

The Mark of The Beast

Revelation 13:16-18 ¹⁶And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: ¹⁷And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. ¹⁸Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore *and six.*” (KJV, Italicized text is not in the original manuscript.)

For centuries there have been and continue to be Bible scholars, Christian Theologians, Pastor, etc. who have pondered and argued over the Greek text noting the mark of the beast. In this study, we will take a closer look at the “666” so called code in the Bible which is referred to as the “mark of the beast.” Most people believe this to be some kind of chip implanted in the skin that would allow the Anti-Messiah to impose some kind of monetary control on Yahweh’s true believers. Who is in the category of a “true believer?” Simple, those who have repented and received Messiah Yeshua (Christ Jesus) as their Master (Lord) and Savior. It makes no difference which church one goes to or even if they do not go to a church. If they have the atoning blood of Yeshua covering them, they are a part of His family. Some will disagree with this and that is okay.

SIDE NOTE: When we read in our Bibles where it is written “antichrist,” What does this mean? It simply means “**instead of the True Messiah.**” It is rendered as “antichrist” or “anti-Christ,” “Anti-Messiah” or “anti-Messiah,” and a host of other variations.

Many books have been written on these verses in the Bible without really checking them out thoroughly, or giving considerable study of the text. Many simply ignore hundreds of other prophecies that contradict their “theory” and simply read into the text something that is not there.

Many people ask “What is the mark and what is meant by ‘**allegiance to the beast?**’ ” First, we must recognize that the beast is both one man and a group of nations, not just one man alone. The end time beast is a **confederacy of nations** all under the same banner of Islam. It will be controlled by this one individual who will be revealed in the latter days who we will recognize as the Anti-Messiah. Muslims will declare him as the supreme Caliph. He is against all those things that the Messiah Yahushua is for i.e. salvation, peace, the well being of individuals etc.

SIDE NOTE: The term **caliphate** "dominion of a caliph ('successor')" (from the Arabic خلافة or khilāfa, Turkish: Halife), refers to the first system of government established in Islam and represented the political unity of the Muslim Ummah (community). In theory, it is an aristocratic-theocratic constitutional republic (the Constitution being the Constitution of Medina), which means that the head of state, the Caliph, and other officials are representatives of the people and of Islam and must govern according to constitutional and religious law, or Sharia. In its early days, it resembled elements of direct democracy (see shura) and an elective monarchy.

SIDE NOTE CONT.: It was initially led by Muhammad's disciples as a continuation of the political and religious system the prophet established, known as the 'Rashidun caliphates'. A "caliphate" is also a state which implements such a governmental system.

Sunni Islam stipulates that the head of state, the caliph, should be selected by Shura – elected by Muslims or their representatives. Followers of Shia Islam believe the caliph should be an imam chosen by God from the Ahl al-Bayt (Muhammad's purified progeny). After the Rashidun period until 1924, caliphates, sometimes two at a single time, real and illusory, were ruled by dynasties. The first dynasty was the Umayyad. This was followed by the Abbasid, the Fatimid, and finally the Ottoman Dynasty. SOURCE: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate>

With this understanding of a “caliph” we can say that the “supreme caliph” is the ultimate and final supreme authority to come into power over all other powers on earth in the end of days.

The Bible itself indicates three elements to what we can call “allegiance” to this confederacy or beast system.

Revelation 13:16-18 “¹⁶And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or on their foreheads: ¹⁷And that no man might buy or sell, **save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.** ¹⁸Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.” (KJV, Emphasis mine. Italicized text is not in the original manuscript.)

When we casually read the above verses, we will notice three elements:

- ❖ The beast has a Mark.
- ❖ The beast has a Name.
- ❖ Number or better translated the beast has a “multitude.”
- ❖ Also a challenge is made that “here is wisdom,” let him that has understanding recognize this.

Men and women do not have a “number,” but they have a “**name**.” If you notice the text also says “**name of the beast**,” so one must ask “Why is it written the ‘number of his name?’ ” The context here is not a “number” but a “**multitude**.” This is like taking my name and using Hebrew Gematria to convert my name into a number. I am not a number but a person who has a name.

Perhaps the best explanation of the mark of the beast with a literal and correct understanding is found in the [Restoration Scriptures True Name Edition](#) (3rd edition):

Revelation 13:16 “And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:” (Restoration Scriptures True Name Edition--3rd edition with footnote: **Mohammed’s religion brings people to his god Allah.**)

Revelation 13:17 “And that no man might buy, or sell, except he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, even the multitudes who have his name.” (Restoration Scriptures True Name Edition--3rd edition with footnote: **The mark of the beast, or the name of Allah is for those who conform to the one-world political and religious order of Islam, both emanating from Mecca in the last generation. That beast system has as its mark the rejection of Yahushua as YHWH’s Savior/Son, the changing of the everlasting covenant from Shabbat to Friday, YHWH’s Name to Allah, and YHWH’s Torah to fables. The name**

and destruction in the name of Allah is the single most overriding and defining mark of the beast, in addition to its Torah-less-ness. Anyone who has not sold out to their intoxicating wine of oil and thus not given allegiance to the revived end time beast cannot buy or sell energy elsewhere, as all the earth's economies are fully dependant upon black gold, or oil. Think of this! If Rome, or the USA were the end time beast, what commodity do they sell that would destroy the global economy were it to be withheld?)

Revelation 13:18 “Here is chochmah [wisdom]. Let him that has binah [understanding] consider the multitude of the beast: for it is the multitude of a man; (Footnote from Restoration Scriptures True Name Edition--3rd edition: **The multitudes, or number of Mohammed's followers. Not a literal number.**) and his multitude is encoded in ‘chi, xi, sigma.’ (Restoration Scriptures True Name Edition--3rd edition with footnote: **The three Greek letters are a code, which portrays a message to John and through John to us, in order to identify the end time beast This is not a literal number, as no man has a number in place of a name. All men have real names, as does the end time beast. Some manuscripts say 614, some 646, some 665, so that 666 is just one reading. Moreover, one cannot use Greek words, or letters to figure Gematria, or the numerical value of letters, since that only applies to the Hebrew language. Additionally, the last Greek letter is an accent not a letter. The first Greek letter chi’ looks like two crossed swords, the very symbol of Islam seen by John before Islam was even invented by Mohammed. The next letter in Greek, ‘xi’ is written vertically and is the exact name of Allah when written horizontally in Arabic. Thus the symbol of the crossed swords, along with the name of Allah is the mark with the final letter more of an accent mark, known as a ‘sigma score’ and not a ‘sigma’ itself. The letter sigma does not even exist in modern Greek. The verse as translated correctly in verse 18 means this. “Here is wisdom. Let him that has understanding decide who the multitude of the beast is, for it is the multitudes of a man (Mohammed) and (the same multitudes) are all involved with the mark, the name of Allah.” The Greek word number is more accurately translated as multitudes, or the great number/multitude of those who worship the end time beast day and night.)**

The identity of the Anti-Messiah will be hidden and kept secret until the last of the last days when a previous empire is revived. But it will not be the Roman Empire that's revived, but the world's last and only Islamic empire the Ottoman Empire that declined in 1920. According to many hundreds of Scriptures such as First John:

1 John 2:22 “Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.” (KJV, Emphasis mine.)

Those who deny the Father and/or the Son (as Islam does) are Anti-Messiah, or the Anti-Messiah beast system. All Christians and even Catholics believe in the Father and Son. Thus, revealing that this false Anti-Messiah system is based in Mecca and not Rome.

Revelation 14:11 “And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.” (KJV, Emphasis mine.)

Did you know that this (“no rest day nor night”) is literally true in a Muslims life? He/she has no real rest; he must pray 5 times a day. These are the 5 times he prays:

1. **Fajr** (pre-dawn): This prayer starts off the day with the remembrance of Allah; it is performed before sunrise.
2. **Dhuhr** (noon): After the day's work has begun, one breaks shortly after noon to again remember Allah and seek his guidance.
3. **'Asr** (afternoon): In the late afternoon, people are usually busy wrapping up the day's work, getting kids home from school, etc. It is an important time to take a few minutes to remember Allah and the greater meaning their lives.
4. **Maghrib** (sunset): Just after the sun goes down, Muslims remember Allah again as the day begins to come to a close.
5. **'Isha** (evening): Before retiring for the night, Muslims again take time to remember Allah's presence, guidance, mercy, and forgiveness.

All these prayers are in addition to the numerous other prayers needed as an around the clock tribute to Allah. They truly have “no rest day nor night.”

Now we will take a closer look at the meaning of the “mark of his name.” Here is another clue.

Revelation 17:5 “And upon her forehead was a name written, **MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS** and **ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**” (KJV, Emphasis mine. Italicized text is not in the original manuscript.)

The above text indicates that this system of worship has the following Titles-Attributes:

- ❖ Mystery Babylon the Great
- ❖ Mother of Harlots
- ❖ Abominations of the Earth

One thing is obvious. Yahweh is trying to show us something significant here by pointing out these three different titles and interestingly it is also called the “**abominations of the earth.**” The same way the true Messiah has titles such as Immanuel “Yahweh with us,” the “Word of Yahweh,” “The Branch,” and others, they are all titles of the One and only True Elohim/Mighty One.

For Yahweh to call this “the abominations of the earth” is highly significant, as this is **not** just some system of worship where followers are minding their own business. Rather it is a “**type**” of active worship being an ongoing abomination before Almighty Yahweh, i.e. they are blaspheming His Set-Apart (Holy) Name day and night. Look at the Muslims; they pray 5 times a day; some even do six prayers, even one after midnight called the ‘tayyad salat’ (prayer). In each prayer they say the following: “Allah hu Akbar.” They say this at least 6 times, which means Allah, is greater. They recite other formulas as well. There is no mention of Yahweh the True Elohim at all and then they replace the true Messiah Savoir with a mere man, an alleged

prophet of Allah. Don't you think this causes great sadness to Yahweh, who created these people in His love, and yet they have been led astray like this? Today they do not even recognize the one True Mighty One, Yahweh, since they have taken the ultimate lie and accepted it as truth. **The ultimate lie is that Allah is just another name for Yahweh, or merely the Arabic name for Yahweh! Look at this:**

2 Thessalonians 2:11 “And for this cause YHWH shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe THE LIE [not a lie, but THE lie]:” (Restoration Scriptures True Name Edition--3rd edition with footnote: **Those who have bought into the beast, his mark and his religion, will all believe the lie as promoted by that false religion. That lie is recited 5 times daily by Muslims. “There is no elohim but Allah and Mohammed his prophet.”**)

When Muslims experience a “miracle” in their life, they attribute that miracle to Allah. So, no matter what you say to them, he/she will always tell you that whatever alleged miracle happened it was due to Allah. How sad.

It is blasphemy to say that “Allah is greater,” when we know Allah is not Yahweh despite what some “say,” but in reality only Yahweh is Great and The Greatest. Who just who is Allah? He is none other than s.a.tan (Satan, the devil) who is disguised as Allah who is deceiving the Muslim people.

A. WHY THE ABOMINATION?

In the Bible, Baal is also called Beelzebub, or Baalzebub, ONE OF THE FALLEN ANGELS OF SATAN. Beelzebub is the patron god of the Philistines in ancient Israel. He is also identified with the god of Ekron, Baal-Zebub. The term is a deliberate mocking perversion of the Canaanite deity Baal-Zebul (“Prince Baal”), one of the standard titles of the god Baal. In the Bible, Beelzebub is the prince of evil spirits and in Milton's ‘Paradise Lost’ he is s.a.tan's chief lieutenant. He is also called ‘Master of the Flies’, derived from the Hebrew “Baal-Zevuv.” (Hefner, Alan G., Encyclopaedia Mystica — Baal Article)



This shows us again that Baal, with its IL or AN root did not come from Arabia but from earlier cultures.

Interesting is the name **HU-BAL** (in Arabic and Hebrew script the vowels were not noted). This shows a very suspicious connection to the Hebrew HA-BAAL (The Baal). As we all know this was an idol mentioned in the Bible (Numbers 25:3; Deuteronomy 4:3; Joshua 22:17; Psalm 106:28-29 and Hosea 9:10). Where was Baal worshipped? In Moab, It was the “god of fertility.” **Amr ibn Luhaiy brought Hu-bal from Moab to Arabia.**

Let us identify Baal. First we remove the definite article from BA'IL and AL-llah, remove the suffix from Al-ILAH which has been added for gender and then we are left with “IL” found in Babylon. Now we know what this deity is stripped to its core. The only culture to use **IL** was Babylon. Since this is where this deity was exported from to Saudi Arabia. Hu-bal or Ha-bal was Master of the Ka'ba in Arabia in Mecca. Remember the god of the Sumerians was Lil and from there in its short form it became known as IL, add the suffix and prefix and you get Ba'il, or

Baal. In Arabic the suffix was added and it became Hallah, these inscriptions were found in Arabia.

