

What is the Mark of the Beast?

¹⁵And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. ¹⁶And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: ¹⁷And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. [Revelation 13:15-17]

To find the true Hebraic answer to this question, we must first understand what a “beast” is.

When יהוה (G*d) “formed” the man from the dust of the ground, He “formed” him with a spirit that gave him the power of intellect. The word “formed” in Hebrew is “yeet-ZAIR”. In Genesis 2:7 יהוה “formed” (yeet-ZAIR: יצַר) the man; and in verse 19 יהוה “formed” (yeet-ZAIR: יצַר) the beasts. Notice the difference in the spelling: the additional “yod” at the beginning of the word [Hebrew reads from right to left] means that יהוה placed a spiritual component in man and not in the beasts. Also יהוה breathed into man the breath of “lives” (hah-YEEM: חיים). Again there are two “yods” in this word instead of one, and it is plural. יהוה breathed both physical life and spiritual life into the man. The word for beast is “Hy” (חי). This word also means "life", but it is singular and it only has one “yod.” Man was created as a higher life-form, and he was to live both a physical life and a spiritual life.

In Exodus 13:9, Deuteronomy 6:8, and Deuteronomy 11:18 it says that the Torah (“Law” or “Instruction”) of יהוה is to be a sign on your hand and on your forehead. This is figurative not literal. **“Hand and forehead” means “actions and thoughts”**. So how we think and act marks us. Either we wear the sign of יהוה or we wear the mark of a beast. This does not mean that there is a literal “Beast” that marks us, but that we are marked as beasts if we do not live by the Torah (Instructions) of יהוה. If you live by the Torah then you are sealed with the sign of יהוה, and you have not received the “mark of a beast.” If you have not received this mark, then you do not need to fear the future because the awesome יהוה will be your strength and your protection.

¹There is no longer any condemnation awaiting those who are in Messiah Yeshua; who do not live according to the desires of the flesh, but according to the spirit. ²For the Torah of the spirit which produces this life in Messiah Yeshua has made me free from the rule of sin and death. ³For what the Torah could not do, because of the weakness of the flesh, G*d accomplished by sending his own son as a human being with a nature like our own sinful one to deal with sin and to condemned sinful desire. ⁴This was done that we might fulfill the righteousness of the Torah by

living according to the spirit and not according to our own desires. ⁵For those who live according to their own desires are concerned about self gratification; but those who live according to the spirit are concerned with spiritual things. ⁶To be beastly minded brings death; but to be spiritually minded brings life and peace. ⁷The beastly mind is hostile toward G*d because it does not submit to G*d's Torah. Indeed, it cannot submit. ⁸So then, those who follow their own desires cannot please G*d. [Romans 8:1-8]

The life of the redeemed is to live by His every word. To live by His every word means that we must suppress (with the help of יהוה) the inclination to do evil which is in all human beings. We must overcome our “beast” nature and embrace our “godly” nature.

The one thing that the evildoers of this world do not like is to have their actions criticized. Look at the attitude of the people of Sodom when they confronted Lot:

But they said, "Stand back! This guy," they said, "came here as a foreigner and now he thinks he can judge us! Now we will deal worse with you than with them." And they pushed hard against Lot, and moved forward to break the door. [Genesis 19:9]

What Revelation 13:15-17 is telling us is this: Those who do not yield to their beastly nature will be shunned by a “politically correct” society so that they can neither buy nor sell. Those who live righteously and stand for righteousness will be labeled as “bigots,” “homophobes,” “prudes,” etc. They will be accused of being “intolerant” and “judgmental” because they dare to live by the word of יהוה. They will, by their very example, be an annoyance to the beastly elements of society.