

THE BEAST SYSTEM

vs.

THE LAW OF 666'

Scriptural Proof of the Mark of the Beast

by Craig Wm. Peters

INTRODUCTION

This study proclaims the good news of the Kingdom: יהוה reigns! Psalm 97:1, Isaiah 52:7, Acts 10:36. He is the Sovereign King over all things and His counsel, plans, and purposes will stand forever, Proverbs 19:21, Isaiah 46:10. No one can turn back His stretched out hand; He sits as King forever although we do not presently see all things in subjection under His feet. That which He has determined will come to pass with or without us, and so it behooves us to humble ourselves before Him through fasting and prayer, 2Chronicles 34:27, 1Peter 5:6.

Because the Eternal Kingship of יהוה is the Good News of the Kingdom, it is not surprising at the very end of this age when Satan's mystery of lawlessness has gained its greatest power, our Creator's Kingship will be brazenly and diametrically opposed: the decrees of Satan, the Devil, via the beast will **totally reverse** the Law of יהוה, the King of the Universe. Instead of the death sentence upon those who disobey the Torah (Genesis 2:17, Ezekiel 18:24, Acts 5:1-10, Romans 1:32, Hebrews 10:28), the death sentence will be decreed upon those who "keep His commandments" (Romans 3:31, 1Corinthians 7:19, 1John 5:1-3, Revelation 11:7, 12:17, 13:7,15, 14:12, 20:1-4). But the second death will have no power over those who "keep the commandments of יהוה and the testimony of יהושע:"

Blessed are those doing His commands, so that the authority shall be theirs unto the tree of life, and to enter through the gates into the city.
Revelation 22:14, 12:17, 14:12, ISRV

Our only hope as these days draw near is to be delivered from high-mindedness and to seek the Almighty through fasting and prayer (Daniel 9:3, Zephaniah 2:3, Matthew 9:15, 2Corinthians 6:5, 11:27) to the end that we may be among those described by the word of יהוה through the prophet Isaiah:

For thus saith the High and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose Name is pure; I dwell in the high and separate place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones ... For all those hath Mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith יהוה: but to this one will I look, to one that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My word." Isaiah 57:15, 66:2

The study which follows, then, should be approached in such a contrite manner as the word of יהוה provides much for us to glean regarding this momentous subject. Each person owes a great duty to the One in whose hand are held our life-breath and all our ways, Daniel 5:23, 1Samuel 12:24. Please read and study all Scripture references.

This work holds in highest honor the eternal Name of יהוה (Exodus 3:15) in accordance with and in obedience to the teachings of the Savior and Messiah (see Matthew 6:9, John 17:6,11,12,26, Hebrews 6:10, Revelation 3:12, 11:18, 14:1, 15:4, 22:4). יהוה is the Most High over all the earth, the Mighty One of Yisrael and the Father of all who have believed on the Name of His Son. Also honored is the Name of the Son of יהוה, יהושע, the Messiah (commonly and erroneously translated as "Jesus"). The titles of deity commonly used in today's worship (such as "LORD" and "God") are based in traditions of man and thereby nullify the Third Commandment. Exodus 20:7, Matthew 15:6, Mark 7:13. Such traditions also serve to negate and conceal the Savior's ministry as *Prophet*, *Priest*, and *King* since יהושע came in His Father's Name as a **Prophet** (Deuteronomy 18:18,19, John 5:43, 10:25); He is now risen from the dead and ascended into the Presence of יהוה in heaven as our **High Priest** – whose very purpose and ministry, currently, is to further reveal the Name of יהוה and keep us in its power (John 17:3,11,26; Hebrews 2:12, 1Peter 1:5); and He will return in the Name of יהוה to reign as **King** over all the earth (Psalm 102:16, 118:26, Isaiah 30:27, Zechariah 14:9, Matthew 23:39, Luke 13:35).

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PREFACE

What is the truth behind the world-renowned and forever famous “*mark of the beast?*” Most Christians are busy awaiting the much-dreaded, computer-code-based mark of control which multitudes purport shall be imposed on the physical body by a looming, one-world government. Many speculate an *implanted microchip* will be the fulfillment of the prophecies which relate to “the mark of the beast.” Still others think it is all related to the implementation of the “*smart card.*” But while spectacular speculations and theological theories make for a good return on book sale\$ and personal profit\$, they do not feed the sheep of יהוה. *We will learn those who have rejected the prophetic and eternal Torah can never understand the enigma of lawlessness which is otherwise known as “the mark of the beast.”* As goes the actual truth of the matter, the eternal word of יהוה clearly warns how the mark of the beast system is being received even *now* by those who subscribe to Satan’s mystery of lawlessness. We must realize *spiritual marks of allegiance* are not necessarily evident to the naked eye of those who are yet living in the physical realm! Ezekiel 9:4-9, Revelation 14:1, 22:4. This work puts speculation and theories to rest in light of the clear, eternal Word of the Messiah Himself.

As we study this topic, the very issue surrounding the appearance of the AntiMessiah becomes the most telling and instructive indicator for those seeking to understand the truth of the matter! That issue is one of *allegiance ...* it is an issue of *who* we have determined to serve and obey! Matthew 6:24, Romans 6:16 For it was prophesied many centuries ago that false prophets would arise among the people and attempt to lead them astray from the commandments of יהוה. Deuteronomy 13:1-4 Those prophets, Mosheh/Moses warned, would even use *miraculous signs and wonders*, in an attempt to lead others into *lawlessness*. Which poses another question:

“If there is an effort to pull others away from the Torah via the miraculous, then just how amazing and miraculous must the Torah itself be if we begin to understand it?!”

