

Lesson 18 - The Mark of the Beast & The Seal of God

We have discovered clearly that when Jesus comes there will only be two groups of people on earth--the righteous and the wicked. As God brings this world of sin to an end, it comes over an issue. This issue causes all people to make a decision on what side they will be on. That issue revolves around worshiping the Beast, his image, or receiving the Mark of the Beast--or worshiping God, following His truth and receiving the Seal of God. **Revelation 14:9- 10** gives this warning. "**And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man *worship the beast and his image*, and receive *his mark* in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.**"

In **Revelation 15:1** we're told the wrath of God is the seven last plagues just before Jesus comes. These plagues will be the most terrible scourges ever poured out upon man. Now let's ask an intelligent question. Would our great God, who is so desperate in His love to save us, threaten us with this terrible wrath if we could not know who the Beast is, and what his mark is? No! God has made it abundantly clear.

The Bible teaches that only those that have the Seal of God are saved (**Revelation 7:2- 3**). God will give each person the opportunity to choose whether they will yield their allegiance to Him or the Beast power. Whatever the Mark of the Beast is, it is obviously something about which God feels very strongly.

We discovered in earlier lessons who the Beast is as we compared **Daniel 7** and **Revelation 13**. **Daniel 7** gave us nine marks of identification. Let's review them quickly. **Daniel 7:3**, four beasts came up and we found according to verse 23 that beasts in prophecy always represent kings and kingdoms. The first beast is found in **Daniel 7:4** -- a lion representing Babylon. The second

beast is found in **Daniel 7:5** -- a bear representing Medo-persia. The third beast is found in **Daniel 7:6** -- a leopard representing Greece. And the fourth beast is found in **Daniel 7:7** - a strange beast representing Rome. We found the 10 horns according to **verse 24** were 10 kingdoms, and when Rome fell it divided into exactly 10 kingdoms making up the Western European nations today.

Then in **Daniel 7:8** we found a "little horn" coming up, and we found it was the same power and kingdom as the beast of **Revelation 13**. There were ten marks of identification.

1. It came up among the 10 European kingdoms (**Daniel 7:8**).
2. It came up after 476 A.D.
3. It would be a little horn or a little kingdom (**Daniel 7:8**).
4. It uprooted three other kingdoms-the Heruli, Vandals and Ostrogoths (**Daniel 7:8**).
5. It would have a man at the head of the kingdom (**Daniel 7:8**).
6. It was a different kingdom than any other (**Daniel 7:24**).
7. It would speak blasphemy (**Daniel 7:25**).
8. It would persecute God's people (**Daniel 7:25**).
9. It would think to change times and laws (**Daniel 7:25**).
10. It would rule 1260 years (**Daniel 7:25**).

As we studied, we found beyond question that these points fit only one power in history--the Vatican City and the Papacy.

As we compared this "little horn" or kingdom with the beast of **Revelation 13**, we found these same characteristics. In **Revelation 13:1- 2** we saw that the beast was made up of the four beasts of **Daniel 7**, and verse 3 said it would rule 1260 years. In verse 6 we saw it spoke blasphemy. **Verse 7** says it was a persecuting power.

And as a last mark of identification we found that the number 666 was the number of his name. (See Lessons 3 and 4 for a thorough review of this).

We asked, Why did God symbolize the Vatican and Papacy by the beast of Revelation 13 which had the body of a leopard, head of a lion, and feet of a bear? We discovered it was because the Papal system incorporated doctrines and ideas from all these pagan empires especially Babylon. It drew many of its doctrines, beliefs, practices, and teachings from Babylon and the other kingdoms that followed. It clothed these false teachings in a spiritual garb, and spread them to the whole world.

Today God is calling His people out of Babylon. **Revelation 18:2- 3, "And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies."** Come out *my* people! In **Revelation 14:9- 10** God describes those who worship the Beast. **"And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb."** However, in **verse 12** he describes the saints who stand in contrast as those who "keep the commandments of God." **"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that *keep the commandments***

of God, and the faith of Jesus." This is repeated several times.

Revelation 12:17, "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

Revelation 22:14, "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Then Revelation gives another identifying

mark, **Revelation 7:2- 3, "And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads."**

God's servants have the "seal of God" in their foreheads. What is the Seal of God? **Revelation 22:4** says it's the "Father's" name in their forehead. **"And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads,"** This is repeated in **Revelation 14:1, "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads."**

Next question, What then is the Mark of the Beast? **Revelation 14:11** says it's the "mark of his name" in their foreheads. **"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."** So the issue the world is facing boils down to these two sides.

