

Chapter 13

The Mark of the Beast and the Global Economy of the Antichrist

The last chapter concluded by informing WHEN the Mark of the Beast becomes available, so this chapter will explain the - WHO, WHERE, WHY and WHAT - details surrounding the Mark. The next chapter will cover HOW the Mark of the Beast causes its recipients to be cast into the Lake of Fire.

One of the easiest, and yet at the same time, most difficult Bible prophecies to understand is summed up in the passage below.

“He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.” (Rev. 13:16-17)

These two verses make it perfectly clear that “*he*,” the False Prophet of Rev. 13:11-15, “*causes all*,” alluding to everyone still alive on the planet at the Midpoint of the Trib-period, to “*receive a mark*.” We are even told the precise locations where the Mark will be administered to everyone, which is “*on their right hand or on their foreheads*.”

It’s clear WHO gets it and WHERE they get it, but WHY do they need it? This is also easy to interpret; everyone needs the Mark because without it “*no one may buy or sell*.” It’s a matter of everyone’s survival.

Here’s where it gets more complicated. We know WHO, WHERE and WHY, but WHAT is meant by this statement, “no one may buy or sell *except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name*?” WHAT are these three interrelated requirements, the “Mark”, “Name” and “Number” of the Beast? These three elements are discussed in parts of this chapter and with additional details in the Appendix entitled, *The Mark, the Name and the Number (666) of the Beast*.

The Coming Global Economy

In order for anyone to survive in the last 3 ½ years of the Trib-period, which will be the most turbulent and treacherous period in history, they will need to buy food, clothing and pay for shelter. This means that sellers must exist in order to provide products for these essential needs. As previously stated, buying and selling is a primary reason WHY the Mark gets implemented.

Everyone needs the Mark to either buy or sell. This indicates that this economic interaction takes place uniformly throughout the world. This is one reason why most commentators believe that Rev. 13:16-18 identifies a global economy. Some deduce that in order for this international scenario to happen successfully it will require the use of a technology that can keep accurate records of instantaneous transactions.

This implies that whatever the modern technology is, it becomes incorporated into the Mark. Thus, the technology within the Mark becomes the monetary means used at the point of sale to complete the purchase. If this is the case, then what does the future hold for cash and other fiat currencies, which for centuries have been the preferred traditional methods to transact?

Cash, as the longstanding customary means of buying and selling has already been outpaced by electronic transactions using credit and debit cards.

“Quantum Leap: End of cash is near, cashless currencies are in vogue”

“The case against cash is clear — expensive to print, difficult to track, prone to theft and an enabler of corruption...Digital money will lead to greater financial inclusion — helping unbanked populations.” (The Economic Times 12/29/19)ⁱ

As The Economic Times article points out, *“Digital money will lead to greater financial inclusion.”* Does this imply that, like cash, credit cards and debit cards may also be overtaken by digital money? These days people, especially the millennial generation, are using alternative means to buy and sell.

Presently, a person can make contactless payments using Apple Pay through their iPhone. Or, they can use Venmo, which is a mobile payment service owned by PayPal to transact or transfer funds to others via a mobile phone app. These are just a couple examples of how people can buy and sell without the need for cash, or credit or debit cards.

“Is This The End of Cash?” *“With the coming paper currency apocalypse, your money will no longer be good here. Or there. Or anywhere.”*

“Actually, it might seem we’re already a good ways along...Swipeⁱⁱ technologies like Apple Pay are taking off, as are person-to-person apps such as Venmo and Zelle. Other technologies, involving things like microchip implants, finger-print scans, and facial recognition, are even eliminating the need for phones and smartwatches.” (Town and Country – 1/28/19)

“Visa Files Patent for Cryptocurrency System to Replace Cash”

“Visa International has filed for a cryptocurrency system patent that is meant to replace physical currency. The system, which utilizes both central banks and commercial banks, leverages a private blockchain to improve the payment ecosystem.” (Bitcoin.com – 5/15/20)ⁱⁱⁱ

Taking a leap further, many countries are researching and developing even more efficient electronic methods to conduct commercial activity. At the top of the list is cryptocurrency. The cryptocurrency technology began back in 2008. Nine years later in 2017, Bitcoin exploded in popularity. The success of Bitcoin and its blockchain technology has sparked a race among countries, companies, corporations and banks to develop their own cryptocurrencies.

Over the years the cryptocurrency market has grown in popularity and respect from small retailers to large institutional investors. It is important to note that in August of 2020, the International Monetary Fund published, primarily for the general public’s consumption, a timely article that includes an instructional video, which explains what cryptocurrency is. This IMF video boldly states that cryptocurrency *“could be the next step in the evolution of money.”* It also declares that *“this new technology...could completely change the way we BUY, SELL, SAVE, INVEST and PAY BILLS.”*

“IMF Publishes Cryptocurrency Explainer, Saying It 'Could Be the Next Step in the Evolution of Money” (Bitcoin.com – 8/24/20)^{iv}

Cryptocurrency is a digital currency in which encryption techniques are used to regulate the generation of units of currency and verify the transfer of funds, operating independently of a

central bank. This means that it is decentralized, which is very problematic for the central banks of countries to control their own nation's money supply. Due to this genuine sovereign economic concern, many countries are racing to come out with their own form of digital dollars.