The apostle Shaul also warned of this “mystery

of lawlessness” (translated, “iniquity”) which Satan would spawn among the nations of the world. He, too, indicated *signs and wonders* would be used as a satanic front to inspire disobedience to the commandments of יהוה, 2Thessalonians 2:7-9. In the book of *Revelation*, the apostle Yochanan/John warned likewise. Revelation 13:13-18, 16:13,14 We will visit these many Scripture texts in detail momentarily. In contrast to Satan-inspired, anti-Torah *lawlessness*, יהושע the Messiah – the Savior of Yisrael and of the whole world – kept and taught the eternal Law of יהוה. Matthew 5:17-20, 19:17-19, John 15:10, 1John 2:3-6, Revelation 12:17 The Messiah kept and taught the Law of יהוה while the AntiMessiah, we are warned, shall advocate *lawlessness*. This gives us the following contrasts:

The Messiah vs. the AntiMessiah ... Right vs. wrong ... Righteousness vs. sin ... Good vs. evil ... Uprightness vs. perversity ... Light vs. darkness ... and Law vs. lawlessness.

It is only through understanding and keeping the commandments of יהוה that we can be made wise against the schemes of our Enemy, the Devil, Psalm 111:10, 119:98-100, 2Corinthians 2:11. And, indeed, we will see the kingdom of darkness has aligned itself against the light which emanates from the Law of יהוה. And Satan is further inflamed against any who would be bold in keeping the commandments of the light-giving Torah, 2Timothy 3:12, Revelation 12:17. For it is the Torah which gives forth the light of יהוה (Isaiah 2:5) even as Solomon wrote: “*For the commandment is a lamp and the Torah is light*”... Proverbs 6:23. Hence, it is also through the commandments of יהוה that we shall expose the darkness and intrigue which are behind the “mark of the beast.” Through the written and Living Word, the splendor which ever shines forth from the Kingdom of Light now shines in the darkness and grows ever brighter: “*And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*” John 1:10, ISRV

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And יְהוָה answered him, “The first of all the commandments is, ‘Hear Yisrael! יְהוָה our Elohim, יְהוָה is one: and you shall love יְהוָה your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength: this is the first commandment.’”

Mark 12:29,30

אז Numerous teachings abound regarding the mark of the beast. Christians are busy warning others about the relationship between modern technology and the prophesied number of the AntiMessiah’s name, 666: computers, product codes, and the new currency have been cited as part of the one-world takeover. While these things may be the **physical** manifestation of Satan’s imminent beast system – to be headed by the evil, one-world ruler, the AntiMessiah – they cast no light on the ultimate evil, the spiritual intrigue, behind controlling the nations of the earth and leading them into the biggest system of false worship and lawlessness ever to occur in all of history. Unfortunately, the majority of Christians – busy teaching others about the *superficial* aspects of the beast system – are largely rejecting their Creator’s Law and, therefore, they are also failing to see the *clear* warning which we are provided in the word of יְהוָה:

Satan – the spirit of the AntiMessiah – has led and will lead the world in blatant opposition to the immutable Law of the Creator.

Not only does the apostle Shaul label the AntiMessiah as “the lawless one” (2 Thessalonians 2:8, NAS), but the prophet Daniel also warned that he shall “think to change the times and the law,” Daniel 7:25. Recall that all of the prophetic dilemmas faced by Daniel and his three friends in Babylon were the result of a king’s edict, and all such decrees (save one, Daniel 2:12) made it necessary for the captive Yisraelites to choose between serving יְהוָה and obeying His commandments (even in the face of death) or compromising their faith and the Almighty’s truth. See Daniel 1:5, 8; 3:8-12; 6:5-10. The AntiMessiah and his false prophet will dazzle the world with deceptive signs and wonders of falsehood (2 Thessalonians 2:8-10, Revelation 13:13,14), but only for the purpose of leading the nations in a rebellious turn *from and against* the Law of יְהוָה, Psalm 2:1-3, 119:126. Through the word of יְהוָה, Yisrael received prophetic warning of the AntiMessiah some **thirty-five hundred years ago**:

*If there arises among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a **sign** or a **wonder**, and the **sign** or the **wonder** comes to pass, whereof he spoke unto you, saying, “Let us go after other deities, which you have not known, and let us serve them,” you shall not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for יְהוָה your Elohim proves you, to know whether you love יְהוָה your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul.*

Deuteronomy 13:1-3

Compare the above with Shaul’s so-very-similar warning of the AntiMessiah’s false **signs and wonders** which Satan will use to deceive the whole world, thus pulling those who choose false, lawless worship into the inescapable vortex of iniquity empowered by his raging, anti-law scheme of unrighteousness:

*For the mystery of lawlessness doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall the lawless one be revealed, whom the Sovereign shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming: even him whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and **signs** and lying **wonders**, and with all deceit of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 2 Thessalonians 2:7-10*

Some 1500 years after the ancient warning for Yisrael to be on the alert against lawless, false prophets (Deuteronomy 13:1-3) – who, if heeded, would surely undermine their faith, their families and, ultimately their nation (Proverbs 14:34) – the apostle John wrote this warning to the early disciples of יְהוָה:

