

REVELATION 13

We know that our God is a triune Being. He is one God Who manifests Himself in three Persons. He is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. All three are One God, yet each is an individual Person. They come together to make up the Holy Trinity.

The devil is an imitator. He takes what God does and he tries to duplicate it. His unholy trinity is Satan (imitates God), the Anti-Christ (imitates Jesus), and the False Prophet (imitates the Holy Spirit). Jesus, is a revelation of God the Father. In, John 1:1, 14, Jesus Christ, was and is God in the flesh. He was able to say, "*I and my Father are one,*" (John 10:30). He was also able to say, "*he that has seen me has seen the Father,*" (John 14:9). Jesus is God incarnate; He is God in the flesh!

In the Antichrist, Satan attempts to duplicate this relationship between Jesus Christ and God the Father. The Antichrist will be a living, breathing revelation of the devil. He will be the devil incarnate; he will be the devil in the flesh. The Antichrist imitates God the Son, and the False Prophet, imitates the Holy Spirit.

The teaching of the Antichrist is not a new teaching. John first wrote about the Antichrist in 1 John 2:18. Also, in Rev. 11:7, the Antichrist was introduced as the Beast who killed God's two witnesses. Rev. 12 records the beginning of Satan's long war against God and His people. Rev. 13, records how Satan will try to prevent Jesus Christ from setting up His own earthly kingdom by setting up his own under the Antichrist.

Let's take a look at this man who will be known as the Antichrist. These verses give us some important details concerning his mission, his methods, and his miracles

The Beast out of the Sea

1 The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. 2 The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

– As John stands on a seashore, a mysterious "beast" rises from out of the sea. This is symbolic language. The "sea" in the Bible represents the masses of humanity and evil (Job 26:12, Ps. 74:13-14; 89:9-10; Isa. 27:1). Both Rev. 11:7 and 17:8 state that the Beast will come out of the abyss, so it best to equate the sea with the abyss. Some demons are currently in the abyss (Rev. 9:1-11; Luke 8:31), and Satan will be imprisoned in the abyss during the Millennial Kingdom (Rev. 20:1-3).

This individual will come from among men (2 Thess. 2:4), but at some point in his life he will be indwelt by powerful demons from the abyss. In other words, while he may possess power that surpasses all the other great rulers of men, he will be nothing more than a man, empowered by Satan, the Dragon. He will wield tremendous power and authority. He will be a man who receives his kingdom and his power from Satan himself.

-- Where will he come from and what will be his nationality? No one knows! One person has suggested that George W. Bush is the Antichrist. A numerical value was assigned to each of the letters in President Bush's name and he claims they equal 666.

According to the Bible, the Antichrist will lead a ten nation confederacy that resembles the revived Roman Empire. Therefore, he may be European by birth. Of course, Daniel 11:37 tells us that he "*will not regard the God of his fathers.*" This verse leads many to speculate that he will be Jewish by birth. The fact is, no one knows and anyone who claims to is way off base.

- These verses give us a little insight into this man called Antichrist. The symbolic language tells us something about what kind of man he is and also something about the nature of the kingdom he will rule.

1. Seven Heads – The explanation for this is given in Rev. 17:9, "*The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sits.*" Revelation 17 is a passage about "*The Great Harlot*", or the apostate church that will dominate world religion during the Tribulation Period. We are told that the "*Harlot*" sits on "*seven hills*". There is only one city in the world that is built on seven hills: the city of Rome.

2. Ten Horns – Horns are a symbol of power and authority. Again, these horns are explained by Rev. 17:12. We are told that the ten horns are "*ten kings*".

3. Ten Crowns – These ten kings have great authority and power. The Antichrist will arise from among this confederation of ten powerful kings.

4. The Names of Blaspheme – These world leaders will stand in open defiance of all that is holy or that has to do with God.

Many believe that what we are seeing here is a revival of the ancient Roman Empire. The Roman Empire was never really defeated. It just kind of dissolved into separate kingdoms. Some believe that the Roman Empire will be revived again, and the Antichrist will dominate this confederation of nations.

To understand the description given of this beast in these verses, you have to go back to Daniel 7:3-8. In Daniel's vision, he describes the great world empires that will follow one after another until the end of the world.

