

We have discovered clearly that when Jesus comes there will only be two groups of people on earth--the righteous and the unrighteous – those who have accepted Jesus Christ, and those who have not. As God brings this world of sin to an end, the Bible says that the people of the earth will be divided into two camps. Those who truly worship God, and those who worship the Antichrist beast. Make no mistake about it – the Bible makes it clear that just prior to the Second coming of Christ, true worship will be the primary issue. **One group will be worshipping God in Spirit and in Truth and carry his seal. The other group will worship the beast and carry his mark, otherwise known as the mark of the beast.**

There is a specific warning given to you and I about this very important subject. Revelation 14:9- 10 gives this warning.

⁹A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, ¹⁰he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and 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. So those who receive the mark of the beast will receive the plagues of God.

Now let's ask an intelligent question. Would our great God, who is so desperate in His love to save us, warn us of the consequences of following the beast and receiving his mark, without telling us who the Beast is, or what his mark is? No! As we've been learning, God has made it abundantly clear. In fact not only does He make it clear, but 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. In fact, we can see clearly, if you follow the beast, YOU WILL BE LOST.

We have already discovered the identity of the beast from previous studies. From the study of Daniel 7 and Rev 13, the Bible gave us several identifying marks to help us uncover the beast power.

Let's review Daniel 7 very quickly. In Daniel 7:3, four beasts came up and we learned 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** - leopard-like representing Greece. And the fourth beast is found in **Daniel 7:7** - 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 that this little horn is the very same power and kingdom as the beast of **Revelation 13**.

Here are the 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, Papal Rome, 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.

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.

And the interesting thing is, today God is calling His people out of Babylon.

Let's read about it Revelation 18:2-3

²With a mighty voice he shouted: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. ³For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries."

So we see that in the last days, God will be calling His people out of Babylon.

Revelation 18:4 ⁴*Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues; ⁵for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.*

Now I want to take this a step further. I want to return to Revelation 14 and reread the warning about the beast. In Revelation 14:9 God describes those who worship the Beast.

⁹*A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, ¹⁰he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. ¹¹And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name*

Let me ask you a question, what group of people is this talking about? (The unrighteous. Now may be a good time to review previous studies). However, in verse 12 he describes the righteous, who stand in contrast as those who "keep the commandments of God and remain faithful to Jesus."

Vs 12 ¹²*This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.*

If you want to make sure you do not accept the mark of the beast, there's a clue right there. The saints are called to patiently endure – they will be the ones who obey (nine of?) God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus. Those in the other group do not.

Revelation 12 also identifies God's people in the last days as a people who follow Him completely - Revelation 12:17, ¹⁷*Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.*

But now let's take it a little further...Revelation gives another identifying Mark of those who do not follow the beast or receive the mark of the beast.

Revelation 7:2- 3, ²*Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: ³"Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God."*

God's servants have the "seal of God" in their foreheads. **What is the Seal of God?** Revelation 22:4 ⁴*They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.*

So it says they will have the "Father's" name in their forehead. This is repeated in Revelation 14:1,

¹Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

Now, let's set that aside and ask another question. **What then is the Mark of the Beast?** Revelation 14:11 speaking of the Beast, says that the mark of the beast is the "mark of His name" in their foreheads. *¹¹And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name.*

So the issue facing the world just prior to Christ's return boils down to this: Either you will receive the name of the Father, or the name of the beast. **Let's look at how we can receive the seal of God.** I can tell you this, we won't have to worry about the mark of the beast, if we receive the seal of God.

2 Corinthians 1:21- 22, *²¹Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²²set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*

Here we see God seals us through the working of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:13 tells us how.

¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit

Hearing and believing the word of TRUTH, allows the Holy Spirit to seal us. WHAT IS TRUTH? We looked at this previously:

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

Alright, again I want to take this a step further. We have seen that we are sealed by the Spirit.

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, 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, ¹⁶ *Bind up the testimony and seal up the law among my disciples.*

Seal God's law! This agrees with what we learned about God's people – they keep the commandments of God and remain faithful to Jesus. 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.

His territory is HEAVEN AND EARTH

When God says " *seal up 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.**

Let's read it together.. Exodus 20:8- 11, ⁸ *"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates.*

And how do we know who the LORD our God is?

11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy..

Notice that the Sabbath Commandment contains all the elements of God’s seal.

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.

