

HA6. Not Worshiping the Beast or Receiving His Mark.

We are not to worship the beast or receive his mark.

HA6a: *We are not to worship the beast.*

HA6b: *We are not to receive the mark of the beast.*

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

Key New Testament Scriptures

Revelation 13:1

.. and I saw a beast come up out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads. On its horns were ten royal crowns and on its heads blasphemous names.

Revelation 13:4

They worshipped the dragon, because he had given his authority to the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who can fight against it?"

Revelation 13:7-8

.. it was allowed to make war on God's holy people and to defeat them; and it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. Everyone living on earth will worship it except those whose names are written in the Book of Life belonging to the Lamb slaughtered before the world was founded.

Revelation 13:11-18

Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth. It had two horns like those of a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence; and it makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, the one whose fatal wound had been healed. It performs great miracles, even causing fire to come down from heaven onto the earth as people watch. It deceives the people living on earth by the miracles it is allowed to perform in the presence of the beast, and it tells them to make an image honoring the beast that was struck by the sword but came alive again. It was allowed to put breath into the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast could even speak; and it was allowed to cause anyone who would not worship the image of the beast to be put to death. Also it forces everyone- great and small, rich and poor, free and slave- to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead preventing anyone from buying or selling unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. This is where wisdom is needed; those who understand should count the number of the beast, for it is the number of a person, and its number is 666.

Revelation 14:9-11

Another angel, a third one, followed them and said in a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives the mark on his forehead or on his hand, he will indeed drink the wine of God's fury poured undiluted into the cup of his rage. He will be tormented by fire and sulfur before the holy angels and before the Lamb, and the smoke from their tormenting goes up

forever and ever. They have no rest, day or night, those who worship the beast and its image and those who receive the mark of its name.

Revelation 20:4

Then I saw thrones, and those seated on them received authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for testifying about Yeshua and proclaiming the Word of God, also those who had not worshipped the beast or its image and had not received the mark on their foreheads and on their hands. They came to life and ruled with the Messiah for a thousand years.

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Revelation 12:9, 17:7-16, 19:20

Related New Testament Mitzvot

None

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

Daniel 7

Comment

The Book of Revelation contains prophetic images that are mysterious as to the identity of the Anti-Messiah and of two beasts – one coming from the sea (verse 13:1) and the other from out of the earth (verses 13:11-12). The identity of a dragon being the Adversary (Satan) is clearly stated in verse 12:9 but most of the other images remain obscure and controversial.

The key Scriptures supporting this *Mitzvah* are Revelation 13:4-18 and 20:4. In verse 13:4, the dragon gave authority to beast #1, & men worshiped both the dragon and beast #1. In verses 7-8, beast #1 warred against God's people & was allowed to defeat them. All except those who were saved worshipped beast #1. In verses 11-12, beast #2 came up out of the earth, exercised all the authority of beast #1, & caused all on the earth to worship beast #1. In verse 14, beast #2 performed miracles & deceived the people, telling them to make an image honoring beast #1. In verses 16-17, beast #2 forced everyone to receive a mark on their bodies that enabled them to engage in commerce. In verse 18, the number of beast #2 was revealed to be 666. In Revelation 14:9-11, an angel proclaimed that anyone who worshipped beast #1 & his image, and receive his mark would be punished. In Revelation 19:20, beasts #1 & #2 were taken captive & destroyed. In Revelation 20:4, those who were martyred for their faith in Yeshua and did not worship beast #1 nor his image and refused to take his mark, came to life & ruled with Yeshua for 1000 years.

Although much is said in the Scriptures about the beasts, their identity is not revealed and neither is the nature of the "mark." Those who study and write on Revelation can therefore do little more than speculate, but we are given enough to know that the beasts will surely come. We must therefore be watchful, and careful to neither worship them nor receive their mark when they appear.

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