

WORD OF THE WEEK

The Subject: The Mark of the Beast

Revelation 13:16-18 -- (speaking of the antichrist/man of sin) -- *he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their "right hand", or in their "foreheads": -- 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 -- Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is six hundred three score and six.*

mark; - Greek: charagma - scratch; etching; statue; "stake". A mark was used to brand slaves in servitude to an empire and its king, thus, showing acceptance to all its laws. The "mark" of the beast is described as the "name" of the beast or the "number" of his name. A mark was put upon worshipers in the mystery religions showing their allegiance to their god and his laws. In the ancient world, the acceptance of a kings "authority" by his slaves was verified by a mark of ownership on the forehead.

name - Greek: onoma - "authority"; to know (by ownership)

Genesis 11:1 -- *The whole earth was of one language and one speech* - Hebrew: sepheth - lip or "boundary"; jurisdiction of authority

speech - Hebrew: dabar - commandment (law or instruction)

Genesis 11:4 -- (Nimrod, founder of Babylon, in rebellion against God)

They said -- let us build us a city and a tower (boundary) -- let us make us a name (authority).

The "boundary" (language) of God is where his subjects are instructed to live (in holiness - one in substance - unmixed in the world - II Cor. 6:14-17) and the "speech" (commandment) is the instruction (law) required of those who live in the boundary. Those who break Gods instruction (Thou shalt - Thou shalt not - Gen 2:16,17) transgress his authority (name) and are said to move the bound (the stake or mark(er) on the property line - Hosea 5:10).

The beast (world system) with 7 heads and 10 horns (Rev. 13:1) was organized by Nimrod at Babel. He moved the bound operating outside the instruction of God causing the world to receive his "new" name (authority - mark). Those who take the "mark" at the end time will oppose God's authority (The Bible). If the world will elect leaders and presidents who contradict God's word that they may "buy and sell" to overcome recession (economy) they already follow antichrist/man of sin doctrine and take its "mark". Moses commanded Israel to, "bind the law of God for a sign upon thine hand and as frontlets between thine eyes (the forehead Deut 6:8)" in submission to Jehovah God. He was saying, keep God's mark (boundary) and instruction (Word - Bible) before you at all times. The mark serves both economic and religious purpose. John gave the name of the beast in symbolic form known in the ancient world as gematria. Neither Greek nor Hebrew tongues used a system of numbers. Instead of numbers, the letters of the alphabet stood for numbers e.g. A-1, B-2, C-3, etc. Thus a name could be converted into its corresponding letters. Deissman records a wall scribbling from Pompeii which reads, "I love her whose number is 545." The father of the gods in ancient Babylon was Saturn. In gemetrics the name Saturn adds up to 666. Cush, the father of Nimrod, is identified as the founding father of this "self-worship" of pride (Gen. 11:4) and materialism (Rev. 18). The man who organizes and speaks for the beast (world order) will be the leader (antichrist/man of sin) controlling the economy by his authority (mark, name, and number). To receive the "Mark of the Beast" is to accept the authority of "buying and selling" as dictated by antichrist/man of sin as he gives a false cure for the judgments of God.

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