

Global Watch Weekly Report

A Weekly Global Watch Media Publication (www.globalreport2010.com)

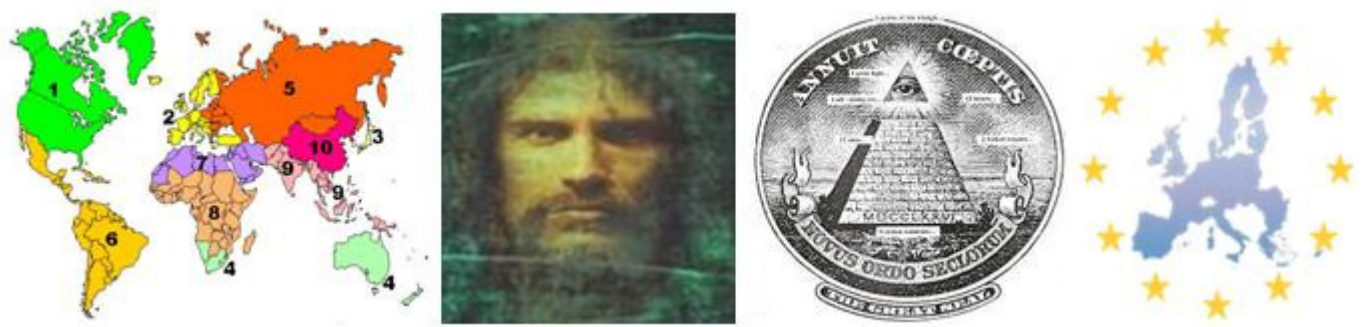
May 17th, 2013

THE EYES OF THE BEAST



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Global Watch Weekly Report



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Global Watch Weekly Report

Welcome to the Global Watch Weekly Report

Confidential personal data – gleaned from sources as diverse as driving licences, medical records and store loyalty cards – is now often shared without people's knowledge. The increasingly complex web of information sharing – involving the public and private sectors, and bodies ranging from hospitals to credit reference agencies – can make it hard for people to assert their legal rights to view information held about them. There is an “almost zero awareness” among the public of the detail of how data was shared, meaning that in some organisations sharing of information has now become the “default”.

In the past we have looked at how social networking sites such as Facebook, Myspace and others are data mining gold dust for organizations involved in data profiling. However if they cannot capture your information from Facebook and Myspace because you do not use Facebook, Myspace or any of the social networking sites then one area where you cannot escape is from the clutches of the credit referencing agencies in your country whom share your credit profile with other organizations.

Some of the biggest credit referencing agencies include Equifax, Experian and Transunion which are all dominant in the United States with Equifax and Transunion dominating Canada and Equifax and Experian (along with CallCredit) dominating the credit referencing sector for the United Kingdom. In Ireland the main credit referencing agency is the Irish Credit Bureau.

However Experian and Equifax are by far the biggest on a global scale. In addition to the United States and the United Kingdom Experian also covers Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Monaco, Morocco, Holland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan.

In addition to the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, Equifax also covers Russia and most of Latin America.

In this edition of the Global Watch Weekly we look at an interesting viewpoint from one of our researchers; a belief that the bible's reference to the Mark of the Beast in Revelation 13, could possibly be in reference to mankind being enslaved in a financial system composed of internetworking local and global credit reference agencies.

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THE EYES OF THE BEAST

THE MARK OF THE BEAST EXPLORED

What is the meaning of the mark of the beast mentioned in the prophetic book now known as Revelation? Was the mark a code for a Roman emperor from long ago who persecuted the early church? Or is it a code to identify some dictator who will rule the world one day? Advances in technology include tiny implantable transponders already used to identify livestock. Books and websites can be found which offer a grim picture of a near future where earth's people are marked with a technological device such as transponder or barcode.



Perhaps the warning from Revelation means we ought to fear having our medical records encoded onto a chip we wear under our skin as a part of some future health care reform?

books until it has attained the status of an icon for American pop culture. There is even an internet web site devoted to films using the number 666. Because of its use in pop culture, people with no biblical literacy at all associate the number 666 with the Antichrist, the personification of evil. As with any other literary work, it is best to begin with the context itself to understand the author's intent. John writes in Revelation 13:16-18.

And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the freemen and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. Here is wisdom, let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.

