



# Revelation 13:3-18

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## The Beast & His Mark

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- i. **Ways to stay connected with TRUTH:**
    - a. [www.CalvarySJ.org](http://www.CalvarySJ.org) & Calvary Mobile App (iOS & Android)
    - b. Real Life Network Mobile App (iOS & Android) – real time news, documentaries, etc
  - ii. **Understanding The Times:** Jan Markell interviews Pastor Mark Henry. An economic tsunami may be up ahead which should be expected if we're going to own nothing and be happy. And an all-new money system is going to be unleashed soon. Our guest suggests we'll be all digital in 18 months. How does this fit into the predicted biblical scenario?
    - a. OliveTreeViews: <https://bit.ly/31WMM0s> YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/3s487di9>
  - iii. **Fall Prophecy Event: Oct 10, 5:PM Pacific** Livestream at [www.MarkHenryMinistries.com](http://www.MarkHenryMinistries.com)
  - iv. **Curtis Bowers: Agenda Weekly:** Reds ready for Revolution <https://tinyurl.com/bdfrapws>
  - v. **Amir Tsarfati Newsletter:** <https://tinyurl.com/mtxcdmef>
  - vi. **News of the Week:** IDF confirms death of Hezbollah Leader Nasrallah <https://tinyurl.com/58jerb8a>
- II. **Should Christians Support Israel?** [tinyurl.com/5aybbmhh](https://tinyurl.com/5aybbmhh)
- III. **Behold Israel/Connect Breaking News: Death of Nasrallah:** <https://tinyurl.com/2vxce7fm>
- IV. **Revelation 13:3-18**
- i. **Verse 3: The Beast & his wound**
    - a. "One of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded": This is a *head* wound, a *mortal* wound, not a superficial injury ... NOT AN EAR!
    - b. "One of his heads"? I thought we just decided the beast was a man? Yes, but remember, Satan tries to mimic God. The beast is part of Satan's unholy trinity (Satan, the Antichrist, & the beast/false profit)
    - c. "And his deadly wound was healed": The recovery of the beast increases his fame and authority ("*all the world marveled and followed the beast*"). Twice later (Rev 13:12 & 13:14) this recovery is mentioned in connection to the world's worship and devotion to the beast.
    - d. Some who see the beast not as a man but as a ruling government or system see this as the revival of the Roman Empire, fulfilling [Daniel 7](#). In this perspective, the Roman Empire has having been **dead** but will again be **revived**, and the world will marvel.
    - e. Yet the most natural way to understand John's words in Rev 13 make us believe that he speaks of a **man mortally wounded** and then **healed**. The man will lead a revived Roman Empire, and his personality will dominate it – yet he and the empire are not one in the same.
    - f. "... **his fatal wound was healed**": This is truly an Antichrist, who **even imitates Jesus in His death and resurrection**. The world will believe this, and it will add tremendously to his fame and power.
  - ii. **Verse 4: The authority & popularity of the Beast**
    - a. "So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"
    - b. "So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast": People who worship this beast may not connect that they're bowing down to Satan himself; but it is worship of Satan none the less. They're clearly worshipping both the **beast** and the **dragon**.
    - c. **People expect Satan to appear horrific, not attractive. But 2 Cor 11:14-15** "No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds."
    - d. "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" The world will be amazed at the power of the beast, and will believe he is so mighty that he can't be conquered.
    - e. For a time, the beast will look like a tremendous **winner**. When he blasphemes Jesus and persecutes God's people, they will appear to be complete losers – for a short time.
    - f. People worship the beast, and the dragon behind the beast, simply because of the beast's might.
  - iii. **Verse 5-6: The Beast's Blasphemies**
    - a. "**Speaking great things and blasphemies**": "Blasphemer" may be a more accurate title than "Antichrist" for this end-times dictator. This beast is a man who speaks against God and everything God stands for (**His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven**).
    - b. "And he was given authority to continue for forty-two months": The beast continues without restraint by God for a period of **forty-two months – the familiar three and one-half years**. The duration of the period

shows that the beast has full reign for the first half of the final 7 years, & that during the whole time he is still under God's authority.

- c. Why does the beast "**blaspheme... those who dwell in heaven**"? This means he speaks against those who were taken in the rapture, and are therefore out of his reach.

