

Revelation 13:11-18 The Mark or God's Mark?

You have heard of the Fab 5 – University of Michigan Basketball team changed the face of College Basketball History.

A) Baggy shorts – { improvement } – a swagger – trash talking – all because of their influence.

B) Fearsome foursome. That incredible defensive line of the LA Rams

Lamar Lundy, Rosie Grier Merlin Olsen and Deacon Jones –

1) One of the most feared in Pro football history!

C) So Basketball has its Fab Five – Football has the Fearsome Foursome

Well the book of Revelation has what has been called the GRUESOME THREESOME - Unholy trinity!

A) Cause more trouble and havoc than any other group in History.

B) This Wed. Revelation – Ch.12-13 Pastor Jason will be teaching on the Bad guys of the tribulation.

1) Boy, these three are Bad.

C) Who is the GRUESOME THREESOME Unholy trinity? – Master mind is **Satan himself** – then you have this character known as the **false Prophet** – last but not least **Anti-christ**.

This is what we find happening during the tribulation period- This man comes on the scene – known as the Anti-Christ

A) **Counterfeit or false Messiah** – He is **possessed** by Satan himself – because of that – He is going to have Supernatural powers.

B) He will be a charismatic leader – who could potentially come out of nowhere – much like President Obama – **{No, not Anti-Christ}**

1) But like President Obama – he could come on the scene seemingly out of nowhere –

C) He will be a **Charismatic leader** / an excellent communicator/ a likeable persona – **{ Satan disguises himself as an Angel of light**

1) This is going to be quite a disguise

D) The Anti-Christ is going to have a side kick – False prophet – Religious spokesman.

Here is why – when the Anti-Christ comes into power He is going to put together a New world order – **{ 3 Components**

A) **One world religious system** – Probably some sort of ecumenical movement espousing all faiths. { Key slogans Love and Tolerance.

B) The Anti-Christ is also going to put together a one world **Military system** – Armies of the world flying under one Banner – Nato

Nato is an international organization which brings together the armies of various countries, including Britain and the United States.

C) Their emblem is interesting – The Flags of the various countries – form a ½ circle under a Cross. –

So the Anti-Christ is going to set up a one world religious system, a one world military system and finally a One world economic system.

A) That is what we are reading about today in
Revelation 13 :16-18

16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

B) **It is called the Mark of the Beast** – A mark that **everyone Living on planet earth** must receive – on their forehead, or their right hand

1) Two places that usually are uncovered – the hands and the forehead.

C) Those who want to buy food, clothes, anything or sell anything – you will need this Mark. – The Mark of the Beast.

Now there has been a lot of speculation as to what this Mark of the Beast is going to be? –

A) KJV reads – he receives a Mark **IN** his hand or Forehead – caused many to believe that it is some sort of micro –chip.

B) We have the **technology in place today** – where all of your important information – SOS – personal info – passport etc banking

1) Microchip size of a grain of rice- inserted under the skin.

C) Ever since 911 – missing pp – **Need a tracking device.**

1) **Stolen children – Human trafficking – huge help**

So some suggest – the new RFID micro chip technology will be what the Mark is about – Chip inserted in or under the Skin {Could be

A) The greek work – **in – epi** – literally is upon – which would seem to indicate, no it will be more of a Mark – tattoo – Brand

B) **Branding** is the popular term in the Business world today – you need to come up with your brand.

1) Notice what it says – the Mark is connected to the Name of the Beast –

2) **His name = his brand adds up to Name is 666.**

C) Those who are alive at that time and have understanding – could configure the letters in his name

D) {Jewish alphabet – each letter is connected to a number amount –

1) Possible that his name will add up to this Number

E) So it's Also possible that the Name is his brand - - Logo – which will be stamped on a person's right hand or forehead.

Ever heard of Epidermal Electronic Tattoo? – Elastic removal tattoo that monitors brain waves and contains – Could easily contain Personal data.

A) Again not saying this is the Mark – but I am saying – technology is in place to create this type of system.

B) Jesus speaking of the days leading to his coming said: No one knows the day or the hour but we should be aware of the times and the seasons.

C) Times are telling us the Technology is in Place! And there is growing acceptance to the idea.

D) Many institutions are pushing for a Cashless Society

The banking industry has been pushing hard for a Cashless Society for many yrs – Why?