We need to focus on receiving the Seal of God rather than worrying about receiving the Mark of the Beast. You see, if you have the Seal of God, you don't have to worry about the Mark of the Beast! Let's study then how you can receive the Seal of God.

Second Corinthians 1:21- 22, "Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts." Here we see God seals us through the working of the Holy Spirit. **Ephesians 1:13** tells us how. "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the *word of truth*, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also *after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.*" *The word of TRUTH, when believed, allows the Holy Spirit to seal us.*

WHAT IS TRUTH?

1. The WORD: John 17:17.
2. The LAW: Psalm 119:142.
3. JESUS: John 14:6.

GOD'S SIDE	BEAST'S SIDE
Worships Him who made Follows the faith of Jesus. Keeps commandments of God. Follows testimony of Jesus. Has Seal of God in forehead. The Father's name in forehead.	Worships the Beast Follows the teachings of Babylon Keeps commandments of Men. Follows the image of the Beast. Has Mark of Beast in forehead. The Beast's name in forehead.

WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. The Holy Spirit leads us to truth, **John 16:13 - WORD.**
2. The Holy Spirit reproves us of sin, righteousness, and judgment, **John 16:8 - LAW.**
3. The Holy Spirit comforts and points us to Jesus, **John 16:7- JESUS.**

So there are three steps involved in receiving the Seal of God. First we must let the Spirit lead us to *truth*--the *Word*. It is here that many never receive the Seal of God. They are too busy, or too indifferent, and they never take time to seek the truth. However, for those who let the Spirit lead them to truth, those who earnestly study their Bibles, they then take the first step in receiving the Seal of God.

Secondly, the Spirit "reproves of sin, righteousness and judgment." Again here many people never receive the Seal of God. When the Spirit reproves them of sin, (the transgression of the law, **1 John 3:4**) they refuse to give up their sin. When the Spirit leads them to do righteousness, they don't want to do what's right. And as the Spirit tells them of God's judgment, they disregard it. At any of these points a person can miss receiving the Seal of God. But again for those who "confess and forsake sin," those who "do righteousness," and those who ask Christ to intercede His blood for them in the judgment, they allow the Holy Spirit to work and accomplish this step in their lives.

Thirdly, the Spirit "comforts." Those who love the truth, and walk in the Word, having chosen to forsake sin and do what's right, find in Christ a comfort. They find One who forgives, and gives power and peace in their lives. Because they believe in God and His Word, the "Father's name" is in their foreheads, they have the Seal of God, for in their minds they have *chosen* God's side.

God then takes one of these three areas of "truth" and says He especially wants that area sealed in our hearts. **Isaiah 8:16, "Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples."** *Seal God's law!*

A seal is something we're all acquainted with. All governments have one consisting of a name, title, and territory ruled. Gods seal is the same. His name is THE LORD GOD. His title is the MAKER OR CREATOR. **Jeremiah 10:10- 12, "But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation. Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens. He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion."** The territory He rules is HEAVEN AND EARTH. **Genesis 2:1- 4, Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made. These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens."** When God says "seal the law among my disciples" it's interesting to note that only one commandment in the law actually contains the three parts of the Seal of God. The fourth commandment. **Exodus 20:8- 11, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days *the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is*, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."**

Thus the issue becomes plain. God's side believes in the true God. They *worship Him* and keep His Sabbath day holy. They *love Him* and keep His commandments. They *follow His Word* and rejoice in the truth. They are filled with the Holy Spirit and have the Seal of God--the Father's name in their foreheads. Obviously this "seal" is not a literal visible seal. Your forehead represents your mind where you make decisions. When you choose God, His name and law is symbolically written in your mind. **Hebrews 10:15- 16, "Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them."**

In the word Sabbath there are the following elements:

"ab" means *father* (See Strong's Hebrew Dictionary, word H1)

"b" means *dwelling place, or of* (i.e. *Tisha B' Av* in Hebrew means the ninth day *of* the month of Av)

"ath" (oth) means *sign or seal* (See Strong's Hebrew Dictionary, word H226)

So "S-ab-b-ath" means the dwelling place of the *seal of the Father*.

Now, what is the Mark of the Beast? It's a simple step by step counterfeit of the Seal of God. Let's turn back to the prophecy in **Daniel 7:25, "And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."** He would change times and laws. The first step the Beast must counterfeit is God's law. Why? Because the "law" is sealed in the saints who follow God. Notice though it also changes "times." Only the fourth

commandment deals with times.. And so it changed God's times and laws. *The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, by Reverend Peter Geirmann, says thus:

"Q. Which is the Sabbath day?

A. Saturday is the Sabbath day.

Q. Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

A. We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church, in the Council of Laodicea (336 A.D.) transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday."

