

Current Affairs #144– The Name of the Beast

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In discussing the name of the beast, once again I want to point out that we have been told all sorts of nonsense about the name of the beast. How many times have you heard people wondering if...? I remember when I was young, at the time the Secretary of State's name was Henry Kissinger, and he was very famous. The whispers in the evangelical circles were whether or not Henry Kissinger was the name of this antichrist person. Before that I actually heard someone suggest—and these are how things get started in church circles, because you have children leading children, the blind leading the blind—when John Kennedy had been shot in the head in Dallas, conspiracy theories of that time said he really was not dead. That his wife, who subsequently married Aristotle Onassis, had taken him to one of the Greek islands, and he was seen recovering. Because it was sure that John Kennedy was the beast who had been wounded.

The degree of foolish things that church people have believed and, you know, they are routinely shown to be elegantly stupid, and yet they keep coming up with more. QAnon is gaining traction in the mindsets of evangelicals. It is impossible for me to even contemplate how simple, how simplistic, how simple-minded people are or can be, and how their information is foundationally corrupt, compromised. To think that they are actually business owners, I have even heard of a few lawyers, some doctors, professional people believing this QAnon. I think the word that comes to my mind is imbecile, unsound people.

Do you know why I am speaking so harshly to these things? It is because this is the culture that takes the place of the truth amongst the people of God. When you have got so-called prophets who secretly ask, “Have you heard about so and so?” and “Do you think (somebody prominent today), do you think they are the antichrist?” I want to say, “Hang it up. Give it a break. You are operating off of a false foundation.” It is unrelated to Scripture. It is mythology that ignorant preachers have put out, and their kind keeps coming back, and coming back, and coming back, generation after generation after generation. You would think at some point people would say, “This is a dead

horse. Our view of these things is wrong. Now what is the truth?” You would think people would come to that. But the Scriptures do say, “People perish because they do not love the truth.”<sup>1</sup>

I know this one woman who is just like that. In fact, she may have been one of the ones years back who asked me if I thought Henry Kissinger was the antichrist. But I mean this woman runs to every conference. One time she owned and operated a book store, so she read everything that was put out. The latest thing was “the thing.” We have heard of blood moons and the mark of the beast, and all of these things, and they are just one hundred percent speculative, but nobody ever holds anybody to account. A John Hagee can put out his tome on blood moons and just keep going after all of that has proven to be a bunch of hogwash.

I am being very direct and confrontational, even combative, because this is the tangled jungle that you have to cut through just to teach people what is true. Fortunately, God has His people, and He knows who is listening to Him and who wants to hear the truth, and He appeals to them. The rest are just pleasing themselves, and they will fall away. A few will actually wake up, but by and large, do you know what a great falling away means? A great falling away, not a small falling away. Do you know what it means when the Scriptures say, “Because lawlessness will abound, the love of most will become cold”<sup>2</sup>? Do you know what most means? Most. Most of the people in church are going to fall away. Do I take any pleasure in that? No. That is a tragedy of massive proportions.

But God already knew it, and He already told us so, so we should not be surprised when we see it happen. I am not here to convince everybody that what I am saying is true, because I know that most church-goers do not have eyes to see, and they do not have ears to hear; but they are proud of what they do see and what they do hear, though it is as though they are as blind and uninformed as you can get. Most of the people who wanted churches to re-open so that they could go back, just want to go back to this condition.

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<sup>1</sup> See 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10: “The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”

<sup>2</sup> See Mathew 24:12: “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.”

Enough of that. Let me tell you about the name of the beast. Let us set it back in context where we were. Verse 16 of Revelation, chapter 13, says,

*He causes all, [that is the lawless one causes all] both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 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 13:6-17 NKJV, comments added in brackets).*

So, you see, it is connected to buying and selling, which has to do not so much with identity, but it has to do with survival. It is how people are controlled and herded up into this whole concept of agreeing with and being part of the mindset associated with the beast. We have already talked about the mark. Just to refresh your memory, the mark is the *charagma*<sup>3</sup>—the stamping, the reflection of the character of Satan in the lives of people who trust him. You will remember, Satan tried to imprint Adam and Eve in that very manner when he came into the Garden. His approach to them was on the basis of something to eat. Typically, buying and selling comes down to something to eat—how you can have provision for your needs. He attacks and tries to change your mindset on the basis of something to eat. The obvious example of that is Jesus in the wilderness. After He had fasted for forty days, Satan comes, and what does he say? “Get Yourself something to eat. Command that these stones be made bread.”<sup>4</sup> It is common for Satan to try to herd people into a particular mindset, to imprint them with the fear of not having enough so that they will take his mindset as replacement of their own mindsets, or even the mind of God.

