Mark of the Beast: Test Command

Summary

Forget microchips and ID cards — this companion piece argues the real "mark of the beast" test has always been about one specific commandment, tested through action, not commerce.

- The Sabbath as Yahweh's "test commandment," paralleling the wilderness manna test.
- Obedience proven through action, since Biblical figures bought, sold, and paid taxes without rebuke on other days.
- A caution against treating microchips, ID cards, or bank cards as "false marks."
- Such theories described as a deliberate diversion by Satan from the true test of obedience.

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Mark of the Beast: Test Command

Let's begin with a correct understanding of precisely what the "mark of the Beast" is. This mark, or sign, is symbolic of our belief. It is in the right "hand" and on the "forehead", or between the eyes, if you translate it correctly. If you investigate the Old Covenant where the same phrases are used to explain other concepts, you will find that this combination clearly means to offer an explanation of what we believe in our mind "between our eyes" is established or is evidenced by what we do with our "hand". In short "what we do" or "how we act" demonstrates proof of "what we believe".

Okay, so it is a symbolic sign, pointing out that our actions are proof of our beliefs. Now what beliefs does this sign refer to when it is used in Revelation regarding the "mark of the Beast"? It is referring to believing in Yahweh as opposed to believing in Satan's ways, or worldly ways.

What actions could we perform that would be evidence of our belief? Buying and selling, or conducting commerce is only part of the question. Did you not read those references in the Bible where even the 12 Apostles when traveling with the Messiah, carried a "money-box" with which they purchased those things they had need of? Or when the Messiah instructed Peter to pay taxes for them both? So simply buying and selling or paying taxes is not the essence of the message here, because even the Messiah and His Apostles bought and sold those things they had need of and paid taxes. Paul specifically states that he paid "rent" for his own house for three years, hence "commerce" was not the problem.

Commerce was evidence of the problem "sometimes", but not the problem directly. You see, if we "Believe" Yahweh, the physical demonstration of our actions ends up proving it, or disproving it. So the question is, how could our physical actions of buying and selling, either prove or disprove our belief in Yahweh? Simple! Yahweh commands us to "Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it Holy to Yahweh". In another part of the Bible, a strong rebuke is given to those that were operating the market-place outside of the Synagogue, or Tabernacle of Meeting on the Sabbath: "what evil thing is this you do, by profaning the Sabbath" by buying and selling. Yet those same people bought and sold all week long (like the Messiah and the Apostles) without being rebuked.

The answer is that Yahweh has always used His Sabbath command as a "test" commandment, to determine whether or not His people really "believed" Him and would demonstrate that belief through their actions. It goes right back to the gathering of "manna" from heaven. Yahweh instructed the ancient Israelites to gather manna for six days and to rest on the seventh. And then He told them WHY! "Then said Yahweh unto Moses, behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day...**that I may prove them**, whether they will walk in my law, or not". And when they insisted

on gathering manna on the seventh day, Yahweh rebuked them by saying "how long refuse ye to keep my Commandments and my laws? See, for that Yahweh has given you the Sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place"*(Ex.16:28-29)*. It was the only commandment Yahweh used as a "test", or as a "sign" of obedience.

The Roman council of Laodicea, about 363 A.D. on behalf of the Roman Catholic church, passed this decree: "*Christians* must not Judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, resting rather on Sunday. But if any be found to be Judaizing, let them be declared anathema from the *Christ*"! When we buy and sell, or conduct commerce on the Sabbath we are demonstrating our belief in Satan, by our obedience to his worldly commandments, whereas when we do not buy and sell, or conduct commerce on the Sabbath, we are demonstrating our belief in Yahweh through our obedience to His commandments.

As for living in this society and not being able to "find a way out", we suspect you are not aware of Yahweh's plan. We are instructed by Yahweh that although we must be "in the world," we are not to be "of the world". This means that Yahweh knows we will of necessity, have to live in this evil world that is ruled by Satan. But even so, we are to be obedient to Yahweh, i.e., by keeping His commandments, such as the Sabbath.

Yahweh also knows that man-made rules would be put in place effectively forcing us to pay taxes and to pay rent or a price to own land, contrary to Yahweh's original intent. But this contrary plan of Satan's *(the Beast's)*, is just what Yahweh wants us to experience so we will indeed learn to appreciate the difference. That is why we are told to "Count it all joy when you fall into various trials", because we are expected to learn and develop character from these trials.

We are also commanded by Yahweh to "pay taxes to whom taxes are due" and to "obey every ordinance of man". These commands are such that we can thus be in the world and not of it. Simply "knowing" what is right and wrong is the real issue. Being "trapped" or feeling enslaved to the world is living <u>in and of</u> the world.

We are only trapped or enslaved if that is what we believe. It is a state of mind that enables our freedom, and that state of mind is a gift from Yahweh that no man or group of men can take away. Yahweh's Holy Spirit is dwelling in our hearts and in our minds, and that is where the present Kingdom of Yahweh exists. So yes we can live "in the world", but because we have the Kingdom of Yahweh within us, we are therefore not "of the world", even though we are subject to its temporal laws.

