

## Mark of the Beast, Part I: Secrets in Esther

One of my biggest lifelong questions has always been: "Why can't people who take the Mark of the Beast be redeemed?!"

My understanding of Jesus' forgiveness became impeded by a wall, whenever confronting those strange and stark verses at the end of the Book!

Recent damnable errors taught by the likes of John MacArthur grieve my spirit. Without repentance, he brashly promises life to those who take the mark. I know that he is but a domino, of the MANY prophesied to fall from the Truth. As a contender for the faith, I do not want to be one with blood on my hands on Judgment Day!

What can I share, that I believe will bless you, helping you to come to a place of understanding?

Why can't people who take the Mark of the Beast be redeemed?!

First, I am reminded that we are living epistles (**Strong's G1992**: a letter, epistle, dispatch, message):

### 2 Corinthians 3:3

#### King James Bible

*Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the **epistle** of Christ ministered by us, **written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God**; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.*

#### New Living Translation

Clearly, you are **a letter** from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This "**letter**" is **written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God**. It is carved not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts.

Second, I am reminded that as living epistles (G1992: a letter, epistle, dispatch, message), we are also sealed by God!

### Ephesians 4:30

#### King James Bible

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are **sealed** unto the day of redemption.

### Ezekiel 9:4,6a

#### King James Bible

And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a **mark upon the foreheads** of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

**6**Slay utterly old *and* young, both maids, and little children, and women: but **come not near any man upon whom *is* the mark**; and begin at my sanctuary

### **Revelation 7:3**

#### **King James Bible**

Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have **sealed** the servants of our God in their **foreheads**.

THIRD, I am reminded that as living epistles (a letter, epistle, dispatch, message), we are also sealed by the signet of God, IN OUR FOREHEADS!

Now for the Revelation contained within Esther. This passage concerns a problem, trying to find a way to undo what Haman had already sent out, in the name and with the Seal of the King's Signet Ring. This is not only history for us, but reveals kingship principles that amaze me!

### **Esther 8:8**

#### **King James Bible**

Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and **seal *it*with the king's ring**: for the writing which is **written in the king's name**, and **sealed with the king's ring**, may no man **reverse**.

#### **New Living Translation**

Now go ahead and send a message to the Jews in the king's name, telling them whatever you want, and seal it with the king's signet ring. But remember that whatever has already been **written in the king's name** and **sealed with his signet ring** can **never be revoked**."

Notice the words, Written in the King's Name, Sealed with the King's Ring, and can Never be Revoked!

### **Revelation 13:16-17**

#### **King James Bible 16**

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**.

### **Revelation 14:11**

#### **King James Bible**

And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the **mark of his name**.

Jesus truly is the King of Kings!!! The Antichrist is also a king of kings, given his power by 10 lesser kings!

The same rules apply to all kings! Once their message has been written in their name, and finally sealed, it will now forever serve them. It will not return to the King void, but will be accomplished. What has been written and sent, WILL be carried out, and can NEVER be revoked!

### **Isaiah 55:11**

**King James Bible** So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it **shall not return unto me void**, but it **shall accomplish** that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I **sent it**.

### **Revelation 15:2**

#### **King James Bible**

And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his **mark**, *and* over the number of **his name**, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

### **Revelation 22:3**

#### **King James Bible**

**3**And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: **4**And they shall see his face; and **his name shall be** in their **foreheads**.

As living epistles (a letter, epistle, dispatch, message), we will forever be sealed by the King of Kings' Signet Ring, with the Mark of Jesus' name in our foreheads, serving Him and what He has willed for all eternity!

I'm against Once Saved, Always Saved doctrine. I believe it to be very dangerous in the age of easy-believism, pray a prayer one time you don't even understand and get told you're eternally secure, etc.

I fall more in the camp of Once Truly Saved, Always Saved! Those who endure to the end, are truly saved. I believe scripture clearly warns that people can reject Jesus, fall away, after first having known him.

I believe that the "truly" saved will not be deceived into taking the mark. You could argue that once sealed by the Holy Spirit, that would supercede any future marks. But, the scriptures clearly show that ALL who take the mark of the beast are damned. There is no need to argue potential kingship clauses, at what point the sealing of Jesus' name takes place for the believer, etc., when scripture is so plain concerning no exceptions for those marked by Antichrist.

Haman resembles the Antichrist, in the story of Esther. He even has 10 sons which are destroyed, like as the Antichrist's 10 kings.

Haman also carried the Kingly power in his hand.

### **Esther 3:10**

#### **King James Bible**

**10**And the king took his **ring from his hand**, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy.

Those who take the Mark of the Beast in their right hand, will be able to function as one with authority from Antichrist in his Kingdom (buying and selling).

Take a look at what happened, after Haman was destroyed!

### **Esther 8:2**

#### **King James Bible**

And the **king took off his ring**, which he had **taken from Haman**, and **gave it unto Mordecai**. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

I believe that even as Jesus' name will be in our foreheads, we will also be given our own authority from Christ Jesus in our right hand!

### **Luke 15:22, 24**

#### **King James Bible**

But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the **best robe**, and put *it* on him; and put **aring on his hand**, and **shoes on his feet**:

**24**For this my son was **dead**, and is **alive again**; he was **lost**, and is **found**. And they began to be merry.

We too were once lost, but found through Jesus. We too though dead, are made alive through Christ, and shall be forever raised at the resurrection of the just.

We too will receive glimmering robes of righteousness, the best robes there will ever be! We too shall be shod with His eternal peace, and His rest shall be glorious!

We too will make merry, enjoying the feast of all feasts when we are again returned to the Father!

His name, His ring, given to His restored Sons and Daughters!

I pray that you may grasp the beauty of Jesus' Kingly authority, in the Mystery of our common Salvation!

