

# THE ANTICHRIST — HIS IMAGE AND MARK

## PART 5

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### 6.1.24

As we saw last week ... it seems that we're expecting two powerful servants of Satan in the end-time.

**Both are found in Revelation Chapter 13 — The Beast (The Antichrist) and his Enforcer (The False Prophet).**

But not only Bible believers are looking for two such evil individuals — Islam is too!! **They're expecting their Mahdi ... and his prophetic supporter — Isa Al-Masih.** (Jesus — who did not die)

In practice ... Muslims will end up giving an enthusiastic welcome to the Antichrist and his associate. They will believe Islam is now going to conquer the world.

**Christians and Muslims have similar expectations — but “reversed”!**

#### **Revelation 13:11-18**

11 Then **I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.**

12 And **he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast,** whose deadly wound was healed.

13 **He (the False Prophet) performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.**

14 And **he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast,** telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

15 **He (the False Prophet) was granted power to give breath (GREEK: PNEUMA — NORMALLY TRANSLATED “SPIRIT”) to the**

**image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.**

16 **He causes all**, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, **to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,**

17 and **that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.**

18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for **it is the number of a man: His number is 666.**

This Second Beast is often called the False Prophet. He encourages the world to “WORSHIP” (admire and submit to) the Antichrist.

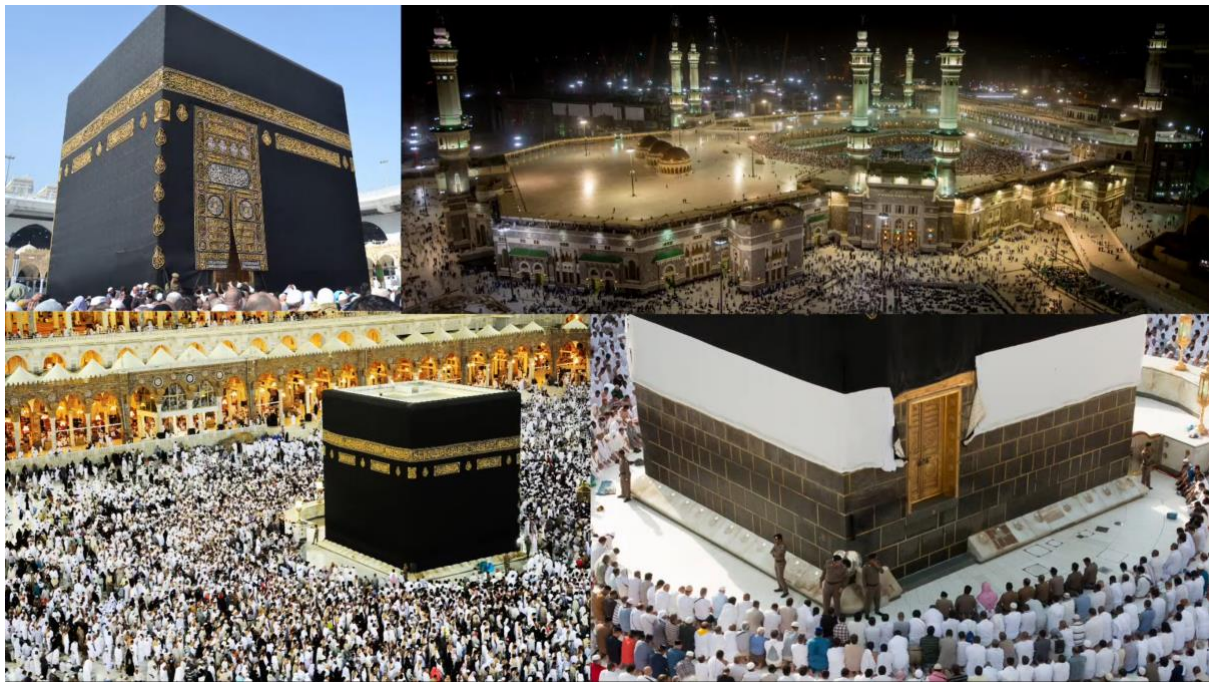
Today ... we'll look more closely at **THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST** ... and ... **THE MARK OF THE BEAST**.

