

The Mark of the Beast

Every time someone suggests creating a national ID card or implanting computer chips into people, someone invariably mentions the Mark of the Beast. The truth is that these fears are completely unfounded. While there may be perfectly good reasons to oppose whatever new thing has come along, claiming that they're the Mark of the Beast isn't one of them.

Here's why. In order for an implanted computer chip (or national ID card) to work it has to carry enough information to uniquely identify each person. That's why people have proposed the idea: instead of carrying around a wallet that could get lost or stolen, you could simply use an implanted chip instead. The people at the store could scan your chip to learn your identity and account information.

The key here is that for it to work each chip has to have a *unique* id number. This is very important: the *only* way to tell people apart is to give each person a *different number*. That's how credit cards work as well: if everyone had the same number then there would be no way to tell people apart! It doesn't matter if the ID card is a piece of plastic which you carry in your wallet or a computer chip that's embedded in your hand; in order for it to work each chip must contain *different* information.

However, the Mark of the Beast *is the same for everyone*. Take a look at these verses:

Revelation 13:15-18: “And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark to their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or

sell, save he that hath 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.”

This is the only passage in the entire Bible that describes the Mark of the Beast. Verse 17 says that the Mark can be one of three things: **a mark** (which isn't described), **a name**, or **a number**. If it's a name then it's the name of the beast; if it's a number then it's 666. But one thing it clearly says is that *it's the same name, number, or mark for everyone*. When a person takes the Mark he doesn't get issued his own unique number. The purpose of the Mark is *not* to uniquely identify each person (which is what the implanted chips are all about) but to show that the people who took the Mark have rejected God and sided once and for all with the devil. Therefore, implanted computer chips can't be the Mark of the Beast because they have uniquely identifying numbers, while the Mark of the Beast issues the same number to everyone.

Do you see the difference? Even if society gets to a point where cash is no longer used and you have to have a debit card to buy and sell things, that's still not the Mark of the Beast because those cards will be different for each person.

Do Not Take the Mark

I'm not trying to say that the Mark of the Beast is unimportant or should be taken lightly. My goal is to help people understand what the Mark *is* and what it *is not*. The Mark is an extremely serious thing. The Bible teaches that anyone who takes the Mark *cannot be saved*:

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 forever 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.”

Those who take the Mark will be tormented day and night forever and ever with fire and brimstone. The Bible lists no exceptions for those who took the Mark and later regretted it. Those who take it are rejecting God in a way that *cannot be undone*. It's an unforgivable sin. Once you take it you're guaranteed an unbearable eternity of torment in the Lake of Fire. God is very clear about this.

Just in case that passage wasn't clear enough, Revelation also says this:

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 worshiped 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.”

The only people who will be saved during the tribulation are those who never took the Mark. Once you take it you're

forever lost. It will be so bad that Revelation 14 goes on to say this:

Revelation 14:12-13: “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.”

Verse 12 is referring to what was mentioned in the previous few verses (9 through 11, which were quoted previously). When the Mark of the Beast appears people will be given a stark choice. If they take the Mark then they'll be forever lost – there's no turning back. The only way to be saved is to refuse to take the Mark, refuse to worship the beast, and refuse to worship his image. This publicly tells the world that you've chosen to side with Jesus. However, doing this will be a crime punishable by death. No one will be able to buy or sell without the Mark, and anyone who doesn't have it will be executed. That's why verse 13 says that those who are dead in the Lord are blessed: they no longer have to worry about resisting the enormous temptation to take the Mark. Their work is done.

For those of you who are worried that you might one day take the Mark without realizing it, let me point out that the Mark doesn't appear until the second half of the seven-year tribulation. The reason we know this is because the antichrist doesn't declare himself to be a god until 3.5 years into the tribulation:

Daniel 9:27: “And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even

until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.”

The “week” mentioned in this verse refers to a period of 7 years and is also known as the tribulation. In the middle of this period the antichrist will put an end to the sacrifices which were being offered in the third temple in Jerusalem (which hasn't even been built yet). When that happens he will declare himself to be greater than God:

Daniel 11:36: “And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.”

That's when Revelation 13:15 takes place. When the antichrist has declared himself to be a god, he will command everyone to take the Mark and will execute all those who don't. This means there can be no Mark of the Beast until (1) the third temple is built, (2) Israel signs the seven-year covenant with the antichrist, (3) the antichrist breaks that covenant, defiles the temple, and declares himself to be greater than God.

Christians who are alive during the church age don't have to worry about any of this because we won't be on Earth during the tribulation. *No one who is part of the church will ever be tempted to take the Mark!* It won't appear until we're long gone.

The next time someone suggests implanting computer chips into people, please don't compare it to the Mark of the Beast. The chips would have to contain a unique identifier for each person, and that's the *opposite* of the Mark, which is the same for everyone.