

Just a quick reminder. In conjunction with this study, I have published a book entitled “**Liberating the Book of Revelation, Returning to the Source of the Message.**” This book gives a great introduction to the **Code**, and it conveys the entire book of **Revelation** utilizing the actual verb tenses, voices, moods, case, and so on.

**Liberating the Book of Revelation** is intended to help us all know what the Spirit said and how He said it. This book is focused not so much on interpreting the book of **Revelation**, that is what this podcast is for, but it is about accurately representing the book of **Revelation** in the manner in which the Spirit originally spoke it to John.

In addition, I received the help of an amazing artist, Howard David Johnson who allowed me to use his illustrations on the book of **Revelation**. I encourage you to go to amazon.com and you can find the book either under the title “**Liberating the Book of Revelation, Returning to the Source of the Message**” or by my name as the author: **Stephen Villanueva**. It is available in hardback, paperback, and e-book format. I am also currently working on the audible version. So more to come.

## EP115 Revelation 13 verses 16-18

In our last podcast we addressed the scary reality that the second beast, the False Prophet, has been responsible for an image of the Beast being created and standing where it ought not to be, in and amongst the holy ones of God. The Beast has been very busy throughout the centuries and his image has been speaking distortions of the Word of God, perversions of grace.

This image is very careful to bring forth truth, as much of it as we need, but this image always, always, always finds a way to add some measure of the “**work of our hands**,” some measure of what we must do for God, some measure of law by which we can determine if we, or others, are being “good” Christians, good witnesses for God.

Some of us can now see this image and hear its voice, and the issue we addressed was whether or not we are ready to flee to the mountains – to return to our rock of truth and reject the lies which have perverted the grace of God. Truth be told, we have all been infected by the words of this image, but God wants to free us from these lies and perversions of grace.

In that regard, it is one thing to say that we need to take **Step-2** and make that choice to become that little child dependent upon God for all things all the time, and for us to actually ask God to bring this reality to bear in our lives. If we are *willing* to ask, God will hear our desire, and His response will be, “Ok, let’s get you there.” And then the journey to be found “*in Christ*” begins.

It will take a lot to purge from our minds, our hearts, our soul, and even our bodies, of the lie-based idolatry rooted in the law that has infused itself into our beings. But this is the escape plan, this is how we run to the mountains, we run to our immovable rock on fall on Him. Yes, through this journey we will be shattered, for all those who fall on the rock will be broken to pieces, but He promises that we will not be crushed and scattered like dust, which is the fate of those upon whom our immovable rock falls.<sup>1</sup>

Let’s be those who flee to our mountain, and not wait for our mighty rock to fall upon us. The image, the lies, the perversions of grace, are all part of the system of the Beast that is marked by His name or the

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<sup>1</sup> **Matthew 21:44**

number of His name. And the second beast is like a master puppeteer, pulling the strings of all those in the household of God who do not see the image, but follow the words and edicts of the image as it speaks, in Jesus' name, and even now declares that he is the Messiah – he is God.

With that, let's pick up in **Revelation 13:16-18** and start our journey of exploring one of the most fascinating topics in the book of **Revelation**. This text has probably received the most fan fare not just in Christianity, but in the world at large.

### ***The Mark of the Beast: His Name or the Number of His Name***

#### **Fiction Alert x3**

**FICTION ALERT**

**FICTION ALERT**

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#### ***Revelation 13:16-18***

And he **now** causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bondslaves, to possibly be given their mark on their right hand or on their forehead, and that no one might **now** be caused to buy or to sell, except the one who is **now** having the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.

Here **now** is wisdom. He who is **now** having understanding has been commanded to calculate the number of the beast, for the number **now** is that of a man; and his number, six hundred and sixty-six.

This passage deserves a **triple Fiction Alert** (one for each "6") because this passage has surrounding it as much, if not more, folk lore and imagination as any of the other passages in **Revelation**. We have all heard the teachings or seen the movies where people are marked or implanted with an electronic device that signifies that they belong to the Beast. In fact, the Christian community gets all up-in-arms every time an article is published explaining how another company has come up with a new human implantable microchip used for medical, security, identity, or location purposes. Our imaginations go wild, and we are sure that these companies must be fronts for the Beast, that the names of the companies or their CEO must somehow equal 666, and that we need to run for the hills (wearing white robes, of course).

#### **It is Happening Now!**

We are still addressing the activity of the second beast. In the same way the **Code** revealed that the second beast is even **now** deceiving those who have made their permanent abode in this earth, he is **NOW** causing people to be marked, and that is a statement of fact, as "causes" is rendered in the *present active indicative*.

