



# MARK OF THE BEAST: LITERAL OR SYMBOLIC?

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## INTRO

Is the government looking for ways to control us? Will there be a time where we will be forced to be chipped, tattooed or even marked with a barcode? With how fast technology is advancing, and everything going on around us, it's very possible for the mark of the beast to be some kind of literal chip, or a physical mark. But is it? There are some that say it is a

spiritual mark. Well, let's conduct an unbiased close examination of the main points the Bible details about the mark of the beast.

## WE WILL LEARN ABOUT

1. Verses that allude to a literal mark.
2. Verses that allude to a symbolic mark.
3. Verses that allude to a literal buying and selling.
4. Verses that allude to a symbolic buying and selling.
5. A more definitive way of distinguishing what is the mark of the beast.

## ANALYSIS

[Revelation 13:16 & 17](#) | Talking about the second beast...

“...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.”

Now if we look at this passage alone, it does seem like the mark of the beast is something literal; but is it a chip, a tattoo or a barcode? Which one is it? Let's be very objective about this and first notice the very obvious. The words "microchip" and "barcode" are nowhere found in Revelation 13, 14, 17... obviously, these words are nowhere in the Bible at all, because these words weren't invented yet when the Bible was written. But, does the Bible give us a clue if it is a physical microchip or barcode or not?

Today, we are gonna take a closer examination, word for word, what the Bible ACTUALLY says about this subject. Now there's a lot of Christians out there that put their own meanings and opinions on scripture. They give us what they think it is and not read what it actually is. Today we are gonna lay aside our opinions and ONLY READ Scripture. So, I cannot give you my opinion or my interpretation. I'm not gonna say "I think this and I think that..." or "I believe this or I believe that..." etc etc. Only scripture.

## NOTICING THE FACTS

Revelation 13:16 | Again, talking about the second beast, says:

“...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:”

The Greek word John used for the word "mark" is:

Mark | G5480

Original: χάραγμα

Transliteration: charagma

Phonetic: khar'-ag-mah

Thayer Definition:

a stamp, an imprinted mark, the mark stamped on the forehead or the right hand as the badge of the followers of the Antichrist, the mark branded upon horses, thing carved, sculpture, graven work of idolatrous images.

Origin: from the same as G5482

TDNT entry: 15:56,1

Part(s) of speech: Noun Neuter

Strong's Definition:

From the same as G5482; a scratch or etching, that is, stamp (as a badge of servitude), or sculptured figure (statue): - graven, mark.

### **Fact 1**

A mark is an imprint, stamp, scratch or etching, a badge of servitude, something that let's one know who you serve.

### **Fact 2**

The second beast causes or enforces everyone to receive this mark.

### **Fact 3**

It is received in a person's right hand and forehead.

Revelation 13:17

“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.”

**Fact 4**

Individuals will not be able to buy or sell without the mark of the beast.

**Fact 5**

The mark of the beast is connected to the name of the beast or the number of the name of the beast.

Revelation 14:9-11

“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall 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 ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.”

**Fact 6**

Only those who worship the beast and the image of the beast will receive the mark of the beast in their forehead or right hand and they will be the ones whom God will punish.

**Fact 7**

Those who receive the mark of the beast will have no rest.

**Fact 8**

The mark of the beast is also known as “the mark of his (the beast’s) name”.

## THE FACTS


1. A mark is an imprint, stamp, scratch or etching, a badge of servitude, something that let's one know who you serve. It is the sign or signature of the beast's name.
2. The second beast causes or enforces everyone to receive this mark.
3. It is received in a person's right hand and forehead.
4. Individuals will not be able to buy or sell without the mark of the beast.
5. The mark of the beast is connected to the name of the beast or the number of the name of the beast.
6. Only those who worship the beast and the image of the beast will receive the mark of the beast in their forehead or right hand and they will be the ones whom God will punish.
7. Those who receive the mark of the beast will have no rest.
8. The mark of the beast is also known as "the mark of his (the beast's) name".

## COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS

This is where we get a bit more detailed. We are going to ask basic, fundamental questions about the mark of the beast. We are going to take a closer look at these 8 facts and ask about the what, why, when, how, who, and where, pertaining to the mark of the beast.

What is the mark of the beast and who is it for? Just from our careful reading of scripture, we know that the mark of the beast is the sign or signature of the name of the beast. It is a mark that lets us know who are the servants of the beast and who belong to the beast. With the mark, one will be able to tell who among all are the ones who will worship the beast. Only those who worship the beast will receive this mark or signature of the name of the beast in their foreheads and right hand and those individuals are going to take the mark in order to be able to buy and sell. Just from this statement alone, we should have a bunch of questions in our minds, but we will save that for later.

