

THE MARK OF THE BEAST

Preamble

Recently I took a friend to lunch. I tried to pay the bill with a Visa credit card, but the waiter returned with the report that the card was “rejected by the server.” That was strange because the card drew on an account with plenty of money in it. I paid the bill with another card that drew on a different account. I subsequently discovered that the first account had been frozen because the bank had failed to indicate in a mandatory report to the federal government that the information in it was up to date. The problem between the bank and the government was soon resolved, but the experience got me thinking about what had happened. Someone whom I did not know had prevented me from using my money on the say-so of someone else whom I did not know in a government department which I did not know existed – all without anyone talking to me.

As I was reflecting on the above experience, I was gazing at my Visa card and saw something to which I had never given much thought. The number on the card consists of sixteen characters¹ which are organized into four groups of four characters each – i.e. XXXX-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX – which suggests the number 4444. I immediately thought of the Mark of the Beast which is mentioned in Chapter 13 of the Book of Revelation and is identified as the number 666.

¹⁶ And [the beast] causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ that no man might buy or sell unless he had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. ¹⁸ Here is wisdom: Let him who 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.” (KJ21)

Ever since the Book of Revelation appeared, people have assumed that the Mark of the Beast would be a simple number – i.e. 666 – and that it would be inscribed on a person’s forehead or right hand (verse 16)² – like a tattoo - solely to give him or her the ability to buy or sell goods in the market place (verse 17). Suddenly I wondered if the 666 might indicated that the Mark of the Beast will consist of eighteen characters³ which are organized into three groups of six characters each – i.e. XXXXXX-XXXXXX-XXXXXX.

The New World Order (NWO)

In his novel Nineteen Eighty-four, George Orwell describes a dystopia in which the world is subject to a totalitarian state, Oceania, wherein a ruling party, Ingsoc, which is led by Big

¹ Since each character consists of one of the ten digits (0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, & 9), the sixteen characters together allow for $10^{16} = 10,000,000,000,000,000$ permutations.

² This assumption makes no sense to me. First, it would probably be regarded by most people as a blemish. Second, it could not be removed easily. Third, it could be easily counterfeited. Fourth, it could not carry any useful information concerning the individual. Lastly, more likely would be a mark on the forehead or right hand of people who were being denied access to the market place, but that would not conform to what the Scriptures say.

³ Since each character could consist of either (a) one of the ten digits or (b) one of the letters of the alphabet, the eighteen characters together allow for $36^{18} = 10,314,424,798,490,535,546,171,949,056$. The forgoing would be capable of storing an enormous amount of information regarding every man, woman, and child on Earth, to each of whom would be assigned a unique cipher.

Brother, wields total power over the world’s inhabitants “for its own sake.” The latter point is important. Big Brother and his cohorts are uninterested in the welfare of others, whom they use and abuse with impunity.

If you look carefully at what is happening in the world today, you will see a group of the world’s richest and most powerful figures getting together in secret meetings on a regular basis. Also, you will see them consolidating their power within nearly every category of society, such as accounting, agriculture, architecture, arts, banking, communications, construction, education, energy, engineering, entertainment, government, healthcare, industry, investments, manufacturing, media, military, mining, real estate, religion, retail, science, security, transportation, etc.⁴ Finally, since President George H. Bush referred to a New World Order (NWO) in 1991 while explaining to congress that the Gulf War was not just a response to Saddam Hussein’s invasion of Kuwait, but rather a small step in the execution of a comprehensive plan to maintain order in the world,⁵ you should have at least some sense of what lies ahead.⁶

Recently with the discovery of cyberspace and the development of computers, computer-chips, and the internet, alternatives to a simple tattoo or the equivalent have become available. The government might insert a computer chip in every citizen that would contain information of all kinds about him or her and be used for a myriad of purposes, such as (a) determining the person’s location at any time, (b) storing information regarding the person that would be useful in controlling him or her, and (c) allowing or preventing a person to/from holding a job, buying or selling goods in the market place (verse 13), obtaining medical care, traveling, etc. Information on the chip would be obtained by scanning the person’s forehead or right hand with a hand-held device or even hidden cameras.

Given all of the above, what seems to be the most likely scenario? Here are some certainties.

- Money must be digitalized. Any form of cash⁷ can be earned, stored, and spent anonymously. Experiments have been conducted recently by a few corporations like Starbucks to see how people react to being unable to pay cash for their purchases. Most of their customers accepted the requirement to use a credit card without comment, let alone refusal.
- People must get accustomed to the steady erosion of their privacy – i.e. having information about themselves freely available in the public domain. Social media have done much to diminish people’s expectations in this regard, and big tech has accumulated more information about us - our beliefs, desires, dress, friends, habits,

⁴ There is obviously (a) some overlap among categories and (b) many important subdivisions within each category.

⁵ It is interesting how quickly references to the NWO disappeared from the public media.

⁶ When the oligarchs succeed in establishing the NWO, it will make the dystopias in Aldous Huxley’s Brave New World (1932) and George Orwell’s Animal Farm (1944) and Nineteen Eighty-four (1949) look like paradises.

⁷ Gold, silver, and copper coins, paper currency, critical commodities, etc. Bit-coins and the like may give Big Brother some trouble, but they may not turn out to be as impervious to government tracking and interference as their proponents maintain.

opinions, political affiliation, reading material, religious persuasion, etc. than we can imagine.

- Some method must be found to implant a computer chip in each of us that will be difficult to reprogram or remove by anyone excepting agents of Big Brother. How could the latter persuade everyone on Earth to accept the implant of a computer chip in his or her body? It would probably be impossible to do so. But, with the development of the nanochip, which is so small as to be invisible to the naked eye, it might be possible to insert a chip into everyone surreptitiously. One way to do so would be to start a pandemic like Covid 19 and then force everyone to get vaccinated with a serum that contains nanochips that carry the Mark of the Beast. Hmmm.