Somewhat speculative of course! It is okay to exercise our minds. It may help us to recognise these features when we actually “get there”? We should know the text very well!!

We started last week looking at **the IMAGE OF THE BEAST**. What might it be?

**The FIRST CANDIDATE was the KAABA in Mecca — and in particular — the Black Stone.**

Muslims pray 5 times per day towards the Kaaba. At least once in their lifetimes they should make the HAJJ to Mecca (a holy pilgrimage). Most try to touch or kiss the Black Stone.



So ... this is an image (EIKON) that is already “worshipped” by nearly ¼ of the earth’s population!

And — **Islamic prophecy says the Black Stone will talk in the day of judgment.** (Verse 15)



**THE BLACK STONE WILL COME FORTH ON THE DAY OF RESURRECTION AND WILL TESTIFY IN FAVOUR OF THOSE WHO TOUCHED IT IN TRUTH.**

**IT WAS NARRATED THAT IBN 'ABBAAS SAID: THE MESSENGER OF ALLAAH (PEACE AND BLESSINGS OF ALLAAH BE UPON HIM) SAID CONCERNING THE STONE: "BY ALLAAH, ALLAAH WILL BRING IT FORTH ON THE DAY OF RESURRECTION, AND IT WILL HAVE TWO EYES WITH WHICH IT WILL SEE AND A TONGUE WITH WHICH IT WILL SPEAK, AND IT WILL TESTIFY IN FAVOUR OF THOSE WHO TOUCHED IT IN SINCERITY."**

**NARRATED BY AL-TIRMIDHI, 961; IBN MAAJAH, 2944**

**THIS HADEETH WAS CLASSED AS HASAN BY AL-TIRMIDHI, AND AS QAWIY BY AL-HAAFIZ**

**IBN HAJAR IN FATH AL-BAARI, 3/462**

So — at least superficially — it fits. Perhaps millions will be forced to convert to Islam in the end-time? And do homage to the Kaaba (i.e. worship the image).

## **ANOTHER POSSIBLE CANDIDATE:**

### **THE IMAGE THAT MUST BE WORSHIPPED.**

#### **Daniel 3:1-7**

1 **Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold,** whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

2 And **King Nebuchadnezzar** sent word to gather together the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counsellors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, **to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.**

3 So the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counsellors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered together for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and **they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.**

4 Then a herald cried aloud: **“To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages,**

5 **that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up;** (*homage to the image*)

6 and **whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.”**

7 So at that time, when **all the people** heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages **fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.**

**An IMAGE THAT MUST BE WORSHIPPED!** When the music plays ... everyone must fall down and worship the Image. OR BE KILLED!



