

What was the Mark of the Beast?

By Dr. Eliyahu (Eli) Lizorkin-Eyzenberg

In the Book of Revelation, we read a text that describes that with the [arrival of the evil Beast](#) – the enemy of God’s people, **Christ-followers will be excluded from participation in local economy unless they agree to place upon their head and hand the mark of the Beast.** (Rev. 13:16-18)

To understand the true meaning of the mark of the beast something needs to be kept in mind. The central Jewish text that was recited twice daily stated: “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one.” But it had another, less famous, but integral part: “**Bind them (God’s commandments) as a sign on your hand and they will be on your forehead.**” (Deut. 6:4-8)

If the Book of Revelation is read with awareness of the first-century Jewish context, it becomes clear that we ought not to imagine that one day the entire world will undergo a medical procedure that will insert a chip under the human skin. Instead **we should understand the mark of the beast as some outward expression of opposing the commandment to worship the God of Israel alone.**

For Christ-followers and their children in the first century an issue of great concern was precisely the limits of this commandment in Deuteronomy. The basic question was: Is possible to honor some Roman deities publicly (along with in-your-heart worship of Israel’s God in Christ)? If yes, then this would insure the economic survival and prosperity under the watchful eye of the Roman authorities. **The Book of Revelation has chosen an unapologetically Israelite, Anti-Roman position where only worship of One God of Israel was upheld.**

Quelle: http://israelstudycenter.com/what-was-the-mark-of-the-beast/?via=blog_mark