

Don't Take the Mark of the Beast

We will explain who will attempt to impose the Mark, what the Mark of the Beast is, when it will be mandated by law (on pain of death), and what the spiritual and eternal consequences are for those who take the Mark.

Before we start at the beginning, let's jump to the end of the story because it is critically important – those who take the Mark of the Beast are doomed to hell. Read that again.

Those who take the Mark cannot change their mind later. They will be eternally irredeemable, forever separated from God. Because of their choice to accept the Mark and worship the Antichrist leader, they will be condemned to eternal torment. At all costs, do not accept the Mark of the Beast.

Now let me jump back to the beginning of this story. The 7-year Tribulation detailed in Revelation chapters 6-19 does not begin with war, famine, or the Rapture. According to Daniel, the 7-year Tribulation starts when Israel signs or seals a peace covenant with the nations that have long sought her destruction. That remarkable Peace Agreement starts the prophetic clock and 7-year countdown.

A new charismatic leader will rocket to power, largely gaining his reputation by brokering this Peace Agreement. He will appear to the world to be the most outstanding leader the world has ever known—a politician extraordinaire. He will present a host of solutions to global problems gaining control of world economies, governments, and militaries.

In time, this man will be revealed as the Antichrist. He is described as a leader of kings and the “little horn” in Daniel chapters 7 and 8. John calls him the Beast in Revelation chapters 10, 13, and 17. He will give himself an impressive title. It won't be ‘antichrist,’ but know that's who he truly is.

As the Tribulation unfolds, the Antichrist will become increasingly powerful. There will be global calamities such as earthquakes, pestilence, famine, war, and massive population deaths. Amid all this, people will curse God and offer little resistance to Antichrist's demand for control and allegiance.

Three and a half years into the 7-year Tribulation, Antichrist will control the global economy, establish a new one-world religion, and be the Commander and Chief of most of the world's military assets. His worldwide influence and power will be unprecedented.

The midpoint of the Tribulation seems to be a significant prophetic marker. Daniel, Jesus, and John all note this. By the midpoint of the 7-year Tribulation, construction of the new Temple will be finished on the Temple Mount, near the Dome of the Rock, where the Al-Aqsa Mosque is today.

Revelation 12 and 14 note that the Antichrist, whom Daniel and Jesus refer to as the *Abomination of Desolation*, will enter the Temple and proclaim to be God. At about the same time, his #2 man, whom the book of Revelation refers to as the "False Prophet," will show up (Revelation 13:11-13).

This False Prophet attempts to force all of humanity to receive a 'mark' on their hand or forehead and worship the Beast. The mark is a sign of allegiance to the Antichrist, and without the mark, you will not be able to work or transact business. It will also probably control how you receive basic government-controlled services. The mark is an outward symbol, but it is the decision to worship him as God that condemns a person to eternal separation from God.

Revelation 13 notes that the number of the Beast is 666. In Hebrew culture, the number 6 represents imperfection. To restate something three times indicates the ultimate declaration, which is why the Bible records that God is "Holy, Holy, Holy." The number 666 can be a literal number the Antichrist will bear. Still, because he will be the ultimate opposite of a perfect God, it can also symbolically indicate he believes he is absolute perfection.

This Mark may be a symbol, number, picture, tattoo, barcode, or embedded micro-technology. It could be something no one has yet imagined. It will allow a centralized government to track human movement and control the population's activity everywhere, all the time.

Officials will probably state that the order to take the Mark is simply a measure to increase security and ensure public safety. They will present this new mandate as good and necessary. It could be associated with a global emergency, as the cure for some disease, or the way to avoid it ever happening again. It's impossible to know on this side of the Tribulation.

The slick marketing blitz that will surely accompany this initiative will not mention or emphasize one crucial fact: swearing allegiance and worship to Antichrist really means eternal death. Revelation 14:9-12 states:

"If anyone worships the Beast (that is, the Antichrist)...and receives his Mark...he shall drink...of the wrath of God...He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone...and have no rest..."

According to Scripture, the Mark of the Beast is the law. It may control all medical services. It will seem like it protects family and personal safety. It may sound like it truly is "for the betterment of all humanity," but it is for their destruction. You may fear for your life or the welfare of your family. You will be threatened with capital punishment if you refuse, but never forget, the penalty for taking the Mark of the Beast is eternity in hell.

DON'T TAKE THE MARK

Those who live during this time will be continually pressured to submit to the new law. Nevertheless, at all costs, do not take the Mark. You should network with strong believers, stockpile food, medical, and emergency supplies, and help each other as believers did in the First-century Church in the book of Acts.

Unprecedented trials are coming to the world. More than a billion people will die before the Mark of the Beast program unfolds. Millions will be executed, dying as martyrs for refusing to take the Mark and worship the Beast. Because he rules the world, the Antichrist will persecute Christians around the globe.

Perhaps this will be one of the Church's finest moments. Those who stand strong and remain faithful to the Lord will inspire the timid and frightened. Your testimony and witness could draw many to faith. Indeed, for some, the way they die may attract more to Christ than how they lived. Throughout history, God has used martyrs to grow the Church. When people see that someone is willing to die for what they believe, they want that same belief.

I empathize and am praying for those who live during these dark days, but what an opportunity to shine bright for the Lord! I do not enjoy sharing somber information, but I would not be a true brother in the Lord if I did not let you know what is coming. You can do some things to prepare. We included many ideas on what to save and sell, how to stay safe, what to stockpile, and how to network together. You can find all those ideas and recommendations in the Rapture Kit in Section 02 – Firsts Things First in a document entitled "Rapture Kit Binder.pdf". Also, in Section 06 – What Tribulation Saints Need to Know there is an entire 5.5 hours of teachings to help you.

The bottom line is, don't take the Mark. Commit yourself now to live well and die well. Remember the words of the Apostle Paul, "To die is gain" (Philippians 1:21).

What is the Second Death?

Our friends at Got Questions wrote this excellent article:

"The second death is mentioned on multiple occasions in the book of Revelation and is synonymous with the lake of fire. It is a "death" in that it is a separation from God, the Giver of life. It is called the "second" one because it follows physical death.

Revelation 21:8 explains the second death in the most detail: "The cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars – their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

Three other places in Revelation also mention the second death. The first is Revelation 2:11: "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death." In this verse, Jesus promises that believers ("overcomers"; see 1 John 5:4) will not experience the lake of fire. The second death is exclusively for those who have rejected Christ. It is not a place believers in Christ should fear.

Revelation 20:6 speaks of the second death in relation to a future period called the Millennium: "Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years." This verse notes three important facts. First, those who die for their faith in Jesus during the Tribulation will later be resurrected to enter the Millennium and live with Him. Second, these martyrs will escape the lake of fire or second death. Third, they will reign with Christ.

The second death is also mentioned in Revelation 20:14-15: "Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." At the end of time, even death and the grave (Hades) will be thrown into the lake of fire. In addition, every person not included in the book of life will be thrown into the lake of fire. This condition will be final; the destination is permanent.

In summary, the second death is a reference to the lake of fire where those who are separated from God by their sin will dwell for eternity. This judgment was recorded in Scripture as a warning to unbelievers to seek the salvation that Jesus Christ provides. The coming judgment should also challenge believers to share their faith. There is a vast difference between the final destination of those who know Christ and those who do not."