



"The world has 6.8 billion people... that's headed up to about 9 billion. Now if we do a really great job on new vaccines, health care, reproductivehealth services, we could lower that by perhaps 10 to 45 percent."

> Bill Gates Microsoft, Globalist, Member of Bilderberg Group







INFECTION ---> PANDEMIC

The Mark

of the

BEAST ?

CIN ---> MASS ID VACCINATION

And he cause hall, 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. Here is wisclow. Let him that hath understanding count the number (his beasts for it is the number of a mar, and his number (his Six hundred threescore (and) six.

Revelation 13: 16-18

Mark of the Beast



ID 2020 Subdermal RFID Chip Digital Certificate

Coronavirus: Bill Gates 'microchip' conspiracy theory and other vaccine claims fact-checked

By Jack Goodman and Flora Carmichael **BBC Reality Check**

The head of the Russian Communist party this week said that so-called "globalists" supported "a covert mass chip implantation which they may in time resort to under the pretext of a mandatory vaccination against coronavirus".

He did not mention Mr. Gates by name but in the US, Roger Stone, a former adviser to Donald Trump, said Bill Gates and others were using the virus for "microchipping people so we can tell 'whether you've been tested'."

A <u>new YouGov poll of 1,640 people</u> suggests that 28% of Americans believe that Bill Gates wants to use vaccines to implant microchips in people - with the figure rising to 44% among Republicans.

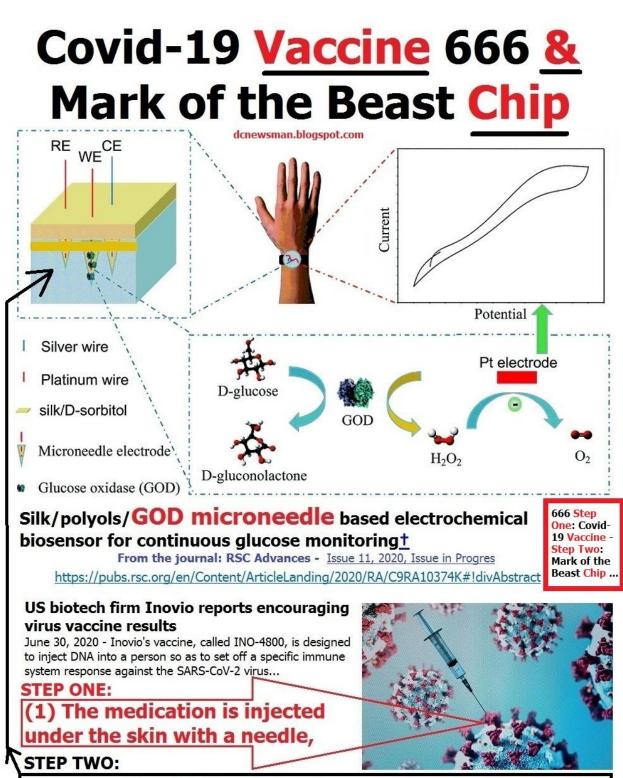
Rumours took hold in March when Mr Gates said in an interview that eventually "we will have some digital certificates" which would be used to show who'd recovered, been tested and ultimately who received a vaccine. He made no mention of microchips.

That response led to one widely shared article, under the headline: "Bill Gates will use microchip implants to fight coronavirus".

The article makes reference to a study, funded by The Gates Foundation, into a technology that could store someone's vaccine records in a special ink administered at the same time as an injection.

However, **the technology is not a microchip and is more like an invisible tattoo.** It has not been rolled out yet, would not allow people to be tracked and personal information would not be entered into a database, says Ana Jaklenec, a scientist involved in the study.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation says: "The reference to 'digital certificates' relates to efforts to create an open-source digital platform with the goal of expanding access to safe, home-based testing."



(2) then activated with a device that <u>resembles a toothbrush</u>, which delivers an electrical impulse for a fraction of a second, allowing the DNA to penetrate the body's cells and **Carry out its mission**.

Inovio, which is **financed by the US Defense Department** and the NGO CEPI, also said it has been included in President Donald Trump's plan to produce hundreds of millions of doses of the vaccine by January as part of Operation Warp Speed.

Luciferase-Covid19 & The Mark Of The Beast

Many of you who are reading this are wondering what is going on? Our world has changed overnight and nothing will ever be the same again. If I would have told you back in December 2019 that just in a few short months millions of people would be out of work, there would be no toilet paper on the store shelves, all the cleaning products like hand wipes, Clorox, can goods, bread, eggs and meat would be in short supply, that the whole world would essentially be shut down, you would have called me crazy and that I have lost my mind, but yet that is the world in which we are living in right now. Many things have happened since January, but I wanted to tell you of an insidious plan that Satan is behind to get you to take the Mark of The Beast and it is the Covid19 virus and the fear of getting it. Donald Trump and his team launched OPERATION WARP SPEED, an unprecedented push to develop a vaccine for the Cavid19 virus in record time. He has ordered the Defense Dept and the United States Military to help manufacture and distribute this vaccine all over the United States when it becomes available. The US military is fully involved and will help vaccinate the entire population of the United States. They are hoping for 100 million doses by the end of the year and 500 million doses by 2021. Our military will be used against us to force us to take this vaccine against our will. According to **Alan Dershowitz**, Donald Trump attorney, they have every right under the Constitution to do this citize the 10th have every right under the Constitution to do this citing the 10th amendment. We are under MEDICAL MARTIAL LAW RIGHT NOW, FEMA is in charge of our notion and this is a **Military Operation** according to Trump and the defense secretary Mike Pompao. The Tribulation period has begun and God is going to weed out the true believers from the Sunday morning Christians. Massive famine is coming on the earth soon, food will be in short supply in the coming months which will cause civil disobedience, food riots and violence will erupt in the big cities as people realize that their jobs are not coming back in certain areas. Mil-lions of people will be homeless because they have been evicted because they couldn't pay their bills anymore. In an Executive Order Donald Trump has called could r buy men bins anymore, in an executive Order Donato frump has called up 1 million reserve military troops two months ago for up to 2 years under this National Emergency, he has also called up retired military using the Covid 19 virus as the excuse. He has declared a National Emergency in all 50 states which has never happened before and FEMA is now in control and we are under **Medical** Martial Law. The Constitution and your rights have been suspended. What is happening right now in our country and around the world has been pre-planned for a long time for the NEW WORLD ORDER and the UNITED NATIONS to take control of the earth and to bring in their **ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT**, **ONE** WORLD RELIGION AND AGENDA 21. The real reason they shut all the busi-nesses down in the United States and the world is to make people, broke, helpless, homeless and hungry....to be able to control you with food so that you will take the Covid19 vaccine when it comes out. This is the vaccine **Bill Gates** is behind that DARPA and MIT invented. This Quantum Dot Tatoo vaccine called HYDROGEL will be injected into your veins where it will grow and spread though out your body into your tissues and change your DNA. This vaccine will also contain aborted fetal cells from aborted babies, mouse DNA and a lot of other technology and harmful substances and is an abomination to God. This vaccine will also contain a enzyme called **LUCIFERASE**, which is the component that makes the tracking part of the vaccine work. It is a **bio-luminescent** enzyme that glows under light and is the key that makes the Hydrogel work. This is how that they will tell if you have been vaccinated or not, this is your **Digital ID that Bill Gates funded in his ID2020 company** and will be your **Mark**, **The MARK OF THE BEAST**. The **NANO SMART PARTICLES** in this vaccine will be able to communicate with your smart phone via wi-fi and monitor your heart rate, blood pressure and other vital signs 24/7. That is why they need the **5G system** in place, it works in conjunction with the vaccine. If you think I am crazy, all this information can be found doing a Google search on the internet. This vaccine is right out of a science fiction movie. This new vaccine was funded by Bill Gates and he is pushing our government and the governments of the world through the World Health Organization to vaccinated 7 billion people. He is all over the news media right now and internet stating that the world cannot go back to normal until every man, woman and child has this new VACCINE. This vaccine will be THE MARK OF THE BEAST AND ONCE YOU TAKE IT GOD WILL NOT RECOGNIZE YOU AS HUMAN ANYMORE BECAUSE IT WILL CHANGE YOUR DNA INTO SOMETHING NOT HUMAN. That is why God says that whoever takes the Mark and worships the beast will be thrown into hell. Your body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit and this vaccine will defile your temple. Satan wants to recreate man in his image with this vaccine by changing our DNA. That is a God destroyed the earth with the flood and saved only NOAH, because the fa God destroyed the earth with the flood and saved only NOAH, because the fallen angels had changed the DNA of mankind, (they corrupted the DNA), only NOAH his wife and sons had the last pure DNA. The bible says that when Jesus returns to the earth, it will be as in the DAYS OF NOAH. Satan is using technology to do it once again with the help of evil scientist and men like Bill Gotes. God is warning you NOT TO TAKE THIS COVID19 VACCINE FUNDED AND BEING PUSHED ON THE WORLD BY BILL GATES, THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND THE CDC. Revelation 13-16...And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond to receive his MARK in their right hand or forehead, 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. Here is wisdom, let him that has understanding count the number of the beast, for it is the number of man, and his number is six hundred, threescore and six, 666. 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 with-out 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 ascended up forever and ever and they have no rest day or night who worship the BEAST and his image and whosoever receiveth THE MARK of his name. Whoever takes the MARK OF THE BEAST WILL HAVE PAINFUL SORES AND BOILS BREAK OUT WHERE YOU

