

Ouachita Baptist University

## Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

---

Vaught Sermon Notes: A Study of the Book of Revelation

W.O. Vaught Archive

---

8-23-1981

### The Mark of the Beast

W. O. Vaught

*Ouachita Baptist University*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/vn\\_revelation](https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/vn_revelation)



Part of the [Biblical Studies Commons](#), and the [Liturgy and Worship Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Vaught, W. O., "The Mark of the Beast" (1981). *Vaught Sermon Notes: A Study of the Book of Revelation*. 26.

[https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/vn\\_revelation/26](https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/vn_revelation/26)

This Sermon Notes is brought to you for free and open access by the W.O. Vaught Archive at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Vaught Sermon Notes: A Study of the Book of Revelation by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact [mortensona@obu.edu](mailto:mortensona@obu.edu).

## THE MARK OF THE BEAST

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION  
REVELATION 13:10-14:5  
NUMBER 22

Dr. W. O. Vaught, Jr.  
Immanuel Baptist Church  
Little Rock, Arkansas

REVELATION 13:10-14:5 "He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints. And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of 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. And 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. 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. And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God."

We have noted that Rev. 13:9 is a very important verse. It indicates to us that the church will not go through the Tribulation. In all previous appearances of the statement "If any man have an ear, let him hear" it always ends with the phrase "What the Spirit sayeth to the churches". But here that phrase does not appear. It is omitted because the church is in Heaven and has been removed from the earthly scene. This verse also tells us that though all believers are removed from the earth at the beginning of the Tribulation, we still find believers on the earth during the Tribulation. This tells us that the evangelistic effort of the 144,000 evangelists and the efforts of Moses and Elijah are effective and many are converted during the Tribulation.

REVELATION 13:10 "He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints." The divine judgment of the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire is here prophesied. But here the translation is very poor. The word "He" should be "If". It should read like this--"If anyone is for captivity he shall go into captivity". It means this--if anyone operated on the policy of enslaving other people, he himself will be enslaved. So this dictator is going to have to take his own medicine and God will see to it that as far as this ruthless dictator is concerned the punishment will fit the crime. So this statement simply explains that this one who enslaves so many will himself be enslaved. He will be captured when Christ returns in his Second Advent and this dictator will be thrown in the lake of fire forever.

The second phrase says, "If anyone kills by the sword he himself must be killed by the sword". They used the sword and in the end the sword will be used against them. Revelation 19 gives us the details of these things. The principle is that no one ever

kills or enslaves a believer without God knowing it and without God bringing discipline on the offender. These Tribulation martyrs will be avenged. For seven years this ruthless dictator got away with his crimes but in the end God called him into judgment. "The patience and faith of the saints" refers to the fact that they leave judgment in the hands of the Lord according to ROMANS 12:19 "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

Now we move into some verses that tell us of the second dictator. The reason he is described in this passage is that he too is demon possessed and is the instrument of Satan. Both of these dictators are under the direct jurisdiction of Satan. These two dictators form an alliance with each other. We now are going to study the Jewish dictator.

REVELATION 13:11 "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon." The word "Another" means another dictator of the same kind. The previous dictator is a Gentile, while this dictator is a Jew. One is from the sea, a Gentile. This one is from the land, a Jew. The dictator in Rome is both a political and religious leader. He is the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire and also the leader of ecumenical religious movement of the world. The Jewish dictator in Jerusalem is the political ruler of Israel and also the religious leader of the Jews. These two dictators form an alliance in the middle of the Tribulation. He is called a beast and a false prophet. He is called the willful king in Daniel 11. He is sometimes called the Anti-Christ. He will deceive the Jews and will actually make them think he is the Messiah. The terms of these two will run parallel, each serving seven years.

From the standpoint of power politics it looks like this.

The King of the North is Russia.  
 The King of the East is Red China  
 The King of the South is the Pan-Arabic Block  
 The King of the West is the Revived Roman Empire

This second dictator looks around and sees Russia on the North and Red China on the East and the Pan-Arabic Block on the South. So he decides the only way for him to go is to the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire.

So these dictators form an alliance. He has to tone down Judaism and he has to agree to place the statue of the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire in the Holy of Holies in the Temple.

"Coming up out of the earth" is from "tes ges" and is a technical term for the land of Palestine. Genesis 49:16-18 tells us this dictator is from the Tribe of Dan. Rev. 16:13 and Rev. 19:20 present him as the false prophet. "Two horns like a lamb" means a male lamb with power. He passes himself off as the Messiah. He is under the control of Satan all the way.

REVELATION 13:12 "And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed." Now we come to the treaty between these two dictators. This first phrase is simply a technical term for saying that they make a treaty. They make an agreement with each other. MATTHEW 24:15 "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)" DANIEL 11:41 "He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon." Both of these passages refer to the fact that they worship the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire.

The death wound was given to the first Roman Empire in 476 A.D. when Romulus Augustus was captured and deposed by the Germans. Romulus Augustus was the last of the Roman Empire emperors. There would be no emperor again until in 800 A.D. when Charlemagne established the Holy Roman Empire. So it was more than 300 years before there was another emperor. Charlemagne was crowned by the Pope and this empire lasted for a few centuries. But in 476 the death blow was struck and the forming of the Revived Roman Empire in the Tribulation is the healing of the deadly wound.

