

# **666 and the Mark of the Beast**

## **I. Some current theories that are false:**

If we allow A = 100, B = 101, C = 102, etc., then "Hitler" works out to be 666.

H = 107

I = 108

T = 119

L = 111

E = 104

R = 117

Problems: Why should A = 100? Why does this only work in English, when John was writing in Greek? Why would it have possibly mattered to the persecuted Christians of the first century that the 666 was a dictator who would live 2000 years later?

If we allow A = 6, B = 12, C = 18, etc., then "Kissinger" works out to be 666.

K = 66

I = 54

S = 114

S = 114

I = 54

N = 84

G = 42

E = 30

R = 108

Problems: Same as with Hitler. Why go through the alphabet in multiples of 6? Etc.

Some have suggested that the Universal Product Code (bar code) is the mark of the beast.

Some have claimed that the area code for Israel is 666 (false)

Some have claimed that Ronald Wilson Reagan was the 666 (six letters in each of his three names).

Some said that Mikhail Gorbachev had the mark of the beast on his forehead.

Some say that Harry Potter has the mark of the beast on his forehead.

Problems: Why would these things have mattered to the persecuted Christians in the first century AD?

## **II. From William Barclay's original commentary on Revelation:**

Mr. Barclay has found this document from the records of the Roman Empire in the late first century A.D.:

*Request for and Granting of a Certificate of Pagan Worship:*

*To those who have been appointed to preside over the sacrifices, from Inares Akeus, from the village of Theoxonis, together with his children Aias and Hera, who reside in the village of Theadelphia. We have always sacrificed to the gods, and now, in your presence, according to the regulations we have sacrificed and offered libations, and tasted the sacred things, and we ask you to give us a certification that we have done so. May you fare well.*

The certificate was signed: *"We, the representatives of the emperor, Serenos and Hermas, have been you sacrificing."*

This is the best theory: The government required emperor worship, and citizens had to get a "mark" or document that they had burned incense to the emperor before they could do business. The Christians refused to do this.