

The Mark of the Beast

Text: Revelation 13:10-14:7 “He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints. And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. 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 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. 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. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God. And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters...”

Purpose: The purpose of this section is to warn us of the terrible times that await God’s people during the Great Tribulation and to remind us that God’s grace will continue to be magnified during that period.

Proposition: God wants us to be humbled and marvel at His grace.

Interrogative: How can we do this?

Section 1: God’s people will triumph no matter what they face during this period: 13:8-10

“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If any man have an ear, let him hear. ¹⁰ He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints...”

- **There will be tremendous loneliness and isolation during this period:** “all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world...”

- **Many Christians will be imprisoned:** “He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity...”
- **Many Christians will be martyred:** “He that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword...”
- **God will vindicate His people by bringing punishment on the heads of those who persecute them:** “shall go into captivity... must be killed with the sword...”
- **God’s people will demonstrate overcoming confidence in God and willingness to bear under the oppressive load of their oppressors:** “Here is the patience and the faith of the saints...”
- **Their lives are meant to strengthen suffering believers:** “If any man have an ear, let him hear...”

Section 2: The Beast will fortify his power through two primary methods:

- **Religious deception: 13:11-14** “And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. ¹² And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ¹³ And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, ¹⁴ And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live...”
- **“Another beast:”** Likely referring to the false prophet spoken about in **Revelation 19:20** “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...”
- **“He doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of me:”** This person will deceive people by miraculous signs performed by the power of Satan. **Matthew 24:24** “There shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect...”
- **Controlling commerce: 13:16-17** “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...”
 - **“Small and great...”**
 - **“Rich and poor...”**
 - **“Free and bond...”**
 - **“That no man might buy or sell...”**

Section 3: The Beast will viciously attack God’s people: 14:1-4 “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. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the

elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth...”

- **“A Lamb stood on Mount Sion...”**
- **“With him...”** They are with Him, because they have been martyred for the faith!
- **“Which were redeemed from the earth...”** They paid the ultimate price, but they are with the Lord and in a wonderful place of intimate fellowship with Him.

Section 4: God will continue to proclaim the gospel throughout the world in the moments leading up to the Second Coming of Christ: 14:6-7 “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters...”

- In spite of the terrible times experienced on the earth, and the inability of Christians to openly proclaim the gospel in the earth, God still takes the gospel through His servants to the uttermost parts of the earth.
- God’s grace is not only being displayed in His strengthening hand over His suffering people, but it is also being displayed in His continued grace to the nations!

Section 5: Some practical applications that flow from this section:

- We need to draw strength from the suffering saints of church history and the Bible.
- If they can endure as seeing Him who is invisible, so can we!
- God’s grace is always on display no matter the incredible evil of every age.
- God is not limited in His ability to take the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Conclusion: God wants us to be humbled and marvel at His grace. Let’s do that in the light of this passage!