Incredible as it may seem the value of the number might not specifically be 666. Very ancient manuscripts give alternate renderings for the number, 616 or 656. Bits and pieces of an ancient copy of the text were found along with half a million other fragments of papyri in 1895 by two Oxford archaeologists in the ancient Egyptian city of Oxyrhynchus.



The papyri fragments were packed up and shipped off to England where they sat in storage for a hundred years until advances in technology made it feasible for scholars to reconstruct

the fragment of Revelation that includes the section from 8:3 to 15:7.

Based on well accepted principles, experts in the science of analyzing writing styles dated the manuscript bits to the late third or early fourth century. This makes the passage even more ancient than the Codex Sinaiticus from which we get the value 666 for the mark. The Oxyrhynchus manuscript gives the value of number as 616. The variant reading came as no surprise to scholars as early church fathers such as Irenaeus had mentioned it. The ancient Greeks were fascinated with numerology and assigned numbers to words and phrases by the process of adding up number values assigned to Greek letters. Since the original manuscripts of the New Testament were first written in Greek, this method of interpretation has a long history.

Anatomy of a Barcode



Were any of these the concerns on John's mind when he penned the biblical book we call Revelation?

The number 666 lifted from a manuscript penned in the first century has been popularized in films and

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Some numerologists concluded the number 666 was a code for Emperor Nero who ruled the Roman Empire from 54 to 68 AD. Using numerology a little differently, and beginning with the number 616, others have concluded it stood for Emperor Caligula who ruled from 37 to 41 AD. If the number is a code for the

name of some long dead Roman despot, we moderns need not concern ourselves with John's meaning. Apart from historical interest, the number would be irrelevant for our time.

Likely because of this, modern proponents of numerological interpretations use a variety of other methods of numerology to produce modern despots.

Sir Isaac Newton offered very sage advice regarding efforts to interpret ancient historical books that we do well to heed. According to him, prophetic books such as Daniel and Revelation were written in order to provide assurance to those readers who would live through the events written about by the prophets. In other words, such books were not intended to allow people to foresee the future, but to let the readers understand that God foresaw the unfolding of His plan from ancient times. It was this truth that was to provide readers comfort.

If we strip away the layers of interpretation that have been added over the years, we gain perspective useful for our time. It would be odd indeed if the mark of the beast stood for the so-called Antichrist in this book as such a being is not mentioned in Revelation, a fact established by consulting any exhaustive concordance or online search engine. Elsewhere in the bible the same author wrote that many antichrists had already appeared in the world by the first century.

It would to begin our quest for the meaning of the mark by giving up the notion it stands for the mythic figure of the Antichrist made famous by Hollywood. By getting rid of this presupposition, we might actually come to understand what John intended us to know.

Looking to the context of the passage, we learn the mark has a function. It facilitates commercial transactions. People are given a mark so they may engage in buying and selling. In this passage, people seem to have no choice about the mark, it is given to them by the beast who marks everyone, rich and poor, great and small, slave and free. Later in Revelation we read a proclamation that includes the conditional preposition, if, which implies choice in a matter related to the mark.

Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God..."

Worshipping the beast is a theme addressed in passages throughout John's prophecy, including: 14:11, 16:2, 19:20, and 20:4. Contrasted with worshipping the beast and his image is attaining victory over the beast as in Revelation 15:2.

And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God. And they sang the song of Moses, the bondservant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations!

Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For all the nations will come and worship before you, For Your righteous acts have been revealed.

In one passage we read that the beast marks everyone, but later we learn that not everyone worships the beast who marked them. Some people are victorious over the beast because they will not worship the beast, instead they worship the Lord.

The concept of choice is so central to scripture that it runs from the very first chapters of Genesis where man is presented with a choice between two trees through the final prophetic book. It is a prominent theme in the history of the nation of Israel, a people confronted with a stark choice about worship (Deuteronomy 11:16-20.)

Beware that your hearts are not deceived and that you do not turn away and serve other gods and worship them. Or the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and He will shut up the heavens so that there will be no rain and the ground will not yield its fruit; and you will perish quickly from the good land which the LORD is giving you. You shall therefore impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul; and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.