*“... and this is that spirit of AntiMessiah, whereof you have heard that it should come; and **even now it is already in the world.**” 1 John 4:3*

The anti-law, rebellious spirit was at work in the first century assembly of Messianic believers for it had already been at work from the very beginning, John 8:44. The apostle Shaul warned

the Thessalonians that “*the mystery of lawlessness is already at work,*” (2Thessalonians 2:7, NAS): even as Balaam taught Balak to entice Yisrael to violate the Law of יהוה, so there were those among the early believers who did likewise, Revelation 2:14. To be sure, the aforementioned *physical* manifestations of the mounting, one-world, political-religious system¹ are certainly something to be kept in mind, but unless a person is able to perceive the *spiritual principles* of the Law of יהוה which the beast system, even now, increasingly violates on a worldwide basis, there is a great possibility of being swept away with the masses as they are spellbound by the AntiMessiah in Satan’s fiercest revolt ever against the fast-approaching Kingdom of יהוה, Revelation 13:3,8. יהוה knows man’s tendency to “go along with the crowd,” and He strictly warns us against such a course: “*Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil,*” Exodus 23:2.

Consider Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah: despite the compromise of the majority by which they were surrounded, those men refused to bow before the image of Nebuchadnezzar knowing that upon losing their favor with the king they would be thrown into the burning furnace, Daniel 3. Did their keeping of the *Second Commandment* – which forbids *images* of false worship (Exodus 20:4-6) – fall under the realm of “works of the law” or “faith working through love?” (Galatians 3:2, 5:6, 1John 5:3,4) Do we even need to ask the question?! Certainly their obedience stemmed from the latter; theirs was a “faith working through love.” And this love resulted in their faithfully keeping the *Second Commandment*. Were Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah being legalistic in their staunch refusal to serve the *carnal* wishes of the evil and idolatrous king? Certainly not. And were they “cut off from Messiah” (Galatians 5:4) as so many Christians in our day would judge them to be based on their desire to honor יהוה and *His commandments* above the wishes of men? Certainly not. For it was “one like the Son of Elohim” who saved them from the fire, Daniel 3:24,25. And this issue is to surface once again on a larger scale in the time of the end: we note

¹ Mind you, “religious” paganism as has now completely infiltrated mainstream, nominal, and increasingly apostate Evangelical Christianity and its Catholic mother, Revelation 17:1-5.

Nebuchadnezzar’s image was sixty cubits tall and six cubits wide – not quite the 666; it simply was not the fullness of time. But this incident was manifestly prophetic of the end-time, false worship which the AntiMessiah will thrust upon the deceived nations of the world: as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, faithful believers will be made to choose between false worship and death, Revelation 13:8,15. As Satan’s mystery of lawlessness increases in power, the great falling away is now nearing completion (2Thessalonians 2:3, 2Timothy 4:3); those who honor the true teachings of Scripture have become greatly diminished in number. And the situation will worsen; those who have ears to hear will become fewer and farther between as Satan’s mystery of lawlessness puts the finishing few touches on amalgamating Christianity with the world. Daniel and his three friends stood alone against the pagan practices of Babylonian, false worship and so will it be among those who are faithful unto death in the time of the end. Through faith in the shed blood of יהושע (Revelation 12:11), it will be possible to stand opposed to the Adversary’s beast system which ever has and ever will set itself in direct and blatant opposition to the *First Four Laws* of the Kingdom of יהוה.² That this is the case may be readily seen as we study the chart on the following page:

² We must realize the foremost Law of the Kingdom of יהוה involves “the Shema.” When asked, “Which is the first commandment of all?” יהושע replied, “The first of all the commandments is, ‘Hear, Yisrael; יהוה יהוה, יהוה is one: and you shall love יהוה your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.” Mark 12:29-30 We will see that this “first commandment,” the Shema, encapsulates each of the *First Four Commandments* in the Decalogue; for it is these Four, preeminent Commands which define “the love of יהוה.” The latter six commandments of the Decalogue (5-10) sum up expressions of true love for others. And unless we love our neighbor, our worship (i.e., our love for יהוה and observance of “the first commandment,” the Shema) is in vain. See Jeremiah 7:9,10 יהושע taught the same as he stated the second greatest commandment – to love one’s neighbor as oneself – is like “the first.” “*And the second is like it, namely this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’*”... Mark 12:31, Matthew 22:39 John, the apostle, wrote similarly, “*If a man loves not his brother whom he has seen, how can he love Elohim who he has not seen?*” 1John 4:20

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EXODUS 20:3-11

“I am יהוה thy Elohim which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage...”

I. *“Thou shalt have no other deities before Me”...*

II. *“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image”...*

III. *“Thou shalt not take the **Name** of יהוה thy Elohim in vain”...*

IV. *“Remember the Sabbath day to keep it set apart; six days shall you **labor** and do all thy **work**”...*

MARK 12:30

“Thou shalt love יהוה thy Elohim”...

