We are back with another podcast of **Kick Butt Answers to Listener Questions**. Last week, we talked about the terrifying parable of the ten-virgins. It is such an important parable that when understood, it shakes the world of the religion of Christianity. Things are not as we have thought or been taught they were.

And remember, you can download the text of all these podcasts in the form of a PDF. Just go to www.threshermediagroup.com. Each podcast has a transcript of the text with all the scripture references footnoted for your personal study, giving you the opportunity to not just take my word for it, but to do your own study to see if the scriptures support what I have said.

In this week's episode, I was asked to explain the mysterious mark of the Beast, **666**. This should be fun, as there is, and has been, fiction after fiction after fiction told about this number.

Our primary text for this comes straight from the book of ***Revelation***.

Revelation 13:16-17

> 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 possibly **now** choose/**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 has surrounding it as much, if not more, folk lore and imagination as any of the other passages in ***Revelation***. It is likely that 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 world of Christianity 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!

In the prior verses, in ***Revelation 13:11-15***, we are introduced to a being that is referred to as the False Prophet, which the text in ***Revelation*** refers to as "another beast" or the "second beast."[1] This second beast is similar in nature to the first Beast of ***Revelation***, which means he is not human, but a spiritual being, perhaps some sort of angelic entity. The scriptures never tell us, and it most certainly does not ever imply, that this second beast ever possesses a man.

John saw this second beast "***now*** *coming up out of the earth*," which is rendered *present active participle*, which is why we know this cannot be a reference to a man, because every moment of "**now**" since the time of this vision up through today and continuing into the **now** of the future, this second beast

[1] For references to the "False Prophet" *see* ***Revelation 16:13, 19:20; 20:10***

is arising from the earth to fulfill his mission.

This is the "he" in our text. "*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 possibly **now** choose/**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*."

Because this is rendered in the *present* tense, something that is happening in our now, this implies that we need to look at the acts of the second beast through the lens of the spiritual realm and its subsequent impact on the physical realm. Arising out of the earth implies that in each generation it arises from the earthly institutions that impact mankind.

He **now** causes 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 NOT A FUTURE EVENT!

This is a mind-blowing revelation. The second beast 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.

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 professionals and lay people alike. It is tragic and a deception that has devastating consequences.

A Spiritual Mark

Being created beings, Satan, the Beast, and this second beast, cannot create anything new, they can only mimic and use what God has already done. But they like to convince people that like God, they too have creative powers, even though they are just posers. The truth is that they only have the power to manipulate what God has created.

With that said, the scriptures reveal the precedent of people being marked, which God first established, and which this unholy trinity mimics. The first mention of being marked on the forehead and the hand comes from Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

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.

The "*sign*" on the hand and the "reminder" on the forehead are both presented as spiritual symbols 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*."

This sign and reminder were not physical marks, but spiritual marks, 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.

In like manner, **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** our God, **Yahweh** 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**.

Again, this speaks of a spiritual reality and not some physical mark: "*These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart… You shall bind them as a sign on your **hand,** and they shall be as frontals on your **forehead***."

We are given another example of being spiritually marked when **Yahweh** showed the prophet Ezekiel a vision of what was transpiring in the unseen realm. Prior to judgment, 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 scriptures, 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.

The marking of his faithful is also seen in ***Revelation 7:1-2*** where before the seventh Seal is opened and before the first Trumpet judgment 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.[2] This mark serves as an indelible proclamation to the unseen spiritual powers and forces that those marked

[2] ***Revelation 7:1-8; 14:1***

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!

For centuries, the religious world has mirrored God's methodology. 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 leather boxes) on their foreheads containing sacred writings of the Torah.

And lifting from these examples in the scriptures, 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.

With the sealing of the 144,000, we learn that the forehead is a place of spiritual proclamation and identification, a symbol of belonging. But a mark on the right hand takes it to another level, one that is supercharged, for the right hand is a symbol of power and strength. 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 scriptures. "*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*."[3] 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.[4]

Are All Marked?

"*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 contrast with the fictional narratives, the verb "*given*" is rendered in the *subjunctive* mood. The *subjunctive* mood indicates a possibility, a contingency, unlike the *indicative* mood which indicates an absolute certainty.

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, the mark is 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, and he **now** has "*their*" mark ready for them, if they will only receive it. Who knew? It is customizable and personal such that it fits in any "present" context.