WERE INJECTED. Revelation 16 verse 1....And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways and poor our the vitals of wrave of God upon the earth. And the first went and poured out in vial upon the earth and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the may with had the M ARK OF THE BEAST and upon them which worshiped the BEAST. Verse 10-11....and the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast and his kingdom was full of darkness and they gnawed their tongues for pain, and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores and repented not of their deeds. Revelation 19 verse 19....and I saw the BEAST and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse and against his army. And the BEAST was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him with which he deceived them that had received the MARK OF THE BEAST and them that worshiped his image. These both were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

This vaccine that is now being pushed by Bill Gates, Anthony Facci, the World Health Organization and the CDC will be the MARK OF THE BEAST and it will be the condition for the world to go back to normal. Donald Trump and vice president Mike Pence have said with their own mouth, that everyone will have to take this vaccine before they can go back to work once it becomes available. You won't be able to have a job, get a drivers license, fly on an airplane, travel, get a passport or access your money without this vaccine but there is going to be eternal consequences for those who take this MARK, and once you do you will doom your own soul to hell forever where you will be tormented day and night by demons and where there is no escape.

Many nor things are going to happen in the coming months and years, a major increase in natural disasters worldwide, major weather changes, our earth will be entering an asteroid belt soon and already reports are coming in from around the world of meteors hitting in places like Nigeria and Russia. There has been many close calls of near misses from asteroids and comets according to **NASA** which is tracking all the near earth objects in orbit. **Comet Atlas** and **Comet Swan** were just discovered the last few months by NASA and came out of nowhere. We have entered perilous times the bible calls the **TRIBULATION PE-RIOD**. Volcances are erupting in new places never seen before, eorthquakes are increasing in number and size, food will be in short supply because of the drastic weather changes and natural disasters and famine will englif the entire world. The 4 horses of the Apocalypse are riding. Even WW3 is very close with China & Russia. The end times are here, God is saying REPENT, get the sin out of your life. Time is short and many will have to make a decision that will affect where you spend eternity. **COVID19** is the vehicle the **UNITED NATIONS & WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION will use to bring in their New World Order Plan to institute the MARK OF THE BEAST AND THE CASHLESS BEAST MONETARY SYSTEM**. Bill Gates started a company called **1D2020** where they want to **TAG**, **TRACK & ID everyone on the planet with a DIGITAL ID**. If you think I am making up all of this, please do a Google search for all this information and you will find out the **TRUTH**. Jesus Christ is coming soon, but first the ANTI-CHRIST the folse Messich will be revealed. Robbis in Isreel are geting their ceremonial garments ready to crown this folse Messich soon that the whole world will accept as Jesus. All those who take his MARK, this vaccine, and the chip in their hand or forehead will doom their soul to hell forever. Time is short and if you do not know Jesus Christ as your Messich I sak you to repent of your sins and ask him into your heart tod

Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, please forgive me of all my sins and wash them away with your blood and save my soul, I believe that you are the only son of God, I believe that you died on the cross for my sins and rose again the third day, please fill me with your Holy spirit and power and use me for your glory....thank you for saving me...Amen

Romans 3:10 says: it is written, that there is none righteous, no not

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving and the abominable and murders, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake of fire which burneth with fire and brimstone which is the second death

Romans 3:23: for we all have sinned and come short of the glory of God

Romans 6:23: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord

Romans 10: 9-13: That if you shall confess with your mouth the lord Jesus Christ, and believe in you heart that God has raised him from the dead, you shall be saved, For with the heart man believes unto righteousness and with your mouth confession is made unto salvation.

John 6:47: Verily Verily I say unto you, he that believes on me shall have eternal life.

John 3:16: For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish , but have eternal life.

This ad was brought to you by <u>The Apostle</u> <u>Project</u>, whose sole mission is to spread the <u>Gospel of Jesus Christ</u> to the World though newspaper ads and radio. When social security was rolled out in the 1930's to political controversy, some opponents who were Christians labeled "the beast" as the administration of FDR, and the "mark of the beast" was the assigned social security number.

In the 1950's & 60's, when giant telephone companies were seen as part of the shift from agricultural rural life to technological urban life, rural Christians labeled these companies "the beast."

They said the newly assigned three-digit area codes were the three digit "mark of the beast." The same pattern occurred with large financial institutions in the 1970's with the roll out of credit card numbers, in the 1980's bar codes and 1990's with computers and the Internet, in the 2000's with RFID technology that can track objects, and so on. - *Internet Search* The MARK of the beast is specifically mentioned eight times in Revelation: Revelation 17:16-18

And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a MARK in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

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.

Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six. Revelation 14:9

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, Revelation 14:11

And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever & ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast & his image, and whosoever receiveth the MARK of his name. Revelation 15:2

And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his MARK, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. Revelation 16:2

And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the MARK of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image. Revelation 19:20

And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the MARK of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. Revelation 20:4

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his MARK upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. Rev. 20:4 Notice, in these eight verses, the MARK is referred as: Rev 17:16 "a mark" Rev 17:17 " the mark"... Rev 14:9 "his mark"

Rev 14:11 "mark of his name"

Rev 15:2 "his mark"

Rev 16:2 "the mark of the beast"

Rev 19:20 "the mark of the beast"

Rev 20:4 "his mark" Very important: Notice how the mark is personally associated, representative, connected or symbolic of the beast or antichrist: Rev 14:9 "his mark"

Rev 14:11 "mark of his name"

Rev 15:2 "his mark"

Rev 16:2 "the mark of the beast"

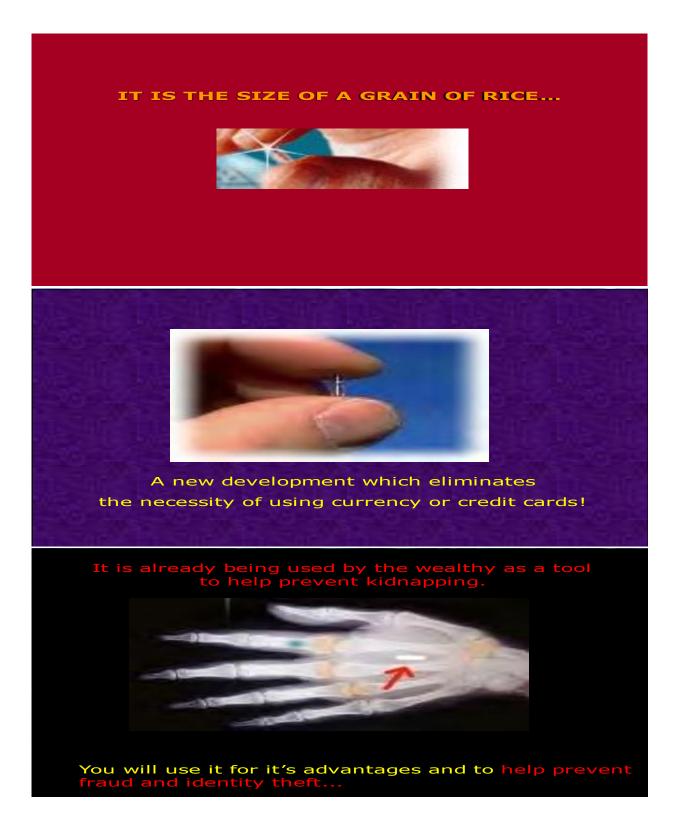
Rev 19:20 "the mark of the beast"

Rev 20:4 "his mark" Three times (14:9, 15:2, 20:4) it's called "HIS mark".

