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Dear Associates and Friends,

October 2021

Much has been said by many about **“the Mark of the Beast”** spoken of in Revelation 13:16–18. If you go to those texts you find that the mark is required after **“the image of the beast”** begins to speak in the new Temple in verses 14–15. That event has not happened yet.

Dr. Ernest Martin dispels a great amount of blather by many biblical teachers on this subject in his Prophecy article, **“[Discovering the Mark of the Beast](#)”** for this month. I re-typeset the article to make it more readable and clearer, and I added information of my own.

Here is a synopsis of relevant portions of verses about the arrival of the **“second beast”** that arises out of the earth (Revelation 13:11–18). It is somewhat difficult to distinguish between the first and the second beast, so read the text carefully:

<sup>14</sup> “[a second beast] **deceives 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 [first] beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.** <sup>15</sup> **And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both [1] speak, and [2] cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.**

<sup>16</sup> **And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:** <sup>17</sup> **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.** <sup>18</sup> **Here is wisdom. Let him that has understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.”**

• **Revelation 13:14–18**

Note that the “mark” is not given until

1. after the Temple is built (Revelation chapter 11),
2. after those who dwell on the earth are deceived by the miracles of the second beast (13:14),
3. after the second beast speaks **“to them that dwell on the earth”** (13:14),
4. after the second beast gives an order to **“make an image to the beast”** (13:14),
5. after the image is built (13:14),
6. after the image of the beast is given life (13:15),
7. after the image is given the ability to speak (13:15),
8. after those who do not worship the beast are killed (13:15),

I will stop with those 8 items. I could list many more. The biblical “mark of the beast” will not occur for a long time to come. See my article **“[The End Time? Not Yet!](#)”** where I detail other events that must occur before the “end times” even begin. After those things occur, only then will “the mark” be required by “the beast” who has not yet been revealed.

Why would the mark be significant if the world, beginning in 2021 or 2022 (at least 70+ years before Christ might return) began restricting buying and selling to those not having the mark, tattoo, implant, or markers floating in your bloodstream and read by machine? Does such a situation fulfill the prophecy in Revelation chapter 13? Not at all. The only similarity is an attempt to restrict buying and selling. It will fail.

## What Will Happen?

The current world situation in October 2021 is not a fulfillment of prophecy. The world is not close to having the **“mark of the beast”** forced upon the people of the world. At most it is setting the stage to put people into a mindset to accept things they never accepted before. (God allows all this to happen without intervening.) Nor do I think the current health situation around the world is a sign of pestilence indicated in Matthew 24:7 and Luke 21:11 — at least not yet. That also is in the future.

If anything, the current world situation is an attempt by Satan and his minions to hinder or prevent a period of prosperity like what occurred in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD during the [Pax Romana](#) or Roman Peace. This period began in 27 BC when Augustus became Emperor of Rome. It lasted for the next two hundred years. That peace and prosperity established an environment that allowed preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, [1] even after the conquest of Jerusalem and destruction of the Temple in 70 AD, and [2] despite severe persecution against those preaching the Gospel. See Dr. Martin’s [“Chapter 18, The Deceptive Role of Satan”](#) from his book, [The Essentials of New Testament Doctrine](#).

A similar era of prosperity will come before Christ’s return. It will not come from current governments, non-government organizations (NGOs), or by supra-governmental organizations. Read Dr. Martin’s article, [“Coming: The New World Order”](#) written in 1990, and learn about the coming environment of world prosperity. Also read my July 2016 Commentary, [“Prosperity Before the End Times”](#) and Dr. Martin’s comprehensive 1990 article, [“Salvation and the Kingdom of God.”](#)

This prosperity will begin after the Corona virus and other illnesses diminish. They will not forestall what God wants to happen in His world.<sup>1</sup> We see masses of people being moved around<sup>2</sup> the world. This also comes from God (Acts 17:26). We will see even more incredibly “base” and even disgusting individuals being made leaders of territories and nations (as Daniel 4:17 tells us), as Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon (one of the most debased leaders in history) wrote to all his subjects, acknowledging YHWH’s rule over all him and all men!

The world will see the Gospel of the Kingdom preached and accepted(!) by the world before Christ returns. It will not be a revival, but it will be for a first-time conversion for most everyone in the world. God will make Himself known to the world. One way He will do so is He will intervene in a war to the north of the nation of Israel (Zechariah chapters 9–13). This will begin a prophesied “conversion” experience for many Jews. It will cause them to recognize their Messiah, the one who most of their ancestors rejected in the time of Christ and the apostles. All this must occur before the end time Christ spoke of in Matthew chapter 24, Mark chapter 13, and Luke chapter 21.

## Thank You

Remember, if you believe in Christ’s resurrection, that belief comes from God as His gift to you in this time of grace. You cannot believe God’s truth about Christ unless God has opened your heart and mind to do so. You are sealed with God’s Holy Spirit. That seal of God is incomparably stronger than any **“mark of the beast”** that is prophesied to come.

If you require comfort regarding the world situation, review the following verses: John 6:27; 2 Corinthians 1:21–22; Ephesians 1:13–14, 4:30; and 2 Timothy 2:19. These verses will reassure you about God’s wondrous seal upon your soul (so long as you heed the warning of the apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 5:19).

The work of ASK is to strengthen your faith in God with explanations of the words of the Scripture — another gift of God to mankind in this present era. If we have done that service, then please let us know we have done so. We can tell from your notes and calls to us that finances are difficult for many of you. May God bless you as you study the abundance of spiritual food on the ASK website.

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<sup>1</sup> Satan rules this world at present as God allows, but Satan’s time to rule grows shorter as we are told in Revelation 12:12.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Martin’s article, [“Disease Epidemics and Bible Prophecy”](#) will help you understand God’s role in such disease epidemics.