
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **What is the mark of the beast?**

In Revelation 12-13 describe three enemies of the Lord and His church. There is a dragon, a beast rising up from the sea, and a beast rising up from the earth.

- The dragon has seven heads and ten horns. He wears seven crowns (Revelation 12:3). This dragon symbolizes Satan according to 12:9.
- The second enemy is a beast that comes up out of the sea. Like the dragon he has seven heads and ten horns and wears a blasphemous name (Revelation 13:1).
- The third enemy is a beast that rises up out of the earth. He has two horns like a lamb, but speaks like the dragon (Revelation 13:11).

These three enemies form an evil trinity who are in competition with the Holy Trinity. The "*Holy Trinity*" is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

- The dragon is a symbol of Satan who is trying to imitate God. He is an identity thief trying to steal God's identity and get men to worship him rather than God.
- The sea beast is a symbol corrupted civil government which opposes God and His church. This beast is trying to imitate the Son of God. Like Jesus came in the image

of His Father and to do the Father's will (John 5:30), this sea beast comes in the image of the dragon to do the dragon's will. He looks like the dragon. He too is an identity thief trying to steal the identity of the Lord.

- The earth beast is a symbol of the state-church which supports and enforces the will of the sea beast. This beast is trying to imitate the Holy Spirit. Just like the Holy Spirit came to glorify the Lord Jesus and get people to worship Jesus (John 16:14), this earth beast works miracles in his effort to deceive people into worshipping the sea beast.

This earth beast (the corrupt state-church) views his mission to force all men to honor and worship the sea beast (corrupt civil government). Men worship civil government when they put civil law above God's law. In the movie, "*Chariots of Fire*," the Olympian Eric Liddell refused to run in a race on Sunday—the Lord's day. When he refused to represent his country (Great Britain) in that race, Lord Cadogan said: "*In my day, it was King first and God after.*"¹ This statement by Lord Cadogan is the work of the earth beast attempting to cause earth-dwellers to worship the sea beast (corrupted civil government which thinks its laws are higher than God and His laws).

The earth beast puts a mark upon men—either in their hand or on their foreheads. This mark is "*the number of man*" (Revelation 13:18)—it is the number "666." If someone does not have this mark, that person may not buy or sell in the market and they are subject to death (Revelation 13:16-18).

The "*number of man*" derives from the fact that man was created on the sixth day. Six is man's number. This symbolic number points to the fact that, no matter how much the dragon, or the

¹ <https://thelampmagazine.com/blog/king-first-and-god-after>; accessed 8/28/23.

sea beast, or the earth beast try to imitate the Holy Trinity, they continue to be nothing more than man and fall short of deity.

Deuteronomy 6:6-8

⁶ "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

⁸ **You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.**

When God and His law are supreme in a man's mind and in his actions, God has placed His mark on that man. But when civil government and the corrupt state-church elevates its laws above God's law, and when earth-dwellers begin to honor man's laws more than God's law, they have demonstrated they wear the mark of the devil rather than of God.

1 John 3:10

¹⁰ In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor *is* he who does not love his brother.

The "*mark of the beast*" is not a literal number. It is not a microchip planted under the skin. It is not a tattoo. The "*mark of the beast*" is a symbolic number. It means one honors and serves the devil rather than God and you can tell whether one has the number in their thinking or actions by how they live their lives (1 John 3:10).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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