

An in depth study of the **Mark of the Beast**

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A Study of the Mark of the Beast.

A MARK

Rome was not an anarchy. The once free society which had risen to a state of Mediterranean prominence with voluntary a social welfare system and locally supported militias had become an authoritarian benefactor. It had steadily evolved into a complex system of laws, regulations and obligations. New and growing tax burdens fell upon the laborer in order to support this burgeoning bureaucracy and apathetic welfare state. The people of many countries including Judea were tempted to follow in their ways.

The people became dependent upon an elaborate system of taxation and revenue officers. The *Gabbai* [tax collector], collected the regular dues, which consisted of *ground-, income-, and poll-taxes* while the *Mokbes* collected duty upon imports and exports; *on all that was bought and sold; bridge-money, road-money, harbour-dues, town-dues, etc.* They had invented taxes that reached into the life of almost everyone. There were taxes based on the number of *axles, wheels, pack-animals, pedestrians, the use of roads, highways; on admission to markets; on carriers, bridges, ships, and quays; on crossing rivers, on dams, on licenses, in short, on such a variety of objects, that even the research of modern scholars has not been able to identify all the names.*¹ Not even certified public accountants of those days could be sure to figure out all the complexities of these artful tax systems.

They not only had to collect these taxes, but they had to keep track of who had paid and who had not, as well as who was a taxpayer and who was exempt. With all the traveling and trade that was done, there had to be ways of establishing who you were and what your status was. Among the slaves there were more than one status as well as among the citizens and residents. Subjects of the Empire might be required to supply *statute labor* for work on local roads or public projects besides the poll tax, etc.

They had many ways to keep track of slave and freeman (as well as who had paid what and how much) and who was still owing on the myriad of taxes, fees, tariffs, interest, and penalties.

Both Greeks and Romans used small boards with a raised frame filled with wax or even clay. Tablets with thin coating of dark wax were used for brief and short term notations. They scratched letters in the soft wax with a stylus so that the light-colored wood showed through. The tablets were sometimes linked together with thongs or metal rings, and called a *codex*.

Longer documents were sometimes written on a paper called papyrus. These were glued together into rolls 15 to 40 feet long called *volumen*. Long term contracts were etched or engraved with a quill in wet clay and then the marks or seals of the parties and witnesses were pressed in as a signature.

1 "Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah" Bible CD: Chapter III.

The tablets were allowed to dry and then they were stored in the temple. This ancient method of record keeping was widely accepted.

Loans of indebtedness and usury sometimes took advantage of this more permanent form of record keeping, and made men and their lands a surety by virtue of those etched covenants, solemnized by seals and marks in clay that were fired to make them unbreakable.

The word *mark* in Revelations is from *charagma* [χαράγμα]. A *charagma* is a stamp or a badge or an imprinted mark. It is from the word *charax* from *charasso* (to sharpen to a point). A *charax* is a pole or stake, a palisade. The only connection between a *charax* and a *charagma* is that the early *charagmas* were made with a *charax*. A common *charagma* was created from soft clay tablets upon which letters were scribed with a sharp stick known as a *charax*. This marked clay could then be baked into a ceramic and would last for years.

Slaves in the market place were given dried clay tablets to identify them and their *occupation*. If these tablets were baked with the seal of the owner they took on a permanency that protected the slave from unwarranted detention as he traveled through the public streets on errands for his master. That etched document was referred to as a *charagma*² which was a badge of servitude. The word might refer to several other forms of identification that appeared during Rome's long history.

A brand used by Romans was also called a *charagma*. These mark always indicated ownership or service. Some employed servants or slaves were very wealthy because of their skills and position. They might be physicians or engineers or lawyers. Their *charagma* would identify their status, occupation or *use*. Their *charagma* would contained the same appropriate seals and information but might also be made of lead, iron, copper, silver or even gold. This was all for those who required evidence of your status. It was a form of official identification required in order to travel unmolested by the Roman authorities, although it was originally issued by private or local authorities, but over time, Rome went from a republic to an Empire.

A "Charagma is well attested to have been an imperial seal of the Roman Empire used on official documents during the first and second centuries."

Although no longer scratched in clay, the same word was used. Taxation and knowing your status quo during the *census* required some form of accounting and usually required a token to mark those who had been counted. The census called for by Augustus *"was regarded as the badge of servitude, and incompatible with the Theocratic character of Israel."*⁴

2 charagma {khar'-ag-mah} from the same as 5482; a scratch or etching, i.e. stamp (as a badge of servitude), or sculptured figure (statue); graven mark.

3 Walter A. Elwell (Ed.). Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books. 1996. 22nd, July, 2003.

4 This was the sole grounds of resistance to the census. Josephus. Ant. xviii. 1. 1, 6.

Essential Characteristic of a Mark

What is the essential characteristic of a *charagma*? Is it because it is on the forehead or in the hand? Is it important to note that it is etched with a sharp object? Or is it because a *charagma* is a *badge of servitude*? It is to mark what is bound and what is loosed, who is free and who must serve?

“Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them...” Ex 23:24

Is the essential characteristic of a mark its location, shape, form or is it what the mark stands for? A *charagma* had a specific purpose. It was a mark that expressed ownership, the right of possession, the right to---or the employer of---the *use* of the item, creature or human as a resource.

*Be not thou [one] of them that strike hands, [or] of them that are sureties for debts.
(Pr 22:26)*

The word *mark* in Revelation is specifically a mark that ascribes, to the originator of the mark, the *use* of the thing or individual person. It is essentially a “*badge of servitude*”. But it is also important to understand the context in which the word is used in the text of the Bible.

Charagma appears 9 times in the Bible and is translated *graven* in Acts 17:29. This is the only place outside of Revelations that *charagma* appears, and it is also the only place it is not translated *mark*.

*For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven [a charagma] by art and man’s device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:
Acts 17:28, 30*

We are not really the offspring of God in the sense of being begotten by Him. The word is from *genos* which is translated, *kind, kindred, offspring, nation*. The author is expressing the concept that God is our Father, in the sense of having the original authority in our lives, owing Him our life.

If we examine the word *ought* in this verse we discover it is from the Greek *opheilo* which is also translated *owe, be bound, be (one’s) duty, be a debtor, be guilty, be indebted*. *Opheilo* is defined “*to owe, to owe money, be in debt for, that which is due, the debt*.” The author chose *opheilo* instead of *dei* or *tis*, translated *ought* 36 times in Acts. We also find the word *Opheilo* (used in John 13:14) expressing this concept of indebtedness: “If I then, [your] Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet.”