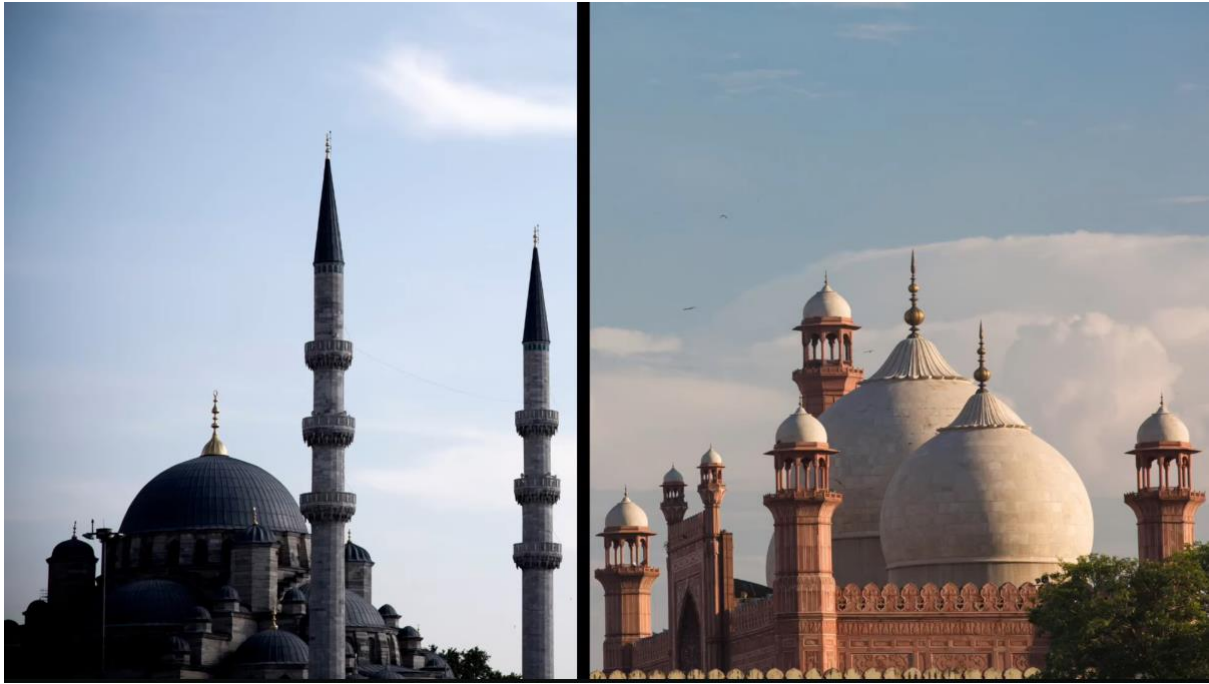
Lots of symbols ... references and allusions to the Old Testament in the Book of Revelation. Some think that the Image of The Beast refers back to Nebuchadnezzar's image.

**The image in Daniel Chapter 3 does not have human proportions — IT'S NOT THE IMAGE OF A MAN.**

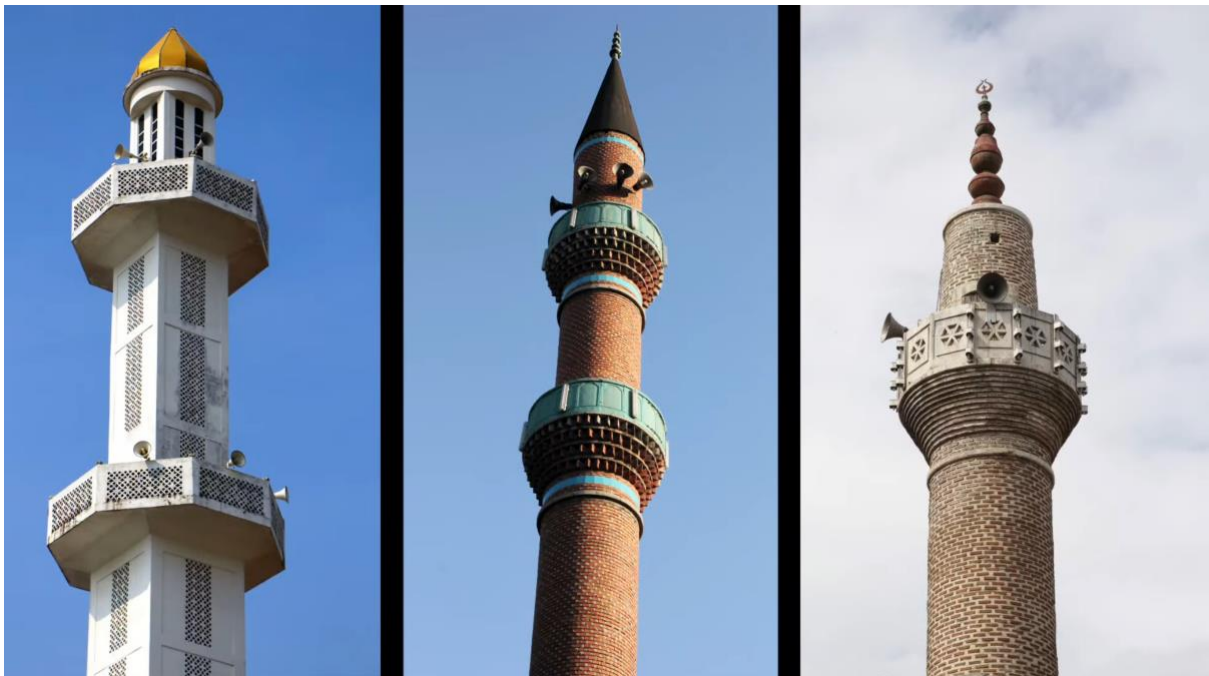
Most likely an Obelisk? They were very popular.



