**AI, the Great Reset, and the Mark of the Beast**

**Theme:** The mark of the beast

**Text: Revelation 13:16-18 (NLT)** He required everyone—small and great, rich and poor, free and slave—to be given a mark on the right hand or on the forehead. **17**And no one could buy or sell anything without that mark, which was either the name of the beast or the number representing his name. **18**Wisdom is needed here. Let the one with understanding solve the meaning of the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. His number is 666.

**Introduction:** The book of Revelation like other Jewish apocalyptic Scriptures carries an application addressing those it was originally written to. Revelation was originally written to the seven congregations of believers in Asia minor. ***Revelation 1:4 (NLT)*** *This letter is from John to the seven churches in the province of Asia. (Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea)* When interpreting prophetic Scripture, we must first contextualize the conditions and applications of the original circumstances that led to God moving upon His servant to write the message in the first place. In the case of the Revelation, the 1st century church, living under the authoritarian Roman government of the day, were experiencing the manifestation of an antichrist system of government.

* Rome was a government that was openly hostile to the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ and His followers.
* Rome was ruled by emperors who proclaimed themselves to be, and who demanded open loyalty and oblation to them as god.
* This worship mandated that citizens burn a pinch on incense to Ceasor as a testimony to one’s loyalty to the Roman system of government, and Ceasor as your god.
* Refusal to comply branded 1st century Christians as enemies of the state.
* To be an enemy of Rome meant you could not be a part of the trade guilds, which meant you were unable to find employment.
* As Christianity grew in numbers, Christians were seen as a dangerous sect that threatened the state. Beginning with the Emperor Nero in 64 A.D., Christians were imprisoned, tortured, and regularly executed. This included crucifixion and being forced into the arenas to be torn apart by wild beasts.
* These persecutions in Rome lasted until 313 A.D., when Constantine issued the edict of Milan, granting tolerance of the Christian faith.

**Revelation 13:1-2 (NLT)** I saw a beast rising up out of the sea. It had seven heads and ten horns, with ten crowns on its horns. And written on each head were names that blasphemed God. **2**This beast looked like a leopard, but it had the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion! And the dragon gave the beast his own power and throne and great authority.

 **A. The beast is a confederation of nations Revelation 13:3-10 (NLT)**I saw that one of the heads of the beast seemed wounded beyond recovery—but the fatal wound was healed! The whole world marveled at this miracle and gave allegiance to the beast. **4**They worshiped the dragon for giving the beast such power, and they also worshiped the beast. “Who is as great as the beast?” they exclaimed. “Who is able to fight against him?” **5**Then the beast was allowed to speak great blasphemies against God. And he was given authority to do whatever he wanted for forty-two months. **6**And he spoke terrible words of blasphemy against God, slandering his name and his dwelling—that is, those who dwell in heaven. **7**And the beast was allowed to wage war against God’s holy people and to conquer them. And he was given authority to rule over every tribe and people and language and nation. **8**And all the people who belong to this world worshiped the beast. They are the ones whose names were not written in the Book of Life that belongs to the Lamb who was slaughtered before the world was made. **9**Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand. **10**Anyone who is destined for prison will be taken to prison. Anyone destined to die by the sword will die by the sword. This means that God’s holy people must endure persecution patiently and remain faithful.

###  B. The Beast out of the Earth Revelation 13:11-15 (NLT) Then I saw another beast come up out of the earth. He had two horns like those of a lamb, but he spoke with the voice of a dragon. 12He exercised all the authority of the first beast. And he required all the earth and its people to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. 13He did astounding miracles, even making fire flash down to earth from the sky while everyone was watching. 14And with all the miracles he was allowed to perform on behalf of the first beast, he deceived all the people who belong to this world. He ordered the people to make a great statue of the first beast, who was fatally wounded and then came back to life. 15He was then permitted to give life to this statue so that it could speak. Then the statue of the beast commanded that anyone refusing to worship it must die.

###  C. The Mark of the Beast Revelation 13:16-18 (NLT) He required everyone—small and great, rich and poor, free and slave—to be given a mark on the right hand or on the forehead. 17And no one could buy or sell anything without that mark, which was either the name of the beast or the number representing his name. 18Wisdom is needed here. Let the one with understanding solve the meaning of the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. His number is 666.

###  D. Nero was the antichrist of the 1st century

###  1. Jewish Gematria is a Hebrew literary system of assigning a numeric value to each Hebrew letter of the alphabet.

 **2. The number 666 is a form of Jewish Gematria or code to help the Jewish messianic community to identify who John was identifying as the antichrist of their day.** Nero Ceasar, spelled in Hebrew as *neron qesar* adds up to 666.

 **What was the Mark of the Beast?** -  **Dr. Eli Lizorkin-Eyzenberg** In the Book of Revelation, we read about the arrival of the Beast – the enemy of God’s kept in mind – The Book of Revelation is a Jewish, anti-Roman document. Once we realize that, we need to remember that the central Jewish Torah text that was recited twice daily stated, “‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one.” It had another, less famous, but an integral part: “**Bind them** (God’s commandments) **as a sign on your hand and they will be on your forehead.”**(Deut. 6:4-8) Jewish people, both today and in antiquity, fulfill this commandment by literally tying the words of the Living God found in Torah to their hand and head almost every day of the week. This Practice is called, “the laying on of a tefillin.”people.  During this period, Christ-followers will be excluded from participation in the local economy unless they agree to place upon their head and hand the mark of the Beast (Rev. 13:16-18). But what is the exact nature of the mark? To understand the true meaning of the mark of the beast, something must be If the Book of Revelation is read with an awareness of the first-century Jewish context, it becomes clear that we should not imagine that one day the entire world will undergo a medical procedure that will insert a chip under the human skin (as some Bible teachers speculate). **Instead,** **we should understand the mark of the beast to be an inward or outward expression that opposes the Law of God in the life of a human being. As the enemy of and His people, the evil Beast would naturally want to replace the mark of God that goes on the hand and head of the worshiper with his own mark.**

 **2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 (NLT)** Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet him. **2**Don’t be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Don’t believe them, even if they claim to have had a spiritual vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us. **3**Don’t be fooled by what they say. **For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God** **and the man of lawlessnessis revealed—the one who brings destruction.** **4**He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God. **5**Don’t you remember that I told you about all this when I was with you? **6**And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes**. 7For this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way.** **8**Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming. **9**This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles. **10He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them.** **11**So God will cause them to be greatly deceived, and they will believe these lies. **12**Then they will be condemned for enjoying evil rather than believing the truth.

 **D. Signs of the Times Mattthew 24:1-22 (NKJV)** Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. **2**And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not *one* stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.” **3**Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” **4**And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. **5**For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. **6**And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for 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, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. **8**All these *are* the beginning of sorrows. **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. **11**Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. **12**And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. **13**But he who endures to the end shall be saved. **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.

 **E. AI & the Mark of the Beast 1. I would have to diverge from Dr. Eyzenberg’s application of the idea that the mark of the beast is not a computer mark.**

 **2. As with nearly all biblical prophecy there is an immediate application and then there are possible multiple further fulfillments.**

 **3. The modern equivalent of the 1st century mark most likely will be an allegiance to the New World order and the emergence of AI intelligence under the antichrist.**