

No Mark No Service

How to Prepare for and Avoid the Mark of the Beast

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United States of America.

Dear reader,

Thank you for taking the time to read this book. I pray you read it from cover to cover. You are not reading it by accident! Time is almost up, and there is not much of it left to prepare! It is my sincere prayer that it will give you a real hope in the “Desire of All Nations” to come, for there is nothing for you in this dark and hopeless world. Haggai 2:7. The covid-19 pandemic is just the “beginnings of sorrows.” Mark 13:8.

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Amen.

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1

The times we are living

2020 was a tough, trying year and one most of us would love to forget. 2021 is turning out to be worse, with many mourning loved ones lost, and living in fear of catching the virus themselves. Vaccinations have started worldwide, and some have jobs that require them, and have made the tough choice of walking away because they do not feel comfortable to be vaccinated, losing their livelihoods in the process. Businesses are closing because business is low, and they cannot afford to meet the compliance standards to continue operating. Their employees are also left out of work. People are becoming homeless at a rate not seen before, as they cannot afford to rent due to job losses and business closures. We are starting to see food shortages in some places. The lockdowns are also affecting mental health, with many giving in to anxiety and depression. Suicides are on the rise. Vaccine mandates which would not have ever been considered a reality in western countries of all places, have begun in those very countries. Civil liberties are now being lost as a result of this pandemic, with the unvaccinated quickly becoming restricted from basic freedoms and unwelcome in what the world is becoming; a two class society where the vaccinated have the right to continue living a normal life, and the unvaccinated who are losing their right to work and live a normal life as we have always known it.

Bad and Good news

Unfortunately, as the Second Coming of Jesus Christ gets closer, a lot of unpleasant things are going to be taking place, and they will be taking place more frequently. In Matthew 24, we see even what is taking place at this time:

[6] And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for [a]all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

[7] For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, [b]pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

[8] All these are the beginning of sorrows. Matthew 24:6-8.

The Good News is that Jesus Christ is coming again to permanently change things for the better. We are promised in the Bible that:

[16] For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

[17] For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. John 3:16-17.

[4] And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” Revelation 21:4.

These promises will be fulfilled at the Second Coming of Christ but until then, many unpleasant things are and will continue taking place as we get closer to His return. Birth pangs become more frequent and intense, just as the prophesied signs will become worse and more common as it approaches. One of those things that is foretold in the Bible is the Mark of the Beast. A time is coming and soon to take place when everyone will need a certain mark to be able to buy or sell as written:

[16] He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,

[17] and that no one may buy or sell except one who has [g]the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Revelation 13:16-17.

In other words, to have access to any service or to engage in business, the mark will be necessary. The problem is that God has strongly warned us not to take the mark:

*[9] ...“If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand,
[10] he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. Revelation 18:9-10.*

These are strong words of warning! Being obedient to God will mean the difficulty of not being able to buy and sell. Being able to buy and sell will mean the uncomfortable reality of being at odds with God, and the consequences of this choice. What is it about this mark for God to use such a strong warning? What is the mark? These are important questions that need answers so that you and I can make informed choices when the time of its enforcement comes. A clear understanding of what is at stake is a top priority! It is more important than anything because your life literally depends on it! This book is an attempt to help you understand what is at stake so you can make an informed decision.

2

David's census

Once upon a time, a man named David, conducted a census which resulted in the deaths of 70,000 people. What could have been so bad about it that led to the deaths of so many people? We will look at this account in 1 Chronicles chapter 21 later, but for now let us learn what a census was about in the Old Testament times. There are important aspects of it that will help us to understand the mark of the beast. We get more insight on the basics of it from Exodus 30.

[12] *“When you take the census of the children of Israel for their number, then every man shall give a[c] ransom for himself to the Lord, when you number them, that there may be no plague among them when you number them.*

[13] *This is what everyone among those who are numbered shall give: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (a shekel is twenty gerahs). The half-shekel shall be an offering to the Lord.*

[14] *Everyone included among those who are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an [d]offering to the Lord.*

[16] *And you shall take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shall [e]appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of meeting, that it may be a memorial for the children of Israel before the Lord, to make atonement for yourselves.” Exodus 30:12-14, 16.*

Ransom

The first thing to understand is ransom. It is a subject often touched on in films, and one comes to mind in which Mel Gibson plays the part of a millionaire whose son is kidnapped and can only be returned when he pays \$2,000,000. In a

spiritual sense, God is our Father and we are the children who have been kidnapped by the devil because of sin, for “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23. He kidnapped humanity from a peaceful and sinless existence with God, to a different reality of death and all the pains we have come to associate with sin in this life. Our first parents were sinless until the devil persuaded them to eat fruit they had been forbidden by God (see Genesis chapter 3). This fall into sin is how all of humanity has a sinful nature because it is more natural for us to sin or do wrong than it is for us to do the right thing, as we see in the following verses:

[15] For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.

[16] If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good.

[17] But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

[18] For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.

[19] For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.

[20] Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. Romans 7:15-20.

[12] Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

[15] But the free gift is not like the [e]offense. For if by the one man’s offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

[17] For if by the one man’s [g]offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace

and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) Romans 5:12, 15 and 17.

Death is the result of sin and came into existence because of it, “for the wages of sin is death, but the [h]gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23. The only way God could get us back from the devil, was for His Only Son Jesus Christ to die in our place. We have all sinned and supposed to die because of sin. The only way we can escape death as a consequence of our sins is to have Jesus Christ to die in our place as written:

[26] ...but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

[27] And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

[28] so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. Hebrews 9:26-28.