**YES, IT IS HAPPENING NOW!**

This is a mind-blowing revelation. The second beast is not yet “causing” people to worship the Beast, but he is “**now causing**” them to be marked with his name or the number of his name. Every moment of **now**, in each generation, the second beast has been causing people to be marked.

This is what we would call a “game changer” in terms of the *Revelation* narrative and the level of deception that has been released into the marketplace of **End Times** fiction. This is as shocking as the revelation of the measurement of the Sanctuary, or the image of the Beast now being where it ought not to be speaking words of deceit to those in the Sanctuary of God, declaring that the Beast is God.

**THESE ARE ALL GROUND SHAKING, EARTHQUAKE LEVEL DISRUPTIONS  
TO THE STANDARD END TIMES NARRATIVE.**

However, since the Beast, working from within the heart of Christianity, ensures that people do not hear the text as the Holy Spirit spoke it, these *present* tense realities are lost to the many—to the professionals and lay people alike. It is tragic and the consequences are potentially devastating for those who are unaware of this reality.

**A Spiritual Mark**

Being a created being, Satan cannot create anything new, he can only mimic and use what God has already done. He is a poser because he likes to convince people that like God, he too has creative powers. The truth is that he only has the power to manipulate what God has created. This principle applies equally to Satan’s entourage, including the Beast and the second beast. In that light, the **Codex** sets forth the precedent which this unholy trinity now mimics.

The first mention of being marked on the forehead and the hand comes from Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. **Yahweh** speaks of this feast in a pictorial way:

**Exodus 13:8-9**

You shall tell your son on that day [the day of the feast], saying, 'It is because of what **Yahweh** did for me when I came out of Egypt.' "And it shall serve as a sign to you on your **hand**, and as a reminder on your **forehead**, that the law of **Yahweh** may be in your mouth; for with a powerful hand **Yahweh** brought you out of Egypt.

Clearly the sign on the hand and forehead are presented here as a spiritual symbol in connection with the Israelites requirement to not just keep the feast, but in so doing to **proclaim** the purpose of the feast: to remember “*what **Yahweh** did for me when I came out of Egypt.*” It was not an actual mark, but a spiritual mark or a way to speak about personally identifying with the Exodus narrative, even if a person was generations removed from that event. It was a proclamation that echoed through the unseen realms. “It is because of what **Yahweh** did for me when I came out of Egypt.”

Similarly, **Yahweh** gave to us the greatest of all commandments and spoke of them as being a sign on the hand and forehead.

#### ***Deuteronomy 6:4-9***

Hear, O Israel! **Yahweh** is our God, **Yahweh** is one! You shall love **Yahweh** your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your **hand** and they shall be as frontals on your **forehead**.

In like manner, before God brought judgment on Jerusalem, He showed the prophet Ezekiel a vision of what was going on in the unseen realm where He commanded an angel to mark those whose hearts were not hardened to evil and darkness.

#### ***Ezekiel 9:3-6***

Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub on which it rested to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed in linen, who had the writing case at his waist. And **Yahweh** said to him, "Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the **foreheads** of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it." And to the others he said in my hearing, "Pass through the city after him, and strike. Your eye shall not spare, and you shall show no pity. Kill old men outright, young men and maidens, little children and women, but touch no one on whom is the mark. And begin at my sanctuary."

According to the **Codex**, the mark on one's hand and the forehead are spiritual marks, and they depict a person's devotion and commitment to love **Yahweh** with one's entire heart, mind, soul, and strength. They are not physical marks; however, we can be sure that these marks can be clearly seen by those in the spiritual realms.

In fact, before the seventh Seal is opened and the first Trumpet is blown, God commands an angel to place the seal of God on the **foreheads** of His servants, the 144,000, a mark which contains the name of both the Father and the Son.<sup>2</sup> This mark serves as an indelible proclamation to the unseen spiritual powers and forces that those marked are the children of God and that they are set apart, under **Yahweh Sabaoth's** umbrella of supernatural protection. Basically, He is saying, "**MINE**. Hands off until I say so."

For centuries, the religious world has mirrored God's methodology. For example, on Ash Wednesday, Catholics put a mark on the forehead indicating mourning and penitence. In Hinduism, the forehead markings are a proclamation that one is Hindu, as well as the sect or school of Hindu theology that a person comes from. In Islam, forehead markings are a symbol that one belongs to Allah and is seeking blessing from Allah. In Judaism, when they are in the synagogue, religious Jews wear phylacteries (or

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<sup>2</sup> ***Revelation 7:1-8; 14:1***

leather boxes) on their foreheads containing sacred writings of the Torah.