Blessings,

Micah

## **Mark of the Beast, Part II: The Firm Decree**

**This principle of Kingship is taught even more clearly in Daniel.**

Not everything the King says is final. In Daniel chapter 2, Daniel convinces the King to change his mind about a hasty decree, which had originally called for the death of all the magicians. However, look at the utter finality of a "Firm" decree in chapter 6:

### **Daniel 6**

#### **King James Bible**

**7**All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a **firm decree**, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions. **8**Now, O king, establish the decree, and **sign the writing**, that it **be not changed**, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which **altereth not**. **9**Wherefore king Darius **signed** the **writing** and the **decree**.

King Darius' decree could NOT be changed. Again, the decree was signed in His Name, and Sealed with his Signet Ring!

**17**And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king **sealed it with his own signet**, and with the signet of his lords; **that the purpose might not be changed** concerning Daniel.

King Darius was sorely grieved with himself, but he COULD NOT take back what had been written and signed in His Name, and Sealed with his Signet Ring. Darius fasted from both food and amusements, laying awake in lament until the decree had been accomplished.

He could only trust that God would deliver Daniel from the mouths of the lions.

What the enemy meant for harm, God meant for good to His faithful one. In the morning, the same stone would be rolled away!

All of Daniel's accusers and enemies were then cast alive into the pit at the King's command!

**24**And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they **cast them into the den** of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and **brake all their bones in pieces** or ever they came at the **bottom of the den**.  
**Proverbs 26:27 King James Bible** Whoso **diggeth a pit** shall **fall therein**: and he that **rolleth a stone**, it will **return upon him**.

The stone meant for Daniel, spoke of the stone meant for Jesus, as death could not hold him!

Though many of us may give testimony to Jesus, even unto the death, death will not be able to hold us either!

Those who reject and push away our Stone, will be crushed to powder, when He rolls back on them.

**Matthew 21:44**  
**King James Bible**

And whosoever shall fall on this **stone** shall be broken: but on **whomsoever it shall fall**, it will **grind him to powder**.

All who take the mark, are cast alive into the pit, just like the enemies of Daniel, the ravenous flames licking as they fall.

Now that we understand the power of the King's decree, prepare to be encouraged!

Check out the decree that followed in Daniel, for ALL PEOPLE, NATIONS, and LANGUAGES, throughout the whole EARTH!

**Daniel 6 King**  
**James Bible**

**25**Then king Darius wrote unto all **people, nations, and languages**, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

**26**I **make a decree**, That in **every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel**: for **he is the living God**, and **stedfast for ever**, and **his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed**, and his **dominion shall be even unto the end**.

How I am so looking forward to the establishment of Jesus' rule and reign. Soon, the whole world with tremble before Him! Every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess, in every nation, language, and tribe.

Daniel forever prospers in his special place under the King, from that very point onward!

**28**So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Do you remember Joseph? The enemy accused him, sending him to the very King's prison.

The fate for faithful Joseph, was again the same. He received fine linen, and the Signet Ring was placed on Joseph's hand. He ruled and reigned with Pharaoh, second only to Pharaoh's preeminence!

### **Genesis 41:40-43**

#### **King James Bible**

**40Thou shalt be over my house**, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: **only in the throne will I be greater than thou**. 41And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. 42And **Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand**, and **put it upon Joseph's hand**, and **arrayed him in vestures of fine linen**, and put a gold chain about his neck; 43And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; **and they cried before him, Bow the knee:** and he **made him ruler over all the land of Egypt**.

### **Revelation 3:9**

#### **King James Bible**

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, **I will make them to come and worship before thy feet**, and to know that **I have loved thee**.

I know there is much more that may be said, concerning the Kingship of Jesus, and the authority given to those faithful to the end. I would like to include just three more verses, that speak of the power of Jesus' decrees, as King!

### **Jeremiah 5:22**

#### **King James Bible**

Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand *for* the bound of the sea by **a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it**: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, **yet can they not prevail**; though they roar, yet **can they not pass over it?**

### **Job 22:28**

#### **King James Bible**

Thou shalt also **decree a thing**, and **it shall be established unto thee**: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.

### **Psalms 148:6**

#### **New Living Translation**

He **set them in place forever and ever**. **His decree will never be revoked**.

Be followers of Jesus, unto death. For even as He was made alive, we too shall be made alive again!

## **2 Peter 3:8**

### **King James Bible**

But, beloved, **be not ignorant of this one thing**, that **one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years**, and **a thousand years as one day**.

Do not be afraid if death should come near your door.

## **Ecclesiastes 7:1**

### **King James Bible**

A good name *is* **better** than precious ointment; and **the day of death than the day of one's birth**.

Look at the trade that is made for that one day of mortal suffering for His name. Do not be ignorant of this one thing.

## **Revelation 20:4**

### **King James Bible**

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and ***I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus***, and for the word of God, and which **had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands**; and **they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years**.

Blessings,

Micah

## **Mark of the Beast, Part III: Idol Shepherds**

Hirelings beware!

In the last two sections, we compared the Seal of God, with the Mark of the Beast. Both marks meet the criteria for a King's irrevocable decree.

We learned that anything written in the King's name, and sealed with His seal, can NEVER be revoked. What has been written and sealed, will be carried out, in obeisance/obedience/worship to the king forever. Not even the King can revoke it. The King's word is magnified, even above all His name!

## **Psalms 138:2**

### **King James Bible**



I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for **thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name** .

We remembered that Jesus is the King of Kings.

We discussed how believers are living messages, written and sealed in their foreheads with Jesus' name, who will serve Jesus for all eternity.

We also considered how the Antichrist is a king of kings. He attempts to seal his own servants with his seal, and in his name. A different eternity is promised for those who receive his irrevocable king's seal, who in doing so, will have chosen obeisance/obedience/worship to him.