By dying on the cross for our sins, Jesus Christ became a ransom for us and bought us back to God from the devil by His blood. The whole reason He came was “to give His life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28.

[45] For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45.

By dying for our sins, Jesus became a ransom for those who believe in Him:

[16] For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

[17] For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. John 3:16-17.

Atonement

The ransom money was called atonement money. Atonement according to Merriam Webster Dictionary means reparation for an offense or injury. Sin was the injury or offense to our relationship with God, which separated us from Him, and the only way it could be corrected or healed was through atonement. For atonement to take place, sin has to be taken away, and a Priest was an important part of the process as written:

[30] For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the Lord.

[32] And the priest, who is anointed and consecrated to minister as priest in his father's place, shall make atonement, and put on the linen clothes, the holy garments;

[33] then he shall make [j]atonement for [k]the Holy Sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tabernacle of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly. Leviticus 16:30, 32-33.

Jesus Christ is our High Priest who can make atonement for us as written:

[17] Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

[18] For in that He Himself has suffered, being [j]tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted. Hebrews 2:17-18.

[14] Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

[15] For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

[16] Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:14-16.

Numbering

Whenever a census would be conducted, the ones counted would be required to pay ransom money. God would be the one to tell the priests to conduct a census by numbering people for whatever reason, for example, to know the number of men able to go to war. He had a right to number them because they were His people. By paying the ransom money, they would show that they belonged to Him, as we saw earlier in Exodus 30:12-14, 16. When Jesus becomes your ransom, you now belong to God. God can only number those as His who have made Jesus their ransom! By choosing His Son to be their ransom, they are restored to a relationship with Him and He begins to recognize them as His:

[26] For you are all sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ. Galatians 3:26.

[12] But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name. John 1:12.

By believing in Jesus Christ, we are counted among His children. He knows those who are believers, and those who are not He does not know, as written:

[23] And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.' Matthew 7:23.

David's sin

The census David conducted shows that it was something God regarded seriously. Understanding how something that in all appearance seemed innocent in itself but had such devastating consequences can help us to further understand the mark of the beast. The following is the account:

[1] Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to [a]number Israel.

[2] So David said to Joab and to the leaders of the people, "Go, number Israel from Beersheba to Dan, and bring the number of them to me that I may know it." 1 Chronicles 21:1-2.

As we learned earlier, a census had to be initiated by God because only He can number His people. Satan moved David to number the people, maybe working through pride, to see how great his army was or how many men able to go to war he had. Bottom line, Satan initiated the census and not God. David's sin was in numbering the people of Israel, who belonged to God and not to him or Satan. The account continues:

[3] And Joab answered, "May the Lord make His people a hundred times more than they are. But, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? Why then does my lord require this thing? Why should he be a cause of guilt in Israel?"

[4] Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab. Therefore Joab departed and went throughout all Israel and came to Jerusalem.

[5] Then Joab gave the sum of the number of the people to David. All Israel had one million one hundred thousand men who drew the sword, and Judah had four hundred and seventy thousand men who drew the sword.

[6] But he did not count Levi and Benjamin among them, for the king's [b]word was abominable to Joab.

[7] And [c]God was displeased with this thing; therefore He struck Israel.

[8] So David said to God, "I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing; but now, I pray, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly." 1 Chronicles 21:3-8.

Joab who was the leader of the army, one of David's mighty men, even tried to discourage him knowing that it was a sin. David knew very well that it was a sin, but he went ahead with the census anyway. A census which God would not have initiated or not done according to His recommendations would result in a plague (Exodus 30:12). In David's instance, he was given options to choose from as consequences for his sin (see 1 Chronicles 21:9-14)

A census which God does not start or is not done according to His way is sin and results in consequences as in David's case. We will look at this further later on when we understand the consequences for getting the mark of the beast.

3

God's mark

As we have learned so far, God would initiate a census because He would be counting His people, usually for a reason like seeing how many men able to go to war. A census would involve a physical counting of the people. In the following texts in the book of Ezekiel, we get a glimpse into how God would also count people spiritually, as in, the criteria for counting them is spiritual. God sends the Prophet Ezekiel to warn the nation of Israel of its impending doom. They had rejected Him and the destruction of Jerusalem, a source of national and spiritual pride for them, was to be their inescapable fate. It actually took place as confirmed by historical accounts in about AD 70, as foretold in Ezekiel's prophecy. God conducted a census, to count those who were His, who would be spared from destruction. The following verses summarize the point of focus which is how He would choose or mark those that He would count as His, to be spared from destruction:

[5] "Thus says the Lord God: 'This is Jerusalem; I have set her in the midst of the nations and the countries all around her.

[6] She has rebelled against My judgments by doing wickedness more than the nations, and against My statutes more than the countries that are all around her; for they have refused My judgments, and they have not walked in My statutes.'

[7] Therefore thus says the Lord God: 'Because you have multiplied disobedience more than the nations that are all around you, have not walked in My statutes nor kept My judgments, nor even done according to the judgments of the nations that are all around you'—

[8] therefore thus says the Lord God: 'Indeed I, even I, am against you and will execute judgments in your midst in the sight of the nations.

[9] And I will do among you what I have never done, and the like of which I will never do again, because of all your abominations.

[10] Therefore fathers shall eat their sons in your midst, and sons shall eat their fathers; and I will execute judgments among you, and all of you who remain I will scatter to all the winds.

[11] 'Therefore, as I live,' says the Lord God, 'surely, because you have defiled My sanctuary with all your detestable things and with all your abominations, therefore I will also diminish you; My eye will not spare, nor will I have any pity.

