

# Signposts towards the Mark of the Beast

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**Matthew 16:1–4 (NASB)** *And the Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Him asked Him to show them a sign from heaven.<sup>2</sup> But He answered and said to them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’<sup>3</sup> “And in the morning, ‘There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ **Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times?***

Today we will speak about a signpost of our time, namely the “needle pass” that is being introduced in our country, and in many developed nations around the world.

Many people have heard about the mark of the beast spoken about in Revelation chpt. 13.

People have asked, is this “needle pass” the mark of the beast?

- The short answer is: No, it is not
- However, this “needle pass” is a forerunner of the mark of the beast
- (In skiing races, they send a forerunner down the slope just before the race begins, to carve a visible groove into the snow for racers to follow)
- The mark of the beast, once it is fully developed technologically (and acceptable socially), it will follow the needle pass

**Revelation 13:11–17 (NKJV)** *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 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 was granted power to give breath 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.*

- The “first beast” is antichrist who will arise after the rapture of the church
- The “other beast” is the false prophet who will promote the antichrist
- The false prophet will:
  - Promote worship of the antichrist
  - Promote the mark of the beast (antichrist)
  - Initiate a law to execute those who refuse to worship the antichrist, or receive his mark in their right hand or in their forehead

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

Anyone who isn't able to “buy” or “sell” is effectively excluded from society and from all commercial activities

- With the arrival of lockdowns & the NZ traffic light system, this all begins to take on a new meaning
- Without the needle pass today, individuals will be severely restricted in their social and commercial activities, or excluded altogether

### **Prophet Daniel saw our time in a vision**

**Daniel 8:26–27 (NKJV)** *“And the vision of the evenings and mornings which was told is true; **Therefore seal up the vision, for it refers to many days in the future.**” 27 And I, Daniel, fainted and was sick for days; afterward I arose and went about the king’s business. I was astonished by the vision, but **no one understood it.***

- God showed Daniel a vision of the end times - many days in the future
- Today we are very close to this “future”
- Daniel fainted and was sick for days by what he saw
- He was astonished at the vision, and no one understood
- We're also astonished at the vision, but we are beginning to understand

### **The Mark of the Beast will be**

- (Strong's Lexicon - a stamp or an imprinted mark)
- It will be located on (or in) people's right hand or on their foreheads
- It will be an implanted personal identification & data storage chip
- It will most likely also be a contactless payment system
- This payment capability can be turned off remotely, depending on a person's resistance & unwillingness to comply with rules and demands

**1 Thessalonians 4:15–18 (NLT)** *We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. 17 Then, together with them, **we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.** Then we will be with the Lord forever. 18 So encourage each other with these words.*

- Apostle Paul speaks here of the rapture of the believers
- Truly born again Christians will be caught up supernaturally in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air (in the “atmospheric region”)
- Following this future event, Jesus will take us to heaven to remain there for the duration of the seven year Great Tribulation period

### **A broad Timeline of the End Times**

- a. The Rapture of the church
- b. This will initiate:
  - a. The seven year Great Tribulation period (Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week)
  - b. The revealing of the antichrist (Mr. 666)
- c. The mark of the beast will be rolled out in the middle of the 7 year period
- d. 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ

**Luke 21:34–36 (NKJV)** *But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. 35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch therefore, and pray always that **you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.**”*

- In Luke 21, Jesus spoke about the troubles during the Great Tribulation
- He told us (believers) to “watch” (stay alert) and to “pray” so we will be counted worthy to escape these things
- Ultimately, the main criteria to escape God’s judgement and stand before the Son of Man is to be born again & live for the Lord

### **What should I do today?**

- Receive Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour
- Pray for lost people to repent of their sins & be saved
- Share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others around you

## **Prayer for Salvation:**

Dear God, I admit that I have sinned by disobeying Your commandments. I ask You to forgive me, and cleanse me from all my sins. Dear Lord Jesus, I believe that You died on the cross for my sins, and that You rose again from the dead. I now surrender my life to You, and receive You as my personal Lord and as my Saviour. Please come into my heart, and make me born again. I ask You to lead me and guide me, and help me to live for You, for the rest of my life. Amen.