Hitti wrote about this. He shows that the Arabs of Saba in South Arabia inscribed **HLH** in some of their inscriptions for the high god. With the vowels supplied this becomes Hallah, and later, Allah. Hitti reports that this inscription was also found in the Lihyan inscriptions in North Arabia, and he says that its origin came from Assyria (Hitti Philip, History of The Arabs, London, 1950 pg.100-101).

Allah's root is LIL, shortened to IL from Enlil. So Allah really evolved from Enlil to Lil and then IL. Remember the name used in the Bible Baal, is the Hebrew Bail meaning "the god," in Arabic. It would be Al-llah and in Aramaic Alaha.

There are inscriptions that were found in stone from Al-Ula in Northern Arabia, circa 500 BCE, at least one 1,000 years before Muhammad was born. In the same Semitic language dialect, and in the same time frame, are two other names of the gods-- Mar-Allah, meaning Master-god, and Adar'IL. This is a Sardonic contraction using the root form of the name for god from Sumer LIL. This once again shows us the sinister connections back to the god of the Sumerians.

We also noted that:

The Quraish ADOPTED Baal as Allah, and added the goddesses to his cult the same way as Baal had **three daughters in the Fertile Crescent**. They venerated him and his three female companions in his new house, the Kaaba at Mecca. (Bergsson, Snorri G., Goddesses and Wica Worship, 'Neo-paganism at its most deceptive form, Islam and Goddess Worship Chpt. IV, pg. 15, 1998- 2000).

What does this mean? It simply means that Baal was worshipped as Allah by the Quraish tribal clans and by Muhammad later and that the Muslim prophet Muhammad used his monotheism which is the belief in one god to subjugate the people roundabout.

Now we will take a look at Scripture to see if it indicates titles.

Revelation 19:13 "And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His Name is called **The Word of God (Yahweh)**." (KJV, Emphasis mine. Italicized text is not in the original manuscript.)

Yeshua is the true Name of the western European Jesus Christ, but He has the title; "The Word of Yahweh."

Revelation 19:16 "And He (Messiah Yeshua) hath on *His* vesture and on His thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS**." (KJV, Emphasis mine. Italicized text is not in the original manuscript.)

Clearly we can see that the "names of blasphemy" are not only titles, but may be **attributes** also of the Anti-Messiah system. The Islamic creed of the Shahadah (the profession of faith) "La Ilah ha il Allah Muhammad rasul Allah," means there is no elohim but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet." That would correspond to a "**name of blasphemy**," or a title of blasphemy as explained above. The one true Yahweh **never** ordained Muhammad as a prophet, as there was no need for further revelation. Yeshua finished the work on the stake/cross and said "**it is finished**" (**John 19:30**) meaning the end of the sacrificial system to atone for the sins of all those that come to Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah. There was no need for any more prophets or seers after this.



This beast empire literally rises out of the desert “sand of the sea” and the sea. This again is the very area of the Middle East where Muhammad proclaimed his prophethood. Just take a look at the map of Saudi Arabia as it is literally surrounded by seas.

This shows us that the above are titles and personal attributes of the Anti-Messiah system and not actual names.

1 John 2:22 “Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus (Yeshua) is the Christ (Messiah)? He is antichrist (Anti-Messiah), that denieth

the Father and the Son.” (KJV, Emphasis mine.)

We can also see from the above verse that these people deny the Father and His Son. The Muslims categorically deny the True Father who is Yahweh and His Son Yeshua the Messiah. In the Qu’ran, their religious texts show that Yeshua is not even the same Yeshua as seen in the gospels and they make it a point to teach this to their followers. In fact the Yeshua of the Qu’ran is a Yeshua far removed from Israel and was some person who has been created by Allah the same way as Adam was.

Sura 4:171 “The Messiah, Isa [Yeshua] the son of Mary, was no more than god’s apostle...god is but one god. Allah FORBID that he should have a son!”

I have hear it said that this “Jesus” (Yeshua) that is noted in the Qu’ran is the same Jesus in our Bibles. This is simply not true based on the Muslim’s own bible. We must be very careful not to get entrapped by those spouting off things they know nothing about. They are actually calling good evil and evil good. This is not wise. Test all things we hear, see and read to see if it lines up with Scripture.

Allah is not Yahweh nor does Allah have a son. Thus, “Isa (Yeshua) the son of Mary” is not Allah’s son but one of his apostles.

Sura 9:88-93 “And they say, The All-merciful has taken unto Himself a son. You have indeed advanced something hideous. As if the skies are about to burst, the earth to split asunder and its mountain to fall down in the utter ruin for that they have attributed to the All-merciful a son; and it behaves [behooves] not the All-merciful to take a son. None are there in the heavens and earth but comes to the All-merciful, as a servant.”

Who do you think would have a stake in denying the truth of the stake/cross? Satan? Satan has to pervert the truth and he has to deceive the people to prevent them from knowing the truth! That is why he is behind this whole charade.

When we read **1 John 2:22**, we can see that this verse is not a “type” that can be applied to any group, as it only matches one group of people and these are the Muslims who religiously deny that Yeshua is Yahweh, or that Yahweh came in the flesh. All other groups of people could not

care less about Yeshua and do not include active denial of both the Father and the Son as part of their mantra. Have you seen how even some Hindus accept Yeshua as a deity in their pantheon and worship Him! The Muslims are the only group of people obsessed with denying the deity of Yeshua and obsessed with the Bible allegedly being corrupt. You can go and debate with Muslims anytime and they are quite happy to take up the challenge to disprove the Bible, but without success of course.

In addition, many people believe it is the Roman Catholic Church, or maybe one of the Popes that will be the Anti-Messiah. Unfortunately there are many who try to fit certain readings of Scripture to fit their preconceived notions and come to the wrong conclusion. This is known as “eisegesis.” We should be applying “exegeses.” You may be wondering what is “eisegesis” and “exegeses.” Before we go any further, let me explain what these two terms mean.

Eisegesis vs. Exegeses

We should **always** read Scripture in “**context**.” Otherwise, we’ll only have “**partial**” truths, but not the “**whole**” truth. Churches today are doing exactly what the Pharisees and Sadducees were doing in the second century C.E. long before Yeshua was born. They apply what is known as “eisegesis.”

Eisegesis is the approach to Scripture interpretation where the interpreter tries to “**force**” or “**read into**” the Scripture to mean something that fits the interpreter’s existing belief or understanding of a particular issue or doctrine.

People who interpret the Scripture this way are usually not teachable or willing to let the Scripture speak for itself (exegeses). Their goal is to try to force or prove a point they already believe in, and everything they read and interpret is filtered through that paradigm. Stated another way, they engage in what the Scripture refers to as “**private interpretation**” (2 Peter 1:20).

In the end, eisegesis is an exercise that in most cases leads to wrong interpretation, and therefore improper application of those Scriptures in a person’s life.

As a result of eisegesis, we now have a host of different denominations, including non-denominations. The founder of each no doubt started out by reading Scripture and discovered something that fit their belief or theology (whether contextually accurate or not), and then formed their Church doctrines.

However, we are to use “**exegeses**” when reading the Scriptures.

Exegeses is **reading out** of Scripture what is there rather than trying to read or force into Scripture what is not there.

When “eisegesis” is employed, it places a “heavy” weight upon people by leading them into false doctrines.

This is exactly what has happened in Churches around the world today. There are many “man-made” rules (do’s and don’ts) that have been added to Yahweh’s Word in the form of Church doctrines throughout the centuries. This places a heavy “yoke” upon the Body of Messiah Yeshua.

Now we will continue with our main topic—the mark of the beast.

The Bible says the ones who profess the Father and Son are not the Anti-Messiah! Yet there are writers out there who would have you and I believe that the Roman Catholic Church somehow does not believe in the same Yahweh, which is a plain lie. I am not saying that the Catholic Church is not guilty of some doctrinal issues because they do have some issues. We cannot point our finger at the Catholic Church without looking at our hand to witness three fingers pointing back at us. The Christian Churches no matter what label hangs above the front door has doctrinal issues just like the Catholic Church has. Some the same and some different. The “main” issue here is not doctrinal issues, but rather believing in the Father and His Son. This is the primary issue we are talking about here.

It has been stated that Roman Catholics are more devout than evangelicals. I personally cannot speak for or against that statement. There are at least 10% among Catholics who can be fully called “**regenerated**” or what is commonly known as “born-again” believers and of those are 100% saved. Do you “**think**” our Master Messiah Yeshua (Christ Jesus) would throw these “regenerated” Catholics into hell who have stood firm for His Name, or those even those lukewarm bible believing evangelical Christians who denied His Name to save themselves? The Roman Catholics do profess both the Father and His Son so it rules them out. The Catholics have at times stood up for many biblical principles, often more so than mainstream Christians, on such key moral issues as divorce, abortion and homosexuality. This is not to say that all Christian Churches have compromised to these issues. Many have not, but some have which is sad. Those people who “**say**” that works have nothing to do with our faith are dead wrong. Yahweh states CLEARLY in His Word that He will judge **every work** we have done for Him. We do “works” of righteousness. We do not do “works” for salvation. Works are manifestations of a willingness to give our obedience to His Written Words. If we are not obedient to His Commandments then being “regenerated/born-again” is a meaningless term. We are “regenerated/born-again” in order to have a heart to follow Him and His Torah (Torah is translated in most Bibles as “Law.” Law =’s Yahweh’s Teachings and Instructions) fully.

The very term so misunderstood in Christendom is not just that you are born of the Holy Spirit, but that you are born from above by Yahweh’s Word/Yeshua. So then, how can one turn around and disobey portions of that same Word. If you are truly born from above, failing to obey His Commandments is tantamount to denying your spiritual conception.

The proof of the pudding lies in the fact that if you are born of above then it means you will obey the Words of Him who came from above, now start looking around you and tell me how many Christians today obey His Words? Salvation has been made into cheap grace without any understanding of obeying Yahweh’s eternal words.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 “¹³Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God (Yahweh) and keep His commandments**, for this is **the whole duty of man**.

¹⁴For God (Yahweh) shall bring every work into judgment, with (including) every secret thing, whether *it* be good, or whether *it* be evil.” (KJV, Emphasis mine. Italicized text is not in the original manuscript.)

If you do not understand this then take a look at the Jewish people who do understand what obeying Yahweh means. The Rabbis have built fences around the commandments in order to protect people from breaking the commandments. Yet they ended up going too far, so that they couldn’t recognize their Messiah, as he did not resemble the fences obscuring the Torah/Law. The second group to look at are the Muslims, who also built religious fences such as the Hadith

and ended up going too far entirely missing Yahweh and even their false Allah. Since this study is not about faith and the meaning of faith, we need to obey Yahweh's Word that proceeds out of His mouth and stop arguing like little children about things He never said and focus instead on obeying what He did say.

In addition, many Catholics hold to papal (men's doctrines/teachings) essentially denying the gospel of Messiah Yeshua/Jesus. They claim to believe in the Master Yeshua in words yet they fail in other tests of the Bible by calling Mary another Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, Co-Mediatory and Queen of Heaven. They set up statues of Mary for worship, which is plain Idolatry. Idolatry is nothing more than paganism. One could argue, as does rabbinical Judaism, these were papal fences in order to proclaim the deity of Yeshua/Jesus and protect it from heretics in the early 2nd and 3rd century church. Yet the Bible makes it clear that titles such as advocate and intermediary only belong to Yeshua the Messiah and our way to the Father is only through Him. The worship to Mary is never mentioned, or given to her because she was also a sinner who needed blood atonement like the rest of us. Scripture never called Mary (Miriam is her Hebrew name.) sinless. When the late Pope John Paul II kissed the Qu'ran, he legitimized what is an idolatrous false religion--Islam. It is fair to say that there are now some 10% of Catholics who have left the doctrines of Rome/men and do believe in Yahweh's promises for Israel and do not fall into the same Roman group. Whenever we need to correct error, we must always look to Yahweh's Teachings and Instructions—the Torah/Law and return to our Master Yeshua/Jesus the Messiah.

Many Jews and Christians also worship with their words (lip service) but not their deeds (works). Yet we know that Yahweh created us for good works (**Ephesians 2:10**). They talk the talk without walking the walk. In their case, the rubber never meets the road.