And lifting from these examples in the **Codex**, the second beast **now** causes **all** the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bondslaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead.

As we discussed in connection with the events detailed in **Revelation 7**, according to the **Code**, the **forehead** is a place of religious proclamation, but the **right hand** is a symbol of power and strength. Thus, the marking on the right hand gives us an image of those who are not just willing to join the Beast to ensure they prosper and survive, but they will use their power and might to support his cultic religion.

In other words, those who are marked on their right hand are those who give their power and strength to the Beast. We read about these people in the **Codex**. *"A brother will betray his brother to death, a father will betray his own child, and children will rebel against their parents **and cause them to be killed.**"*<sup>3</sup> These are those who make true believers' outcasts in their synagogues and churches, for this is the hour Jesus spoke about where those who kill the people of God think they are offering service to God.<sup>4</sup>

### All Is, Well, Possibly All

*"And he **now** causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bondslaves, to **possibly be given** their mark on their right hand or on their forehead."*

In line with the previous passages that were marked by a "**may**" or a "**might**" so too is "**given**" rendered in the *subjunctive* mood. What this means is that the second beast cannot force anyone to receive the mark, there are and always have been holdouts. Whew, thank God for that. The second beast can simply cause all to **possibly be given** their mark.

### It is Very Personal!

Moreover, it is all very personal. The Greek does not render it as "**a**" mark (as most translations do); rather, the Greek utilizes a third person pronoun, thus, it should be translated as "**their**" mark. *"And he now causes all...to possibly be given **their** mark..."* It's as if the second beast, in every generation of **now**, has everyone on earth targeted on his list (much like Santa has his list) and he **now** has "**their**" mark ready for them if they will only receive it.

But not everyone will receive it. In line with "**given**" being in the *subjunctive*, we have learned that the 144,000 (the two witnesses), the Elect of Israel, the Righteous, Edom, Moab, and the chiefs of the sons of Ammon (collectively modern-day Jordan), will refuse the mark and be rescued from his hand.<sup>5</sup>

But make no mistake, this issue of the mark is so personal that the Spirit declares,

#### **Revelation 14:9-11**

If anyone **now** worships the beast and his image, and **now** receives a mark on his forehead or on his

<sup>3</sup> **Matthew 10:21**

<sup>4</sup> See **John 16:1-4**

<sup>5</sup> See **Daniel 11:41**

hand, he also will in the **future** choose to drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which has been caused to being poured out in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will in the **future** be caused to be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. "And the smoke of their torment **now** goes up forever and ever; they **now** have no rest day and night, those who are **now** worshipping the beast and his image, and whoever **now** receives the mark of his name.

It should shock us to see what is rendered in the *present* tense and what is rendered in the **future** tense. Only the wrath of God and the eternal torment are **future** events, the rest is about our now; it is all happening now. But the key takeaway is that when it comes to the spiritual realms, everything all the time is very personal. The enemy wants you. And the enemy has your mark.

## A Hidden Clue: No Discrimination

The second beast also does not discriminate; he wants everyone. *"And he **now causes all** the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bondslaves, to possibly receive their mark."*

There is no social or economic class of people that are not targeted to be marked. The Beast will find its followers from everywhere and no person, for instance, regardless of how wealthy they are, will be able to buy themselves out of participation. Similarly, no one, regardless of how poor they are, will be excused from participation in this evil system. Rich, poor, free or slave, all segments of society will join in the Beast's apostasy.

### *The Hidden Clue*

Did you notice that the Spirit purposefully avoided talking about all those from every nation and tribe, and peoples and tongues? He AVOIDED all together the issue of race and national origin. He also AVOIDED addressing their religious beliefs. Sometimes we can learn as much by what has been left out as we can from what has been included.

The hidden clue is that this **mark** is connected to a system that is rooted in the economies of the world, and this system reaches everyone, whether they have vast amounts of resources or very little, whether they are the employer or the employee.

## Buy or Sell

*"... and that no one **might now** be caused {or might be able} to buy or to sell, except the one who is **now** having the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name."*

Once again, what is most notable is that this is a **now** event, and it is not something that is reserved for the future, for the days of the Tribulation. **It is happening now! There are those who now have the mark and those who do not.** And the second beast now tries to limit participation in the marketplace of this world exclusively to those who now have the mark.