“Sweden Is Testing Its New Central Bank Digital Currency”

“The country of Sweden has begun testing an e-krona, bringing it that much closer to the proper release of a central bank digital currency (CBDC). If and when the e-krona formally launches..., the idea is that this blockchain-powered currency would drive conventional payments and banking activities throughout the country. Instead of swiping a credit card or spending fiat currency, everyday transacting can move to the blockchain.” (COINTELEGRAPH – 2-20-20)^v

Blockchain, which is alluded to twice in the article above, is defined as an electronic monitoring system in which a record of transactions made in cryptocurrencies are maintained across several linked computers in a network. The “Block” represents digital information about a transaction, such as the product(s), participants, date, location and dollar amount. The “Chain” is the public database where the “Block” information gets stored.

Blockchain is in essence the new computerized cash register. It becomes necessary because Cryptocurrencies are entirely digital currencies, and unlike cash dollars or plastic credit cards that can be placed in a physical wallet, these funds cannot. Therefore, the Blockchain technology keeps track of digital dollars in digital wallets involved in digital transactions.

“China Rolls Out Pilot Test of Digital Currency”

“China’s central bank has introduced a homegrown digital currency across four cities as part of a pilot program, marking a milestone on the path toward the first electronic payment system by a major central bank.” (WSJ – 4/20/20)^{vi}

In addition to China and Sweden several other countries have entered into the hunt for the bigger and better type of Bitcoin. It’s like the race to the moon revisited, but instead of searching into outer space, it’s a quest for inner planetary monetary control.

Other countries seeking their own digital currencies as of 5/4/20 include the: USA, UK, France, Russia, Israel, Canada, India, Japan, South Korea, Dubai, Venezuela, Ecuador, Estonia

and the list of nations keeps growing, and it's happening very quickly. In fact, according to a 2020 Bank of International Settlements survey, nearly 80% of central banks are engaged in work related to national currencies.^{vii}

“Central Bank Digital Currencies May Arrive Within 3 Years”

“Deutsche Bank analyst Marion Laboure told Reuters that the central banks that recently formed a group to trial CBDCs would probably issue the first “general purpose digital currency” within about three years from now. The rush is caused by the current COVID-19 pandemic.” (Bitcoinist.com - 4/10/20)^{viii}

This article blames the rush toward issuing the first “general purpose digital currency” on the Coronavirus. This virus brought with it a global awareness about the advantages of a blockchain harnessed digital currency and the urgency to hasten its coming.

“Blockchain May Offer Solutions to Fighting Covid-19”

“The Blockchain Research Institute...participated in a virtual roundtable... to discuss the potential use of blockchain technologies for public-health solutions...The report identified five key areas where blockchain could be deployed to fight Covid-19 as well as future pandemics: identity, health records and shared data; just-in-time supply chains; sustaining the economy; a rapid response registry for medical professionals; and incentives models to reward responsible behavior.” (Wall Street Journal – 5/1/20)^{ix}

Does the Bible Predict the Coming of a Cashless Society?

With all this international cryptocurrency craze underway, the question arises, “*is mankind headed for a cashless society?*” Many of today’s top Bible prophecy teachers believe that the coming global economy of the Antichrist will operate as a cashless society. Before answering this question let’s hit the pause button and rephrase it in order to realize its significance.

Is mankind, who has operated on a worldwide basis in a cash and fiat currency environment for thousands of years, suddenly going to abandon this proven system to embrace a new electronic monetary means for globalized buying and selling? It almost sounds far-fetched, but in my estimation, this is likely going to take place and probably in the near future. The

Coronavirus of 2020, which essentially put the world on lockdown, has spurred the dawn of a new virtual reality.

Social distancing has facilitated computerized human interactions that have proven how many modern technologies are no longer the wave of the future, but are the new normal now. People are buying more online, working more from home, learning how to host online group chats, conduct doctor appointments online and much more.

The COVID-19 virus has forced many within mankind to come to grips with the term germaphobia, which is an extreme fear of germs and obsession with cleanliness. As a result, cosmetics have been covered up with facemasks, body lotions have been overtaken by gloves and hand sanitizers, fist pumps and elbow bumps have become the new handshake, and potentially dirty germ-infested money is becoming less desirable by the minute.

“Is the Coronavirus Killing Off Cash?”

“Tech firms see the opportunity they’ve been waiting for as shoppers and business recoil from paper money. Who’s hurt when legal tender goes away?” (Politico – 4/17/20)^x

Is the killing off of cash, as this above headline asks, even remotely possible? If so how soon might it happen on a global scale?