Only one religion on earth is set for a showdown with Jews and Christians and that is ISLAM. Whether you agree or not that is the reality. It is better that we face reality now than to live in la la land. Many Christians running around proclaiming different spiritual gifts and the gift of speaking in tongues is not going to help them resist the reality of the beast coming to kill them daily as we can see daily on our TV's.

B. The Mark of the Beast Identified

Let us remember this Beast/Empire/Kingdom **kills** in the name of Allah, which is the mark.

- ❖ In the name of Allah - Kenya USA Embassy bombings 1998.
- ❖ In the name of Allah - First World Trade Center bombings 1993.
- ❖ In the name of Allah - Australian Embassy blown up in Indonesia 9/2004.
- ❖ In the name of Allah - Crashing planes into twin towers in N.Y. 9/11/2001.
- ❖ In the name of Allah - The naval ship USS Cole bombed in Yemen 2000.
- ❖ In the name of Allah - Saudi Arabia Muslims slaughtered 9 people in Khobar and wounded several others.
- ❖ In the name of Allah - In the Philippines kidnapped American missionary Martin Burnham killed.
- ❖ In the name of Allah - French oil tanker attacked 2002.
- ❖ In the name of Allah - Bali nightclub blown up.
- ❖ In the name of Allah - Beheading of Daniel Pearl.

- ❖ In the name of Allah - Beheading of Paul Johnson.
- ❖ In the name of Allah - Beheading of interpreter/missionary Kim Sun II in Iraq and the beheading of Kenneth Bigley.
- ❖ In the name of Allah - Muslim terrorists in Saudi Arabia kidnapped and beheaded American engineer Paul Johnson.
- ❖ In the name of Allah - The Ghriba Synagogue in Tunisia bombed in 1982.
- ❖ In the name of Allah - Beheading of Nick Berg.
- ❖ In the name of Allah - Italian security guard Fabrizio Quattrocchi executed.
- ❖ In the name of Allah - Four Spanish trains blown up.
- ❖ In the name of Allah - Countless suicide terrorist attacks in Israel.
- ❖ In the name of Allah - Countless suicide bombings in Iraq.
- ❖ In the name of Allah - Morocco suicide bombing in Casablanca.
- ❖ In the name of Allah - In Turkey bombed two synagogues, the British consulate plus a British bank.
- ❖ In the name of Allah - Babies and Kids shot and killed in Chechnya Russia.
- ❖ In the name of Allah - Chechen Muslim terrorists tried to detonate a dirty bomb in 1996 in Moscow but failed.
- ❖ In the name of Allah — Suicide attacks on the London transport system 7/7/2005.
- ❖ In the name of Allah — Jordanian American hotels blown up by two would be suicide bombers with the woman's device failing.
- ❖ Countless other daily atrocities visited on civilization by Islam in the name of Allah.

More could be listed here but I think you get the picture being painted here.

These are some of the incidents “in the name of Allah,” the mark of the beast [Islam] with countless others. Recognize it if you have the eyes to see.

Revelation 13:17 “And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. (KJV, Emphasis mine.)

Note the “number” in Greek is the word “**arithmos** (ἀριθμός).” Strong's #G706.

Notice the beast has a NAME. The word “arithmos” in the [Greek Lexicon](#) can also be translated as “multitude,” which has been often translated as **number** in the above verse. With the translation of “multitude” it would read, or the “multitude of/in his name.” Men have names, and no man has a number and also the multitude rally under a banner, or emblem, not “numbers.” It is absurd to **assume** that people rally under some “number.”

A lot of people simply believe the computer chip **theory**, that the Anti-Messiah will insert a chip in our skin and when this happens we will know Anti-Messiah has arrived. Yet this can happen today through many USA or European companies, but that does not make the USA, our President or the European Union any more the Anti-Messiah than Santa Claus being the father of Christmas which is pagan by the way. Read Jeremiah 10:1-5.

We have to tie the whole Bible together and not just jump to a conclusion based on one verse of the Bible.

“No man may buy or sell” can indeed mean that **IF** you are in the dominion of the beast/empire/kingdom that he, the Anti-Messiah, can impose his will on you, so that you cannot buy, or sell unless you accept what he commands. He may ask you to convert to Islam, or he may ask you to pledge allegiance to his kingdom or cause (or forsake your spiritual, or political support for Israel/the Jews, or the Crusaders the derogatory Muslim term for Christians), and that would be enough to satisfy the mark. There are three “or’s” given in Revelation 13 verse 17. Basically the mark is a submission to his, the Anti-Messiah’s, will.

- ❖ He that had the mark (*The Shahadah* [Muslim creed of faith], or ANY form of real allegiance to Islam).
- ❖ Name of the beast (Titles of blasphemy, Allah is god, Muhammad is his prophet etc.)
- ❖ Multitude of his name (many people following in the name of Allah).

What is scary is the above is actually happening today in some Christian Churches and the pastors are not aware of what they are doing plus leading their congregations into the same error—receiving the mark of the beast.

If we look at the following verse in **Revelation 13:18**, which has been the most contested verse in history, one sees the problem associated with trying to find the Anti-Messiah in just one verse and forgetting the rest of Scripture as a cohesive unit.

Revelation 13:18 “Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man and his number is Six hundred threescore *and* six.” (KJV, Emphasis mine. Italicized text is not in the original manuscript.)

The above verse has caused a lot of people to use Hebrew Gematria to equate this number to a man e.g. Hitler, Kissinger, Prince Charles and so many others in history that have proved to be wrong. The New Covenant/Testament is written in street language (Koine Greek), and we at times need to see all the variant readings to come to a **correct** fuller understanding. Yahweh does tell us in His Word “Here is wisdom,” “he that had understanding,” e.g. **IF** you have **wisdom** and **understanding THEN know** what it means. It is a challenge to all of us today to look around us and test our end time prophetic **wisdom** and **knowledge** given us in the Bible.

The “**theory**” of the chip is just not justifiable and it is far too exaggerated for our study. Now we do know there are clubs and bars in Spain utilizing the chip for its customer base. Does this mean the prime minister of Spain is the Anti-Messiah, or perhaps even the bar owner? You may say that is ridiculous and really it is. How many more “contrived” schemes will mankind invent to get people to “take the chip?” Thanks but NO THANKS!!!

We need to be aware of a few things.

The Bible is a collection of 66 books. They are divinely inspired by Almighty Yahweh and written by men of His choosing. These are His scribes He used to write that which He gave them to be passed down to all peoples. Some prophets spoke more about the Anti-Messiah, while others may have spoken none, or very little about him. However, we need to take the Bible as a whole and look at all the evidence in the Bible to come to a **correct understanding**, or else we could be barking up the wrong tree.

International law even if used to enforce the **chip theory** cannot accommodate such activity and is not enforceable on sovereign states. We would potentially have to go to war with each nation

and defeat them in order to implement this solution and even then, we know it would not work. Take a look at Iraq and see how many casualties occur on a daily basis, to the USA and British soldiers in order to maintain law and order in one country. How then can one nation, or person impose their will on EVERY person and culture in the world? Bullets and ballots would both fall short.

The chip theory is simply **not** justifiable and a diversion tactic created by the Illuminists and many sincere people are falling for it. This is all the more reason we—His children—need to be “wise as serpents and harmless as doves.” (**Matthew 10:16**) Anyone who has succumbed to this implanted chip theory should snap out of it quickly. Did Yeshua not tell us “**DONOT** be deceived?” Why do you think He said that? The answer is very simple. Christians are also prone to deception by the world in which we all live in, thus, the reason for Yeshua’s warning. We must always be on guard so as NOT to be deceived especially in these end of days.

In Scripture we have to examine the language, context and idioms to know what Yahweh is trying to teach us. For example the word ‘earth’ does not always mean the whole world, yet most people will “think” this somehow applies to the whole world. Let me illustrate this with an example, Eretz is the Hebrew word for land, but it **does not** always mean the whole world. Eretz Israel is often applied to the land of Israel, sometimes eretz is used in the context of the locality of a land e.g. the Middle East, but not necessarily whole world. Or this can even be applied to a country and at other times it can be applied to the whole population of one country, so that usually the context determines scope of how the word eretz is used. This is what we would call a synecdoche, a figure of speech. Let us analyze this:

In **Daniel 8:5a** we see a reading that says: “And as I was considering, behold, a he (male) goat came from the west on the surface of the whole earth...” (KJV, Emphasis mine.)

Now on a casual reading it might appear that this male goat, who we know is Alexander the Great, came upon the face of the “whole earth.” But in history, we know that Alexander the Great **never** conquered the whole world, e.g. he never touched Western Europe, and he never conquered China, or even Australia. The Bible’s method of describing this is simply to show that he could have had the strength to conquer the whole earth, but in principle he did not. Alexander the Great conquered all the way from Assyria to Pakistan. Yahweh was only looking at the Middle East, while the majority of prophecy scholars want to stretch this to the whole world and it will not work. Remember Yahweh is always right because His Word is Absolute.

Here is another example, when John was baptizing in the province of Judea, the biblical text says in **Mark 1:5**:

Mark 1:5 “And there went out unto him **ALL the land of Judea**, and they of Jerusalem, and were **ALL** baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.” (KJV, Emphasis mine.)

Now looking at the text of Mark, can we say that every man was baptized in ALL of Judea and Jerusalem? Absolutely not This is simply referring to a group of people that turned up to be baptized and that was not by any stretch of our imagination every man. A large number of people perhaps, but not everyone. In like manner we must be very careful how we interpret Scripture to see whether it is talking about a whole region, or part of a region.

Here are some examples:

1 Kings 10:24 “And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God (Yahweh) had put in his heart.” (KJV, Emphasis mine.)

We can see that **in context** we have to pay attention to the language and the Hebrew words used to describe the event in **1 Kings 10:24** (Hebrew “Vkol Ha’ Eretz”) i.e. the “whole world.”

We just need to ask a simple question here: Did the “whole world” come to King Solomon to hear his wisdom? The answer is no. It did not come to him to hear his wisdom.

Ezra 1:2 “Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God (Master Yahweh) of heaven hath given me ALL the kingdoms of the earth...” (KJV, Emphasis mine.)

Did king Cyrus rule the entire world? Clearly, he never even touched Western Europe, China, Indonesia, or Japan, but only the Middle Eastern portions of the whole world. I believe we should be able to see from all the above examples presented that we cannot use a “blanket” understanding and apply it to the whole world, people, etc. Reading into the text is again applying eisegesis rather than exegeses.

Now if Pakistan decided to use the Arab’s monetary system--Dinaars, would it be reasonable to expect that India a separate nation also has to use Arab Dinaars? Absolutely not. If Pakistan has dominion only in its present land, then that is where it can apply this new law. The Bible reads the same way. The Anti-Messiah will apply the buying and selling to his area of dominion only, not the “whole world” as is typically assumed. ALL in his dominion will be under his influence! The problem is some people **stretch** things out to see their own preconceived views and do not reason with the Scriptures. Again, this is applying eisegesis. They end up with **inaccurate** conclusions. They then in turn become the blind leading the blind.

Revelation 13:17 “And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had **the mark**, or **the name** of the beast, or **the number of his name**.” (KJV, Emphasis mine.)

Applying proper interpretation criteria we can conclude that no man in the Islamic kingdom may buy or sell unless they give allegiance to the beast/empire. This is why it is critical that we all have a clear understanding of the text so we can be used by Almighty Yahweh to warn Christians and Jews to get out of Muslim lands, because one day, this jihad/force will be applied to those in their land, even as Yahweh has said, “*Come out of her My people.*” (**Revelation 18:4**).

The church has done the exact opposite of what Yahweh required. They have been consistently breaking His commandments for 1,975 years, by saying ‘the Old Testament does not apply to us, only the New Testament applies to us.’ This is far from the truth and in fact it is an out-and-out lie and rebellion against Almighty Yahweh. Those who teach this error will be called “least in the Kingdom” according to what Yeshua/Jesus said in **Matthew 5:17-19**. Messiah Yeshua quoted from the Old Covenant/Testament because that is the ONLY Bible He had. The New Covenant/Testament writings did not even exist when He was here. Yeshua quoted from time-to-time to validate His Father’s Word as Holy Truth. He was not carrying a New Covenant/Testament with Him in Israel as it did not exist. In fact, He recited from the Torah scrolls and the prophets. The disciples were also quoting from the Old Covenant/Testament and it was the Tanach (the Hebrew Bible we call the Old Testament.) they quoted from many times. The foundation of all biblical books are the five books of Moses known as the Torah. Not many people know this but Yahweh’s Teachings and Instructions are ALL contained in the Torah. The remainder of the Bible be it Old Testament and New Testament is ALL commentary on the

Torah. All the books of the Bible except the first five books of Moses is commentary on the Torah.