I. *“... with all thy heart,” ...*

II. *“... and with all thy soul,” ...*

III. *“... and with all thy **mind**,” ...*

IV. *“... and with all thy **strength**.”*

REVELATION 20:4

Of the victorious believers who partake in the first resurrection, it is written: *they ...*

I. *“...worshiped not the beast,” ...*

II. *“...neither his **image**”...*

III. *“...neither had received the mark upon their **foreheads**”...*

IV. *“...or in their **hands**.”*

As seen from the above chart, the First Four Commandments of the Decalogue (i.e., the *Ten Commandments*) are mentioned concurrently in at least four places in the word of יהוה³; two locations are in the Law and the Prophets³ and two are in the Messianic writings; one of these latter, two quotes was from an apostle while the other citation provides a direct quotation from the Messiah.⁴ When the above chart is read *horizontally*, you are seeing reference to the *same commandment* all the way across. Of course, when the chart is read *vertically* in any column, you are seeing the *First Four Commandments in sequential order*. If one studies the chart, it will be observed how precisely the key fits while remaining hidden to those who do not receive the love of the truth.⁵ יהוה defined “the truth” as the word of יהוה given through the Law and the Prophets. John 17:17, Luke 16:30,31. The chart, then, shows the beast system in precise opposition to the Law of יהוה. In the light of the Torah, we see those who keep the commandments of יהוה must do so in the face of and in opposition to⁶ man’s carnality which ever fuels the worldly viewpoint and its prevailing, pagan philosophies.⁷ This is not to say that life is impossible for such believers, but in general, they will find themselves “out of step” with the world. And it appears our differences with the world will be greatly emphasized (and wrongly vilified by the unbelieving) as this age draws to a close; from all we can ascertain, this vilification will give rise to all-out persecution against those who abide in commandment-keeping faith just prior to the return of the Messiah, Revelation 14:12. Below is a short summary and explanation of the above chart which manifests the beast’s system of lawlessness as blatantly, irreverently, and diametrically opposed to the Law of יהוה:

I. The First Commandment

Those who love יהוה with all their heart are keeping the *First Commandment*; they have no other deities before Him. They will not worship the beast. (Please review the above chart horizontally and note the perfect alignment of the *First Commandment* via ... having no other deity before יהוה ... loving Him with all one’s heart ... and not worshipping the beast.)

³ Exodus 20:1-17, Deuteronomy 5:6-21

⁴ Mark 12:29-30, Revelation 20:4

⁵ Isaiah 8:17, 45:15, Acts 17:26,27, 2Thessalonians 2:8-10

⁶ Psalm 1:1,2, Ezekiel 3:8-10

⁷ Jeremiah 10:1-8, Romans 12:1,2, 1John 2:15-17

II. The Second Commandment

Those who love יהוה with all their soul are keeping the *Second Commandment*; they will neither bow in worship before nor serve graven *images*. As Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, they will not worship the *image* of the beast. The word of יהוה foretells of a time of great commerce and trade throughout the earth, Revelation 18:3-20. In conjunction with the AntiMessiah’s rise to power, it is very likely his *image* will be placed on international currency even as Caesar’s *image* and likeness was inscribed on Roman currency in the days of יהושע, see Luke 20:24. Any who embrace this lawless, political-religious system (including its monetary superstructure), who engage in false worship for the sake of food and clothing, and who worship mammon by coveting the treasures of this present evil age, all such persons will be worshipping the *image* of the beast and will bring upon themselves the wrath of יהוה the Almighty:

*“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man **worship the beast** [in opposition to the *First Commandment*] and his **image** [in opposition to the *Second Commandment*], and receive the mark in his forehead [in opposition to the *Third Commandment*], or in his hand [in opposition to the *Fourth Commandment*], the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of Elohim, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the set apart messengers and in the presence of the Lamb; and the smoke of their torment goeth up to the Age of ages; and they have no rest day nor night, who **worship the beast** and his **image**, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the set apart ones – even they that **keep the commandments of יהוה** and the faith of יהושע;”* Revelation 14:9-12. *Parenthetical comments in brackets mine.*

We also note it was in the *Second Commandment* that יהוה Himself taught *love* is defined as the keeping of His commandments:

... and showing lovingkindness to a thousand (generations) of those that love Me and keep My commandments.” Exodus 20:4-6, Jude 1:21⁸

⁸ See also: Deuteronomy 7:9, 11:1,22, 19:9, 30:16, Joshua 22:5, Daniel 9:4, John 14:15,23, 15:10, 1John 5:1-

Conversely, those who reject His commandments express enmity and hatred against יהוה, Exodus 20:5, Deuteronomy 5:9, Romans 8:7, James 4:4. יהושע the Messiah taught likewise as shown in the second column of the above chart: those who love יהוה with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength are keeping the *First Four Commandments*. (Please review the above chart horizontally and note the perfect alignment of the *Second Commandment* via *image ... soul ... image*.)

III. The Third Commandment

Those who love יהוה with all their *mind* are those who number among “*them that feared יהוה and that thought upon His Name.*” Malachi 3:16 These believers will (not coincidentally) have His Name written in their *foreheads*, Revelation 14:1, 22:4; they will not accept the beast’s *name* of blasphemy which stands opposed to the honor which is rightly due the great Name of יהוה, the Almighty;⁹ they will not receive the name of the beast in their *foreheads*, Revelation 13:17.

