

#1277 The Mark of the Beast – A first clue: The hand and the forehead in Exodus 13:16 and the hand and the forehead in Revelation 13:16

Now we begin in earnest to understand the meaning behind the Mark of the Beast. Let's start by noting that in the primary passage of Revelation 13:16-18 the **Mark of the Beast** is, of course, associated with the **right hand**, or the **forehead**.

***Revelation 13:16-18 (KJV) 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 FOREHEADS:
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.***

18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST [referring to the Revelation 13:1 Beast out of the Sea and the Revelation 17:08 Beast out of the Pit]: for IT IS THE NUMBER OF MAN; AND HIS NUMBER IS SIX HUNDRED THREESCORE AND SIX [666].



Key Understanding #1: *The hand and the forehead in Exodus 13:16 and the hand and the forehead in Revelation 13:16.* Next, let's look at what would seem to be an amazing coincidence in scripture. The subject matter of the **hand** and **forehead** is dealt with in **both Exodus 13:16 and Revelation 13:16**, with **Exodus 13:16** attaching the word **sign** (or token) to the **hand** and **forehead**, and **Revelation 13:16** attaching the word **mark** to the **hand** and **forehead**.

Let's look at Revelation 13:16 first, in the KJV.

A mark on the right hand and the forehead in Revelation 13:16:

Revelation 13:16 (KJV) 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 FOREHEADS:



One of the most commonly tossed about guess-theories concerning the Mark of the Beast of Revelation 13:16 is that the coming Antichrist will require everyone to receive some sort of physical mark on their right hand or on their forehead.

Now let's look at Exodus 13:16, in the NIV.

A sign on the hand and the forehead in Exodus 13:16:

Exodus 13:16 (NIV) And it will be like a SIGN on your HAND and a symbol on your FOREHEAD that the LORD brought us out of Egypt with his mighty hand."

(Here is the rendering of Exodus 13:16 in the KJV:)

Exodus 13:16 (KJV) And it shall be for a TOKEN upon thine HAND, and for frontlets BETWEEN THINE EYES: for by strength of hand the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt.



The sign(s) on the hand and forehead spoken of in Exodus 13:9 and 13:16 is (are) a *figurative* sign(s). A *literal* reading of these verses has led to the practice of writing the texts of Exodus 13:1-10, Exodus 13:11-16, Deuteronomy 6:4-9, and Deuteronomy 11:13-21 on separate strips of parchment and placing them in two small leather boxes, which the observant Jew straps on his forehead and left arm before his morning prayers. The boxes are called "phylacteries" (Matthew 23:5). This practice seems to have originated after the exile to Babylon.

Key Understanding #2 and Question: Because of the obvious statistical improbability of there being such close similarities of content between Revelation 13:16 and Exodus 13:16

Exodus 13:16 (verses that are numbered the same), **Revelation 13:16** did the Lord do that

so as to give a clue that the Mark of the Beast in Revelation 13:16 is attached to what is occurring in Exodus 13:16? The answer is 'yes'.

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