

## The Tribulation Time Clock

Earlier it was mentioned that we would discuss the actual time frame of the tribulation (3.5 vs. 7 years). Let us now read about the time frame of the tribulation in Revelation Chapter 13.

Verse 5, “And there was given unto him (the beast) a mouth (like a spokesman) speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him (the beast) to continue forty and two months (3.5 years).”

We read that the beast was given a mouth. The first beast is called the beast from the sea or simply ‘the beast’. The mouth that the first beast is ‘given’ is a spokesman. The spokesman for the first beast is also a man, a person.

The spokesman for the first beast is a second beast called ‘the beast from the earth’ or ‘the *false prophet*.’ In other words the false prophet is the mouth (spokesman) of the beast.

A prophet is someone who can tell the future for God. But this spokesman is ‘*the*’ false prophet. Yes, he will be telling the future all right, but not for the God of heaven. In other words, the false prophet will be making prophecies or telling the world about the *future of the beast*, a false god. The false prophet is not a prophet sent by the God in heaven. The false prophet is—well, false. He is sent to lie to the entire world, lying and deceiving those who will believe him.

These two (the beast and the false prophet) will deceive many people. In fact they will deceive the entire world. The people of the world will think the false prophet is Jesus and that the beast is Almighty God from heaven. This will be a major deception and confusion crafted by, none other than Satan—to deceive as many people as possible in a very short time (only 3.5 years). However, they will not fool the saints of Jesus.

The beast continues for 42 months. Or in other words, the world-dominate power of the beast (and/or the tribulation) will *only* last for 42 months. If we divide 42 months by 12 months in a year, the result will be 3.5 years. As mentioned already, the tribulation, which is the same event as the world-domination of the beast, is only 3.5 years long, not 7.

And actually, in the big scheme of things, 3.5 years is not a long stretch of time. So when the tribulation starts it will be executed with great fury and speed. Satan knows that the world dominance of his man (the beast) will be short (3.5 years).

So Satan, through the beast and the false prophet, engineers the rapid, mass killing of many, many people (a great multitude) who stand for Jesus.

One essence of the tribulation is Satan's belief that people will turn away from Jesus and God under pressure and worship him (Satan). Just as Satan suggested Job would do. But Job stayed true to God through it all (Read Job Chapters 1 and 2 to see how it works).

Question: If you had to make a decision today, which side would you stand for, Jesus or the beast? And are we prepared to die for that decision, *today*?

Chapter 13 verse 6, “And he (the beast) opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his (God’s) name, and his (God’s) tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven (all angels, Jesus, the elders, etc.).”

When the beast curses or blasphemes the God of heaven, it will be the beast’s way to make it seem to the world that there is no God, other than him.

For example, the beast can say, “I will curse the God of heaven; He will do nothing because I am God.” And the God of heaven won’t do anything to interrupt the world power of the beast...for 3.5 years.

## The Main Course is Served

Chapter 13 verse 7 (here is the meat), “And it was given unto him (the beast) *to make war with the saints, and to overcome them*: and power was *given* unto him (the beast) over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth *shall* worship him (the beast), whose names *are not* written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

In other words, if a person's name is written in the Lamb's book of life, that person will not worship the beast, but will instead prefer and even chose to be killed standing for Jesus. Their wish will be granted and they will indeed die during the tribulation.

However, since the beast makes war with the saints, the question here becomes: who are these saints that the beast is making war against? First the beast wins the global war and takes control, exercising his power over the whole world.

Then, the beast makes war specifically with 'the saints'. When the beast makes war with these saints it will be during the 3.5-year tribulation. If the beast is making war and killing the saints in the tribulation, shouldn't we conclude those saints being killed are indeed some of the dead in Christ? If these saints are part of the dead in Christ and they are being killed in the tribulation, where would that place the rapture: before, during or after the tribulation? Lets take a step back, keeping everything together, then go forward, looking at more information.

## A Step Back

Who were the 2 groups of people in heaven, so far? The first group, the people under the altar, were the first part of the body of Christ, the early saints in the beginning days of the church who died for Jesus.

The second group, the many people in heaven, were called the great multitude. They had come out of the *tribulation*. Both groups were killed for the word of God and their testimony of Jesus. This last group was killed for additional reasons other than the word of God and their testimony, as we will see when we get to Revelation Chapter 20.