“New Report Finds Cryptocurrencies Could See Mass Adoption within the Next Decade”

“A new report titled “Cryptocurrencies: Overcoming the Barriers to Adoption” and published by Imperial College London determines cryptocurrencies could become a “mainstream” global payment method “within the next decade.” (Bitrates – 7/11/2018)^{xi}

“PayPal reveals that it is developing crypto capabilities”

“PayPal’s revelation is significant since it is said to be in the works to offer crypto buying and selling services to its over 300 million users.” (The Block – 7/14/20)^{xii}

“Mastercard and Visa Are Making Bold Moves Toward Mass Crypto Adoption”

“Global payment processors Mastercard and Visa are laying the foundations for crypto support that may drive adoption on a global scale.” (Cointelegraph – 7/31/20)^{xiii}

“Deutsche Bank Says Crypto Could Replace Cash by 2030” (Brave NewCoin. 12/17/19)^{xiv}

If cash will no longer be king, does the Bible have anything to say about this? As per Rev. 13:16-18, the answer appears to be yes. Below are a couple of quotes from respected Bible prophecy teachers about the potential for a coming cashless society. In the first quote Dr. Mark Hitchcock opens up with a caveat,

“An important point that I'd like to make is that the Bible never specifically says anywhere there is going to be a cashless society in the future.”

Mark Hitchcock makes a good qualifying point. It is true that Revelation 13:16-18 doesn't specifically state that the buying and selling activity is conducted without cash. Then he goes on to say,

“Now, with cash people would not be able to control the world economy, because as long as there is cash people can operate outside of the system by slipping some money under the table. For there to be an iron- clad system where you cannot buy or sell- that absolute supply and demand are controlled- it is going to have to be a cashless society. So, Revelation 13 is where I find the cashless society alluded to in the Bible, and many other prophecy teachers have agreed that's what Revelation 13 means.”^{xv}

Hitchcock makes good points, one being that cash “*can operate outside of the system.*” It can be counterfeited, laundered, and used in other uncontrollable and non-trackable methods. If people can use cash to transact, then why do they need to go the extra mile and take the Mark? Conversely, cryptocurrencies are controllable and trackable and seemingly difficult to counterfeit or launder.

Hal Lindsey writes the following in his bestselling book entitled, “The Late Great Planet Earth,”

“Is it logical to ask how the False Prophet will force this worship of the Roman Dictator, (alluding to the Antichrist), He will be given control over the economics of the world

system...Do you believe it will be possible for people to be controlled economically? In our computerized society, where we are all “numbered” from birth to death, it seems completely possible that someday in the near future the numbers racket will consolidate and we will have just one number for all our business, money, and credit transactions. Leading members of the business community are now planning that all money matters will be handled electronically.”^{xvi}

This quote from Hal Lindsey, who is also alluding to Rev. 13:16-17, dates back to around 1970 and depicts tremendous foresight on his part. At that time barcodes and credit cards had existed since the 1950’s but debit cards didn’t arrive on the scene until the mid-1970’s. However, now the economic trend is rapidly advancing toward cryptocurrency transactions conducted with digital dollars that can be recorded in computerized blockchain ledgers.

These newer electronic methods of buying and selling are being formatted in a way that could facilitate, not only a cashless society, but also offer global citizens with better access to education, travel, healthcare and vaccines, voting, banking, housing, and a host of other business and / or family related benefits. In fact, as the headlines below illustrate, developers of these technologies often boast about the advantages and necessities of these advances.

“Why ‘every person on the planet’ will need a digital ID”

“So the organization that I run, ID2020, is leading an alliance of large private-sector companies, small startups, UN agencies, NGOs, governments...And by 2030, our goal is to enable access to digital identity for every person on the planet.” (Venturebeat.com-6/21/17)^{xvii}

ID2020 is an alliance of partners that includes Accenture, Gavi, Rockefeller Foundation and Microsoft. ID2020’s goal is to “*enable access to digital identity*” to everyone in the future. Their means to accomplish this end begins by connecting with needy children in the world’s poorest countries. The ID2020 website says, “*the alliance brings together public and private sectors with the shared goal of creating equal access to new and underused vaccines for children living in the world’s poorest countries.*”^{xviii}

“Why blockchain could be your next form of ID as a world citizen”

“ID is key for accessing education, healthcare, voting, banking, housing, and other family benefits, the press release noted. ID2020's goal is to create a secure, established digital ID system for all citizens worldwide.” (Tech Republic-6/20/20)^{xix}

Observe how the blockchain technology can be utilized for far more than storing cryptocurrency transactions. This above article points out how it can also be used for *“your next form of ID as a world citizen.”* The ensuing headline asks if the end goal of ID2020 to provide everyone with their own digital ID, through the use of blockchain, will someday become mandatory.

“Will it Become a Global Mandate? Microsoft, the ID2020 Alliance, universal digital identification and you”

“Last year Microsoft joined ID2020, ... whose goal is to create universal digital identities for everyone. What are the social, economic and ethical implications of such an initiative...Participation in the modern economy, the ability to buy and sell, attain employment, healthcare, social services and more are virtually impossible without a digital identity. In May of 2016, at the United Nations ..., an alliance of governments, non-profits, academia, ...collaborated on how to provide a unique digital identity to everyone on the planet... Microsoft's goal is to help establish universal...standards for these decentralized digital identities using blockchain technology... If the Alliance's goal is a globally recognized digital identity for everyone from birth to death, will that become a global mandate?... What happens to those individuals who are unwilling to participate? Will they be persecuted? As...transactions become digital in nature and are built around a single global identification standard, supported by Microsoft, the question of who will govern this evolving global community and economy becomes relevant. Especially since nonparticipants in this system would be unable to buy or sell goods or services”
(Windows Central-2/19/18)^{xx}