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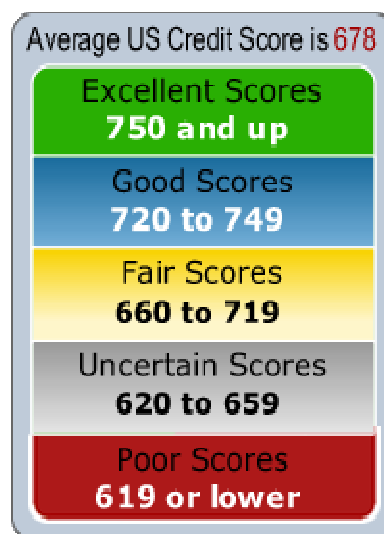
Economic prosperity for agrarian people like the ancient Israelites depends on the weather. God here warns His nation they would face severe economic repercussions if they choose to worship or serve other gods. Note that the passage warns them not to allow themselves to be deceived and led astray. The local deities worshipped by the people and nations surrounding the Israelites were often fertility gods and goddesses. These deities were worshipped because they offered material prosperity to their devotees. The pages of the Old Testament are an extended lesson on the Israelites attempting to worship these deities along with the LORD, which made God Almighty quite angry at His people. He instructed his people to impress His words of warning about worship on their heart and soul, binding them as a sign on their hands and forehead. This passage gives us a clue; because this is where the beast places his mark on people.

Notice the passage from Deuteronomy quoted above says these words will serve as a sign. A sign is used to convey information about facts, conditions or qualities. God wanted His people to carry an outward sign of the condition of their hearts and souls. God is offended when people worship the works of their own hands. See for example Jeremiah 1:16,

“I will pronounce My judgments on them concerning all their wickedness, whereby they have forsaken Me and have offered sacrifices to other gods, and worshiped the works of their own hands.”

FAIR ISAAC AND COMPANY (FICO)

Anyone applying for a credit card or loan quickly learns the significance of a credit score in today's economy. The credit score determines whether a person gets a loan at all and dictates the interest rate at which money will be lent or credit extended. A credit score signifies a person's relative worth as a potential debtor. A statistical formula owned by a private corporation computes the probability that an individual will repay the debt. A high score indicates that it is quite likely the creditor will repay the debt, while a low score indicates the creditor is less likely to make payments on the debt in the upcoming 12 to 18 months. Credit scores are used to predict future behavior; as such they function as a prophetic device. Based on the computation reflected in a credit score, people are valued as consumers of credit, or debtors, and ranked as to their worth to lenders.



The multiple regression equation used to generate credit scores is proprietary which means it belongs to a private corporation and it is not subject to peer review. In other words, the accuracy of the predictions is not open to review by impartial mathematicians. Neither the validity nor reliability of the mathematical models used to produce

credit scores is open to scrutiny by reputable scientists. The margin of error associated with credit scores is not public either. This is perhaps the most serious objection to the widespread use of credit scores. An important part of the scientific process is the practice of peer review. When a scientist asserts a particular finding, he publishes his methods along with his results.

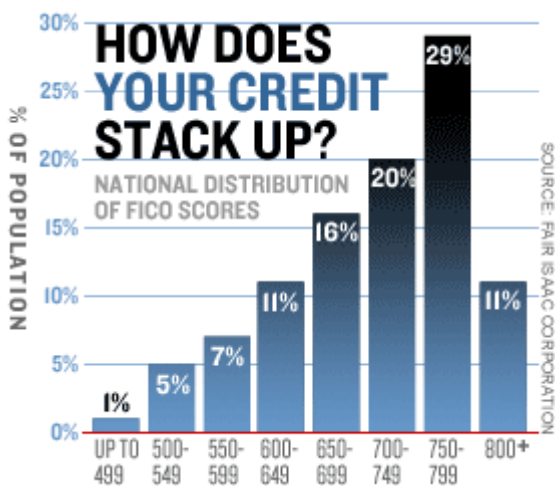
Other scientists have access to this information so they can independently evaluate the truthfulness of the conclusions. The mathematical procedures for computing credit scores are not subject to scientific review. There is every reason to be skeptical about credit scores being predictive of a particular individual's future behavior.

Credit scores are fortune telling devices, they are intended to foretell what will happen in the economic realm to a consumer. Fortune telling is the practice of predicting information about a person's life. A poor score is a negative omen, forecasting economic difficulties. Some may object to this comparison because credit scores are based on data rather than tea leaves, but the point is that both are designed to predict the future.

A credit report is not a credit score. The credit report is based on the data file of information collected by these companies. The data often comes from other companies. Each of the three major credit reporting agencies will produce a slightly different credit score based on variations in data on file and the particular proprietary formula for logistic probability modeling it uses. This is why the same person might have three different credit score calculated to be 616, 656 or 666.