Daniel speaks of a "*lion*", verse 4. This beast pictures the Babylonian Empire. Like a lion, ancient Babylon was powerful, fearsome and had a ravenous appetite for domination. The "*bear*" in verse 5 speaks of the Medo-Persian Empire. Like a bear it possessed incredible power to crush its enemies. The "*leopard*" in verse 6 speaks of the Greek Empire. It is called a leopard because the Greeks were quick to dominate the world. The fourth beast in verse 7 is the Roman Empire. With *teeth of iron*, they dominated the ancient world.

The Bible is teaching us that the Antichrist will possess the power and the personality of all these ancient empires. He will combine all their strengths:

Body Like A Leopard – His rise to power will be swift.

Feet Like A Bear – He will crush his opponents.

Mouth Like A Lion – Like a lion he will devour all who dare stand in his way.

The Anti=Christ is called A Beast – The word "beast" refers to "a wild animal". It is used as a metaphor of a man who is "brutal, savage, and ferocious". Like a wild animal, Antichrist will attack the kingdoms of the world and he will destroy all who get in his path. He will be a fearsome, powerful man.

– We are told that the Antichrist rules the world, but not by his own power. He is Satan's Superman. He is energized by the Dark Prince. We are told that Satan gives him three things. 1. His Power – This word refers to "strength, power and ability. 2. His Seat – This is his "throne". He rules because Satan has given him dominion (1 John 5:19). 3. Great Authority – This word refers to the "ability to do as one pleases". The Antichrist will do as he pleases on this earth for a time, and no one will be able to stop him.

3 One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast. 4 People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?"

— At some point during the Antichrist's reign he will die. It may be an assassination or some other form of upheaval, but he will be killed. As the world watches and mourns the death of this very popular man, a miraculous thing happens; this dead man comes back from the dead. He experiences a resurrection.

Remember, I told you that Satan is an imitator. In this verse we are told that Satan seeks to duplicate the resurrection. Whether this resurrection is real or just a bit of satanic sleight of hand we do not know. Yet, the citizens of the world will be taken in. They will be so caught up in the power, the glory and wonder of the Antichrist that they will actually give him their worship! The world will bow before this hellish king and give him what they have steadfastly refused to give God.

Just as God receives the worship of man through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ; Satan will receive the worship of men through the Antichrist. He will be getting what he has always wanted. Men will worship the Beast and the devil. What a tragedy! While Heaven rejoices over the fact that Satan has been cast out of Heaven, Rev. 12:10, the "earth" gives their worship to the devil. The world will declare the Antichrist to be undefeatable. What they fail to understand is that there will come a day when Antichrist will be defeated and cast into Hell, (Rev. 19:20; 20:10). Yes, Jesus Christ will be able to defeat the devil's superman with no problem (2 Thess. 2:8). Satan has power and the Antichrist will have power, but they will face the One who has all, power, (Matt. 28:18). Jesus will defeat them, destroy them and judge them!

5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. 6 It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. 7 It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. 8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.

— The Antichrist will be a man of great oratorical ability. He will be able to move the masses with the power of his tongue. If you have ever seen films of Adolph Hitler, you have seen a man who understood

the power of the tongue. By his words, he stirred up a nation and convinced them that they could rule the world. He convinced the German people that they were superior to all others. Hitler's words brought about unbelievable suffering and innumerable deaths. Hitler once said, "*You say something long enough and loud enough and people will eventually believe you.*"

- When the Antichrist comes, his power with words will make Hitler seem like nothing. He will galvanize the nations of the world with the power of his words. He will speak "great things" and they will believe him. He will speak blasphemes against the God of Heaven and they will worship him. He will use his words to attack everything that has to do with God and the world will hang on every word. He will do everything in his power to turn humanity against God. He will even declare himself to be God!

