

A New Look at the Books of Revelation & Daniel End-Time Prophecies

Part 7: The Mark of the Beast from Past to Present

The Mark of the Beast Is Not a Future Device or Physical Mark of Identification	2
The Eight Heads of the Beast from the Sea Identified	4
The Beast from the Earth – The Christian Roman Empire	5
Satanic Signs & Fire From Heaven	6
Papal Rome – The Image of the Beast of Pagan Rome	11
The Mark of the Beast	14
The Mark of God	18
No Buying or Selling without the Mark of the Beast	26
The Number of the Beast 666	34
The Number 6 Associated with Rome	35
Numerical Value of <i>Romiith</i> Is 666	35
Numerical Value of <i>Lateinos</i> Is 666	35
Sum of 6 Roman Numerals is 666	35
Rome’s 6 Vestal Virgins	36
Rome’s 6 th Legion Associated with Judea & Destruction of Jerusalem	36
Numerical Value of <i>Vicarius Filii Dei</i> (Vicar of Son of God) Is 666	37
The Number 666 Linked to Ancient Mystery Religion Cults	40
The Number 666 Represented by Greek Letters Xξς	40
Who Has the Mark of the Beast?	41
The Beast in Today’s World & Its Future Destruction	41
References	43

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PART 7

THE MARK OF THE BEAST PAST TO PRESENT

THE MARK OF THE BEAST IS NOT A FUTURE DEVICE OR PHYSICAL MARK OF IDENTIFICATION

The Mark of the Beast has been in operation for a very long time. It is not something that is yet to be put into place. In this study, we will show the connection of the Mark of the Beast to the Roman Church, the Apostasy of 2 Thessalonians 2:3, established by the Man of Lawlessness, Emperor Constantine.

The erroneous teaching that the Mark of the Beast is a future implanted microchip or other type of physical identification mark necessary for buying and selling causes much unnecessary fear about “taking the Mark of the Beast”. This misinterpretation also hinders and blocks understanding what the Mark of the Beast really is. The Mark of the Beast must be understood in the Biblical context, and that means also understanding what the Mark of God is.

Believers are in this world but not of it (John 17:11, 14-16). Because they are in this world, they buy and sell according to the world’s monetary systems. This does not mean that they have the Mark of the Beast. God is concerned with the spiritual condition of a person’s heart and their relationship with Him, not about the monetary system.

As previously shown, the 70 Weeks Prophecy of Daniel is about the First Coming of Messiah Yeshua.¹ The covenant of the 70th Week is the New Covenant, not a future false peace treaty made by the Antichrist with Israel. The 70th Week has been totally fulfilled, including the prophesied destruction of Jerusalem. Therefore, there is no future seven-year Tribulation and no future Antichrist who will rule the world and force people to take the Mark of the Beast.

As explained in Part 6 (“The Man of Lawlessness & the Apostasy – Emperor Constantine & the Roman Church”), the erroneous interpretation of a future Antichrist originated in 1585 from a Roman Catholic Jesuit priest, Francisco Ribeira (Ribera), to oppose the Protestant historicist interpretation linking the Papacy to the Antichrist.² Ribeira proposed the false interpretation that the Antichrist would rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem, proclaim himself God, kill the Two Witnesses, and rule the world.³

For over 200 years, Protestants wisely rejected this false interpretation. In 1827, the error was introduced into Protestant groups by Samuel Maitland, and popularized in the works of J. N.

¹ The Lord’s Hebrew name is *Yeshua*, the shortened form of *Yehoshua* (Joshua), meaning “YHVH is salvation”. YHVH (*Yehovah*) is the name of God. Messiah (Hebrew: *Mashiach*) means “anointed” (Greek: *Christos*). *Yeshua HaMashiach* means “Yeshua the Messiah”.

² Steve Gregg, *Revelation: Four Views – A Parallel Commentary*, p. 42.

³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francisco_Ribera

Darby beginning in 1830.⁴ Since then, the error has spread widely and been popularized by books and movies. Like so many Believers, we also accepted this interpretation until the Lord guided our study to show us the error. Only by correcting this error can the true prophetic timetable of End-Time events be seen and the true meaning of the Mark of the Beast be known.

THE EIGHT HEADS OF THE BEAST FROM THE SEA IDENTIFIED

See Part 5: “The Beasts of Revelation and Daniel” for an in-depth study of the Seven Heads of the Beast (Revelation 13 & 17), the Woman that Rides the Beast (Rome), the Healed 6th Head of the Beast (Papal Rome), and the Beast from the Earth (Christian Roman Empire).

To understand the Mark of the Beast requires correct interpretation of the Beasts of Revelation, the Healed 6th Head of the Beast, and the Image of the Beast (Revelation 13). As we have previously shown, the symbol of the Beast in Daniel and Revelation always refers to a great kingdom or empire, never to an individual man. The symbol of the Head or Mountain in Revelation likewise refers to an empire. The eight Heads of the Beast from the Sea are identified as eight empires that directly affected Israel, the focal point of all Biblical prophecy:

1. The 1st Head represents the Egyptian Empire.
2. The 2nd Head represents the Assyrian Empire.
3. The 3rd Head represents the Babylonian Empire.
4. The 4th Head represents the Media-Persian Empire.
5. The 5th Head represents the Greek Empire.
6. The 6th Head represents the Roman Empire, with Rome as its capital.
7. The 7th Head represents the Byzantine Empire, with Constantinople as its capital.
8. The 8th Head represents the Islamic Empire(s).

The wounding of the 6th Head of the Beast represents the Fall of Rome in AD 476, marking the end of the Western Roman Empire. The healing of the 6th Head of the Beast represents the rise of Papal Rome to great power, authority, and influence in its place (Revelation 13:3). The

⁴ Gregg, p. 42.

Beast from the Earth with Two Horns represents the Christian Roman Empire, with its two centers of power: Rome in the West and Constantinople in the East.⁵

THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH – THE CHRISTIAN ROMAN EMPIRE

The Beast from the Earth with Two Horns represents the Christian Roman Empire (Revelation 13:11-18). The Two Horns represent Rome and Constantinople, the two capitals of the Western and Eastern (Byzantine) Roman Empires respectively.

The Beast from the Earth, the Christian Roman Empire, exercises “the authority of the first beast”, the 6th Head of the Beast representing the Pagan Roman Empire, in its “presence”, meaning that the Pagan Roman Empire was transformed into the Christian Roman Empire, without the former having fallen in order for the latter to have risen into power:

And he [it] [Christian Roman Empire] exercises all the authority of the first beast [Pagan Roman Empire] in his [its] presence. And he [it] [Christian Roman Empire] makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast [Pagan Roman Empire], whose fatal wound [of the 6th Head] was healed (Revelation 13:12).

Note that “he” in reference to the Beast literally translates “it”, as it is in both the *Concordant Literal New Testament with Keyword Concordance* and *The Interlinear KJV-NIV Parallel New Testament in Greek and English*.⁶ The Beast as a symbol in Daniel and Revelation always represents an empire, never an individual man. In this context, the Beast from the Earth represents the Christian Roman Empire.

The Pagan Roman Empire was transformed into the Christian Roman Empire, based upon a pagan form of Christianity. This is the meaning of “makes the earth and those who dwell in it to

⁵ Note: Depending upon the context, the symbol of the Horn represents a power center such as Rome or Constantinople; a position of power such as the Roman Papacy; or an individual ruler.

⁶ *Concordant Literal New Testament with Keyword Concordance*, p. 587. *The Interlinear KJV-NIV Parallel New Testament in Greek and English*, p. 753.

worship the first beast”. The paganism of the Roman Empire did not cease to exist but was transformed into Pagan Christianity.

Once Emperor Theodosius outlawed paganism in AD 391, all peoples of the Roman Empire were compelled to become members of the Roman Church, the only legal religion of the Roman Empire.⁷ The Apostasy Paul warned about is the Apostate Church of Rome (2 Thessalonians 2:3). (See Parts 5 & 6 of this study for details and foundational material.)

