**The Beast and its mark**

**(Revelation 13 and Daniel 7)**

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# **Introduction**

Start with a prayer….

I did this message after reading some remarks on YouTube about the COVID vaccine being the Mark of the Beast so I thought I would look at this and summarise what I believe the Mark of the Beast to be with reference to the bible.

Within this talk I would also like to talk about the beasts and what certain commentators believe with my own conclusions as to what I believe.

# **Definitions**

Within Revelation 13 and other chapters there are clearly defined two beasts. The first beast is mentioned in the book of Daniel and the second mentioned in Revelation only.

## **Beast**

Greek word is *‘thērion’* and the definition is a ‘wild beast’ or a wild and dangerous animal as in **Leviticus 26:6**

## **Mark**

The Greek word for mark is *‘khar'-ag-mah’* and the definition according to Strongs concordance is a stamp or to impress. I looked online to see if they still sold them and they do , they usually have them with letters on them so you can stamp onto metals a mark of your choice and they used to be used to sign or imprint onto documents to show their authenticity.

If you look in biblical times there were official stamp of Caesar which documents were stamped to make them legal.

For those within the tribes of the 144,000 they have a sign on their forehead saying they belong to God as in ;

**Revelation 14:1 - And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.**

Whearas those with the stamp of the beast will also have a mark identifying them.

So the first question is , who are the beasts ?

# **Beasts**

## **Beast One (Revelation 13:1-10)**

The first beast is mentioned in Revelation 13 verses 1-10 and we are told of the following facets of the beast

### **Sea (V1)**

Firstly, his dominion is the sea as detailed in

**Revelation 13:1 - And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.**

The sea could possibly refer to;

* Gentiles
* Mediterranean
* Evil
* Chaos as in Psalm 33:7

### **Description**

The description of the beast is mentioned in

**Revelation 13:2 - And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.**

These are the descriptions of the individual beasts as detailed in **Daniel 7** and

in the file listed you will see a table for possible Kings and empires who are believed to be represented by the beast ;



The authority of the beast comes through the dragon, but as we know the ultimate source of all authority is God, who only allows satan a limited power with which to act.

What is important is that there are 4 beasts in Daniel but in Revelation this is one beast (the first one) hence it maybe a new empire which has yet to emerge from the world which has characteristic of those beasts described in Daniel.

### **Ten horns and seven heads (v 1-2)**

There were 10 Heads but 3 overthrown by little horn in **Daniel 7:8**

Ten crowns are symbols of government authority, who they are is much disputed but they are blasphemous opposition to God and if we think back to the Roman Emperor’s, they called themselves deities.

Heads indicated to be subsequent rulers as in

**Revelation 17:10–12**

### **Leopard**

Within this chapter of Revelation, the description of the beast is in reverse order to that of Daniels vision in Chapter 7

John is looking back in time

Most commentators do not agree on the identify and see some possibilities as

1. Revived Roman empire
2. Greece

### **Feet of bear**

Medo-Persia - Centered in the region north of the Persian Gulf, this vast realm eventually stretched from the Aegean Sea to Egypt to northwestern India and included Judea.

### **Mouth of Lion**

Babylon 40 miles south to Baghdad.

### **Mortal wound healed (v3)**

Representation of the Roman empire revived many commentators believe but I’m closer in line with the beast as being an imitation of Jesus the lamb who rose from the dead and gives the appearance of being brought back to life.

Greek word for slain is ‘esphagmene’ and does mean killed so the beast would have had to been dead at one point and have been brought back to life although some texts state that it ‘appeared to have been slain and killed’

### **Dragon (v4)**

This is believed by many as a reference to Satan

**Isaiah 14:13 - For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:**

His aim is to take the place of God which represents satans pride and subsequent fall frmo grace.

### **Blasphemy (v5-6)**

42 months = 3.5 years (half of 7 years as in **Daniel 9:27**) of the great tribulation

**Daniel 7:8**

Definition in Greek of blasphemy is ‘blasphemias’ and is related to the word which means to reverse spiritual and moral realities and in this verse to declare that God is false, impotent or evil. Ultimately as we know Christ will terminate his reign when he returns

### **War on Saints (v7)**

Beast could be a gentile ruler and the war will be waged against Gods people.