The liberty you seek is within you. Yahweh is not far from any of us. We will all partake of Yahweh's future Kingdom on Earth, when the Messiah returns. In the interim, through our faith, we may partake of it in our hearts and minds. But we are still meant to be in the world and subject to the worldly authorities to the extent our conscience permits, even those authorities we disagree with. In other words, we are obedient to worldly authority insofar as it does not cause us to violate Yahweh's commandments. Yahweh is not a free ticket out of our worldly responsibilities, nor did He ever imply such a thing.

We are free to choose to demonstrate our belief in Yahweh by our actions even in this world. We can for example, still keep the Sabbath Holy. Can or would an Atheist keep the Sabbath? What possible reason would anyone keep the Sabbath, save but to demonstrate their belief in Yahweh?

Our rights do come from Yahweh, but not in this present world. Both Yahweh the Father and the Messiah fully acknowledge that Satan is the "ruler of this age". Our job as assigned by Yahweh, is to "endure" to the end of this age, all of these "trials" in order to fully understand and appreciate the inherent flaws and weaknesses in this man-made, Satan-influenced system.

How would we ever know the advantages of the perfect system, if we had never experienced this imperfect one? In other words, if when you were about three years old, you were instructed to "never touch the hot stove top", how would you know what the benefits of being obedient were until you actually disobeyed and got "burned" by your disobedience?

Almost every child disobeys at least once before they get to the place of purely accepting their Father's advice without question. Our relationship with our Heavenly Father, Yahweh is no different. He originally created a perfect world with a perfect environment which would have perfectly sustained us in perfect physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health, if we would have simply perfectly believed in and perfectly followed His perfect instructions. But because we chose to make our own determinations of what was right and wrong, we made many mistakes, including the game of commerce. But because we made the mistakes, we do not enjoy the perfect health or happiness we would have otherwise.

Our life in this world is not about temporal freedom. It is about grasping the reality of spiritual freedom. The freedom to understand why the system will be better under the Messiah's rule in the future. Even the Messiah chose to be subject to temporal laws. He allowed Himself to be falsely tried, convicted and unjustly crucified according to man's commercial *(Roman)* law.

The Apostles were beaten, threatened, imprisoned, and murdered all in the name of the Roman commercial law. They did not run and hide or seek protection from these temporal injustices behind the Kingdom of Yahweh. On the contrary, they faithfully believed that they were free in His Holy Spirit, in spite of these trials, and they thanked Yahweh for "accounting them worthy to suffer on His account"!

We were commanded to "imitate them" *(the apostles)* even as they imitated the Messiah. We were not told to create a new plan.

If you believe in Yahweh, and if you believe in the Messiah's sacrifice being proof that you too will be resurrected to a better life in His Kingdom, then you too can even now fully enjoy Yahweh's blessing of true freedom; the state of mind that no man or system of commerce can take away from you.

False Marks are Satan's Diversion:

There are a great many proponents of an equally great number of false “marks” and false identities of the Beast of Revelation.

These false marks are a deliberate diversionary tactic of Satan, designed to cause people to look into Man’s worldly affairs rather than simply pay attention to Yahweh’s inspired warnings. Such fallacies include Micro-Chip Implants, State Identity Cards, Automated Banking Cards and many others.

The issue here is not whether the mark is an ID card, micro-chip implant, bank card, or some other man-made thing related to money, or whether or not we CAN buy or sell with or without some form or fashion of this card/ chip/ implant or state issued identity, or even whether or not we CAN buy or sell on Sunday or Saturday.

The issue is WILL we buy or sell or conduct commerce on Yahweh's Sabbath, or WILL we do these things during the remaining six days of the week including on man’s false “holi”-day of Sunday.

In other words, will we be obedient to Yahweh or will we be obedient to Satan. The issue of all of these various forms of ID cards, chips, etc., is merely a crafty diversionary tactic of Satan.

What Satan wants, is for us to be panicked over these silly temporal matters, and thereby distracted from the truly important issue of managing our obedience.

The free will gifted to us by our Father includes the freedom to manage our OBEDIENCE to our Father, and this is the only real issue of the mark that we must remain diligent to. The "mark" is simply symbolic of our obedience!

Simply put, we create our own individual mark based upon our own obedience. If we are obedient to Yahweh, then we have accepted Yahweh's mark in our hearts, or as the Bible states, on our hands by what we do, and in our heads by what we think, or if we are obedient to Satan, then we have accepted Satan's mark in our hearts, or again as the Bible states, on our hands by what we do, and in our heads by what we think.

The choice is always ours and the choice is always freely open to us to make of our own free will; it is not something that is to be forced or imposed upon us by the man-made authorities as many new-agers or traditional *Christians* erroneously purport.

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