

Christian Seeking Identity

A Ministry of Alpha & Omega International Ministries

May 2020

Greeting Family & Friends,

We trust in the Lord that you are well, safe and have everything that you need during these trying times. Suzan and I have been taking advantage of this “stay at home time” to catch up on many projects that we have had pending. It seems like the news media has taken over every channel on television and radio to share with the world about the (as they state it) “pandemic in the world”. This seemingly has brought about a feeling of fear and hopelessness to many people as portrayed by the media. Suzan and I have had long talks and times of prayer regarding some of the things that we have heard coming from some believers. In this month’s newsletter Suzan shares with us one of those subjects that we find in the Book of Revelations concerning the end times and “The Mark of the Beast”.

We trust that it will bless and encourage you in your walk with the Lord.

God Bless You!

Your friends,

Mikey & Suzan

The Mark of the Beast

For years things have been ramping up. The last days are upon us and it is the number one topic of conversation among Christians all over the world. The corona virus was just the icing on the cake. Never before have we witnessed anything like it. According to Matthew 24, this is only the beginning and things are only going to get worse! Christians are the number one target because their value system directly opposes the world’s agenda. In fact, it is going to get so bad, that the love of many will grow cold! Christians are going to develop a defeated attitude and cave in to the pressures of the world.

All these *are* the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake and then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. (Matthew 24:8-12)

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When we focus on what is going on, it is discouraging. It seems as if the enemy has taken control of the world and fear is running rampant! This is exactly what he wants us to believe and it could **not** be farther from the truth!

This is the time for the church to shine! The enemy is no longer in control. **We are.**

Jesus delivered us from the things of this world when he died on the cross. Galatians 1:4

Jesus was given dominion over all people and nations. He was given dominion over the things of this world and when He died our death, He gave us the right to take dominion. The enemy has been defeated; the war is over, but he wants us to believe that he is still in control and he is using lies fueled by the spirit of fear to accomplish his goals.

God has **not** given us a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, (2 Timothy 1:7-9)

We don't have to cow-down in fear because the power of God is the source of our deliverance in the midst of everything going on. The world is flesh centered with its sights on gratifying the lusts of the flesh. It wants to exalt man above God because this is the agenda of the enemy. But God says, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord and you won't be disappointed.

Could the mark of the beast that the book of Revelation talks about be a symbolic representation of mentally giving into or accepting the god of this world's philosophy that puts all of the emphasis on glorifying and gratifying the flesh?

Christians are being intimidated and bullied by the world's system in an attempt to get them to compromise their God centered belief system. The world says, If you don't renounce what you believe, we will destroy you.

Let me give you an example: Chick fil-A is a fast food restaurant owned and operated by Christians. Their store is closed on Sundays and they frequently made large donations to Christian organizations. Last year

they were challenged by the LGBTQ movement which said if you don't quit supporting Christian organizations, we will take our business elsewhere and we will make sure your business comes to financial ruin. Unfortunately, Chick fil-A gave in to the demands of the bullies. On the other side, we can look at the cake baker in Colorado who has refused to compromise his principles and has endured multiple attempts to destroy his business.

Revelation says that everyone who refuses the mark of the beast will not be able to buy or sell and will be killed.

...that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And 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. 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 13:15-18)

The mark of the beast is symbolic of giving in to the pressure to conform to the world's system that exalts man above God.

As we go on to read more about this in Revelation 14 and 15 it says that everyone who receives the mark will be tormented with fear. But, those who refuse to be intimidated because they confidently believe that God will deliver them in the midst of the persecution will be rewarded with rest and peace. God is our defender! The enemy has been defeated.

In John 17:15-18 Jesus said I don't have to take you out of this world to protect you from evil. It is the truth that sets you free and as we live the uncompromised truth the world will be attracted to the truth that they see manifested through us.

And they sang the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous *are* thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true *are* thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for *thou* only *art* holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest. (Revelation 15:3-4)