But let us look more closely at this “number of the beast” for Scripture informs us it is “the number of a man:”

“*Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: and his number is six hundred threescore and six.*” Revelation 13:18

Where in Scripture do we find reference to the number 666? In one place we read of a man named “*Adonai-kam.*”

“*... The children of Adonai-kam, six hundred threescore and six.*” Ezra 2:13

But why was 666 prophetically associated with Adonai-kam? Can we ignore the warning afforded us by the word of יהוה which clearly connects Adonai-kam with the name of the beast and the number of his name? Is it mere chance that those Yisraelites who were entrusted with the oracles of יהוה (Acts 7:38, Romans 3:1,2) erroneously taught men to use “Adonai” over and above the great and honorable Name of יהוה? Is it mere chance that the vowel points of “Adonai” were combined with the Name of יהוה in the ancient Hebrew manuscripts resulting in

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⁹ Psalm 115:1,2, Isaiah 42:8

the modern-day linguistic monstrosity “Jehovah?” Is it mere chance that the masses today supposedly worship the Creator as “Master/Lord” (Adonai) while disregarding and oftentimes scorning His eternal Name, יהוה – the Name of which He said, “*this is My Name forever and this is My memorial unto all generations?*” Exodus 3:15, Psalm 135:13, Revelation 11:18, 22:4.

We also read King Solomon was given 666 talents of gold over the period of one year. 1Kings 10:14 While it cannot be definitively said this wealth led to his corruption, there are many warnings in the Scriptures about the apostasy induced by living in a continual state of abundance and/or by setting one’s heart on riches.¹⁰ Not long after Solomon prospered with gold, his heart went after many women; this is the general course of things in our day: men who greatly prosper oftentimes, though not always, become womanizers. And the end-time commerce of the Babylonian, beast system appears to have a strong, apostate-inducing pull on all the peoples of the earth.¹¹ The idolatry behind the coveting of silver and gold¹² have led many astray from the truth of the word and from loving יהוה with all their being.¹³

It is also quite telling to note the prophecy of the beast’s number in *Revelation* had great meaning for the contemporary believers who first received it. The gematria value for “Nero Caesar” in Hebrew is 666:

666 = קסר נרון ←
Kaesar Neron

This breaks down as follows:

(200)ר + (60)ס + (100)ק + (50)ן + (6)ו + (200)ר + (50)נ ←
= 666

And an alternate rendering in some versions gives the number 616; this is obtained from “Nero Kaesar” (without the letter “nun” ending the word “Nero”):

616 = קסר נרו ←
Kaesar Nero

¹⁰ Deuteronomy 6:10-12, 8:10-14, 32:13-18, Proverbs 11:28, 22:8, 23:4, 30:9, Mark 4:19, 1Timothy 6:17

¹¹ Revelation 18:1-19

¹² Colossians 3:5

¹³ Matthew 6:19-24, 1Timothy 6:9

This breaks down as follows:

$$616 = (200) \text{ה} + (60) \text{ס} + (100) \text{ק} + (6) \text{ו} + (200) \text{ה} + (50) \text{נ} \leftarrow$$

Incidentally, the Roman word “Caesar” was originally rendered with a “K;” as such, it was pronounced, “Kaesar.” It was this word which fathered the German word, “Kaiser.” Once more, we see the sovereign hand of יהוה warning us of things that were and are to come: the German Kaisers have historically followed in the footsteps of Nero Kaesar in their bitter hatred of the Torah and the people of the Most High, Psalm 2:1-3. Hitler himself may have been but a shadow of greater persecution yet to come. A successful, first-rate “economic machine” (such as is seen in Germany today) can easily be converted to a war machine. (With the manufacture of such things as the BMW, Mercedes-Benz and many other highly coveted, worldwide exports, might this not already be the case?)

As we give honor to His Name, the Spirit of יהוה will fill our lives more and more with His strength and Presence. Those who love יהוה with all their *mind* will honor His Name (Matt. 6:9) and will not dishonor Him with pagan names of deities associated with the false worship of paganism; they will not receive the mark of the beast in their *forehead*; they fear only the Name of יהוה, Malachi 2:5, 4:2, Revelation 11:18, 15:4. (Please review the above chart horizontally and note the perfect alignment of the *Third Commandment* via ... *Name ... mind ... and forehead.*)

IV. The Fourth Commandment

Those who love יהוה with all their *strength* “*work heartily as for the Master and not for men,*” Colossians 3:23. They truly *labor* six days doing all their work for יהוה loves the diligent, Romans 12:11. The weekly cycle of *working* six days and *resting* the Seventh pictures those who will do a greater spiritual work and enter its corresponding rest in the Kingdom of יהוה:

Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that holds it fast: that keeps the Sabbath from profaning it and keeps his hand from doing any evil. Isaiah 56:2

As already seen (in footnote #2), sacrifices of praise and worship on the Sabbath are offered in vain if we are not walking with יהוה the Father and loving our neighbor during the previous six

days of work, Jeremiah 7:8-10. In like manner, those who do the spiritual work of יהוה now – who “*reign in life (over sin) through יהושע the Messiah*” (Romans 5:17, Psalm 125:3) – will have true rest as they reign in His Millennial Kingdom:

Blessed are they which die in the Master from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them. Revelation 14:13

As we diligently *labor* throughout the week and keep the Seventh Day of יהוה – the day set apart for us to especially grow in our intimacy and walk with Him – He sets *us* apart and our true knowledge of Him increases:

And יהוה spoke unto Mosheh, saying, Speak thou also unto the children of Yisrael, saying, “Verily My sabbaths you shall keep: for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations; that you may know that I am יהוה that sets you apart.” Exodus 31:12,13

“...*And this is life eternal, that they may know Thee, the only true Elohim, and יהושע the Messiah whom Thou hast sent.*” John 17:3

