

A Biblical Profile of the Antichrist: PROFILE #10 – The Mark of the Beast

Perhaps the most familiar association in the consciousness of people in our world today, whether Christian or not, with the name Antichrist, is the number 666. Rightly so! The connection is derived directly from Revelation 13:16-18 –

“And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.”

This passage tells us that the beast will not settle for voluntary obedience and worship. It will be mandated through the requirement of receiving a mark on the right hand or forehead. The mark will enable an individual to engage in the everyday commerce of buying and selling. Without it, people will be left in the dire strait of finding their own sustenance, as well as escaping the persecution which will plague those who refuse to worship the beast (Revelation 20:4).

One of the strongest indications that we may be nearing this time of tribulation on earth is the rapid development of technology, which is currently very capable of implementing the economic system portrayed in Revelation 13:11-18. Microchips inserted beneath the skin of various pets have proven to be an excellent way of tracking them when they stray. These implants could become the means by which the mark of the beast is put into practice during the Tribulation.

However, the warning from the Word of God regarding the ultimate consequence of receiving the mark is unmistakably clear, as stated in Revelation 14:9-11 –

“Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he will also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will 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 goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.’”