SATANIC SIGNS & FIRE FROM HEAVEN

The apostle Paul warned that Satanic activity would be associated with Constantine (the Man of Lawlessness) and his Roman Church (the Apostasy):

that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the **activity of Satan**, with all power and **signs and false wonders** (2 Thessalonians 2:9, emphasis added).

Satan performed supernatural “signs and false wonders” to deceive Constantine. Appearing as the pagan sun god, Apollo, Satan offered Constantine a “reign of many years”.⁸ Appearing as the false sun-god Christ, Satan led Constantine to establish the Roman Church, the apostate (false) church referred to by Paul as the “apostasy” (2 Thessalonians 2:3).

Constantine began the process of transforming the Pagan Roman Empire into the Christian Roman Empire. The apostle John describes “great signs” including “fire” coming down from heaven being associated with the Beast from the Earth, the Christian Roman Empire.

⁷ In the Word of God, “all the earth” in this context refers to the Roman world at the time. For example, “all the earth” refers to the Babylonian Empire under Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4:1; the Greek Empire in Daniel 2:39; and the Roman Empire in Daniel 7:23.

⁸ Charles Matson Odahl, *Constantine and the Christian Empire*, p. 94.

See Part 6 of this study; section “Constantine’s God – The Sun God, Not the True God” (www.messengers-of-messiah.org).

And he [it] [the Beast from the Earth] [Christian Roman Empire] performs **great signs**, so that he [it] even makes **fire come down out of heaven** to the earth in the presence of men. And he [it] **deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs** which it was given him [it] to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life (Revelation 13:13-14, emphasis added).

The Beast from the Earth “had two horns like a lamb, and ... spoke as a dragon”, meaning that the Christian Roman Empire had the deceptive appearance of being Christian but was actually Satanic in nature (Revelation 13:11). Satan and the demons (fallen angels) are able to manifest “great signs” in order to deceive human beings. One of these is “fire” from heaven, which can manifest in various ways in apparitions, visions, and other supernatural phenomena. One such manifestation is called “Holy Fire”, which manifests in Constantine’s Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem during pagan Easter time.⁹

The **Holy Fire** (Greek 'Αγιος Φως, literally "Holy Light") is a **miracle** that occurs every year at the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre** in **Jerusalem** on **Holy Saturday**, the day preceding **Pascha** [Orthodox Easter] It is **considered by many to be the longest-attested annual miracle in the Christian world**, though the event has only been documented consecutively since 1106. In many Orthodox countries around the world the event is televised live.

The ceremony begins at noon when the **Patriarch of Jerusalem** or another Orthodox **Archbishop** recites a specific prayer. The faithful gathered will then chant "Lord, have mercy" (*Kyrie eleison* in Greek) until the **Holy Fire descends on a lamp of olive oil held by the patriarch while he is alone in the tomb chamber of Jesus Christ**. The patriarch will then emerge from the tomb chamber, recite some prayers, and light either 33 or 12 **candles** to distribute to the faithful.

⁹ The roots of Easter are pagan, not Biblical. See *Holidays and Holy Days* by Tom McKenney (<http://www.wordsforlivingmin.org/Publications.htm>).

The fire is also said to spontaneously light other lamps and candles around the church. Pilgrims say the Holy Fire will not burn hair, faces, etc., in the first 33 minutes after it is ignited. Before entering the Lord's Tomb, the patriarch or presiding archbishop is inspected by Israeli authorities to prove that he does not carry the technical means to light the fire. This investigation used to be carried out by Turkish soldiers.

The Holy Fire is first mentioned in the documents dating from the 4th century. A detailed description of the miracle is contained in the travelogue of the Russian *igumen* Daniel, who was present at the ceremony in 1106. Daniel mentions a blue incandescence descending from the dome to the *edicula* where the patriarch awaits the Holy Fire. Some claim to have witnessed this incandescence in modern times (emphasis added).¹⁰

Jerusalem Patriarch Diodorus described his direct experience of this fire “of a different nature”:

“I find my way through the darkness towards the inner chamber in which I fall on my knees. Here I say certain prayers that have been handed down to us through the centuries and, having said them, I wait. Sometimes I may wait a few minutes, but normally the miracle happens immediately after I have said the prayers. **From the core of the very stone on which Jesus lay an indefinable light pours forth.** It usually has a blue tint, but the color may change and take many different hues. It cannot be described in human terms. **The light rises out of the stone as mist may rise out of a lake – it almost looks as if the stone is covered by a moist cloud, but it is light.** This light each year behaves differently. Sometimes it covers just the stone, while other times it gives light to the whole sepulchre, so that people who stand outside the tomb and look into it will see it filled with light. The light does not burn – I have never had my beard burnt in all the 16 years I have been Patriarch in Jerusalem and have received the Holy Fire. **The light is of a different consistency than normal fire that burns in an oil lamp ... At a**

¹⁰ http://orthodoxwiki.org/Holy_Fire

certain point the light rises and forms a column in which the fire is of a different nature, so that I am able to light my candles from it. When I thus have received the flame on my candles, I go out and give the fire first to the Armenian Patriarch and then to the Coptic. Hereafter I give the flame to all people present in the Church"^[5] (emphasis added).¹¹

The phenomenon of “Holy Fire” was also reported to have taken place in 2012:

Thousands of Orthodox Christians filled Jerusalem’s ancient Church of the Holy Sepulcher and spilled out into the narrow streets on Saturday for the “Holy Fire” ceremony on the eve of Orthodox Easter.

Believers hold that the fire is miraculously sent from heaven to ignite candles held by the Greek Orthodox patriarch in an annual rite dating back to the 4th century that symbolizes the resurrection of Jesus. ...

[Before entering the tomb] The Patriarch is always searched beforehand to ensure that he is carrying nothing, such as matches or a lighter, that could be used to light the candles. ... the patriarch passes on the flames [to the candles of people in the church]. ... Pilgrims claim that the Holy Fire does not burn their hair, faces, clothes or anything else (emphasis added) ...¹²

Regarding the question of the authenticity of the miracle:

As with any other miracle there are people who believe it is a fraud and nothing but a masterpiece of Orthodox propaganda. They believe the Patriarch has a lighter inside of the tomb. These critics, however, are confronted with a number of problems. Matches and other means of ignition are recent inventions. Only a

¹¹ <http://www.holyfire.org/eng/>

¹²

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gyrJfMdiYr12N3gZETQL973RyvAA?docId=CNG.0aed8735d1342bd2d8ddc08ead1bdb9b.6f1>

few hundred years ago lighting a fire was an undertaking that lasted much longer than the few minutes during which the Patriarch is inside the tomb. One then could perhaps say, he had an oil lamp burning inside, from which he kindled the candles, but the local authorities confirmed that they had checked the tomb and found no light inside it.

The best arguments against a fraud, however, are not the testimonies of the shifting Patriarchs. **The biggest challenges confronting the critics are the thousands of independent testimonies by pilgrims whose candles were lit spontaneously in front of their eyes without any possible explanation.** According to our investigations, it has never been possible to film any of the candles or oil lamps igniting by themselves. However, I am in the possession of a video filmed by a young engineer from Bethlehem, Souhel Nabdiel. Mr. Nabdiel has been present at the ceremony of the Holy Fire since his early childhood. In 1996 he was asked to film the ceremony from the balcony of the dome of the Church. Present with him on the balcony were a nun and four other believers. The nun stood at the right hand of Nabdiel. On the video one can see how he films down on the crowds. At a certain point all lights are turned off - it is time for the Patriarch to enter the tomb and receive the Holy Fire. While he is still inside the tomb one suddenly hears a scream of surprise and wonder originating from the nun standing next to Nabdiel. The camera begins to shake, as one hears the excited voices of the other people present on the balcony. The camera now turns to the right, whereby it is possible to contemplate the cause of the commotion. **A big candle, held in the hand of the Russian nun, takes fire in front of all the people present before the patriarch comes out of the tomb. She holds the candle with shaking hands while making the sign of the Cross over and over again in awe of the miracle she has witnessed.** This video appears to be the closest one gets to an actual filming of the miracle (emphasis added).¹³

¹³ <http://www.holyfire.org/eng/>

Every indication is that “Holy Fire” (unholy because of its Satanic origin and nature) is a real supernatural phenomenon and fits the prophetic description of “fire from heaven” (Revelation 13:13). The Church of the Holy Sepulcher, originally built by Constantine, is falsely claimed to mark the site of Yeshua’s burial and resurrection, but is actually a pagan site where a Roman temple to Venus once stood.¹⁴ What more likely place for Satan to display supernatural signs than in a place where a pagan temple once stood? Satan’s purpose is to deceive people into believing that the Roman Church is the True Church of Messiah Yeshua.¹⁵

There are many different kinds of Satanic and demonic supernatural phenomena to deceive people into believing that the Roman Church is of God, such as: Marian apparitions (that proclaim and confirm unbiblical doctrines); Eucharist communion hosts manifesting flesh and blood (forbidden by God to consume); weeping and bleeding statues and images (forbidden by the Second Commandment); Satanic and demonic healings; Satanic and demonic visions, attacks, and stigmata¹⁶ associated with Roman Catholic mystics.