iv. Verses 7-8: The Beast makes war against the Saints

- a. Yes, there are 'saints' on earth during the Tribulation, but these are "Tribulation Saints", those who accepted Christ 'post-rapture' and have not taken the 'mark' in verse 16 ... more on the mark later.
- b. "**It was granted to him to make war with the saints**": Revelation 12 described the broad phenomenon of Satanic persecution during the tribulation period. Here, the main instrument of that persecution is revealed: **the government of the beast will persecute and kill all those who do not bow in worship to the beast.**
- c. "**To overcome them**": Overcome does not mean that the beast can overcome the faith of the saints, but that he can destroy their physical lives, & by all appearances defeat the cause of God's people on earth.
- d. Jesus said that "**the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it**" (the church) in Matthew 16:18. If this 'group of saints' (a term not exclusively applied to the New Testament church) is overcome by Satan, this allows them to be a SEPARATE group of saints from the New Testament church.
- e. "**All who dwell on the earth will worship him**": This final world dictator will demand and receive worship from the whole earth. But those who worship him pay the price: they are those "**whose names have not been written in the Book of Life.**"
- f. Just how will "**all who dwell on the earth... worship him**"? It will probably be after the pattern of the 'Caesar worship' demanded by the Roman Emperors in the days of the early church.
- g. The "**Book of Life**" contains the names of all God's redeemed according to [Revelation 20:15](#). The idea is that worshipping the beast and having your name in the **Book of Life** are mutually exclusive.
- h. "**The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world**": This deeply meaningful title for Jesus reminds us that God's plan of redemption was set in place before He even created the beings who would be redeemed.
- i. God wasn't "surprised" by the fall of Adam or any other evidence of the fallen nature of man. God isn't making it up as He goes along. **It is all going according to plan!**
- j. God the Son had a relationship of love and fellowship with God the Father "**before the foundation of the world**" ([John 17:24](#)).
- k. Our Salvation is assured before the 'Foundation of the world'
- The work of Jesus was ordained **before the foundation of the world** ([1 Peter 1:20](#)).
  - God chose His redeemed **before the foundation of the world** ([Ephesians 1:4](#)).
  - Names are written in the Book of Life **before the foundation of the world** ([Revelation 17:8](#)).
  - Heaven was prepared for the redeemed **before the foundation of the world** ([Matthew 25:34](#)).

v. Verses 9-10: A warning to all

- a. "**He who has an ear, let him hear**": This phrase introduces a solemn word of warning. Remember Chapter 3 used this phrase with the 7 churches.
- b. "**He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity**": Though these things are prophesied & part of God's predetermined plan, it doesn't lessen man's personal responsibility. Those who work for the beast & lead others **into captivity, shall go into captivity**. Actions have consequences.
- c. "**Here is the patience and the faith of the saints**": Though they are viciously attacked by the Antichrist and his followers, the saints of God must keep steadfast **faith** in the ultimate justice of God. He will reward their persecutors with persecution of His own.

vi. Verse 11: The Beast rising from the Land

- a. "**Then I saw another beast**": This creature represents someone *like* the beast rising from the sea, because the same word **beast** is used to describe them both. At the same time, this **beast** is different.
- b. They are different in origin, because one comes **out of the sea**, the other **out of the earth**.
- c. They are different in rank, because the second is subordinate to the first (*causes the earth... to worship the first beast*, [Revelation 13:12](#)).
- d. They are different in appearance, because the second has a mild, "lamb-like" appearance.
- e. With the dragon, the beast rising from the sea, & the beast rising from the land we have an **unholy trinity**. The dragon is the **anti-Father**, the beast rising from the sea is the **anti-Christ**, and the beast rising from the land is the **anti-Holy Spirit**.

vii. Verses 12-15: The Second Beast's "Job Description" & Can the Beast perform 'works & wonders'?

- a. "**He exercises all the authority of the first beast**": The beast rising from the earth is essentially a Satanic prophet, who leads the world to **worship** the beast and the dragon.
- b. **It may seem fantastic to some that the world will be led into worship of a man and of the devil**. But by nature, men have an undeniable religious impulse, and they also have an undeniable rebellion against God. **What men want most is not the elimination of religion, but their own religion**. They say they want the kingdom, but they don't want God in it.
- c. "**He performs great signs**": The beast rising from the sea has the "signs and wonders" to back up his false teaching. A specific miracle of the false prophet is described: "**he makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men**". It is important that John highlights *this* miracle.
- d. In the eyes of the deceived world, it "matches" the miracle of the two witnesses, who are persecuted by the Antichrist and his false prophet in Revelation 11:5. **To the deceived world, this also puts this false prophet in the class of Elijah (1 Kings 18)**.
- e. "There is a supernatural power which is *against* God and truth, as well as one *for* God and truth. A miracle, simply as a work of wonder, is not necessarily of God. There has always been a devilish supernaturalism in the world, running alongside of the supernaturalism of divine grace and salvation." (Joseph Seiss, "The Apocalypse: Exposition of the Book of Revelation")
- f. In the days of the Exodus, Aaron performed miracles, and up to a point was matched miracle-for-miracle by the magicians of Egypt ([Exodus 7-9](#)).

viii. How can demonic forces work miracles?