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[3] ***Matthew 10:21***

[4] *See* ***John 16:1-4***

But not everyone will receive it. In line with "*given*" being in the *subjunctive*, 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 their mark, and they will be rescued from the Beast.[5]

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 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. However, 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 personalized 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. The Beast will find its followers from everywhere and no person will be left out based on such things as economic class. The Beast wants everyone who is willing to participate in his 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, a phrase that is used quite often in the ***Revelation*** narrative? He AVOIDED 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 personalized **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. This economies of our world, which create our ability to buy and sell, is the great commonality across all of humanity. And this is why the second beast is seen now arising from the earth, he is connected to all manner of human institutions.

[5] *See* ***Daniel 11:41***

Buy or Sell

"*… and that no one might possibly **now** choose /**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*."

The ability to buy or sell, depending on the Greek manuscripts one pulls from, is rendered in the *middle* voice in some manuscripts, which indicates that is something we choose, and it is rendered in the *passive* voice in others, which indicates that in the decision to buy or to sell an external force is driving our decision for us.

The ability to buy or sell is also rendered as a *subjunctive*, as a possibility and not a certainty. This evil being cannot dictate outcomes. 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 struggle to make it in the economies of our world. Although God has made a way for those who are not marked to still buy and 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. 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, a sure indicator that God is on their side. In the marketplace of Christianity, we 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 scriptures tell us that there are men of perverse minds who are deprived of the truth who suppose that holiness is a means of great gain.[6] In other words, they use religion to get wealthy. It is likely that much 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. People, even today, **YES EVEN NOW**, are marked with the mark of the Beast or the number of his name.

Christian folk lore has told us that this is a future event, something that occurs in the tribulation. And as new implantable devices are created, it spurns another wave of hysteria.

For instance, some people have 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 has a value of 6 (which is not factual), and lastly "A" in the Babylonian system is 6. Therefore, if you mix the Roman, Greek, and Babylonian systems you

[6] *See **1 Timothy 6:3-10***

can arrive at Visa = 666. It is all ludicrous and these fabrications are not supported by the text.

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

In ***Revelation 9:11*** we are specifically given the name of the Beast. He is identified as a king, 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 he is called the "Beast," we know a lot about this demonic spirit. He is monstrous and bent on destruction.

The Number of His Name

We are given the number of the name of the beast "**666**," and 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 and not **666**.

Apollyon

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 and not **666**.

Calculating the number of the name of the Beast must have a meaning outside of our typical knee-jerk

reaction to do "**666**" calculations based on Hebrew or Greek gematria.

So, What Does It All Mean?

Since people are **now** being marked, even today, what does it mean that they are **now** bearing their own personalized mark of the Beast?

1. The mark of the Beast is a spiritual mark, just like the mark of God which was given to the 144,000 bondservants of God.
2. The mark is a personalized mark, it is "their" mark.
3. The second beast is the active force causing people to be given *their* mark.
4. The second beast cannot mark everyone, for he is limited by God's sovereign "*subjunctive*." The second beast only "*might*" cause people to receive *their* mark.
5. To "*buy or sell*" speaks simply of a transaction of exchange.
6. The economies of the world are ruled by those in the unseen realms.
7. There is a requirement of fealty that must be given to the Beast for successful participation in world markets, indicated by the mark on their forehead or their right hand.
8. People do not seem to be aware that they have received "*their*" mark and have vowed fealty to the Beast. People are not standing in government lines to receive their mark. It is a supernatural mark given to those who have submitted to the system ruled by the Beast.
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 (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 the Hebrew or Greek gematria.
11. Not everyone who is successful is marked. Some are successful because of God's appointment and His provision for their lives. Expressed in those divine "*subjunctives*," God trumps the Beast's 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.

WHAT IS OUR TAKEAWAY?

IT IS HAPPENING NOW!

Every moment of **now**, in each generation, the second beast has been causing people to be marked.

There are so many fictions in the marketplace of religion when it comes to the book of ***Revelation*** because people do not translate and read the text in the way the Spirit of God caused John to scribe it,

i.e., with the Greek tenses, voices, and moods which the Spirit of God utilized. It is a shame that the text has been altered to fit the translators own religious licentiousness. It tends to keep people in the dark, living in fear, obsessed with fiction after fiction.

In our next podcast we will talk about calculating this number.

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.

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