PAPAL ROME – THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST OF PAGAN ROME

Out of the Christian Roman Empire (Beast from the Earth) rose Papal Rome, the healed 6th Head of the Beast from the Sea (Revelation 13:3):

And there was given to him [it] [Beast from the Earth] [Christian Roman Empire] to give breath [life, existence] to the image [Papal Rome] of the [first] beast [Beast from the Sea 6th Head] [Pagan Rome], that the image of the beast [Papal Rome] might even speak [through the Roman Papacy] and cause as many as do not worship the image [Papal Rome] of the [first] beast [Beast

¹⁴ See Chapter 2 “The Mount of Olives – True Site of the Crucifixion” and Chapter 3 “The Mount of Olives – True Site of the Resurrection” from our book, *The Rod of an Almond Tree in God’s Master Plan*, at www.messengers-of-messiah.org.

¹⁵ In 1054, the Roman Church split into the Roman Catholic Church and Eastern Orthodox Church. Spiritually and prophetically, they are still part of the original apostate church.

¹⁶ Bleeding wounds in the palms of the hands match Roman Catholic images of the crucifixion, not actual crucifixion, in which the nails are driven through the wrists, not hands.

from the Sea 6th Head] [Pagan Rome] to be killed (Revelation 13:15, emphasis added).

As previously noted, the literal translation from the Greek refers to the Beast from the Earth as “it”, not “he”, because it refers to an empire, not an individual man.

The Pagan Roman Empire (6th Head of the Beast from the Sea) was transformed into the Christian Roman Empire (Beast from the Earth). Out of the Christian Roman Empire rose Papal Rome (healed 6th Head of the Beast from the Sea). Papal Rome has its roots in Pagan Rome, not in Biblical truth. This is what is meant by Papal Rome being made in the Image of the Beast, the Beast referring to Pagan Rome. Papal Rome is a copy or a likeness of Pagan Rome, as becomes clear when both are compared to each other:

1. Rome is the seat of the Pope’s throne and central government, just as Rome was the seat of the Roman Emperor’s throne and central government.
2. The Pope rules with supreme power and authority, just like the Roman Emperor ruled.
3. The Pope assumed the title of the pagan high priest, *Pontifex Maximus*, just like the Roman Emperor did.
4. The Roman Curia, the administrative body of the Papal Roman government, developed out of the ancient Roman Senate.
5. Administrative districts, called Dioceses, governed by bishops, are based on ancient Rome’s system of governing the empires dioceses (territories).¹⁷
6. The Latin language of the Roman Empire is the official language of Papal Rome.

¹⁷ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diocese>

7. The False Pagan Sun-God Christ is the god of the Roman Church. Elements of sun-god worship include: solar calendar; December 25th birth date of the sun god; Sunday weekly holiday in honor of the sun god; solar-disk-shaped communion host; sun-ray monstrance to hold the sun-god communion host; depictions of the halo.

8. Roman pagan holidays replaced God's Biblical Holy Days (Leviticus 23).

9. The Roman pagan solar calendar replaced God's Biblical Calendar.

10. Unbiblical Roman Church doctrines developed out of paganism, including a sacramental system of salvation. Rites of initiation, including baptism as a means of purification and sanctification, and a sacred meal of bread and wine, were central to the sun-god Mithraic mystery religion cult.¹⁸

11. Celibacy of priests and priestesses was associated with certain ancient pagan religions and is contrary to the Word of God.¹⁹

12. Roman Cardinals wear scarlet red; Roman Bishops wear purple. The colors red and purple were associated with the Roman Empire: red military flags, red soldiers robes; Senators' red or purple-striped garments; only the Emperor and ruling elite wore purple (Revelation 17:4, 18 – the Woman clothed in purple and scarlet represents the city of Rome).

13. The Roman Church Virgin Mary has attributes of pagan goddesses, mother goddess and virgin goddess.

¹⁸ Antonia Tripolitis, *Religions of the Hellenistic-Roman Age*, pp. 50, 54. Note: True salvation is by grace alone, without any sacrament required, including baptism (Luke 23:43). See Part 6, Section 3 “Why the Roman Church Is the Apostasy” for an in-depth study of this subject.

¹⁹ The Biblical Levitical priesthood married, as did the first apostles, including Peter.

“And when Jesus [Yeshua] had come to Peter's home, He saw his [Peter's] mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever” (Matthew 8:14).

14. The Roman Church cult of saints developed out of the pagan Graeco-Roman cults of patron gods and goddesses.

15. The Roman Church cult of martyrs developed out of the pagan Graeco-Roman cult of deceased family members.²⁰

16. The Roman Church cult of relics developed out of the pagan Graeco-Roman cult of relics.

17. Like Pagan Rome, Papal Rome has a history of persecuting, torturing, and murdering Believers who refused to bow to its authority. This is what is meant by:

... the image of the beast [Papal Rome] might even speak [through the Roman Papacy] and cause as many as do not worship [bow down to, submit to the authority of] the image [Papal Rome] of the beast [Pagan Rome] to be killed (Revelation 13:15).

THE MARK OF THE BEAST

And he [it] [Christian Roman Empire] causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given **a mark on their right hand, or on their forehead** (Revelation 13:16, emphasis added).

As we have previously noted, the word “he” referring to the Beast is literally and accurately translated “it”, and in this context refers to the Beast from the Earth with Two Horns, representing the Christian Roman Empire.

The Christian Roman Empire caused all peoples of the Roman Empire to receive an invisible spiritual mark on their right hand²¹ or forehead. In this context, “all” refers to the various

²⁰ Chris Maunder, *The Origins of the Cult of the Virgin Mary*, p. 100.

²¹ In contrast to the Mark of God on the left hand, the Mark of the Beast was on the right hand. See section below “The Mark of God”.

peoples of all classes throughout the Roman Empire – “small and the great”, “rich and poor”, “free ... and slaves”.

The reference to “all” does not refer to the entire world at the time but to the Roman Empire. We see another example of this usage of “all” referring to the peoples of the Babylonian Empire in Daniel 4:1.

Nebuchadnezzar the king to **all the peoples, nations, and men of every language that live in all the earth**: “May your peace abound!” (Daniel 4:1, emphasis added).

In this context, the reference to “all ... peoples, nations, and men of every language” refers to all the various peoples ruled by King Nebuchadnezzar, not the entire world.

Also in Daniel, we see a reference to “all the earth”, referring to the Third Kingdom of Bronze, representing the Greek Empire:

“And after you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another **third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth**” (Daniel 2:39, emphasis added).

Again, in this context, “all the earth” does not mean the entire world, but is limited to the Greek Empire established by Alexander the Great.

Likewise, the reference to “all” peoples receiving the Mark of the Beast refers to the Roman Empire, not to the entire world.

In the Book of Revelation, the Greek word *charagma* (Strong’s #5480) is translated as “mark” (Revelation 13:16-17; 14:9, 11; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4). The word comes from *charasso*, meaning to

engrave.²² In the New Testament, other than in the Book of Revelation, the word *charagma* only appears in Acts 17:29, where it refers to graven images of idolatrous pagan religions in contrast to the God of Israel.