- a. In [Deuteronomy 13:1-5](#), God assumes there will be supernatural works on behalf of false prophets and idols, **and He warns His people to judge a worker of miracles by their message, not only by their works.**
- b. Jesus said that some who worked miracles – *even in His name* – were false followers and would perish in hell ([Matthew 7:22-23](#)).
- c. Jesus said that in the end times, false prophets would emerge and *show great signs and wonders to deceive* ([Matthew 24:24](#)).
- d. Paul said that the Antichrist will come *with all power, signs, and lying wonders* ([2 Thessalonians 2:9](#)).
- e. Knowing all this, the emphasis on *signs and wonders* among some Christians is frightening. Some Christians say or think, “You can really know where God is and where His power is by signs and wonders.” (Think Bethel Redding with their heavenly gold dust & Angel feathers)
- f. **“He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed”**: The beast rising from the earth will use a deceptive, animated **image** to worship of the beast.
- g. It may seem strange to us to have the whole world worship to the image of a man, but the personality cults of totalitarian governments in the 20<sup>th</sup> century are a examples of this worship. Think of the Soviet Union, N Korea & Communist China, & the omnipresent pictures of Stalin, Kim & Mao and we see a pattern that will be ultimately fulfilled by the Antichrist.

ix. Verses 12-15: Will the beast's 'miracles' use technology?

- a. The image of the beast is animated in some way, in that it has **breath** and can **speak**. Whether the image is animated supernaturally or technologically, the result will be impressive.
- b. This image of the Antichrist will be a different kind of idol, because **the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.**
- c. This idolatrous image is what Jesus, Daniel, & Paul spoke of as *the abomination of desolation* ([Dan 9:27](#), [Matt 24:15](#), and [2 Thess 2:3-4](#)). It is an idolatrous image set up in the holy place of a rebuilt temple; it is an *abomination* in the sense of being supreme idolatry, and it is *desolation* in the sense that it will bring the judgment described by the seals, trumpets, and bowls.
- d. Project Blue Beam <https://tinyurl.com/4txupnzt>

x. When does the Antichrist's power end?

- a. This is the summation of the power of the Antichrist, **whose authority ends after forty-two months** ([Revelation 13:5](#)).
- b. This marks the halfway point of the final seven years of man's rule of this planet. **The Antichrist's power ends as soon as it peaks.**
- c. **David Guzik commented** “This is not a recent understanding of this passage. The first commentary we have on the Book of Revelation, written by Victorinus in the early church, says of this [Revelation 13:15](#): “He shall cause also that a golden image of Antichrist shall be placed in the temple at Jerusalem, and that the apostate angel should enter, and thence utter voices and oracles.”

xi. Yikes! The 'mark'

- a. **“He causes all... to receive a mark”**: Under the government of the beast and his associate, all will be given a **mark**. Without the mark, one will not be able to participate in the economy
- b. The Greek word for **mark** (*charagma*) isn't generally applied to people, some have taken this as a symbolic mark (I don't). But a literal mark needed to buy or sell is certainly conceivable and practical.
- c. The technology to give people a mark that enables them to buy and sell in the electronic economy is available & growing all the time.
- d. I do not believe it is a sub-dermal implant alone, but it could be used in conjunction with one. The use of 'Caragma' indicates a physical, visible mark.

**charagma: a stamp, impress** (χάραγμα)

Transliteration: charagma **Phonetic Spelling:** (khar'-ag-mah)

Definition: a stamp, impress

[5480](#) /*xáragma* ("brand-mark") was originally any *impress* on a coin or a seal, used by an engraver on a die (stamp, branding iron). [5480](#) (*xáragma*) later became "*the identification-marker*" (like with an owner's unique "brand-mark").

- e. **“mark on their right hand or on their foreheads”**: Satan isn't a creative being, all he can do is imitate God. He imitates God's mark upon his people ([Revelation 7:3-4](#)).
- f. **“The number of his name”**: This was a common concept in the ancient world. In Greek (& Hebrew as well), letters were assigned a numerical value.
- g. Can an 'Underground Economy' be established & succeed to circumvent the Beast's economic control? Undetermined, but the introduction of cyber-currency lays the foundation for global control of all commerce.

xii. Verse 18: The Number of the beast

- a. **“His number is 666”**: Does this tell us who the beast is, by figuring out the numerical value of a name and seeing if it adds up to 666? Using this method, many candidates for Antichrist have been suggested, such as the Pope, John Knox, Martin Luther, Napoleon, Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, etc.
- b. **“It is the number of a man”**: One persistent opinion, especially in the early church, was that this number identified the Antichrist with Caesar Nero. But to make the name “Caesar Nero” fit, one must take a variant spelling of the Greek form of a Latin name, transliterated into Hebrew characters.
- c. The letters of “Jesus” in Greek add up to 888. **666** may be a Satanic counterpart to the name of Jesus, or **666** may be God's evaluation of such a Satanic counterpart – it falls short.
- d. As compared to the number 888, the number **666** may signify an unholy trinity. It may be a human and demonic imitation of God, inherently falling short of the perfect and true. Seven is the number of completion and totality, and 6 is the number of man.
- e. The two beasts are Satanic imitations. We are presented with a false “Christ” and a false “John the Baptist” who promote the false god. Satan can't create, but he can effectively deceive with imitation.

- f. Imitations work because *they seem similar*; if they were obviously different, it'd be easy to tell the difference. **We must know & be familiar with the genuine.**
- g. Instead of obsessing with fear & interest about the imitation (the Antichrist) how much more appropriate is it for Christians to be interested in the genuine: Jesus Christ.