As we keep the Sabbath we are strengthened to do His will, overcome, and enter His greater rest. Those who love יהוה with all their *strength* will not receive the mark of the beast (that is, the number of his name) in their *hand*. They will shun Canaanite commerce on this special Day (Nehemiah 10:31, 13:15-19) and they will keep the time set apart by יהוה for True Worship, true rest and true salvation in the Messiah, Isaiah 30:15, Matthew 12:28-30. (Please review the above chart horizontally and note the perfect alignment of the *Fourth Commandment* via ... *labor ... strength ... and hand.*)

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This ends our direct thoughts on the above chart which shows “*The Beast System vs. the Law of יהוה*.” But before continuing we should consider the following: it has become a popular opinion that the mark of the beast is an actual, physical imprint on the forehead or hand (and possibly a microchip to be injected under the skin). The author holds this to be a *more-than-dangerous* opinion. For the unwary religious masses are currently *rejecting* the Law of יהוה while resting at ease in false security; they feel quite safe and think themselves to be free from

any threat of danger (as is often the case with those staggering, unawares, to destruction, 1Thessalonians 5:3, Psalm 35:8, Luke 21:34). “The mystery of lawlessness” has so duped the majority they never even consider the much-dreaded, long-awaited “mark of the beast” has *already been* or *is in the process of being* placed on those who bow down to the religious lawlessness which is so daintily dressed in Torah-breaking, commandment-nullifying paganism! That the mark of the beast is thus clearly related to disobedience and rebellion against the Torah (the Five Books of Mosheh) cannot be denied: spiritual marks which will determine spiritual judgment – whether that judgment proves to be favorable or unto destruction – need not be visible to the human eye, especially if made by heavenly messengers (see Ezekiel 9:1-6). In contrast to the “mark of the beast,” the mark of true obedience occurs when we have allowed the Spirit to write our Father’s Law as “*a sign upon our hand*” and as “*frontlets between [our] eyes*.” Deuteronomy 6:6-8 We read of this elsewhere in the Torah:

“You shall put these words of Mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and fix them as an emblem on your forehead.” Deuteronomy 11:18

This principle of love-derived obedience – which involves doing with one’s hand¹⁴ – is seen throughout the Law of יהוה:

And it shall be for a sign unto you upon your hand, and for a memorial between your eyes, that the Torah of יהוה may be in your mouth: for with a strong hand has יהוה brought you out of Egypt ... And it shall be for a token upon your hand, and for frontlets between your eyes: for by strength of hand יהוה brought us forth out of Egypt. Exodus 13:9,16

So the Spirit reveals it is those who, “*by the Spirit, put to death the deeds of the body*”¹⁵ that are the precise antithesis to those who reject the Law of יהוה and who refuse to hear and obey

¹⁴ Being a *doer* of the word eventuates in even greater revelation as our *hearts* increase in love for the truth and as our *minds* increase in understanding it. Psalm 111:10, 119:98-100, Isaiah 51:7, Jeremiah 31:33, John 14:21.

¹⁵ Matthew 5:29,30 [in this context, “plucking out” and “cutting off” are Hebraisms for “putting to death,” 2Chronicles 7:20, Psalm 52:5, Exodus 9:15, 31:14, Leviticus 7:27, 17:4,9,10,14, 20:6], Romans 8:13, Colossians 3:5.

the Good News of His Kingship, 2Thessalonians 1:8,9, James 4:12 The Lawgiver is the Judge and He is also the King:

For יהוה is our Judge, יהוה is our Lawgiver, יהוה is our King: He will save us. Isaiah 33:22,

And so, we solemnly warn all people of the earth:

Disobedience to the Law of יהוה results in an unfavorable marking of judgment being placed upon the forehead and hand of all those who reject His commandments.

Just *how*, or precisely *when*, such a mark is placed upon any given person is beyond the scope of this writer, but we are assured many times by the prophets and apostles that “*whosoever calls upon the Name of יהוה will be saved*.” Joel 2:30-32, Acts 2:16-21, Romans 10:13 So dear readers must realize this work is offered in love by the Spirit of יהוה and the writer himself passes absolutely no judgment upon any person. *If you have been led to this document, perhaps it was by the Sovereign Hand of the Creator who wishes you to reconsider the truth of the Good News and who wishes to place upon you the mark of His Name!* Psalm 37:37¹⁶ If the Spirit is revealing something of clear benefit from the Scriptures, failing to warn others would be a *lack of love* on the part of the writer. Amos 3:7,8 Each person is exhorted to seek יהוה while He may be found, Isaiah 55:6. We are instructed to call upon the Name of יהוה *before* the day of His wrath arrives. Joel 2:30-32 For the day of wrath approaches in which the doors of mercy have closed with a thunder. In this day, when the lawless call out, יהוה will not hear.¹⁷

Let us read closely the context of Revelation 14:9-12 where those who keep the commandments (as frontlets between the eyes and as a sign upon the hand¹⁸) are contrasted

¹⁶ The Hebrew of Psalm 37:37 uses the word, “shamar” for “mark” (“mark” is the word used in the KJV). “Shamar” means “to keep, guard, watch, or *mark*” and this guarding/markings is one of the six things which יהוה does to place His very Name, *His mark*, upon His people. See Numbers 6:24-27, Revelation 14:1, 22:4.