-v-7 — Antichrist will make it his mission to seek out and destroy anyone who still worships God. There will be people saved during the Tribulation. These people will become the focus of the Antichrist's intense hatred of God. He will not be able to defeat the 144,000 Jewish preachers as they are sealed by God and they travel the world preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom. He also will not be able to defeat the two witnesses who stand in Jerusalem and preach the Gospel of the Kingdom, until their time is up. He will not be able to stop them until their time is finished, and then he will be allowed to kill them too, Anyone else on this earth who refuses to bow to him in worship will be put to a martyr's death! The Antichrist will rule the world! Every nation will come under his power and domination. He will be the ultimate world ruler. He will be the king of the world!

v. 8 — This verse is crystal clear! Every person who is not saved by God's grace will eventually bow in worship of Satan and his superman. These worshipers are called "*all that dwell upon the earth*". The word "dwell" means "to settle down". This phrase refers to people who have chosen to make this world their home. They have decided that they aren't interested in Heaven or in anything God can offer them. They have staked all their hopes and their futures in this world. God abandons them to their choice! They want the world and He lets them have it, with all the consequences that come with such a decision. James 4:4, states that friendship with the world is hatred towards God. These "earth dwellers" have refused God and His Messiah and they have chosen Satan and his false messiah.

9 Whoever has ears, let them hear.

Verse 9 says, "If any man have an ear, let him hear". Do you recognize that statement? We have seen a statement like it several times before, Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22. If you go and read these verses you will find that they say, "*He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches*". Do you see what is missing? The "*churches*". The church was removed from the world at the Rapture. The age of grace has ended and the world is in the grip of the Great Tribulation. When God speaks here, He does not warn His people, He warns the earth dwellers,

10 "If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed. "This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people.

Verse 10 drives this point home. The whole point of v-10 is that people reap what they sow, (Gal. 6:7). If you live for the devil, you will reap the devil. If you reject Jesus, you will be rejected by Jesus. The time to make a choice is today! There will come a day when it will be too late. When will that day be? No one knows but the Lord! It could be today, tonight or tomorrow. There will come a day when God will stop calling you and He will abandon you to your choice. If you are not saved, you need to come to Jesus today. (2 Cor. 6:2) Now is the time of God's favor/salvation. Are all your hopes and dreams locked up in this world? Or, are you a citizen of Heaven? Have you received Jesus as your Savior? If so, you will not face the Antichrist or the horrors of the Tribulation.

The Beast out of the Earth

11 Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon.

The figure described here is again a man. This is also proven by his fate, (Rev. 19:20). This beast has horns, which are a symbol of power. He has "two horns". Two is a number that symbolized "testimony" (Deut. 19:15). This beast will have power because of the testimony he gives.

The first beast had "ten horns" this beast had "two horns". The first beast had "ten crowns". This beast has no crowns. The first beast is described in terrifying language, as a leopard, a lion and a bear. This beast is called "a lamb". The first beast comes as a powerful world ruler. This beast appears as a gentleman of faith. This individual will appear on the world stage as a gentle, meek, loving and kind religious leader. He will have the charisma and gentle nature of a Joel Osteen, or a Robert Shuler, and he will possess the religious power of the Pope. While the Antichrist will rule the world with brute force; this man will attract the world through his pleasant personality and pleasing words.

As the old saying goes: "You can't judge a book by the cover." With this man everything is not as it appears. He has all the outward appearances and trappings of a man of faith, but when he speaks, he speaks the words of the dragon. He is the mouthpiece of Satan himself. He will be a religious man, but the religion he is promoting is the worship of Satan! His true nature will be revealed by the words which he will speak, (2 Cor. 11:14).

It doesn't take too long to figure out what a preacher or a church believes. Just listen to their words and they will reveal their hearts. Some of the most popular never mentions the name of Jesus, nor do they mention sin. They just tell a few stories and builds everyone up. Others are always talking about money and prosperity. It doesn't take long to separate the wheat from the chaff, if you know a little bit about the Word of God! (1 Tim. 4:3-4)(2 Thess. 2:9-10)

12 It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.

This individual will receive his power from the same source that the Antichrist will receive his power: the devil, (v. 2). The world will accept this man as a "man of God". He will be hailed around the world as the greatest religious leader the world had ever seen. The world will be deceived and will not grasp the truth that he is the agent of Satan until it is too late.

The man will be the facilitator of a vast worldwide religion. He will be able to unite all the religions of the world under one banner. He will convince the world that the Antichrist is a god and that he alone is to be worshiped. Men and women from every conceivable religion will bow down in worship of the Antichrist, at the leadership of this False Prophet. Why will the world worship the Antichrist? As we learned, the Antichrist will be wounded and die and he will rise again from the dead, v. 3-4. The world will fall at his feet in stupefied wonder and worship.