We are born into a very blessed generation where not only do we have so much technology at our fingertips, but we have seen prophecies fulfilled in the Bible. People in the past could only read about these prophecies in the Bible and dream about them being fulfilled. The prophets of the Bible would have desired to see these fulfilled, but it is our blessed generation that has this privilege to see our Heavenly Father's prophecies come to fulfillment.

Therefore, we can arrive at some firm conclusions here: Yahweh tells us:

Isaiah 45:19 “**I have not spoken in secret**, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob (Israel), Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD (Yahweh) speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.” (KJV, Emphasis mine.)

Many scholars today may agree with some sort of “hidden code” in the Bible, or try to “fit” the number 666 in **Revelation 13:18** using Hebrew Gematria (letters possessing numerical values) to some person in the world as we have talked about earlier in this study. They have tried this in the past to fit this to Hitler, Henry Kissinger, President Putin, and the Roman Catholic Pope with no success. Yahweh clearly tells us “I do not speak in secret” (**Isaiah 45:19**), yet these individuals will not believe Yahweh. They make “vain” attempts in trying to fit some “codes” to the Bible to prove that they are somehow more clever to understand Yahweh's Word. The books of Revelation and Daniel were written to “reveal” not to “conceal” end time truths.

Now we want to briefly look at **Revelation 13:18**:

Revelation 13:18 “Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is **Six hundred threescore and six** (666).” (KJV, Emphasis mine. Italicized text is not in the original manuscript.)

Or have we missed the boat here and did we not get on Noah's ark?

Another more appropriate rendering of **Revelation 13:18** is:

“Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding (decide) [who] (the multitude) of the beast [is], for it is the (multitude) of (a man i.e. Muhammad) and (the same) (multitude) [are] “In the Name of Allah.” ” Explanation of this text follows below.

Failed End Time prophecies

1978: Chuck Smith, Pastor of Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa, CA, predicted the rapture in 1981.

1982: Pat Robertson predicted a few years previously that the world would end in the fall of 1982.

1988: Hal Lindsey had predicted in his book “The Late Great Planet Earth” that the Rapture was coming in 1988 - one generation or 40 years after the creation of the state of Israel. This failed prophecy did not appear to damage his reputation. He continues to write books of prophecy, which sell very well indeed.

Many more could be listed here. All these people were “dead wrong” and countless others with them, but we cannot say for sure if any of these good people have apologized for their errors; in fact they continue to sell their books without any apology.

Remember Noah was preaching the upcoming flood for 120 years and no one believed him because they had never seen rain. They all “thought” that they were right and that Noah was a religious nut. Obviously they were **all** wrong by their standards. Guess what! Noah was right and they were all wrong. That is correct, **THEY WERE ALL WRONG**. There are some stubborn, stiff-necked Christians out there who will not listen to His Truths from His Word and they continue to do it their way. I call this “Burger King Christianity. Have IT your way.” It is my sincerest hope that you the reader of this study are not one of these stiff-necked Christians. I pray you are more alert than some of our best educated Christian Theologians and pastor’s are. By your willingness in reading this teaching with an open mind should show you that you have a mind to investigation this subject. So please do not miss the boat relying on teachers that have little insight.

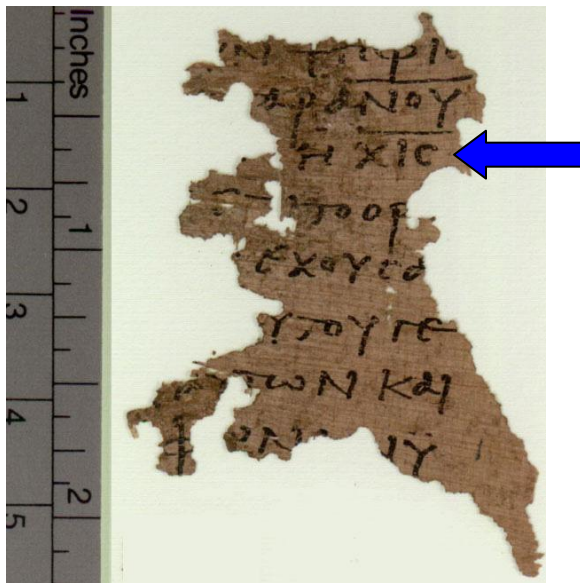
After reading this teaching, I encourage everyone to do their own research and see why all the prophets in the Bible are saying the wrath to come is **on Islamic nations** and its followers, and not on Europe and not on the USA. This is not to say that Yahweh will not Judge the USA along with other nations because of their sins. This is a different judgment than what we have been addressing in the book of Revelation. We have to ask ourselves: “Why would Yahweh mislead us by giving us a number that the church has been trying to decipher for two millennia? IT DOES NOT MAKE SENSE. The simple reason is that it was NEVER given as a number, but as a **symbolic text** that the early church “thought” was applicable to Nero. This “symbol” could likely be a piece of Arabic text. It is remarkable how Yahweh has chosen Muslims to see this truth and bring them to His light. There are ex-Muslim’s who see these things in the Bible and Almighty Yahweh is using them to connect all the dots and cross all the t’s and praise be to Yahweh that He has chosen them to fulfill His will in helping us to understand what Yahweh has given us millennia ago for today.

Many Christians have fallen into many “false theories” to try and fit the number 666 into one individual or another; but Yahweh was not showing us a number at all. You will be startled to know that this is not a number as believed by most, but a piece of writing representing a very “key event” which is here now.

I know this is a long study, but hang in there with me. We are about to get to the good stuff.

It is noteworthy to mention that scholars have not been entirely consistent in their translations of each word in the Scriptures. In order to read into the correct translation of a word, we really have to look at the old manuscripts that we have in the Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic languages. We need to see for ourselves what translation the word can be given within the context of the passage.

We do have manuscripts in our possession with variant readings of the Scripture for **Revelation 13:18** e.g. in one codex we find the number to be **616**, in another it is **646** and one contains **665**, so logically the question is which one is correct?



One feature of particular interest is the number that this papyrus assigns to the Beast: 616, rather than the usual 666. (665 is also found.) We knew that this variant existed: Irenaeus cites (and refutes) it. But this is the earliest instance that has so far been found. The number - chi, iota, stigma (hexakosiai deka hex) — is in the third line of the fragment shown on the left.

The image to the left may be found at www.papyrology.ox.ac.uk/POxy/beast/beast616.html.

The Oxyrhynchus Papyrus is one of the oldest manuscripts that we have in our possession and we can look at this number in this text because it is not 666.

The honest answer to the number dilemma is none of the above numbers noted are correct, not even the number 666 is a correct rendering of the word, as this is not how the early church saw this verse.

A scholar by the name of **Edward L. Pothier** has this to say against the 666 representation This comes from www.answering-islam.org/Religions/Numerics/six.html:

SIX HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX BUT NOT 666

Edward L. Pothier (July 1991)

I. Against the Numerical Representation 666

Perhaps the most famous (or infamous) number in the entire Bible is the strange number six hundred sixty-six, the number of one of the beasts in the thirteenth chapter of the Book of Revelation. From motion pictures and novels, many people, even without any real biblical knowledge, are aware that it is a number associated with evil and danger.

Isolated down to the single verse of interest the translated Biblical text in question is: "This calls for wisdom: let anyone with understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a person. Its number is six hundred sixty-six" (Rev 13:18, NRSV).

The purpose of this study is not to add to the enormous literature about the apocalyptic images and this number. Entire books have been written on this subject[1]. Rather this study will concentrate only on the representation of the number six hundred sixty-six, arguing that to represent it as 666 (triple six) is an error. Such a representation can mislead modern readers towards false interpretations. It is a severely anachronistic representation.

However, a large number of modern English translations of the Bible do use this numerical representation, using numerals rather than words. A non-exhaustive list of those translations which use numbers includes: the New International Version (NIV), the Jerusalem Bible (JB), the New Jerusalem Bible (NJB), the Good News Bible (GNB), the New King James Version (NKJV) and the Living Bible Paraphrased (LBP). In the Revised New Testament of the New American Bible the text writes the words out for the number, however the "official" footnote finishes: "It has also been observed that '6' represents imperfection, falling short of the perfect number '7', and is represented here in a triple or superlative form."

Nearly every commentary, whether scholarly or popular or even sensationalist, in at least part of its explanation of the number, draws attention to some sort of "triple six" symbolism similar to that expressed in the revised New American Bible footnote quoted above. Writing the number all in OUR numeric symbols, 666, can only increase this dubious tendency.

Despite our immediate, almost instinctive, ability to see six hundred sixty-six represented as 666, this is a fairly recent phenomenon. The original readers (or more likely hearers[2]) of the Book of Revelation (probably written late in the first century AD in the Koine or common Greek of the time) would not have seen or heard as specific a repetition of the number 6 as we do in our 666. To understand why the number six hundred sixty-six should not be written as 666 requires a study both of our modern representation of numbers and of the representation in the Greek of the first century AD.

While John the writer of Revelation may have been intending to hide the identity of the "beast" from those outside, "those with understanding", even in the first century, should have been able to calculate (decode) the number and not have to await a much later numerical representation.

II. Our Modern Decimal Place-Value Numbers

To represent numbers we use a decimal (base-10), place-value system. Using just the ten Arabic (or more properly Hindu-Arabic or Indian) numerals (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 0) we can represent an arbitrarily large number. The use of the zero is especially important in that it enables us (in a decimal system) to need only the other nine numerals. The same numeral can be used to represent a number of units, tens, hundreds, thousands, etc. Its position or place in the composite number determines its actual value.

Because each place in the number represents how many of a "power-of-ten" is contained in the composite number (including none in some cases), we have a PLACE-VALUE system. For example, we interpret the number 123 as $1 \times 100 + 2 \times 10 + 3 \times 1$. Similarly, our designated number 666 is $6 \times 100 + 6 \times 10 + 6 \times 1$.

Without a zero as a place holder, however, we would not be able to represent a number like two hundred nine. But since we do have a zero, two hundred nine can be represented as $209 = 2 \times 100 + 0 \times 10 + 9 \times 1$.

This all seems trivial. We learned all this in elementary school. However, this relatively modern representation of numbers, like many inventions, is the endpoint of much evolution and even revolution. At the time of the New Testament's writing such numbers were far in the future. In the West we received our numeral system from the Arabs (hence the usual

name, Arabic numerals) through Spain. The Arabs in turn had obtained them from India. The earliest introduction of these numerals into Spain seems to be at the end of the first millennium AD, but it was well into the second millennium before they took control[3]. Until then, i.e. well into the Middle Ages, Roman numerals were the standard method until eventually displaced by our current decimal, place-value system.[4]

III. Greek Alphabetic Numbers at the Time of the New Testament

Since the Book of Revelation, like the other twenty six books of the New Testament, was written in Koine Greek in the first or early second century AD, we must study how numbers were represented at that time in Greek.[5]

One early Greek numeral system, known as Attic numerals, started at Athens and used symbols for the key numbers 1, 5, 10, 50, 100, etc. The individual symbols of each type were repeated as often as needed (up to four times) to make up a number's representation. This can be called a REPETITIVE 1-5 system. This system was similar to the later (but more familiar to us) system of Roman numerals except that it was always additive (repetitive) unlike the Roman numeral system which has also subtractive forms.[6]

Another system also existed (not surprisingly considering the independence and non-cooperation of Greek city states). This system, known as the Ionian or Milesian (from Miletus in Asia Minor)[7], may have started in the 6th century BC. The Attic system was fading out of use, disappearing almost entirely in the time of the Roman Empire. The Milesian alphabetic numeral system was officially adopted in Athens in the first century BC.[8]

By the time of the New Testament we need only consider the Greek alphabetic numeral system. Although the Greeks had ways of representing numbers in the thousands and also those above ten-thousand (myriads), we will only consider how they represented numbers up to nine hundred ninety nine.

These Greeks, like us, used a decimal system but, unlike us, they did not use a zero number[9]. Thus, although it was a decimal system, it was not a place-value system. Therefore more symbols were needed than just the nine (plus zero) which we use. To represent the numbers up to our 999, they needed 27 different symbols: nine for the units 1, 2, ..., 9; nine for the tens 10, 20, ..., 90; and still another nine for the hundreds 100, 200, ..., 900.

For symbols they used the letters of the Greek alphabet. However, an immediate problem arose since the Greek alphabet contained only 24 letters. To fill in the missing three, they used old obsolete letters from previous alphabets and, somewhat confusingly, these were interspersed with the regular letters.