### **Revelation 14:11**

#### **King James Bible**

And the **smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever** : and they have no rest day nor night, **who worship the beast and his image**, and **whosoever receiveth the mark of his name** .

God gave us clear examples in **Daniel**, and **Esther**, for our benefit. We are meant to understand Jesus' Kingly authority, and the eternal dangers of yielding ourselves to His enemy.

I believe that scripture and revelation surrounding this topic are absolutely beautiful, and encouraging to anyone watching for Jesus' return. We see that for only momentary suffering, we will rule and reign with Jesus for 1,000 years. Our enemies are made to worship at our feet, as we receive authority and preeminence, second only to our King!

Why have I written yet another installment?? What are we to understand about the role of Idol Shepherds, and the Mark? This will be a very lengthy read, possibly incompatible with your time constraints. Consider this an inner-dialogue over a long cup of coffee, maybe two. This dialogue is no ramble, but will cover much ground. If Twitter is too long for you, you need not enter. However, if you ever find yourself in the role of a shepherd, in any capacity, I believe this will be of great benefit to you.

Now, we come again to the permanency of the Mark. First of all, I do believe that solidifying this doctrine in our hearts is of utmost importance. John MacArthur is not the only secret introducer of this leaven of eternal consequence. I know that there are many believers reading through the Left Behind series again. Another Left Behind film has made its way to theatres, promoting a form of Christianity, whose fruit thereof is cowardice. Unlearned and unstable men such as Tim LaHaye, have called our "Blessed Hope," the "Blasted Hope," should God allow us to endure tribulation. By forcing their own timeline on end time events, they open themselves up to great error.

This is very doctrine we were warned about in 2 Thessalonians, concerning the day we meet the Lord in the air.

## **2 Thessalonians 2:3**

### **King James Bible**

**Let no man deceive you** by any means: **for *that day shall not come***, except there come a falling away first, **and that man of sin be revealed**, the son of perdition;

Authors of Left Behind, Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins, may be responsible for as much blood as John MacArthur, on Judgment Day. They suppose that believers are taken from this world prior to the rise of Antichrist. As a result, initially there are no believers spreading truth when Antichrist begins his rule. Their books contain a character named Chang, who finds salvation **after** receiving the Mark of the Beast. The authors sow ideas that the mark was not “accepted,” thus it didn’t count. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Mark\\_\(novel\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Mark_(novel))

This scenario is nowhere found in the Word of God. There wouldn’t be a need to behead anyone, if the enemy just slipped a mickey in everyone’s drink, and injected them with a chip, tattoo, etc. No, even as we freely accept Christ, we freely choose or reject the Mark of Antichrist. God is not unjust to allow such a violation of freewill. He is good!

I am reminded of God’s servant Job. We see one of the strongest cases of God giving Satan leeway to attack. Despite the voracity of the attacks, Satan had no permission at Job’s life, or his freewill. He couldn’t move Job’s mouth, to force him to curse God. And he couldn’t kill him either. Now, does it stand to reason, that God would let Satan literally **snatch** Job out of His hand, sealing a fate for him in the “second” death? That is preposterous.

## **Job 2:6**

### **King James Bible**

And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, **he *is* in thine hand; but save his life.**

While Satan indeed seeks to steal, kill, and destroy, and even succeeding at times, I believe that God is making a profound statement concerning the enemy’s power. Those humble before the Lord, who resist the Devil, are assured he will flee.

If Satan had the power to seal our eternal fate for us, he would have simply slapped a mark on Jesus, during those 40 days in the wilderness, rather than try as he might, tempting our LORD instead. Even Satan must yield to man’s free will.

Countless children read those Left Behind books. CHILDREN! They are introduced to leaven, that the Mark itself is meaningless, that the Mark is forgivable. This leaven starts to grow in their minds. The yeast begins its work. We soon will see more voices arise, even as the dough rises. The millstone that drowns the men that cause these children to err, will be brought up again, and passed to the neck of another, and another, and another. If only that was the scope of their fate.

## **Matthew 18:6**

### **King James Bible**

But whoso shall **offend one of these little ones** which believe in me, it were better for him that a **millstone were hanged about his neck**, and *that* he were **drowned in the depth of the sea**.

Harsh words? I think not, considering the severity of the consequence of the error they teach! They tempt Hell to little ones that believe in Jesus, literally shutting up the doors of Heaven, if the Mark be taken. Jesus' words to such were, "Woe unto you!"

#### **Matthew 23:13**

##### **King James Bible**

But **woe unto you**, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for **ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men**: for ye neither go in *yourselves*, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

I am jealous for those children with a Godly jealousy! How can I not lend what voice I have, what rod, and what staff granted to me, when wolves enter in? Those little ones belong to God! I hope to die, than they by wicked men's mouths, become prey!

#### **Psalm 3:7**

##### **King James Bible**

Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies *upon* the cheek bone; **thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly**.

#### **Psalm 58:6**

##### **King James Bible**

**Break their teeth**, O God, in their mouth: **break out the great teeth of the young lions**, O LORD.

#### **Job 29:17**

##### **King James Bible**

And **I brake the jaws of the wicked**, and **plucked the spoil out of his teeth**.

#### **Titus 1:11**

##### **King James Bible**

**Whose mouths must be stopped**, who subvert whole houses, **teaching things which they ought not**, for filthy lucre's sake.

May we like David, break the jaw of the lion! May we STOP all devouring mouths, carefully plucking out the tender spoil!

#### **1 Samuel 17:34-36**

##### **King James Bible**

**34**And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and **there came a lion**, and a bear, **and took a lamb out of the flock**: **35**And **I went out after him**, and **smote him**, and **delivered *it* out of his mouth**: and when he arose against me, **I caught *him* by his beard**, and

**smote him, and slew him. 36**Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

How dare we cowardly allow devourers to have their way with the sheep! Do we want to be those shepherds that pick up what remnants of the pieces remain?