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Your credit score was assigned to you, it was not something you asked for and you have little or no control over getting scored. The number belongs to the entity that assigned it to you. Credit reporting agencies calculate the number from information gleaned from many sources, and for a fee they sell this information and the score to other corporations. Credit scores are three digit numbers calculated and assigned to all, small and great, rich and poor, freemen and slave to facilitate commercial transactions in the modern economy.



In the beginning, all of the three major credit bureaus, Experian, Equifax and TransUnion collaborated with Fair Isaac and Company (FICO) to establish the scoring method used to rate consumers. FICO was started in 1956 by engineer Bill Fair and mathematician Earl Isaac. The San Rafael, California Company transformed itself over the next several decades into the multinational Fair Isaac Corporation of modern times.

FICO has diversified and currently analyzes ATM traffic at 11,000 banks, processes 90 percent of roaming cellular call records, manages 700 million credit card accounts around the world, and claims among its customers 70 percent of the top 50 insurance companies. FICO brags that it now services 2000 companies in 60 countries and is growing.

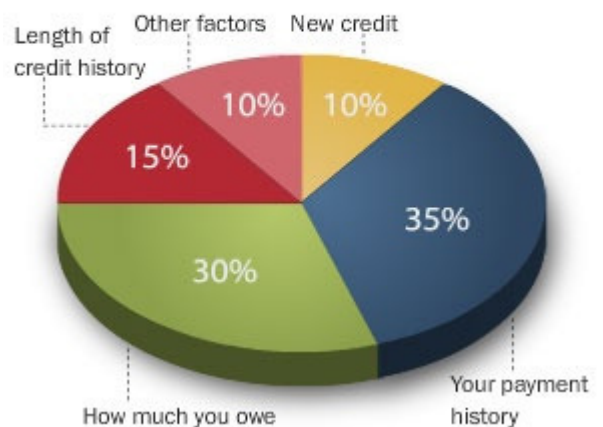
Explore Fair Isaac Corporation's home page on the Internet and learn more. For instance, the 100 billionth FICO Score was sold in 2007. This is truly a phenomenal number when you consider there are fewer than 7 billion people on the planet. It was achieved by reporting on those of us who have a credit score many, many times. FICO's success is evident from its customers, which include 9 of the

top 10 Fortune 500 companies, over 90 of the top US banks, half of the top 50 US retailers, and 8 of the world's top 10 pharmaceutical companies.

Clearly FICO is a major player in the world's economy. FICO's statistical models are used around the planet now, not just in North American and Europe. The FICO score is used in Russia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Brazil, along with many other places. Recently FICO opened an office in Beijing, China, giving it another billion human beings to mark.

Thanks to the tremendous success of FICO, a credit score is now nearly essential for commercial transactions. It would be difficult at least, if not impossible to get a loan for a house or a car without having a credit score. Some companies will not even deliver fuel oil unless the recipient can furnish a score.

FICO breakdown Five parts to your FICO credit scores



Americans tend to be ignorant of their credit scores and the workings of credit reporting agencies. This may be a dangerous ignorance. A 2003 survey by the Consumer Federation of American found that only 2 percent of Americans knew their actual credit score.

According to the Governors of the Federal Reserve, a credit score ranks consumers by the likelihood they will become seriously delinquent on accounts in the next 18 to 24 months. It is possible, indeed even probable, that being assigned a poor score hastens economic distress and makes it more likely a person will become delinquent. Think about what happens when creditors raise interest rates for an

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individual who was barely making ends meet. Monthly minimum payments rise as a credit score declines, but wages do not increase. Interest rates for loans and consumer credit are higher for individuals whose scores fall below the mid-600s. Ironically this happens to be the very range of numbers mentioned in variations of John's manuscripts as the mark the beast assigns to man, 616, 656 and 666.

EQUIFAX AND EXPERIAN: BEASTLY POWERS

Three major credit reporting agencies in the United States and the United Kingdom maintain data files on people which are used to generate credit scores: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion in the United States and Equifax, Experian and Callcredit in the United Kingdom. These are the corporations that store the data which is the raw material used to produce a credit score.

On a global level Equifax and Experian hold by far the worlds two largest databases of consumer and corporate credit profiling data.



Equifax is the oldest of the two, founded as Retail Credit Company in 1899. Today the company has records on about 400 million creditors around the globe. It makes about 1.5 billion dollars a year and has around 7000 employees. The following was taken from an article by Simson Garfinkel published in "Wired" in September 1995.