As these changes were made, Papal Rome began to spread these teachings throughout the world that it ruled. The Bible writers saw it and began to warn us about it. **First John 4:3, "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."** John said the spirit of Antichrist is already working in the world. Then Paul in **2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4, 7**, wrote these words: **"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all the is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way."**

So here we have a man, who wants to be *worshipped* as God.

Right away there was a problem. The true God was worshiped on Saturday, the seventh day. So the Papacy had to change the law, and the day of worship to Sunday, so he could be worshipped. All

false god's do this. A few years after Jesus and the Papacy, Mohammed came along. He said "Allah" was God, worship Allah. He had to pick a new day of worship and chose Friday. And so it went.

As we continue through history, we find after ruling the world for centuries people began to protest. This started the Protestant Reformation. As the authority of the Bible began to challenge the authority of the Papal Church, the Papacy was faced with a dilemma. Somehow the world had to be convinced that the Bible was not the ultimate authority of truth. In the 1500s, the decision was made to put "tradition" ahead of the Bible, based on the fact that the Church had power to do so, since it was God on earth, and had changed God's law and the Sabbath day of worship. Notice these quotes.

Canon and Tradition, by Holtzmann, p. 263. "The Archbishop of Reggio made a speech in which he openly declared that tradition stood above Scriptures ... the church had changed... Sabbath into Sunday, not by the command of Christ, but by its own authority."

The very basis of Papal authority he claimed to be founded upon the right to change the Sabbath.

"The church," says the ***Catholic Record***, "is above the Bible and this transference of Sabbath to Sunday is proof of that fact."

Faith of Our Fathers, p. 14, C.F. Thomas, Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons: "Of course the Catholic church claims that the change was her act. And the act is the MARK of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters."

Thus the way was opened to lead people to worship the Beast, and receive his mark. Also the way was opened to "worship the image of the beast." An image is a replica of an original. There are millions of people who are not "worshiping the beast," but they do worship its image. Many churches today are nothing more than an image of the Papal Church. They may have a different name, but they are following the same false teachings, traditions, and commandments of men. False teachings like baptism by sprinkling, the immortal soul, Sunday worship, eternal hell-fire, et cetera, are all from the Beast. If we choose to worship in a church that follows these teachings, we are simply following an image of the Beast. That's why God's call is to come out of Babylon and follow Jesus and truth.

Let's see step by step how a person receives the Mark of the Beast in their forehead. As we continue on in **2 Thessalonians 2**, we come to **verse 10, "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."**

Here is the first step to receiving the Mark of the Beast: Refusing to love the "*truth*" (the truth is what is sealed in the saints). So the first step is simple, you don't have to do any thing wrong, you just refuse to do what's right. The second step in receiving the Mark of the Beast is in **verse 11, "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie."** What is that lie? **First John 2:3- 4, "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a *liar*, and the *truth* is not in him."** To say that you can still go to heaven while breaking the law is a lie. Rather than loving Jesus and keeping His commandments, people

choose to follow the Beast's lie. The third step is found in **verse 12**, **"That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."** They are damned for not believing the truth. Rather than being comforted by the Spirit who leads to Jesus Christ, they stand condemned for following the Antichrist. Because of their *willful* decision to follow the Beast, its false teachings and practices, the Beast's name is in their forehead and they are lost having received the Mark of the Beast. The process is a step by step counterfeit of the Holy Spirit's work to give us the Seal of God.

It is interesting to notice this also. The Seal of God can only be received in the forehead. But the Mark of the Beast can be received in the forehead, or hand. Why is this?

There are many people today who make a decision to "believe a lie." Not only blind, but *willfully* blind. They receive it in their forehead. There are many other people today, however, who don't believe in anything. They never read the Bible, and don't intend to. They don't know God, don't care about God, and just continue in their lives of sin. Such people receive the mark in their hand. The hand symbolizes works, and actions. While these people do not believe in the Beast, their works reveal they follow its teachings and errors. They are on the Beast's side not by decision, but by their lifestyle showing their allegiance.

It is a matter of allegiance. **Romans 6:16** says whoever we obey we become the servants of. **"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"** God or the Beast power. It's also a matter of true worship. **Matthew**

15:8- 9, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Our worship is vain if we follow the commandments of men.

Today God lovingly invites us to worship Him in spirit and truth. The decisions we make today will affect our eternal destiny. In

Revelation 15:2 God's people stand in heaven on the sea of glass, victorious over the Beast and its mark. **"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."** If we are to be there we must first choose that victory here. May God bless you as you choose to receive the Seal of God in your forehead, and to reject the Mark of the Beast. Will you make that eternal decision today?