The above quote asks, *“Who will govern this evolving global community?”* This is the fifty-million-dollar question because whoever does govern this system will have ultimate control over every consumer on the planet. Doesn't this sound more and more like Rev. 13:17 that authoritatively warns, *“no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark...?”*

“Will Blockchain Technology Be Used to Build Evil Social Credit Systems”

“As much as I believe that blockchain technology has the potential to solve many of the problems humanity faces today, I also fear what can happen if blockchain technology is used to take away the privacy and rights of individuals...Do you want to live in a world where every purchase you make and every interaction you have with others is recorded, documented and unchangeable?...Your every move is recorded and every website you visit is documented...With a few tweaks of code, blockchain can be corrupted by authoritarians to build social credit enslavement systems. Matched with 5G, advances in surveillance technology, autonomous drones, facial recognition systems and artificial intelligence, blockchain can be used as the underlying infrastructure to crush privacy and freedom.” (COINTELEGRAPH – 4/12/20)^{xxi}

Could evolving technologies like blockchain, involving digital dollars and identifiers be used by a totalitarian dictator like the Antichrist *“to build social credit enslavement systems?”* Could such enslavement involve tracking how consumers use their money in order to ultimately control their spending habits?

“Bank of Canada exploring digital currency that would replace cash, track how people spend money”

“An internal Bank of Canada presentation says benefits of a digital currency include the sharing of personal information with police or tax authorities.” (Financial Post – 10/11/19)^{xxii}

Thus far, with the help of some poignant headlines, we have explored how a cashless society, which is governed by the authoritarian dictator called the Antichrist, could soon become a reality, because:

- The Blockchain technologies already exist to replace cash, fiat currencies, credit cards and debit cards,
- The pandemic Coronavirus of 2020 has heightened the urgency to establish a cashless economy,

- The mechanisms through the ID2020 alliance and elsewhere are in place to obtain global adoption of these technologies,
- Governments are racing toward the implementation of these technologies,
- These technologies can enslave mankind by tracking and controlling consumer behavior.

There is just one last piece to this puzzle. Will the one world government of Antichrist, who according to Daniel 9:27 emerges out of the Revived Roman Empire, be given complete control of a single global digital currency? Will it be developed by the EU? If so, could a digital Euro become the global cryptocurrency that the False Prophet and Antichrist require everyone to use to buy and sell? Perhaps the next couple of news stories might provide some direction in this matter.

“Germany is Considering the Advantages of Launching a Digital Euro”

“Over the last couple of years, numerous countries worldwide have issued statements concerning their plans for developing central bank-backed digital currencies (CBDCs). CBDCs are basically the direct response of governments to cryptocurrencies as we know them. After all, if the digital currency market is here to stay, countries want to preserve their national fiat currencies for as long as possible, before losing control of the financial market as we know it.”^{xxiii} (CryptoNews - 10/17/19)

“What Is the Future of Cryptocurrency?”

“In the future, we can expect a single global digital currency. In October 2019, the Bank for International Settlements held the first G20 Central Banks summit to discuss the idea of a global cryptocurrency. In Switzerland, the Bank for International Settlements, together with the Central Bank of the country, has already created a center for the development of a single settlement token among the world Central Banks. All of the above facts tell us that the transition of states to digital currencies is one of the elements of the next stage in the development of mankind. Its appearance is a matter of time.”
(Changelly – 2/17/20)^{xxiv}

The Location of the Mark of the Beast

“He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads.” (Rev. 13:16)

“Swedes are getting implants in their hands to replace cash, credit cards”

“Thousands of people in Sweden are having futuristic microchips implanted into their skin to carry out everyday activities and replace credit cards and cash.” (New York Post 7/24/19)^{xxv}

These days it seems to be getting easier to marry up a Bible passage with a current news headline. I have never been a fan of newspaper exegesis, which is the interpretation of scripture by marrying up a Bible passage with a current news headline, but when the shoe fits it’s hard not to wear it. This news headline evidences that microchips, which can essentially store everything related to a person’s life, can be implanted in their hands.

Does Rev. 13:16 in conjunction with this New York Post headline above imply that the time is coming soon to declare that, so long as someone has a right hand or a forehead, there is no more need for cash, check books, credit cards, bank statements, passports, driver’s licenses, medical records, healthcare cards, education certificates, welfare cards, airline tickets, criminal records etc.? Has the time finally arrived for a man to discard his thick wallet and a woman to pitch her oversized purse?

“Skin microchips and facial recognition: how you will pay for things in the future”

“Now, there is a whole new wave of payment options that may sound futuristic, but are on the verge of upending the financial system. In doing so, it will be easier than ever to pay for everything from a cup of coffee to mortgage payment. Forget your driver’s license and cell phone at home. Sweden is testing out microchips implanted under the skin to create a more seamless form of personal identification. While this could make things like opening your office or home safe easier, its application also expands to payments.” (Bondura - 1/16/20)^{xxvi}

Is the Mark of the Beast ON or IN the Right Hand or Forehead?