### **Amos 3:12**

#### **King James Bible**

**12**Thus saith the LORD; **As the shepherd taketh out of the mouth of the lion two legs, or a piece of an ear;** so shall the children of Israel be taken out that dwell in Samaria in the corner of a bed, and in Damascus *in* a couch.

I know that it is not an easy endeavor, to be courageous in the face of lions, wolves, and bears. This is especially hard, when it seems like our stand is against brothers and sisters in Christ! Nevertheless, teeth must be broken. This is nothing new.

### **Zephaniah 3**

#### **New Living Translation**

#### **3**Its leaders are like roaring lions

hunting for their victims.

**Its judges are like ravenous wolves** at evening time,  
who by dawn have left no trace of their prey.

**4**Its prophets are arrogant liars seeking their own gain.

**Its priests defile the Temple by disobeying God's instructions.**

Many people believe that ravenous wolves are obvious opponents apart from, and destructive to the faith. We often forget, that those with mouths that must be stopped, will come in sheep's clothing.

### **Matthew 7:15**

#### **King James Bible**

Beware of false prophets, **which come to you in sheep's clothing**, but inwardly they are **ravenous wolves**.

Since God sets up leaders and authority, surely these savage wolves must be regular people with no place of leadership or influence?! That's the modern line thrown down to us anyway. Not so! Did we carefully read the passage from Zephaniah?

Ezekiel provides us with a scriptural understanding, concerning those who come to us in sheep's clothing!

### **Ezekiel 34:1-4**

#### **King James Bible**

1And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 2Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; **Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves!** should not the shepherds feed the flocks? 3**Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock.** 4The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up *that which was* broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but **with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.**

We are told of certain shepherds that devour, and clothe themselves with the wool of the flock! These men in sheep's clothing, that have slipped in unawares, and introduce damnable heresies, have position and influence to do so. They may be your beloved authors, your beloved teachers, beloved prophets, and pastors.

Today, we are frequently warned, to be very wary of religious nitpickers, who are too uptight, who are always demanding we do things by the Book. We forget that real religious spirits are those that make their own additions to the Book, laying heavy burdens on the body. There is nothing greater as disciples, than to follow Jesus' commands, and His commands are not burdensome.

No, we are Biblically warned to mind the hands that feed us. The stark warnings show that the last days are marked by heaps of smooth teachers, an abundance of false prophets, and followers of the same.

## **2 Peter 2:2**

### **King James Bible**

And **many shall follow** their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

It will certainly take courage to stand against people of influence in the body of Christ, when their mouths need stopping. But remember, that the righteous are as bold as those that would devour!

## **Proverbs 28:1**

### **King James Bible**

The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but **the righteous are bold as a lion.**

This verse applies to all believers! There is no such thing as lay people. We are all to make disciples, meaning that in some measure, we are all shepherds. Men, God has created you to be the shepherd to your household.

We have all also been given the gift of righteousness, through Jesus' shed blood, meaning we are all to be so bold.

The righteous shepherds do not flee as wicked hirelings, who care not for the flock, leaving every sheep to be consumed by the young lions. They don't flatter, or scratch the backs of the prominent devourers. They don't care about status, or reputation. Like Jesus, true shepherds make themselves of no reputation. They will give their life for the sheep, if need be.

### **Jeremiah 10:21**

#### **King James Bible**

For **the pastors are become brutish**, and have not sought the LORD: therefore they shall not prosper, and **all their flocks shall be scattered**.

How much woe is promised to the hirelings, the brutish shepherds, and the ravenous shepherds in sheep's clothing, whose greed and unstoppable words devour His precious sheep?

### **James 3:1**

#### **New Living Translation**

Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, **for we who teach will be judged more strictly**.

#### **King James Bible**

My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that **we shall receive the greater condemnation**.

Repentance is not guaranteed for the compromising leaders of His inner sanctuary. God's eye shall not spare!

### **Ezekiel 8:18**

#### **King James Bible**

Therefore will I also deal in fury: **mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity**: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, **yet will I not hear them**.

I truly believe that we are in the last hour! You need only look at the fulfilment of the restoration of the nation of Israel to understand this. We've seen the pestilences, the wars, the rumors of wars, the earthquakes in divers places. We've seen men becoming lovers of self, and the love of many waxing cold. We've even seen startling appearances of Mark of the Beast candidates, such as the Verichip/PositiveID and Somark, that could quickly become mandatory in a crisis.

Many of today's shepherds mock at the idea of a chip, being the mark. They will tell you that the mark is Sunday worship, something already fulfilled in the past, something figurative, or in the mind.

But, I would stop the mouths of those mockers. They forget about the physical mark placed on Cain. The RFID chips are also indeed especially strong candidates, as they best line up with Revelation's statements, that "no one might buy or sell" without this mark.

We could even look at God's clues within 666 itself. In the Greek, Revelation 13:18 shows 666 written as, "**chi-xi stigma**."

<http://biblehub.com/greek/5516.htm>

<http://biblehub.com/greek/4742.htm>

Look at the astonishing definition of "stigma" in the Strongs, appearing as much more than mere coincidence.

### **STRONGS NT 4742: στίγμα**

**στίγμα**, στίγματος, τό (from στίζω **to prick**; (cf. Latin *stimulus*, etc.; German *stechen*, English **stick**, **sting**, etc.; Curtius, § 226)), **a mark pricked in or branded upon the body**. According to ancient oriental usage, **slaves** and soldiers **bore the name or stamp of their master** or commander **branded or pricked (cut) into their bodies to indicate what master or general they belonged to**, and there were even some devotees who **stamped themselves in this way with the token of their gods**

Even in English, Stigma speaks of a mark of disgrace or infamy:

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/stigma?s=t>

The last time I checked, the Verichip needles need to sting, stick, and prick, to insert their identifying mark inside the right hand. Similar RFID chips are being developed, that would lie perfectly between bone and skin, on the forehead. The RFID mark would indeed reveal who your master, who your "god" really is!