Some of us may now be able to make the connection between: the beast making war against the saints and, the great multitude selected to die for Jesus *in* the tribulation and finally, the great multitude being resurrected in heaven.

Making this connection leads to God's understanding concerning the timing of the rapture. One reason this study was created was for the saints who really wanted to know what would be happening during the return of Jesus.

There is valuable information in Revelation that we, as the saints of Jesus, need to study and understand. However the information in Revelation, for the most part, is not being researched and connected and therefore not weighed in our decisions such as 'when' the rapture happens. Revelation is the future. We have been given this view of the future, this information in Revelation, to strengthen us.

From the information in Revelation we have seen that the beast will overcome and kill the saints during his (and Satan's) 3.5-year tribulation. Many saints, from all around the globe, from every nation and tongue, the last part

of the body of Christ, will be killed in the 3.5-year tribulation. This information has some impact on the timing of the rapture.

As stated earlier: some readers might be thinking that these are the people who 'after' the rapture have accepted Jesus during the suffering of the tribulation. Ok, let's see if they are correct. In order to fully determine when exactly the rapture happens we need to search further and add a few more sections from God's word to this equation.

Understand this though, the tribulation is not directed at the general population of the world. The tribulation is specifically engineered by Satan and aimed directly at 'the saints' and therein; many of those saints will die. What if the tribulation is positioned intentionally before the saints are raptured up to Jesus? Remember all of the dead in Christ will have to be killed and then all of the dead in Christ will have to rise (be resurrected) first before the rapture takes place according to First Thessalonians.

Aren't people that are killed for Jesus in the tribulation a part of the dead in Christ? And again, don't all the dead in Christ have to rise first?

To be perfectly honest, I've been taught that the rapture happens before the tribulation all of my life. So as I started studying Revelation all of this other information began to surface. For me, the answer to when the rapture happens became very clear when reading in the book of Revelation, especially Chapter 20 and in Second Thessalonians Chapter 2. And yes, we will be

going to both places shortly.

But here in this 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Revelation, we see that the entire world will, without question, worship the beast. Those who worship the beast *will not* have their name written in the Lamb's book of life. They, who worship the beast, will not be saved.

At the end of Chapter 13 in verses 15-18 we will read about the mark(s) of the beast. Wherein, no man (person, male or female, free or imprisoned, poor or rich) will be able to buy or sell anything, unless they receive the mark(s) of the beast. This will be happening *just prior to and during* the tribulation.

The entire world will worship the beast and/or his image, plus receive his mark(s). This will include everyone on earth—except the following 2 groups:

The saints (most will be killed during the tribulation) and 144,000 bloodline Israelites (more shortly).

## The Marks of the Lost

The mark of the beast is a sign of worship and allegiance to the beast. This allegiance is ultimately to Satan too. The saints of Jesus will not worship Satan, the beast, the image of the beast nor the false prophet. To worship the beast or Satan or the image of the beast is an option that is worse than death. Yes, there is a situation much worse than torture and/or death, which is called

the second death, or the lake of fire.

Revelation Chapter 13, verse 15, “And he (the false prophet) had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.”

We see that there is an image of the beast. This ‘image’ (or replication of the beast) is given life or power. And we also see that the image has the power and ability to kill all who refuse to worship it. Worship or die. If the saints or anyone refuse to worship the beast or his image, they will die during the 3.5 years of tribulation. Period!

Just understand that the beast, the false prophet and the image of the beast all represent Satan, which is completely against God and Christ. No, it is not possible to worship Satan and also be saved.

Chapter 13, verse 16, “And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand or in their forehead:”

Here, *all* of people in the world will receive some mark in their right hand or in their forehead. There will be nowhere to hide for the people who are alive during this time. These mark(s) will be placed in the forehead or hand, clearly and visibly to show allegiance, and to be easily seen by everyone.

Refusing to accept these mark(s) is why many, even a great multitude, die. Here, in the tribulation, is where the stand for Jesus takes place. The stand for Jesus is another essence of the tribulation. Jesus is representing God. Satan, the beast and the false prophet are representing the lake of fire.