[12] One-third of you shall die of the pestilence, and be consumed with famine in your midst; and one-third shall fall by the sword all around you; and I will scatter another third to all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them. Ezekiel 5:5-12.

Rev 8.18

History confirms that the destruction of Jerusalem took place. Leading up to the destruction however, was an invisible marking process which was taking place to determine those who would perish, and the ones who would escape, according to scripture. A majority of the people were killed but a few were spared as we learn in the following scriptures.

[4] Then your altars shall be desolate, your incense altars shall be broken, and I will cast down your slain men before your idols.

[5] And I will lay the corpses of the children of Israel before their idols, and I will scatter your bones all around your altars.

[6] In all your dwelling places the cities shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be desolate, so that your altars may be laid waste and made desolate, your idols may be broken

and made to cease, your incense altars may be cut down, and your works may be abolished.

[7] The slain shall fall in your midst, and you shall know that I am the Lord.

[8] “Yet I will leave a remnant, so that you may have some who escape the sword among the nations, when you are scattered through the countries.

[9] Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations where they are carried captive, because I was crushed by their adulterous heart which has departed from Me, and by their eyes which play the harlot after their idols; they will loathe themselves for the evils which they committed in all their abominations.

[10] And they shall know that I am the Lord; I have not said in vain that I would bring this calamity upon them.” Ezekiel 6:4-10

The marking process

How come a few survived? A marking process took place which separated the ones who were slain from those who survived. God can also mark, with His mark having positive consequences, such as those who are spared from destruction in this case. The abominations of the nation of Israel, are described in chapter 8 and in the following account by Ezekiel in chapter 9, the mark in this instance was positive because God was marking them to be a remnant which would survive. The rest of the people, which He did not mark lost their lives in the destruction.

[3] Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub, where it had been, to the threshold of the temple. And He called to the man clothed with linen, who had the writer’s inkhorn at his side;

[4] and the Lord said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it."

[5] To the others He said in my hearing, "Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity.

[6] Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were before the temple.

[7] Then He said to them, "Defile the temple, and fill the courts with the slain. Go out!" And they went out and killed in the city.

[8] So it was, that while they were killing them, I was left alone; and I fell on my face and cried out, and said, "Ah, Lord God! Will You destroy all the remnant of Israel in pouring out Your fury on Jerusalem?"

[9] Then He said to me, "The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceedingly great, and the land is full of bloodshed, and the city full of perversity; for they say, 'The Lord has forsaken the land, and the Lord does not see!'

[10] And as for Me also, My eye will neither spare, nor will I have pity, but I will recompense their deeds on their own head." Ezekiel 9:3-10.

The idolatry and other abominations described in the chapters leading up to chapter 9 were the basis for the marking process. The ones who sighed and cried over the sins done in Jerusalem were counted and marked by God as His, while the rest who were unmarked probably participated in the abominations or where not bothered by them enough to speak out against them, and thus were slain. From this we learn that God has a mark and marks those who are His. Just as in the census, the ones who conducted themselves according to the way He

prescribed were counted as His and spared from consequences. This means that the mark is spiritual, and the marking process is dependent on spiritual criteria. According to the Strong's Concordance, the word mark in these above verses implies a signature. In other words, His signature or stamp of approval, if you want to call it that. God's mark is also mentioned in other scriptures as in the following:

[1] After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.

[2] Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,

[3] saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." Revelation 7:1-3.

According to the Strong's concordance, sealed in this text means, "to stamp (with a signet or private mark) for security or preservation; by implication to keep secret." We get more insight into what secret means in the following verse:

[13] Oh, that you would hide me in the grave, that you would conceal me until your wrath is past, that you would appoint me a set time, and remember me! Job 14:13.

Job is prophetically talking about being kept concealed/hidden from God's wrath to come, by being in the grave until God remembers him at the Second Coming to raise him from the dead. God in these Last days is marking/sealing those that believe in His Son, for security and preservation from His wrath to come. In the books of Zechariah and Malachi, the ones God seals as His are called jewels:

[16] The Lord their God will save them in that day, as the flock of His people. For they shall be like the jewels of a crown, lifted like a banner over His land. Zechariah 9:16.

[17] "They shall be Mine," says the Lord of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.

[18] Then you shall again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him." Malachi 3:17-18.

~~As we shall learn later, those who receive the mark of the~~
beast will experience God's wrath. Jerusalem is like a type of the world in the last days. Just as those who were not marked by God as His faced the consequences in the siege of Jerusalem, the same will happen in these last days but on a global scale. Just as there was so much wickedness with people in Jerusalem living as if God had forsaken the earth, it is the same even now in the last days:

[3] knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

[4] and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

[5] For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,

[6] by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.

[7] But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

[10] But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

[11] Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 2 Peter 3:3-7,10-11.

It is important to note that how the people were living determined whether God marked them as His or not. It was not a sudden decision they made at the time of counting because they were not even aware that God was counting them, or had been observing them over a period of time prior to the destruction of Jerusalem. **The ones who hated the things that were taking place, and lived a life that shunned them, He marked as His.** It is important to understand this principle when it comes to the mark of the beast. God seals people who during the sealing time are observed to have come out of Babylon:

[3] ..."Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

[2] ..."Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!

[4] And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues."

[5] For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities..." Revelation 7:3; 18:2-5.

