



## The Great Delusion

**And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion,  
that they should believe a lie. (2 Thessalonians 2:11)**

The true identity of the much-anticipated (albeit much-dreaded) Mark of the Beast will take many Bible Christians by surprise. While the greater part of the world is looking to a computer chip, a tattoo, or the image of a charismatic leader imprinted or imbedded on the hand or forehead, some insightful souls are realizing that the Mark has nothing to do with all that; for the true Mark itself isn't something to be worn outwardly or visibly at all.<sup>1</sup>

Every Bible-believing Christian can (and should) know precisely what this Mark is; otherwise how can a Christian refuse to receive it? But a great deception is upon mankind—a delusion so glorious, so enticing, so powerful, the entire world is under a fascinating spell. We see that millions are already running daily to receive this Mark—including Bible-believing Christians. And a growing number of these Christians—who would never willingly yield to this Mark—yet they have no controversy with those that do. Thus there is a growing “brotherhood of the faith” where Achan and his sin are accepted and allowed to remain in the camp.<sup>2</sup>

According to John's *Apocalypse*,<sup>3</sup> fiery consequences are reserved for those who receive the Mark and participate in this great evil.<sup>4</sup> But as we are yet in the time (age) of God's grace, we do not see those consequences on any grand or public scale. For the Gospel of Jesus Christ is still preached here in America and in other places, with souls added daily to the company of the faithful. But soon God's grace will be removed, and many professing “Christians” will indeed succumb to the Mark—whether through adoration or desperation. At that time, the Bible tells us, if any are found with this Mark in the forehead or in the hand, they will suffer the consequences depicted so graphically in the *Book of Revelation*, where the smoke of their torment shall ascend up forever and ever, and they shall have no rest day or night; for they have fallen for the Great Delusion, and have turned their hearts and minds to follow after the Beast.

The Bible warns that this deception will come upon not only the world in general, but also upon a fallen Church; and that everyone *except The Elect* will be deceived. Here you see the great force and power of this Delusion—that unless you are one of God's Elect—you *will be deceived!* You cannot say *I am saved and therefore I am The Elect and will be raptured away*. For the whole company of professing “Christians” *are not The Elect!* Search the Scriptures and you will discover that The Elect are *Overcomers!*<sup>5</sup>

And so the question: *What have you overcome?*

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### Examine your Faith<sup>6</sup>

Have you overcome *all* the warnings given by Jesus to *all* Seven Churches in the Book of Revelation?<sup>7</sup> Or have you fallen away from your First Love?<sup>8</sup> Do you possess a lukewarm and sickly kind of faith, made evident by a fear of confessing Jesus before family and friends?<sup>9</sup> Have you ever been persecuted for your faith?<sup>10</sup>

Are you able to recognize those who say they are Christians but are not?<sup>11</sup> Have you overcome the teachings of the Nicolaitans,<sup>12</sup> and the stumbling-block of Balaam?<sup>13</sup> Have you eaten of those things sacrificed to idols? Have you sacrificed your own children to those idols?<sup>14</sup> Have you overcome the seductive eyes of Jezebel's spirit?<sup>15</sup>

### Examine your Life

Have you overcome your desire for material things, or do they still occupy your time, your mind, and your wallet? Have you overcome your own desire for prosperity, or are you still controlled by the things you possess?<sup>16</sup> What about your admiration for worldly, prosperous men and women, yea, and even your idolizing of prominent Christian leaders and singers?<sup>17</sup> Have you overcome the temptations of the world and worldly enterprises? Have you overcome your love for the world?<sup>18</sup>

### Search your Heart<sup>19</sup>

Have you overcome bitterness, self-pity and unforgiveness?<sup>20</sup> What about harshness, anger and pride?<sup>21</sup> Have you overcome self-reliance, self-esteem and self-love?<sup>22</sup> Have you overcome the temptations, lusts, and desires of your own body?<sup>23</sup>

Is Jesus paramount in all your affections and ambitions? Is He Lord over everything you possess, everything you say, and everything you do?<sup>24</sup> Is Jesus the supreme object of your every waking moment?<sup>25</sup> Is He the stated center, goal and purpose of your life—day by day, moment by moment?

