

VIDEO 6'

Covid-19 and Mark of the Beast

Some Christians have asked whether the Covid-19 vaccination is the mark of the beast predicted in the book of Revelation. To answer this question, let's first find out what the mark of the beast is.

The book of Revelation describes some events that will precede the second coming of Jesus Christ. Ever since creation, human beings have been engaged in a battle between good and evil. But close to Christ's return, the battle will become fierce and everyone will have to make a decision for or against God.

That decision will center on worship. Those who worship God will receive the seal of God; they will pass through great trials, but will receive eternal life. Those against God will receive the mark of the beast and will be destroyed when Christ returns. The descriptions of the beast in Revelation show that it is a religious power that will receive political support.

We observe therefore from the book of revelation that:

1. The mark of the beast and the seal of God are connected to worship. Those who receive the seal of God are those who "keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ.
2. Those who receive the mark of the beast are those who worship the beast and its image. The beast will blaspheme God's name and set itself as god and then demand worship. "No one can buy or sell unless he has the mark. The mark is the name of the beast or the number of its name" (Rev 13:17).
3. The mark of the beast will therefore not be a physical mark. It relates to disobedience to God's commandments and following the beast and its image.
4. If the seal of God is not a physical seal or mark on the body of a believer, the mark of the beast is also not a physical mark. To

have the mark of the beast on the forehead or the hand means to accept and obey, or to support, the beast power.

Based on the above, here are reasons why the covid-19 vaccination is not the mark of the beast.

1. The mark of the beast will be a religious issue and will infringe upon God's commandments, but the Covid-19 vaccine is a health issue and does not require us to disobey God's law. The vaccine is intended to protect us from the complications of the virus in case we get infected.
2. The mark of the beast will involve forced and counterfeit worship—worship of the beast and its image—but the Covid-19 vaccine does not require us to worship someone else apart from God.
3. The seal of God and the mark of the beasts are not literal or physical seals or marks that people will hold or ingest into their bodies, but the Covid-19 vaccine is a physical medicine that we inject into the bloodstream.
4. The mark of the beast consists of the name of the beast or the number of its name Covid-19 is not a name or number of any entity that requires worship.
5. The persecutions and restrictions that will be laid by the beast power will have a religious character or have religion as its the basis. Covid-19 vaccine restrictions are not religious in nature and are intended only to contain the virus.

Even if Covid-19 restrictions get stricter such as only those who have received the vaccination are allowed to go out of their houses to the market or work, so long as such do not involve a requirement to counterfeit worship, we cannot conclude that this is the fulfilment of the mark of the beast.

We can therefore conclude that the Covid-19 vaccination does not fit the biblical descriptions of the circumstances and nature of the mark of the beast.

Seventh-day Adventists place strong emphasis on health and well-being. This is why we promote wholistic healthy lifestyle and also operate many hospitals around the world.

The Adventist church in an official statement has encouraged church members “to consider responsible immunization” and this includes the Covid-19 vaccine.

The statement is clear that the “decision whether to take the vaccine or not is not a matter of salvation, nor is it related ... to the mark of the beast.” An individual member may decide not to take the vaccine, but that is a personal decision, not the church’s doctrine.

We should continue to preach God’s kingdom. And we should also continue to uphold our health message. While doing this, we will do well to stand firm in truth—not in conspiracy theories, but in the testimony of Jesus Christ, in whom alone we can be saved.