We have just answered the what, the why, and the who. Now, when will this happen? In these end times. How will this happen? The second beast will enforce it on individuals. Where will this happen? Well, remember, Revelation 13 says that the second beast will cause the earth to receive this mark. It will be global. International. Now here is the million dollar question: Is it a literal mark or is it symbolic?



We must look at this honestly as if we are detectives or investigators. We cannot jump to conclusions yet because we have lots of unanswered questions. We cannot yet say that it is a microchip. That is conjecture. From this study alone, we don't even know who the beast is yet and so for someone to say, "It is the microchip" would be foolish because then we are jumping to conclusions. It is a lot like looking at a footprint of a cat and saying, "This is the print we are looking for" not knowing if we are actually looking for a cat or not.

We cannot confidently tell people that the microchip is the mark of the beast when we don't even know who the beast is to begin with. What if the beast doesn't want to use a microchip? Is that possible? Yes. It is possible that the beast does not want to use a microchip or a barcode. How can we be 100% sure that it is a microchip? We are not. It does not say in the Bible. We have to be honest with ourselves. We cannot be 100% sure what the mark is without first knowing who exactly is the beast. Again, searching for the mark of the beast is like searching the footprint of an animal. You have to know what animal it is you are looking for in order to identify it's footprint. We have to know who the beast is first before we can identify it's mark. Because it is the MARK - OF - THE BEAST.

Again, the mark of the beast is a SIGN or a SIGNATURE of the NAME of the beast. Well, what is the NAME of the beast? If we can't even answer this question then we cannot insert our opinion that it is a microchip, barcode, or tattoo, because what has these things got to do with the name of the beast? So, the mark of the beast is the name of the beast that is written or etched on the right hand or forehead of those who WORSHIP the beast. What is worship?

Exodus 34:14

"For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:"

Deuteronomy 11:16

"Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them;"

Worship can only be towards God or some deity. So if those who have the mark of the beast are worshipping the beast, then they think that the beast is a god or God Himself. Ok, so now we are getting somewhere. What else does worship mean?

The Bible was written in Hebrew and Greek. Let's take a closer look at the meaning of the word "worship" in Hebrew and Greek.

Worship | H7812 (Strong)

שָׁחָה

shâchâh

shaw-khaw'

A primitive root; to depress, that is, prostrate (especially reflexively in homage to royalty or God): - bow (self) down, crouch, fall down (flat), humbly beseech, do (make) obeisance, do reverence, make to stoop, worship.

Worship | G4352 (Strong)

προσκυνέω

proskuneō

pros-koo-neh'-o

From G4314 and probably a derivative of G2965 (meaning to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand); to fawn or crouch to, that is, (literally or figuratively) prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore): - worship.

So, worship means to bow down or prostrate oneself in obedience to someone or something religiously. It means to religiously obey the commandments of someone.

So now we have a couple of leads that we can use to further investigate this subject to see if it really is the microchip, RFID, or barcode. Whatever this mark is, it has to contain the signature of the name of the beast. Those who receive the mark has to either believe that the beast is God or some kind of deity, or they have to accept the fact that the beast claims to be God or some kind of deity. Those who have the mark of the beast will also worship the beast, meaning they will obey the religious mandates of the beast. Does this sound familiar?

### Revelation 7:1-4

“And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.”

For those who have now yet studied the subject of who the true children of Israel are, these are not the literal Israelites. Paul says in Romans chapter 2 that those who faithfully keep the commandments of God, no matter what skin color or nationality they are, are the true Jews. He also says in Galatians 3 that there is neither Jew nor Greek to God but those who are baptized into Christ are Abraham’s seed, the true Israelites. So even if you are not physically an Israelite, you can be an Israelite by faith when you are baptized and keep the commandments of God.

Anyway, in Revelation 7, we have the 144,000 being sealed in their foreheads. Let’s take a look at what Revelation 14 has to say about the 144,000 that have the seal of God in their foreheads.

### Revelation 14:1

“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads.”

Here is another verse that might shed some light on this subject:

### Revelation 3:12

“Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God,



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which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.”

Interesting. Those who have the SEAL of God also has the NAME of God on their foreheads just as those who have the MARK of the beast has the NAME of the beast on their foreheads. It is a parallel. God will write His signature on His people and the beast will write his signature on his people. God’s people are those who worship and obey Him and His commandments. The people of the beast will worship him and his religious mandates. Very interesting. Will God literally write His name on His people, or is this a spiritual signature? What does it mean when God writes His name on you?

While we are on the subject of names being on the foreheads of individuals in the end times and particularly in the book of Revelation, there are other entities in this prophetic book in which, on their foreheads, certain names are written.

#### Revelation 13:1


“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.”

The first beast himself has the name of “blasphemy” written on his heads. Now, are we looking for a literal beast with 7 literal heads with the literal name “blasphemy” written on his heads? It’s looking a lot more clearly now that this name writing in the book of Revelation is symbolic and spiritual and not literal.