Is Jesus Christ always upon your lips in social conversations?<sup>26</sup> Do you speak of the Lord to family, friends, and acquaintances?<sup>27</sup> Do you witness the salvation message to strangers?<sup>28</sup> Is His Word moving and active in your mind and thoughts?<sup>29</sup> Do you thirst for the Living God?<sup>30</sup> Do you hunger for His righteousness?<sup>31</sup>

If you cannot truly say “Yes,” that Jesus is the absolute center and goal of all your plans and purposes; that He is the absolute sovereign over every area and detail of your life; that He is the ultimate and paramount love of all your heart, soul, mind and strength—*then you are already set up for this Great Delusion!* Therefore *you will* consent to receive the Mark; *you will* bow down to the Beast (“Christian” or not); *you will* receive his Mark in your forehead or in your hand—whether through adoration or desperation. For by your heart and life you have proved that Jesus is not first in your affections and intentions, and He is not your absolute Sovereign and Master. Therefore He *cannot* be your Intimate Friend—*which is your only protection!* Therefore *you will* fall into the Grand Delusion; for it is only through a close, personal, intimate, obedient walk with the Lord Jesus Christ that you will be kept from Day of God's Wrath.<sup>32</sup>

The Bible warns that this Delusion will be so strong, so powerful, that if it were possible at all—even *the Elect will be deceived!* So unless you are the Elect of God, the Mark of the Beast may even now be aimed at your forehead: for an even greater deception may lay hidden within your own heart.

Continued in *The Greater Delusion...*

## NOTES & SCRIPTURES

### Scriptures are from the King James Bible

- 1 In the near future there will indeed be some kind of outward, visible Mark. However this study will focus on what lies inwardly—which may ultimately lead to an outward acceptance of that Mark.
- 2 Joshua, Chapter 7.
- 3 The Book of Revelation.
- 4 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. (Rev. 19:20)
- 5 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even our faith.* (1 John 5:4)
- 6 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. (2 Cor.13:5)
- 7 Revelation, Chapters 2-3.
- 8 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. (Rev. 2:4)
- 9 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. (Rev. 3:15-16)  
  
Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. (Mat.10:32-33)
- 10 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him *that was born* after the Spirit, even so *it is now.* (Gal. 4:29)  
  
Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. (John 15:20)
- 11 I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I

will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. (Rev. 3:9)

- 12 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. (Rev.2:6)
- 13 I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. (Rev. 2:14)
- 14 Rev. 2:14.
- 15 Thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. (Rev. 2:20)
- 16 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (1 Tim. 6:10)
- 17 Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: (Acts 10:34)
- 18 Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (1 John 2:15)  
  
For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even our faith.* (1 John 5:4)
- 19 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psa. 139:23-24)
- 20 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you,* and thereby many be defiled; (Heb. 12:15)  
  
For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: (Mat. 6:14)  
  
So that contrariwise ye *ought* rather to forgive *him,* and comfort *him,* lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow. (2 Cor. 2:7)

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**21** Men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, (2 Tim. 3:2)

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: (Eph. 4:31)

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. (Jas. 4:6)

...and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. (1 Pet. 5:5)

**22** For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy. (2 Tim. 3:2)

**23** For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (1 John 2:16)

**24** And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? (Luke 6:46)

**25** My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct *my prayer* unto thee, and will look up. (Psa. 5:3)

**26** I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest. (Psa. 40:9)

With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth. (Psa. 119:13)

**27** Daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ. (Acts 5:42)

**28** And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. (Mark 16:15)

**29** With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. (Psa. 119:10)

**30** Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. (Mat. 5:6)

**31** Jesus answered...If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. (John 4:10)

Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. (Mat. 5:6)

**32** And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? (Luke 6:46)

Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. (Mat. 7:21)