In the destruction of Jerusalem, God counted and marked His people while they were unaware of it. In these last days, a census is also taking place as He seals His people, and we do not know when it started or when it will end. We do not know

who will be counted as His, but we do know why He counts them. May we come out of Babylon so that we may be counted among those that He seals. May you make your salvation a priority while it is today, because tomorrow is not guaranteed. Nothing matters more! While we continue with the usual activities of our lives, the sealing is taking place. The Second Coming which happens when all His people have been sealed will also happen when people least expect:

[26] And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:

[27] They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

[28] Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: they ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;

[29] but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.

[30] Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. Luke 17:26-30.

4

The mark of the beast

The basic understanding we have so far about the marking process is that it is driven by spiritual reasons. It is not just a physical counting like how a census is done today. God counts based on spiritual reasons, and so the marking process is spiritual. This is very important to understand! There are always two possible sides during a marking; that a person is approved by God based on how they are living and marked as His, or He does not approve and does not count them among His. Just before Jesus comes again, the world will reach its peak in terms of sin and the abominations practiced and there will be only two classes. There has always been two classes, but the differences between the two will become more clear at the end, with the majority being the ones God will not count as His unfortunately.

There are many people of other religions or no religious background, who try their best according to what they know to be right, even though they have not heard the Gospel. Not everyone has heard the Gospel, but God judges them according to the law He has written in their hearts, which is their conscience. God judges all according to our actions if we know how to do right and do not do it. Some of them from the past up to now, even though they do not know about Him in His Word, if they do right according to the law in their conscience, He counts as His:

[13] Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all.

[14] For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.

[11] For there is no partiality with God.

[12] For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law

[13] (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;

[14] for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,

[15] who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them).

Romans 2:11-15.

Up to this point, God is judging people, whether they live according to what they have heard about Him in His Word, or according to their conscience as the law He has put in their hearts. At the time of the enforcement of the mark of the beast

however, everyone will hear about God so that they can make an informed decision. The end will not come until God and His effort to save all through His Son, has been presented clearly to all.

[29] Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.

[30] Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent...Acts 17:29-30.

[14] And this Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. Matthew 24:14.

Many are good in appearance but God will not count them

There are a lot of people who do good, helping people and try by all means to get along with others, but God will not count them because they do not acknowledge Him or His Son Jesus Christ, ~~even when they hear about His love and Jesus dying to save them.~~ There are and will be only two classes of people, those who acknowledge God, and those who do not. What we are witnessing now in the world is the antichrist spirit at work. Even when people hear and know about Him, they openly do not acknowledge God, and even make fun of Him and those who believe in Him. To be antichrist is simply an attitude that even with knowledge, refuses to acknowledge the Father God, or to believe in His Son Jesus Christ. Why is this so important to understand? The ones who avoid the mark of the beast are in the Book of Life of the Lamb, as we shall learn later. All those who are not in the Book of Life, will get the mark of the beast, no matter how good they might think of themselves, or they might appear to be.

[13] "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it."

[14] Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." Matthew 7:13-14.

Why are many on the broad way to destruction? It is not because they all live in open sin and abominations. It is simply because at the time of the enforcement of the mark, there will be many who appear to be good people, but in God's eyes, He will know that in their hearts, they are not His, "For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7. They will refuse to acknowledge and therefore to believe in God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. Believing that there

is no sin, that people are good in themselves, that God does not exist, unfortunately; many will embrace these sort of beliefs when the mark of the beast is enforced. Even though in all appearance, they will do a lot of good, helping others, striving to get along with others, but because they will not acknowledge the Father or His Son Jesus Christ, He will not count them: “For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.” Romans 10:3. These sort of beliefs are quite popular and are embraced by many, but as innocent as they appear to be, it is an antichrist spirit that refuses to acknowledge or believe in God.

[22] “...who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.

[23] Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also. 1 John 2:22-23.

[2] By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, [3] and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. 1 John 4:2-3.

[20] For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

[21] because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

[28] And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge...Romans 1:20-21, 28.

The mark of the beast

Choosing or refusing to believe in Jesus Christ's sacrifice to save, is what will separate the world into 2 groups:

[16] Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? Romans 6:16.

There will be 2 classes in the end, those who believe in Christ and so God seals them, and those who refuse to believe, and get the mark of the beast. Strong's concordance definition of mark in the mark of the beast as seen in Revelation 14:9 is "a scratch or etching that is a stamp as a badge of servitude". God marks as a signature of approval, and the devil marks as a badge of servitude. The ones who refuse to believe, and even mock God and those who believe, instead of sighing and crying about such practices will by default, be stamped by the devil as his servants. Just as in Ezekiel's prophecy, those who sighed and cried because of the abominations in the land were spared, in these last days we are living, the basis for God sealing or marking His people has not changed. He wants us to separate ourselves from and stop practicing sin so that He can count us as His.

Coming out of Babylon

[1] After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.

[2] And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!"

[3] For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."

[4] And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.

[5] For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Revelation 18:1-5.

Those who are sealed or marked by God come out of Babylon. They separate themselves from Babylon which encompasses all sin; systems of false worship, tradition and any belief, practice, behavior or habit that is antichrist, not acknowledging God and His Son Jesus Christ. We are to separate ourselves from any such things:

[14] Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

[15] And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

[16] And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the Living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them, I will be their God and they shall be my people."

[17] Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you."

[18] "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:13-18.

[9] ...you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the

praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

[10] who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

[11] Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul. 1 Peter 2:9-11.

Make Jesus your ransom

God calls all people out of sin, and marks those who make Jesus their ransom, and their names are entered in the Book of Life. In a Biblical Old Testament census, one had to pay the ransom to be counted as belonging to God. Today, Jesus has to be your ransom by you accepting that He paid for your sins by dying in your place. That is how your name is entered in the Book of Life so you are counted as belonging to Him.