The question arises as to whether the Mark of the Beast is placed upon, or embedded within the skin of the recipient. Most modern Bible translations like the NKJ, ESV, NASB, NIV, NLT and the HCSB have determined that this future mark will be placed on or upon the right hand or forehead.

Whereas, several older Bible translations, such as the King James, Wycliff, Tyndale and Webster's places the mark either in the right hand or in the forehead. These older versions led many of the Bible scholars at that time to believe the Mark of the Beast was inserted under the skin of the recipient. Which interpretation will prove to be more accurate in the future?

Could it be that an understanding of the Greek word for the Mark itself might possibly be the key into determining that the Mark will first, not be merely symbolic and second, will primarily be in the skin of an Antichrist worshipper?

The Greek word for mark is "*charagma*." According to the Strong's Concordance the word can mean *a sculpture; engraving, a stamp or sign*. The Liddell-Scott-Jones Definitions translates the word to mean, *any mark engraved, imprinted, or branded, or the serpent's mark, i. e. its bite or sting*. The HELPS word-Studies defines the word as: *an engraving (etching); (figuratively) a mark providing undeniable identification, like a symbol giving irrefutable connection between parties*.

How might the Mark be engraved upon one's skin to enable them to buy and sell in the global economy of the false prophet and beast? Is it possible that the engraving upon the right hand or forehead would produce some kind of puncture? Perhaps penetrating under the skin like the bite from a serpent?

Below are a few biblical commentaries that might shed some more light on this subject,

"To receive a mark—literally, "that they should give them a mark"; such a brand as masters stamp on their slaves, and monarchs on their subjects. Soldiers voluntarily punctured their arms with marks of the general under whom they served." (Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary).^{xxvii}

"Most of us have seen such marks made on the hands or arms of sailors, in which, by a voluntary tattooing, their names, or the names of their vessels, were written, or the figure

of an anchor, or some other device, was indelibly made by punctures in the skin, and by inserting some kind of coloring matter.” (Barnes' Notes on the Bible)^{xxviii}

If it turns out in the future that a plain tattoo is the mark of the beast that brands the devotee to his god, would it be accurate to say that a puncture of a tattoo needle would in fact be into the skin instead of just being on or upon the skin?

*“While I admit that the preposition *epi* is used, this does not consign the futurist interpretation [of an implanted mark] to sudden death. If this mark were purely on the surface of the skin, the resultant loss of skin, as happens regularly with people, would mean the mark would disappear. For this mark to have any degree of permanence it must, in some sense, be “in” the tissue. The use of *επι* [*epi*] doesn't really deny that. It is simply saying that the mark is visible to someone, or to some device such as a scanner. In fact the word “mark” (*charagma*) comes from the verb *charasso* which means “to cut to a point, then to inscribe.” It is really not farfetched to see the phrase as describing some kind of minor surgery—a “cutting to a point”—for the insertion of a chip that will be “inscribed” with data.”” (Dr. Tony Garland)^{xxix}*

In light of these three commentaries above the question can be asked, “Does the Greek word *charagma* support the more likely possibility that Rev 13:16-17 could be in fact describing an insertion of a hypodermic needle containing a biochip into the right hand or forehead?”

It's the author's opinion that, although the Mark of the Beast could be applied upon the right hand or forehead of an Antichrist worshipper, it is designed to penetrate under the skin of the recipient. Reaching its intended subdermal location it will become a permanently affixed within the individual's body and enable the person to participate in the cashless global economy of the Antichrist.

Since the Mark of the Beast is Trackable is it Unethical?

What about the ethical side of the coin, or shall I now say microchip? Will widescale chipping on the human body spark a global debate between the good aspects vs. the evil prospects of getting microchipped? By the Midpoint of the Trib-period when the False Prophet

and Antichrist team up to implement their cashless society, will people be prepared to relinquish their individual human rights along with all of their personal records?

“Chip Implants: The Next Big Privacy Debate”

“Some say we will all, eventually, be chipped. Others say-never! Have you been chipped? That question is set to divide millions of people in the 2020s. And perhaps billions of people in the 2030s and 2040s.” (GT Government Technology - 11/25/18)^{xxx}

Submitting everything about a person that is encapsulated into a microchip or some sort of similar technology, into a global computerized system, is what seems to be part of the Antichrist’s program. Moreover, a chipped individual is a trackable person. The authoritarian Antichrist and his draconian global government can find a marked person with the click of a keypad. According to Rev. 13:16, there will be no time for further debate. One either takes the Mark or gets killed.

As the self-proclaimed pagan god of this world, the Antichrist wants to be worshipped, and the carrot on the string for a person’s praise, is their ability to be part of his global economy. As a fake god the Antichrist can’t be omnipresent and search the hearts and test the minds of every person on the planet, like God can.

“I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.” (Jeremiah 17:10)

However, the inability to search a marked man’s heart is not a significant deterrent for the Antichrist because through technology he can circumvent this need. By the way, he doesn’t care about the matters of anybody’s heart anyway. All this Beast of Revelation desires is everyone’s loyalty and he’s willing to kill all dissenters to get what he wants.

