

# Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

*Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ*

August 25, 2021

## THE MARK OF GOD ...OR THE BEAST?

“This is what we were warned about in the book of Revelation. It is ‘the mark of the beast!’

Revelation 13:16-18. If you refuse to take it, you will not be able to buy or sale, but if you do take it, you will be damming your soul.” No, it was not a COVID vaccine these preachers were speaking of. These things were commonly believed by many Christians when the United States government first began to issue a Social Security number.

I was not even born when the American Social Security System was instituted. My dad related those events to me. However, I do remember in the early 1970’s there were ministers who claimed a credit card number was “*the mark of the beast.*” It fit perfectly. We could all see how that without it we could not buy or sale. Again, in the late 1970’s, some ministers were warning the “bar code” used in grocery stores was “the mark of the beast.”

I am not saying I know what the number “666” means or if it will ever be manifested by a literal mark upon a person’s right hand or forehead. Those such things will be manifested in their time. I do know, however, that you will never

understand the mark of the beast until you understand *“the mark of God.”*

As a young man, the Prophet Ezekiel received a visitation from God. In this experience, God picked Ezekiel up by the hair of his head and took him in a vision to Jerusalem. There he showed Ezekiel the idolatry and abominations in Jerusalem for which God had determined its complete destruction. Ezekiel 8.

Ezekiel then heard God call for the destroyers to converge upon the city. Before releasing the “destroying angels,” however, He first sent “a man” with a “writer’s inkhorn” and commanded him to *“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.**”* Ezekiel 9:4. When God released the destroyers to destroy the city, He told them *“Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but **come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary.**”*

Ezekiel 9:5-6.

It is important to understand that no one in Jerusalem received a literal “mark” in their forehead. Yet, there were many who received the mark of God. This mark could not be seen by man, but it was very real. When the armies of Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city of Jerusalem, these who had the mark of God were spared and carried to Babylon for their protection.

In the book of Revelation, Jesus gave a promise to the overcomer, saying, **“I will write upon him the name of my God ...”** Revelation 3:12. It is also recorded that those who stood with *“the Lamb”* on Mt. Zion had **“...his Father’s name written in their foreheads.”** Revelation 14:1. Even in the New Jerusalem, we are told, *“And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.”* Revelation 22:3-4.

The name of God written upon the people of God is not a “tattoo” or implanted “chip.” It is in fact the Spirit of God himself. Paul told us, *“...after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.”* Ephesians 1:13. The word “sealed” in this text means “to stamp (with a signet or private mark) for security or preservation” Strong’s Dictionary. God “marks” his people with His Spirit.

When people come to me concerned about the newest thing others are calling *“the mark of the beast,”* I tell them, “You will not receive the mark of the beast unless you receive the spirit of the beast.” This is not saying, “Do not be concerned.” It is saying just the opposite. Many will carry *“the mark of the beast”* who would never let someone write “666” on their hand or forehead. Yet, these same people will follow false prophets and partake of the false spirit of these prophets. They will cling to doctrines which excuse sinfulness and in doing so drink of the spiritual uncleanness these fallacies bring unto them. Multitudes who believe themselves

to be the people of God will be “marked by the beast” simply because they have already embraced the spirit of the beast.

The Apostle Paul told us, *“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his.”* II

Timothy 2:19. God knows his people and He marks his people. Satan also knows his people, however religious they may be, and he certainly marks them also.