Two times (16:2, 19:20) it's called "the mark OF THE BEAST"

One time (14:11) it's called "the mark of HIS Name" These verses, clearly indicate a mark personally symbolic of the beast and his name.

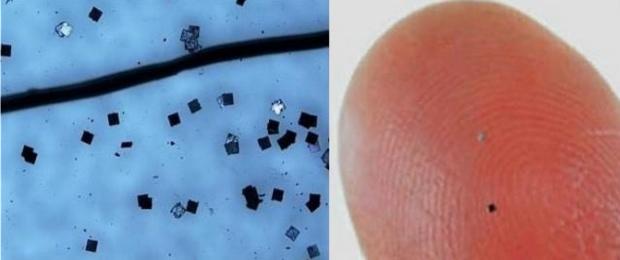


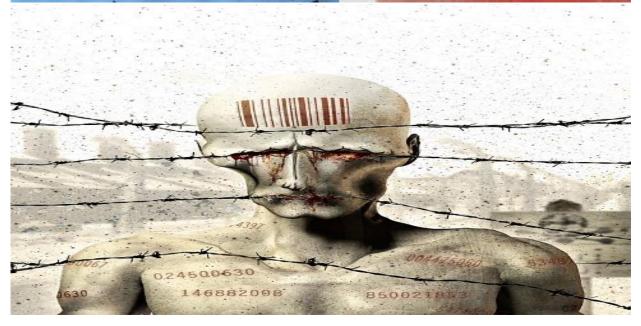




There are other SMARTCARD systems being used through MONDEX, especially since MasterCard bought 51% share of the company.







Covid Vaccine & Pandemic Passport



WHERE IS THE MARK OF THE BEAST 666? The mark of the beast specifically goes "in" their right hand or "upon" their foreheads. A Covid vaccine goes "into" a person's arm and eventually into their blood stream to hopefully produce antibodies to inoculate the virus. It would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to insert

a "Mark 666" with a syringe into a person's blood stream. Revelation 13:16

And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: Revelation 14:9

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, Revelation 20:4

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. A vaccine goes and "flows" into the person's bloodstream. It does not stay in one place but travels through the 60,000 miles (that's right, 60,000 miles of highways of arteries, veins, and capillaries). This massive highway the blood travels in one human body is long enough to go around the world more than twice. King David got it right in Psalms 139:14: "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." A "mark of the beast" inserted into the blood system would soon dissipate and disappear into the massive highway of the bloodstream. Hence, it would be useless to insert a "mark" into a person's bloodstream.

Watkins, Terry. Is The Covid Vaccine The Mark Of The Beast? (p. 8). Dial-the-Truth Ministries. Kindle Edition. WHY IS THE MARK OF THE BEAST 666? To compare the Covid vaccine to the Mark of the Beast 666, we need to search the Word of God for the WHY and REAL "purpose" of the Mark of the Beast. Revelation 13:16-18 is, by far, the most well known and recognized verses on the "mark of the beast". Revelation 13:16-18

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six. The error that misleads most people to believing vaccines, biochips, debit cards, smart cards, smart phones, et. al. are the mark of the beast, is the limiting or over emphasis of the "buying and selling" reference of the mark of the beast. Most people are frantically and fearfully searching for some technology or method to control the commerce functions (buying and selling) of the world. They've heard Rev. 13:16-18 quoted so much – they think that's all there is to the mark. It's amazing the number of "frightened" people who have contacted me through the years, worried about getting a credit card, smart card or debit card (and now a vaccine) because they might be "receiving the mark of the beast". Anyone that has studied the REAL purpose of the Mark of the Beast in the Word of God would not ask such a "silly" question. The only details most people know about the Mark of the Beast is "no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark ...". That's about it... And anything that limits their ability to "buy or sell" must be the Mark of the Beast"! But the ability to "buy or sell" is NOT the REAL purpose of the mark of the beast. . . How do I KNOW? Simple... The Bible says so - you just have to look further than Rev. 13:16-18. The reason for receiving the mark is worship and allegiance. It is NOT the "buying and selling"! Most people are busy searching for "technology" or method to control the "buying and selling" — and that's NOT the reason for receiving the mark of the beast. And I'm going to prove that from the Word of God without any shadow of a doubt... I repeat – the reason for taking the mark of the beast is not so someone can or can NOT buy or sell. Here's the reason "buying and selling" can NOT be the main purpose for the mark.

Because according to Rev. 14:9-11 — whoever receives the mark "shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God . . . shall be tormented with fire and brimstone ... their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever". Revelation 14:9-11, 9 And the third angel followed them, saving with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 10 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: 11 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. Do you understand the seriousness of what you just read in the Word of God? Whoever receives the mark "shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God . . . shall be tormented with fire and brimstone ... their torment ascendeth up FOR EVER AND EVER". This begs the obvious question – is a Holy, Righteous, Just, Loving, Merciful God going to "torment someone with fire and brimstone, for ever and ever" for receiving a "mark" for the sole reason to "buy or sell". Would the Lord God torment someone in fire and brimstone for all eternity because that person simply received a mark in order to feed their family? The Bible says in 1 Timothy 5:8 that a person who does not provide for his family "hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." Surely, if the ONLY reason for the Mark of the Beast is to "buy or sell" in order to "provide for his family" a Holy, Loving, Merciful, Righteous God would not torment someone in fire and brimstone for all eternity? 1 Timothy 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel. Would a Holy, Righteous, Just, Loving, Merciful God "torment someone with fire and brimstone, for ever and ever" for receiving a "vaccine" to "protect their family and possibly keep a virus from killing them". Please, let's not forget ... God is LOVE. The Bible says in 1 John 4:16 - "... God is LOVE..." 1 John 4:16: "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. GOD IS LOVE; ... " The Bible says in the beautiful and familiar John 3:16, "For God SO LOVED the world..." John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. The Bible says in Psalms 86:5, that God is "good, ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy". Psalms 86:5 "For thou, Lord, art good & ready to forgive; and PLENTEOUS IN MERCY unto all them that call upon thee."