The detour around a marked person’s heart is the ability to track their every footstep. Moreover, the Antichrist can keep instant and automatic tabs on everyone’s healthcare needs, spending habits and personal activities. With these technological capabilities at his disposal the Antichrist can give every man according to his ways and doings, and if he doesn’t like those ways and doings he can quickly put an end to them.

Imagine the double jeopardy of taking the Mark of the Beast. Not only will a marked person be permanently SHUT OUT of heaven, they can also be SHUT DOWN if the Antichrist doesn't like their ways and doings.

Chapter 14

The Mark of the Beast and the Global Religion of the Antichrist

Is there more to the Mark of the Beast than meets the eye? Are the temporal survival, economic advantages and religious affiliations truly sufficient enough to convince a person to ignore the consequences of receiving the Mark?

If an intelligent individual makes this decision he or she will, possibly prior, have been confronted by some of the critical cons that were identified in the prior chapter entitled, “*Introducing the Mark of the Beast.*” (*See the pros/cons image at bottom*). There is a likelihood that some reputable Christian voices will be sounding the alarm against the Mark at the time, which may cause some of the undecided people to need a few more paranormal pluses to take the plunge.

Is there a supernatural component integrated within the Mark?

It does appear possible that there are more than temporal perks presented to the recipient of the Mark. What if the Mark promises a disease free, longer and abundant life that might even include some supernatural strengths and psychic powers?

As the list of cons from the prior chapter evidenced, taking the Mark is a guaranteed one-way ticket to the Lake of Fire. There exists no scriptural support that suggests a marked person can make a U-Turn for Christ. To the contrary once they are marked it's game over because they have crossed the line and there is no turning back. Upon taking the Mark, a person becomes locked into the Antichrist and their fate is forever sealed. This makes the decision to take the Mark of the Beast a game changer.

Does THE MARK find association with THE LIE of 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12?

There exist two points of no return in the Trib-period. One is the Mark of the Beast and the other is the giving of one over to *THE LIE* of 2 Thess. 2:9-12.

“The coming of the lawless one, (*the Antichrist*), is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe *THE LIE*, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” (2 Thess. 2:9-12, NKJV; *EMPHASIS ADDED*)

This passage points out that, whatever *THE LIE* is, it serves as the line of demarcation between God’s grace, mercy and forgiveness and God’s condemnation. It’s a two-step process:

1. Because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved,
2. God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe *THE LIE*, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth.

This implies that a person who believes *THE LIE*, also opposed the truth, and in so doing forfeited their opportunity of salvation and subjected them to God’s condemnation going forward. Is it possible that the Mark of the Beast somehow connects with *THE LIE*? Could the Mark of the Beast become the emblem of *THE LIE*?

I have shared numerous platforms with Bible prophecy teacher L. A. Marzulli, and on several occasions, I have heard him ask the question, “*Why is there no more grace, mercy and forgiveness for those who take the Mark of the Beast?*” He notes that this is contrary to the heart of God, which is about His grace, enduring mercy, and forgiveness. Therefore, Marzulli concludes that there must be something about the Mark that renders the recipient unforgivable. But, what might that unforgivable act be?

Pastor and prophecy teacher Billy Crone suggested on a Prophecy Watchers TV show that a minor DNA alteration within a person might render the individual unredeemable in God’s eyes. Crone, quoting an epigenetic expert, suggested that as little as a one-percent DNA alteration may be all that it takes to alter the human genome. This TV show that aired on April 13, 2020 is available to watch on YouTube under the title of, “*Billy Crone: The Coming Genetic Apocalypse.*”

Is it possible that someone could commit an unforgivable human act that permanently alters their spiritual nature and renders them unredeemable? Before answering this, let's ask several related questions in order to explore what makes taking the Mark of the Beast so terminal.

QUESTION #1: *“How likely is it that God would condemn someone to the Lake of Fire for merely worshipping a false god?”* Mankind has been worshipping false gods throughout its history. Certainly, it's plausible that the one true God could say, *“enough already,”* but what about the other aspect associated with taking the Mark, which is the ability to buy and sell in the global economy?

QUESTION #2: *“What about the people in the future who might say they took the Mark of the man who claimed to be god, primarily to feed their starving children and get medicine for their family?”* Is God justified in condemning them and casting them into the Lake of Fire? Doesn't this seem a bit harsh and contrary to the heart of God?

QUESTION #3: Presently, scientific experiments with DNA are being conducted with the hopes of curing human deformities and infirmities, such as cancer, blindness, and more. *“Is it reasonable to think that simply taking a human enhancement through a gene editing procedure is unforgivable?”* If someone in the future receives a DNA alteration because they want to see better or heal faster, would God condemn that person to the Lake of Fire?

Actually, the answer to question #3 could teeter toward being yes. What if a man, who God made in His incorruptible image as per Genesis 1:27, received something that permanently and irreversibly altered his DNA, and in so doing removed the individual from God's select gene pool? In other words, an irretrievable rewiring that corrupted the man's image in such a way that he no longer existed in the image of God. What if the alteration created the man more into the likeness of the image of the Beast instead of the image of God? Wow, wouldn't that be problematic?