However, "**might**" is a glorious *subjunctive* (rendered in the *present passive subjunctive*) once again indicating that the second beast does not have dictatorial authority to force people to do its will. He desires to limit the participation in the economies of the world to those who are now having the mark,

but he simply cannot get past the divine “*subjunctive*” that stands in the way. God always provides a way for His children.

To buy or sell, one must have assets to make the exchange, even if their only asset is their labor or their body. And in some way-shape-or-form, the second beast has wrapped his gnarly fingers around the economies of the world such that those who are marked have the freedom to trade. The implication is that those who are not marked will likely struggle. Although God has made a way for those who are not marked to still make transactions (to buy or sell), they will by nature of the second beast’s efforts find great resistance.

This raises some interesting issues when it comes to the realm of the religion of Christianity, and all that we have learned about what is truly happening within the center of the religion. For many of us in the western nations, we have believed that being financially prosperous and successful is a “blessing” that flows from the hands of the Almighty. Many even admire those ministries and ministers with many assets and abundant wealth. But is the “blessing” from the hands of God, or from the hands of the second beast? Are those who relish and display their wealth marked?

The **Codex** tells us that there are men of perverse minds who are deprived of the truth who suppose that holiness is a means of great gain.<sup>6</sup> In other words, they use religion to get wealthy. Thus, it is likely that some of the abundance we see within Christianity is due to the person or persons having been marked. Something to think about for sure.

#### *Folklore Hysteria*

Let’s be clear, we are **NOT** waiting for some global system of implantable chips or some other marking system, though that may still happen.

### **THE SCARY TRUTH IS THAT, EVEN TODAY, YES EVEN NOW, PEOPLE ARE MARKED WITH THE MARK OF THE BEAST OR THE NUMBER OF HIS NAME.**

Folk lore (**fiction**) has told us that in the future no one will be able to conduct any kind of commerce unless they are physically marked with either the name of the Beast or the number of his name. Hence, the hysteria in Christian circles surrounding electronic implantation devices, as well as other means of electronic payment.

For instance, some people have even suggested that MasterCard and Visa are tools of the Beast believing their names equal **666**. The calculations are crazy. When you assign numbers to letters, the number of MasterCard = 612. However, since 12 is the sum of 6+6 they arrive at **666**. And as for Visa, VI is the number 6 in Roman numerals, “S” is the stigma in Greek, which they say has a value of 6 (which is wrong), and lastly “A” in the Babylonian system is 6. Therefore, if you mix the Roman, Greek, and Babylonian systems you can arrive at Visa = 666. It is all ludicrous and these fabrications are not supported by the text. It is the imagination gone wild resulting in fiction after fiction after fiction.

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<sup>6</sup> See **1 Timothy 6:3-10**

## His Name or the Number of His Name

The mark is very specific. It is either the name of the Beast or the number of his name.

### *The Name of the Beast*

We have already been given the name of the Beast, both in Hebrew and in Greek. This is the same Beast that was let loose out of the Abyss with his army of locust-like demons with scorpion tails. In **Revelation 9:11**, he is identified as a king, and as the angel of the Abyss. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, meaning "Destruction," and his name in Greek is Apollyon, meaning "Destroyer." By his name alone, and by the fact that the Spirit calls him the "Beast," we know a lot about this demonic spirit. He is monstrous (a beast) and he is bent on destruction, willing to destroy all that stands in his way.

### *The Number of His Name*

We are given the number of the beast "666" and we will dive into what number means. But just to satisfy the curiosity of those who love to do "666" calculations, we will do a similar calculation on his name, in both Hebrew and Greek, since we are given this reference to "the number of his name."

#### Abaddon

In Hebrew, each letter corresponds to a specific numerical value, this is called the Hebrew gematria system. The numerical calculation for the Hebrew word "Abaddon" (aleph, bet, dalet, vav, final nun) is:

Aleph =1

Bet =2

Dalet =4

Vav = 6

Final Nun = 50

Adding up the numerical values we get:  $1 + 2 + 4 + 6 + 50 = 63$ . Therefore, the numerical value of the name "Abaddon" = 63 and not 666.

#### Apollyon

The Greek also has a gematria where letters have a numerical value. In the Greek gematria, the calculation for the Greek word "Apollyon" is as follows:

Alpha =1

Pi = 80

Omicron = 70

Lambda =30

Lambda = 30

Upsilon = 400

Omega = 800

Nu = 50



Adding up the numerical values we get:  $1 + 80 + 70 + 30 + 30 + 400 + 800 + 50 = 1,461$ . Therefore, the numerical value of the name “Apollyon” = 1,461 and not **666**.