The words “*graven [charagma] by art and man’s device*”, are not talking about dead stone idols but systems of authority created by men. These systems include social programs or schemes, *making the word of God to none effect*.⁵

5 Mark 7:13 Christ was speaking of their system of social welfare, Corban.

Men begin to worship,⁶ have faith in, and allegiance to their created institution more so than God and His way.⁷ The word *device* here is from *enthumesis*, which means *a thinking, consideration; thoughts*. There are no more powerful false gods than those we create in our minds by pride.

It appears we are commanded not to let the *creations of our own thinking or imagination* become our godhead, *patronus* or father because we owe that to our *Father in Heaven* because *no man on earth* should be that Father. If we understand what Jesus was trying to tell us when he emphasized that we were to have no man on earth standing as a *substitute father*, we will be able to grasp the nature of any *charagmas* or mark then and now.⁸

The Mark in the context of Revelation 14:8-9

And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive [his] mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

IF ANY MAN

If any man is translated from two words; *e,i* meaning *if* or *whether*, and *tis*, meaning *a certain*. Together they mean “whoever, whatever” and is followed by conditions which need to be examined.

WORSHIP the beast

The word *worship* is from *proskuneo* meaning *an expression of profound reverence... used of homage shown to men of superior rank: such as a profound reverence for an office or a flag or the acceptance of an exercising authority*.

Worshipping God has nothing to do with singing in Church. Worshipping has to do with accepting a superior authority. In the Hebrew *worship* is often translated from “שָׁחָה *shachah*” meaning “to bow down”. If God is the ultimate authority, then to *bow down* or *worship* Him is to bow to His authority. Singing may be a gesture along these lines but is concerned with a more substantive behavior. Are we *taking His name in vain* if we are bowing to other authorities to obtain their benefit. Are we to rule over our fellow man or be ruled by them?

THE BEAST

The word *beast* is from the word *therion* from the diminutive *thera* which means “trap” or “hunting to destroy.” *Therion* is translated *beast, wild beast, venomous beast*. In Biblical prophecies of the past, *beasts* always represented governments, such as *Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the Lord*.

6 Pay homage. See Worship <http://www.hisholychurch.net/sermon/worship.html>

7 Faith, hope and charity, free will offerings under the perfect law of liberty.

8 Call no man on earth Father <http://www.hisholychurch.net/sermon/fatherabba.html>

Two systems

There are two fundamental classifications of governments. The first type is based upon *faith, hope, love and charity*, with individuals exercising authority over the *beast in themselves* and obeying their natural Father or Creator in heaven. It is a voluntary union of people based on an equal love of neighbor and self, with forgiveness and thanksgiving. This government is created by families coming together in a voluntary fellowship, which shares a common acceptance of the Character of God's Name or Nature, (e.g. justice and mercy) written on their hearts and minds.

The second type is the one that *hunts or devours* men. It operates on the basis of enforced control, imposed restrictions, exercising authority, and ultimately, bondage and oppression. It seduces the masses by promising protection at the expense of their neighbor. It solicits their applications, which, upon acceptance, becomes binding social contracts, covenants and leagues of allegiance. Such governments spread their influence by gifts, gratuities and benefits offering themselves as benefactors--but exercising authority.

The latter is man made, civil and worldly, and ultimately relies on an impatient belief in the spirit of force and control. In such systems, men codify laws and endlessly write and rewrite the rules governing men. These law-makers become the ruling elite. They may be born to these positions or elected by others who share their desire to control and rule over their neighbors and strangers alike. They always require a willingness to covet.

The former is spiritually based, and is dependent on faith, long suffering hearts, the exercise of patience, self discipline, and the charity of forgiveness and thanksgiving. It is populated by those who are willing to give--and forgive--under the perfect law of liberty. They maintain free choice by granting the same to others accepting responsibility for themselves and showing mercy and justice to others.

Those who follow this way must put on the key characteristics of God. Justice without forgiveness and mercy, or charity without choice, will drag the people away from virtues of God and feed the nature of the beast in us.

In a government of liberty people must seek to rule themselves, not their neighbor. They hope to master charity and mercy, forgiveness and service. They serve God and His the kingdom by serving one another.

And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and [will set them] to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots. 1 Samuel 8:12

Both systems depend on faith or allegiance. Both of them are composed of men of dedication. One is based on the authority of men over men, and has a man sitting as a central father (or *patronus*) or ruling authority. The other has God the Father of the nation expressed through the hearts and

minds of the people. In the centralized government the people are compelled to obey under the precept of *Parens Patriae*, “obey the Father.” Both types of governments are in essence a *family*. In one, the family is truly free.

God the Father’s family (or the government, or kingdom of God) is based on the natural family instituted by God with the solemn joining of Husband and Wife. These families freely associate as a nation. This system is where the natural Family holds the dominion within the household of God. These free Families may come together voluntarily, associated in a common purpose, bound only in love of their neighbor as themselves.

Can a government be based on love and charity? Can people unite on a grand scale of a nation and still remain a free people? Voluntary governments have been the rule in man’s history, “our modern reliance on government to make law and establish order is not the historical norm.”⁹

“That the princes of Israel, heads of the house of their fathers, who [were] the princes of the tribes, and were over them that were numbered, offered:” Numbers 7:2

Note here the word *over*. It is from *amad* [עמד], which is translated *stood* or *stand* or *endure* hundreds of times and is translated *over* only one time in the Bible. These fathers were not to rule over each other but came together as equals. Even in the domicile of their homes they were to rule as Christ ruled the Church with love and patient service, self sacrifice, and obedience to the Father in Heaven, enduring the burdens of their Natural Office.

The governments of men are systems of faith. In authoritarian governments, men substitute faith in God for allegiance to men who would be gods over them, the word *god* simply meaning *ruling judges*, or law makers.

“If we will not be governed by God, then we will be ruled by tyrants.”¹⁰

In the one system man is governed by man, and in the other, man is governed by his God-given conscience. At the time of Jesus, the Beast of the new world order was centralized in the character and office of Rome.

Israel was the kingdom of Heaven on earth, not the *religion* of Heaven on earth. Herod the Great had been baptizing his citizenry into his version of the kingdom of Heaven. This Hellenization of Judea was rejected by John the Baptist who had another vision for that kingdom of God.

