1. The seal of God gives us insight and understanding into the mark of the Beast, which is a counterfeit of the seal of God.
2. There is a parallel between God’s seal and the mark of the Beast in the Bible. Understanding God’s seal will help us interpret the counterfeit mark of the Beast.
 - a. With the information given to us by Apostle John about the true seal of God in Rev. 7:3 and 9:4, we can interpret the counterfeit mark of the Antichrist in Rev. 13 through this information.
 - b. The Apostle John wrote more about the marks of God and the Antichrist to enhance our understanding (Rev. 14:1; Rev. 16:2).
 - c. There will be two groups of people who will be sealed in the End Times. One will be sealed with the Father's Name on their foreheads and the other sealed with the mark of the Beast on their forehead or right hand. Both involve the putting on of a name on their worshippers’ foreheads (Rev. 7:2–3; 9:4; 13:6; 14:1; 22:4).
3. The seal of God in the Bible:
 - a. The first two mentions of the seal in the book of Revelation emphasize that it is related to the protection of God’s servants and is within the

- context of God's empowerment to overcome (Rev. 7:2–5; Rev. 9:4; 14:1; 15:2).
- b. The New Testament teaches that the Holy Spirit is God's seal on our heart (Eph. 1:13; 4:30; 2 Cor. 1:22).
 - c. However, the seal of God for the End-Time generation is more than a “guarantee” of our redemption but it is also the release of the full measure of the Holy Spirit:
 - i. To empower us to love and obey God whole-heartedly (Song 8:6–7);
 - ii. To enable us to understand the truth of God and His prophecies (1 Chron. 12:32; Dan. 11:32–33).
 - d. The Old Testament teaches that the seal of God is the mark of our love, trust and allegiance to God. Israel was commanded to bind God's Word on their hand and forehead (Deut. 6: 4–8; Jer. 31:33; Heb. 10:16; Ezek. 36:26–27; Prov. 1:8–9; 3:1, 3; 6:20–22; 7:2–3).
 - i. A seal on the hand speaks of that which empowers one's actions. When God seals our hand, He empowers us to obey and to overcome.
 - ii. A seal on the forehead speaks of that which enlightens one's mind. When God seals our mind, He enlightens us with revelation and understanding.
 - e. Deut 6:4–8 is the prophetic foreshadow of God's seal for the End-Time generation. In Deut. 6, God set apart the nation of Israel before she entered into the Promise Land. God is setting apart His Bride before the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom.
 - f. Exodus 29:20 and Lev. 8:23–24 are prophetic calls for the End-Time Church to be sealed.
5. The mark of the Beast is the direct counterfeit to God's seal.
- a. It is more than a “mark” for transaction or trade but a spiritual mark that signifies loyalty and allegiance to Satan and the Antichrist.
 - b. All who take the mark will become demonized, reprobate and receive eternal judgment.
 - c. There are two aspects to receiving the mark of the Beast:
 - i. Empowerment to worship and be loyal to Satan and the Antichrist (Rev 13:8);

- ii. Enlightenment to have insight into the demonic realm and activities (i.e. sorcery) (Rev. 9:20–21).
 - d. Putting the Mark on our forehead will cause one to be deceived, deluded and demonized in the mind (2 Thes. 2:10–12).
 - e. Putting the Mark on our hand will cause one to be emboldened to do evil, carry out wickedness and walk in the ways of Satan.
 - f. The Old Testament gives us insight into God’s seal in times of judgment. Ezekiel saw an angel marking the foreheads of intercessors in Jerusalem who cried out during the time of God’s judgment on Israel through the Babylonian army (Ezek. 9:4–6).
6. Multitudes will be loyal to, obey and worship Satan and the Antichrist as a result of the mark of the Beast. The image of the Beast and the mark of the Beast are two primary strategies that Satan will use to deceive multitudes into joining the Antichrist’s global worship movement (Rev. 13:13–18; 14:9–12; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4).
- a. The image will be used to mobilize the Antichrist’s worshippers and penalize resisters.
 - b. The mark will provide economic resources for the Antichrist’s worship movement and economically oppress those who refuse to participate in it.
7. Believers will have God’s seal so as to avoid God’s judgment; yet they will be subject to Satan’s wrath. Those who receive the Antichrist’s seal will avoid his wrath yet be subject to God’s wrath.

E. Characteristics of the Mark of the Beast

Revelation 13:16–17 give us important details and characteristics of the mark of the Beast.

- 1. As people are forced to “receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads”, this mark will force one to publicly declare their true position with regard to the Antichrist. Those who take the mark will become demonized and reprobate (Rev. 13:8; 17:8; 14:9–12; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4).
- 2. Economic sanctions will be established by the False Prophet that will forbid anyone who does not have the mark of the Beast to buy or sell in the open.

These unprecedented sanctions will be on a worldwide scale unknown in history.