Still popular today — though in Islam we mostly see minarets. Usually attached to mosques. Five times per day the call to prayer goes out from the minarets.



It is easy to imagine that the Image of The Beast could be an obelisk ... or minaret ... that “speaks” — through loud speakers (?) to announce or command worship?



We can speculate today. Once the False Prophet appears ... it should be obvious what “The Image” is!!

**What about the Mark of The Beast?**

### **Revelation 13:16-17**

16 **He causes all**, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, **to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads**,

17 and **that no one may buy or sell** except one who has the **mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name**.

As per last week ... unlikely to be taken accidentally! It seems **to be a sign of allegiance to The Beast** ... rather than God? A choice that people make.

Several translations of verse 17:

### **Revelation 13:17 NIV**

17 **so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name**.

### **Revelation 13:17 ESV**

17 **so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name**.

### **Revelation 13:17 NET**

17 **Thus no one was allowed to buy or sell things unless he bore the mark of the beast - that is, his name or his number**.

Many translations say that **the Mark is the Name of The Beast**. Certainly **the Name is a key feature!**

Whose name do we bear? God's? The Beast's?

God's name — character ... identity — should be part of our mind and actions.

### **Exodus 13:3, 9–10**

3 And Moses said to the people: **“Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of**

hand the LORD brought you out of this place. **No leavened bread shall be eaten.**

9 **It shall be as a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes,** that the LORD's law may be in your

mouth; for with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt.

10 You shall therefore keep this ordinance in its season from year to year.

**A sign on our hand or forehead.** We belong to God — He is our allegiance.

#### **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

4 **"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD alone is one!**

5 **You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.**

6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

7 **You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.**

8 **You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.**

9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

**BE LOYAL TO THE LORD ALONE. LIVE BY HIS INSTRUCTIONS.**

**They are a sign on your hand and forehead — show your allegiance to the True God.**

Having the right "name" will be key in the end-times. Whose name do you live by?

#### **Revelation 3:8**

8 "I know your works. See, **I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it;** for **you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.**



### **Revelation 3:12**

12 He who overcomes, **I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God**, and he shall go out no more. **I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem**, which comes down out of heaven from My God. **And I will write on him My new name.**

The name of God The Father and Jesus' new name to be found on the saints.

### **Revelation 22:1-4**

1 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.  
2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.  
3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.  
4 They shall see His face, and **His name shall be on their foreheads.**

**God's name to be found on the foreheads of the saints.** We belong to God. We bear the Family Name.

What is the connection to the Mark of The Beast?

**The Mark is closely associated with — or according to some translations — is the name of The Beast.**

Rather than having the name of God on their hands and foreheads — these people will bear the name of The Beast.

**The saints have the SIGN OF GOD. The Beast's followers have the Mark!**

**The Mark ... or name ... of The Beast seems to relate to allegiance. It has to do with the heart.**

**POPULAR OPTIONS:**

1. **A Microchip?** It may contain personal details (religious affiliation?). Could be linked to your bank account or government records.

If your profile isn't acceptable to The Beast — no buying ... selling ... no employment!!

Increasingly feasible!

2. **The Traditional Church of God view (shared with the Seventh Day Adventists).** **Enforced Sunday Worship** in place of Sabbath-keeping. So not a literal or physical mark.