“Herod’s scheme of initiation into a new form of Judaism was immensely successful. Jews everywhere were willing to join the worldwide society ... Entry was for members only; they had to show at the door an admission token in the form of a white stone from the river Jordan which the missionaries gave them at baptism.”
“The missionaries... with their leather wallets full of white stones, would come back with the same wallets full of money, in foreign currency. Once put into Jew-

9 The Enterprise of Law: Justice without the State. Bruce L. Benson Publisher: Pacific Research Institute for Public Policy (San Francisco), 1991

10 William Penn

ish currency by the money-changers, it would be stored in vaults, ready to be used by Herod for his vast building projects, or any subsequent causes.”¹¹

Eventually many of the citizens of Judea accepted John's cousin, Yeshua, a.k.a Jesus, as king. Proclaimed by the people as “Hosanna son of David, the anointed, and officially recognized King of the citizens of Judea by the Roman god or *theos*,¹² Pontious Pilate. Eventually thousands of Judeans followed the Way of John and Jesus and were apart of His kingdom at hand; they were excluded from the the social schemes of Herod.

THE IMAGE of the Beast

In Revelation 14:9 we also see the words *image of the beast*. This word is translated from the Greek is *eikon* which means *an image or likeness*.

What is “like” unto the Beast today?

Who was the first beast? Was it Babylon or Rome, or does it matter? Are they not all the same, as was Egypt, Ur and even Haran? Who or what is the beast like? What is that image, or similitude, or nature of the beast?

At the time of Jesus, Rome, as a faltering republic, was well into a process of decay. *“Each class contributed its share to the common decay... The free citizens were idle, dissipated, sunken; their chief thoughts of the theater and the arena... more than two hundred thousand persons were thus maintained by the State, what of the old Roman stock remained was rapidly decaying, partly from corruption, but chiefly from the increasing cessation of marriage, and the nameless abominations of what remained of family-life.... The sanctity of marriage had ceased. Female dissipation and the general dissoluteness led at last to an almost entire cessation of marriage. Abortion, and the exposure and murder of newly-born children, were common and tolerated; unnatural vices, which even the greatest philosophers practiced, if not advocated, attained proportions which defy description.”¹³*

Family values were a chief topic of political rhetoric before every election and during the writing of the new constitution by Augustus. History repeats itself because man does not repent. He does not change his ways, and corruption creeps into a once-noble society with each successive generation

Rome was no different. The rise of that Empire out of the ashes of a free republic was unrelenting in the pride of that society. After their civil war, the first of the three offices sought by Augustus was *Emperator*,¹⁴ *commander in chief* of the army and naval forces. The second office was *Principas Civitas*, the First Citizen, the chief executive officer. By this office he was

11 Jesus and the Riddle of the Dead Sea Scrolls by Barbara Thiering.

12 Theos, commonly translated into the word gods or God, was a common term used to address judges in courts of Rome and Judea. This is why Paul says There Are gods Many <http://www.hisholychurch.net/sermon/theosgod.HTM>

13 “Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah” Chapter XI.

14 Emperator, imperatoris m.commander in chief Collins L.E. Dict. '62.

proclaimed the President of Rome,¹⁵ a municipality. The third office was *ApoTheos*, literally translated the *appointor of gods*. The duties of this office were to appoint all the judges or *magistrates* for the empirical courts. Each office required an oath based on constitutional restrictions. Successors were determined by an electoral college of the Senate, the “Conscripted Fathers.”¹⁶

Worship AND Receive

The word ‘and’ is a simple word, but it can make a great difference in the interpretation of this text. If you receive the mark, but do not worship the Beast and his image you do not fulfill the requirements stipulated in the text. If you merely received the mark without worshipping the beast, then you do not qualify. If you receive the mark, through ignorance or deception or a combination of both, but have not made a conscious decision to pay homage, or allegiance to the beast, then you have not really *worshipped*¹⁷ it.

RECEIVE [his] mark

The word *receive* comes from the Greek word *lambano*, and means “to take with the hand, lay hold of, any person or thing in order to use it; to take up a thing to be carried; take possession of, i.e. to appropriate to one’s self ... to receive what is offered; not to refuse or reject... give him access to one’s self.”

In the word *lambano* there is nothing about a tattoo or the injection of a chip into the hand. Taking the mark is about *receiving what is offered*, it is simply a matter of *not refusing or rejecting* an offer. It is about an acceptance which appropriates one as a possession or human resource.

We do see the word *hand* at the end of the text which is translated from the word *khire*. Its definition is expressed as “1) by the help or agency of any one, by means of any one. 2) fig. applied to God symbolizing his might, activity, power” It is clear by this definition that the word *khire* is not at all limited to the concept of the physical appendage at the end of your arm.

IN the hand

Seeing the preposition *in* could lead us believe the mark must go inside the hand. The word ‘in’ in this verse is translated from the word *epi*. It is a generic preposition that is translated many different ways. For example, it is translated *on, in, upon, come to, by, at, before, over, etc.*

There can be no assumption that the *mark* actually enters the flesh of the hand. One may obtain the *use of mark* or *badge of servitude* without ever even touching it with the physical hand. *Khire* assists in confirming this idea

15 "Thus the republic was restored under the presidency of its 'first citizen' (princeps civitatis)." (Encyclopedia Britannica Vol 2, p. 687, '53

16 Rome vs. US <http://www.hisholychurch.net/sermon/romeus.HTM>

17 Worship <http://www.hisholychurch.net/sermon/worship.html>

when it expresses that you can receive the use of the mark through *the help or agency of any one* such as your parents or guardian.

FOREHEAD

This brings us to *metopon*, which is translated *forehead*. The word is only found St. John's Revelations. The word *metopon*, i.e. “forehead,” is defined *the space between the eyes, the forehead*. Some people have suggested that the mark is a lithium powered microchip injected along the hairline near the ear. Again, there is no reason to make that assumption.

The word *metopon* is often associated with *memory or thought*. If you only need to remember the name or the number associated with the *mark*, it could be assumed that the physical possession of a *mark* is not even necessary, and that the reference to *the forehead* or *the space between the eyes* is cognizant of the mind--and the location of thought and memory.

Mark in the context of 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:

TORMENTED with fire and brimstone

What is the wrath of God? The Hebrew word for wrath is Aleph Phie [פִּי] which is translated *face, nostrils, nose, before, countenance, forbearing, forehead, even worthy*. The same Hebrew letters are also translated *also, even, yet, moreover, yea, with, low, therefore, and much*. In the Greek wrath is from *thumos* and may include the idea of *passion, glow, and ardour*, and is from the word for translated “gods” or “God.”¹⁸

The word *drink* is from *pino* which does mean *to drink* but *figuratively, to receive*. To *drink of the wine of the wrath of God* seems to be a metaphor meaning that they will receive something. Being *poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation* can at least give us the idea that whatever is coming is firm, full strength and not very diluted.