### **Matthew 6:24**

#### **New Living Translation**

"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. **You cannot serve both God and money.**

### **1 Kings 10:14**

#### **King James Bible**

Now the weight of **gold** that came to **Solomon** in one year was **six hundred threescore and six talents** of gold,

Wouldn't you say that's an ironic annual salary for Solomon, 666 talents of gold? Revelation places an overt call for wisdom, for those with understanding to investigate this number.

### **Revelation 13:18**

#### **New Living Translation**

Wisdom is needed here. **Let the one with understanding solve the meaning of the number of the beast**, for it is the number of a man. His number is 666.

The Antichrist may come, claiming the name of Solomon. Remember the peace that Jerusalem had when this fellow donkey rider, who understood dark sentences, was king! Do I have your attention?

But, regardless of whoever the Antichrist is, the one received in his own name, we see the association again with money! The prophecies about Jesus were fulfilled, very literally. Jesus' return will also be very literal. When the Book of Revelation speaks symbolically, it lets us know, and defines terms for us. The mark should be considered literal, and a literal tool for transaction. I agonize how that western believers are ill prepared, for how soon they may have to face such a mark.

These signs of the last days, should also be an immense warning to be on guard against false prophets. Which of you readers can actually even name one? I'm not talking about those overt opponents of the faith. I'm not as concerned at home with the Imams, the Gurus, and the latest New Agers on Oprah's couch. Yes, there are times we must combat their teaching, and those behaving as lions. But, our mission is to share and shine, to all the ungodly. We must needs go out of the world, if we are to constantly set ourselves against these kinds of people.

Jesus was silent like a lamb before the wordly sheerers. But, he broke the teeth of many of the cloth. He called them broods of vipers, blind "leaders" leading the blind. These men sought every opportunity to devour Him, to destroy Him through word. Jesus spoke as one with authority, citing scripture spoken of them, causing them to hold their peace.

#### **Matthew 22:46**

##### **King James Bible**

And **no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any *man* from that day forth ask him any more *questions*.**

What options remain to a lion, unable to devour with his mouth? The religious put Jesus out of the synagogue and city of Nazareth. They ultimately killed Jesus, thinking they were doing God service.

#### **John 16:2**

##### **King James Bible**

**They shall put you out of the synagogues:** yea, the time cometh, that **whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.**

It had already begun in the early church. Take a look at at this sole-speaking, status-seeking shepherd named Diotrephes, who knew not God.

#### **3 John 1:9**

##### **King James Bible**

I wrote unto the church: but **Diotrephes**, who **loveth to have the preeminence among them**, receiveth us not.



### **New Living Translation**

**9**I wrote to the church about this, but **Diotrephes**, who **loves to be the leader**, refuses to have anything to do with us. **10**When I come, I will report some of the things he is doing and the evil accusations he is making against us. Not only does he refuse to welcome the traveling teachers, he also tells others not to help them. And when they do help, **he puts them out of the church.**

**11**Dear friend, **don't let this bad example influence you.** Follow only what is good. Remember that those who do good prove that they are God's children, and **those who do evil prove that they do not know God.**

In modern terms, we've seen many shepherds of shepherds, calling those that need a nudge out the door, "blessed subtractions." It's in the handbook for the Purpose Driven Church, by Rick Warren. One modern shepherd brags about piles of bodies behind his church bus. This is not in keeping with God's children, but an example and influence of Diotrephes.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfTmgPhmlto>

Contrary to Diotrephes, true Shepherds are very careful to number their sheep. The Shepherd's rod was the tool used to both count his sheep and examine them for any disease.

### **Ezekiel 20:37**

#### **King James Bible**

And I **will cause you to pass under the rod**, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant:

### **Leviticus 27:32**

#### **King James Bible**

And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, *even* of **whatsoever passeth under the rod**, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.

Jesus numbered His disciples, even Judas.

### **Acts 1:17**

#### **King James Bible**

For he was **numbered with us**, and had obtained part of this ministry.

We also, are to use our rod to number and examine those in our care.

### **Proverbs 27:23**

#### **King James Bible**

**Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds.**

### **1 Thessalonians 3:5**

#### **New Living Translation**

That is why, when I could bear it no longer, I sent Timothy to **find out whether your faith was still strong**. I was afraid that **the tempter had gotten the best of you** and that our **work had been useless**.

True shepherds know when a single sheep has gone missing. They inquire, when discerning the enemies luring them outside the gate. By speaking through the rod of judgment, shepherds do not merely give cursory examination, pulling wool over their own eyes. No, the rod pokes and prods the fleece about, exposing the diseases that lie beneath. The sheep will not like this, it will hurt, but this loving examination through judgment, will lead to their cure. The good shepherd restores their soul.

### **1 Corinthians 11:30-32**

#### **King James Bible**

**30**For this cause many *are* weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. **31**For if we would **judge ourselves, we should not be judged**. **32**But when we are **judged**, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

Shepherds must first learn to judge and examine themselves.

### **2 Corinthians 13:5**

#### **King James Bible**

**Examine yourselves**, whether ye be in the faith; **prove your own selves**. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Only after proving themselves, may they righteously judge their flock.

### **Matthew 7:5**

#### **King James Bible**

Thou hypocrite, **first cast out the beam out of thine own eye**; and then shalt thou **see clearly to cast out the mote** out of thy **brother's eye**.