In the "light" of these verses (and there are thousands of wonderful verses just like them) - would a "God of LOVE"; a God, "ready to FORGIVE; a God, "plenteous in MERCY" — "torment someone with fire and brimstone, for ever and ever" for innocently receiving a "vaccine" to hopefully keep you or your family from getting infected with a deadly virus! Revelation 1:5 says about Jesus Christ, "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood," And then God the Spirit of truth came to this earth to help us realize we are lost and need of a Savior to save us from hell. (John 16:7-13) If God the Father; God the Son and God the Holy Spirit did all that to save us from hell, would He then send someone to hell to be tormented for ever for simply receiving a mark to feed their family or innocently receiving a vaccine to possibly save them from a deadly virus? Absolutely NOT... A thousand times — NEVER! What is the real purpose of the mark of the beast? We MUST find out - what is it about the mark of the beast, that so "disturbs" such a merciful and loving God, that He would "torment someone in fire and brimstone for all eternity" for receiving the mark? That answer is crystal clear in the Word of God... The purpose of the mark of the beast is a "mark" of allegiance and worship of the beast; or his image. And it is a rejection of the Lord God. To receive the mark of the beast you must FIRST worship the beast. In all of the following verses, look carefully, the WORSHIP always comes FIRST BEFORE receiving the mark: Revelation 14:9 "If any man WORSHIP the beast and his image, and RECEIVE his mark... " Rev. 14:11 "... who WORSHIP the beast and his image, and whosoever RECEIVETH the mark..." Rev. 16:2 "...which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which WORSHIPPED his image." Rev. 19:20 "... them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that WORSHIPPED his image. . . " Rev. 20:4 " . . . which had not WORSHIPPED the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark '' Only ONE verse connects ''buying and selling'' with the mark. But there are many verses that connect the mark to WORSHIP. It is true - no one can buy or sell without the mark, but that is not the real **REASON** for receiving the mark. Here is a important & overlooked FACT from God's Word: The "no man might buy or sell" is the CONSEQUENCE of NOT receiving the mark – not the REASON for receiving it.

Watkins, Terry. Is The Covid Vaccine The Mark Of The Beast? (pp. 9-13). Dialthe-Truth Ministries. Kindle Edition.





- Question #1 for literalists: is the "Mark"
 (i) COVID-19 itself, (ii) masks that are worn to mitigate COVID-19 exposure, or (iii) the receiving of a COVID-19 vaccine?
- Question #2 for literalists: if "The Mark of the Beast" is the virus itself, then how does that literally correspond with <u>Revelation</u>
 <u>13:16</u> that says that receiving the mark is forced or imposed by outside agency? A virus, no one is forced to receive COVID-19.
- Question #3 for literalists: if "The Mark of the Beast" is some kind of mask, then how does that correspond with the meaning of the word *mark*? Translated from the Greek word *charagma*, this word literally refers to an imprinted mark and possibly even a brand.
- Question #4 for literalists: if "The Mark of the Beast" is the vaccine inoculation, then the only mark left is the pin-prick site of the actual shot. Does such a tiny & quickly healed mark constitute the obvious "Mark" of <u>Revelation 13:16</u>?

WHAT ABOUT THE COVID VACCINE "PASSPORTS"?

One of the concerns people have raised about the Covid vaccine is the "passport" technology utilized to "prove" someone has received the Covid vaccine. In order to slow down the spread of the virus, airlines, businesses and even countries are researching various technologies such as smart phone apps, "chipped cards", et. al. to verify someone is protected from the virus. These "Covid passports" are already implemented in Israel and other countries. An AP News article titled "Vaccination 'passports' may open society, but inequity looms" by Laurie Kellman describes these "Covid passports". In order for people to attend public places, such as travel services, entertainment, restaurants, et. al. they must first "prove" they have received the Covid vaccine by displaying a "green passport" from their smart phone app. Without the "green passport", no one is to be allowed in. The article states: "Inside Israel, green passports or green badges obtained through an app is the coin of the realm. The country recently reached agreements with Greece & Cyprus to recognize each other's green badges, and more tourism-boosting accords are expected. Anyone unwilling or unable to get the jabs that confer immunity will be then "left behind," said the Health Minister Yuli Edelstein. "It's really the only way forward at the moment," Geffen said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"People can't live their lives in the new world without them," he said. "We must take the vaccines. We must."

The obvious reason for the "green passports" and such vaccine verification systems is to hopefully stop, or at least slow down the spread of the Covid virus. While we can certainly raise a "red flag" over privacy concerns and possible abuse of such a system, as many have justifiably done, our subject in this section is the Covid Vaccine in relation to the Mark of the Beast. Our obvious question is - does the "green passports" and other Covid vaccine verification systems provide a subtle opening for introduction of the Mark of Beast? There are many on the internet who thinks so... In the World Net Daily (WND) article, "Coming 'COVID-19 passports' - Mark of the Beast?" by Brian Sussman, Sussman "suggests" the recent Covid vaccine "passports" could possibly be the beginning of the Mark of the Beast system. Of course, like most web journalists, Sussman doesn't consult the ONLY real authority on the Mark of the Beast, the Word of God. The only Bible Sussman references is the much misapplied and over applied Revelation 13:16-17.

In the article Sussman writes: "The next step in this plan will move from smartphone apps to invisible barcode-like tattoos stamped on the body of those who've been vaccinated. This would accommodate those without cell phones & prevent hackers from stealing personal information. The tattoo plan is funded by Bill and Melinda Gates. The easily applied invisible tattoos would likely be placed on the hand or forehead.

Students of the Bible will immediately recall the [very visible] mark of the Beast from the New Testament's book of Revelation:

'He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast. ...' (Revelation 13:16-17)''

Watkins, Terry. Is The Covid Vaccine The Mark Of The Beast? (pp. 16-18). Dialthe-Truth Ministries. Kindle Edition.

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Syringe Administered Nanotech Bio-Chip

IS THE VACCINE INSERTING A TRACKING DEVICE? ARE NEEDLES INSERTING A TRACKING DEVICE FOR THE "COMUNG" OF THE MARK OF THE BEAST? There is the "conspiracy" worm crawling in the conspiracy cesspool of the internet that claims Bill Gates is using the Covid vaccine to insert nanoparticles and tracking devices into people. I'm not here to defend Bill Gates (or anyone) but I am here to "tell you the truth". It is simply not possible to insert a tracking device in a tiny syringe. No tracking device is nearly that small. And not only that, they get 5 or 6 vaccines with each bottle. How could you be sure each of the 6 "shots" received a "tracking device" from each bottle? Not only that, if you are "worried" about being "tracked" - throw that cell phone away, because that "smart phone" is "smart"! It "tracks" everywhere you go and everything you say and everybody you call or know. And for sure, stay off Facebook, twitter, tiktok and all the internet, it is nothing but an ad generated "tracking" device. And please stay inside, because there are millions of security and tracking cameras everywhere you go. If you are worried about the covid vaccine "tracking" you - I've got some sad news - you are a little too late for that "worry". Big Brother is alive and well! And here to stay! It's amazing how nervous & paranoid people get about a vaccine "tracking" device, and their every move is being tracked. It reminds me of the words of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 23:24: Matthew 23:24: Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

Watkins, Terry. Is The Covid Vaccine The Mark Of The Beast? (p. 32). Kindle

Past Tense Question:

Who WAS The 13:16 Beast?

II. Playing the Numbers Game to Identify the Beast

The original readers of the Book of Revelation were challenged to undertake two sets of calculations to identify this imperial person referred to as 'the beast'. One, it asserted, was within the competence of all to make (17:10), but only those who possessed 'wisdom' would be able to undertake the second (13:18).

(i) The Number of Roman Emperors

The clue for the Christians was 'there are also seven kings' ($\beta \alpha \sigma \iota \lambda \epsilon \tilde{\iota} \epsilon \pm \pi \tau \dot{\alpha}$), five of whom are fallen, 'the one is' ($\dot{\delta} \epsilon \tilde{\iota} \epsilon \pm \sigma \tau \iota \nu$), the other has not yet come, and 'when he does come he must remain only a little while' (17:10). How were emperors numbered in this era? The dating of this official innovation hinges primarily on how the numbers of emperors were calculated, including the present holder of the office.

The following evidence records the Roman emperors that were referred to as 'kings' in Revelation. Although Augustus (27 B.C.–A.D. 14) was not an immediate blood relative of Julius Caesar, his mother, Atia, was Caesar's sister; hence he was his nephew and in fact his closest living relative. In an official letter to Mylasa, Augustus declares himself 'Imperator Caesar, son of the divine Julius', and in others 'Imperator Caesar Augustus, son of a god, the ruler of land and all sea, her own saviour and benefactor' and 'Imperator Caesar Augustus son of a god', the latter being Julius Caesar.