The last part of this verse sheds important light upon the purpose and meaning of the whole verse. The words “*and he shall be tormented*” can give us the idea of torture or punishment but as with most words, there are several connotations. *Tormented* here is from *basanizo* which is from *basanos*. *Basanizo* actually means “*to test (metals) by the touchstone, which is a black siliceous stone used to test the purity of gold or silver by the colour of the streak produced on it by rubbing it with either metal*” It might imply torture but the word was also used by sailors or fishermen whose ship was *struggling with a head wind*. The word clearly has the sense of a *test* rather than punishment.

18 There Are gods Many <http://www.hisholychurch.net/sermon/theosgod.HTM>

The word *presence* is from *enopion* which is more commonly translated *before* or *in the sight of*. To emphasize the nature of these events as a *test* rather than a cruel punishment with torment and tortures I must ask:

Why would the holy angels and the Lamb want to watch people being tortured and suffering?

What is written in your heart and mind?

Does the good shepherd take delight in punishing his sheep?

Is this a test of our love, faith, hope, and humility?

This is clearly a test and they are the examiners or judges as it should be.

Mark in the context of Revelation 14:11

And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Smoke of their torment *ascendeth up*

Many will tell you that this means if you take the mark, you will be cast into hell. This is a conclusion based again on the word *torment*, which we have seen has to do with a test and the words *fire and brimstone*. Fire and Brimstone are not, nor have they ever been, synonymous with hell.

Fire and brimstone are mentioned in the Bible. One particular place it appeared was during the time of the liberation and redemption of the Israelites from Egypt. I suspect that since most of the world is now back in a bondage worse than that of Egypt, it would seem reasonable that we will see some representation of this reference to “fire and brimstone” before the people are all free souls under God on earth again.¹⁹

Here the words *smoke ascending* has also been interpreted as coming from hell. Throughout the Bible the idea of smoke going up has to do with the accepting of a sacrifice as worthy and in the times of the great *test* men will be called on to sacrifice many things, including their very lives in order to pass the *test*. They may be required to love their neighbor as themselves, to forgive and freely give again to receive the grace of God.

REST

Rest is not from the word *anesis*, meaning *a loosening* (which is translated *rest* 3 times and *liberty* and *be eased* once each). Nor is it from *koimesis*, meaning *a reposing, taking rest*. It is from *anapausis*, which actually means *intermission, cessation of any motion, business or labor*. As more is revealed about the nature of the “test,” our understanding of this passage may increase. One may see in this sentence two different points of view. One is that the smoke from the test goes up forever, and the others who do not repent,

¹⁹ Employ vs. Enslave <http://www.hisholychurch.net/study/gods/eve.htm>

change their ways, get no *cessation or intermission* from their labors, their bondage. It may help to examine more of the context to this one line:

Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. Revelation 14:12

The word “*patience*” is from *hupomone*, which means *steadfastness, constancy, endurance*. This may be disappointing to those who are expecting to be raptured away during this *test*, since it is clear you are going to need *steadfastness, constancy, and endurance* to pass the *test*. There is also some requirements to keep the commandments. This of course does not mean that God owes us salvation. Salvation is by grace, but neither does God owe us salvation simply because we say we believe, or have an emotional altar call and claim we have made a commitment. Many people proclaim that they believe in the Lord of lords just as the Pharisees claimed to believe in the God of Abraham in the days of Jesus. The test will be a witness to the truth of our faith or evidence that our faith has been false.

Mark in the context of Revelation 13:11

And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

We are dealing with the *mark of the beast* and should note that the *beast* comes out of the earth, rather than the sea. If these beasts are governments, it could be presumed that the difference between rising from the land, verses rising from the sea, could have to do with the “Law of the Land” rather than the “Law of the Sea.” Most people are not schooled in these classic forms of jurisprudence. For simplicity here we will just say that the Law of the Land is based in the Mosaic Law, Common Law and the Law of Nature and Nature’s God, while the Law of the Sea could include Admiralty, Commercial Law and Equity, a.k.a. *the law men establish for themselves*. It is the law, of the Canaanite.²⁰ One form of law encourages the virtues that set men free and the other lends itself to delivering men into debt and bondage.

Lamb’s horns could denote that the original authority was rather minuscule yet its rhetoric or action were more like a dragon.

Mark in the context of Revelation 13:12

And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

Numerous people interpret the beast as the Roman Church who was wounded at a particular point in time and recovered. Amazingly, they also interpret the Roman Church as the Harlot. It seems that it cannot be both. The Beast, at the time of the writing of St. John's Revelations, was clearly

²⁰ Thy Kingdom Comes <http://www.hisholychurch.net/thykingdom/tkca.html>

the empire of Rome. The image or similitude of the beast is not a matter of location but the nature, characteristics and precepts of the beast.

Mark in the context of Revelation 13:13

And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

One clear distinction between the beast and the image or similitude of the beast is that the image of the beast can make fire come down from heaven in the sight of the men. The emperor, or “commander-in-chief” of Rome, had an army and navy while modern commanders-in-chief have also an air force which allows them the power to bring fire from the skies.²¹

Mark in the context of Revelation 13:14

And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he 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, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

It is clear that just about everyone on earth is *deceived*. What helps bring about this deception are *miracles*. Are those miracles yet to come or have they already deceived us? We have television, computers, modern medicine the power of flight and have flown into space. Some would say that these were not miracles, but what word did the author use?

Semeion is defined *a sign, mark, token*. It is translated *sign* 50 times and *miracle* only 23. It does not say that the beast will perform miracles in the supernatural sense as some people might think at first glance.

In this age of modern miracles, could we have been deceived? Could true and accurate understanding slip by us? Have we made the image of the beast? Have we and do we give it power to roar like a lion upon the earth?

Mark in the context of Revelation 13:15

And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

The words “*power to give*” is from *didomi* and simply means *to give*. The word *life* is from *pneuma* which is the word translated into *spirit*. It is the beast out of the land with little horns of authority that really gives life and force to the image of the beast. Those who will not pay homage to the image of the beast are to be killed. What do they mean killed?

There are many words for killed in the Greek: *Thuo* can be translated *killed* but is usually used in the context of sacrifice. *Phoneuo* is translated “*killed, murder,*” and is from the word *phonos, to murder*. *Thanatoo* is also trans-

21 Rome vs. US <http://www.hisholychurch.net/sermon/romeus.HTM>

lated *killed* and does mean *put to death*. *Anaire* also is translated *killed*, *slay* or *put to death*. Each word can have a different meaning or use.