The following table show the assignments[10].

TABLE OF NUMERICAL VALUES OF GREEK LETTERS

1	alpha	A— α	10	iota	I— ι	100	rho	P— ρ
2	beta	B— β	20	kappa	K— κ	200	sigma	Σ — σ
3	gamma	Γ — γ	30	lambda	Λ — λ	300	tau	T— τ
4	Delta	Δ — δ	40	mu	M— μ	400	upsilon	Y— υ
5	epsilon	E— ϵ	50	nu	N— ν	500	phi	Φ — ϕ
6	[digamma]	FF	60	xi	Ξ — ξ	600	chi	X— χ
7	zeta	Z— ζ	70	omicron	O— $\omicron$	700	psi	Ψ — ψ
8	eta	H— η	80	pi	Π — π	800	omega	Ω — ω
9	theta	Θ — θ	90	[koppa]	QQZ	900	[sampi]	S

Note the obsolete letters in brackets in the table: digamma for 6, koppa for 90, and sampi for 900. The koppa and sampi will not affect us further except that the presence of koppa for 90 pushes letters such as rho, sigma, etc., one position down.

The digamma at 6, however, will be directly relevant for the representation of six hundred sixty-six. This letter also became known as stigma (note the "t") because the form of writing it looked like the ligature (writing together) of the two Greek letters sigma and tau, roughly corresponding to our s and t. [If not done carefully, it can even look like just a sigma, which would be an error.] For most of the rest of this study this obsolete letter pushed into service to represent the numeral for 6 will be referred to as stigma.

Now to represent a number in alphabetic symbols in the first century AD[11] Greek writers could just use the individual symbols concatenated together similarly to how we do it. Because there was no zero, more possible symbols were needed (the 27 listed above). However, to represent a number which has a zero in our representation, they would need less characters. Our number 123 would be represented the three letter symbols (rho)(kappa)(gamma). Our number 209 could be represented by only two letters (sigma)(theta) and 300 by only one letter (tau).

To distinguish letters used as numbers from normal letters a horizontal line was usually written above the letter-numbers or sometimes just a tick mark[12]. It should be noted that the order of the letters needed to represent a number is not important, since this system is not a place-value system. Most often, however, the highest valued letter would be put first.

Thus to represent our number of interest, six hundred sixty-six, rather than using three identical characters (666) as we do in our decimal PLACE-VALUE system, a first century Greek writer (if not spelling out the words just as we also can) would use three distinct characters (chi)(xi)(stigma)!

IV. Gematria and Isopsephia

At the risk of transgressing the self-imposed restriction of concentrating on how the number six hundred sixty-six should be/was represented, a mention of gematria must be made. Since in the Greek alphabetic numeral system described above, every letter of the

Greek alphabet (and three which were not then even used as regular letters) also had a numerical value, it would be possible to give any word, name or phrase a composite numerical value by adding together the numerical values of the individual letters. And if a thing is possible, it is likely to be done.

The Jewish rabbis had a similar procedure since the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet were also used to supply the first 22 characters of the 27 needed to represent numbers up to 999 in their Hebrew system. The twenty second (and last) letter represented the value 400. The remaining numerical values of 500, 600, 700, 800, and 900 needed either special "final forms" of some letters or simple additive representations where 500 would be represented by combining the letters for 400 and 100, etc.[13] The important result was that every letter of the Hebrew alphabet had a numerical value and by adding together the numerical values of the individual letters a composite numerical value of a word was determined. This procedure is called gematria.

In Greek the equivalence of gematria is sometimes called isopsephia (from the words for "equal" and "count"[14]) since one of the uses was to make connections between two words or phrases which had equal numerical calculations[15].

Although gematria was often thought to be primarily a Jewish practice, its use in the Greco-Roman sphere is known[16] (with the numbers often given in the Greek alphabetic system described previously). It is the most likely source for the numerical value of the number of the beast in Rev 13:18.

It was known even in the ancient world that, while it is extremely easy to go from a word, name or phrase to a composite number (one only has to add together the numerical equivalents of each letter), it is impossible to UNIQUELY reverse the process. Having a number does not enable one to get back to the word, name of phrase, unless one has extra information. Like a machine with a ratchet or some form of animal traps, some procedures only work in one direction.

V. Greek NT Readings of Rev 13:18

Having described above the Greek alphabetic number system, it is now possible to look at how Rev 13:18 is represented in the Greek New Testament.

Until the Greek NT was first printed in the early 16th century, each copy of each book in the NT was written by hand. Variations were introduced, either accidentally or deliberately. Since we no longer have the absolute original autograph copies as they came from the hands of the authors, a process of textual criticism must take place.[17] Textual criticism is both the art and science of taking all the evidence as found in all the various existing copies and attempting to reconstruct, as well as possible, what the original text was.

There are two major modern critical editions of the Greek New Testament which serve as a DE FACTO "standard text." They are the Nestle-Aland twenty sixth edition (NA26) and the United Bible Societies Greek New Testament third edition (UBSGNT3)[18]. These are not independent critical editions since they share common editors and agree on the text readings included in the text itself. They differ in punctuation and typographical features as well as in the documentation of textual variants of different manuscripts.

In the "standard" modern critical edition the verse we are considering is given (using a transliteration scheme which enables the reproduction of Greek text in Roman letters) as:

"ho:de he: sophia estin. ho echo:n noun pse:phisato: ton arithmon tou
the:riou, arithmos gar anthro:pou estin, kai ho arithmos autou hexakosioi
hexe:konta hex." (Rev 13:18, NA26)

In this verse one sees several times the Greek word for number (arithmos), from which we get our English word arithmetic. What is most important for our consideration is the last three words which are the Greek words representing six hundred, sixty, and six. As can be seen from the transliteration, they all begin with "hex", which is the Greek prefix which comes into English in such words as hexagon and hexameter.

So when the number words are written out in the Greek text, i.e. not in just the alphabetic numerical symbols, a Greek reader sees a identical start to each of the words ("hex"), just as an English reader sees a "six" in the English words.

In addition to the scholarly reconstruction of the "best", i.e. as close to original as possible, text (obviously to some degree a matter of opinion based on the evidence and scholarly presuppositions), a critical edition also shows how the various manuscript readings differ. The NA26 edition does this through a set of symbols in the text itself (omitted in the above transliteration) and a compact set of "footnotes" which detail each variant, listing the variant readings and telling which manuscripts (using a standard notation for the names of the manuscripts) contain which reading(s).

The variants and the manuscripts which contain them are listed for the number words at the end of Rev 13:18. A text for the three words exactly matching that of the critical text is contained in the fifth century manuscript Codex Alexandrinus. A very slight variant involving only some insignificant grammatical endings is recorded for some more manuscripts, including the fourth century Codex Sinaiticus. (Another important fourth century manuscript Vaticanus is now incomplete, missing all of the Book of Revelation and some other books at the end of the NT). A major different reading (from the reading of the critical edition text) is recorded for another fifth century manuscript, Codex Ephraemi Syri Rescriptus, which contains the number six hundred sixteen instead of six hundred sixty-six. There is also another single late manuscript which contains a reading of six hundred sixty five!^[19]

Of particular interest to us are a set of manuscripts which are recorded as affirming the reading for the number included in the critical text. These are the manuscripts which, instead of writing out the words for the number, use the Greek alphabetic notation, i.e. the three Greek letters (chi)(xi)(stigma). The manuscripts so listed are P47 (a papyrus manuscript, hence the P in the name, from the third century, known as Chester Beatty III), a tenth century manuscript known as 051, and the "Majority-text" symbol (which indicates many late Byzantine manuscripts).

P47 is from the third century and is the oldest manuscript of the Book of Revelation. It contains parts of chapters 9-17. We will consider its readings for numbers in Rev 13:18 and neighboring verses in the next section.

Because, as listed above, the majority of the manuscripts (mostly late Byzantine miniscule manuscripts) include the representation of the number six hundred sixty-six by the

three letters (chi)(xi)(stigma), the text presented in another modern (but non-standard) edition called not surprisingly THE GREEK NEW TESTAMENT ACCORDING TO THE MAJORITY TEXT, does so also.[20] Note that there is a major disagreement in presuppositions about the value of various manuscripts and manuscript groups between the editors of this edition and those of the standard editions.[21]

The so-called Textus Receptus which acted as the standard from the 16th century (the actual term first being used in the 17th) until well into the 19th century when modern critical editions started to displace it, was an evolution of early printed editions of the Greek NT. Its printed text also used the (chi)(xi)(stigma) notation. The main textual basis of this edition was only a handful of fairly late manuscripts, a subset of the majority text.

VI. Papyrus P47 in Detail on the Numbers of Rev 13:18

As mentioned above, P47 is the oldest extant manuscript which contains part of the Book of Revelation. However, its method of representing the number six hundred sixty-six (using Greek alphabetic numerals) is not the one selected by the "standard" critical text (which spells out the number words). The textual apparatus of NA26 shows other variations of P47 from the usual text, even in other places in Rev 13:18.

Although the use of a modern printed critical edition of the Greek New Testament is within the ability of anyone who can read the Koine Greek, the potential of looking at actual copies (reproductions) of individual manuscripts is slight. Even many theological libraries would not have the printed (published) editions which would contain photographs of the desired manuscript.

In this case we are lucky because Kurt and Barbara Aland in their widely available textbook (pun-intended) THE TEXT OF THE NEW TESTAMENT (in both the first and second English editions of 1987 and 1989) include a Plate 23 on page 90 which shows Rev 13:16-14:4 of P47. (Note that the caption of this plate is incorrect in that it attributes P47 to the second century whereas in other places in the book they give the usual third century date).

As mentioned in the description of the Greek alphabetic number system above, the usual way to signal that letters are being used as numerals is by a horizontal line above the letter-numbers. (A horizontal line can also mean something else.)

On the ninth line down from the top of this fragment (all line counts will exclude what might be counted as the first line which seems to include only one character at the very top of the plate) we can see the first horizontal line overscore. This is indeed over the three letters (chi)(xi)(stigma) which represents the six hundred sixty-six of Rev 13:18.

Verse 14:1 starts immediately afterward (no gaps or separations in such manuscripts), a clear reminder that the chapter and verse divisions which we find so essential in locating and referring texts are late additions, many centuries after the books of the NT were written. Two lines further down the overscore is above the letters (rho)(mu)(delta). This is for the alphabetic numeral representation of the one hundred forty four thousand. In this P47 manuscript, at least, the number (one hundred forty four) is written out in the Greek alphabetic mode. The word for "thousands" is written following these "digits". The same (rho)(mu)(delta) again with overscore also occurs four lines from the bottom of the fragment picture.

As an example that the horizontal line above letters does not always indicate a Greek alphabetic number representation, note the three letters (pi)(rho)(sigma) on line 12 that also have the horizontal line above them. This, however, is not a number. The order is reversed from the usual descending order (which is still possible) and two of the letters would stand for different hundreds (100 and 200). This horizontal line above letters serves to signal that this is a NOMINA SACRA, a form of abbreviation used in some Christian Greek scriptures for certain COMMON "theological" words[22]. This is the abbreviation for patros the Greek word for father (in genitive case), as in "the name of his father" (Rev 14:1).

VII. Translating the Numbers of Rev 13:18

How should one translate the numerical words at the end of Rev 13:18? If you consider the text to be translated to be that of the "standard" critical edition's text: "hexakosioi hexe:konta hex", with the numbers written out as words, then the English translation should also certainly have the number words written out such as "six hundred sixty-six." Even the structure of the repeated Greek "hex" word beginnings goes over nicely into English "six" word beginnings. There is no justification, in this case, to use the numeric representation 666.

A question MIGHT be raised if the text which is to be translated is as in P47 manuscript or in the "Majority Text" or in the Textus Receptus, i.e. the number represented as the three Greek letters (chi)(xi)(stigma). Here there might be some justification for using what would be the "English" equivalent, namely the number 666. This would carry the FORM of the original text (that the representation was numerical) but it might not carry over the original MEANING if the extra new symbolism of an identical, repeated, numeral overrode the meaning of a given numerical quantity. We would have no way in English (using our decimal place-value numbers) to be able to indicate that the original Greek numerals used to represent the number were all different. A translator's footnote would be a possibility, but a footnote is only a footnote.

VIII. Irenaeus' "Against Heresies" and the Sibylline Oracles

The two works considered in this section are both post-NT and are semi-leftovers, slightly marginal to the main development of the study. They are included here since one is an early discussion on the number of the beast and the other is an example of gematria on Jesus' name.

