

BIBLE PROPHECY

666 and the Mark of the Beast

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Revelation 13:16-18 says, "And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand, or on their forehead, and he provides that no one should be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, the name of the beast or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six."

Three things are mentioned in this passage:

1. The mark of the beast
2. The name of the beast
3. The number of his name

The Mark of the Beast is not 666 but a mark that everyone must have to buy or sell. What kind of mark it will be is not stated. It may be an emblem of his kingdom or some kind of computer chip or code.

666 is the number of the Beast's name. The number of the beast is the number of a man. That means that the beast is not a political system, a country, a computer, etc., but **a man**—the Antichrist.

This verse informs us that the Antichrist will control the world's economy with some kind of mark or symbol, which everyone will be required to take. No one will be able to buy or sell without having the mark on his or her right hand or forehead. Apparently the mark will be stamped or inserted on everyone's right hand, but if the person is missing that hand it will be put on the forehead. Whoever receives the mark is worshipping the Antichrist and will be cast into hell (Rev. 14:9-11). (The mark is not credit cards, in case you are wondering.)

The numerical value of the Antichrist's name can be calculated to be 666. This probably means the letters of his name, which have a numerical value, can be added up to the sum of 666. Many people over the years have tried to tie the number 666 to Nero, Mussolini, Hitler, Stalin, Kissinger, and others—and they've all been wrong. Second Thessalonians 2:6 says the Antichrist "will be revealed in his time" so all attempts to figure out who his is are futile until then. He has not come to power yet, but when he does it won't be hard to figure out who he is. He will confirm a covenant with Israel for 7 years (Dan. 9:27) and will attempt to make alterations in time and in law (Dan. 7:25)

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