#### Revelation 17:4 & 5 | Talking about the harlot...

“And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”

Again, let’s be honest with ourselves. Are we looking for a literal name written on a literal harlot that sits on a literal 7 headed beast? Obviously, the book of Revelation is written symbolically. Let’s not get carried away with our own opinions. We have to let the Bible interpret itself. The seal of God is the signature of God’s name being written on the



forehead of those who worship God. Well, what does it mean to have the name of God being written on our foreheads. Let's think for a minute. When in the Bible does God write His own name? We know that the Bible was written by men as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, says 2 Peter 1:21, but where in the Bible does God Himself, with His own finger, write anything, particularly, the signature of his name?

[Exodus 31:18](#) | Talking about the time when God was with Moses on the mountain says:

["And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God."](#)

These two tables of stone were the 10 commandments of God that were written by God Himself. Did He write His name in the 10 commandments? Yes He did! In Exodus 20, when God was writing the 10 commandments, He starts off by saying...

[Exodus 20:2](#)

["I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."](#)

Not only that but God again writes His name in the 10 commandments 7 additional times. That is a total of 8 times that God, with His very own finger, writes the signature of His name and it is only found in the 10 commandments. Now, where does God, in the Bible, write his name on our heads?

[Hebrews 10:16](#)

["This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;"](#)

Now, wait a minute. Doesn't the law of God contain the signature of God's name that He writes, Himself, with His own finger? Yes. The law of God contain's God's signature that He writes Himself, and Hebrews 10 and verse 16 says He will put that same law in our hearts and in our MINDS will He WRITE them. So then the Bible is saying that God will write His commandments, which contain the signature of His name, in our MINDS. That is the forehead. That would make sense because His signature acts as the mark that keeps count on who keeps His commandments. So now we know that those who keep the 10 commandments of God will have the signature of God's name on their foreheads. This is a

spiritual mark. So if commandment keeping is the thing that cues God to sign His signature on our foreheads, and the beast also has a set of commandments or religious laws and mandates, then we know that those who keep the commandments of the beast and the religious laws of the beast will be the thing that will cue the beast to write his name on the foreheads and right hands of those who worship and obey his laws. Just by studying this, it's really leaning towards a spiritual, symbolic mark and not a literal mark.

Remember, we must not go with our modern language because the Bible is not written that way. We must understand the Biblical language. Throughout the Bible, end time prophecy has always been written symbolically. So using the Biblical language, when pertaining to the mark of the beast, leans toward a symbolic and spiritual mark rather than a physical, literal microchip. A literal microchip just is not consistent with the rest of prophecy.

What about the buying and selling? Revelation 13 and verse 17 says that only those who have the mark of the beast will be able to buy and sell. This is where Bible students get confused because, remember, the Bible says that those who have the mark of the beast directly means they have the signature of the name of the beast written on their foreheads or right hands. How then do we reconcile the belief that the mark of the beast is a microchip when the mark of the beast clearly is the signature of the name of the beast? We can't. It just isn't consistent with the Bible. Well then how will the mark of the beast, or keeping the commandments of the beast, enable the wicked to buy and sell? That's the question. Is it a literal buying and selling or is it a spiritual buying and selling? Or, is it both?

This is where we have to thoroughly study the Bible. We must question everything. We must not leave any stone unturned. Consider this:


[Revelation 3:18](#) | Jesus, addressing the church of Laodicea; He says...

["I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich;"](#)

What is this gold tried in the fire that Jesus is selling and counseling people to buy?

[1 Peter 1:6 & 7](#)

["Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:"](#)



Peter likens faith to gold being tried with fire. Similar imagery. Jesus Christ is selling the gold that is tried with the fire and Peter says it is faith that is tried by the fire. Is this a literal buying and selling or a spiritual buying and selling?

Job 23:8-10

“Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”

When Job’s faith was under trial, he said, “I shall come forth as gold.” Did Job buy that gold that Jesus Christ was selling? Is this a literal transaction or a spiritual transaction? It is a spiritual transaction. So if we are dealing with a spiritual or symbolic mark, then is it a physical buying and selling, or is it more a spiritual buying and selling than anything? Think about this for a minute.

What is the mark of the beast then? We know the facts. The mark of the beast is the signature of the beast that the beast writes upon individuals that worship him and keep his commandments. The microchip is less likely to be the mark of the beast because it just isn’t consistent with what the Bible is trying to say here. What is the mark of the beast then? This we will not answer today. We will not draw that conclusion here today. This is just to show you that our studies need to be more thorough. Study this subject even more!

If you want to learn more about the mark of the beast and what it is exactly, please watch the movie “From America 2 Babylon: Making the Mark”. It is packed with information about the mark of the beast, why is it in the right hand and forehead. How does it correlate with the number 666 and buying and selling. It is only \$5.99 but it is packed with prophetic information.

Praise God Always!