Irenaeus was the bishop of Lyons in the last half of the second century who wrote an apologetic work entitled AGAINST HERESIES (Adv. haer) which has survived in a Latin translation, although the original was in Greek. In several places in the fifth "book" of this work he dealt with the number of the beast in (what we call) Rev 13:18, eventually making several elaborate (unsuccessful) hypotheses for reversing the gematria and getting a name back from the number six hundred sixty-six. (Adv.haer 5.30.2) [23]

In several passages he mentions the repeated "sixness" of the number six hundred sixty-six: "that is, six times a hundred, six times times ten and six units."(Adv.haer 5.28.2). In another passage he wrote "... according to the Greek mode of calculation by the [value of] the letters contained in it, will amount to six hundred and sixty and six; that is, the number of the tens shall be equal to that of the hundreds and the number of hundreds equal to the

units (for that number which [expresses] the digit six being adhered to throughout...)" (Adv.haer 5.30.1)

The last passage in particular might lead one to see Irenaeus thinking similarly to the modern representation of 666. However, this is no more than an artifact of the Greek system being a base-10 system (although not place-value) and the words for six hundred, sixty, and six all beginning with "hex" in Greek.

In Adv.haer 5.29.2 Irenaeus shows how (in his scheme of the beast being a recapitulation of all evil) the number of the beast contains the six hundred from the age of Noah when the flood started to wipe out the evil at that time (Gen 7:6). It contains the sixty from the height of the idolatrous image that the king Nebuchadnezzar set up (sixty cubits according to Dan 3:1). And the six of the number is from the six cubit breadth of the same statue. Thus in this case he is more interested in a breakdown along the lines of the individual Greek letter numbers.

But overall, Irenaeus, although he admits that many names are capable of yielding the number, is most interested in making his attempts at decoding the gematria. Unfortunately, less than a century after the Book of Revelation, he is unable to be successful.

An example of Greek gematria which is able to be decoded (because enough extra information is given) is included with the Sibylline Oracles. The Sibylline Oracles are a complicated anthology, with problems due to different sources and times. In a Christian interpolation in Book 1, there is a description of a gematria based on the name of Jesus (in Greek Ie:sous) in the form of a "prophecy" after the fact:[24]

324 Then indeed the son of the great God will come,
325 incarnate, likened to mortal men on earth,
326 bearing four vowels, and the consonants in him are two.
327 I will state explicitly the entire number for you.
328 For eight units, and equal number of tens in addition to those,
329 and eight hundreds will reveal the name
330 to men who are sated with faithlessness. But you, consider in your
heart
331 Christ, the son of the most high, immortal God. (1:324-331)

Just using the standard numerical substitutions for the letters of Jesus' name one gets the result that Ie:sous $\rightarrow 10+8+200+70+400+200 = 888$ in our decimal system [and could be represented as (omega)(pi)(eta) in the Greek alphabetic number scheme]. Nothing more seems to be made about the eights. The same type of comments made in much of this study about the 666 representation follows for this 888.

IX. Summary

This study has attempted to argue against using the anachronistic numerical representation 666 for the number of the beast in Rev 13:18 because such a representation could not have been made for many centuries after the Book of Revelation was written. Any interpretation based on this exact representation would have to be highly suspect.

In **Section II** (on the newness of our number system) the facts were just stated and some references given in the Notes in case more details are desired. Knowing that the current system of representing numbers is quite late is important to the argument of this study, but the details are not. Even if the uncertainties were several centuries, no difference in the implications would result.

Section III dealt with how first century Greek writers represented numbers by letters with an obvious side-effect, namely gematria, described in Section IV.

Section V dealt with the Greek NT text readings of Rev 13:18 and Section VI was a hands-on workout (if the Alands' book was available) with the P47 manuscript in and around Rev 13:18.

Section VII repeated objections to translating the number in Rev 13:18 as 666, with a possible softening of objection if the three Greek letter reading is being translated.

Section VIII dealt with two post-NT texts, marginally connected to the main development of this study.

The purpose of this entire study was not just a cantankerous attack on the use of the numerical 666 representation of the number of the beast. It might partly be that, but it is also an attempt to remind us interpreters of the Bible that nearly 1900 years have passed since the last books of the NT were written. Even if we share the same basic Christian faith as the original writers and readers/hearers, we live in a vastly different cultural and intellectual situation. A tendency to read the texts through our modern eyes makes us susceptible to modern prejudices and anachronisms, even in something as simple as how a number is represented.

-- NOTES --

[1]. There is a more than 300 page book: David Brady, THE CONTRIBUTION OF BRITISH WRITERS BETWEEN 1560 AND 1830 TO THE INTERPRETATION OF REVELATION 13.16-18 (Tubingen: J. C. B. Mohr, 1983).

[2]. Probably all of the New Testament books were originally read aloud. This may especially be true of the Book of Revelation with its repetitive cycles and heavenly choruses. Also see Rev 1:3, 22:18.

[3]. For a detailed description of the evolution of our current number system and how it gradually made its way to the West see such works as:

Graham Flegg (ed), NUMBERS THROUGH THE AGES (London: Macmillan Education, 1989) 88-130.

Georges Ifrah, FROM ONE TO ZERO: A UNIVERSAL HISTORY OF NUMBERS (New York: Viking, 1985) 428-497.

Karl Menninger, NUMBER WORDS AND NUMBER SYMBOLS: A CULTURAL HISTORY OF NUMBERS (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1969) 389-445.

[4]. Incidentally, some modern apocalyptic fanatics (or "prophecy" students) who are most alarmed at the number 666 and worry about large computer-based control systems that the Beast will use should perhaps worry about a hexadecimal based system (base 16) rather than the decimal based 666 number. In the modern computer hexadecimal number system a number is

represented using 16 possible "numeral" symbols: our usual 0-9, then 6 additional "numerals": A=10, B=11, C=12, D=13, E=14, F=15. In hexadecimal notation instead of having units, tens, hundreds places one has units, sixteens, two hundred fifty-six's places. Thus six hundred sixty-six is represented as 29A (hexadecimal) since decimally $666 = 2 \times 256 + 9 \times 16 + 10 \times 1$.

[5]. The relevant sections in the works in [3] are:

Flegg, NUMBERS THROUGH THE AGES, 88-101.

Ifrah, FROM ONE TO ZERO, 261-274.

Menninger, NUMBER WORDS AND NUMBER SYMBOLS, 268-274.

Also see O.A.W. Dilke, MATHEMATICS AND MEASUREMENT (London: British Museum Publications, 1987) 13-16.

[6]. A subtractive form means that sometimes a number such as 9 is represented as IX, with the smaller unit (I) preceding the larger (X) meaning one less than 10, rather than additively as VIII meaning four more than five.

Interestingly, the Roman numeral system, which uses the symbols I, V, X, etc., for 1, 5, 10, etc., gives a peculiar representation for our number of interest: six hundred sixty six. Since $666 = 500 + 100 + 50 + 10 + 5 + 1$, in Roman numerals it is represented as DCLXVI, using every symbol through D (=500) once and only once.

[7]. Miletus is mentioned in the NT (but with no numerical connection) in Acts 20:15,17 and 2 Tim 4:20.

[8]. Menninger, NUMBER WORDS AND NUMBER SYMBOLS, 268. Dilke, MATHEMATICS AND MEASUREMENT, 14.

[9]. Later, the Alexandrian Greek astronomer Ptolemy (2nd century AD) used a symbol similar to zero in some astronomical tables, but it never seemed to be developed by the Greeks.

[10]. Bruce M. Metzger, MANUSCRIPTS OF THE GREEK BIBLE: AN INTRODUCTION TO GREEK PALAEOGRAPHY (New York: Oxford University Press, 1981) 7-9.

[11]. These alphabetic numerals have mainly fallen out of modern Greek which uses the regular decimal Arabic place-value numbers. They are still used, perhaps similarly to how we use Roman numerals, to annotate items in a list. An example of useful non-library research was the discovery on the wall of a local Greek pizza/submarine sandwich shop of a 1987 map of Greece. Around the edge was a table of the land areas of various political regions of Greece. Although the numbers for the areas were written in Arabic numerals, the labels beside the names of the regions used Greek letters: alpha, beta, etc.

Interestingly, at the sixth location the two greek letters (sigma) and (tau) were used, obviously from the old stigma. The list then continued with single letters up through the tenth entry (iota), then double letters up to the fourteenth and last element, represented by (iota)(delta).

[12]. Metzger, MANUSCRIPTS OF THE GREEK BIBLE, 9.

[13]. Ifrah, FROM ONE TO ZERO, 252-259.

[14]. The Greek verb pse: phizo:, often translated "calculate" or "count", comes from the noun pse: phos (pebble), since pebbles were often used for counting and calculating. The verb is used in Rev 13:18.

[15]. Ifrah, FROM ONE TO ZERO, 291-310.

[16]. Adolf Deissmann, LIGHT FROM THE ANCIENT EAST (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1978 [reprint of 1927 English edition]), 276-278.

[17]. Two of the standard introductions to the textual criticism of the Greek New Testament written by editors of the main critical editions of the NT are:

Bruce M. Metzger, THE TEXT OF THE NEW TESTAMENT: ITS TRANSMISSION, CORRUPTION AND RESTORATION 2nd ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1968).

Kurt Aland and Barbara Aland, THE TEXT OF THE NEW TESTAMENT (Grand Rapids: William D. Eerdmans, 1987 based on German edition of 1982).

[18]. Standard modern critical editions:

NA26: Kurt Aland, Matthew Black, Carlo M. Martini, Bruce M. Metzger, and Allen Wikgren (eds), NOVUM TESTAMENTUM GRAECE 26th edition (Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1979).

UBSGNT3: Kurt Aland, Matthew Black, Carlo M. Martini, Bruce M. Metzger, and Allen Wikgren (eds), THE GREEK NEW TESTAMENT 3rd edition (New York: United Bible Societies, 1979).

[19]. All descriptions and dates of manuscripts in this summary are from tables in NA26 or in Aland and Aland, THE TEXT OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

[20]. Zane Hodges and Arthur L. Farstad (eds), THE GREEK NEW TESTAMENT ACCORDING TO THE MAJORITY Text 2nd ed (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1985).

[21]. D.A. Carson, THE KING JAMES VERSION DEBATE: A PLEA FOR REALISM (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1979) contains a sane discussion on the subject. The title indicates that the topic of the book is broader than just the majority text vs. other critical editions. The King James Version was translated from a Textus Receptus type text which has similarities to, but is not identical to, the Majority text as compiled today.

[22]. Metzger, MANUSCRIPTS OF THE GREEK BIBLE, 36-37.

[23]. The quotations for ADV.HAER will be taken from the translation of Irenaeus' "Against Heresies" in the ANF series Alexander Roberts and James Donaldson (eds), THE ANTE-NICENE FATHERS (ANF) (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1979 reprint of 1885 ed).

[24]. J.J. Collins translation of "Sibylline Oracles" in James H. Charlesworth (ed), OLD TESTAMENT PSEUDEPIGRAPHA vol 1 (New York: Doubleday, 1983) 342.

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*** End of Professor Edward L. Pothier's article ***

Of particular interest to us are a set of manuscripts, which are recorded as affirming the reading for the number included in the critical text. These are the manuscripts, which, instead of writing out the words for the number, use the Greek alphabetic notation, i.e. the three Greek letters (*chi*) (*xi*) (*sigma*). The manuscripts so listed are P47 (a papyrus manuscript, hence the P in the name, from the third century, known as Chester Beatty III), a tenth century manuscript known as 051, and the “Majority-Text” symbol (which indicates many late Byzantine manuscripts). Here is the P47 text: **The Book of Revelation c. AD 250:**



Greek text on papyrus-Egypt-Chester Beatty Biblical Papyri III f.7

This image may be found at: www.freejesus.net/666/Revelation1.html

P47 is from the third century and is the oldest manuscript of the Book of Revelation in existence. It contains parts of Revelation chapters 9-17. We will consider its readings for the “number” in **Revelation 13:18** and neighboring verses in the next section.

Because, as listed above, **the majority of the manuscripts** (mostly late Byzantine miniscule manuscripts) include the representation of the number six hundred sixty-six **by the three letters (*chi*) (*xi*) (*sigma*)**.

The text presented in another modern (but non-standard) edition called not surprisingly THE GREEK NEW TESTAMENT ACCORDING TO THE MAJORITY TEXT, does so also. Note that there is a major disagreement in presuppositions about the value of various manuscripts and manuscript groups between the editors of this edition and those of the standard editions.