No one may buy or sell, and again, it talks about their right hand or their foreheads. A slave was branded on the forehead so that the world may see that he was the property of someone else. It was virtually impossible in the ancient world for a slave to erase a brand on their forehead. The concept is what we are after here and what the Scriptures are establishing. We have talked about not being able to buy or sell unless you have the mark, which is the *charagma* or the imprint, or the name of

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<sup>3</sup> See *charagma*, Strong’s Greek 5480 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/5480.htm>

<sup>4</sup> See Mathew 4:2-3: “And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, ‘If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.’”

the beast. When we left you the last time, we asked the question, “What is the name of the beast?” I asked it the way that I know you would ask it, because we have been cultured to think of the name of the beast as some name, you know, like Beelzebub or some evil sounding name.

You are to have the mark or the name of the beast on your forehead; it is about what you are under. The word “name” is the Greek word *onoma*.<sup>5</sup> It has multiple different meanings:

- One is, in general, the name that a person is called by: John, Tom, in my case, Sam. It may also be your surname—so I am Sam Soleyn. In Northern Europe among the Danes, a common name is Johnson, which is Yohanson—son of Yohan, son of John. Among the Jews was Judah Ben-Hur—Judah, son of Hur—*ben*<sup>6</sup> meaning the word “son.” Like the word Benjamin is “son of Yamin”—son of the right hand. A surname is an indication of who is your father.

Whether it is your proper name or a surname, it indicates who your father is. Having the name of the Father written on our foreheads<sup>7</sup> tells us we belong to Christ, and if you belong to Christ, then are you Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise.<sup>8</sup> You may consider such Scriptures as Ephesians 1:21,<sup>9</sup> Hebrews 1:4,<sup>10</sup> Mark 3:16-17,<sup>11</sup> and Luke 1:5.<sup>12</sup> These are just some of the ways that the term “name” is used. In general, it is an identifying mark that relates to your ancestry, your own name and the family name from which you have come.

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<sup>5</sup> See *onoma*, Strong’s Greek 3686 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/3686.htm>

<sup>6</sup> See *ben*, Strong’s Hebrew 1121- <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/1121.htm>

<sup>7</sup> See Revelation 14:1: “Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads.”

<sup>8</sup> See Galatians 3:29: “And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

<sup>9</sup> See Ephesians 1:21(emphasis added): “...far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every **name** that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.”

<sup>10</sup> See Hebrews 1:4 (emphasis added): “...having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent **name** than they.”

<sup>11</sup> See Mark 3:16-17 (emphasis added): “Simon, to whom He gave the **name** Peter; James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the **name** Boanerges, that is, ‘Sons of Thunder’”

<sup>12</sup> See Luke 1:5 (emphasis added): “There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her **name** was Elizabeth.”

- A second and more pervasive usage of the word “name” would be something like, if the police officer knocks on a door and shouts, “Open in the name of the law,” then they are representing that they have come by the authority of the law. There it is not a name, but it is a recognizable greeting, as it might be called greeting, that there is an authority that governs you.

Here in America, having jury duty means needing to show up to the courthouse to be selected as a juror in a case—interrupting your life, by the way, and putting all your plans on hold. You will typically get a preformed, pre-written message from the state that says something like, “Greetings. You are hereby informed that you are to report at the courthouse on such and such a date, at such and such a location for selection as a juror for jury duty.” You are being apprised that there is an authority called the state that has the right to tell you to show up and interrupt your plans. A second use of the term *onoma* is all that a name implies, such as authority, character, rank, majesty, power, excellence, or everything that the name covers.

For example, the name of God and the names of God cover a variety of things about God. For example, *Elohim*<sup>13</sup> is one of the names of God. But it is not a proper name; it refers to the juridical functions associated with God as judge. *El Shaddai*<sup>14</sup> references the name of God as it relates to a function—the One who takes care of you.