The word *charagma*:

... means something graven or sculptured; hence (a) a graving, sculpture, sculptured work, as images or idols; (b) a mark cut in or stamped – as the stamp on coin. **Applied to men, it was used to denote some stamp or mark on the hand or elsewhere – as in the case of a servant on whose hand or arm the name of the master was impressed;** or of a soldier on whom some mark was impressed denoting the company or phalanx to which he belonged. It was no uncommon thing to mark slaves or soldiers in this way; and the design was either to denote their ownership or rank, or to prevent their escaping so as not to be detected (emphasis added).²³

Among the Romans, slaves were stigmatized [marked by tattooing or branding] with the master’s name or mark on their foreheads. So Valerius Maximus speaks of the custom for slaves, “literarum notis inuri;” and Plautus calls the slave “literatus.” Ambrose (De Obit. Valentin.) says, *Characteres Domini inscribuntur servuli.* **Petronius mentions the forehead as the place of the mark:** *Servitia ecce in frontibus cernitis.* In many cases, **soldiers bore the emperor’s name or mark imprinted on the hand.** Aetius says, *Stigmata vocant quae in facie, vel in alia parte corporis, inscribuntur; qualia sunt militum in manibus.* So Ambrose says, *Nomine imperatoris signatur milites* (emphasis added).²⁴

²² W. E. Vine, *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, Vol. 2, p.173.

²³ Albert Barnes, *Book of Revelation: Notes, Explanatory and Practical*, p. 369.

²⁴ Barnes, footnote p. 369.

At the time God gave the vision, John would have understood its meaning in the context of the common practice of marking a slave or a soldier on the forehead, hand or arm, with the mark or name of the master or emperor. John would have also understood the Mark of the Beast in contrast to the Mark of God (see section below “Mark of God”).

A person belongs either to the Beast (Satan’s worldly system) or to God (Revelation 7:2-3; 13:16-18; 14:1, 9-11; 16:2; 19:20; Isaiah 44:5; Ezekiel 3:8-9; 9:4, 6; Deuteronomy 6:8). The Mark of the Beast on the forehead or hand shows belonging to and submitting to the Beast, the Roman Empire, including the religious system of the Beast, the Roman Church and Papal Rome, referred to as “the image of the Beast” (Revelation 13:14-15; 14:9-11; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4). (See section above “Papal Rome – The Image of the Beast, Pagan Rome”).

In this regard, it is highly significant that the word *charagma* comes from the word *charasso* meaning to engrave, as of the engraving of idolatrous images. The Mark of the Beast therefore reflects the idolatrous nature of the Roman Church, with its images and icons forbidden by Second Commandment (Exodus 20:4), as well as its other pagan elements, which have been modified to appear Christian (See Part 6, Section 3 “Why the Roman Church Is the Apostasy” for a detailed study of this subject.)

As conclusively shown in Part 6, the Roman Church has its roots in paganism, in particular sun-god worship. One of the most influential sun-god religions at the time John recorded his visions was the Mithraic mystery religion cult. The initiate of Mithras was branded on the forehead or on both hands, identifying him as a member of the cult.²⁵ This shows us that **the Mark of the Beast has to do with identifying members of the Beast, in particular members of the sun-god religion of the Beast, a pagan form of Christianity.** To better understand the Mark of the Beast, we need to understand the Mark of God.

²⁵ Tripolitis, p. 52.

THE MARK OF GOD

The Mark of the Beast must be understood within the Biblical context. The Word of God shows us what the Mark of God is to provide that context.

“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! **And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart;** and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. **And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead**” (Deuteronomy 6:4-8, emphasis added).

The Lord commands His people to love Him with all their hearts, souls, and strength – in other words love God with one’s whole being. He commands that His words be written in their hearts and minds (souls). This is what is meant by His words being bound “as a sign on your hand and ... on your forehead.”

When asked what the greatest commandment is, the Lord Yeshua repeated what the Lord God had told His people, the Israelites (Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27):

And one of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, **“What commandment is the foremost of all?”** Jesus [Yeshua] answered, **“The foremost is, ‘HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH’ ”**(Mark 12:28-30).

Based on the Lord's commandment to "bind them [these words of the Lord] as a sign on your hand and ... on your forehead", Jews make an external sign of God's Word upon their hearts and minds (souls). *Tefillin* are leather boxes containing parchment scrolls inscribed with the four Scriptural passages in which the Lord refers to His sign on the hand and forehead:

"And it shall serve as **a sign to you on your hand, and as a reminder on your forehead**, that the law [Torah] of the LORD may be in your mouth; for with a powerful hand the LORD brought you out of Egypt" (Exodus 13:9, emphasis added).

"So it shall serve as **a sign on your hand, and as phylacteries on your forehead**, for with a powerful hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt" (Exodus 13:16, emphasis added).

"And you shall bind them as **a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead**" (Deuteronomy 6:8, emphasis added).

"You shall therefore **impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul**; and you shall bind them as **a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontals on your forehead**" (Deuteronomy 11:18, emphasis added).

We can see from the words of the Lord that the heart is linked with the hand and the soul is linked with the forehead. The outworking of the heart can be seen in the hands, representing one's works. The soul involves the mind. We are to love God with our whole hearts and minds.

To this day, religious Jewish males wear *tefillin* (phylacteries) on the forehead, indicating the soul (mind) and the left arm (closest to the heart) during prayer to remind them of God's commandment.

... tefillin are placed on **the arm adjacent to the heart** and on the **head above the brain** to demonstrate that these two major organs are **willing to perform the service of God** (emphasis added).²⁶

One of the names of God is shown on the *tefillin*:

On both sides of the head-tefillin, the Hebrew letter shin (ש) is moulded. The knot of the head-tefillin strap forms the letter dalet (ד) while the strap that is passed through the arm-tefillin is formed into a knot in the shape of the letter yud (י). **These three letters spell Shaddai (ידי), one of the names of God** (emphasis added)[2].²⁷

In the Book of Revelation, the Name of God is written on the foreheads of ALL who are redeemed by the blood of Messiah Yeshua, the Lamb of God, symbolically represented by the number 144,000 (12 x 12 x 1000 – number 12 signifies perfection of God's government).²⁸

And I looked, and behold, the Lamb [of God, Messiah Yeshua] was standing on Mount Zion [Jerusalem], and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having **His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads** (Revelation 14:1, emphasis added).

Revelation 14:1, showing all the redeemed with the name of Yeshua and His Father on their foreheads, follows after Revelation 13:16-18, dealing with the Mark of the Beast. This shows the contrast between those who have the Mark of God and those who have Mark of the Beast.

²⁶ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tefillin>

²⁷ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tefillin>

²⁸ The number 144,000 does not refer to 144,000 Jews during a future seven-year Tribulation. Jews are from the Tribe of Judah, whereas the number includes the 12 Tribes of Israel, except for Dan who is replaced by Manasseh (Revelation 7:4-8). The number 144 is the product of 12 x 12, the number 12 signifying the governmental perfection of God (Bullinger, *Number in Scripture*, p. 235). The number 144,000 represents ALL who are redeemed by the blood of Messiah Yeshua and marked with the seal of God's Holy Spirit (Revelation 7:3, 9). As Abraham's offspring (Galatians 3:29), they are part of/grafted into Israel (Romans 11). This number represents believers redeemed by the blood of Messiah Yeshua, including those martyred for their faith (Revelation 7:13-15).