His successor, Tiberius (A.D. 14–37), was cited in an inscription from Lepcis as 'Tiberius Caesar Augustus, son of divine Augustus, grandson of divine Julius'. He was formally addressed as 'Tiberius Caesar, son of the divine Augustus, grandson of the divine Julius, and Drusus Caesar, son of Tiberius Augustus, grandson of the divine Augustus, great-grandson of divine Julius' in an inscription from Philippi *c*. A.D. 37.

On a milestone on the *Via Augusta*, Cordoba, Gaius (A.D. 37–41), the successor of Tiberius, was declared to be 'Gaius Caesar Germanicus Augustus, son of Germanicus Caesar, grandson of Tiberius Augustus, great-grandson of the divine Augustus, great-grandson of the divine Julius'.

An official document from Alexandria that Lucius Aemilius, the Roman prefect of Egypt, put on public display on 10 November, A.D. 41, for all the inhabitants to read, commences with the accolade he used of Claudius—'the greatness of our god Caesar' (τὴν τε μεγαλιότητα τοῦ θεοῦ Καίσαρος). It contains a copy of the letter of Claudius in which he addressed the Alexandrians using his own official name and title—'Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus, *pontifex maximus.*' Claudius is also cited on official Alexandrian coins as 'Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus Germanicus Imperator. Year 1' (ΤΙ. ΚΛΑΥΔΙ. ΚΑΙΣ. ΣΕΒΑ. ΓΕΡΜΑΝΙ. ΑΥΤΟΚΡ. ΛΑ).

A search of official inscriptions published to date, including the major database, has failed to find any references to his predecessors, not least of all Gaius, who had been 'dispatched', thus resulting in Claudius' succession. This may go some way to explaining the different convention he adopted with respect to official imperial titles.¹³

By contrast, Nero gave great emphasis to the divine origin of all his predecessors. This confirmed his own legitimacy as Claudius' successor, hence his imperial divinity. It could be, given the poisoning of his younger step-brother, Britannicus, the natural-born son of Claudius, soon after Nero was declared the successor of his adopted father, that he needed all the more to assert the legitimacy of his rule in terms of descent. (See p. 67.) There are a number of official extant inscriptions in which he traces such imperial and divine origins back to Augustus. 'Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus, son of the divine Claudius (*divi Claudi f.*, θ eoũ K λ au δ íou ui δ), grandson of Germanicus Caesar, great-grandson of Tiberius Caesar Augustus, great-great-grandson of the divine Augustus (*divi Augusti*, θ eoũ Σ e β a σ τoῦ).

The Neronean inscription was not the sole arbiter in identifying the number of kings. Revelation 17:10 records seven kings, five of whom have died; 'the one is' (ὑ ἑῖις ἔστιν) Nero, 'the other is not yet come and when he comes he must continue a little while'—Galba would reign for only three months. Also, slightly later and important literary sources, *Jewish Antiquities* and *Jewish War*, written by Josephus (*c.* A.D. 37–110), actually list the Julio-Claudian and earlier Flavian names of emperors, even recording the years, months and days they held office.

Josephus writes that Augustus refers to 'my father, Caesar the emperor', though he was by birth his uncle. Importantly, unlike Nero's list of his predecessors in the epigraphic evidence, Josephus thus understood that Augustus was not the first but the second. He ruled for '57 years, 6 months and 2 days,' and the third emperor, Tiberius, ruled '22 years, 5 months and 3 days'.¹⁷ Gaius succeeded him as 'the fourth emperor.... he had reigned four years within four months', and his nephew, Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus, ruled 'thirteen years, eight months and twenty-four days' and therefore was the fifth. Hence the sixth is Nero, who succeeded him at the age of sixteen years and nine months on 13 October, A.D. 54, and reigned until 11 June, A.D. 68. 'Nero was dead, after he had reigned thirteen years and eight months'. The latter's successor, Galba, 'was slain ... after he reigned seven months and as many days', while Vitellius subsequently 'retained the government eight months and five days'.²⁰

Josephus specifically named Gaius as 'the fourth emperor'; therefore on this reckoning Nero had to be the sixth 'king', and the one described as 'the one who is' (17:10), i.e., now ruling. Nero's successor is described as 'and when he comes he must remain a little while' (καὶ ὅταν ἕλθῃ ὀλίγον αὐτὸν δεῖ μεῖναι) (17:10). This refers to Galba. Josephus' evidence agrees with the epigraphic evidence cited earlier and confirms that Nero is the one referred to, as does the number of his name as the subsequent discussion shows.

(ii) The Number of the Emperor's Name

A greater challenge was issued that would test the skills of his readership to undertake a more complicated form of numerical calculation—'this calls for wisdom', literally 'here is the wisdom' ($\tilde{\omega}\delta\epsilon$ $\dot{\eta}$ $\sigma o\phi(\alpha)$, a term used in Greek for 'skill' in various disciplines of learning including music, poetry, medicine and divination, and here the author of the letter uses it of *gematria*. He further defines the person possessing this skill as 'the one having knowledge' (\dot{o} $\tilde{\epsilon}\chi\omega\nu$ voũς). The clue is in the use of an imperative when he writes that 'he must calculate the number of the beast' ($\psi\eta\phi\iota\sigma\dot{\alpha}\tau\omega$ $\tau\dot{o}\nu$ $\dot{\alpha}\rho\iota\theta\mu\dot{o}\nu$ τ oῦ $\phi\eta\rho(\omega)$ ', and then explains, 'for the number of the beast is a man and his number is 666' (13:18). The actual text does not have the Greek letter for six (Σ) repeated three times but XΞ Σ , i.e., 600, 60 and 6. This followed the Greek convention of spelling each of the letters that were represented numerically—'six hundred' (ἑξακόσιοι), 'sixty' (ἑξήκοντα) and 'six' (ἕξ) (13:18). What is the numerical value of the Greek letters for 'beast' ($\phi\eta\rho(ov)$? It totals 247 ($\theta = 9$, $\eta = 8$, $\rho = 100$, $\iota = 10$, o = 70, v = 50). So he is not referring to a calculation in Greek of letters of this term. However, 'the same numerical technique was used in the Hebrew alphabet, and "beast" in the Hebrew alphabet is 666 (n = 400, $\gamma = 200$, $\gamma = 10$, $\iota = 6$, $\eta = 50$)'.

The number of the beast is explicitly said to coincide with another number. The writer explains, '[F]or it is the number of a man' ($\dot{\alpha}$ pi $\theta\mu\dot{\alpha}\varsigma$, $\gamma\dot{\alpha}p$, $\dot{\alpha}\nu\theta\rho\dot{\omega}\pi\sigma\sigma$, $\dot{\epsilon}\sigma\tau(\nu)$ and then discloses that number is '666' (Rev. 13:18). So the total number for 'beast' and that for 'man' are the same. There is official external evidence of the numerical value of the name of Nero in a Hebrew-Aramaic script on an official deed of debt in A.D. 55 declared to be the second year of 'Nero'. The numerical value of the letters of his name is recorded in Hebrew (1 n = 50, \neg r = 200, 1 w = 6, 1 n = 50, ρ q = 100, σ s = 60, \neg r = 200) and totals 666.

An alternative proposal with respect to 'the name of a man' in Revelation 13:18 has been to opt for a textual variant of '616' as the possible reading. Nero's name and title 'Nero Caesar' in Greek is Nέρων Kαῖσαρ; N = 50, E = 5, P = 100, Ω = 800, N = 50, K = 20, A = 1, I = 10, Σ = 200, A = 1, P = 100 totals 1337. However, the Greek numerical value of the word 'beast' (θηρίον), Θ = 9, H = 8, P = 100, I = 10, O = 70, N = 50 is 247 and not 616, but in Hebrew, the final 'n' in his name was omitted, the numerical value being '616'. The words in the title 'Caesar God' (καῖσαρ θεός) when rendered alphabetically in Greek (K = 20, A = 1, I = 10, Σ = 200, A = 1, P = 100, Θ = 9, E = 5, O = 70, Σ = 200) total 616.