Columbia University Professor Alan Westin, who attacked Equifax for its cavalier attitude toward the accuracy of its information on consumers, and for giving out that information to practically anyone who asked for it. In a March 1970 edition of The New York Times, Westin argued that the Retail Credit files "may include 'facts, statistics, inaccuracies and rumors' ... about virtually every phase of a person's life; his marital troubles, jobs, school history, childhood, sex life, and political activities." Companies used such reports to avoid extending credit to people who were judged to be morally lacking.

The theory was that if you beat your spouse or engaged in deviant sexual practices, you probably couldn't be trusted to pay back a loan. To make matters worse, consumers had no rights to see the information collected on them. Many didn't even know the files existed. In the same month, Westin attacked Retail Credit in a congressional testimony. The hearings came at a pivotal time: Retail Credit was about to computerize its files. "Almost inevitably, transferring information from a manual file to a computer triggers a threat to civil liberties, to privacy, to a man's very humanity because access is so simple," argued Westin in the Times. The effect, he continued, is that it becomes harder and harder for people to escape from the mistakes of their past, or to move in search of a second chance. Those hearings resulted in the passage of the Fair Credit Reporting Act in October of that year, which gave consumers rights regarding information stored about them in corporate databanks. Some observers believe the hearings prompted Retail Credit to change its name to Equifax in 1975.

For most of its existence, Equifax sold information to businesses. The company currently makes additional revenue by charging people to assume responsibility for the accuracy of the information in Equifax's data files. People are urged to monitor their credit reports for errors, but are required to pay money to do so, apart from one free report a year. This shifts the burden onto the consumer for correcting data files these companies keep about us.



Experian is on a similar footing with Equifax but since January 2013 they have gone one stage further with ability in the US to access personal Social Security earnings and benefits information. Experian's huge store of data now includes not just credit and public information on consumers but also personal and confidential Social Security Administration information. Concern has been caused by the fact that is a company that along with Equifax has become a continual target of data hacking.

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For instance in 2012 hackers broke into computers at Abilene Telco Federal Credit Union where they gained access to sensitive financial information on people from far beyond the bank's home in west-central Texas.

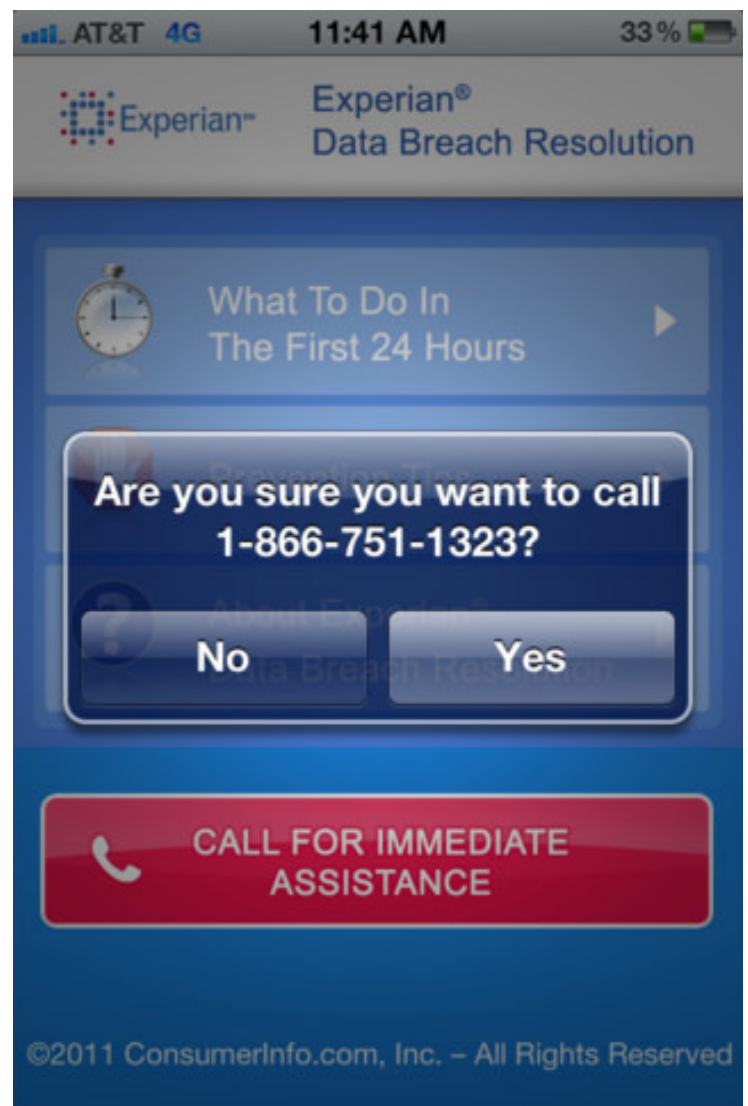
The cyberthieves broke into an employee's computer in September 2011 and stole the password for the bank's online account with Experian Plc, the credit reporting agency with data on more than 740 million consumers. The intruders then downloaded credit reports on 847 people, said Dana Pardee, a branch manager at the bank.