The Lord's commandment regarding the sign on the hand and the forehead – the Mark of God – deals with loving God with one's whole being and also remembering what the Lord did at Passover. The first Passover was when God delivered the Israelites from bondage in Egypt:

And Moses said to the people, “**Remember this day in which you went out from Egypt, from the house of slavery; for by a powerful hand the LORD brought you out from this place.** And nothing leavened shall be eaten. On this day in the month of Abib [Nisan], you are about to go forth. And it shall be when the LORD brings you to the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Hivite and the Jebusite, which He swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, that you shall observe this rite in this month. For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to the LORD. Unleavened bread shall be eaten throughout the seven days; and nothing leavened shall be seen among you, nor shall any leaven be seen among you in all your borders. And you shall tell your son on that day, saying, ‘It is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.’ And it shall serve as **a sign to you on your hand, and as a reminder on your forehead, that the law of the LORD may be in your mouth; for with a powerful hand the LORD brought you out of Egypt.** Therefore, you shall keep this ordinance at its appointed time from year to year (Exodus 13:3-10, emphasis added).

God commanded the Israelites to remember how He delivered them from bondage in Egypt by observing the Feast Unleavened Bread that began the evening the Passover lambs were eaten.

The apostle Paul tells us that the Appointed Times of the Lord, including Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, are all about Messiah Yeshua. It is not the ritual observance of the religious festivals that God requires, but taking Messiah Yeshua into our hearts and souls:

Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a [religious] festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day — **things which are a mere shadow**

of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ [Messiah] (Colossians 2:16-17, emphasis added).

The Lord wants a real personal relationship with each and every human being. This has to do with the condition of the human heart, not performance of external rituals and observances. This is why the Lord told Israel to circumcise their hearts:

“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear [be in awe of; revere] the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and **love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul ... Circumcise then your heart**, and stiffen your neck no more (Deuteronomy 10:12, 16, emphasis added).

“Moreover the LORD your God will **circumcise your heart** and the heart of your descendants, to **love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul**, in order that you may live (Deuteronomy 30:6, emphasis added).

The blood of the Passover lamb was a sign:

‘Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ... And the **blood shall be a sign** for you on the houses where you live; and **when I see the blood I will pass over you**, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt’ (Exodus 12:7, 13, emphasis added).

As God’s Passover Lamb, Messiah Yeshua is the fulfillment of Passover for the sins of the world (John 1:29). As the blood of the Passover lambs was applied to the doorposts and lintels, the blood of Messiah Yeshua is to be applied to our hearts and souls. Yeshua is the only way of salvation, the only way to be freed from the bondage of sin, and the law of sin and death.

As these Scriptures show, the Sign or Mark of God has to do with the spiritual condition of our hearts, not an external physical mark. The Mark of God is the spiritual mark in the hearts and

souls of those who love God and trust in God's only way of salvation, Messiah Yeshua. Therefore, all those who are redeemed by Yeshua's blood have the Mark of God and are sealed by the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30).

All who are redeemed by the blood of Messiah Yeshua have the Name of God, the Mark of God, and the Seal of God through the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit:

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ [Messiah] and anointed us is **God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts** as a pledge (2 Corinthians 1:21-22).

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, **you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit** of promise (Ephesians 1:13, emphasis added).

And do not grieve **the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed** for the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30).

And I heard **the number of those who were sealed**, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel (Revelation 7:4, emphasis added).

All who are redeemed by the blood of Messiah Yeshua are sealed by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and are a part of Israel (Romans 11).

The 144,000 with the Name of God on their foreheads represents all who are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God, Messiah Yeshua, not a limited finite number of 144,000.²⁹

²⁹ See "The Error of the 144,000 Fleeing to Petra" in Part 4 "The Abomination of Desolation & the Roman Destruction of Jerusalem".

And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand, from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed (Revelation 7:4-8, emphasis added).

The number 144,000 represents all redeemed Israel.³⁰ The number 144,000 is the product of 12 x 12 x thousands. The number 12 is highly significant in the Word of God – 12 Tribes of Israel; 12 Disciples; 12 Foundations and 12 Gates of the New Jerusalem. On each of the 12 Gates of the New Jerusalem are written the names of the 12 Tribes.

Another Biblical significance of the number 144,000 is that it is the product of 24 x 6, representing the Priesthood of all Believers in Messiah Yeshua. They are the New Priesthood of the New Covenant:

But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).

There were 24 priestly divisions of the Aaronite Priesthood (1 Chronicles 24). The 24 elders worshipping the Lamb in Heaven are representative of the Priesthood of the New Covenant, a priesthood made up of each and every believer in Messiah Yeshua:

³⁰ The Tribe of Dan is not found in this list due to Dan's idolatry. The Tribe of Manasseh (descended from one of Joseph's sons) replaces the Tribe of Dan.

And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and **the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb**, having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints [believers]. And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. **And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth**” (Revelation 5:8-10, emphasis added).

Multiplying the number of man (6) by the number of priestly divisions (24) gives the significant number 144.³¹ Multiplying 144 by 1000 gives the number 144,000 – representing the whole body of the New Covenant Priesthood.

Those who have the Mark of God belong to God and are spared judgment. We see an example of this in the Book of Ezekiel:

Then the glory of the God of Israel went up from the cherub on which it had been, to the threshold of the temple. And He called to the man clothed in linen at whose loins was the writing case. And the LORD said to him, “Go through the midst of the city, even through the midst of Jerusalem, and **put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations** which are being committed in its midst.” But to the others He said in my hearing, “Go through the city after him and strike; do not let your eye have pity, and do not spare. Utterly slay old men, young men, maidens, little children, and women, but **do not touch any man on whom is the mark**; and you shall start from My sanctuary.” So they started with the elders who were before the temple (Ezekiel 9:3-6, emphasis added).

God warned that judgment was coming on the people of Israel and Jerusalem because of their idolatry (Ezekiel 7). The priests were even engaging in idolatrous worship in God’s Holy Temple

³¹ The number 6 signifies man, as man was created on the Sixth Day of Creation (Genesis 1:26).

(Ezekiel 8). Those who loved the Lord and grieved over the idolatrous abominations received a spiritual mark that protected them from judgment. Likewise, those who have the Mark of God will be protected from judgment, while those who have the Mark of the Beast will receive God's just judgment (Revelation 14; 16:2, 10-11).

NO BUYING OR SELLING WITHOUT THE MARK OF THE BEAST

Just as the Mark of God is a spiritual, not a physical mark, so too the Mark of the Beast is a spiritual, not a physical mark. The Word of God gives us an interesting clue regarding the Mark of the Beast. We are told that no one could buy or sell without the Mark of the Beast:

... and he [it] [Christian Roman Empire] provides that **no one should be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his [its] [the Beast's] name** (Revelation 13:17).

As we have previously noted, the literal translation of the Greek refers to the Beast as "it", not "he". As we have also previously noted, the symbol of the Beast in Revelation (and Daniel) always represents a great kingdom or empire, never an individual man.

In the context of Revelation Chapter 13, the "first beast", the 6th Head of the Beast from the Sea representing the Pagan Roman Empire, was transformed into the "second beast", the Beast from the Earth with Two Horns representing the Christian Roman Empire (Revelation 13:3, 11).

The "second beast", the Christian Roman Empire, exercised the authority of the "first beast", the Pagan Roman Empire, in the "presence" of the "first beast", meaning that the Pagan Roman Empire did not fall from power but was transformed from a pagan into a Christian empire (Revelation 13:12). However, it remained the Beast because of the apostate form of Christianity that could be called Pagan Christianity as opposed to Biblical Christianity.

This unbiblical form of Christianity has the Mark of the Beast because it is a part of the Beast. The "second beast", the Beast from the Earth with Two Horn (Christian Roman Empire) caused

people to worship the “first beast”, the 6th Head of the Beast from the Sea (Pagan Roman Empire), because they were two forms of the same Beast (Revelation 13:12).

According to Revelation 13:17, no one was able to buy or sell except those who had the Mark of the Beast: **“no one should be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his [its] [the Beast’s] name”**. The Mark of the Beast relates to “the name of the beast or the number of the Beast’s name”, meaning that the numerical equivalent of the name of the Beast is 666 (letters in Greek and Hebrew represent numbers).