The word (in St. John's Revelations 13:15) is *apokteino* which means *to kill in any way whatever, to destroy, to allow to perish*. Because the word *apo* means *of separation* the Greek *apokteino* means more that they would be allowed to die or *perish* because of *exclusion* during the *test*.

The words *should be* are from *hina* which means *in order that*. This could give the idea that death is a result of---or the cause of---something other than a direct command.

Mark in the context of Revelation 13:16

And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

AND HE CAUSETH

Causeth what? He causeth to *receive*. Causeth is from *poieo* meaning *to make* as in *to be the author of, make ready* or *to prepare*. It is most often translated *do*. "Receive" is from *didomi* which means simply *to give, to give something to someone, of one's own accord to give one something, to his advantage, to bestow a gift, to grant, give to one asking, let have, to supply, furnish, necessary things... something to be administered*. Although the English words *causeth to receive* may give the idea of *force*, the Greek text does not support such interpretation. In this verse the original text gives the idea of *an offer, gift or grant* as a result of asking or applying, not compelling.

Right hand

Does this word mean that it is okay to receive the mark in our left hand? Right hand is from *dexios* which is an adjective that is translated right hand 39 times , right 12 times, right side twice. It can mean "the right" or "the right hand side" but it also is commonly used as "a place of honour or authority". Note that this word is from *dechomai*, which also means *receive, take or accept*.

Mark in the context of 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. Revelation 13:17

And that NO MAN

The words "no man" are not translated from *oudeis*, which is translated 94 times "no man" and "none" 27 times, or "any" or "any man" 6 times. Nor is it from *medeis* which is translated *no man* 32 times and means *nobody or no one*. Nor did the author use *ou anthropos* meaning *no man or no human*.

The words "that no" is translated from "hina me" which is translated "that not" 45 times, or "lest" 43 times and "that ... no" only 6 times or even "albeit not" and "so that not" once each.

Man is translated from “*tis*” which is an enclitic indefinite pronoun translated *certain* 104 times, *some* 73, *any man* 55, *any* 37, *one* 34, *man* 34, *anything* 24, *a* 9, *certain man* 7 times, *something* 6, *somewhat* 6, *ought* 5, *some man* 4 times. “*Tis*” is defined “(1) *a certain, a certain one* 2) *some, some time, a while*”.

It should be becoming clear that many misconceptions, unsupported by the earlier text, are being propagated in the world today. There are many specific statements and words used by the author of the Bible that have been blurred, twisted and distorted by the modern Church.

Many are being misled to believe that words like *cause* and *no man* mean no one will be allowed to buy or sell if they do not take the mark. The word *man* is not even in the original text. We may now see that the words of the author, who used an indefinite pronoun to express, at best, that only *certain* or *some* would be excluded---and because of this exclusion or separation, they might die because they do not take the mark.

It also might be noted here, for those who are sure they are okay until the chip implant is here, that the word *had* in the phrase “*had the mark*” is “*echo,*” which means “*to have, i.e. to hold. to have (hold) in the hand, in the sense of wearing, to have (hold) possession of the mind... 2) to have i.e. own, possess 2a) external things 2b) used of those joined to any one by the bonds of natural blood or marriage or friendship or duty or law etc., of attendance ...*”

Again, to have the mark has nothing to do with the injection of a chip but does clearly include the idea *membership, joined by bonds of family, duty or law*. If you have to prove you are a member of the family of the beast with a special identification card or number, or else you will be excluded from the some of the benefits of its commercialized market place, then that would meet the language of the authors of Revelations.

If policy requires a numerical identifier to get a job, a bank account, credit, business license, marriage license, and even a drivers license (or the individual is excluded from the market place), then such exclusion by the political benefactors and commercial world might make survival difficult or impossible in a times of deficiencies, deficits and deprivation. Such exclusions are already law according to Section 666, of the USC, Title 42.²²

MIGHT

The word *might* is from *dunamai* meaning, “*to be able, have power whether by virtue of one’s own ability and resources, or of a state of mind, or through favorable circumstances, or by permission of law or custom*” The word *custom* includes the synonym “*practice*” and therefore *policy*. It is again clear in the Greek text that the author, in the original language, is denoting the idea of *favorable circumstance* or *permission* of the legal system---or even just a matter of policy.

22 <http://www.hisholychurch.net/news/article/Section666.html>

All these exclusions presently apply to people without a Social Security Number. They have been excluded for years and those exclusions are growing. Obtaining a Social Security Number is also a key point of *consent* since it is *absolutely voluntary*. The number is linked to similar systems in over a hundred and seventy different countries. Are the social security numbers of the world systems the modern mark of the beast? Shouldn't we look at the biblical and spiritual implications of these systems or schemes?

number of his Name

The word “*name*” in the text is from *onoma* which does mean *name* but is also “... used for everything which the name covers.” It is used to express “*one’s rank, authority, interests... the cause or reason named: on this account...*” The word “*name*” denotes the authority by which the number is used not a particular name but an authorization.

Buy and Sell

The word *buy* is from *agorazo* which means “*to be in the market-place, to attend it, hence to do business there, buy or sell*”. The marketplace, since we are dealing with the world merchants, traffickers, (or Canaanites as a basic Bible concept) allows men into their system first with the eligibility by adoption, the birth certificate, the acceptance of benefits and finally the application to labor or to serve as a *registered member*.²³

The modern social insurance systems with compelled contributions are identical to the system of Corban, or unrighteous mammon,²⁴ instituted by the Pharisees before Christ's arrival. The sacred temple of Rome, called the Capitol, had a similar systems called “*Qorban*.” The Pagan and Moslem Qurban or Korban systems were similar.

These words all have to do with the sacrifices of the people, but have not always been collected in the same way. In these systems, the widows and orphans, elderly and needy of society were taken care of by either freewill or compelled offerings. The compelled offering was contrary to the the precept of freewill offerings (and the Ten Commandments) and forbidden by Christ, who claimed these traditions, also translated as “*ordinances*,” made the word of God “*of none effect*.”²⁵

It is already policy and custom that banks and credit card systems will not let you enter their market place without the number. Governments

23 Employ vs. Enslave <http://www.hisholychurch.net/study/gods/eve.htm>

The Charagma vs. The Card <http://www.hisholychurch.net/study/gods/chvca.htm>

24 The Unrighteous Mammon <http://www.hisholychurch.net/news/SSSfail.asp>

25 *And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. ... But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, [It is] Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; [he shall be free]. And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye. Mr 7:9...*

have stated there will be a tightening of rules in these arenas to help ‘track terrorists, money launderers, drug dealers and prostitutes’. National ID is just a tightening of the same fist, a contracting of the same system. Early Christians were often suspected terrorists simply because they refused to participate in these social schemes of compelled offerings.