The so-called Textus Receptus, which acted as the standard from the 16th century (the actual term first being used in the 17th) until well into the 19th century when modern critical editions started to displace it, was an evolution of earlier printed editions of the Greek NT. **Its printed text also used the (*chi*) (*xi*) (*sigma*) notation.** The main textual basis of this edition was only a handful of fairly late manuscripts, a subset of the majority text.

In summary he states this study has attempted to argue against using the anachronistic (later usage being placed in greater importance than the prior, or original usage) numerical representation 666 for the number of the beast in **Revelation 13:18. Such a poor representation of these Greek letters could not have been made for many centuries after the Book of Revelation was written. Any interpretation based on this exact representation (666 as an actual number) would have to be highly suspect.** Zane Hodges and Arthur L. Farstad (eds), The Greek New Testament According To The Majority Text 2nd Ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1985).

D.A. Carson, The King James Version Debate: A Plea For Realism (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1979) contains a sane discussion on the subject. The title indicates that the topic of the book is broader than just the majority text vs. other critical editions. The King James Version was translated from a Textus Receptus type text which has similarities to, but is not identical to, the Majority text as compiled today.

The apostle John saw something amazing. He was shown an Arabic text to tell him who these beast people are and the text is **BISM ALLAH** [in the name of Allah] with two cross swords beside it. This is the Islamic symbol John had revealed before religion was even born. This is amazing! It is believed that there is a lost original manuscript of Revelation out there somewhere that has not been written in Greek, but in Aramaic/Hebrew, as many scholars now believe. These Aramaic/Hebrew letters in Aramaic are very similar to Arabic. So until we find this manuscript we have to rely on the only manuscripts that we have in Greek. Why would John, who perhaps had very little knowledge of Greek and was more than likely fluent in Hebrew/Aramaic, write a book of immense future significance to the Diaspora from the exiles of Israel in Greek? Even Josephus the Jewish historian tells us that he was not at all an expert in the Greek language, but more so in his own language. Until we can recover new manuscript evidence, we will have to wait on Yahweh to reveal more to us. However when we study the verses for the Islamic Empire in the Hebrew Bible we have no doubt that Islam is the end time beast.



Figure 1

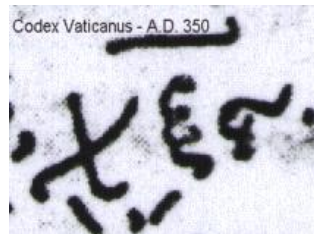


Figure 2



Figure 3

Compare Figure 3 with the text of Allah in Figure 2 and the cross swords above with the Islamic cross swords in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is an Old Text (**Revelation 13:18**) in a glass display at Bob Jones University Library – Greenville, S.C.

Let's look at something interesting with Allah in Arabic sideways, as it is easier to see this:



Figure 4

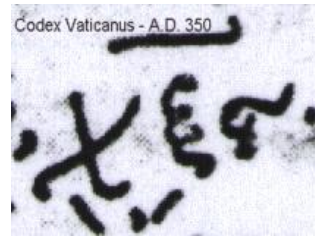
Now take a look at Figure 3 and Allah in Figure 4 above. They look identical. Now let's see if we can make it a little easier.



Figure 5

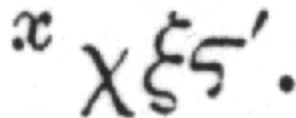


Figure 6



Do you see it? This is what Yahweh was showing John (the first to receive the mind of wisdom and end time understanding), the Islamic invasion to come, with the words were “Bism Allah” (in the name of Allah), that is in **whose name this multitude will belong to!**

Now let’s look at another one:



The Greek text showing **Revelation 13:18**.

Figure 7

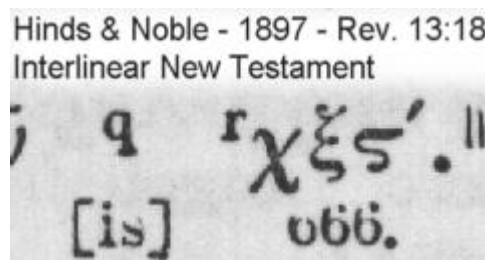


Figure 8

John wrote down exactly what he saw. The scholars have been wrestling with this text for a very long time all the while they have been looking for the “wrong” thing. John saw the coming Islamic fighters/suicide bombers with the text written on their arms, waists and foreheads. He saw the text of Allah written sideways with the Arabic text Bism meaning (in the name of). John faithfully penned down what he saw. It is clear that he saw **BISM Allah** which we can see in many Islamic writings. John faithfully wrote it down for us. These people who are to come would be fighting in Allah’s name.

THE TRUE MARK and NAME of the beast

In the Hebrew culture the name (Hebrew ha = the and Shem = name.) is important. This is why Orthodox Jews and some Messianic Jews have ha-Shem (the blessed name) in the Bible, attributed to the One True Elohim (Mighty One/God) of Israel. Yahweh was trying to tell us, that it is Islam that will come to try and destroy Israel and conquer the world in the name of the beast. Yet many have failed to recognize this. This scholars thought this was a Greek letter digamma, which no longer exists by the way.

The Greek letters in 666 are chi, xi, sigma but the last letter does not exist in the Modern Greek language. Some experts in old Greek even argue that it is not sigma but rather a sigma score. The translators of the Bible no doubt took the words at face value. With their limited knowledge, they ascribed interpretations that made sense to them. This was not the understanding of the early church as also stated by Edward L. Pothies above.

Revelation 13:18

Text	Strong's Reference Number	Greek
Here	5602	Hode
is	2076	esti
wisdom	4678	Sophia
Let him that hath	2192	echo
understanding	3563	nous
count	5585	psephizo
the number	706	Arithmos
of the beast:	2342	Therion
for	1063	gar
it is	2076	Esti
the number	706	Arithmos
of a man;	444	anthropos
and	2532	kai
his	846	Autos
number	706	Arithmos
is six hundred threescore <i>and</i> six.	5516	chi xi sigma

After careful analysis the only plausible conclusion we can come to is that these are not numbers but rather Arabic letters which John saw which fits today's "**Bism Allah**" in the Arabic meaning "**in the name of Allah.**" He understood that this "**multitude**" is "in the name of Allah." This is the god of the coming empire that will be followed and worshipped in these end of days.

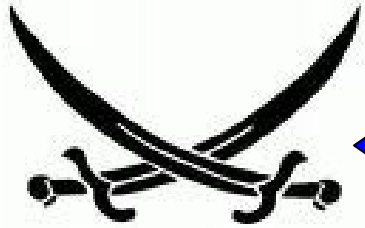


Figure 9

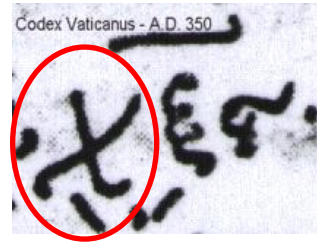


Figure 10

Look at the “X” in Figure 10 which is the actual text and you will see the Islamic symbol of the swords. Now compare the “X” of Figure 10 to the swords in Figure 9. Today Islam comes with its crossed swords to steal, kill and destroy. Islam is NOT a religion of peace as some tout. Be NOT deceived by the enemy. The sword of Allah is a devilish counterfeit for a two edged metaphoric sword of Yeshua’s pure Holy Word. Satan is a copy cat and he is using the sword of Islam to mimic Yahweh’s double edged sword.



Figure 11

In 1961 the Saudi civil symbol was a green equilateral triangle bearing the two swords as seen in Figure 11 above. This is the same symbol seen in **Revelation 13:18** as the mark identifying these people and this **harlot of Babylon** is Mecca in Saudi Arabia known in the Bible as the literal Mystery Babylon. If you have watched the movie “Kingdom of Heaven,” the man who played Salah din Ayubi has this symbol above on both his arms.



Figure 12

Above is the Royal standard Saudi flag. Note the two swords crossed in the top right-hand corner in Figure 12.

In light of this understanding where **Revelation 13:18** uses the Greek word ψηφίζω **psēphizō** (Strong's # G5585--count/consider), which can also mean 'to decide' or 'to vote.' Arithmos ἀριθμός (Strong's #G706--number) can also mean, 'multitude.' Yahweh is in essence saying "Now it is time for you to consider/vote on the identity of the beast and his multitude since you claim the mind of spiritual wisdom and understanding."

Considering all that we have looked at above so far, we can say with a high possibility and with a probability of at least 99.99% that what John saw is the Islamic symbols he wrote in **Revelation 13:18**. This of course is for you to decide for yourself. All I am trying to do here is present what I have found and let you, the reader, discern for yourself if this is a viable consideration for the mark of the beast.

Revelation 13:18 "Here is wisdom. Let him that hath **understanding** (decide) [who] (the **multitude**) of the beast [is], **for it is the (multitude)** of (a man i.e. Muhammad) and (the same) (**multitude**) [are coming] in the Name of Allah."

For another reference to the appropriateness of this interpretation see the following passage:

Revelation 17:15 "And he saith unto me, the waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, **are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.**" (KJV, Emphasis mine.)

This whore (Saudi Arabia) sits on many waters between many nations and controls "**multitudes**" of people with and by the mark of the beast.

Revelation 13:16-17 "¹⁶And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: ¹⁷And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." (KJV, Emphasis mine.)

It is interesting to note that the words "**name of the beast**" is mentioned in **Revelation 13:17** above. This **name** is the one that all Muslims already carry and in order to have this mark there are three things given for those people who will join this beast/kingdom/empire.

1. Allah is the only god.
2. Muhammad is his prophet.
3. Join with other Muslims to fight for their cause.

Any Christian who joins this cause will be considered having the mark and can consider himself/herself blotted out of the book of life. What is sad is this is happening before our very eyes today (2011). More and more Church leaders from around the world are now siding with Islam. In my research Abba Yah directed me to this website "[A Common Word](#)." You can read for yourself what is stated there. It is enough to make a "true" believer in Messiah sick. Here are some additional links for your consideration:

1. Here is the "[A Common Word between Us and You](#)" letter. Sickening!!!
2. Those who have signed and given their support to this alliance: [Signatories](#)
3. More signatures: [New Signators](#)
4. These are Christian leaders who have responded: [Christian Leaders](#)

5. These are Jewish leaders who have responded: [Jewish Leaders](#)

This can even be a political, or economic reliance (filling your car with gas from oil that comes from any of the Arab countries does not qualify as taking the mark of the beast, as would outright business dealings). In light of this one should strongly consider the crucial discernment you will need to **unlearn error** and see who this prophesied beast truly is.

This is what having the mark means. There were quite a few young Pakistani men who went to fight against the USA and Great Britain in the war in Afghanistan for the Taliban and in Iraq for Saddam demonstrating that they have the “mark” and would even fight against the country where they live to uphold Islam. There were even English people who have been brainwashed into Islam ready to fight their own country of birth. We saw the same thing in the USA. Britain with its “lenient laws” does not enact the penalty for treason anymore, but this is what these people would get under normal circumstances. However due to the current “lax UK laws” they can get away with it.

In **Revelation 14:11** the “**mark of his name**” could be looked at like a title just like the title for Messiah Yeshua/Jesus being the “**Word of Yahweh**” as in **Revelation 19:13** and “**KING of Kings and LORD of Lords**” in **Revelation 19:16**.

The mark can be relating to anything to do with Islam. Revelation does give us indications of what it could be with its alternative reading. So if you are in an Islamic state they can prohibit you from buying, or selling, unless you give your allegiance to Islam. It is as simple as that, and there’s no fancy computer chip required. This is why it is imperative that all Christians get out of Muslim lands for their own safety, or be forced to be submitted to Islam. Furthermore, it is imperative that the Book of Revelation conform to the Hebrew Bible not stand on its own, with people trying to use Hebrew Gematria with Greek letters, turning Greek letters into numbers which cannot be done in Hebrew Gematria.

Muslims continue make all sorts of baseless claims that they worship the same Elohim/god as Christians and Jews as does the mainstream media. But when you examine the Qu’ran, you will find Islam is only a monotheistic religion with a clear pagan wrapping. Calling Abraham the first Muslim does not make him a Muslim. Calling Yeshua/Jesus a Muslim also does not make Him a Muslim, especially when the Qu’ran describes Him as a created being. The Yeshua of the Bible is uncreated and eternal. **Allah denies Yeshua is the Son of Yahweh.** Who would have a stake in the denial of the cross and the denial of Yeshua/Jesus being uncreated? The only person that has a stake in this is Satan who is the deceiver of old, the one whose very name means, “to divert.”