When we judge, we humbly posture ourselves, and allow the rod to speak through our mouths. The rod that examines us all the way to our core, is sharper than any two-edged sword. The rod is the Word of God!

### **Hebrews 4:12**

#### **King James Bible**

For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and **sharper than any twoedged sword**, piercing even to the **dividing asunder** of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a **discerner** of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

This same rod of judgment will separate you from family members.

### **Luke 12:51**

### **King James Bible**

Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather **division**:  
**52**For **from henceforth** there shall be five in one house **divided**, three **against** two, and two **against** three. **53**The father shall be **divided against** the son, and the son **against** the father; the mother **against** the daughter, and the daughter **against** the mother; the mother in law **against** her daughter in law, and the daughter in law **against** her mother in law.

It is the same rod used in Jesus' FINAL parable, the rod that will separate the sheep from the goats.

### **Matthew 25:32**

#### **King James Bible**

**32**And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, **as a shepherd divideth his sheep** from the **goats**:

May we take up our rod, the sword of the spirit, that we make keep from falling in this evil day.

### **Ephesians 6:13**

#### **King James Bible**

Wherefore take unto you the **whole armour of God**, that ye may be able to **withstand** in the **evil day**, and having done all, to **stand**.

Deception is the hallmark of the last hour. The falling away is the great disease. Remember what we read about the shepherds in in Ezekiel.

### **Ezekiel 34:4**

#### **King James Bible**

**4**The **diseased have ye not strengthened**, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up *that which was* broken, **neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost**; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.

Cursed be such pious pomp as, "Blessed subtraction!"

This is indeed the last hour. In knowing this, we should know what has preceded the same. Just begin to ask yourself, who, "past tense," crept in unawares? Who has made merchandise out of you? Who slipped in among us, because scripture said this ongoing event has by now, taken place times not few?

### **Jude 1:4**

#### **King James Bible**

For there are **certain men crept in unawares**, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, **turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness**, and **denying the only Lord God**, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

After you have asked that question, ask God what delusions, and pernicious ways you have been following!

## **2 Thessalonians 2:11-12**

### **King James Bible**

And for this cause **God shall send them strong delusion**, that they should **believe a lie**:

**12**That they all might be damned who believed not the **truth**, but had **pleasure in unrighteousness**.

What lies have been ingrained in you from your youth, simply because they were the only thing a generation in Christendom has known to teach you, because it is the only thing their trusted fathers taught to them? What will you discover, when you take God at HIS Word, allowing HIS Holy Spirit to teach you? What will happen when you no longer make flesh your arm, which used to fight your doctrinal battles so you didn't have to? God will reveal so much to you, when you humble yourself, and tremble at His Word. If He has granted you repentance, He will heal you and order your steps again.

People will scream, "Judge not," knowing not that the spiritual, free from hypocrisy, judge all things. They will shout, "Touch not mine anointed," knowing not that the very same anointing has been given to you. They will remind you that we wrestle not against flesh and blood, forgetting that God frankly labels ministers of Satan as men. You will be called, "Heresy Hunter," while ALL lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net. Some will tell you, that you focus on the false, not knowing the depth of your wellspring. They know not also, the command to be able to convince the gainsayers. You will be told, "You have too much time on your hands," while you heed His call, redeeming the time. People will say, "Shut up, God never gave you a platform," knowing not that God commands us all to teach, rebuke, and exhort. They will demand your submission by rule, knowing not that ALL are to submit and give deference to ALL. What they seek shall not be so among you. They will liken you to Satan, as fault-finder and accuser of the brethren, rejecting command to expose the unfruitful works of darkness. They will call you vicious, a hater, knowing not that to turn a sinner from error, saves his soul from death, covering a multitude of sins. They'll call you loveless and intolerant, at the very moment you stick out your neck for those nearest to perishing, showing them no greater love.

Peter and Apollos, both erred at times as shepherds. But, these were teachable men. They did not suppose they were the sole fountains of wisdom, with waters only flowing down to their disciples or congregants. Remember, that the shepherds are the servants and examples we follow. We can learn from individuals of any status or station.

## **1 Timothy 4:12**

### **New Living Translation**

**Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example** to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.

Just as we are ALL called to teach, rebuke, and exhort, we are ALL called to admonish.

### **Colossians 3:16**

#### **King James Bible**

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; **teaching** and **admonishing one another** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

### **Titus 3:10**

#### **King James Bible**

A man that is an **heretick** after the **first** and **second admonition reject**;

Many leaders do not oversee, or respectfully arbitrate, upholding doctrine while preserving those passionately laboring in it. Rather, we often see leaders blindly defend leaders, with force, striking any sheep that gets too close. Perhaps this stems from honor for a minister's past labors, out of mercy, because they hope to be shown the same. They may look to the heart above the message, not knowing their own heart of ill-placed zeal. But, such too often cruel reaction may ultimately be for fear of the sheep.

The problem lies in certain authors and pastors rejecting thousands of admonitions. Shepherds free from their own platforms, often see the unrepentance, see the sheep being devoured and destroyed through false teaching, and innately begin to swing the rod. They are doing as they should.

Look at what was needful, when Paul rebuked Peter.

### **Galatians 2:11**

#### **King James Bible**

But when Peter was come to Antioch, **I withstood him to the face**, because he was to be blamed.

Paul soundly put an end to the faulty doctrine of one passionate shepherd named Peter.

This is not a call to bludgeon with the rod, the face of every mistaken minister. That may have been Peter's white-hot inclination, before being tempered by Christ. Still, it shouldn't be difficult to understand why Jesus **chose** disciples having temperaments such as Peter's.

No, admonition is pointing the rod at any licking lips near the sheep, and simply saying, "Be careful!" There are still those with large followings, who have hearts seeking truth for the treasure that it is. These have nothing to fear from the sheep. They welcome any admonishment, even as Apollos welcomed the chance to learn more perfectly the ways of God.