Was this use of what was known as *gematria* widespread in the East in Nero's time? At the beginning of his reign he issued an imperial decree citing the official use of *gematria* for a long-recognized group of Greeks within a particular city. He twice used their name, 'six thousand, four hundred and seventy-five'. They were descendants of early Greek settlers comprising part of the city of Ptolemais Euergetis in Egypt. This was Nero's official response to imperial divine honours that the delegation indicated they intended for him as the new emperor.

But of the two remaining offers, I decline that of a temple because this honour is rightly assigned by men to the gods alone; and as for the gold crown that you sent, I shall gratefully remit it, for at the beginning of my Principate I do not wish to burden you ... of all that together with the 6475 ($\dot{\epsilon}\xi\alpha\kappa\iota\sigma\chi\iota\lambda\iotaoic\tau\epsilon\tau[\rho\alpha\kappa\sigma\iotao]c\dot{\epsilon}\delta\delta\circ\mu\eta\kappa\circ\tau\alpha[\pi\acute\epsilon\tau\epsilon]$), you received from the emperor before me ... of all of you in common and of each individually, and to preserve you from injury and molestation, as also my deified father desired. Since you bear witness to all that he provided both for the city and the 6475 (tỹ τε πόλι και ἐξακισχιλίοις τετρακοσίιος ἑβδομήκοντα πέντε), I praise and command you. The ambassadors [were] Aeacides, son of Ptolemaeus, Antenor, son of —, Nibytas, son of Nibytas, Polycrates, son of Didymus, —, Themison —.

In the first occurrence of the numerals in this imperial document, Nero identified the city as 'of all that, together with the 6475' and later to 'both for the city and the 6475'. He noted that Claudius granted them former privileges by way of an imperial favour. This city and the group named within it were early Greek settlers of the Arsinoite nome in Egypt who were Hellenes possessing special privileges and officially known by the number 6475, as Montevecchi noted. In the delegation that came to Rome there are clearly Greek names.²⁹

In Rome and Italy *gematria* was not only used in official circles, but we have examples of its popular use for romantic purposes and sometimes in a derogatory way politically. In Pompeii it was used as a means of communicating love for another. 'I love her whose name *is phi mu epsilon*' (545) ($\phi \iota \lambda \tilde{\omega} \tilde{\eta} c \dot{\eta} c \sigma \theta \mu \delta c \pi \mu \epsilon$)' $\Pi = 500$, M = 40 and E = 5. Although this was a Roman colony in Italy, the initials of her name were rendered in Greek 'numerals' ΠME .

In the same city another piece of romantic graffiti was found on a wall written in Greek. 'Amerimnus thought upon his lady Harmonia for good. The number 45 (or) 1035 is her honourable name ($\tau o \tilde{v} \kappa \alpha \lambda o \tilde{v} o \dot{v} \phi \mu \alpha \tau o \varsigma$). In both instances the number of the name is encrypted, as in the latter case the number of her name was 541.

Suetonius in his *Nero*, written in Latin, recorded its use politically for derogatory purposes. He notes Nero's unpopularity before his suicide.

[H]e [Nero] bore nothing with more patience than the curses and abuses of the people and was patiently lenient towards those who assailed him with gibes and lampoons. Of these many were posted or circulated both in Greek and Latin (*Multa Graece Latineque proscripta aut vulgata sunt*) ... Nero his own mother slew (Νεοπσηφον Νερων ίδιαν μητερα απεκτεινε).

What was 'a calculation new'? This reference is to Nero's instigation of the murder of his mother, Agrippina II (popularly referred to as '1005') in A.D. 59. The Loeb edition of Suetonius notes, 'The numerical value of the Greek letters of Nero's name (1005) [N = 50, ε = 5. ρ = 100 ω = 800, v = 50] is the same as that of the rest of the sentence; hence we have the equation, 'Nero' = 'the slayer of his mother'.

This example of the use of *gematria* in one language cited in another is helpful in resolving the enigma in Revelation 13:18, as only in Hebrew are 'the number of the beast' and 'the number of a name' a way of identifying the usurping of the throne of God, alluded to prophetically in Daniel 7, with Nero. Furthermore, the issues are somewhat comparable in that both were evaluating and passing negative judgements on him.

If it required a bilingual person to interpret the 'new calculation' to cite Suetonius' note, so too the task set by the writer of Revelation was for someone skilled in *gematria* to break the encoded message using Hebrew and not Greek numerals but without giving him the key. It is recorded that Jewish converts from Paul's mission in Asia also lived in this province (Acts 19:17).

Later in Revelation 17:10 there is a reference to the sixth king as the present emperor, 'the one is' ($\dot{o} \dot{\epsilon}\tilde{u}c_{\sigma}\tilde{\epsilon}\sigma\tau v$). This would have provided a clue for any person, not necessarily a 'wise' one. It would, however, have required someone with a working knowledge of Hebrew to decode the numerals as the solution for 'the number of the beast' and 'the number of a man', both of which added up to 666. The sixth king is Nero both by reason of the number of kings and gematria.¹



¹ Winter, B. W. (2015). *Divine Honours for the Caesars: The First Christians' Responses* (pp. 289–296). Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

The Beast

If the antichrist is a term that was used to describe anyone who did not believe that Jesus was God incarnate, and the term is not found in Revelation, then who or what is the Beast of Revelation 13? Actually, two beasts conspire together to oppose the things of God: a sea beast (13:1–10) and a land beast (13:11–18). The time parameters of Revelation limit who the beasts can be. Because the events of Revelation were to happen "shortly" (Rev. 1:1), the time was "near" (1:3) for those who first read the prophecy, and the temple was still standing (11:1–2), the list of Beast candidates must also be near in time to those who first picked up and read or heard the original scroll. Nero Caesar fits three essential criteria in determining the identity of the sea beast who will "make war with the saints" (13:7): the time of his reign (a.d. 54 to 68), the numerical value of his official name and title, and his character as a persecutor of "the saints."

The Beast's Name and Number

When trying to match "six hundred and sixty-six" with a historical figure, we need more than a plausible candidate; we need a relevant candidate. The first readers of Revelation were told to "calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six" (13:18). Since Revelation was written to a first-century audience, we should expect the first-century readers to be able to calculate the number with relative ease and understand the result. They would have had few candidates from which to choose. Notice that the number is "six hundred and sixty-six," not three sixes. LaHaye misidentifies the number when he writes, "The plain sense of Scripture tells us that it comprises the numbers: six, six, six." The three Greek letters that make up the number represent 600, 60, and 6.

Ancient numbering systems used an alphanumeric method. This is true of the Latin (Roman) system that is still common today: I = 1, V = 5, X = 10, L = 50, C = 100, D = 500, M = 1,000. Greek and Hebrew follow a similar method: each letter of each alphabet represents a number. The first nine letters represent 1–9. The tenth letter represents 10, with the nineteenth letter representing 100 and so on. Since the book of Revelation is written in a Hebrew context by a Jew with numerous allusions to the Old Testament, we should expect the solution to deciphering the meaning of six hundred and sixty-six to be Hebraic, "The reason clearly is that, *while [John] writes in Greek, he thinks in Hebrew*, and the thought has naturally affected the vehicle of expression."

Is there anything in John's writings, especially in Revelation, that hints at this use of both Greek and Hebrew? The "angel of the abyss" was described in two ways: "His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon" (Rev. 9:11). Something similar was done with "Har-Magedon" (hill of Megiddo) or "Ar-Magedon" (city of Megiddo) (Rev. 16:16). Megiddo was an Old Testament city (1 Chron. 7:29), the place where King Josiah was killed (2 Chron. 35:20–27). In John's gospel, the place where Pilate sat down to judge Jesus was called "The Pavement," but John called attention to its Hebrew name "Gabbatha" (John 19:13). In the same chapter, John wrote how Pilate had an inscription placed on the cross above Jesus' head written in "Hebrew, Latin, and in Greek" (John 19:20). Going from Greek to Hebrew was typical and expected since Jews spoke Hebrew.