The Number of the Beast 666 points to the number 6 and the 6th Head of the Beast from the Sea, the Roman Empire. At the time John wrote the Book of Revelation, five Heads of the Beast from the Sea had fallen:

“Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads [kingdoms/empires] [of the Beast from the Sea] are seven mountains [kingdoms/empires] on which the woman [Rome] sits, and they are seven kings [kingdoms]; **five have fallen, one is [Roman Empire]**, the other has not yet come; and when he [it] [Byzantine Empire] comes, he [it] must remain a little while” (Revelation 17:9-10, emphasis added).

The five kingdoms or empires that had fallen were the empires of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Media-Persia, and Greece. The Roman Empire was the 6th Head of the Beast from the Sea that ruled the Mediterranean world (including Israel) at the time John recorded his visions. The city of Rome (the Woman) sat on these kingdoms, meaning that Rome conquered and ruled the lands once ruled by these former empires.³²

Therefore, **the Name of the Beast is the Roman Empire.**

³² See *A New Look at the Book of Revelation & Daniel End-Time Prophecies*, Part 5 “The Beasts of Revelation & Daniel” for a complete study of the Beast from the Sea with Seven Heads (free study at www.messengers-of-messiah.org).

The Word of God tells us that the Number of the Beast (666) is found by calculating the numerical value of the Name of the Beast. In Hebrew and Greek, letters also represent numbers. The calculated numerical value of the Hebrew word *Romiith*, meaning Roman Kingdom, is 666. (See following section “The Number of the Beast 666”.)

Therefore, **the Number of the Beast and the Name of the Beast identify the Roman Empire.**

With this understanding, let us go back to Revelation 13:17 –

... and he [it] [Christian Roman Empire] provides that **no one should be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his [its] [the Beast’s] name** (Revelation 13:17).

The Mark of the Beast – its Name and Number – links to the Beast from the Earth, the Christian Roman Empire (Revelation 13:11-18). The Beast controlled the monetary system. All peoples of the Christian Roman Empire bought and sold according to the empire’s monetary system.

And he [it] [Christian Roman Empire] causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand, or on their forehead, and he [it] provides that **no one should be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name** (Revelation 13:16-17, emphasis added).

The Beast, the Christian Roman Empire, caused all people of the empire (except those belonging to God who had the spiritual Mark of God) to have spiritual Mark of the Beast. In contrast, the Mark of God is a spiritual mark on those who follow the Word of God and who trust in God’s Passover Lamb, Messiah Yeshua. (See previous section “The Mark of God”.)

The Beast represents the Roman Empire, including its political, religious, and monetary aspects. There was no separation of church and state; both were under the supreme authority of the

Roman emperor. The Roman Church was established as the only legal religion of the Roman Empire. It was and continues to be part of the Beast, not of God.

It is prophetically significant that the Greek word *charagma*, translated “mark”, links the idolatrous religion and coins of Rome:

The word [*charagma*] properly means something graven or sculptured; hence (a) a graving, sculpture, sculptured work, as images or idols; (b) a mark cut in or stamped – as the stamp on coin. Applied to men, it was used to denote some stamp or mark on the hand or elsewhere – as in the case of a servant on whose hand or arm the name of the master was impressed; or of a soldier on whom some mark was impressed denoting the company or phalanx to which he belonged. It was no uncommon thing to mark slaves or soldiers in this way; and the design was either to denote their ownership or rank, or to prevent their escaping so as not to be detected (emphasis added).³³

Images of idols and images on coins are both engraved. At first what might seem unrelated – the religious and monetary aspects of the Christian Roman Empire – are linked in a prophetically significant way by the use of the word *charagma*. The peoples of the Christian Roman Empire bought and sold with coins of the Beast and also practiced the apostate religion of the Beast. Only those with the Mark of God did not have the Mark of the Beast associated with the Christian Roman Empire. Moreover, the same word (*charagma*) also links to the common practice of marking a slave or soldier with the mark or name of this master or emperor. When we see the usage of the word *charagma* in this way, its prophetic significance is most meaningful.

The religious system of the “Christian” Roman Empire was a part of Satan’s Beast, the ungodly worldly government of the Roman Empire. Messiah Yeshua is the only Head of His True Church, made up of all who are indwelt by God’s Holy Spirit. In contrast, the Church of the Roman Empire was under the authority of the Roman Emperors, beginning with Constantine and continuing with the emperors of the Eastern (Byzantine) Roman Empire (7th Head of the Beast

³³ Barnes, p. 369.

from the Sea). Papal Rome worked over the centuries to take this position as sole and supreme head the Roman Church, falsely claiming the position of primacy among all the bishops belongs to the Bishop of Rome.

Because the Roman Church has nothing to do with Messiah Yeshua's True Church, it could be more properly referred to as the Roman Religious Institution. The Roman Religious Institution under the Roman Popes kept the Word of God from the people for centuries, until the Protestant Reformation. It now continues to maintain control the Word of God by claiming sole authority as its interpreter. It keeps people in bondage through fear and ignorance that it is the one and only way of salvation, when in fact its priesthood, sacramental system of salvation, and doctrines contradict the Word of God (see Part 6, Section "Why the Roman Church is the Apostasy").

Regarding the Mark of the Beast as it pertains to the monetary system of the Christian Roman Empire, it is interesting to note that its coins were engraved with Latin inscriptions, Roman images, and Roman numerals. Images of the Roman emperors were often engraved on coins used for buying and selling. Yeshua said to render to Caesar (the Roman emperor) the things that were Caesar's, and render to God the things that are God's (Matthew 22:21; Mark 12:17; Luke 20:25):

“Tell us therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to give a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?” But Jesus [Yeshua] perceived their malice, and said, “Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites? Show Me the coin used for the poll-tax.” And they brought Him a denarius. And He said to them, **“Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said to Him, “Caesar’s.”** Then He said to them, **“Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s; and to God the things that are God’s”** (Matthew 22:17-21, emphasis added).

But how could a person render to God the things of God by becoming a member of the Roman Religious Institution that was under the supreme authority of the Roman Emperor? Rendering to Caesar included becoming a member of the Roman Emperor's Roman Church and submitting to his authority as head of the state religion of the Roman Empire. But Yeshua said His Kingdom is not of this world, meaning it is not a part of the worldly empire of Rome or any other empire.

Interestingly, Papal Rome controlled the monetary system of the Papal States when it ruled as a temporal (earthly governmental) power. After the fall of the Papal States, the Papacy regained status as a temporal power of the sovereign city-state of Vatican City. Vatican City issues its own coins and since 1999 uses the euro as its currency, by special agreement with the European Union.³⁴ The Vatican Bank, located in Vatican City, conducts worldwide financial activities.³⁵

The coins and medals of Papal Rome are imprinted with images of the Popes just like the coins of Rome were imprinted with the images of the Roman Emperors. Pagan images are also imprinted on Vatican coins and medals (such as solar imagery, goddess with child imagery). For example, the Apollo of Belvedere gold medal minted by the Vatican in 1995 is imprinted with the image of the sun god Apollo.³⁶



The image of the sun god Apollo is also imprinted on the Gold 20 Euro Vatican coin minted in 2010.³⁷

³⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vatican_City

³⁵ Vatican City has an ATM with instructions in Latin, the language of the Roman Beast (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vatican_City).

³⁶ http://www.medals-vatican.com/vatican_gold_medal_year_1995.html

³⁷ <http://www.coin-database.com/coins/20-euro-masterpieces-of-sculpture-apollo-of-belvedere-and-augustus-of-prima-porta-vatican-city-2010.html>



The Roman Church is truly remarkable compared to any other religious institution in the world. It is the oldest, continuously functioning institution in the world, tracing its roots back to ancient Rome. It is the only religious institution in the world that has its own sovereign nation, maintains international diplomatic relations with the world's nations, has its own bank and monetary system, its own post office and stamps, and has observer status in the United Nations. Moreover, the Papacy has great political power and influence due to its over one billion members throughout the world.

The political-religious-monetary system of the Roman Empire (the Beast) had the Mark of the Beast, not the Mark of God. The empire controlled the religious system just as it controlled the monetary system. All peoples of the Roman Empire were marked with the Mark of the Beast UNLESS they were truly redeemed by the blood of Messiah Yeshua.