This man will solve the problems between the religions of the world. Take the situation in the Middle East. The problems there are not political, they are religious. The problems in that part of the world predate the forming of Islam. The Jews and the Arabs have been bitter enemies since the days of Moses and Joshua. Now, the Muslims hate the Jews and they are bent on the destruction of the nation of Israel. No one can seem to solve their differences today, but this False Prophet will during the Tribulation. He will find the common ground that will allow all the religions of the world to exist under one umbrella.

At some point, the Antichrist will enter the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. He will go in to the Holy of Holies and he will place his throne there. He will declare himself to be God and he will demand to be worshiped as God, (2 Thess. 2:4). The False Prophet will support the claims of the Antichrist and will lead the world to worship this Man of Sin. The two men, the Antichrist and the False Prophet will work hand in hand to accomplish the devil's will here on earth during the dark days of the Tribulation Period.

13 And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. 14 Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. 15 The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.

We are told that the False Prophet will be a man of miracles. He will duplicate the miracles of the Two Witnesses, (Rev. 11:5). He will also duplicate the miracle of Elijah, in 1 Kings 18, when Elijah called fire down from Heaven, and men fell to their faces and worshiped God. When the False Prophet calls down fire from the sky, men will fall on their faces and worship the devil!

This False Prophet will lead the world to build an idol, an image of the Antichrist. He will cause this image to come to life. This image will speak to the people. They will be deceived by his power and his miracles, and they will fall down in worship of the beast and his image. The ministry of the False Prophet will be marked by exciting and powerful miracles. His miracles will deceive the world.

Millions have gone missing in the Rapture. The world is falling apart at the seams as war rumbles from country to country. Disease, war, starvation and other plagues have claimed nearly one-half the world's population. Men in that day will be looking for something to believe in. They will be looking for someone who has the answers. Then, the Antichrist will appear. He will have the solution to the problems of the world! He will have the solution to war, to hunger, and to every problem known to humanity. He will die at the height of his power and the world will mourn his passing. Then, miracle of miracles, he will rise from the dead! The world will see it live and in living color on their television sets.

The False Prophet will speak, and he will set the world at ease. He will declare the Antichrist to be the world's savior and they will bow at his feet and worship him. It will be a time of mass deception on a world-wide scale. If you want to draw a crowd, just start advertising miracles and the people will come. It doesn't matter how strange or outlandish the claims, people will flock to see what they think is a miracle. One fellow claimed to see the face of Jesus in a tortilla in 1977 in New Mexico. He built a shrine and thousands have gone there to pray before the tortilla. Someone saw the image of the Virgin Mary on the side of their house and turned it into a shrine. Thousands have gone there to pray to Mary. The world is being prepared for a mass delusion, (2 Thes. 2:10-11.) Again, the False Prophet does all of this stuff for the sole purpose of getting the world to worship the Antichrist.

The world will fall for this deception, and they will worship the Antichrist. Those who refuse, orthodox Jews and those who have been saved during the Tribulation, will be hunted down and destroyed. Today, you can worship any god you want to worship, or you can worship no god at all, if that is your choice. In that day, you will either worship the Antichrist or you will pay for your disobedience with your life (like Islam today). The world will come together one day. It will not be the United Nations that will bring about that unity. It will be the work of Satan and he uses the Antichrist and the False Prophet to accomplish his goals in the world.

16 It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, 17 so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name. 18 This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666.

We have arrived at a passage of Scripture that has caused more speculation than possibly any other. For centuries people have been trying to decipher the Mark of the Beast. People actually fear the number 666. Have you ever been in the store making a purchase, and the total of your purchases came to \$6.66. Have you tried to buy something else so you won't have to ring up \$6.66.

I have been hearing a lot of Christians express concern about taking the Mark of the Beast. Let's clear up some misconceptions once and for all as to what Revelation 13:16-18, says:

To counterfeit the seal of God (Rev. 7:1-8), Satan, through the False Prophet (Rev. 13:12), will introduce the Mark of the Beast. It will be on the forehead or right hand (Rev. 13:16) and will be given to all who subject themselves to the authority of the Antichrist in the latter half of the 7-year Tribulation period. Understand the sequence of events. The church must first be Raptured (1 Thess 4:16-17), and then afterward the nation of Israel will sign a peace treaty with the Anti-Christ. Halfway through the 7-year tribulation period the Anti-Christ breaks the treaty, and the tribulation period of suffering and persecution will begin. So, as a Christian, you need not concern yourself with getting the Mark of the Beast. It will happen in the latter half of the tribulation period, and the church will have already been raptured.