As things got worse in Rome there was not only a rationing of benefits but also essential good. Those without the “mark” were excluded.

Revelation 16:1 2

And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore²⁶ upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and [upon] them which worshipped his image.

There fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast: Many believe this has to do with a lithium battery operated-computer chip that will leak, causing a terrible sore will result. If this hypothesis is incorrect millions of people are being lulled into a false sense of security. The idea that the mark is a chip is really without any true support except in the imaginations of dreamers and producers of Christian fables. Let us not put our faith in translators, but look at the words of the authors, examining the ancient text without prejudice.

Noisome and Grievous, *Poneros* and *Kakos*

There are at least nine different words that are used to produce the English word *sore* in the King James New Testament text. Eight of them [*spbrodra, aganakteo, lian, en, polus, ekthamteo, megas, hikanos*] have nothing to do with a sore as a sore or wound, or even being sick or ill.

The word *noisome*, describing this *sore*, is from *kakos*, meaning “*of a bad nature, not such as it ought to be or of a mode of thinking, feeling, acting, base, wrong, wicked or even troublesome, injurious, pernicious, destructive, baneful.*”

According to Webster’s Revised Unabridged Dictionary (1913) the word *Noisome* does mean *Noxious to health; hurtful; mischievous; unwholesome; insalubrious; destructive.* The problem is that *kakos* is only translated *noisome* once and is translated *evil* forty times. *Kakos* is not a word that would normally be found modifying the word *sore* or *wound*.

The second word to modify *sore* is *grievous*, which is from *poneros* from a derivative of *ponos*, meaning *great trouble, intense desire.* It is also translated *evil* some fifty-one times and *wicked* or *wicked one* some sixteen times. To translate both *poneros* and *kakos* into the word *evil* does not do the Greek text justice. *Poneros* is defined, “full of labours, annoyances, hardships 1a) pressed

26 helkos probably from 1670; n AV - sore (3) 1) a wound, especially a wound producing a discharge pus, a sore, an ulcer

and harassed by labours 1b) bringing toils, annoyances, perils;...” Also it is defined “bad, of a bad nature or condition”.

Poneros is commonly used to describe something such as *pressed labor* or *bringing toil* and again has an evil or wicked nature. Again, with the words *poneros* and *kakos*, we have something that is *full of pressed labors and not what it ought to be with a bad or wicked nature, possibly as a result of wrong thinking*. These words have a great deal to do with *forced labor* for an *evil cause or condition*. In the bondage of Egypt the people were forced to labor and God delivered them from that state and told them never to return.²⁷

Helkos the Sore

The word *helkoo* means *to make sore* or *cause to ulcerate* and that word is from *helkos* which can mean *a wound or even a sore or ulcer*. It is *helkos* that appears in the text. *Helkoo* is from *helkos* not the other way around. The word *helkos* with a Strong’s number 1668, is from *helkoo* or *helko* which means *to draw, drag off*. It is akin to the word *haireomai* which means *to take for oneself, to prefer, choose* or *to choose by vote, elect to office*. *Helko* appears in Acts 21:30 “they dragged him from the temple” and James 2:6 “Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court?” Also the Greek *holkos*, connected with *helko* meaning *I draw*.

In “*Vocabulary of the Greek New Testament*,” Moulton and Milligan say the Greek term *helko* or *helkoo* has almost the sense of dragging by force. It is used of hauling bricks, of towing, of dragging along, and even in connection with *impressing people as laborers*.

This meaning would fit well with *poneros* and *kakos*, noisome and grievous, which can both easily be used with the idea of *impressing people as laborers* as they were in the bondage of Egypt, which at first was a government where the gold and silver were in a central treasury, the people paid 20% income tax,²⁸ and they only had a legal title to their land.²⁹

The fact is a *Charagma* means *a badge of servitude*, the Ten Commandments³⁰ tells us not to “serve” the other “gods many,” and we are not to covet our neighbors’ goods through the agency of governments, including the authoritarian benefactors which Christ told us not to be like in Matthew 20:25, Mark 10:42 and Luke 22:25.

“And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.” 2Pe 2:3

27 Deuteronomy 17:16 But he shall not ... cause the people to return to Egypt, ... forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.

28 Employ vs. Enslave <http://www.hisholychurch.net/study/gods/eve.htm>

29 Law vs. Legal <http://www.hisholychurch.net/study/gods/lvl.htm>

30 Exodus 20:5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them:...

Previous Marks and the Mark of the LORD

In the Old Testament there is a *mark* related to the forehead.

“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.” Ezechiel 9:4

This is the Mark of the LORD. This was not a computer chip nor is the mark of the *Beast*. The Mark of the Beast is the antitheses of the Mark of God. The Mark of God is the Tav, [𐤀]. The Tav, the final letter of the alef-beit, corresponds to *malchut* ("kingdom"). The Tav is said to be the seal of Faith. Through faith the *malchut* ("kingdom") passes in inheritance from generation to generation. By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice; By faith, Enoch was translated; By faith, Abraham obeyed and he went out; By faith, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau; By faith, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gedeon, Samson, David, Samuel, and the prophets “through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, and escaped the edge of the sword.” “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”³¹ The precept of this faith is the secret of the power that makes the kingdom of God a reality at hand.

Christ said the kingdom of God is at hand and we were to seek it and His righteousness, as well as to preach it. We were to have faith and believe that the perfect law of liberty, with Christ in our hearts and minds, would work and be our salvation. When people were baptized under Moses, they were supposed to drink of the same spiritual rock which is Christ.³² But God was displeased with them. Many did not pass the test of faith, and they gave us examples of lust and idolatry, fornication and rejection of God. Could He be displeased with us now? Do we understand the precepts of that faith that was in the prophets?

We know that “Not every one that saith unto me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” There are no magic words or incantations of faith that open the living kingdom of God to men.

“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not ... done many wonderful works?” But the answer will be “And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” Jesus even

³¹ Hebrews Chapters 11 and 12.

³² 1Co 10:2, 5 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

asks the question, “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” Where do we stand in relationship to this warning?

What is the evidence and precepts of faith and what is its antithesis?

