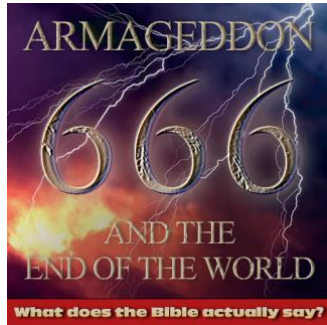


You've heard of the mark of the beast but...



After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. ²Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, ³saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” ⁴And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

⁵ 12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed,
12,000 from the tribe of Reuben,
12,000 from the tribe of Gad,
⁶ 12,000 from the tribe of Asher,
12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali,
12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh,
⁷ 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon,
12,000 from the tribe of Levi,
12,000 from the tribe of Issachar,
⁸ 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun,
12,000 from the tribe of Joseph,
12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ “Therefore they are before the throne of God,
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

[Revelation 7]

You've heard of the mark of the beast but...

Introduction: who can stand on the day of God's anger (6:17)

- 1) God presses pause on judgment to mark *his people* for protection (7:1-8)
 - They were marked for protection before the final plague on Egypt (Exodus 12:21-27)
 - They were marked for protection before the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians in 586/7 BC (Ezekiel 9:4-5)
 - They are marked for protection before the fall of Jerusalem to the Romans in AD70
 - They will be marked for protection on the final judgment day (cf. Ephesians 1:13; 4:30)
2. A great multitude survives the tribulation and enters paradise (7:9-17)
 - It is a vast and varied crowd but it is not everyone
 - only those who have “washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”
 - redeemed ones
 - conquering ones
 - and now they are saved and sheltered and shepherded

APPLICATION

Ephesus, **Smyrna**, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, **Philadelphia**, Laodicea

“Be faithful unto death” (2:8)

“Hold fast what you have” (3:11)