The word “Sabbath” itself means the sign or seal of the Father. S – AB (“Father”, Strongs H1) – B (“Dwelling place” or “of”) – ATH (“Sign” Strongs H226)

A Summary

God’s Side	Beast’s side
1. Worships Him that made heaven and earth	1. Worships the beast
2. Worships in Spirit and Truth	2. Worships the beast’s image
3. Keeps the commandments of God	3. Keeps the commandments of men
4. Follows the faith of Jesus	4. Follows the teachings of Babylon
5. Has the SEAL OF GOD in their forehead	5. Has the MARK of THE BEAST in their forehead
6. Carry the FATHER’S NAME in their forehead	6. Carry the BEAST’S NAME in their forehead.

Obviously this "seal" is not a literal visible seal. Your forehead represents your mind where you make decisions. Those who choose to worship God, keep His commandments, and remain faithful to Jesus, will be sealed with His Name. These are people who have made a 100% surrender to the will of God in their lives and long to see His character revealed in them.

The Bible actually calls this the **new covenant**. I get people tell me all the time “I don’t keep the law and the Sabbath because I am a new covenant Christian. To all of them I would say, you cannot be a new covenant Christian, unless you keep the law and the Sabbath.

Here’s why. Hebrews 10:15- 16, ***15The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: 16"This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."***

So, that is clear. Now, we want to ask exactly what is the Mark of the Beast? It is simply a counterfeit of the law of God and more specifically the Sabbath. In fact, we learned in Daniel 7 that the Bible actually predicted it.

Dan 7:25 (speaking of the Antichrist beast)

²⁵ *He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time*

He would try to change the set times and laws. Notice though it changes "times." Only the fourth commandment deals with times.. We have already covered this, but lets read it one more time.

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."

Then Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4, wrote these words:

³*Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for (that day will not come) until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.*

So, right away there was a problem.

The true God calls His people to worship on Saturday, the seventh day. With no Biblical mandate, the Papacy, relying on its own authority has tried to change God's law, by shifting the day of worship to Sunday.

Somehow in the 1500's the Church of the day made the decision to accept "tradition" over the Bible. Believing that it was God on earth, and had the authority to do so, it also changed God's law and the Sabbath day of worship.

As time progressed, the Papacy had shifted away from several Bible teachings, including the central teaching of the Bible – the Gospel, or good news of Jesus Christ. Instead of teaching that we are saved by God's gracious gift of His Son, and that we can add nothing to that, we can only accept it, the Papacy began to teach that mankind is saved through what he does, or he ends up in Purgatory or eternal Hell. Supplementary teachings on infant baptism, penances and indulgences were introduced, along with the teachings on eternally burning hell for the unrighteous,

and even a teaching on Purgatory for those who weren't ready for heaven, but didn't quite deserve to go to Hell – they go to Purgatory to make amends so they can join the righteous one day.

But as God brought light to a Priest named Martin Luther, he began to realize that what his church was teaching was far from what God's Word tells us, he sought earnestly to change the church he loved. The church was not about to accept the authority of God, and so in protest against the Papacy, Martin Luther finally placed His 95 thesis on the doors of the church one day declaring the Bible and the Bible alone! (Sola Scriptura) effectively starting the Protestant Reformation and the beginning of a great work of restoring Bible truth – something God would continue throughout the following centuries. We're going to cover this in detail in our next study.

But Notice these quotes.

From Catholic Belief, p 45

"Like two sacred rivers flowing from Paradise, the Bible and divine tradition contain the Word of God.... Though these two divine streams are.. of equal sacredness... still, of the two, tradition is to us more clear and safe."

When challenged by the reformers who kept proclaiming we should follow the Bible and the Bible only---**let's look at the answers that were given...**

Canon and Tradition, p.263

"The authority of the church could therefore not be bound to the authority of the Scriptures because the Church had changed the Sabbath into Sunday, not by the command of Christ, but by its own authority."

Catholic Record Sept 17, 1893

"Sunday is founded, not on Scripture, but on tradition, and is distinctly a Catholic Institution."

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

Father T. Enright, President. Redemptorist College

"The Bible says, 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.' The Catholic church says: 'No. By my divine power I abolish the Sabbath day and command you to keep holy the first day of the week.' And lo, the entire civilized world bows down in reverent obedience to the command of the holy Catholic Church."

And now look at this one.

Catholic Record, Sept. 1, 1923

Sunday is our mark of authority.. The Church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact."

Do you see the contrast?

Look at what God says about the Sabbath. Ezekiel 20:12

¹² Also I gave them my Sabbaths as a sign between us, so they would know that I the LORD made them holy.

And after all isn't that what the Sabbath commandment is about? – It starts with "Remember the Sabbath day" It's a sign between us and God so that we will know that He is the Lord God who not only made us, but what does it say here? – who makes us Holy!