Those who are redeemed by the blood of Messiah Yeshua are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and have the Mark of God. God knows every human heart:

But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for **God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart**” (1 Samuel 16:7, emphasis added).

“As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for **the LORD searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts**. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever” (1 Chronicles 28:9, emphasis added).

For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for **the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God** (1 Corinthians 2:10, emphasis added).

‘And I will kill her children with pestilence; and all the churches will know that **I am He who searches the minds and hearts**; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds’ (Revelation 2:23, emphasis added).

Messiah Yeshua said that those who belong to Him are not of this world:

“I have given them Thy word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. **They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth**. As Thou didst send Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth” (John 17:14-19, emphasis added).

True Believers are in this world but not of it. We want to make it clear that the Mark of God has to do with having true salvation through Messiah Yeshua and being indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

There are those who claim that to be saved, one must be “Torah observant”, meaning one must observe the laws of Torah, including strict observance of the Biblical Sabbath and Biblical Holy Days. But there is no such requirement, as made clear by the decision of the Jerusalem Church Council that dealt with the problem of Judaizers pushing for Torah observance among Gentile Believers (Acts 15).

THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST 666

According to Revelation 13:8, the Number of the Beast is the number of man:

Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate **the number of the beast, for the number is that of man;** and his number is six hundred and sixty-six (Revelation 13:18, emphasis added).

The “a” in front of “man” is not in the original Greek text and therefore should not be added to the text.³⁸ The Beast in this context refers to the Christian Roman Empire, not to any particular individual. Therefore, the number of the Beast is not referring to the numerical equivalent of a particular man’s name. As previously shown, the Beast as a symbol in Revelation and Daniel is representative of a great kingdom or empire, and never representative of an individual person.

In the Word of God, the number 6 is associated with man (humanity). Man was created on the 6th Day of Creation. God gave man 6 days for work and the 7th Day of Creation for rest, the Biblical Sabbath day (Friday evening to Saturday evening).

The number 666 is an amplification of the number 6, representing man’s way without God. In matters of a spiritual or religious nature, the number of Satan’s Beast represents man’s way of salvation, a system of salvation by works rather than salvation by God’s grace alone. The number of the Beast is always associated with Satan, who deceives and leads human beings away from God and to spiritual destruction. His greatest deception is to deceive humanity into believing that his false church that came out of the Beast, Rome, is God’s one true church.

³⁸ *Concordant Literal New Testament with Keyword Concordance*, p. 588.

The Number 6 Associated with Rome

In the Book of Revelation, the Roman Empire is associated with the number 6. The Roman Empire is represented by the 6th Head of the Beast from the Sea, and Papal Rome is represented by the healed 6th Head of the Beast from the Sea (Revelation 13:1, 3; 17:10).

The Pagan Roman Empire was transformed into the Christian Roman Empire, represented by the Beast from the Earth with Two Horns (Revelation 13:11-18). This was an apostate form of Christianity, which could be called Pagan Christianity in contrast to true Biblical Christianity. Therefore, the number of the Beast is associated not only with the Pagan Roman Empire but also with the Christian Roman Empire because this empire was of the Beast, not of God.

Numerical Value of *Romiith* Is 666

The numerical value of the Hebrew name *Romiith*, meaning “Roman Kingdom”, is 666 – “R” Resh (200) + “O” Vav (6) + “M” Mem (40) + “I” Yud (10) + “I” Yud (10) + “Th” Tav (400).³⁹ (Hebrew letters represent numbers.)

Numerical Value of *Lateinos* Is 666

The numerical value of the ancient Greek name *Lateinos*, meaning “Latin speaking man”, is 666 – “L” Lambda (30) + “A” Alpha (1) + “T” Tau (300) + “E” Epsilon (5) + “I” Iota (10) + “N” Nu (50) + “O” Omicron (70) + “S” Sigma (200).⁴⁰ (Greek letters represent numbers.)

Sum of 6 Roman Numerals Is 666

³⁹ <http://www.aloha.net/~mikesch/666.htm> - See also Gregg, p. 306. This interpretation originated with Irenaeus, 2nd century Christian bishop, disciple of Polycarp, who was a disciple of the apostle John, author of the Book of Revelation (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irenaeus>).

⁴⁰ <http://www.aloha.net/~mikesch/666.htm> - See also Gregg, p. 306. This interpretation originated with Irenaeus, 2nd century Christian bishop, disciple of Polycarp, who was a disciple of the apostle John, author of the Book of Revelation (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irenaeus>).

The sum of 6 Roman numerals is 666 – D (500) + C (100) + L (50) + X (10) + V (5) + I (1).

Rome's 6 Vestal Virgins

Rome had 6 Vestal Virgins, the public priesthood of 6 women devoted to Vesta, goddess of the hearth of the Roman state and its sacred fire, considered essential for Rome's survival.⁴¹

Rome's 6th Legion Associated with Judea & Destruction of Jerusalem

Israel, in particular Jerusalem, is the focal point of all Biblical prophecy regarding God's plan of redemption for the world. For this reason, the Beasts of Daniel and Revelation represent the empires that directly affected the course of history of the nation of Israel. Israel was located at the crossroads of Africa, Asia, and Europe and therefore came under the rule of the empires of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, Rome, Constantinople, and Islam.

In this regard, it is prophetically significant that Legio VI Ferrata ("Legion 6 Ironclad") of the 6th Head of the Beast (Rome) was associated with Jerusalem and Judea. This Roman legion was garrisoned in Judea during a period of about 200 years; fought in the Jewish War in which the Jerusalem Temple was destroyed; guarded the strategic pass at Megiddo (site of future Armageddon) during the Bar Kochba Jewish revolt; and carried the symbolic she-wolf with Romulus and Remus, the symbol of Rome.⁴²

Iron symbolizes the Roman Empire (Iron Legs - Daniel 2:33; Iron Kingdom - Daniel 2:40; Iron Teeth of 4th Beast - Daniel 7:7, 19). Therefore, it is prophetically significant that the 6th Roman Legion, called "Ironclad", was garrisoned in Judea and was also part of the Roman armies that destroyed Jerusalem (AD 70), and put down the Bar Kochba Jewish revolt (AD 132-135).

Also connected to the number 6 is the typical number of soldiers in a Roman legion: 6000.

⁴¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_ancient_Rome

⁴² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legio_VI_Ferrata

Numerical Value of *Vicarius Filii Dei* (Vicar of Son of God) Is 666

The numerical value of *Vicarius Filii Dei*, meaning “Vicar of the Son of God”, is 666 – V and U = 5; I = 1; C = 100; L = 50; D = 500; all other letters = 0.⁴³ The title “Vicar of the Son of God” was written on the Triple Tiara worn by the popes at their coronation until the 17th century.⁴⁴

Another closely related title, Vicar of Christ, is also falsely claimed by the Roman Pope. According to *The Catholic Encyclopedia*:

This title signifies the supreme authority of the pope as the representative of Christ on earth and the visible head of the mystical body.⁴⁵

The title conveys the pope’s “supreme and universal primacy, both of honour and of jurisdiction, over the Church of Christ”, “his supreme headship of the Church on earth”.⁴⁶

The Roman Pope is not Messiah Yeshua’s representative on earth and not the head of Yeshua’s Church. This false claim makes the Roman Pope an Antichrist – *anti* meaning “in place of”.

In regard to the Papal Tiara (Papal Crown), it is interesting to note that it originated from the Phrygian cap of central Anatolia (Asia Minor).

The papal tiara originated from a conical [Phrygian cap](#) or frigium.[2][3] Shaped like a candle-extinguisher, the papal tiara and the episcopal mitre were identical in their early forms.[2]

Names used for the papal tiara in the 8th and 9th centuries include *camelaucum*, *pileus*, *phrygium* and *pileum phrygium*.[2]

⁴³ Published by the classical scholar and linguist, Andreas Helwig (1572-1643), in his work, *Antichristus Romanus* (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andreas_Helwig).

⁴⁴ Gregg, p. 306.

⁴⁵ *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, p. 599.

⁴⁶ *Catholic Encyclopedia*, Vicar of Christ, (<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/15403b.htm>).