[5] For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

[6] who gave Himself a ransom for all...1 Timothy 2:5-6.

[45] For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. Mark 10:45.

One can only be marked by God or have the mark of the beast, but not both. Being marked by God as His means you belong to Him. One cannot belong to God and be in Babylon at the same time:

[13] "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other..." Luke 16:13.

[15] Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

[16] For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 1 John 2:15-16.

To belong to God you have to come out of Babylon. Not coming out of Babylon sets you up for the mark of the beast.

Anything that separates you from God or discourages you from loving Him sets you up for the mark of the beast. Love God and He will mark you as His. Love the world and the beast will mark you as his. The devil is the power behind the beasts mentioned in Revelation which eventually give rise to the image of the beast and its mark.

Satan – the power behind the beasts

[3] ...a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads...

[9] ...the great dragon...that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world...Revelation 12:3, 9

The 1st beast: leopard-like

[2] Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.

[3] And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.

[4] So they worshipped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”

[5] And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies...

[6] Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

[7] It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

[8] All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Revelation 13:2-8.

The 2nd beast: lamb-like

[11] Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.

[12] And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

[13] He performs great signs so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

[14] And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

Lamb-like beast forces worship of the image of the 1st beast and receiving its mark

[15] He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

[16] He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,

[17] and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

There is speculation about the identities of the beasts as well as what the mark is, but I am not about to do that. I do want to

point out the most important things to understand without knowing the identities of the beasts.

1. Satan is the power behind the beasts
2. The whole world except those in the Book of Life, will worship the beasts or be influenced by them in some way.
3. By worshipping the beast(s) and the image of the first beast, the world will be worshipping Satan who is the power behind them.
4. Satan, working through the beasts, will be the driving force behind the enforcement of the mark of the beast on the whole world.
5. As we have determined, the marking process is spiritual though the mark will be enforced physically by preventing those without the mark from buying and selling.
6. The only way to escape is coming out of Babylon by separating yourself from anything the devil is behind.
7. You come out of Babylon by Christ being your ransom.
8. When Christ becomes your ransom, your name is entered into the Book of Life.
9. All those who are in the Book of Life will not get the mark of the beast at time of enforcement.

The only safeguard against the mark of the beast is to be written in the book of Life, which is by accepting His Son Jesus Christ and living a new life by His help.

*[5] He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.
Revelation 3:5.*

This is a very serious matter! All will get the mark of the beast, who are not written in the Book of Life! There are many good people, who help others, are generous and very lovable people, who will get the mark of the beast, because they did

not accept Jesus as their Savior. This is such a serious matter that God wants all the World to know and understand what is at stake.

[6] Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—

[7] saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

[8] And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”

[9] Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand,

[10] he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. Revelation 14:6-10.

[9] If anyone has an ear, let him hear. Revelation 13:9.

These angels represent God's messages of warning to the world. They are given with a loud voice, meaning that they are meant for all to hear, whether they profess Christianity, other religions or no religion at all. God marks His people and the people He does not mark as His own will all get the mark of the beast as we have already seen.

Consequences of not getting the mark of the beast

The mark of the beast is not physical but seen in the physical by how it is enforced. All that we have learned so far shows

that the mark of the beast is spiritual. The ones who are marked by God as His will however face physical consequences which will clearly show them as His. We get an idea of this from the book of Daniel in a foreshadowing of the persecution that will take place on a global scale in the following verses:

[1] Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

[2] And King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to gather together the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

[3] So the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered together for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

[4] Then a herald cried aloud: "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages,

[5] that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up;

[6] and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace."

[7] So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

[8] Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews.

[9] They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever!

[10] You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the gold image;

[11] and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

[12] There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up."

[13] Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king.

[14] Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up?

[15] Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?"

[16] Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.

[17] If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.

[18] But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up." Saved in Fiery Trial

[19] Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.

[20] And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

[21] Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

[22] Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.

[23] And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

[24] Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."

[25] "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

[26] Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here." Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire.

[27] And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head

was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.

[28] Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!

[29] Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this." Daniel 3:1-29.

The trial that Daniel's friends faced is the same trial that those who do not worship the image of the beast by getting its mark will face. Some of those who refuse to worship the image of the beast will be killed. The parallels between this and the end of time are remarkable. Satan is the king of Babylon which we are warned to come out of as we see in Isaiah 14 and Revelation 18. The image is of the beast which got its power from the dragon (Satan). In Daniel we see how all the most important people from different sectors were present to endorse and worship the image. In these last days, political, and economic power will combine to force everyone to worship the image of the beast and to receive its mark as written:

[15] He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

[16] He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,

*[17] and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.
Revelation 13:15-17.*

The freedom to buy and sell will be uninterrupted for those who receive the mark. The ones who do not get the mark however, will not have economic freedom, unable to buy and sell. God's people who refuse to worship the beast and to receive the mark will not be able to participate in anything that involves exchange of money. Commerce of any kind will be off limits. Persecution that the enforcement of the mark of the beast will bring, ultimately will result in a death sentence for those who refuse to comply, who are sealed by God and whose names are in the Book of Life.