¹⁷ Proverbs 1:24-32, Jeremiah 14:10-12, Ezekiel 8:17,18

¹⁸ “*Between the eyes*” is the *forehead* – which signifies the *mind*! “*A sign upon the hand*” signifies being a *doer* of the word, a *doer* of the Law of liberty! James 1:22-25, John 21:25, Isaiah 56:2

with those who do not keep the commandments and who are, subsequently, classified as those who have received the mark of the beast/disobedience (on their foreheads!) and the number of his name (on their right hand!):

9 *And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worships the beast and his image, and receive a mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of יהוה, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the pure messengers, and in the presence of the Lamb: 11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up to the Age of the ages: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. 12 Here is the patience of the set apart ones: here are they that keep the commandments of יהוה and the faith of יהושע.* Revelation 14:9-12

It should now be emphasized that this study is **not** trying to deny or counter the possibility that the mark of the beast will also be physical in nature. However, avoiding that physical mark alone (assuming there is one) will not help anyone who still violates His commandments for to fear יהוה and to keep His commandments is “the whole duty of man,” Ecclesiastes 12:10. And **part** of what יהוה forbids in His Law is cutting marks in our flesh and tattooing, Leviticus 19:28. So those who know and obey both *the physical and spiritual aspects of the Law of יהוה* (and who refuse to compromise) have already been safeguarded *regardless* of the nature of this mark! We can be sure that those who write His Law as frontlets between their eyes and as a sign upon their hands¹⁹ will not have room to receive any other mark – whether that mark is physical, or spiritual, or *both*.

As both the apostle John and יהוה Himself have said, love is the keeping of His commandments, 1 John 5:3, Exodus 20:6. Let any who aspire to follow their Savior wholeheartedly take heed: there is a great difference between dead, letter-of-the-law legalism and “the keeping of the commandments of יהוה.”²⁰ יהושע the Messiah (representing the latter) spoke of this difference when rebuking the scribes and Pharisees (who represent the former):

¹⁹ Proverbs 3:1-3, 7:1-3

²⁰ Ezekiel 36:26,27/2 Corinthians 3:3, Romans 7:6, 1 Corinthians 7:19

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law: judgment and mercy and faith; these ought ye to have **done** and not to have left the other undone.” Matthew 23:23, Romans 2:13, James 1:22,25, 4:11.

Why should anyone keep or want to keep the commandments of יהוה? Because יהוה teaches this is how we are to seek Him wholeheartedly. Those who keep His testimonies are seeking Him with all their heart:

Blessed are they that keep His testimonies, they seek Him with the whole heart. Psalm 119:2

The general, Christian notion is that one can just relax after believing in the Messiah, but nothing could be more erroneous. Amos 6:1 As he sought to establish the Law of יהוה, the apostle Shaul delighted in the Torah and exhorted believers to be “doers of the Law.”²¹ This man forsook all the world had to offer so that he might fully obey the commandments and obtain, through seeking, a fuller knowledge of his Savior, Philippians 3:7-14. As we keep even “the least of these commandments” our understanding is opened and we grow in our knowledge of יהוה. This is just as the psalmist wrote: ...“a good understanding have all they that do [his commandments].” Psalm 111:10 Seeking Him by keeping His commandments through faith in יהושע our Messiah is just the beginning of an eternal saga; for through countless ages יהוה will continue to teach us of His great lovingkindness, unfolding the revelation of His great Name forever, Exodus 3:15, Ephesians 2:7. So through faith in יהושע the Messiah, we uphold the Law – the immutable commandments of יהוה the Almighty, Romans 3:31, 1 John 5:3,4. To do anything less would be to fail to walk as our Example walked. 1John 2:6 The ultimate purpose of יהוה in setting forth and establishing the New Covenant is to write His Laws and statutes on the hearts and minds of His people:

“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall keep My ordinances and do them.” Ezekiel 36:26,27, Hebrews 8:8-10

²¹ Romans 2:13, 3:31, 7:22, Acts 24:14

For those who follow the Savior, who trust in His shed blood, and who suffer persecution for righteousness' sake, יהוה promises His everlasting kindness and love:

“Hearken unto Me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is My Law: fear you not the reproach of men, neither be you dismayed at their revilings. For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool; but My righteousness shall be forever, and My salvation from generation to generation.” Isaiah 51:7,8, Matthew 5:10,11.

No man is a legalist who knows יהושע as the ongoing fulfillment of יהוה -nissi – יהוה our banner. Through יהושע, יהוה is a banner of love and victory over us (cf. Song of Solomon 2:4; Psalm 60:4; Romans 8:37-39). Such believers have their eyes are fixed on Him, Hebrews 12:2; their hope is set fully on the favor to be brought unto them at the appearing of יהושע Messiah. 1 Peter 1:13. And *“every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself as He is pure.”* 1John 3:2,3. As Abraham, the *“love of Messiah”* constrains them (2 Corinthians 5:14,15); having been justified by His blood, they are no longer free to continue in sin – to transgress His commandments, Romans 6:1-23, 1John 3:4. This is not legalism, it is *“faith working through love;”* this is the faith identical to that which Abraham had in his Seed, even יהושע, Genesis 26:4,5, Romans 3:31, Galatians 3:9. And just as יהוה blessed Abraham for keeping His commandments (Genesis 26:4,5), so will He bless those who obey Him in these last days; those who have entered the New Covenant by the blood of יהושע are also those who keep His commandments:

“Blessed are those doing His commands, so that the authority shall be theirs unto the tree of life, and to enter through the gates into the city.” Revelation 22:14 (ISR), Genesis 18:19, Genesis 26:4,5