REVELATION 13:13 "And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men" This is an explanation of how this Jewish dictator operates. He is a miracle worker. He performs miracles and healings and makes fire come down from Heaven. Remember that Satan is in the miracle business too and this dictator performs these miracles in the power of Satan. Demons can cause sickness, even death. Demons can heal and speak in tongues. There are ventriloquist demons and they can throw their voice. This is what happened in the Garden of Eden when Satan threw his voice into the serpent. Snakes and healing and demons have always been connected in some way. Aesculapius is the God of healing and also the God of snakes too. The Egyptian word for demon and snake is exactly the same word. Snake worship has always been connected with demonism. The snake was used by Satan in the Garden of Eden and the worship of snakes always leads to demonism.

REVELATION 13:14-15 "And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of 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. And 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." These two verses are about the Abomination of Desolation. First, it was the statue of Zeus in the days of Antiochus Epiphanes placed in the temple and in the Tribulation it will be the statue of the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire. The only people who are not deceived by this are believers who know the scriptures. The people of Palestine are completely taken in by this dictator and by the system he sets up and by his demonism and miracles and tongues. Let me throw in here this statement--Tongues are either psychological delusion or demon possession. A demon actually entered the statue of the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire and caused the statue to speak. This is the ventriloquist demon. Fire comes out of the statue and consumes those who will not bow down.

REVELATION 13:16-17 "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." This is a part of ecumenical religion. The World Council Of Churches is the name of this movement today. This is religion at its worst. Here is the loss of freedom. This is what happens when church and state unite. The mark of the beast is in the right hand and on the forehead. (An invisible mark like this is used when you enter Disney Land. The mark is invisible but placed under a light it appears.) This is something similar to food, shoe or gas stamps. It is like a ration card. People can lose their freedom under a ration system. This is the way people can be controlled. Many believers will starve to death and this is exactly what religion does. (We have been seeing this in India for many centuries in the cow and monkey worship. You can run over a person in India and not much will happen, but if you run over a cow or a monkey, you are in real trouble.

#### The Mark Of The Beast

REVELATION 13:18 "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."

1. The "Mark" is some sort of identification card. It was originally an identification card for a Roman soldier after he had completed his basic military training. The word "Mark" was used for the identification card. The recruit training of the Roman soldier was really tough and when he finished this training, this mark was usually branded on the back of his hand. It was a mark of pride and denoted great sacrifice. This was a sort of graduation certificate which they proudly wore, showing they had passed through basic training.
2. The word "Mark" came to mean any system of identification. Here in the Tribulation the mark was used to show who was in the system and who was not.
3. The mark became some sort of I.D. card in order to have social survival. It was a ration system. Without the mark they could not buy food, could not engage in business, could not be elected to public office and could not be accepted socially.
4. Those who do not possess this identification will be starved and ostracized and eventually killed.
5. To receive this mark one must worship the beast in the temple in Jerusalem.
6. No one can have shelter, own property, buy food or have any of the necessities of life without this identification. There were three ways to qualify. Have the mark, have the name of the beast and have the number of the beast.

In verse 18 we have noted the number of 666. Now the number of man is 6. Seven is the divine number, and the number of man is six, short of the divine. Seven is the number of perfection and man is short of perfection. Many try to make this number mean some strange and peculiar thing. The key is given here when we read, "Six is the number of a man". 666 is simply man being deified. Man is worshipped as God. Just like in the times of the Caesars. The Roman Empire said that Caesar is Lord and this is why so many Christians died. They would not say that Caesar was Lord.

In the midst of this dictatorship how is it possible for anybody to be saved? Rev. 14 will tell us. In each generation at some time the earth is evangelized. All who go on positive signals will have the opportunity to hear the gospel. God uses many means to get this done.

1 TIMOTHY 3:16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

COLOSSIANS 1:6 "Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth"

ACTS 17:6 "And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also"

These three passages remind us that the earth is evangelized in each generation. The Gospel of Christ has found its way into every part of the world. No dictator or national hindrance has ever been powerful enough to stop the onward march of Christ in the earth. So in Rev. 14:1-5 we will see the opportunity of grace during the Tribulation.

REVELATION 14:1 "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads."

This is a description of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists we studied in Revelation 7. The lamb standing is Jesus Christ standing in his resurrection body in the midst of this 144,000. They have maintained separation from the mark of the beast during the Tribulation and during the terrible dictatorship of these two rulers.

REVELATION 14:2-3 "And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth." This is the praise given these 144,000 evangelists. The sound from Heaven is the sound of angels singing in Heaven. It sounds like the sound of a waterfall. It is majestic. The roar of thunder is also majestic and is used here to describe their singing. Voices of harpers describes a great stringed orchestra. They accompany this great choir. Rev. 5:9 speaks of a new song which no one else could learn. They could sing it because they maintained their separation from religion during the Tribulation.

REVELATION 14:4 "These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb." What sort of life did they live during the Tribulation? For seven years they traveled under great danger and lived very much like Saul of Tarsus lived. Their married relationship was toward God. Marriage is a bona fide institution, but here it was set aside because of the abnormal times. These 144,000 are called the firstfruits of God. This is because they were the firstfruits after the rapture of the church. They got with doctrine and they read the Word of God and accepted Christ as Saviour.

REVELATION 14:5 "And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God." This describes their message. They stuck with the Word of God. They stayed in constant fellowship. The phrase "Before the throne of God" is not in the original.