When Nero Caesar's name is transliterated into Hebrew, which a first-century Jew would probably have done immediately, he would have gotten *Neron Kesar* or simply *nrwn qsr*, since Hebrew has no letters to represent vowels. (The w represents the "o" sound and the *q* represents the "k" sound in Hebrew.) "It has been documented by archaeological finds that a first century Hebrew spelling of Nero's name provides us with precisely the value of 666. Jastrow's lexicon of the Talmud contains this very spelling." When we take the letters of Nero's name and spell them in Hebrew, we get the following numeric values: n (50) + r (200) + w (6) + n (50) + q (100) + s (60) + r (200) = 666.

Every Jewish reader, of course, saw that the Beast was a symbol of Nero. And both Jews and Christians regarded Nero as also having close affinities with the serpent or dragon ... The Apostle, writing as a Hebrew, was evidently thinking as a Hebrew ... Accordingly, the Jewish Christian would have tried the name as he *thought* of the name—that is in *Hebrew letters*. And the moment that he did this the secret stood revealed. No Jew ever thought of Nero except as "*Neron Kesar*."

How does the beast coming out of the earth or land fit into this equation? The land beast was most likely Jewish, probably the religious leaders who were continually fighting against their countrymen in Judea who embraced Jesus as the Messiah. He had "two horns like a lamb," but "he spoke as a dragon" (Rev. 13:11). Jesus warned His disciples about this character: "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves" (Matt. 7:15). They might present themselves as God's religious representatives, but underneath the "sheep's clothing," a dragon was present. The "beast coming up out of the earth" with the "two horns" most likely represents the Jewish high priest and the Herodian dynasty. It was "Herod the king" (Matt. 2:1), also called Herod the Great, who slaughtered "all the male children … from two years old and under" in an attempt to kill Jesus (2:16), "the King of the Jews" (2:2). "Herod the tetrarch" (Matt. 14:1), whom Jesus described as "that fox" (Luke 13:32), arrested John the Baptist and had him beheaded because John had been saying to him, "It is not lawful for you to have [your brother's wife as your own]" (Matt. 14:3–12). Herod Agrippa I killed James the brother of John (Acts 12:2) and was heralded as "a god" by the people and "did not give God the glory" (Acts 12:20–23).

The "Herodians" aligned themselves with the Pharisees against Jesus (Mark 3:6; 12:13). Philip Mauro's comments are especially helpful:

For history, both sacred and profane, sets before us a most notable character, one who appears upon the scene and occupies the center stage in Israel just at "the end" of the Asmonean era, and one who answers to *every item* of the prophetic description. We have reference to that strange, despotic, ungovernable and unspeakably cruel personage, whom the evangelists designate emphatically as—"Herod the King"—that remarkable character who was a usurper upon the throne of David when Christ, the true King, was born.

The high priest oversaw the execution of Stephen (Acts 7:1, 54–60), and Herod "laid hands on some who belonged to the church in order to mistreat them. And he had James the brother of John put to death with a sword" (Acts 12:1–2). Notice that Herod was delighted "that it pleased the Jews" (Acts 12:3).

The Beast's Character

Nero had his mother bludgeoned and slashed to death by marines ordered to do the job after his attempts to poison and drown her failed. A few years later, he had his wife, Octavia, killed so he could marry his mistress, Poppaea. He kicked Poppaea to death when she complained about him coming home late. But his persecution of Christians led the first-century church to regard Nero as Revelation's "beast" in confirmation of what they read in Revelation. Miriam Griffin, tutor in ancient history and Fellow of Somerville College, Oxford, writes, "In A.D. 64 came the most serious threat to Nero's popularity when the Great Fire broke out. It was widely believed that Nero first used the blaze as a backdrop for a virtuoso performance and then restarted it to clear the ground for his reconstruction of Rome. This time, force was used on a despised minority, the Christians, who were burned alive to illuminate circus games."

Rumors circulated that Nero had set the fire. "Nero first attempted to quash the rumors by religious ceremonies designed to appease the supposedly angry gods." He needed a scapegoat, "so he decided to fasten guilt on a human culprit, the Christians," using them as "human torches."²⁵ John said of the Beast, "It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them" (Rev. 13:7).

The Testimony of the Church

Christian history supports the view that Nero was the Beast. "All the earliest Christian writers on the Apocalypse, from Irenaeus down to Victorinus of Pettau and Commodian in the fourth, and Andreas in the fifth, and St. Beatus in the eighth century, connect Nero, or some Roman Emperor, with the Apocalyptic Beast." Although confusing the Antichrist with the Beast, Miriam Griffin writes that "Nero is the Anti-Christ whose persecution of the Christians heralds the destruction of Rome. This view of Nero as Anti-Christ continued to be celebrated by the Church Fathers and by later Christian writers. The picture of him as the incarnation of evil triumphed as Christianity triumphed." Tertullian (ca. 155–220), in chronicling the sufferings of the apostles, wrote, "At Rome Nero was the first who stained with blood the rising faith."²⁸

A curious variation on 666 adds validity to the argument that Nero was considered to be the sea beast of Revelation 13. Some Greek New Testament manuscripts read 616 instead of 666. Why would someone making a copy of the Revelation scroll make such a number change? "Perhaps the change was intentional, seeing that the Greek form Neron Caesar written in Hebrew characters (*nrwn qsr*) is equivalent to 666, whereas the Latin form Nero Caesar (*nrw qsr*) is equivalent to 616." Keep in mind that there were no copy machines in the first century. Some mistakes occurred when a scribe was making a copy of a known copy. A Latin copyist might have thought that 666 was an error because Nero Caesar did not add up to 666 when transliterated into Latin. He then changed 666 to 616 to conform to the Latin rendering since it was generally accepted that Nero was the Beast. Nero was the "man" and 666 was his number.²

² DeMar, G. (2009). <u>*Left Behind: Separating Fact from Fiction*</u> (pp. 131–150). Powder Springs, GA: American Vision.

In the past marks on a person's body were used to signify who a person belonged to. Thus, in Israel, a permanent slave was marked by a pierced ear. "*But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever*'' (Exodus 21:5-6).

Marks were also used in pagan religions to denote whom a person worshiped. This is why making scars/tattoos were forbidden in Israel. "You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you: I am the LORD'(Lev.19:28)

The marks of service Paul bears (Galatians 6:17)

Paul has been dealing at length the various disputes that he was not a real apostle. He concludes his letter by declaring that this matter should be settled & no one should trouble him further. His detractors wanted proof, so Paul offers his own body as evidence... If a physical sign is so important, Paul points out that he wears the marks of Jesus on his body. The word Paul uses is "stigma." This means a mark or a brand. Paul has suffered much in the cause of Christ (II Corinthians 11:24-25). They left scars as reminders – reminders Paul was willing to collect (Colossians 1:24). A stigma was the mark a slave owner placed on a slave to indicate ownership. Paul saw himself as the Lord's slave (Romans 1:1; Titus 1:1). Jesus had picked him to bear His word (Acts 9:15). It was Paul's job (II Timothy 1:11). He preached from necessity, though it was a command that he willingly followed (I Corinthians 9:16).

Stigmas were also the tattoos pagans put on their bodies to indicate what god they served. That is why tattoos were forbidden (Leviticus 19:28). The practice is alluded to in the mark of the beast (Revelation 13:16-18), though this mark was not necessarily a physical mark but the signs that showed who a person gave his loyalty to. Now, Paul didn't scribe Jesus' name literally in his body, but his body did show the fact that he served Jesus. And Christians should also show the marks of their God in their lives (Revelation 14:1). This idea of marking a person as to who he serves has been used before in Ezekiel 9:3-7.

Paul isn't primarily speaking of external marks on his body but of marks in his body. The Greek word *en* can be translated as either "on" or "in." Sin leaves marks on the practitioner (Jeremiah 2:22). God marks those sinners for correction (Habakkuk 1:12; Jude 4).