The Mark of the Beast is the evidence of a lack of faith in God and His ways. If the Mark of God is a life of faith, hope, and charity, under the perfect law of liberty, where we love our neighbor as ourselves, then the Mark of the Beast would be a life where people force their neighbor to provide for their benefit through benefactors, who exercise authority one over the other. Those who will not live by hope but desire entitlements guaranteed by the life and blood of their neighbor through the right arm of governments do not live by charity, but by enforced contributions. They are coveting their neighbors goods and *rejecting* the righteousness of God.³³

The Christian lived in the world of Rome in a much different way than modern Christians live today. The Pharisees had ordered that all who received the ritual of Baptism of Christ were to be cast out of the system of Corban managed by them at the temple. Like Exodus, Pentecost was the liberation of the people from the social contracts that had bound them to the systems established by the Hasmonians, Herod, and Rome.

This idea of centralizing the control of society and its charitable functions is as old as the city of Cain. Lemech did it. Nimrod and Pharaoh, Saul and Solomon all forced the contributions of the people. Samuel told Saul that because he had done this foolish³⁴ thing and forced the contributions of the people his kingdom would not remain.

The Christian understood that the social programs offered by governments were voluntary in the beginning, but soon became oppressive. Having been cast out of one system, they did not desire to enter another. Christ had set them free. The religion of the Pharisees had conformed to Rome. They took care of the widows and orphans and needy of their society, but they did so with those compelled Corban, like the Romans.

Jas 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, [and] to keep himself unspotted from the world.

The early Christians lived in the world but not of it. They still took their day of rest on the Sabbath, but we also see them meeting on the first work day of the week, For what purpose? What were they doing that we are not?

In Justin's First Apology we see an explanation of the government of the Christians with the words, “And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place... And they who are

³³ The Voice of the People <http://www.hisholychurch.net/news/voteking.asp>

³⁴ 1Sa 13:13 And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

well to do, and willing, give what each thinks fit; and what is collected is deposited with the president, who succours the orphans and widows and those who, through sickness or any other cause, are in want, and those who are in bonds and the strangers sojourning among us, and, in a word, takes care of all who are in need.”

Justin had written the Emperor Antonius Pius, “And we afterwards continually remind each other of these things. And the wealthy among us help the needy; and we always keep together; and for all things wherewith we are supplied, we bless the Maker of all through His Son Jesus Christ, and through the Holy Ghost.”³⁵

The Romans and many other countries had systems of social welfare but to the Christians those were the Nicolaitan³⁶ altars which God hated.

Re 2:6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

The Romans persecuted many of the early Christians because they would not take oaths of allegiance, nor serve, by contribution, the “gods” of Rome. These gods required donations, or tribute, in the form of an excise tax. A small book, or “libellus, made of papyrus”³⁷ was used as a passport throughout their world. It identified you as a contributing member and contained your signature --- and was believed to be the mark of the beast in its time. These temples administered systems of social security, education, justice, and national defense.³⁸ They even operated as a world bank.³⁹

Very few people understand the similarities between the system of the Roman beast and the image of the beast in the world today. Nor do they understand how those early systems came into conflict with the kingdom preached by Christ and the early Church.

In Gibbon’s “Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire,” he praised “the union and discipline of the Christian republic.” He also pointed out that “it gradually formed an independent and increasing state in the heart of the Roman Empire.”⁴⁰ How did it work before the apostasy of Constantine?⁴¹

35 The Eucharist <http://www.hisholychurch.net/sermon/eucharist3.PDF>

36 The Nico-laity were the conquered people. They were the people who no longer had a choice in what was to be contributed to the needy. They were under tribute, like the days of Egypt. Nicolaitians <http://www.hisholychurch.net/news/nicolaitans.PDF>

37 According to the expert testimony of Dr. Elliott, concerning the Mark of the Beast, the priests of the temples, like the Capital, “were functioning, not as we would think religious priests would, but rather as police...” David Stevens v. Stephen Berger, United States District Court, New York, 428 F.Supp. 896 (1977)

38 Rome vs. US <http://www.hisholychurch.net/sermon/romeus.HTM>

39 Temples and Churches <http://www.hisholychurch.net/temples.asp>

40 Rousseau and Revolution, Will et Ariel Durant p.801. fn 83 Heiseler, 85.

41 The Wolves <http://www.hisholychurch.net/thykingdom/tkczzg12.html>

Constantine did not require that the people repent. Those who received his baptism continued in the systems offered by Rome. They were instant Christians claiming a new religion but keeping the old ways under a new name. Most modern Christians, like the Pharisees before them, follow the ways of Constantine more than Christ. They may cry Lord Lord in their Church buildings but they do not do the will of the Father.

To learn that the Christians would not participate in the social security and welfare systems of that authoritarian world of Rome because they hinged on allegiance rather than faith, force rather than charity, entitlements rather than hope, opens an area of moral and spiritual conflict not addressed by the modern Church. It is in that conflict that we find the defining characteristics of the Marks of God and the Beast.

Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly. (1 Corinthians 15:49).

All governments incorporate the concept of the Father. In 168 AD, Marcus Aurelius wanted no child to be left behind. He required, by law, that everyone must register the birth of their children with the Secretary of Treasury or Provincial Registrars within 30 days. The Christians would not.

Such registration would be an application to the Father of the State, and would be turning from Christ's command.⁴² The State became the "In Loco Parentis" which in the Latin, means "in the place of a parent," which is a turning away from the Natural Family instituted by God.

And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. Mt 23:9, 11

This is just a reiteration of the precepts and the prime directive of the Church.⁴³ Christ was a king. Shepherds knew it, angels knew it, Kings from the east knew it, the Sanhedrin knew it, Pontius Pilate knew it, and thousands on Pentecost knew it. It is modern Christians who seems to not know it. They have been taught a gospel devoid of the kingdom at hand.

Christ said he would take the kingdom from the Pharisees.

Mt 21:43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

He said that he would appoint it to other:

"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:32

And then Christ appointed, with instructions, a new kind of prince.

And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; Luke 22:29

42 Call no man on earth Father <http://www.hisholychurch.net/sermon/fatherabba.html>

43 ARTICLE X [Http://www.hisholychurch.net/study/polity/articlex.html](http://www.hisholychurch.net/study/polity/articlex.html)

Christ gave specific instructions to those he would appoint to minister to His kingdom. Before appointing this kingdom at hand to his new ambassadors he clarified some of those instructions.

And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. Lu 22:25, 26

In modern Churches it is acceptable to pray (apply) to benefactors who exercise authority one over the other. It is acceptable to covet your neighbors' goods through the agency of men who exercise that authority.