I know the rejection that comes from speaking out on someone's favorite author, someone's pastor, or spiritual guide. Sheep love any shepherd with some bit of food in their hand. Feed us something that tastes good, and we will readily welcome you again. Feed us again and again, and we will learn

your voice, and follow you where you go. Become the source of food, more than Jesus, and you become our idol. People will cling to their worthless idols. Zechariah in a prophetic context, speaks of even shepherds being an idol.

### **Zechariah 11:17**

#### **King James Bible**

**Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock!** the sword *shall be* upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.

The hireling shepherd is worthless, just like as an idol is worthless.

### **Psalms 135:15-17**

#### **King James Bible**

**15**The idols of the heathen *are* silver and gold, the work of men's hands.

**16****They have mouths, but they speak not;** eyes have they, but they see not;

**17****They have ears, but they hear not;** neither is there *any* breath in their mouths.

Idols hear not, and see not. It is both folly and shame to judge matters before hearing them, but idol shepherds make this their habit.

### **1 Corinthians 6:5**

#### **King James Bible**

**I speak to your shame.** Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, **not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?**

### **Proverbs 18:13**

#### **King James Bible**

He that answereth a matter before he heareth *it*, it *is* **folly** and **shame** unto him.

Idol shepherds have trained their own ears to stop at all alarm.

Remember those worthless idols, who refused to hear the words of Stephen.

### **Acts 7:57**

#### **King James Bible**

Then they cried out with a loud voice, and **stopped their ears**, and ran upon him with one accord,

These men were not cut from the same cloth as Stephen.

### **Mark 4:11**

#### **King James Bible**

**11**And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: **but unto them that are without**, all *these* things are done in parables: **12****That seeing they may see, and not**

**perceive**; and **hearing they may hear, and not understand**; lest at any time they should be converted, and *their* sins should be forgiven them.

Idols are without understanding, thus unprompted to sound the alarm. Idols are dumb, they are speechless, they are silent. Idol shepherds leave the flock to the wolves, simply by refusing to open their mouth! Both they, and their children shall be eaten up.

#### **Hosea 4:6**

**King James Bible** My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: **because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee**, that **thou shalt be no priest to me**: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, **I will also forget thy children**.

God no longer winks at ignorance, and His damnation does not sleep. But, how much worse is the damnation for those hirelings, who DO see the wolf enter among their flock, and spare the rod, fleeing any fight?

Those who choose to put their trust in idol shepherds will assuredly be like unto them.

#### **Psalm 135:18**

##### **King James Bible**

They that make them are like unto them: **so is every one that trusteth in them**.

An idol shepherd, devoid of true wisdom, will allow wind and wave of deceiving doctrine to toss about his ship.

#### **James 1:5-8**

##### **King James Bible**

**5If any of you lack wisdom**, let him **ask of God**, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and **it shall be given him**.**6**But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For **he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed**. **7**For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. **8A double minded man is unstable in all his ways**.

#### **Ephesians 4:14**

##### **King James Bible**

That we *henceforth* be no more children, **tossed to and fro**, and **carried about with every wind of doctrine**, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby **they lie in wait to deceive**;

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He uses His rod! He rebukes all storms, all false doctrines the enemy sends at His disciples. With the rod, He rebukes the devourer, for our sake.

Our unwavering Shepherd, who never changes, nor has any shadow of turning, made Himself as an anchor, so we could be still in any storm. He leads us beside quiet waters.

### **Hebrews 6:19-20**

#### **King James Bible**

**19**Which *hope* we have as an **anchor of the soul**, both **sure** and **stedfast**, and which entereth into that within the veil; **20**Whither the **forerunner** is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

People don't want to believe they could ever put their trust in a hireling. They will look at how much there is to eat, not knowing that the junk food, this defiling portion of another king's table, is spoiling their supper.

### **Daniel 1:8**

#### **King James Bible**

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not **defile himself** with the **portion of the king's meat**, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he **might not defile himself**.

Many people have forgotten their Daily Bread, the meal set aside for supping with Jesus.

### **Revelation 3:20**

#### **King James Bible**

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, **I will come in** to him, **and will sup with him**, and **he with me**.

They will idolize and idolize, heaping teachers to themselves, until they forget God's Word altogether. By the time they crack open its pages, all they will find is rot and maggots. Heaven's Manna is spoiled at the trade of but a day.

A good shepherd makes the sheep to lie down in green nourishing pastures. He prepares a better table for them, in the presence of those sinister devourers. The sheep have no reason to leave, while the grass is still greener with the shepherd.

### **Psalms 23:4**

#### **King James Bible**

**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies**: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

I too have been deluded, followed hirelings, idolized men, believing many lies. Thankfully, I continue to repent as the Holy Spirit reveals His Word to me.

I have long felt called as a shepherd. I would love to shepherd a family someday, both nourishing and protecting. May my children's children, learn to show goodness and mercy, all their days, even as I impart these virtues unto mine.



I would love the chance to anoint my family with oil, preparing them as prophets, priests, and kings. I will be blessed, to anoint every one of them, even to become the outcasts of this world, lepers bearing the good news.

## **2 Kings 7:9**

### **New Living Translation**

Finally, they said to each other, "This is not right. **This is a day of good news, and we aren't sharing it with anyone!** If we wait until morning, some calamity will certainly fall upon us. Come on, **let's go back and tell the people** at the palace."

How many of you, also feel called to shepherd? Have you even believed that you will be a shepherd of shepherds? How can this ever be, if you refuse to pick up your rod? There's nothing wrong with the staff, and gently leading the sheep. But, even little girls are seen leading puppies around on a leash. A shepherd **MUST** train their hands for war.