### **Universal worship of the beast (v8)**

We are told if a person has the mark of the beast their names are not in the book of life

Description of the book of life is given within the verses below :

**Luke 10:20 - Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.**

**Revelation 3:5 - He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.**

**Revelation 20:12 - And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.**

along with the associated punishment if your name is not written in it :

**Revelation 17:8 - The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.**

You can also read in **Revelation 21:27** and **Revelation 22:19**

### **Endurance of the saints (v 9-10)**

Doom is promised to those who persecute the saints in the final days but the saints will suffer in their endurance and many will die.

## **Beast Two (Revelation 13:11-18)**

### **Similarity to First Beast**

Greek word for ‘another’ is of the same kind.

Later described as a false prophet in ;

**Revelation 19:20 - And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.**

### **“Spoke like a dragon” (V11)**

Satan is referred to as the dragon, Greek word is ‘drakōn’

Head of apostate ( a person who renounces a religious or political belief or principle) church as in ;

**Revelation 17:16 - And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.**

This will cause people to worship the first beast.

Roloff believes this referring to false prophets within the church who appear to imitate those who serve Jesus, whilst Koester believes the beast to be promoting idolatry.

It is betrayed by its speech which ultimately is a mouthpiece for satan.

One commentator sees the second beast being Jewish as he is ‘coming up out of the earth’

### **Power comes from the first beast (V12)**

**1 John 2:18 - Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.**

### **Deceptive miracles (V 13)**

It is said in verse 13 there will be signs and the Greek word is ‘**semeia**’ and is used in the positive sense from God as in ;

**Luke 21:11 - And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.**

As well as the negative sense from satan here, the word can also relate to miracles so these events will be supernatural and can be seen to mimic God and Jesus himself is stated as using these signs and miracles which we see in many passages of the gospels.

So, I see these as possibly relating to imitators of Christs work on earth where people were healed and brought back form the dead.

Fire coming down from heaven which could be a reference to:

1. Pentecost in Acts 2
2. Fire in Elijah’s miracles (**1 Kings 1:10-12**)

Fire is usually seen as God’s judgement

1. i.e. unauthorised fire (Nadab and Abihu in Leviticus 10)
2. Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19

In summary these are demonic imitations of both Gods sovereign power and his servants throughout scripture and what is interesting is the Greek word ‘semeion’ which means a sign (typically miraculous), given especially to confirm, corroborate or authenticate, so in this sense these signs are confirmation of the beast.

### **Beast Image (V14)**

The beast would have been wounded and is revived and image is made to represent the beast and is a symbol of its power and majesty. This is the focal point of the false worship.

We are warned of the false prophets who will come to deceive us in the end ages.

**Mark 13:22 - For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.**

### **All worship the beast (V15)**

The beast will have the illusion of life and will be the destruction of those who will not worship it.

Explanations given for a talking image or statue are

1. Sorcery
2. Trickery i.e., technical ability
3. A supernatural event where somebody is controlled by satan as in the soothsaying woman in **Acts 16:16**

### **Commerce (V16)**

The second beast will control commerce and if you believe **Ezekiel 28** to be talking about Satan you can see here, he is linked to commerce and economic power within the world and ultimately will have power over economic forces within the world.

### **The Mark (V17)**

All who worship the beast will receive a mark on their right hand and forehead and this enables them to buy and sell.

It is interesting that when Jewish people wear phylacteries on their hands and their heads and it could be seen that the beast mimics Jewish devotional practice as in; (LOOK IT UP)

**Deuteronomy 11:18 - Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.**

The mark could indicate an exclusion to buy based upon

1. Membership of a society i.e. Trade Unions, Cooperative societies
2. Boycott against Jewish and Christians i.e. BDS

Also remember that we are bought with Jesus sacrifice as in;

**1 Corinthians 7:23 - Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.**

### **The number (V18)**

There are possible explanations as to what the number 666 means:

1. Number 6 is one less than seven which is perfection i.e., God created the universe in 7 days, and this indicates a tri-partite number which may imitate the very trinitarian Godhead we believe in but a close imitator.
2. There are commentators who see the image of Nebuchadnezzar was 60 cubits high and 6 cubits wide as having several sixes within its dimensions
3. Gematria is the system of assigning number values to a word or phrase, and some have said this relates to the Roman Emperor Nero, Caesar, or Caligula, all of whom died many years ago.
4. Also there is a Latin expression from the number 666 converted into numerals (DCLXVI) into DIC LVX which means ‘calls himself light’ which is what satan is described in 2 Corinthians 11:14
5. Protestant beliefs means the number of the word when converted means Roman in Hebrew letters or ‘Italian church’
6. There is belief that the word perverts of Christs name in Greek misplacing the middle letter which signifies the anti-christ.
7. If you replace the number of the word in the alphabet and add 99 and apply it to a name you can get to the number 666 i.e HITLER = H=107, I=108, T=119, L=111, E=10 and R=117

### **Judgement (Revelation 14: 9-11)**

Cup of wrath image is portrayed for those who fall within God’s judgment

The word translates as Unmixed which means undiluted not watered down or full strength and can be seen as meaning Gods full wrath in executing judgement.

We can see this with examples in the bible such as Sodom and Gomorrah

### **Punishment - mankind**

**Revelation 16:2 - And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.**

In some versions it is termed as a Vial or bowl and is only used in the book of Revelation hence it could a holy unit of measurement used only by God and his angels specifically for end times and judgment.

The Greek word for sore is ‘helkos’ a wound, a sore, an ulcer and is used in Luke 16:21 when it talks about the rich man and Lazarus when he was still alive and a beggar, so we know this will be a condition of physical discomfort and ugliness.

When the bible refers to the book of life, it is detailed in Revelation and is best described those who have kept the faith and have endured until the end as in

**Revelation 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.**

### **Punishment of the Beast and the false prophet**

**Revelation 19:20 - And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.**

There is little consensus about what the final punishment will be with reference to eternal torment and damnation, and I will save that for another day as recently many of my views I have questioned.

If we stick to the word definitions and ultimately it will not be good and mean an eternity not spent in God’s presence.

## **Summary 1**

I do not believe the Mark of the Beast to be the vaccine for the reasons I have given above.

To have or not to have the vaccine is ultimately down to an individuals’ choice and it is surprising the many conspiracy theories I have read relating to 5G and other phenomena.

The mark itself will to be an allegiance with a system which is ultimately against God. Arnold Fruchtenbaum believes this mark to be in some way anti-Semitic and persecution of Jewish people and this could have been said of the events of the Second world war, but I constantly see a world ultimately opposed to Israel and many left wing organisations as well as companies (Ben and Jerry’s for example) who aim to divest from Israel, critical of its supposed subjugation of human rights.

## **Summary 2**

The other key event which would have to have happened would be the anti-christ himself would have had to appear and I do not believe this to have happened yet as the bible gives specific events his coming which in due course must precede the mark.

Many commentaries believe aspects of the beast BUT I believe when John had these visions whilst writing Revelation there would have been many images which he could not comprehend and if we think of Ezekiel 1 where the divine chariot or the image of God.

It is my understanding that man cannot comprehend many images presented before him and as we know prophecy is best looked at in hindsight and not in its present context.

## **Summary 3**

I believe Revelation talks of 2 Beasts plus satan which represent an anti-trinity consisting of

1. The Dragon
2. The Beast
3. The False Prophet

The beast is opposite of the lamb, Beast conquers but inflicting death but the lamb conquers death by his suffering and we know those sealed by the lambs blood are saved (Revelation 5:9) but those with the mark of the beasts are doomed

Let us thank God we are marked by him and our names are in the book of life.

**Next message will be on modern day examples of false messiahs**

**Amen**

# **Bibles**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref.** | **Publisher** | **Title** |
| A1 | KJV | King James Version |
| A2 | JPS | Jewish Study Bible and Commentary |
| A3 | CJB | Complete Jewish Bible |

# **Bibliography / Commentary**

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| B4 | Oxford University Press | Jewish Annotated New Testament (JANT) | Various |
| B5 | Anchor Yale Bible | Revelation | Craig R.Koester |

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