

THE MARK OF THE BEAST

By Joseph Edwards II

Rev 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. 12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. 13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 14 And deceiveth 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 beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. 15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. 16 And 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: 17 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. 18 Here is wisdom. 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 threescore and six.

To begin, it is important to understand Rev 13:1-10 which I did not quote above. In those verses, it describes a beast with Seven Heads and Ten horns with crowns on each horn. This beast is a spiritual depiction of an apostate babe (Early Rain only) who has fallen from grace and who has been indwelt with the spirit of anti-Christ. Paul calls this person a “man of sin”.

The second beast described in Rev 13:11-18 is a spiritual depiction of the spirit of anti-Christ which indwells every apostate babe. This beast has an outward appearance of Christ (two horns like a lamb) but it speaks as a dragon. However, since the words it speaks are very pleasing to carnally minded babes, they will readily accept the spirit of anti-Christ’s words as the truth of Christ.

The spirit of anti-Christ is the strong delusion that causes a babe to believe the lie that Satan is actually Christ. Below is Paul’s depiction of an apostate babe. My comments are in blue.

2Thes 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand (when Christ comes to convert an elect babe). 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first (all elect babes will become apostate before they are converted), and that MAN OF SIN be revealed (he is revealed after they receive the Latter Rain which will heal their spiritual blindness), the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God (the body), shewing himself that he is God (sovereign, having a free

will ability). 5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? 6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time **(typed by Elijah's withholding of the Latter Rain).** 7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 8 And then shall that Wicked **(the apostate babe/man of sin/seven headed beast)** be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness **(truth revealed)** of his coming **(the second coming):** 9 Even him **(spirit of anti-Christ/second beast),** whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. **(children of the Devil do not have a love for the truth)** 11 And for this cause God shall send them STRONG DELUSION, that they should believe a LIE: 12 that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Note: At the beginning of the final age, each non-elect apostate babe (Man of Sin/Seven Headed beast) will be cast into the Lake of Fire (judgment) upon their bodily resurrection from the grave. Though Paul does not teach it here, Christ will have mercy upon each person as they are being judged. Christ's mercy will come to them as the Early and Latter Rains which will give them faith and a new birth as a child of God who is not judged. However, the Man of Sin (who they used to be) will remain in the Lake of Fire to be destroyed. This death will satisfy justice.

These verses apply to Christ's judgment:

Mat 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law: **JUSTICE, MERCY, AND FAITH**: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Mat 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun **(Christ is the Sun)** to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain **(the Early and Latter Rain)** on the just and on the unjust.

The spirit of anti-Christ's deceptions are so powerful and convincing, a babe will believe that they are following the ways of Christ when they are actually following the ways of Satan.

This verse applies:

2Cor 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

In Rev 13:16-18, the mark of the beast is mentioned. The mark of the beast represents the indwelling of the spirit of anti-Christ within a babe. This is a spiritual mark - just as the sealing of the Elect with the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain) is spiritual.

The "spiritual" happens within a person; between their ears so to speak. When a person understands that the teachings of the New Covenant are spiritual, the person will apply those teachings to things that happen within a person. Those teachings do not happen out in the physical world for all to see. That is a carnal understanding of Christ New Covenant teachings.

After a babe receives the mark of the beast, they will not buy (accept teachings) or sell (teach) to anyone except those who also have the mark of the beast. Satan's power of deception is that strong.

The number of the Seven Headed beast is stated to be 666. The number 6 represents mankind and since it is repeated three times, the number 3 is added to its spiritual meaning. The number three represents a spiritual process. The spiritual process that a babe goes through to receive the mark of the beast is taught by Christ in Mat 12:43-45. When this spiritual process is complete, the believer will become "worse than the first" and will become a Seven Headed beast/Man of Sin.

Since the mark of the beast is spiritual, the mark is said to be on the forehead of the person because the spirit of anti-Christ controls the beliefs of the person's mind. The mark is also said to be on their hand because the gospel of Satan teaches a believer to follow Satan's gospel of "works" (works of the hand) mixed with faith. The mark of the beast is not a physical mark or computer chip as is commonly taught.

All unconverted believers (babes) since the end of the 1st century A. D. have received the mark of the beast shortly after receiving the Early Rain. The spiritual teachings of the book of Revelation have been relevant to all elect believers since John received the vision. That is why the book says that the Elect will keep the sayings of the prophecies. The time for their fulfillment was already "at hand" when John recorded the vision (**Rev 1:3**).

Final thoughts:

Scripture teaches that Satan masquerades as an angel of light and mimics Christ. Satan will give a new believer the spirit of anti-Christ shortly after Christ gives them the Early Rain of the Spirit. This is specifically taught in the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares. When a believer has the spirit of anti-Christ indwelling them, they will experience Satan's Day of Evil. In contrast, when a believer has the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain) , they will be experience the Day of the Lord. In both cases, Christ and Satan will rule the believer spiritually (from within).

Until a person can apply the teachings of the New Covenant spiritually instead of carnally, they will continue to misunderstand Christ's teachings.

It is absolutely necessary to have "eyes that can see" spiritually in order to understand the truth of Christ's New Covenant teachings. And since spiritual eyes are a gift from God, Christ tells us to pray for the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain) which will give us those spiritual eyes (Luke 11:9-13) so that we can consume the bread and wine of the New Covenant.