5

How to prepare for the mark of the beast

No commerce of any kind will mean a simple thing like catching public transportation or going to a supermarket will be off limits. Buying goods or services of any kind will be prohibited. Engaging in business of any kind will also be off limits as you will not be able to sell anything whether things or services, neither will you be able to buy any services or goods for resale. Life as we have always known it will be history, with the basic needs becoming extremely difficult to meet. Imagine being sick and not being able to get help at a hospital because you are prohibited from doing so. Movement will be almost impossible because it involves purchasing tickets. Fuel and registering vehicles also involve buying which means private ownership will be prohibited for those who refuse. In addition to the severe economic restrictions, there will be severe persecution resulting in a death sentence for those who refuse to comply meaning at some point, there will be a death decree as seen in Revelation 13:15. It is the time of trouble which is described in scriptures, that the believers will experience:

[9] "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.

[10] And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

[21] For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

[22] And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

Matthew 24:9-10,21-22.

[1] "At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book. Daniel 12:1.

How to prepare for the enforcement of the mark of the beast

The enforcement of the mark of the beast is soon to be upon us. It will affect everyone as it says in scripture, "He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads" Revelation 13:16. **No one will be exempt and all will have to make the choice of whether or not to comply by receiving the mark of the beast.** The following are a few things you can do in preparation for this time which is sooner than we might realize:

1. Accept Jesus as your Personal Savior

The only safeguard against the mark of the beast is to have your name written in the Book of Life as written:

[1] "At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book. Daniel 12:1.

[8] All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Revelation 13:8.

[20] Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:20.

Speaking of the wicked, David said:

[28] Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, And not be written with the righteous. Psalms 69:28

To have our names written in the Book of Life is the greatest honor that can be given to mankind because it is the only way to enter Heaven, and Jesus washing away our sins is the only way to be written in the Book.

*[12] But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:
[13] who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12-13.*

[16] For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

*[17] For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.
John 3:16-17.*

[6] Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6.

*[7] In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.
Ephesians 1:7.*

[13] But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:13.

[12] Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

No sin is welcome in Heaven. Those who enter Heaven, by being washed by His blood are made fit to enter Heaven:

[27] But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Revelation 21:27.

[14] Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

[15] But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. Revelation 22:14-15.

2. Trust in God

Learning to walk with God starting now is very important. Practicing to trust in Him for the little as well as the big things of everyday life starting now will be critical. It will be impossible to suddenly trust God at the enforcement of the mark of the beast when one has neglected to do so before then. Time and trust have to be invested in your relationship with God as in any other important relationship in your life, the one with him being the most important. To make a stand for God, even in the face of severe hardship and possibly, death, will require an unshakable faith to endure to the end. Perilous times are soon to be upon all true believers. We do not know for how long we will still have freedom. For a time we might live freely in the rural areas, but a time will come when we will have to even flee from there for the wilderness as written:

[14] And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

[15] "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),

[16] "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

[17] Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.

[18] And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

[19] But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

[20] And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

[21] For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

[22] And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

Matthew 24:14-22.

Ultimately we cannot put our trust in ourselves or in any amount of preparation for what is coming. Only by Christ's help are we going to endure to the end. He will provide for us when we cannot provide for ourselves; He will fight for us when we cannot fight for ourselves and, He will deliver us when we cannot deliver ourselves. The following are promises that He will be with us no matter what is coming:

*[20] "...I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
Amen. Matthew 28:20.*

[4] You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 1 John 4:4.

[4] For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

[5] Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 1 John 5:4-5.

[10] Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

[11] "Behold, all those who were incensed against you Shall be ashamed and disgraced; They shall be as nothing, And those who strive with you shall perish.

[12] You shall seek them and not find them— Those who contended with you. Those who war against you shall be as nothing, as a nonexistent thing.

[13] For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, Saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.' Isaiah 41:10-13.

3. Strengthen your walk with the Lord

The time which is upon us will require a steadfast faith in the Lord. Faith comes by reading and meditating on His promises in the Word:

[17] So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

[8] But what does it say? "The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

[9] that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

[10] For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

[11] For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." Romans 10:17, 8-11.

Your walk with God starts by believing in what is written, that Jesus is Lord and God raised Him from the dead for your sins. To continue growing, we have to read and by believing His Word, our lives are transformed becoming more in line with God's will over time. Prayer is also essential. Your walk with God is impossible to maintain without prayer:

[17] ...pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

[41] ...Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matthew 26:41.

[22] ..."Have faith in God.

[23] For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.

[24] Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

[25] "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. Mark 11:22-25.

4. Prepare to live a life of severe economic restrictions

As we have already learned, a time is soon upon us when believers will be at odds with a system which will combine economic and political means to force everyone to receive the mark of the beast. It will be difficult to engage in transactions of any kind whether as a customer or as a business. The following are some of the practical things we can do:

a. Learn useful survival skills

A different lifestyle from how we are living now, and learning certain skills, will become useful to survive in the beast system:

- barter trade will become an important way of exchanging goods and services outside of the beast system.
- basic carpentry, building and mechanics to be able to build, modify and fix things
- making fires
- water treatment and filtration techniques for drinking.
- utilizing livestock for cultivation and transportation.
- Living off-grid and completely weaning yourself from municipal facilities by utilizing well water, firewood, solar energy and simple bio gas systems.
- learning basic nursing and natural remedies to treat the sick and wounded.
- learning about wild plants to use as food and medicine.
- hunting, fishing and trapping.
- growing your own food and keeping livestock.
- weaning yourself completely from dependence on technology like the internet, cellphones and modern transportation.