If you have not already made a decision, what will be your choice? Will you walk the transient and wide road of lawlessness which eventuates in death,²² or will you walk in the eternal paths – the ways which will be established and exalted forever? The narrow road of rest and peace is set forth in the Law of יהוה and we must not turn aside from it either to the right hand or to the

²² Psalm 1:4-6, Psalm 37:10, Matthew 7:13

left.²³ Do not allow yourself to passively stand by accepting what others teach: seek יהוה while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Do not subject yourself to the lawless teaching of anyone who seeks to turn you from the commandments; for those who teach against the commands of יהוה fit **His definition** of a false prophet:

*“If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a **sign** or a **wonder**, and the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spoke unto you, saying, Let us go after other deities, which you have not known, and let us serve them; you shall not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for יהוה your Elohim proves you, to know whether you **love יהוה** your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after יהוה your Elohim, and fear Him, and **keep His commandments**, and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him, and cleave unto Him.”*
Deuteronomy 13:1-4

The above warning – quoted for a second time – finds its exact and ultimate fulfillment in Satan's end-time mystery of lawlessness and the rise to power of the AntiMessiah – *“the lawless one:”*

*“And then shall that lawless one be revealed, whom the Master shall consume with the Spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming: even him whose coming is after the working of Satan with all **power and signs and lying wonders**, and with all deceit of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth that they might be saved.”* 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10

יהושע also warns that the AntiMessiah will use signs and wonders to turn the nations of the earth completely away from the Law of their Creator and to worship Satan, the dragon:

*“And he does great **wonders**, so that he makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceives those that dwell on the earth by those **miracles** which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.”* Revelation 13:13,14

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²³ Jeremiah 6:16, Matthew 7:14, Psalm 125:1, 1 John 2:17, Deuteronomy 5:32, 17:20, 28:14.

Conclusion

In this manuscript you have scriptural proof Satan is the author of a lawless scheme to deceive the entire world and to acquire the worship of all mankind, Revelation 13:4. The adversary of the Messiah and of your soul is the author of murder and lawlessness (John 8:44); in contrast, our Messiah is the Author of Life and Law, Deuteronomy 30:15-19, Acts 3:14,15, 7:38. No one should continue to subject themselves to anyone who teaches against the commandments of יהוה, well-meaning though they may be. יהושע calls us to leave all and follow Him. Part of what He may be calling you to forsake is the false worship of those who refuse to accept the facts. While it hurts to lose friends and to be, at best, a byword among many of your own family, which is more important: seeking for wisdom as for hidden treasure (Proverbs 8:10,11) or enjoying religious, social and familial popularity for a short season?

יהושע kept, taught and upheld His Father's commandments, Matthew 5:17-20, Romans 3:31, 1 John 5:4,5. In contrast, the AntiMessiah is termed, "the lawless one" (2 Thessalonians 2:8); the wicked antithesis of your Savior will cast the truth to the ground, hating and spurning the eternal Law of יהוה! Daniel 7:25,8:12 Certainly, then, there is another explanation for the few Scriptures which most Evangelicals use to purport the commandments of יהוה have been abolished. In light of Satan's mystery of *lawlessness*, such a viewpoint should be seriously reconsidered! 2Thessalonians 2:7 When understood in its proper context, no Scripture ever relaxes the immutable law of יהוה.

The Law is eternal and cannot be abolished.²⁴ The rampant, no-law claims of false teachers are simply without scriptural basis and those teachings have greatly contributed to the disintegration of the American social fabric over the last 100 years. The grace of יהוה in יהושע the Messiah was *never* meant to be turned into the lawlessness (termed "lasciviousness" in the KJV, Jude 1:4). When properly understood, the *Ten Commandments* are seen to be a *summary* of all of the Torah so that not even "the least of these commandments" has ever been abolished. Matthew 5:17-20 We must seek to understand and obey the Torah in the light of יהושע the Messiah:

²⁴ Deuteronomy 29:29, Psalm 105:8, 119:89,160, Isaiah 40:8, 1 Peter 1:23,25

Hear O Yisrael! יהוה our Elohim: יהוה is one.
Deuteronomy 6:4

May each reader find in this study a better understanding of "the mark of the beast." We have seen the light of Torah shining on the truth of this issue, and we have experienced the very truth of which the psalmist wrote:

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.*
Psalm 119:105

The light of the Torah has exposed "the mark of the beast" and has made us wiser than the Enemy of our souls; we are now more fully aware of his schemes. May each reader receive a blessing from the word of יהוה herein revealed, and may each one, in some way, be further inclined to hear and to obey the word of יהוה. May many tribes, tongues, peoples, and nations receive the mark of His Great and Qadosh (Set Apart) Name. יהוה will surely bless many to abide in His awesome, light-filled Presence as He bestows upon them His great and endless love ... both now and in the ages yet to come.²⁵ May the Spirit of יהוה fill each one with a growing understanding of His infinite love and wisdom revealed through the ancient paths of the Torah!
אה

Postscript

For other, free manuscripts – which are offered to provide spiritual instruction and benefit to all believers who seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness – visit our website at:

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For further details which explain the balance between Law and grace, see "Law vs. Grace" – the title of *Part 1* in the APPENDIX of "*Is All Meat Meet to Eat?*"

²⁵ Deuteronomy 33:3, Luke 10:39, Ephesians 2:7