

Okay, last week I said I was going to 'stir the pot' a bit, so here goes. From the onset, I want to include a disclaimer that what I am preparing to share is based solely from my own personal thoughts and observations, and what I have read in the scriptures. I understand if you disagree or want place me within the lunatic fringe. I'm okay with that. I welcome your comments if you can be open minded and kind in your remarks. These are just my thoughts written down.

From the book of Revelation 13:15-18:

The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. **It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.**

This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666.

Since I became a Christian, I have been in wonder concerning the book of Revelation, but even more-so when it comes to the mark of the beast. When it comes to the 'beast' himself, I don't have a clue as to what the disciple, John, was trying to describe for we who would come so many years later. From his perspective and knowledge of the world during his time, these visions must have made him wonder often if he wasn't going crazy. But I have no doubt that God was with John, assuring him often of what was needed to be written.

But what about that mark? At first, I imagined we'd have the numbers 666 stamped on our right hand or on our forehead to be able to buy or sell. Too simple even for me, and most definitely too simple when compared with all the imagery and symbolism depicted in Revelation. Then tattoos were becoming all the rage again, and I thought, "Ah hah!" No, too simple still. I really thought I had it figured out when they inserted chips into our credit and debit cards. I was getting closer.

With everything that's happening in the world, we Christians are seeing the warnings of the end times drawing ever nearer, as depicted in scriptures. Not only did Jesus tell us that there will be wars and rumors of wars, but that, nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. These are the beginning of birth pains. These warnings are found in both Matthew 24 and Mark 13. In both chapters, Jesus goes on to describe what a terrible time it will be when these things come to pass. My friends, read it for yourself. These things are happening right now.

Years back, our church had a guest pastor who happened to share his thoughts about the mark of the beast. One detail that he shared that stuck with me permanently, was that the numbers 6-6-6 in Hebrew, may also be translated into the letters, 'w-w-w'. If you think the world was devastated by the widespread illnesses and deaths from the first strain of the Corona virus, what do you think would happen if we all lost access to the world wide web? Do you shop and bank online? I do. Do you ever see the cash or checks that get deposited into your bank account? They are really just numbers on a screen, right? Does your job require internet? Mine does. Does your car run by way of a computer? Mine does. My friends, we wouldn't know what hit us if we were to lose the almighty WWW.

At one point, I used to think that the way they insert chips in our pets was the precursor to the 'mark'. Again, not so far off, but I have another thought. What about our cell phones? Remember, John was writing about things so far into the future that for him, it must have sounded like nonsense. But look at us and how dependent we are on our cell phones! I guarantee if you are in the middle of a group of people, whether it be in a doctor's office waiting room, or a public arena, EVERYONE HAS A CELL PHONE, and more than likely, they are looking down at it, oblivious to the world around them.

Do we buy and sell with our phones? Absolutely! Especially if you have that little smart pass app or another way to wave your phone over a little screen. We can board airplanes with our phones, no paper tickets needed. We can enter concerts, buy cars, chat with friends on the other side of the world, and on and on.

Personally, my cell phone is not only my communicator (for the OLD Star Trek fans), but it is my alarm clock, my calendar, my notebook, my camera, my camera storage, my password storage, my map, my flashlight, my friend for when I'm feeling lonely, my movie theater, my tv, my music... You get the idea. Now, that I have clearly given a strong case for the affection you likely have for your phone, may I ask if you need the world wide web for your phone to work properly? What if one person, or one 'beast' of a person, had the power to shut it all down? I would say they would hold all the power, wouldn't you?

I didn't feel like my thoughts would be complete without trying to view these thoughts the other side. I consulted Dr. Google, of course, and came across an interesting chart, stating arguments against 6-6-6 being translated to mean 'w-w-w', or the mark of the beast. I did find that I'm not the only one who had this idea because there are numerous bits of information out there on this subject. I came across a chart shown below, and the web link to this chart and like information is also provided. My personal comments have been added on the far-right side.

Let's compare the World Wide Web and 666: The Mark of the Beast.

Why the World Wide Web (www) is NOT 666: the Mark of the Beast		
666 is total of the numerical values in the letters of the antichrist's name	The World Wide Web is not a name .	Jesus was also known as Christ, Redeemer, Savior, Lord...These weren't his 'name' but we sure know who they're talking about!
666 is total of the numerical values of the letters in the antichrist's name	The actual total of "www" is 18 — not 666.	I don't see where the scripture specifies 'the total of the numerical values'. It says, "Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast." A person's intentions can be calculated as well.
666 is the number of a man, the antichrist, or the beast	The World Wide Web is not a man.	I think this statement is just silly. Numbers in the scriptures have various meanings, such as 7 being the number of perfection. Again, John was writing about something that hadn't even been conceived yet!
The mark of the beast controls the ability to buy or sell	The World Wide Web <i>currently</i> does not	Are they kidding? Aside from those we used to call silly for hiding their money in their mattresses, everything we do financially is managed through the world wide web.
The mark of the beast goes in the right hand or forehead	The World Wide Web does not.	Okay, I hold my cell phone in my left hand and type with my right. I can also say that I am constantly referring to my phone for texts, appointments, pictures, etc., therefore, it is always on my mind...
The mark is symbolic of the antichrist or beast	The World Wide Web is not	As mentioned in my blog, www may not be symbolic of the antichrist or beast, until someone with enough clout has the power to shut it down.
The mark is received only after worshiping the beast	The World Wide Web is not worship	Look around you on any given day. How many people are looking down at their phones, watching videos, playing games, engaging in social media. I'd say we are obsessed. Anything we put before God is indeed, worship.

[Is "www" in Hebrew equal to 666? - The Industry Series \(tapatalk.com\)](http://tapatalk.com)

I would like to share just one more scripture that always fascinated me as well. The prophet Zechariah said this in Zechariah 14:12:

This is the plague with which the LORD will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot **while** they are **still standing** on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths.

Pretty gruesome, no? Zechariah lived thousands of years ago... How could he possibly see what could happen in order for this prophecy to be fulfilled? What does it sound like to you? A nuclear blast comes to my mind.

It is not my intention to leave you with a feeling of gloom and doom. My purpose for sharing this less than happy news is simple. I want to encourage you to seek the truth, gain knowledge, and pray for discernment

with the signs of the times and what we're seeing in the new headlines. I guarantee the things of which Jesus describes in both Matthew 24 and Mark 13 will happen, but you don't have to fear. We as humans have caused these terrible events. Our sin nature and need for more, has set the course we are on. The state of this world is not God's doing, it is ours.

God provided a way for ALL to become a part of his family. It is not God's will that any should perish, but that all would come to repentance and dwell with Him forever.

Finally, I invite you to read the rest of Matthew Chapter 24 and Mark 13. We must be ready.

Mark 13:35-37:

"Therefore, keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: Watch!"