A shepherd will not suffer his house to be broken into.

## **John 10:1**

### **King James Bible**

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that **entereth not by the door into the sheepfold**, but climbeth up some other way, **the same is a thief and a robber**.

## **Matthew 24:43**

### **King James Bible**

But know this, that **if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come**, he would have watched, and **would not have suffered his house to be broken up**.

A good shepherd is a willing ensample to the flock, going before them in paths of righteousness.

## **1 Peter 5:2-4**

### **King James Bible**

**2Feed the flock of God** which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, **not by constraint**, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; **3**Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being **ensamples** to the flock. **4**And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

## **Joshua 24:15**

### **King James Bible**

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD**.

## **Acts 16:33**

### **New Living Translation**

Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. **Then he and everyone in his household** were immediately baptized.

A shepherd will use the rod, to **deliver** himself, and his household from all mouths that speak falsehoods.

### **Isaiah 53:2**

#### **King James Bible**

For **he shall grow up before him as a tender plant**, and as **a root out of a dry ground**: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, *there is* no beauty that we should desire him.

### **Psalms 144:11-12**

#### **King James Bible**

**11** Rid me, and **deliver me** from the **hand of strange children, whose mouth speaketh vanity**, and **their right hand is a right hand of falsehood**:

**12** That **our sons *may be* as plants grown up in their youth**; *that our daughters *may be* as corner stones, polished *after* the similitude of a palace:*

If you want your sons and your daughters to be like Jesus, both the Tender Shoot, and Cornerstone, you **MUST** use the shepherd's rod against the teeth of wolves! That is prerequisite. How much more is this prerequisite for those seeking to oversee the family of God?

### **1 Timothy 3:5**

#### **King James Bible**

(For if a man **know not how to rule his own house**, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

### **Proverbs 13:24**

#### **King James Bible**

He that **spareth his rod hateth his son**: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

When we spare the rod, we hate our children, whether we withhold discipline, numbering, examination, or protection.

Men, God has created you to be the shepherd of your whole household.

Whether you live beside a helpmeet or a hurtmeet, you are still the shepherd. If you start to speak out against purveyors of falsehood, finally using the rod, your wife may, in the beginning, react as a hurtmeet. She may discourage you, fight you, punish you, withhold her embrace, give you every reason to still your tongue. She may feel that the comfort and safety, you were made to provide to her, are being suddenly stripped, as hers is a much more fragile world. Her delicate footing is not so sure as yours. So many details in her life must be rewritten from doctrine undone, and the magnitude of it all frightens her to the core.

She may deny your headship, choosing instead to love and embrace the very wolves that you are attempting to protect her from. But, be bold, and remain strong. Pray for her. Be persistent before God. God was faithful to reveal His Word to you, and He can do the same for your spouse. As her eyes begin to open, **both** your rod and staff will soon become a trusted comfort to her. No matter how fragile her world still seems, because you are with her, her responses will no longer be those of fear.

#### **Psalm 23:4**

##### **King James Bible**

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, **I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

A shepherd does not wait, to pick up the scraps. He does not shrug off collateral damages or subtractions in his fold. He will swing with all his might, breaking the lion's jaw. He will climb the craggy cliffs to retrieve, even ONE lost sheep.

It doesn't take anything to become a worthless idol. Silence and ignorance, are our starting point. And, it doesn't take much, to become something false. We lie, whenever we stray from God's Word. In whatever way you shepherd or teach, **make certain** you are adhering to God's Word! Don't put your trust in uncertain princes, but search the scriptures to measure the truth of everything the flows through you. Even if you have to call EVERYTHING you've ever known into question again, you will be blessed for it. To be a good and noble shepherd, you must become, a Berean.

#### **Acts 17:11**

##### **King James Bible**

These were **more noble** than those in Thessalonica, in that they **received the word** with all readiness of mind, **and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**

It will hurt to cut away at long-held beliefs. But, you are cutting out a cancer. It will be painful, when you cast away sources of pleasure, but you will cast away chains. You will be falsely accused, perceived as negative, a hissing, a reproach. You will be a threat to personal worldviews, memories, and identities. You will be an insult to intelligence, specially the intelligence of other shepherds. You will be the object of slander, subjected to passive aggressive attacks from those who should have been your shield. To those still in this world, your mere presence will incite fear, of losing everything they hold dear.

But, your love of the truth will preserve you in this hour.

People won't want to think as you think. You will be foreign and flaky in their eyes. They will dismiss you, ignore you, coddle you, patronize you, mock and speak harshly to you. They will separate their company from you. They may cast you out, or even kill you.

But, you may boldly approach the throne on the Day of Judgment.

We shepherds, have been invited into the company of the prophets. To anyone enduring such things for Jesus' sake, I say rejoice and be glad, O you of great reward! If you have followed Jesus' commands, teaching others to do the same, you are called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

I pray that I may boldly approach the throne on that soon coming Day. I look forward to forever dwelling in His house. I know that I have failed, time and again, falling silent, for fear of forever losing the ear of both sheep and shepherd, in times I should have spoken. Thankfully, our Shepherd is merciful. He also desires His shepherds to be wise. I know that shepherds cannot swat every fly that settles on the sheep's ears.

### **Psalm 11:3**

#### **King James Bible**

If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?

That being said, this recent Mark of the Beast leaven, is one very strategic battle that I know that I must lend every ounce of my strength to, where God leads.

Shortly, I will post another installment in this series, which further reveals the permanency of the Mark of the Beast. The next installment will discuss our inheritance. I pray these words that I am very excited to share, become a source of life and blessing to you.

Grace and Peace to you,

Micah

### **Psalm 23**

#### **King James Bible**

**1**{A Psalm of David.} The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.

**2**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

**3**He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**4**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

**5**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

**6**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.