It might sound ridiculous to some these recommendations at the present time, but very soon, if you have no desire of getting the mark of the beast, all these things will become essential to survive in the beast system. Of course one person cannot learn all these things. Having basic knowledge in some of these things will be helpful. Living close to other believers can also mean specializing in different skills so they can be bartered. You start preparing by adopting these lifestyle changes as you can manage. It is not possible to do them all at once of course, but they can be done in stages. Ultimately, pray for wisdom on how to go about these changes or if you should make any of them at all. These are just suggestions

which might make the sudden change when the mark of the beast is enforced, not as shocking and manageable. Ultimately, pray for wisdom and guidance on these things. God will guide you. We don't know how much time is left before we have to flee for the wilderness due to the great tribulation. God willing, if we still have some time, these suggestions will be somewhat useful, otherwise, in the wilderness He will provide food, shelter and protection:

[16] He will dwell on high; his place of defense will be the fortress of rocks; bread will be given him, his water will be sure. Isaiah 33:16.

b. Do not love the things of the world

[15] Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

[16] For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

[17] And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:15-17.

All the marvels of technology, the comforts and conveniences it has brought to human life, will be a trap when the mark of the beast is enforced. It will not be easy to suddenly go backwards in terms of lifestyle. Imagine not having internet access, no means of communication, and no means of transportation. The more we love and rely on these things, the harder it will be to resist when we are forced to make a choice to continue living life as we have always known it by receiving the mark of the beast, or to refuse it and face hardship as our lives will change drastically. The technology we have learned to love and rely on so much will be used to track and spy on us. The current corona pandemic has highlighted the supposed need for surveillance in the name of contact tracing and eventually as a way of determining those

who would not have been vaccinated as we shall see soon. Vaccine passes are in the early stages of use but will become common soon globally for travel and access to services. I am not saying the vaccines are the mark of the beast. I do not have enough proof to say they are or are not. However, due to how they will determine more and more, who has access to services or has a right to work, they appear to be the beginning of the process which will lead to the enforcement of the mark of the beast. The less dependent we are on technology starting now, the better off we will be when the mark of the beast is enforced. Living a life independent from technology as much as possible will be a must.

Loving the things of the world, the lust of the flesh, of the eyes and the pride of life, means there is no love for God as His place is taken by these things. The ones whose names are entered into the Book of Life love God more than life itself. Being unwilling to let go of material things, and wealth will mean getting the mark for the privilege of holding on to them. Loving these things more than God mean that one will compromise when the time of the mark of the beast comes because it will be hard to let go of them for God's sake. The more we love God, the less we love the things of the world. The less we love God, the more we love the things of the world. Being attached to material things and honor from people, will be a trap because to maintain these things will mean a compromise by getting the mark of the beast. Not being able to bear a drastic change in life due to the restrictions on buying and selling, the ones who love the world and all that comes with it, will get the mark willingly!

c. Rural living

One of the reasons why the enforcement of the mark of the beast will be so effective is because many will have no choice but to accept the mark to survive. It will mean starvation if one lives in a city and cannot buy and sell. Rural living will be a way of dealing with the restrictions on buying food. God will

provide food if we will learn to grow our own food so we do not have to buy it like in the cities. The city life many have grown to love will be a curse when the mark of the beast is enforced as they will be more restricted in movement, unable to sustain themselves and put in a position where they are more likely to compromise. Even the Word of God seems to discourage the life that we find in cities now:

[8] Woe to those who join house to house; They add field to field, Till there is no place Where they may dwell alone in the midst of the land! Isaiah 5:8.

In preparation, if one has the means, this would be the time to buy a country or rural property. Instead of spending on things that will have no value when the mark is enforced, spend on things that will be of use on the property like solar energy systems, boreholes, bio gas systems, and gaining knowledge that will be useful in a rural setting. Not everyone has means, but if you have a property in the city, this is the time to sell it in order to get a rural property and to invest in the other things in preparation. You might also have a desire to leave the city but have no property to sell or the means to acquire a rural property. I believe it is a good desire to have and God can provide if you believe as written:

[22] And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." Matthew 21:22.

God might also provide by leading to a rural place you can join and become a part of. Some will prepare so that God can use them to provide for others without means. My belief is that God will make a way and provide, means or not.

6

Why you should not get the mark of the beast

Everyone that will be alive at the time of the enforcement of the mark of the beast will either be sealed by God or marked by the Devil. There will be no neutral ground, and being exempt from either will not be an option. God does not want anyone to get the mark because as we have learned, those who get the mark are not in the Book of Life and so they are not saved. It is a matter so serious that the following warning is given:

*[9] Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand,
[10] he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. Revelation 14:9-10.*

In the Bible account of the Israelites' departure from slavery in Egypt, the Pharaoh was not willing to let them go, so God brought plagues upon the Egyptians until he finally did so. (Read Exodus chapters 6 to 14). There are remarkable parallels between the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt, and that of God's people in the time of the beast system. Plagues that will affect only those with the mark, will take place in the last days before Christ comes to take His people. The most important similarity between the 2 is how the Israelites were delivered as we see in the following texts.

[5] Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

[12] 'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.

[13] Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt...'

[22] And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.

[23] For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you. Exodus 12:5, 12-13, 22-23.

This is the best account of God delivering those belonging to Him. In all the plagues, the Israelites were untouched and unaffected by them. They showed us how He makes a distinction between the two groups and how He deals with them. In the time which is soon to be upon us, all those who God marks as His will not be affected by the last plagues as written:

[2] Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth, and the sea,

[3] saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." Revelation 7:2-3.

These plagues occur after the enforcement of the mark of the beast, so they affect only those with the mark of the beast. The Israelite households, on the night of their departure from Egypt, applied the blood of a lamb without blemish, pointing to Christ, the Lamb of God.

[8] But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

[9] Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. Romans 5:8-9.

[19] ...with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 1 Peter 1:19.

[20] ...having made peace through the blood of His cross.

[21] And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled.