When Jesus used the word “in the name of,” He was specifically authorizing that the authority represented by His name would be the basis for your commissioning. So He sent His disciples and He said, “Whatever you shall ask of the Father in My name shall be granted to you.”<sup>15</sup> The presumption is you are asking according to the will of God, which has to say the power of God exists to support the imperatives of God. Jesus sent out His disciples in the great commission and

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<sup>13</sup> See *elohim*, Strong’s Hebrew 430 - <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/430.htm>

<sup>14</sup> See *Shadday*, Strong’s Hebrew 7706 - <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/7706.htm>

<sup>15</sup> See John 14:13-14: “And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

said to them that “repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all the nations” (cf. Luke 24:47).

The concept of name, the name of, may refer to a private, personal designation, but it only does so when it is referring to your genealogical and ancestral references. That would not apply to the name of the beast because there are no genealogical or ancestral references implied here. To remind you again, when it says his name shall be called John or Yohan, or Judah Ben-Hur, it is saying this is Judah, the son of Hur; or as I mentioned, in Northern Europe where there are names like Yohanson or Fredrickson, it means son of John, son of Fred. Those are genealogical references that commonly tie a person to his or her fathers.

That is not the case here, because who then would be the father of the beast? It would have to be like-kind, would it not? Flesh begets flesh, Spirit begets spirit.<sup>16</sup> A father begets a son of like-kind and nature. But where it concerns the beast that is the offspring of Satan, it has to do with the power associated with the name, and that is the power to buy or sell. This is about controlling the population by controlling the things that are important for basic survival. You cannot buy or sell—that is the obvious context, is it not?—except if:

- You have the mark of the beast—In other words, you have his character, so you are not a disrupter in his system; you are compliant, even complicit.
- Or the name of the beast—Here, the name of the beast is a reference to the power of the beast. Again, just to remind you, there the term “name” implies the authority of the beast. It implies the rank, power, or majesty of the beast; the hegemony of the beast—the sphere of its dominance and control. You must have in your mindset an acknowledgement of the power of the beast, of this global system, over your life if you are a dweller on the earth.

I keep reminding you, none of this applies to those who dwell in heaven. Why? Because they have a different mindset, they have a different name that they go under. They have a different identity; they are sustained by the name of the Lord. Which again, it is not just saying, “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus” in Pentecostal style, it is talking about knowing what Paul described in his letter to the Ephesians:

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<sup>16</sup> See John 3:6: “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

“I am writing to you that you might understand what is, among other things, the working of His mighty power on behalf of those who believe. An example of which is the power He exerted when He raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him at His right hand, far above all rule and authority, and every title that may be given, not only in the present age but in the one to come.”<sup>17</sup>

Whenever authority is referenced to “name,” it is about what kingdom you belong to. Who is the king? What sustains you? Again, just to remind you of that particular passage, I believe it is the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of the Book of Ephesians, about verse 17 or so. He had said three things:<sup>18</sup>

1. I want to write to you that you may have the spirit of wisdom and revelation concerning what is the hope of His calling. In other words, what did He hope for when He called you?
2. What is His glorious inheritance in the saints? What is His plan that is being worked out in and through your life? What is the plan that He has that He wishes to work out using you?
3. And the third thing is, what is the working of His mighty power on behalf of those who believe?

And then he says, “for the working of His mighty power is what He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him far above all rule, and authority, and every title that may be given, not only in the present age but in the age to come.” That Scripture, by the way, opens out into Ephesians, chapter 6, which is the armor of God, taking your stand against the devil’s schemes.<sup>19</sup> It opens out in full anticipation of a mindset that is based in the authority that opposes the sons of God—and that being the name of the beast.

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<sup>17</sup> See Ephesians 1:19-21: “and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.”

<sup>18</sup> See Ephesians 1:17-19: “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.”

<sup>19</sup> See Ephesians 6:10-13: “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

So the name of God, the name of the Father written on our foreheads is a mindset that overthrows the name of the beast that is written on their foreheads as well. It is both about power over domains; it has nothing to do with proper names. It is not like *thérion*,<sup>20</sup> which is the term “beast”—beast bar-Satan, the beast son of Satan. It is not that. Yet people are still running around wondering whose name is implied. Again, it is the folly of children who refuse to grow up and who settle for silly things that they can speculate endlessly about without ever being able to come to any conclusion because there is no viable conclusion.

That leaves us with the number of his name. So it is the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. That number is rendered 666. Obviously, it is not about deciphering a name associated with a number, it is what the number means. The clue is, it is the number of a man. We will have that the next time.

I look forward to our continuing study. Blessings. Bye-bye.

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<sup>20</sup> See *thérion*, Strong’s Greek 2342 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/2342.htm>