The people who stand for Jesus will be made to look like traitors or terrorist or people that the 'world' will easily hate. Remember the deception during the tribulation is ultimately from Satan and will be very real.

Many people, who would readily stand for Jesus today, are simply unaware of this information. Many will be tricked and/or deceived into receiving these marks. Even if someone is tricked into receiving these marks, they will not be saved. If they only knew what is going to be taking place in the future!

Any way, the tribulation is Satan's uncut deception. And Satan's deception will be very strong and convincing. How else could people believe or even think for a moment that this 'man' called the '*beast*' is the *God of heaven*?

Here is another point: it's not the beast but the *image of the beast* that will be forcing the mark and doing the killing.

There is so much more God is showing us. We must study and understand the fullness of Revelation. But for now let's look at verse 17 of Chapter 13.

Verse 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.”

## Multiple Choice

The prophecy states: no person will be able to buy anything or sell anything during these times of trouble, unless they have a mark(s). However, we see there are 3 different types of marks that qualify as allegiance ultimately to Satan according to verse 17.

They are: The mark of the beast; the name of the beast and the number of the beast’s name.

Any of the three options will show worship to the beast and worship to the image of the beast. These mark(s) will be placed in the right hand or forehead of all who are deceived, tricked *or scared* into accepting it. The different type of marks might represent different levels within the world-government of the beast.

The bottom line during the tribulation is either people are with God or with Satan, with Jesus or with the beast, with the Holy Spirit or with the false prophet. The ones with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit will not receive any marks. They will not worship the beast or his image and they definitely won’t worship Satan. For their faith and courage—most will die! Dying for Jesus has great value—as we’ll see later and as the first church has already

proved.

The opposite of fear is faith. The saints must be knowledgeable and spiritually informed to be faithful under such circumstances. To be ‘knowledgeable and spiritually informed’ comes from studying the word of God, especially Revelation. Only the people who are already prepared will be able to endure and maintain their stand for Jesus, especially during the tribulation. During the tribulation (before the bridegroom comes) is not the time to ‘get’ ready nor is it the time to be looking for oil for our lamps (read about the 10 virgins in Matt 25).

Finally, 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 three-score and six.”

For us who have wisdom, we are to count *the number* of the beast, which is ‘six hundred three-score and six.’ A score is equal to the number 20, so 3 score equal 60. Therefore, the number ‘six hundred three-score and six’ is really six hundred, sixty and six, or 666. However, this 666 *is not* the ‘mark’ of the beast. This 666 is just *the number of the beast* or the number of his name. The actual *mark* of the beast is yet unknown.

We can see there is ‘a’ mark of the beast (a separate mark). And there is also ‘the’ mark(s) of the beast (i.e.: his actual name and the number of his name (666)). At any rate, one of 3 things: the mark of the beast, the name of the

beast or the number of the beast, will be placed in the hand or in the forehead of everyone on earth during the tribulation.

The only way to avoid receiving any marks of the beast will be to stand (and die) for Jesus or be counted as one of the 144,000 bloodline Israelites.

The 144,000 bloodline Israelites will be sent to a special place and protected, having the seal of the living God in their forehead. They will be protected for the whole time of the tribulation *and* the wrath of God.

The 144,000 Israelites are from the direct bloodline of the 12 sons of a man named Jacob. Jacob is Abraham's grandson whose name was changed *from* Jacob to Israel. Israel (Jacob) and his 12 sons are the 12 nations of Israel.

That bloodline is scattered throughout the world. Furthermore, there will be 12,000 people from each of Israel's 12 tribes, which believe in Jesus and who will be selected and preserved throughout the 3.5-year tribulation (12,000 x 12 = 144,000).

No one wants to die, so why would people choose to die for Jesus in the tribulation? There is one main reason why a person would decide to die for Jesus during the tribulation. And that is because he or she is spiritually aware and understands that receiving the mark(s) of the beast is spiritual suicide.

Not that the spirit will be dying but the spirit will be suffering in the lake of fire, forever, which is the second death. *Accepting* the mark(s) guarantees an eternal dip into the lake of fire (spiritual suicide).

At this point, it is not known what excuse will be given as to why everyone will have to accept a mark. Perhaps the mark could be implemented as a means to ration food after a global food shortage. Remember, the beast comes to power through war. And any war in the future, by anyone wanting to dominate the entire world, will certainly be nuclear. And we can only imagine what a global nuclear war will do to the world's food and water supplies.