The mark will serve as a passport for business during that time (Rev. 13:17). This has nothing to do with the credit card system as everyone must have a different number in the credit card system. In this case, everyone has the same number of 666. The purpose of the mark will be to serve as a sign of identification of those who will bow to the Antichrist and recognize him as a god.

Those who don't will be killed. The # 666 will be the name of the Antichrist in numeric value (each letter in Hebrew has a numerical value). Impossible to figure out in advance since a lot of calculations can equal 666. There is a lot of speculation concerning what the Mark of the Beast is all about. There is much misinformation concerning this subject as well. These verses give us some of the information we need to understand just what the Mark of the Beast is. We will learn enough to know that no Christian in this room needs to be afraid of the Mark of the Beast. So, let's look at these three verses to see if we can dispel some of the mystery surrounding the Mark of the Beast.

There has been much speculation concerning what the Mark of the Beast might be. Some believe that it might be some sort of a barcode system that is tattooed into the skin. People would then have to scan their code to access their money to buy and sell. Also, scientists have developed tiny microchips the size of grains of rice. These chips can carry all of your medical and financial information and they can be read with a simple scanner. These chips are already being used in pets, and there is talk of placing these microchips in babies to prevent kidnappings and mistakes at the hospitals. It is possible that technology of this nature could be used to fulfill this passage. Of course, technology has advanced to the place where people can be identified instantly by scanning their fingerprints, and the retinas of their eyes. DNA technology is advancing at such a rate that simple genetic testing will soon be possible almost instantly. Who knows what the devil will use? There are certainly enough resources available to him in these days.

As you know, the use of plastic currency, or Bitcoin, electronic currency, is quickly replacing cash as the standard in business transactions. It has been suggested that the Mark of the Beast will actually be a credit system of some sort. This is already being used in many cases for food stamps and other government services. Whether we like it or not, we are headed toward a cashless society. It makes sense. Everywhere you go you need your Social Security number and your driver's license number. Everyone has a number! Computers like numbers better than names, and you can be sure that computers will be involved with whatever system the Antichrist devises. The stage is set and the minds of people are prepared for some system of public identification.

While we cannot know for sure what the Mark of the Beast is, we can learn something about how it will be utilized in that day. We are told that all people of all classes will be required to wear this mark on the bodies (r/hands or foreheads). Everyone, from the most common of men to the most famous of celebrities, will bear this mark in their bodies. It will be a universal mark. There will be no favoritism and no discrimination. Every person from the savage in the darkest jungles of Africa to the executive living in the New York penthouse will receive the Mark of the Beast. The word "mark" comes from a word that means "a stamp, an imprint, something carved". Whatever this mark is, it will reside in the flesh, and it will be permanent. People will not be able to alter it or counterfeit it. It will be placed where it can be easily seen.

The False Prophet is the one who causes the world to worship the Antichrist. He is the one who causes the image of the Antichrist to move and speak. He is the leader of the one world religion that will dominate the world during the Tribulation. He will devise this marking system and he will see that it is carried out.

In the Roman world during John's day, it was custom for Roman for people to worship the emperor. The Roman emperors had declared themselves to be gods and they demanded the worship of their subjects. This emperor worship involved the Roman citizen going into a temple set apart for emperor worship.

The citizen would take a pinch of incense, place it on a flaming altar and say, "*Caesar is god!*" the worshiper would then receive a mark, signifying that he had fulfilled his duty to the emperor. Those who refused would be persecuted/killed. This is exactly what we see in this passage. The world will worship the Antichrist, (Rev. 13:4, 15). When they do, they will receive his mark. It will be a statement of their allegiance to him and to his government. They will be identified as his servants. The mark will be tied to the economy. People will be required to produce the Mark of the Beast in order to be able to buy or sell. This, in itself, will be a great enticement for people to receive the Mark of the Beast. In order to hold a job, to get credit, to access bank accounts, or to do something so mundane as buy a loaf of bread, will require a person to have the Mark of the Beast. What would you do?

