

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

18. The Mark of the Beast



Revelation 13 - 14

Introduction

Throughout human history there has been a conflict taking place for the souls of men and women. We were created by God to love and worship Him, but Satan is desperately trying to gain our worship. This conflict began in the Garden of Eden and is rapidly reaching a climax.



In what ways did Satan try and tempt Jesus to worship him? Matthew 4:3, 6, 8. What offer did Satan make to Jesus if He did so? v8-9

Satan is still trying to offer mankind the Kingdoms of this world in exchange for his worship. In Revelation 13 we see that Satan uses the two Beasts to achieve his goal.

Scripture Reading: Revelation 13:14-18, 14:9-12



What did this second Beast, the false prophet, demand all men to do? V15



When people worship the image who is it they are the really worshipping? Compare Revelation 13:15 with 13:4, 8 and 12:9.

Not only will this wicked man, the false prophet, force everyone to worship the image he sets up, but he will force everyone to receive a mark, and if people refuse they will be unable to buy or sell. Today different governments are using economic boycotts to persuade other nations to conform to their wishes, but in the future this will be used to pressure individuals to worship the beast.



Study the following verses about this 'mark'. What can you learn about it? 13:16-18

Many suggestions have been given as to what this mark is. Some believe it will be an implanted chip, a technology that is already available. Others believe it will be a mark like a tattoo that can be visibly seen and scanned into a database. There have also been numerous suggestions as to the meaning of 666. The number 6 is the number of man, and 666 is man's attempt to become like God. (Remember that in Hebrew and Greek each letter of the alphabet has a numerical value.)



Why do you think Satan chooses to 'mark' his followers? Look at Revelation 3:12, 14:1, 22:4



What will be the consequences for those who do take the mark and worship the beast, and for those who do not take it, and refuse to worship the beast? 13:15, 17, 14:10-11, 15:2, 16:2



In the light of what is about to happen, discuss the importance and meaning of what Jesus says in Matthew 6:21, 24, 33.



What adjustments do you need to make in your life to truly 'seek first His Kingdom'?
What has the Holy Spirit been saying to you in this study?

Conclusion

Satan offered Jesus the kingdoms of this world if He would bow down and worship him. Jesus refused. He knew He would have to suffer and die, but if He obeyed God's plan for His life, He would receive an everlasting Kingdom. We constantly face the temptation to live for the kingdoms of this world, but let us keep our eyes fixed on that Kingdom above, and be ready for the time when Jesus will come to escort us there. And let us reach out to as many as we can to bring them with us!