There are always those who make the word of God to no effect. They make covenants,⁴⁴ swear oaths,⁴⁵ and will not let every man remain subject to the *higher liberty*.⁴⁶ There were in the days of Cora, and Saul, Rehoboam and the Pharisees. They gave God lip service, said their prayers, sang their songs, and built their churches but they forgot justice and mercy.

Mt 7:22 "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?"

The Mark of the Beast is evidence of who owns our service, our labor, and our estate as free souls under God. Have we become the package, the merchandise, the human resource of a foreign power? Is it faith or allegiance? It is the vain coveting of your neighbors' goods through the agency of government, which has made you merchandise under an alien dominion.

"Redemption is deliverance from the power of an alien dominion and the enjoyment of the resulting freedom. It involves the idea of restoration to one who possesses a more fundamental right or interest. The best example of redemption in the Old Testament was the deliverance of the children of Israel from bondage, from the dominion of the alien power in Egypt."⁴⁷

The Kingdom of Heaven

The Kingdom of Heaven⁴⁸ is the same as the Kingdom of God. The phrase *kingdom of Heaven* only appears in Matthew because he wrote originally in Aramaic. In Aramaic, the word *malkuthach* is translated into *kingdom of heaven*. It actually means a *dominative realm* on the earth.

According to John Burnet, the Greek, *ouranos*, is best translated "world".⁴⁹

44 The Covenants of the gods <http://www.hisholychurch.net/study/gods/writings.htm>

45 "Oaths <http://www.hisholychurch.net/news/a4constitution6aoath.html>

46 ROMANS 13 <http://www.hisholychurch.net/sermon/Romans13.html>

47 Zondervan's Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible

48 Thy Kingdom Comes <http://www.hisholychurch.net/thykingdom/tkca.html>

49 "...indeed we have no suitable word to express what the Greeks at first called an *ouranos*. It will be convenient to use the term 'world' for it; but then we must remember

“He owns the land from the heavens and to the center of the earth.”⁵⁰

The word *Oouranos* actually means not so much what is beyond the sky but it is “*the vaulted expanse of the sky with all things within it.*” *Oouranos*, comes from a root that means “*to cover, encompass.*” Jesus was a king. His kingdom was not a part of Rome but it was and is at hand upon earth.

Jesus told Pontious Pilate that his kingdom was “not of this world.” He did not use the Greek word meaning “planet.” He used the Greek word meaning “an apt and harmonious arrangement or constitution, order, government.”⁵¹ There are five different Greek words in the New Testament which are all occasionally translated into the single English word world.

The words “kingdom of God” are translated from the words *basileia theos*. *Theos* means *ruling judge* and is often translated *God* or *gods*. We know there were “gods many,” because Paul tells us--and because there were many judges throughout the Roman Empire and Judea. The word *basileia* is translated “kingdom,” but it really means *the right to be ruled by*. What Jesus was saying is “the right to be ruled by God is at hand.”

“Are men the property of the state? Or are they free souls under God?”

This same battle continues throughout the world?”⁵²

God led Abraham out of Ur and Haran. He led the Israelites out of Egypt through Moses. And Jesus led the people out of the power of Rome, and into the kingdom of heaven. The Pharisees did not want to let go of their acquired power over the people and condemned themselves by saying “*we have no king but Caesar.*” The Christians found salvation by saying there is another king named Jesus, but they did not just say it, but they *lived* it. They gathered their families together in congregational groups of ten, uniting tens, hundreds and thousands in a system of charity and hope.

What does the kingdom look like? What was the early Church doing, and what were the early Christians really seeking? Is the kingdom of God and the ways of Christ the only way to liberty under the God of heaven?⁵³

Have we exchanged ritual and form for the spiritual substance of justice and mercy? The kingdom of God is not of the dead, but of the living.⁵⁴ It does not come by observation.⁵⁵ It is at hand. We should be seeking it,

that it does not refer solely, or even chiefly, to the earth, though it includes that along with the heavenly bodies.” John Burnet, Plato’s Dialogues, Early Greek Philosophy, Introduction.

50 Cuius est solum, ejus est usque ad caelum et ad inferos

51 My kingdom is not of this world <http://www.hisholychurch.net/sermon/world.HTM>

52 Cecil B. DeMille in “The Ten Commandments.”

53 Thy Kingdom Comes <http://www.hisholychurch.net/thykingdom/tkca.html>

54 Lu 20:38 For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him.

55 Lu 17:20 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with ob-

rather than those benefactors who exercise authority in their alms giving.⁵⁶ Those governments that may be a benefit to the people to make choices concerning charity and faith are contrary to the ways of God.

How should the Church be organized today?⁵⁷ Should it be incorporated by the state?⁵⁸ Should Christians be getting marriage licenses from the State?⁵⁹ What about Birth Certificates?⁶⁰ What was baptism all about?⁶¹

Summary

The Mark of the Beast is a badge of servitude which you can receive and carry with you or you may just remember its' number. Without it, you will not have much access to the commercial or political benefits of the society. You may be excluded from the market place by policy, custom, and law.

These marks, or badges, are identifiers that can be used to prove who you are as a member of a society that takes care of its member with forced contributions as opposed to freewill offerings. If you have such a numerical identifier already, you are not condemned to hell, but your faith, hope, and charity may be tested in hard times.

The mark of God is faith, hope, and charity under that perfect law of liberty. It is mercy and justice. It is forgiving and forgiveness. It is thanksgiving among free people. It is about loving God and loving your neighbor as your self. Those who do not cultivate the love of God will feed the beast in their own hearts and minds and in the world.

The “world” includes the governments that exercise authority one over the other, though they call them benefactors. They are filled with the people who covet their neighbor's goods for their own increase in benefits.

The kingdom of God is filled with those who love God and their neighbor as themselves. They would rather go without than to be a part of a system that takes from their neighbor without his daily consent.

And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. ...

And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace⁶² return to you. Matthew 10:7-13

ervation:

56 Mt 20:25 But Jesus called them [unto him], and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: ...

57 <http://www.hisholychurch.net/church/index.html>

58 The Body of Christ Vs. The Body of the State

59 [Http://www.hisholychurch.net/study/gods/bvb.htm](http://www.hisholychurch.net/study/gods/bvb.htm)

59 Holy Matrimony vs. Marriage <http://www.hisholychurch.net/study/gods/mvm.html>

60 Birth certification <http://www.hisholychurch.net/pdfiles/births/>

61 Baptism, Washing up <http://www.hisholychurch.net/net/baptism/index.html>

62 Peace from *eirne* meaning 1) a state of national tranquility