Therefore, we know that calculating the number of the name of the Beast must have a meaning outside of our typical knee-jerk reaction to do “**666**” calculations. But more on that in a bit.

## A Summary: What Does It All Mean?

Let’s summarize by asking a question. Since people are now being marked, what then does it mean, practically, that people might not **NOW buy or sell** unless they are **NOW** bearing the mark of the Beast?

1. We can conclude that the mark of the Beast is a spiritual mark, just like the mark of God which was given to the 144,000—the bondservants of God.
2. The second beast is the active force; he is the one causing people to be given *their* mark.
3. The second beast, however, cannot mark everyone, for he is limited by God’s sovereign “*subjunctive*.” The second beast only “*might*” cause people to receive *their* mark.
4. To “*buy or sell*” are straight translations from the Greek, and there is nothing in the **Code** to indicate that it is a metaphor. It speaks simply of a transaction of exchange.
5. The various markets—the economies of the world—are ruled by those in the unseen realms, by the infamous “kings of the earth” who rule the territories of man.
6. There is a requirement of allegiance in one-way-shape-or-form that must be given to the Beast for successful participation in those markets. Those who are given over to the Beast and who in the **future** will be willing to worship him, to bear his mark, on their forehead or their right hand get priority access, preference, and protection in this system.
7. The Spirit does not indicate that people are even aware that they have received “*their*” mark or have vowed allegiance to the Beast. People are not standing in government or “antichrist” lines to receive their mark, as if it was a vaccination.
8. The mark is a supernatural mark which is given to those who have already submitted to the system that is ruled by the kingdom of the Beast, and it is an indelible mark, for it cannot be removed. It is plainly visible to all those in the unseen realms.
9. Some people are so hard-core about participation in the world’s economies, and all the politics that support the markets, that they are not just participants (those who are marked on their forehead), but they are devotees and enforcers of the system (those who are marked on their right hand).
10. The mark is either the name of the Beast (Destruction or the Destroyer) or it is the number of His name, **666**, a calculation that is **NOT** based on either the Hebrew or the Greek gematria.

Our understanding of this will become clearer when we study the actual mark, the number of his name – **666**. But, by way of a mini-tease, the meaning of the number helps us understand that there is a demonic entanglement with the political, religious, and financial aspects of the economies of the world.

The impact of this truth seems to indicate that many of those who are successful in these realms (politics, religion, and finance) are successful because, whether they know it or not, they have likely been

marked and they bear the mark as their demonic currency, providing both access and participation in this demonic system.

Given the fact, however, that not everyone is marked, there are those who succeed in the markets of the world because of God's appointment and His provision for their lives. As the Almighty, expressed in all those divine "*subjunctives*" which limit the activity of the Beast and the second beast, God trumps their efforts whenever He wants through whomever He wants.

### ***Psalm 135:5-6***

For I know that **Yahweh** is great and that our Lord ("*Adonai*") is above all gods. Whatever **Yahweh** pleases, He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.

## ***The Number of His Name***

### ***Revelation 13:18***

Here **now** is wisdom. He who is **now** having understanding has been commanded to calculate the number of the beast, for the number **now** is that of a man; and his number, six hundred and sixty-six.

## **Here Now Is Wisdom**

We are already given the number of the Beast, **666**, so what is there to calculate? We are also told that the number is that of a man, and we know that according to the **Code**, the number 6 is the number of man (or mankind). In addition, the Spirit gives a *command* to calculate ("*calculate*" is rendered as an *imperative*), but He also limits this command to only those who are now having understanding. Apparently, He does not intend that everyone calculate the number. Then He prefaces it all with "*Here now is wisdom.*"

The Spirit uses this type of language only one other time, and that is in an equally challenging passage in which it seems that most people miss its meaning and fail to understand what the Spirit is communicating. In **Revelation 17:9**, the Spirit explains the meaning of the seven heads of the Beast (the seven heads which were given to the Beast by the dragon), and He prefaces it with the statement, "*Here now is the mind that is now having wisdom.*"

### **So, what does it mean to have wisdom?**

Let's stop here, and we will pick up in our next podcast as we venture to understand the mysterious number that is probably the most famous number in all of history: **666**, the number of the name of the Beast.

I am glad you "tuned in" and have been "ready to listen."