- a. All who refuse the mark will be unable to buy the necessities of life (e.g. food, fuel, electricity, etc.) and forbidden to sell their services or products. This will cause many businesses to suffer the loss of millions of dollars and suddenly enter bankruptcy. No one will be able to buy or sell without this mark, which will be essential for economic survival.
 - b. However, the Church will thrive in this time as God releases His protection and provision through His miracles.
3. All will be affected — small and great (i.e. military status), rich and poor (i.e. economic status) and free and slave (i.e. social status) will be persuaded or pressured into receiving the Antichrist's Mark (Rev. 6:15; 19:18).
4. It will be illegal to refuse the mark
- a. Those who refuse it will be viewed as criminals of the state and will be guilty of the death penalty. Economic sanctions will make it more difficult for people to flee and thus, it will be easier to get caught.
 - b. The pressure will be so great that parents and children will betray each other. People will be rewarded for turning in these "criminals of the state" (Matt. 10:21–22).
5. No one will accidentally take the mark, neither will it be given to them against their will. It will be the outward sign of one's covenant to worship the Antichrist. The significance lies in one's commitment to worship Satan.
6. God will supernaturally deliver His people during this time:
- a. God will raise up the "Goshens" by supernaturally providing for the people of God;
 - b. God will place His seal upon His people to protect them from His judgments (Rev. 7:3);
 - c. God will deliver people who pray for deliverance (Joel 2:30–32; Ps. 91:1–15).

F. Five distinct names for the Mark of the Beast

1. There are five distinct ways to refer to the mark of the Beast.
 - a. The mark of the Beast (Rev. 13:17; 15:2);

- b. The name of the Beast (Rev. 13:17);
- c. The mark of his name (Rev. 14:11);
We do not yet know the Antichrist's name but we do know that his Mark is related to it in a dynamic way. This first clue leads us to pay attention to the emergence of the Antichrist.
- d. The number of his name (Rev. 13:17; 15:2);
- e. The number of the Beast (Rev. 13:18);
The mark will be related to the number of the Antichrist which is the number of man or 666.

G. Mark of the Beast: Possible with Modern Technology

1. The technology for the mark could already exist in the form of implanted microchips. Microchip technology itself is not evil, but it gives us an insight into how the Mark could operate.
2. The Mark will undoubtedly be much more advanced than current technology. This technology will be enforced on all starting from the middle of the final 7 years before Jesus returns.
3. Today, many nations are aggressively pursuing a concerted plan that involves building up the technological infrastructure necessary to form a global human database (with ID numbers).
 - a. Their goal is to provide vital information for security that will minimize terrorism and illegal immigration.
4. The benefits to mankind are enormous
 - a. Medical Applications
 - i. The chip is able to emit a radio signal to hand-held electronic scanners. This will allow hospitals to access the medical records of an unconscious patient and allow for communication of their vital signs and their exact location.
 - ii. Doctors can access their patient's vital signs remotely and then analyze them to detect potential problems before the patient even notices the symptoms. The doctor would also know where to locate the patient in an emergency.

- iii. This technology is able to measure the amount of glucose, alcohol, or oxygen in one's bloodstream, instantly notifying the police if the levels cross certain thresholds.
 - b. Law Enforcement
 - i. Embedded chips are a very efficient means to identify and track wanted criminals, parolees, people under house arrest, and individuals in witness protection programmes and to monitor workers with top-security clearance, or provide security in airports.
 - ii. They will be the basis of a cashless society which could help in preventing the sale of illegal drugs, etc. It could be used by police to identify criminals or persons with drugs or alcohol in their bloodstream.
 - c. Food Safety

Chips are now embedded in cattle and other livestock to track health and location information from birth to processing in order to improve quality control and food safety.
 - d. Security

Embedded chips are useful for locating people (kidnap victims, children, elderly, etc.).
 - e. Warfare

Embedded chips can allow military leaders to know where their soldiers are and whether they are alive, dead, or wounded. It is an invaluable aid, both tactically and strategically.
 - f. Animal Protection

Embedded chips can track household pets and endangered species.
 - g. Tracking Valuables

Embedded chips can protect and trace valuable items (art, computer equipment, etc).
5. Therefore, while we are aware that this technology can be taken and used for evil purposes in the future, it does not mean that we should decry all use of it in its current form, especially if it brings much benefit to humanity and society.

H. Deception will be Exposed to those who Seek Wisdom

1. God exhorts us to seek wisdom regarding the mark of the Beast (Rev. 13:18). He will expose the deception by granting prophetic understanding to those who diligently seek for insight. We must adopt the attitude of Daniel in seeking for understanding (Dan. 12:8–10).
2. We must also not be unwise or be quick to jump to conclusions when God has not yet granted clarity and certainty to His corporate Body of Christ regarding what this mark is.
3. God did not specifically tell us in Scripture what the mark will be. However, He has given us clues in Scripture as to how to gain understanding.
 - a. It is biblical to seek insight into End-Time events. Those who honour End-Time prophecy will exert the effort to understand.
 - b. The Holy Spirit will help those who search for wisdom. This is done by comparing what Scripture says with Scripture (i.e. related to the Antichrist) as well as what Scripture says about significant international developments (political, military, economic, spiritual, etc).
4. The exhortation to understand the mark of the Beast will be most relevant during the final 7 years of human history. It will be obvious who the Antichrist is after he takes his seat in the Temple claiming to be God. We may not be able to precisely identify him before that time.
5. However, God promises to release substantial prophetic anointing by sending Elijah, the Two Witnesses, and the Revelation-10 messengers along with an outpouring of the Spirit with dreams and visions (Acts 2:17–2) to lead, direct and guide His people.

I. Conclusion

1. It is crucial to begin developing understanding regarding End-Time events and especially the mark of the Beast now.
2. It is also important to begin walking by faith with the Lord so that we can have confidence and not give in during the time of great pressure that is to come.