A circlet of linen or cloth of gold at the base of the tiara developed into a metal crown, which by about 1300 became two crowns. The first of these appeared at the base of the traditional white papal headgear in the 9th century.[4][5] **When the popes assumed temporal power in the Papal States, the base crown became decorated with jewels to resemble the crowns of princes.[4] The second crown is said to have been added by Pope Innocent III (1198–1216) as signifying both his spiritual and temporal power, since he declared that God had set him over kings and kingdoms.[2]** However, a fresco in the Chapel of Saint Sylvester (consecrated in 1247) in the church of the [Santi Quattro Coronati](#) in Rome seems to represent the Pope wearing a tiara with two bands and with lappets.[6] The **triple tiara** is attributed to [Pope Benedict XI](#) (1303–1304) or [Pope Clement V](#) (1305–1314), and one such tiara was listed in an inventory of the papal treasury in 1316[2] ... The first years of the 16th century saw the **addition of a little globe and cross to top the tiara** (emphasis added).[7]⁴⁷

The first “base crown [was]... decorated with jewels to resemble the crowns of princes”, signifying the Roman Pope’s false claim to be sole and supreme spiritual authority of the world. The “second crown” signified the Roman Pope not only as the highest spiritual power, but also the highest temporal (worldly) power. Later, the addition of the “little globe” to the papal triple tiara represented the Roman Pope as supreme ruler of the world. The Roman Papacy has desired and falsely claimed to have God’s authority to rule the world, totally in contrast to Yeshua, who rejected Satan’s offer of the kingdoms of this world (Matthew 4:8-10; Luke 4:5-8).

The Papal Tiara and Mitre originated from the Phrygian cap, which was worn by the Persian sun god, Mithras:

The Phrygian cap ... is worn by the syncretic Persian saviour god Mithras and by the Anatolian god Attis who were later adopted by Romans and Hellenic cultures.⁴⁸

⁴⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papal_tiara

⁴⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phrygian_cap

This is another link of the Roman Church to the Mithraic mystery religion cult:

The Mithraic Mysteries were a mystery religion practiced in the Roman Empire from about the 1st to 4th centuries AD. The name of the Persian god Mithra, adapted into Greek as Mithras, was linked to a new and distinctive imagery. **Romans also called the religion Mysteries of Mithras or Mysteries of the Persians; modern historians refer to it as Mithraism,[1] or sometimes Roman Mithraism.[2][3] The mysteries were popular in the Roman military [4] (emphasis added).**⁴⁹

Rome became the center of all the various mystery religion cults throughout the empire, including the Mithraic mystery religion cult.

Elements of Mithraism, as well as other mystery religion cults, were transformed into a “Christianized” form of paganism in the Roman Church. This is why the Word of God refers to Rome as “Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots”, referring to Babylon as the original source of the mystery religion cults. (In the Word of God, “harlot” represents idolatrous religion.) The Mithraic mystery religion cult was brought to Rome from Asia Minor (area of Turkey today).

Worshippers of Mithras had a complex system of seven grades of initiation, with ritual meals. ... **The cult appears to have had its centre in Rome** (emphasis added).[6]⁵⁰

There were seven grades or levels of initiation of the Mithraic cult, the highest grade called “Pater” (father), associated with various symbols, including the miter, shepherd’s staff, and elaborate robes with metallic threads, etc.⁵¹

⁴⁹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mithraic_mysteries

⁵⁰ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mithraic_mysteries

⁵¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mithraic_mysteries

As in Mithraism, Roman Catholicism's highest level is "Pater" (father), reflected in the title of Pope, from the Latin *pater* or *papa*. As in Mithraism, the Pater/Pope wears the miter (originated from the Phrygian cap), carries a shepherd's staff, and wears expensive elaborate robes.

In the Mithraic cult, the wisdom of the Pater ("Father") as teacher was symbolized by the Phrygian cap, staff, and ring. The same exact pattern is seen in the Pope's miter, shepherd's staff, and ring. According to Roman Catholic dogma, the Pope's wisdom is falsely claimed to be infallible:

Papal infallibility is a **dogma** of the **Catholic Church** which states that ... the **Pope** is preserved from the possibility of error[1] "when, in the exercise of his office as shepherd and teacher of all Christians, in virtue of his supreme apostolic authority, he defines a doctrine concerning faith or morals to be held by the whole **Church**".[2]⁵²

The Number 666 Linked to Ancient Mystery Religion Cults

The number 666 links to the ancient mystery religion cults.⁵³ The Word of God confirms this connection by showing that the Mark of the Beast and the Number of the Beast relate to the Roman Church – a "Christianized" form of the ancient mystery religion cults.

The Number 666 Represented by Greek Letters Χξϙ

The number 666 is represented by three Greek letters, Χξϙ, where Χ (Chi) = 600; ξ (Xi) = 60; and ϙ (Stigma) = 6.⁵⁴

Χξϙ can also be understood as representing the False Sun-God Christ of the Roman Church. The first and last letters are the first and last letters of the Greek word Χριστος (*Christos*), meaning Christ, signifying an outer appearance as Christ. But the true nature is of Satan, represented by

⁵² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papal_infallibility

⁵³ Bullinger, p. 283.

⁵⁴ Bullinger, p. 49.

the letter of the serpent, ξ (Xi), concealed within the first and last letters.⁵⁵ The serpent, Satan, hides his true identity in the False Christ that appears to be the Messiah Yeshua but is not.

Significantly, the Greek word *charagma* (χαράγμα), meaning “mark”, begins with the letter Chi, which has a numerical value of 600. In the Mithraic mystery religion cult, the initiate was branded on the forehead or on both hands, identifying him as a member of the cult.⁵⁶ This is the prophetic pattern for the Mark of the Beast that identifies one as being a member of the Beast, in particular its false religious system based in paganism, not the Word of God.

WHO HAS THE MARK OF THE BEAST?

A person has the Mark of the Beast if they put their trust in the Roman Church with its False Christ and False Mary as the way of salvation in place of the true Messiah Yeshua and the true Biblical way of salvation. In the larger prophetic picture, any person who does not have the Mark of God also has the Mark of the Beast.

The Book of Revelation focuses on the Roman Church because this false church is claimed to be the one and only true church. Billions have been deceived into believing this lie of Satan. Other false religions and false philosophies do not claim to be God’s One True Church, but they are obviously not of God and therefore of Satan. All that unites with Rome’s Church are part of the Beast. The fact that the Roman Papacy seeks unity with the other world religions is a clear sign that the Roman Church is the Apostate Church.

THE BEAST IN TODAY’S WORLD & ITS FUTURE DESTRUCTION

Today, the Beast continues to exist in the form of the nations, the false religions, and institutions that rose out of the Roman Empire, as represented by the Feet of Iron and Clay in Daniel’s Statue (Daniel 2). When Messiah Yeshua returns, God’s Kingdom will be established on Earth and the kingdoms of the Beast will be destroyed:

⁵⁵ Bullinger, p. 49.

⁵⁶ Tripolitis, p. 52.

“And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever” (Daniel 2:44).

And the seventh angel sounded; and there arose loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ [Messiah]; and He will reign forever and ever” (Revelation 11:15).

Those who have the Mark of the Beast, meaning those who follow the Beast (ungodly nations and institutions that rose out of the Roman Empire, including Islamic nations) and the Image of the Beast (Roman Church, including Eastern Orthodox Church), will be judged at the time of Messiah Yeshua’s Second Coming, when the Judgment Bowls of Revelation fall on this earth:

And another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “**If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or upon his hand**, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; and they have no rest day and night, **those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name**” (Revelation 14:9-11, emphasis added).

And the first angel went and poured out his bowl into the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore upon the men who had **the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image** (Revelation 16:2, emphasis added).

Those who have the Mark of God will return with Messiah Yeshua to be actively working throughout the world as part of God’s Millennial Kingdom during the Messianic Age:

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus [Yeshua] and because of the word of God, and **those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ [Messiah] for a thousand years** (Revelation 20:4, emphasis added).

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