A) Every Check cost the bank between 35 to 60 cents to process / but Electronic transactions only cost the bank ONE CENT

B) That is why banks have a real interest in seeing us move solely to an Electronic funds transfer system

C) So do Small Business owners who lose Millions every yr. From employees who steal from the till

D) The IRS is also pushing for a Cashless Society because the Govt. loses an estimated One Trillion dollars a year in taxes / in Underground economy
1) Those who pay their employees under the Table (Eliminate Cash & that is not possible anymore)

Law enforcement agencies are Pushing for this. Why? Eliminate Cash & you Eliminate bank robberies / Store hold ups /

A) And most importantly – you render a death blow to the Drug dealing Business – which consist purely of Cash for drugs exchanges.

B) The idea of a cashless society seemed far fetched – even 10 yrs ago.

1) Little test- If you have \$20.00 in cash in your purse or pocket today –raise your hand.

C) Notice everyone with their hand up is probably over 40 at least.

D) The idea of a cashless society seemed foreign to the older Generation

1) New generation – no one carries cash

E) The idea of a Cashless society seemed impossible even Ludicrous – 70 yrs ago – but now / the advances in Modern day technology –

1) It is not Just **possible but probable** & the acceptance of such an idea is rapidly growing Every single year

So the Anti-Christ is going to set up a one world economic system that will involve a cashless society.

A) You might be thinking – **that doesn't sound like such a bad thing** – definitely have it's pluses – cut down crime – tracking pp – convenient

B) But notice verse – 15 again - 15 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.

C) This mark **is about allegiance** – those pp here during the trib – connecting themselves to the beast – His program.

1) The false prophet is soliciting – worship affection and allegiance toward the Anti-Christ

D) The mark identifies ONE'S allegiance to the Beast – the Anti-Christ

Revelation 14:11 speaks of how Jesus is going to judge those severely who take the mark
“And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

So the Anti-Christ is going to have his identifying mark – and he is going to make it really hard to refuse it- Can't buy or sell without it!

A) But God also has **His own identifying Mark** –

B) Paul describes it in Ephesians 1:13,14

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

You have been Sealed with the HS of Promise – God put His mark on you the minute you received Christ.

A) The word after – really should read **when** – not speaking of a sequence but the Salvation experience.

B) **Hear/Believe/ Sealed** – All at once

C)The Seal speaks of 5 things that relate to our Salvation

#1 The Seal speaks of Ownership. – Goods on a boat – marked with a seal. – **Owner's personal seal.**

A) God has put His seal on us – He has marked us - because He purchased us as His own - by blood of Jesus

B)Jesus was marked - **Marred – Isaiah 52:14** – so that we could be Marked – He was marked in His hands – feet – nail prints –

1)Crown on head –Scars that marked His back– beating

C)Jesus was marked **to purchase our redemption** – to pay the price to Redeem us to God.

The Sealing of the HS is God's stamp upon us, saying, ***"You're mine. You belong to me."***

A)God's Spirit in our hearts is that – testimony to us – that we belong to God

B)Paul put it this way in Romans 8:16 ***The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God***

C)There is an assurance through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit – that now there is this interest in the things of God.

1)Things that you used to **not even think twice about** now there's a conviction from the spirit.

#2 –The seal spoke of a **Finished transaction**: Even today when legal documents are processed they are stamped with a seal to signify completion

A.) So too when you exercised faith in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross to save you & pay the price for your sins - **You were sealed** –

B) **That seal of God upon your life / His spirit in your heart** – signifying - **Your Salvation is finished** –

1) **Your salvation is complete there is no need to add to it!**

C)God eyes – **Finished transaction** – Done deal { marked by a His Seal upon your Life – His spirit in your Heart – { Stamped SAVED

D)Sin – doesn't mean no longer saved – Just means there is a need to confess- **OWN IT – SAY SAME**

1)say you are sorry.

#3 Seal speaks of **being authentic**: a seal on a letter was like a signature or - personal letter head - King's seal - **Authentic**

A) Even today If you get an official document of any sort, a government document, it has the seal of our government on it. – Passport

B) That authenticates it as valid. **If you have a passport?** That is an official government document.

C) And It has the seal of the United States of America on it

1) if you are an American citizen and carry an American passport.

D) That authenticates you. - It confirms you as a citizen of this country.

E) The seal of God's spirit in your heart – means you are Authentic -

#4 Seal speaks of security and protection - Tomb of Jesus - Roman seal

A) When something was sealed it spoke of it being the personal property of a person or an organization and it **wasn't to be tampered with**

B) Seals on a jar of food – Not tampered with

C) God has put His seal upon us, and that seal of the Spirit of God has secured us as the people of God.