I am not suggesting a cosmetic surgery that alters someone's physical appearance, but a human augmentation that substantially transforms them inwardly and perhaps trespasses into the sacred soil of the human soul. According to Romans 1:23-32, God does not take kindly to changing, *“the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man.”* When

this happens God gives the individual over to what he deserves, and in the case of the Mark of the Beast, it could possibly be the strong delusion that leads to believing in *THE LIE*, which results in a guaranteed passport to the Lake of Fire.

THE LIE Comes from The FATHER of LIES

Concerning *THE LIE*, there is one *BIG LIE*, that seems to be at the core of the divine debate between God and Satan. For more information on this, read my article entitled, “*The Divine Debate between God and Jesus Christ vs. Satan and Antichrist.*” This article is posted on the web at this link: <http://www.prophecydepotministries.net/2020/the-divine-debate-between-god-and-jesus-christ-vs-satan-and-antichrist/>

This *BIG LIE* has haunted man from time immemorial and was introduced to Adam and Eve by Satan in the Garden of Eden. The Devil promised Eve that the eating of the forbidden fruit would not result in death like God said, but would result in the antithesis of death, which was being like God and possessing eternal life, and with the knowledge of good and evil.

“Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”” (Genesis 3:4-5)

About four-thousand years later, Jesus Christ levied the biggest assault on Satan’s character imaginable. In John 8:44 Jesus said that, “*he was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.*”

What is the likelihood that Satan will let the allegation that he’s the father of lies linger throughout eternity without a rebuttal? In my estimation, there is a 0% probability that the Devil will turn the other cheek and let that remark slide. Perchance *THE LIE* incorporates, at least in part, the Devil’s response to Jesus Christ’s accusations.

Maybe Satan’s prodigy, the Antichrist, will turn the BIG garden LIE full circle. Perhaps the beastly “Seed of the Serpent” will do more than echo Satan’s sentiment that, “*you will be like God,*” and up the ante and promise to show his worshippers, “*how they can actually become like God.*” A shot at immortality; now that might be enough to sway someone off of the fence to

worship the Antichrist and take his Mark, especially if something incorporated within the Mark contained a supernatural component.

News Flashes: superpowers, superheroes, superintelligence and super-soldiers

“Superpowers aren’t just for superheroes anymore. Want some?” (The San Diego Union-Tribune – 9/14/17)^{xxxix}

“Now human-animal hybrids are, incredibly, a real thing. In January, the Salk Institute in La Jolla made worldwide headlines when it reported that by introducing human cells into pig embryos, it had created what National Geographic called “the first successful human-animal hybrids.” It’s hoped that these modified pigs will grow human-compatible organs that can be used as replacements in humans, reducing chronic organ shortages.”

“Brain chips could soon give people superintelligence” (earth.com news – 3/5/19)^{xxxix}

“Brain-to-computer interfaces and intelligence boosting chips implanted in the brain could soon make their way out of the realms of science fiction and into reality. Already, some of the biggest tech giants in the industry like Elon Musk and Facebook are working to create brain-computer interfaces.”

“Superhuman Abilities Could Lurk Under Your Skin” (The University of Melbourne)^{xxxix}

“Insertable technology could launch a new type of human.”

“The Future of Humanity: Superpowers Are Within Our Reach” (Futurism.com 11/4/16)^{xxxix}

“We stand at an unprecedented juncture in our history. It’s not a question of if we’ll develop superpowers; it is a question of when.”

“US defense intelligence warns of AI-human hybrid soldiers from China” (The Sociable – 10/12/18)^{xxxix}

“Speaking at the Association of the United States Army annual meeting on October 8, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Director Lieutenant General Robert P. Ashley, Jr.

said that one of the biggest decisions that the United States military will have to make is how to deal with the “integration of humans and machines” that China is pursuing.

“Another key area,” Ashley continued, “human performance enhancement.””

These news flashes above were provided to show how mankind is already being conditioned to accept the possibility that they can be superheroes with superpowers and advanced intelligence. Did you ever wonder, “why is it that our world is so attracted to superheroes in comic books, TV, and movies that possess superhuman abilities and powers?” Could it be that we are all being conditioned to believe a huge deception in the future connected to the coming Antichrist and the Mark of the Beast?

Pros and Cons of the Mark of the Beast

The Pros	The Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You won't get beheaded, • Become a worshipper of Antichrist, • You can buy as a consumer or sell as a merchant, • Obtain a personal world citizen digital ID that connects you to all the global services such as: <i>universal healthcare, universal basic income, global banking, world travel, public education and more.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits last only 3 ½ years, • Receive loathsome body sores, • Drink of God's Wrath, • Lose your shot at salvation, • Watch the Antichrist get cast into the Lake of Fire, • Be judged at the White Throne Judgment, • Be cast into the Lake of Fire at the end of the Millennium.