They took Social Security numbers, birthdates and detailed financial data on people across the country who had never done business with Abilene Telco, which has two locations and serves a city of 117,000.

The incident is one of 86 data breaches since 2006 that expose flaws in the way credit-reporting agencies protect their databases. Instead of directly targeting Experian, Equifax Inc. and TransUnion Corp., hackers are attacking affiliated businesses, such as banks, auto dealers and even a police department that rely on reporting agencies for background credit checks.

As recently as March 2013, Executives at Equifax, acknowledged further serious breaches. Tim Klein, a spokesman for Equifax, told the news agency Bloomberg that a hacker had gained "fraudulent and unauthorized access" to at least four consumer credit reports at the credit reporting agency. Credit

reports and sensitive data on Paris Hilton, First Lady Michelle Obama, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and FBI director Robert Mueller started appearing on a website called Exposed.



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THE BEAST - WORLD FINANCIAL SYSTEM?

If one can assume that the whole credit scoring process which seeks to capture the masses into a system of financial enslavement is in some way connected to the mark of the beast then one could possibly identify the beast as the world's financial system. This beast is described as having two horns like a lamb, but it speaks like a dragon. The imagery suggests a false savior.



Earlier John described the Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne worthy of worship because He purchased people for God with his blood. The crowd surrounding the throne, consisting of men and angels sing,

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” (Revelation 5:12).

The contrast is between the ‘Lamb who was slain’ and the ‘beast with two horns like a lamb’ accords with the central theme of Revelation, the contrast between faith in God and faith in Mammon. John says that the beast coming out of the earth speaks like a dragon. The identity of the dragon is disclosed in Revelation 12:9,

“The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.”

The scripture provides at least two other instances of Satan speaking. In perhaps one of the most ancient portions of scripture, we read,

“Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied. “Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.” (Job 1:9-11)

Satan here challenges Job's motives for worshipping God, asserting that Job worships God for the sake of material prosperity and physical wellbeing. We hear from Satan again when he tempts Jesus. The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him,

“I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours.”

Jesus answered,

It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’ (Luke 4:5-8).

Some two thousand years had elapsed between these incidents, but what Satan says reveals his perspective on what is important, the material realm.

Why might it be appropriate to call the world's vast network of interlocking multinational corporations beastly? The term beast occurs often in the pages of scripture and it is always used in distinction to man. The fundamental difference between man and beast is the sort of life man possesses that beasts do not. This is the life which was breathed into mankind by the Creator and is discussed by theologians as the *imago dei*.

The lofty concept of what it means to bear the image of God is beyond the scope of this edition but it includes the mental faculties of human consciousness and conscience. Humans are privileged to have thoughts which alternately defend or accuse us depending on our actions, and this gives us the privilege of making moral choices.

Beasts instinctively choose pleasure and avoid pain and can be conditioned to respond, but beasts lack the capacity to make reasoned moral choices. Expediency rather than morality governs the behavior of the beasts of the field. Men may of course choose to conduct themselves like beasts, leading a life governed by their appetites and thus behaving like dumb, unreasoning animals (II Peter 2:12).

Where did the global transnational financial system come from? Fifty of the wealthiest entities in the

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world are corporations rather than nation states. A corporation is a legal personality created to engage in the business of buying and selling. The defining feature of a corporation is its legal independence from flesh-and-blood beings created by God in His image. Human beings create corporations here on earth. For this reason it is fitting that the image in Revelation is a beast from the earth.