This mark will instantly divide the world into two camps. The Mark of the Beast will declare who worships the Antichrist and those who do not. The Antichrist will use the Mark of the Beast to control the world. Everything in the world during the Tribulation will be controlled. Food, housing, medicine and medical care will all be dispensed only to those who have the Mark of the Beast. This mark will give the Antichrist instant power over every person everywhere in the world.

Illus: A man who had lived under Bulgaria's communist regime remarked: "You cannot understand and you cannot know that the most terrible instrument of persecution ever devised is an innocent ration card. You cannot buy and you cannot sell except according to that little, innocent card. If they please, you can be starved to death, and if they please, you can be dispossessed of everything you have; for you cannot trade, and you cannot buy and you cannot sell, without permission."

There will be many who will refuse to accept the Mark of the Beast. The 144,000 Jewish evangelists will not take the mark. Their converts will refuse to take the mark. There will be literally millions of people around the world who will refuse to bow to the Beast or to his image. They will reject the ministry of the False Prophet. These people will suffer greatly for their decision. They will not be able to buy food, clothing or medicine. They will be refused medical treatment. Many, no doubt, will starve to death in order that they might not dishonor the name of the Lord Jesus.

These people will be hunted down and persecuted to the death because of their defiance, (Rev. 13:15; 6:9). These people will pay a terrible price for their faith in Jesus, but they will be rewarded greatly when they leave this world, (Rev. 7:9-17). The world is ramping up its hatred of the Lord Jesus and of those who follow Him. We can expect to see this kind of hatred intensify as we move closer to the end.

We are told that the mark is tied to a number and that this number is tied to the name of the Beast. This has led to some wild speculation over the years. In ancient times, number values were attached to Greek and Hebrew letters. Using what is known as "gematria", which is an ancient form of numerology, a number is assigned to each letter in the alphabet. These numbers are then used to seek hidden meaning in words. The people who believe in such things believe that numerical equivalents in names and words are not coincidental, but providential. The Beast's name, when it is known, will yield the number "666".

People have used this system to propose many different possibilities as to who might be the Antichrist. They have taken the letters in people's name added up the numerical value and declared that this person or that person had to be the Antichrist. They have suggested Adolph Hitler, Napoleon Bonaparte, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. Back in the 1980's some people believed that Gorbachev was the Antichrist because that huge birthmark he had on his head. The fact is. We do not

know who the Antichrist is. We can do all sorts of numerical gymnastics, but we will still be in the dark concerning his identity. But, when he appears, the people living in that day will have all the information they will need to be able to identify the Antichrist.

We are told that the Beast's number is "the number of a man". His number is "666". Six in the Bible is the number of man. Man was created on the sixth day. This number is just short of the number of completion or perfection, the number 7. The number six is seen several times in the Bible. When it is in view, it always comes up short. The Antichrist will be the pinnacle of human achievement. He will be the brightest, most powerful human the world has ever seen, outside of the Lord Jesus Christ. He will be a remarkable man, but he will still fall short of completion and perfection. His number declares his deficiency. Man is represented by the number six. God is represented by the number seven. Seven speaks of completion and perfection. God is perfect and complete. Whether you are speaking of the Father, the Son or the Holy Spirit. He is a "777". Satan and his unholy trinity can never compete with God. They will give it their best, but they will still be just "666". They will never be complete and perfect. Either way, this number will declare his name and his nature. When he comes, the people of God will be able to identify him and thus refuse his mark.

Satan always marks his people. He marks their bodies, their souls and their minds. On the other hand, God seals, 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13; 4:30; Rev. 7:2-8. Satan marks those who give themselves to him. God seals those who come to Him through Jesus. He seals them for Himself, and He seals them for all eternity!

There are some terrible days coming on this earth! Satan is going to have free reign down here for several years and billions will be brought under his grip for time and eternity.

Every one of these people who take the Mark of the Beast are destined for eternity in Hell, (Rev. 14:9-12). They sacrifice eternal comfort for temporary comfort. They cannot take the Mark of the Beast, worship Satan and then be saved. If they bow to him, they are lost and not Christians. If you are left here after the Rapture and you survive the wars, the famines, the death and disease, you will take the Mark of the Beast and you will go to Hell. It does not have to be that way! You can have a name, or you can have a number. If you have a name, you will have a place in Heaven when you leave this world. If you receive a number, you will go to Hell forever. Which do you want today?