[22] in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight. Colossians 1:20-22.

To escape God's wrath, you need to make peace with Him by the Blood of Jesus. His Blood cleansing you from sin is what will make Him Pass over you and shield you from the last plagues, and from being lost, because "...anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire..." Revelation 20:15.

The 7 last plagues

1st – Sore upon those with mark of the beast

[2] So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image.

2nd – Sea turns to blood

[3] Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.

3rd – Rivers and springs turn to blood

[4] Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood..

[5] And I heard the angel of the waters saying: “You are righteous O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, because You have judged these things.

[6] For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due.”

4th – Scorching from the sun

[8] Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire.

[9] And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.

5th – Darkness that is painful

[10] Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain.

[11] They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.

6th – River Euphrates dries up

[12] Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.

[13] And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

[14] For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

[15] "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

[16] And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

7th – Great earthquake and plague of hail

[17] Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"

[18] And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.

[19] Now the great city was divided into 3 parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

[20] Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

[21] And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great. Revelation 16:2-21.

These plagues affect only those with the mark of the beast. The sealed of God will be shielded from the wrath of God, as spoken prophetically by Isaiah:

[20] "Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past.

[21] For behold, the Lord comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity..." Isaiah 26:20-21.

In addition to enduring the plagues, those who get the mark of the beast share the same fate as the leader of Babylon, Satan:

[41] "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels..." Matthew 25:41.

[10] The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone...

[15] And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:10, 15.

God does not intend for anyone else to end up in the lake of fire, other than who it was prepared for, the devil and his angels. He knows his inescapable fate, and desires to take as many as he can with him. He has "great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time." Revelation 12:12. The devil "is a liar and the father of it." John 8:44. You are only safe from his lies and deception in Christ, who is "the way, the truth, and the life." and "the truth shall make you free." John 14:6; 8:32. I pray you make peace with Him today! While it is today, accept Jesus as your Savior! Do not put it off to tomorrow because there is no time left. While we still have the freedom to read the Word of God, and this kind of literature, do it, for a time is soon upon us when the Bible and anything encouraging people to believe in God will be hard to find.

[11] "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord God, "That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the Words of the Lord.

[12] They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the Word of the Lord, but shall not find it." Amos 8:11-12.

You are blessed to be reading this before then. Do not waste the opportunity God has given you to understand what is at stake. You are not guaranteed tomorrow. “Today if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.” Hebrews 4:7.

7

What God has prepared for those who refuse the mark

The enforcement of the mark of the beast will put believers between a rock and a hard place, as a tough choice will have to be made. On one hand the continued privilege of being able to buy and sell by getting the mark which leads to experiencing the wrath of God and that soul being lost; and on the other, a life of extreme hardship due to inability to participate in life as we have always known, but knowing that you are in the Book of Life and will gain Eternal life. We will have to live by faith, and not by sight, looking forward to what we have not yet seen. In the flesh it is a hard choice, but in reality, the hardships we will have to endure are but for a moment when compared to eternal life and all that comes with it which await us:

[17] For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

[18] while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.
2 Corinthians 4:17-18.

We cannot sell our souls for a brief season of ease on this earth because:

[34] ...Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

[35] For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.

[36] For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?

[37] Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? Mark 8:34-37.

What awaits us?

We have been promised a life which seems impossible when we consider our unpleasant reality on this earth, but thankfully, “The things which seem impossible with men are possible with God.” Luke 18:27. “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” 1 Corinthians 2:9. What does God have in store for those who choose Him?

No more death

[4] And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Revelation 21:4.

[11] ...He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death. Revelation 2:11.

[6] Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

[14] Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. Revelation 20:6, 14.

Eternal life

[11] And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

[12] He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

[13] These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. 1 John 5:11-13.

[23] ... the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23.

[11] And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 1 John 5:11.

[7] "...To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." Revelation 2:7.

No more sin

[27] But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

[8] ...But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. Revelation 21: 27, 8.

[9] Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, [10] nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.

[19] Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, [20] idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, [21] envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19-21.

Inherit all things

[7] He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. Revelation 21:7.

[2] In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

[3] And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. John 14:2-3.

[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

[4] to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you. 1 Peter 1:3-4.

[19] "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

[20] but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. Matthew 6:19-20.

[29] And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My

name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. Matthew 19:29.

New Jerusalem

[18] The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

[19] The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald,

[20] the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoptase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.

[21] The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. Revelation 21:18-21.

Do not miss out

Words cannot express in speech or writing, what God has in store for those who love Him.

[6] "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

[7] The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

[8] The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.

[9] They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My Holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea..." Isaiah 11:6-9.

My mind cannot wrap around what being in a place like this will be like. A place where death and pain no longer exist. There will be no more sin and His knowledge will be

everywhere. Even the animals will not prey on each other anymore. No destruction or loss of life of any kind. Only peace and for eternity, imagine! Oh, how I long to be there! I hope you do too and to meet you there! Fear not what is about to take place. There will be trouble, but it will be but for a moment compared to eternity. Hold on to the Lord and He will carry you through as He has promised. Fear them not for even if they kill you, that is all they can do to you. Fear God for though they may kill you, He will raise you from death when Jesus comes again. But if you fear humans, you will be lost. Do not be afraid to stand for the truth and to share it.

[30] ...the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

[31] Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

[32] Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

[33] But whoever denies Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father who is in heaven. Matthew 10: 30-33.

[27] "Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops.

[28] And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew 10:27-28.

My prayer is that you will choose this moment to follow Him no matter what! Do not be afraid! Only trust Him no matter what! Amen!