(That is only an option if we accept the Roman — Roman Empire — Vatican connection? People who support this option are looking for a Roman Antichrist. In my view — A NON-STARTER!!)

However ... if The Beast and The False Prophet are Islamic — another possibility (speculative)? — ties together the name ... allegiance ... sign.

**Revelation 13:18**

18 Here is wisdom. **Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.**

3. **Number 666?**

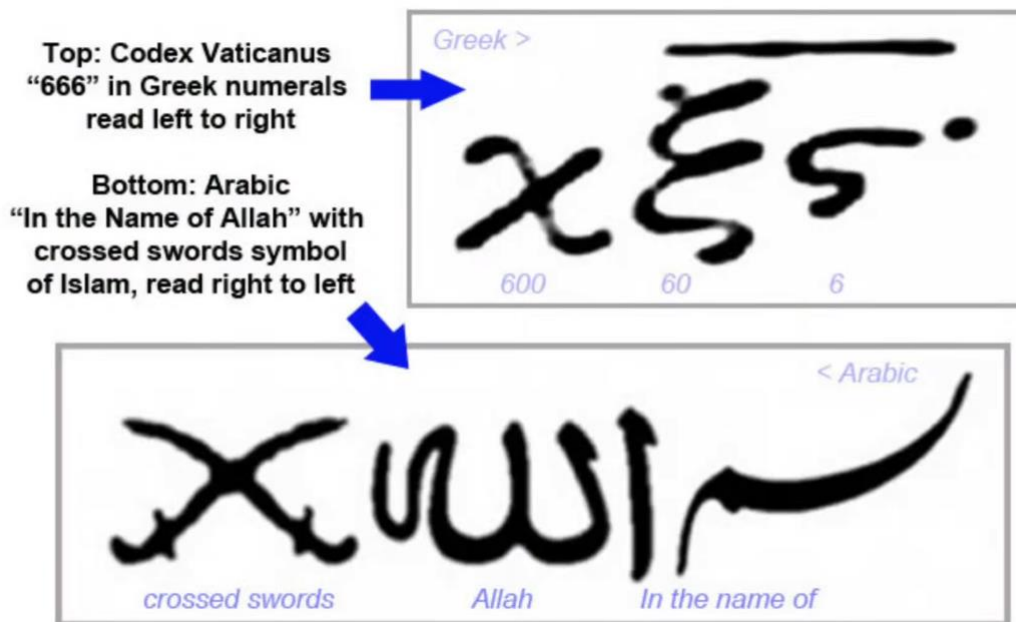
In many languages ... letters can double up as numbers (in Latin — X is 10).

**Revelation 13:18 is Greek. The letters are: CHI — XI — STIGMA (600+60+6).**

**What if: the Apostle John didn't actually write 3 Greek letters — but tried to draw 3 characters or symbols he saw on millions of the Beast's followers?** Greek copyists assumed they were Greek letters ... hence 666.

It just so happens: **3 almost identical symbols appear on headbands (foreheads) and right arms of many Muslims —**

especially the more “enthusiastic” (like Jihadists — fighters!).



Not identical but close? **The first 2 letters of Arabic (on the right) mean “in the name of Allah”. On the left ... the crossed swords which are a common symbol of Islam and its eventual worldwide victory!**



Back to the First Part of Verse 18:

**“Number” in Greek is “ARITHMOS” — it can be “multitude”.**

**The “Man” who is key to Islam is Mohammed. Muslims are historically referred to as “Mohammedans”.**

So: Verse 18 can be translated:

**“Let him who has understanding count (KJV) the multitude of The Beast. For it is the multitude of a man (Mohammed): his multitude comes in the name of Allah”.**

Many Muslims bear this Mark —this identifying feature — on their bandanas (foreheads) and arms.



In the end-times ... perhaps mandatory for everyone to carry such identification? Or be beheaded!

Can't be dogmatic! **This explanation would be consistent with Islamic Beasts — and fit with worshipping the Beast ... or having its name ... or “Mark”.**

Hopefully ... it will be much clearer when we “get there”!