But be advised, there will be a mark(s) to force on the world and an official global 'One-World-Government' reason, for accepting it. At first the mark(s) may even be voluntary. But ultimately, the marks will become law and be forced upon everyone on this earth with rapid speed. Remember, there is only a 3.5-year window for Satan to mislead as many people as possible, by deception, trickery and even by force.

## What will the Saints do?

I've personally seen a new electronic device on television that can be placed under the skin which may someday be able to track a person's whereabouts at all times.

When equipped with the *Global Positioning System* (GPS) it can locate any person (missing or not) anywhere in the world. This device can be programmed to open doors and turn on lights when the wearer comes close. Placing a scanner next to the skin where the micro chip implant device is

placed will show the users name, medical information, address, etc.

We already have the global tracking of vehicles, shipping containers, packages and now, the global tracking of people. I'm not saying this new device or these new devices (there will be more) are the mark of the beast. But I am saying that the possibility for the mark is getting close and very do-able. All that's needed now is simply a 'global' reason for everyone to have it. Here we must be strong. Would you allow a micro chip implant to be placed in your body? Do a search on the Internet for 'microchip implant' or 'radio frequency identification' (RFID) and see what you find.

We will lose our chance to ever be saved if the mark(s) of the beast are placed on us. These marks ultimately show allegiance to Satan. Do we want to have allegiance or loyalty and faithfulness to Satan? If we worship Satan, we will be going into the lake of fire, with Satan. Jesus is coming back for people who stand strong in faith for Him, not for people who stand for the beast and Satan.

When the marks are placed on people by force, it will be the police and the military that the beast controls who will enforce the laws of the beast's government globally. And understandably, yes, doors will be kicked in and people dragged out into the street during the tribulation. Some will be imprisoned, some tortured, but many, (even a great multitude) will be killed for the name of Jesus and the word of God. But does all of this happen after the rapture or before the rapture?

Playing clueless will not help during the tribulation. The clueless will wind up *with* the mark because of fear. Only the spiritually strong will be able to stand (and die) for the Lord. They will know that there is a resurrection unto glory waiting for them. We have already read a little bit about that resurrection. Reading about the future is the benefit gained from reading or hearing Revelation. Again, Revelation is there to strengthen us.

## Worship vs. the Commands

The word ‘worship’ has been used several times. If we have been spiritually awake and paying close attention, we should realize the following at this point.

There will be a one-world government headed by the beast, *with Satan in the background*.

And of course, no one-world government would ever be complete without a one-world *religion*. So there will be a government-backed religion and *the false prophet* will be the global religious leader. And he will be directing the worship of the world *to* the beast. There will be no anti-Christ.

The Anti-Christ is not mentioned at all within Revelation. Many people confuse the Anti-Christ with the beast. It will be the beast with power (a man called the beast) that rises to rule the world, not the Anti-Christ

Religion and worship will play a big part during the tribulation. Satan wants the worship due to God and Jesus for himself. In Exodus Chapter 20 we can read God's Ten Commandments. There, God states we are not to have any other gods before the God of heaven, that the God of heaven is a jealous God. Here is where people will be getting into danger of violating God's laws if they let the beast trick them into believing that he is their 'God'.

Plus, God's Ten Commandments in Exodus Chapter 20, also state we are *not to make* any engraved *image* (an image of anything or anyone) nor are we to bow ourselves down to any image. Sounds simple: don't have any gods other than God Almighty and do not make or bow to any image.

This could be tricky though. People today do bow to the *image* of Jesus on the cross, or an image of Jesus' mother Mary (with or without the baby Jesus). People today even bow in worship to other men (such as the Pope). The important words within God's commands are *do not bow* to 'any' image, and have '*no*' other god.

God has authorized only one worthy to accept praise other than Himself and that is Jesus Christ. In fact, we cannot be saved without acknowledging Jesus as the only Begotten Son of God. Remember the book that God had in his hand in Revelation Chapter 5? Only one was found worthy to take the book and open it—that was Jesus. That book is the book of life and is now Jesus' book of life (or the Lamb's book of life).