1) And guess what? **Satan can't tamper with us. He can't **undo** what God has done.**

C) He can't do anything that God doesn't allow Him to do. And the one thing God will not allow Him to do, **is undo what He has already done. .**

1) John 10: *"No one can snatch you out of my hand!"*

D) Seal means we are under God's Protection.

#5 this idea of being sealed with the Spirit is found here in v.14 –

A) Paul says that God has given His Spirit who is the Guarantee of our Inheritance!

B) The Seal of the Spirit given to us as a Guarantee speaks of 2 ideas.

1) **Earnest money - down payment or a promissory note that I will pay - I will deliver**

C) Spirit in us is our promissory note!

God the Father is saying to us who are His Children – Heaven & Glory are waiting –

A) Here is my Down Payment – Serious – Earnest money / Holy Spirit.

B) Until the Day of redemption of the purchased possession.

1) The day of redemption is the **day of collection.**

C) It's the day when God takes me to be w/ Him -It's the entering into the glorified state.

We have been redeemed at the Cross.

A) Jesus bought us out of the Slave market of sin. – We are no longer in bondage to sin.

B) Set free to now live for Jesus – Who the Son sets free is free indeed!

We have been redeemed – Cross

We are being redeemed – Process of Sanctification

A) That work of the HS working in our lives –
Convict – mold – change –

B) **His goal?** To make us more like Jesus

1) Justification is the miracle of the moment
Sanctification, the process of a lifetime.

C) Holy Spirit is working in us – on us.

We have been redeemed – Cross

We are being redeemed – Process of Sanctification

We will be redeemed – Glory!

A) The work is complete – We are ushered into glory
and receive the fullness of our inheritance in Christ

B) Right now we receive just a portion – Fellowship
with Jesus – the assurance of Salvation

1) But the day is coming – when we are going to
receive the fullness of it.

C) God has placed His spirit in our hearts as the
guarantee – the down payment –

1) Serious about closing the deal.

**But word guarantee also carried the idea of an
engagement ring in that culture.**

A) When a young man has found the girl of his
dreams – What does he do? Engagement ring

**B) He saves us for months – He will sell his surf
board / sell his golf clubs / Brother & sister / dog /**

1) whatever it takes to buy that ring.

C) The Day comes – ONE KNEE -

D) He is communicating to her, I love you and I want
to spend the rest of my life w/ you.

1) & just so you know that **I am serious** – Here is a ring

E) **So that ring to him is signifying the seriousness of
His Promise**

1) Well, God's Spirit in our hearts signifies the
seriousness of His Promise! – HIS BRIDE

**The girl takes that ring and puts it on her finger and
it symbolizes several things.**

A) First It signifies to the world that she is taken/
She belongs to someone else

B) First thing a single guy looks at – Ring on that
finger. – Spoken for

C) And so the HS in our hearts – signifies to the
world – I am not available to this world - **I belong to
another**

1) Saint = Set apart – from world – Unto God.

But that ring on the finger of that young lady is also constant reminder of what is coming – No longer ALONE

A)Symbol of her longing

B)God has put eternity in our hearts –

1)Every human being has a longing – why constantly discontent – Must be more – something else.

C)There is – It is called eternity – this life – is the prelude –

1)It is called Relationship with Christ – Made for that – ONLY JESUS FILLS THE VOID!

God has put a longing for eternity in the heart of every human being –

A)That longing grows when we get saved – because the Holy Spirit in our hearts is constantly reminding us – We belong to another.

B)Constant reminder – there is more than this – the BEST IS YET TO COME!

C) God has given us HS as our engagement ring

An engagement ring really means nothing if a person isn't going to act like they are engaged !

A) A gal might have the most beautiful ring made out the finest gold /w/ the biggest diamond /

B)Going out with other guys – means nothing

**An engagement ring or a wedding ring makes a statement that you are taken / you belong to another/
A)But if you are not living like that / the ring means nothing!**

B)You have been given **God's engagement ring** – Are you living like one engaged to Jesus? {Get ready

1)**Diet for months – Hair – nails – make up**

C)She wants to look awesome for Her bridegroom

You have been marked as belonging to God – Does your life reflect that relationship?

A)Are you getting ready to meet Him – see Him – it could be any day – Right?

Today communion : Celebrate

We belong to Jesus – Redeemed us – Cross

Committed to us –Being redeemed Sanctification –

He is coming for us – Glory – **Shall be Redeemed**

Fullness of our Redemption

The Mark – No –

His Mark – Now!