Let's look at another one in Exodus 31:13

¹³ "Say to the Israelites, 'You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy.'

It is a matter of allegiance – to God, or to the Beast power. It's also a matter of true worship. Look what Jesus says in Matthew 15:8

Matthew 15:8- 9, ⁸" 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁹They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by 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.

Well before we close let's answer an important question. – **When does this sealing take place?** – a related question might be: If I am worshipping on Sunday right now, am I receiving the mark of the beast?

The answer is found in the last part of Revelation 13. The first part of Rev 13 covers the Antichrist power – the beast that rises from the sea, but in the last half of Rev 13 we see another beast that is play an important role in the closing scenes of earth's history. A beast that rises out of the earth, and brings about the great test in allegiance causing the world to choose between worshipping the Father in Spirit and in Truth, vs. worshipping the image to beast and thus receiving his mark. Turn with me to Rev 13:11.

Revelation 13 - The Beast out of the Earth

¹¹ Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon.

Now if a beast rising from the waters is a kingdom that rises among many peoples, multitudes, nations and languages, what would a beast rising from the earth

represent? A kingdom that rises from an area where there are no people, perhaps a kingdom that started as a colony like modern Australia, New Zealand or America. This beast would rise up to appear as a lamb, but in time would begin to speak as a dragon. Note that it rises about the time that the deadly wound of the first beast has been healed as we saw, sometime around the late 1700's. Let's read on.

¹²He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.

Now let me ask you, can you think of a world power, that began in a sparsely populated land, appears lamblike in its appearance, plays a dominant role in affairs that affect ALL the inhabitants of the earth, speaks words like a dragon, and whose vocabulary includes religious terminology?

Think for a moment about the United States of America.

Was it Colonised? – yes. Did it rise up around the late 1700's – yes. Lamblike in appearance – yes – in fact by it's Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of rights America protects people from infringement against their liberties right? The last few years have only served to confirm the Bible prophecy. Let's go on. This beast will play a Dominant role in world affairs – is this true of the USA? Of course. Is capable of enforcing issues of a global nature – yes and already does and is..

It's not that hard is it?

What's the Bible telling us here? The Bible says that in the last days this power will leave its lamblike days behind and begin to speak like a dragon, using force on the inhabitants of the earth, even causing them to worship the Antichrist power.

V13 ***¹³And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men.***

Some of you be wondering if John really meant that this kingdom would cause "***fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men.***" You may be thinking, is it really possible that the USA might one day use fire from the sky to enforce a directive? If you think about it, it's not hard to imagine what John may have been seeing – in fact the USA currently enforces its demands through the use of fire power, and the bizarre thing is they do it in full view of the world! The Bible goes on to say what will one day take place upon the earth.

¹⁴Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

We've discussed that image tonight -

¹⁵He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. ¹⁶He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, ¹⁷so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name.

The Bible says that in the last days this lamblike beast will enforce worship to the image of first beast. That is that the USA will combine ranks with the Papacy, and enforce the inhabitants of the earth to worship on the first day instead of the Bible Sabbath – **it says we ought to understand this, continue in a 100% surrender to the will of God in our lives, holding fast to the commandments of God, and faithful to Jesus.**

We learn that those who worship the beast receive the mark on the **forehead or on the hand** – in other words, some will decide to worship in this way, and others will simply do it because they are told to.

Compare this with the seal of God – which can only be received in the forehead. The Bible is telling us that in order to be numbered among God's people in the last days, a decision is required. A decision not to compromise worship in any way, but to keep all of His commandments, and to remain faithful to Jesus. This decision is the acceptance of God's final call to the people of the earth where He cries to them in Revelation 17 – "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great...Come out of her my people." Where are God's people in that day? They are scattered throughout the earth, many of them in spiritual Babylon, but in the last days God calls them to come out of her, and to join His people. Those who keep the commandments of God and remain faithful to Jesus.

Even now as you see what God has told us about the battle that rages over every person's life, a battle between Christ and Satan for their allegiance, I pray that you will respond to God's invitation to join Him. To worship Him as your creator and redeemer, and begin to worship Him as He has called us to.

Revelation 15:2 describes God's people

²And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name.

There is no doubt in my mind who I want to serve - No doubt in my mind where I want to be at that time - And there is no doubt in my mind that **if we are to be there we must first choose that victory here.** I pray that you will resolve in your heart

today to become and remain faithful to Jesus, and to follow him completely. May God bless you as you choose to live as one who has been redeemed.

Will you make that eternal decision today?

Next lesson #15 – The Remnant