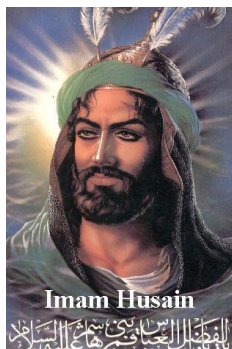
Sura 4:171 “The Messiah, Isa the son of Mary, was no more than Allah’s apostle; Allah is but one Allah. GOD FORBID THAT he SHOULD HAVE A SON!”

When did Yahweh ever instruct to cut off the hands and feet of thieves? When did Yeshua/Jesus say to hate your enemy, or pillage innocent people? Or that it was ordained for people to ‘lie in wait’ in order to kill others? Yet this is what Muhammad’s god teaches. All the things that Satan wants people to do Allah teaches and condones. He has a lustful filthy heaven full of orgies around him with Muslims having 72 times 70 virgins who remain a virgin upon sexual intercourse, carrying perpetual erections. This is a morally dirty home for any deity, don’t you think so? Does that sound like a holy god? To some misguided people it just might be.

The Shiites Muslims even beat themselves up to punish themselves with knives attached to chains in order to cut and bleed for their sin of killing Imam Hussain in Iraq. He was Muhammad's grandson. The actual day of Ashura that used to be celebrated by Muslims to mimic the Jewish Yom Kippur was later revoked by Muhammad when the Jews rejected his prophethood.

Does this not sound like Baal's prophets?

1 Kings 18:27-28 ²⁷And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked. ²⁸**And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.** (KJV, Emphasis mine. Italicized text is not in the original manuscript.)



The Muslims of today do almost the same thing by cutting themselves, shouting 'Allah hu Akbar' and wailing. The pattern is very similar because these people also follow after Baal. There is no question about what we are seeing today. If you look at the Shiites they pierce themselves with knives, their bodies bleeding, every year on the religious festival of Ashura (Muharram) by chanting and crying over the death of Husain. Is it any surprise that this incident of Imam Husain happened near the River Euphrates where we will get the two hundred million-man army? Since when is the Euphrates River in China, or near China as prophecy teachers would have you believe? These are jihadist Muslims, not men from China.

In the month of Muharram 61 AH (approx. 20 October 680 C.E.), an event took place in Iraq at a place known as Kerbala on the bank of the river Euphrates. It seemed in those days insignificant from the historical point of view. A large army which had been mobilized by the Umayyad regime besieged a group of persons numbering less than a hundred and put them under pressure to pay allegiance to the Caliph of the time and submit to his authority. The small group resisted and a severe battle took place in which they were all killed.



It appeared at that time that like hundreds of similar events, this battle would be recorded in history and forgotten in time. However, the events that occurred on the 10th day of Muharram in Kerbala were to become a beacon and an inspiration for future generations. Let's briefly examine the principal adversaries.

WHO IS HUSAIN?

The leader of the small band of men who were martyred in Kerbala was none other than Husain, son of Ali bin Abi Talib who was the first Imam of Shia Islam and the grandson of



the Holy Prophet. Who was Husain? He was the son of Fatima for whom the Holy Prophet said, *"Husain is from me and I am from Husain. May Allah love whoever loves Husain."* Ibn Majah: Sunan, Hadith 144

The most visual of these celebrations is the flagellation by male Shi'is. Whips, often with sharp ends, or even small knives are used to make their backs bleed. The reason for this ritual is that only physical pain can truly reflect the pain of the Muslim world when Husain died, and the family of Ali's fight for leading the Muslim world came to an end. This flagellation ritual is however just a part of a complex ritual where the Shiites commemorate every stage of the preparation to the battle, and the battle itself.

According to Muslim traditions, Ashura can be traced back to ancient Arab times and Ibrahim/Abraham. Muhammad allegedly brought the tradition back to its old purity and correct practice.

You may be interested to know that Muslims are already set up by Satan to believe that Yeshua/Jesus or Isa of the Qu'ran, is going to come back to kill the Jews and pigs (this is a derogatory term used for Christians) and break their crosses. When this happens, Muslims will supposedly know that "their" messiah is here and the truth of the matter is that we will know that our Anti-Messiah is here. They are one in the same person. This Muslim Yeshua/Jesus, or Isa is going to kill Dajjal (Anti-Messiah) and then get married, and live on earth for forty years and die like a mortal, only to be buried in an empty grave in Medina. This is what the Muslims believe and are waiting for.

JESUS IN ISLAM

In Islam, Jesus (Arabic: عيسى; 'Īsá) is considered to be a Messenger of God and the Messiah who was sent to guide the Children of Israel (banī isrā'īl) with a new scripture, the Injīl or Gospel. The belief in Jesus (and all other messengers of God) is required in Islam, and a requirement of being a Muslim. The Qur'an mentions Jesus twenty-five times, more often, by name, than Muhammad. It states that Jesus was born to Mary (Arabic: Maryam) as the result of virginal conception, a miraculous event which occurred by the decree of God (Arabic: Allah). To aid in his ministry to the Jewish people, Jesus was given the ability to perform miracles (such healing the blind, bringing dead people back to life, etc.), all by the permission of God rather than of his own power. According to the popular opinion and Muslim traditions, Jesus was not crucified but instead, he was raised up by God unto the heavens. This "raising" is understood to mean through bodily ascension.

Muslims believe that Jesus will return to earth near the day of judgment to restore justice and to defeat Masih ad-Dajjal ("the false messiah", also known as the Antichrist).

Like all prophets in Islam, Jesus is considered to have been a Muslim (i.e., one who submits to the will of God), as he preached that his followers should adopt the "straight path" as commanded by God. Islam rejects the Christian view that Jesus was God incarnate or the son of God, that he was ever crucified or resurrected, or that he ever atoned for the sins of mankind. The Qur'an says that Jesus himself never claimed any of these things, and it furthermore indicates that Jesus will deny having ever claimed divinity at the Last Judgment, and God will vindicate him. The Qur'an emphasizes that Jesus was a mortal human being who, like all other prophets, had been divinely chosen to spread God's message. Islamic texts forbid the association of partners with God (shirk), emphasizing a strict notion of monotheism (tawhīd).

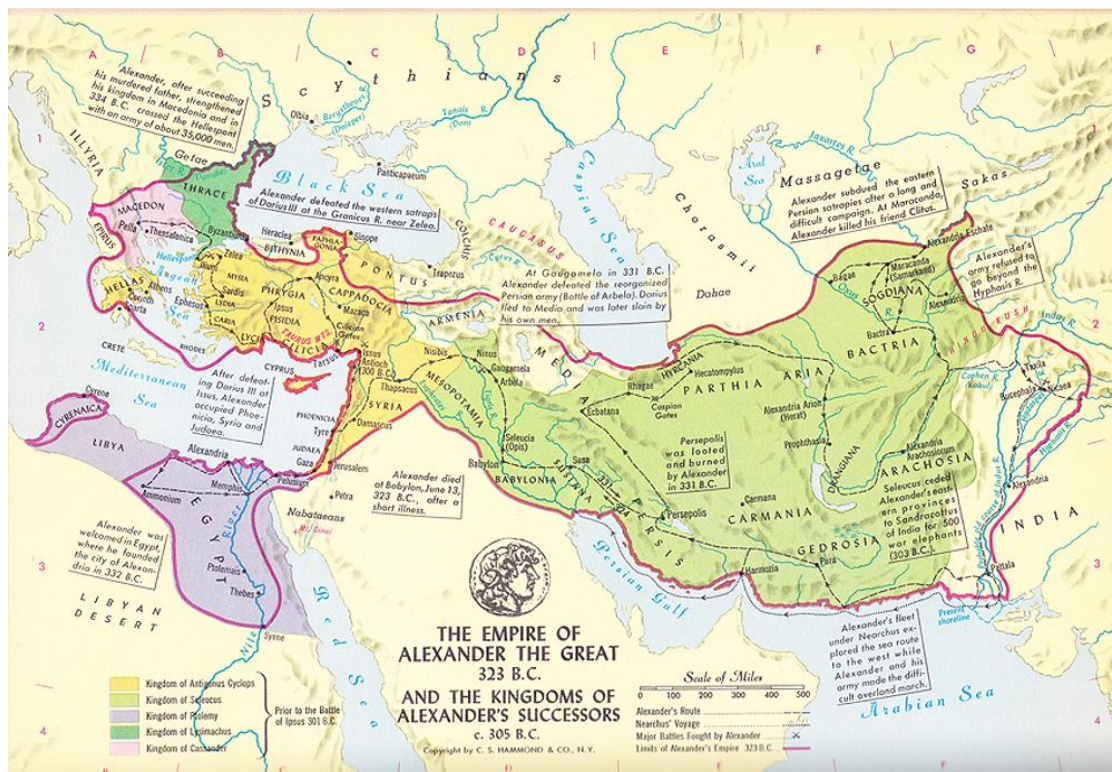
Numerous titles are given to Jesus in the Qur'an and in Islamic literature, the most common being al-Masīḥ ("the messiah). Jesus is also, at times, called "Seal of the Israelite Prophets", because, in general Muslim belief, Jesus was the last prophet sent by God to guide the Children of Israel. Jesus is seen in Islam as a precursor to Muhammad, and is believed by Muslims to have foretold the latter's coming. ([Jesus in Islam Source](#))

One Muslim apologist writes about this like this: **From Ibn Khaldun's al-Maqqadima:**

“There will come forth a man from my nation who will talk according to my Sunnah, god will send upon him rain from heaven, and the earth will sprout forth for him its blessing. The earth will be filled through him with equity and justice, as it has been filled with injustice and crime. **He will direct the affairs of this nation for seven years, and he will settle in Jerusalem.**”

The Mahdi (the prophesied redeemer) of Islam has many descriptions to set up the Muslims for the greatest deceiver. This is remarkable considering Daniel wrote prophecies to show the covenant will be confirmed with Israel for seven years.

Below, the map shows the four divisions of the Grecian Empire and the rise of the little horn (Anti-Messiah) from this area. Map of Alexander's Empire with its four divisions:



Four Divisions of Alexander the Great's Kingdom

After Alexander the Great's death in 323 B.C. Alexander's world-ruling empire was not passed on to one of his two sons nor was the unified kingdom ruled by others in his family. Instead, his kingdom was divided up between his four chief generals known as "the four winds of heaven."

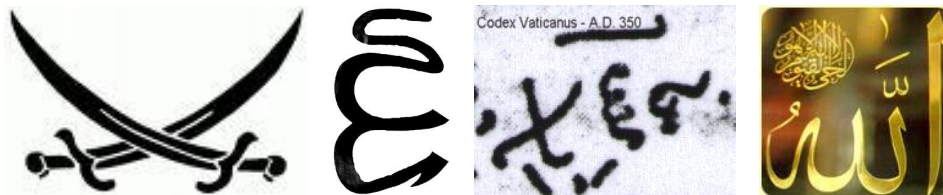
These "four winds of heaven" are as follows:

1. In 321 B.C. **Ptolemy** took possession and eventually ruled Egypt (the southern part of the empire).
2. In 317 B.C. **Cassander** assumed the government of Macedon (Macedonia), the western part of the empire.
3. In 311 B.C. **Seleucus** took over Babylon and Syria (the eastern part of the empire).
4. In 306 B.C. **Antigonus** declared himself king of Asia Minor (the northern part of the empire). He was slain in battle in 301 B.C. and was succeeded by **Lysimachus**.

Note that Pakistan is included in the Grecian Empire, but not in present day India, as Pakistan split from India in 1947. Is it any wonder that Pakistan denies Israel as a sovereign state and hates the Jews? You could say this is an Assyrian/Grecian Empire, but if you said Roman as well, then we would have to qualify that by saying that the Revived Roman Empire theory is only true for the former eastern leg of the Roman Empire and not the western leg. You could say Revived Eastern Romano/Greco/Assyrian/Babylonian Empire if you like, even though the Anti-Messiah comes out of the Grecian division of the Empire. Strictly speaking this area was also shared by the Roman Empire. If you have noticed **Revelation 13** makes it clear that the final beast empire is a combination of all the previous Middle Eastern Empires.

CONCLUSION

John wrote down exactly what he saw. Scholars have been wrestling with this text for a very long time. John saw the coming Islamic fighters/suicide bombers with the text written on their arms, waists and foreheads. He saw the text of Allah written sideways with the Arabic text Bism meaning (in the name of). John faithfully penned down what he saw. It is clear that he saw **BISM Allah**. Thus, the “mark of the beast” is none other than the “multitude” of Islam in the end of days.



I hope this study has been informative and a blessing to you.

The source of this material came from the book “[World War III—Unmasking The End Time Beast](#)” by Simon Altaf.

Shalom!