ⁱ The Economic Times quote was taken on 5/4/20 from this weblink:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/quantum-leap-end-of-cash-is-near-cashless-currencies-are-in-vogue-/articleshow/73011379.cms?from=mdr>

ⁱⁱ Town and Country quote taken on 5/4/20 from this weblink:

<https://www.townandcountrymag.com/society/money-and-power/a25682980/end-of-cash/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Bitcoin.com headline taken on 5/16/20 from this weblink: <https://news.bitcoin.com/visa-cryptocurrency-system/>

^{iv} IMF headline taken on 8/31/20 from this website: <https://news.bitcoin.com/imf-cryptocurrency-evolution-of-money/>

^v Sweden cryptocurrency headline taken from this weblink: <https://cointelegraph.com/news/sweden-is-testing-its-new-central-bank-digital-currency>

^{vi} WSJ headline taken from this weblink: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/china-rolls-out-pilot-test-of-digital-currency-11587385339>

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- vii Survey statement taken from this website: <https://www.thestreet.com/mishtalk/economics/central-bank-digital-currencies-on-the-way>
- viii Bitcoinist.com quote taken on 5/2/20 from this weblink: <https://bitcoinist.com/central-bank-digital-currencies-may-arrive-within-3-years/>
- ix WSJ quote taken on 5/4/20 from this weblink: <https://blogs.wsj.com/cio/2020/05/01/blockchain-may-offer-solutions-to-fighting-covid-19/>
- x Politico quote taken from this weblink: <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2020/04/17/coronavirus-cash-economy-cashless-paper-money-business-190405>
- xi Bitrates quote taken from this weblink on 4/29/20: <https://www.bitrates.com/news/p/new-report-finds-cryptocurrencies-could-see-mass-adoption-within-the-next-decade>
- xii PayPal cryptocurrency headline taken on 8/19/20 from this web link: <https://www.theblockcrypto.com/post/71483/paypal-reveals-that-it-is-developing-crypto-capabilities>
- xiii Cointelegraph headline taken on 8/19/20 from this web link: <https://cointelegraph.com/news/mastercard-and-visa-are-making-bold-moves-toward-mass-crypto-adoption>
- xiv Brave NewCoin quote taken on 4/29/20 from this weblink: <https://bravenewcoin.com/insights/deutsche-bank-says-crypto-could-replace-cash-by-2030>
- xv Hitchcock quote taken on 4/28/20 from this website: <https://christinprophecyblog.org/2010/01/mark-hitchcock-on-cashless-society/>
- xvi Hal Lindsey quote taken from pg. 112-113 of his book. It can be viewed at this weblink: <https://archive.org/details/TheLateGreatPlanetEarthByHalLindsey/page/n1111/mode/2up>
- xvii VB quote was written by Dakota Gruener, who is the executive director of ID2020, and was taken from this weblink: <https://venturebeat.com/2017/06/21/why-every-person-on-the-planet-will-need-a-digital-id/>
- xviii ID2020 website: <https://id2020.org/alliance>
- xix Tech Republic quote taken from this weblink: <https://www.techrepublic.com/article/why-blockchain-could-be-your-next-form-of-id-as-a-world-citizen/>
- xx Windows Central quote taken from this weblink: <https://www.windowscentral.com/microsoft-universal-digital-identification-and-you>
- xxi COINTELEGRAPH quote taken on 5/2/20 from this weblink: <https://cointelegraph.com/news/will-blockchain-technology-be-used-to-build-evil-social-credit-systems>
- xxii Financial Post Headline taken on 5/2/20 from this weblink: <https://business.financialpost.com/technology/blockchain/bank-of-canada-exploring-digital-currency-that-would-replace-cash-track-how-people-spend-money>
- xxiii CryptoNews headline taken on 5/2/20 from this weblink: <https://www.crypto-news.net/germany-is-considering-the-advantages-of-launching-a-digital-euro/>
- xxiv Changelly headline taken on 5/4/20 from this weblink: <https://changelly.com/blog/future-of-cryptocurrency/>
- xxv New York Post headline taken on 4/29/20 from this weblink: <https://nypost.com/2019/07/14/swedish-people-are-getting-chip-implants-to-replace-cash-credit-cards/>
- xxvi Bondura headline taken from this weblink: <https://www.bondora.com/blog/skin-microchips-and-facial-recognition-how-you-will-pay-for-things-in-the-future/>
- xxvii Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary taken from this website: <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/revelation/13-16.htm>
- xxviii Barnes Notes on the Bible taken from this website: <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/revelation/13-16.htm>
- xxix Tony Garland quote taken from this website: http://www.spiritandtruth.org/teaching/Book_of_Revelation/commentary/htm/chapters/13.html#Revelation%2013%3A16
- xxx GT headline taken on 4/29/20 from this weblink: <https://www.govtech.com/blogs/lohrmann-on-cybersecurity/chip-implants-the-next-big-privacy-debate.html>
- xxxi San Diego Union-Tribune headline taken on 4/17/20 from this weblink: <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/opinion/commentary/sd-human-enhancement-for-living-people-20170913-story.html>
- xxxii Earth.com headline taken on 4/17/20 from this weblink: <https://www.earth.com/news/brain-chips-superintelligence/>
- xxxiii Univ. of Melbourne headline taken on 4/17/20 from this weblink: Insertable technology could launch a new type of human.
- xxxiv Superpowers within our reach was taken on 4/20/20 from this weblink: <https://futurism.com/the-future-of-humanity-superpowers-are-within-our-reach>

^{xxxv} Sociable headline taken on 4/18/20 from this weblink: US defense intelligence warns of AI-human hybrid soldiers from China.