A British judge is famous for saying a corporation is, *“a figment of the imagination, lacking both a body to be kicked and a soul to be damned.”*

The judge seems to have been paraphrasing Lord Chancellor Thurlow who asked rhetorically,

“did you ever expect a corporation to have a conscience, when it has no soul to be damned and no body to be kicked?”

Lacking immortal souls, corporations cannot stand before the Almighty on the Day of Judgment to account for deeds done in the flesh. Of course if individual human beings chartered corporations to evade personal responsibility, they will face the judgment, as will each of us.

The peculiar thing about corporations, which have neither flesh nor soul, is that they enjoy the same rights as people have at this point in history. Corporations can buy and sell other corporations. It may be that corporations even have more rights than mere people. A corporation can get too big to fail, but people never get that big. Once chartered, a corporation exists perpetually.

A great deal of evil in the world is perpetrated by corporations merely bent on achieving the prime directive for which they were created: maximizing profits for shareholders. The documentary film “The Corporation” reveals the sociopathic nature of the corporate beast and is worth watching.

We would all be better off if we have paid more attention to our American history lessons in high school. The Boston tea party was as much a rebellion against the British East India Company as it was against the British crown. Commerce in Boston was shut down by the British government until the colonists paid the East India Company for the tea that went into the harbor. Colonists responded with more protests and then convened the First Continental Congress. The colonists were none too keen on the British government giving the

East India Company a monopoly on tea. The British East India Company was a corporation and the forerunner of modern multinationals.

Our forefathers had a certain animosity towards corporations which echoes in the declaration, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among these the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” The founding fathers were intent on preserving the liberty of flesh and blood human beings as inalienable rights. The liberty we Americans take for granted is held much dearer when human beings are traded like things. It is shameful that slavery still exists on earth today. The miracle we call America was created by men and women who wanted a nation free from corporate slavery. It took a bloody civil war to accomplish their dream, but it was finally achieved, at least for a time.

The early citizens of the United States were wary of corporations for good reason, and kept the beast on a short leash. The provision in the constitution for voters to be landowners should be understood as a defense against the mercantile powers that made laws for dealing with each other on the high seas and across national boundaries. Mercantile law, the law of merchants, is a system of rules and regulations used by traders to resolve conflicts with other traders. It is mercantile law that it allows creditors to transfer debts between themselves—which is ultimately a way of transferring debtors as well. This feature of mercantile law dates back in time at least to ancient Babylon.

In 2005, the British Broadcasting Corporation ran a program called “Who Run’s Your World” on which experts debated whether global corporations are the most powerful beasts in the jungle. Multinationals are a special category of corporations, which operate across national boundaries. To maximize profits, multinationals seek the least expensive nations for production and the most lucrative markets for selling. This explains call centers in India where college graduates make \$300-400 a month working in an electronic sweat shop. The American who once answered the call might not be working at all.

Multinationals are the driving force for the globalization of world commerce. The magnitude of

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their collective force is evident if one considers that 51 of the world's largest economies are corporations rather than nations. The combined income of the top 200 corporations on earth exceeds the combined income of the poorest 25 percent of all human beings. Multinational employ less than one percent of earth's people.



The most important thing to understand about a credit score is that it belongs to the corporate entities that use it to mark people. We have no real control over our score. The bankers who loan money manipulate credit scores and raise them to increase interest rates at will by dropping limits on lines of credit. Lenders do not need consent to drop credit lines and thereby lower credit scores. A credit score has less to do with human behavior than it has to do with the needs of banks and multinational corporations at a given point in time.

[This edition is an extract from a special publication to be released later this year called "Escaping the Eyes of the Beast"]

The World Trade Organization (WTO) may be more powerful than any other entity on earth. The organization promotes open borders for business and commerce. WTO supports a global patent law known as the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights Agreement (TRIP).

We consider this particular instrument for illustration purposes; it is certainly not the only agreement worth learning considering. Among its many applications, TRIP protects pharmaceutical corporations. More than 1200 drugs came to market in the two decades between 1975 and 1995, fewer than 20 targeted tropical diseases. In contrast, half the top 30 money making drugs in the United States for treat depression or anxiety.

Given the sickness and suffering of the people who inhabit the tropical regions of earth, why so few drugs to treat their many and real afflictions? The world's poor cannot afford expensive new drugs, so they are not a good market. Pharmaceutical companies make money by selling drugs to people with money, not to sick ones. Several excellent books discuss the pharmaceutical industry in detail, including 'Selling Sickness.'