

INTRODUCTION

1. Ruled by tyrant who demands to be worshiped - or die: [Rv 13:11-15](#)
 - i. Nebuchadnezzar - fiery furnace [Dan 3]. The tyrants of 20th century.
 - ii. W/ threat of death, Xns are tested - [12:11,17, 13:10](#) [ESV]

1st: The Mark of the Beast - v16-17

1. Powers & principalities: 1] *authority* - Bst's, 7x; 2] *power* - [13:2](#) -> 3] [13:16](#) *causes* - produce an effect
 - i. [12:15](#) be swept away; [13:15](#) be put to death; [13:16](#) to be given the mark
 - ii. True *authority & power*: enthroned Christ - [12:10](#)
2. *all* - global: [merism] - *small & great; rich & poor; free & slaves*
3. Is this a literal, physical mark or a symbol that represents how people [*forehead*] & behave [*hand*]? Symbolic
 - i. [7:3; 9:4](#) 144K sealed, marked on forehead.
 - ii. [13:17](#) *the name or the # of the Bst*: submission, service/worship, honor
 - iii. A parody of people of the Lamb: [14:1](#)
4. If the mark is symbolic, is ability to buy & sell symbolic too? What transpires in the transcendent immaterial realm affects the empirical material realm.
5. *mark* -> "character"; defining trait: official authority or ownership, permitting participation in commerce [Rv 13:16-17]. 3 Maccabees 2:27ff
 - i. [Rv 13:10](#) *Here is perseverance & faith* : in economic injustice
 - ii. Rv 2:9; 6:5-6. Present-day Islamic & Hindu cultures
6. Some pt to OT; physical markers = reminders of Exodus & OCov Law. [Ex 13](#) [v8-9], [v16](#) [Deut 6:4-9; 11:18-19] Phylactery
7. If Rm society used physical markers, shld we expect physical mark/mechanism: imbedded chip displace credit card [www.bbc.com/news/business-61008730]. Chinese "credit system"; WORLD - 9.9.23 - scan palm to pay for groceries.
8. What is NCov equivalent of phylactery? Signifies total devotion to Lord & His Word. [Isa 44:5](#) - allusions to Rev in Isa 44 reject idols

9. A symbol of how one thinks & acts determined by the name that defines him. Jn sees a mark in his vision; we see a life lived evidencing the deity worshiped.
 - i. Are Xns marked? [Eph 1:13-14](#) Holy Spirit - commerce of the gospel
 - ii. What about business in Babylon? Not participate due to principled conviction & social prohibition.
- 10.2 Bsts regulate all in Bab's cultural institutions - authorities: mandated idolatry

2nd: The Number of the Beast - v17

1. *Here is* - lesson to learn: [13:10](#); [14:12](#); [17:9](#) *wisdom* - what is wisdom?
2. Gematria: turn #s into letters to discover a hidden message: 666 becomes letters divulging the name of the AntiX. Problems w/ that interpretation.
 - i. Gematria not used for 7, 10, 42, 1,260, 144K - just 666
 - ii. Popular - Nero: but manipulated & not suggested until 1830s.
 - iii. Wm Hendriksen [151] "The attempts to arrive at an interp by adding the numerical values of the name Nero, Plato & so on, lead to nothing - b/c they lead to everything. Rev is a book of symbols, not a book of riddles!"
3. How to *calculate* the #? True wisdom - [Rv 5:12](#) [1C1:30]. [1C 1:18-21](#) Seek wisdom, not cleverness - wisdom of the gospel: [Col 3:1-4].
4. What is the #!?! A parody of Trinity: # of man's attempt to be God, believing in Dragon's lies & demonically energized. The symbol of the utter failure of man to be divine. Dragons' failures in Rv 12. Dragon's fakes in Rv 13.
5. We need to be really smart to figure this out, right? No, we need wisdom.
 - i. *Here is wisdom: a life lived by power of HS, in loving obedience to Jesus Christ according to the Word of God: a life of worship - sealed by HS who marks the way we think & behave - for the glory of the name: Jesus Christ: the name that is above every name named in this age & one to come.*