If God marks, who can stand (Psalm 130:3)? However, God can change the marks of condemnation by the blood of Christ! – Source



What WAS The Mark Of The Beast?

And that not anyone might								
	και ινα μι	1	τις δυνηται		XI			
	buy	or	S	sell				
	αγορασαι	η	πω	λησαι				
save he that had								
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			Contraction of the second					
the	e mark	or	the	numb	ber			
το	χαραγμα	η	τον	αριθμα	ν			
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το	το ονομα του ονοματος αυτοι							
of the beast								
του	θηριου							

I. Official Control of All Local, Commercial Trading

Revelation 13:16–17 states that 'both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave [are] to be marked on the right hand or forehead so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark'. De Ligt's observation in *Fairs and Markets in the Roman Empire* throws light on the significance of this statement. **'[T]he imperial and (urban) authorities retained a firm grip on all indirect taxes that were levied at markets, including those levied at periodic markets established by private individuals on their [imperial] estates.'**

A poignant example from a later period epitomises the absolute control the city authorities exercised over all commerce. A humble egg-seller was caught trading outside the official market. He promised never again to trade either in his home or secretly, acknowledging that if he did so, he would be penalised.

To Flavius Thennyras, local magistrate of the district of Oxyrhynchus, from Aurelius Nilus, son of Didysus, of the most illustrious city of Oxyrhynchus, an egg seller by trade. I hereby agree on the august, the divine oath by our lord, the Emperor and the Caesars to offer for sale in public my eggs in the market place, and to supply to the said city, every day without break. I acknowledge that it is illegal for me in the future to sell secretly or in my house. If I am found out doing so, I shall be liable to be punished.

There is also evidence from Sardis, another city in the province of Asia, confirming that officials had been elected or appointed by the Council to control the markets in cities in the province. Josephus reproduced an official decree to Sardis issued in 47 B.C. It restored the rights of Jews to live in this city and included the obligation of the superintendent of the market to provide for kosher food to be brought into the market for them to purchase—

it has therefore been decreed by the Council and People that permission shall be given to them to assemble on sacred days, to do things in accordance with their laws, and also that a place be set apart by the magistrates for them to build and inhabit, so that ($\ddot{o}\pi\omega\varsigma$) the market-officials of the city shall be charged with the duty of having suitable food for them [the Jews] brought in.

In addition to approving a location for building a Jewish synagogue, the decree also required officials to establish a market for Jews, enabling them to have access to 'suitable' (kosher) food. They therefore reactivated the Jewish market in the agora. The city, therefore, had a critical rôle in commercial activity. It is important to note that this inscription records the precedent in Rome for this restoration of the Jews' civic rights and privileges in Sardis. It was because 'their laws and freedoms had been restored by the Roman Senate and People'. One of the letters in the Book of Revelation was addressed to the Christian community in the self-same city (Rev. 3:1–5). No such official provision was made for the first Christians.

The officials elected to public office for the day-to-day management of the markets were called the 'superintendents of the market' (ἀγορανόμοι). They 'had general supervision of the sale of merchandise in the city-market, being responsible for establishing prices [as at Pergamum], ensuring adequate supplies and determining the accuracy of weights'. The tax was levied on all commercial transactions and the proceeds went into the city's treasury.

The introduction of this edict applied to all the inhabitants (13:15b), but the effect was especially felt by Christians because non-participation resulted in summary execution.

There was already a precedent for imperial innovations by Roman provincial governors in the province of Asia. In 9 B.C. Paullus Fabius Maximus, the governor, 'Caesar's friend' and connected to Augustus by marriage, had played the leading rôle in promoting new honours for 'the most divine Caesar' (τοῦ θηοτάτου Καίσαρος). Because Augustus' birthday was seen, in effect, as 'the beginning of all things' for the empire, New Year's Day had been changed to commemorate his auspicious birth. (See pp. 28–36.) Evidence from the same era had seen Publius Cornelius Scipio, a senior Roman official and later governor of the same province, also vigorously promoting divine honours subsequent to his next appointment in the province of Achaea soon after 3 B.C. (See pp. 168–72.)

Was history repeating itself with another Roman provincial governor of Asia undertaking an unprecedented, indeed a highly innovative step aimed at promoting still further specific divine honours for the reigning Caesar? He prescribed that each person in the province was to give such honours before a statue of the reigning emperor in the temple. While the Jews had secured exemption from worshipping idols, all other residents would 'voluntarily' have had placed on their right hand or their forehead a special mark as an act of loyalty. They then had to give divine honours before a statue of the emperor in his temple (13:16).³

³ Winter, B. W. (2015). *Divine Honours for the Caesars: The First Christians' Responses* (pp. 287–289). Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

Page 296, "Commentary On Revelation" by Brother Homer Hailey Addresses:

Contextual Analysis. "Whatever the mark was (here it is identified with his 'name,' as the 'seal' of God was identified with His name), no one could enter the field of trade or earn a living without it. The view advanced in interpreting the opening of the third seal, that the rider of the black horse signified scarcity through discrimination, seems to be confirmed right here. The saints refused the mark even at the risk of death, were boycotted by the world, being discriminated against even to the point of hunger or possible starvation."

<u>Page 151, "The Lamb/The Lion" by Brother Jim Waldron Answers the Question:</u>

To what did the mark of the beast on the right hand or on the forehead refer?

"The mark of the beast on the right hand represented one who would actually burn incense with his hands or do the other outward acts of obeisance toward the Emperor. Many intelligent or secular minded Romans would have rejected the idea that the Emperor was a god in their hearts, but would have worshipped him and his image to save themselves from persecution, ridicule, embarrassment or related inconvenience in business."

Early Form of Mental Reservation Doctrine. "The mark on person's forehead symbolized the acceptance of emperor worship in the mind. Such individuals really believed their man was 'Lord and God' on earth as he claimed. It is interesting to note many idol worshippers today use marks on their foreheads to indicate they belong to a religion that venerates images and idols in worship."

Page 287, "The Avenging of the Apostles & Prophets" by Brother Arthur Ogden:

"It is also significant to observe the three different classifications of those who will be permitted to buy and sell. (1) Those that have the mark of the beast either on their foreheads or hands. (2) Those who have 'the name of the beast.' This identifies those who are citizens of the empire. (3) Those that have the number of his name. The person who has the number of his_name is the Roman citizen who belongs personally to Caesar. He is part of Caesar's administration, a part of the Roman bureaucracy."

SUMMARY OF SALIENT & SIGNIFICANT:

- 1) <u>It must fit definition of "what was"</u> <u>rather than "what is" or "what will</u> <u>be" the Mark of the Beast to have</u> <u>been rightly understood by any 1st</u> <u>Century Christian readership.</u> [Revelation 1:1 & Revelation 22:20]
- 2) <u>It is indirectly interpreted as text</u> <u>within a Hebrew stylized book of</u> <u>Apocalyptic Literature.</u>
- 3) <u>It is indirectly interpreted by verse</u> <u>context doubly dependent linked</u> <u>by symbol definition of Hebrew</u> <u>Biblical Numerology – i.e. "666"</u>

- 4) It has both aspects "invisible" & "visible" with double application specific in time and only remotely general in nature.
- 5) In book context of the targeted audience it was written codified to be correctly understood by the Jerusalem persecuted Christian diaspora communities that had relocated in today's Turkey - the then 7 churches of Asia Minor.
- 6) It is both directly & dependently to be interpreted and understood by way of Roman Colony Port City Commerce & Roman Trade Guild membership requirements.

7) <u>Thus, the educated guess is that</u> <u>the Mark of the Beast WAS an</u> <u>identifier of Roman Trade Guild</u> <u>Membership that served as a</u> <u>visible sign of corresponding</u> <u>required homage to the Roman</u> <u>Emperor in the early colony city</u> <u>Emperor Worship Cults.</u>

"A Lie is a Beast With Short Legs!" -Old World Cultural Proverb) $|\sqrt{|/\Delta|} = 2$ THE BEAST IS A GLIE CNT OFF THE KNE

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