



Truth For These Times



34. THE MARK OF THE BEAST

The Bible records a number of religious crises of the past, (e.g. Daniel 3:13-18; Exodus 12:1-23; Exodus 32:26; 1 Kings 18:21), but they fade into insignificance when compared with the last great conflict between truth and error. The controversy will be fought between two world-wide movements in the time near the end of the world. One program will be inspired by Satan and all those who conform will receive the “mark of the beast”. The other is directed by God, and those who respond will receive the “seal of God”. Heaven’s richest blessings are promised to those with the “seal of God” while God’s most fearful wrath is poured out upon those who have the “mark of the beast”. Eight times in the book of Revelation the “mark of the beast” is spoken of, and because God gives such a strong warning against receiving this mark, it is important that we know exactly what the mark is and how to avoid it.

Revelation 13:16-17 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Before Jesus returns to this earth the second time, a power will force men into submission to receive the “mark of the beast”. Those without the mark will be boycotted and will be refused permission to buy or sell.

Revelation 14:9-10 IF ANY ONE WORSHIPS THE BEAST AND HIS IMAGE, AND RECEIVES *HIS* MARK on his forehead, or on his hand, HE HIMSELF SHALL ALSO DRINK OF THE WINE OF THE WRATH OF GOD, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.

Man says all must receive the mark, but God warns strongly against it and outlines the consequences of receiving it. Not everybody will receive it, for in Revelation 15:2 we see those who have gained the victory over the beast, his image, his mark and his number.

WHAT IS THE BEAST:

Revelation 13:1-2 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like *the feet of* a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.



The beast of Revelation 13.

Before we can understand the “mark of the beast”, we must first of all know who the beast is. The “little horn” of Daniel 7 (see study 28 – [The Four Beasts and the Little Horn of Daniel 7](#)), parallels

this “leopard like” beast of Revelation 13. The Papacy is unquestionably the beast power of Revelation 13. How can we be sure of this? First of all we will notice that this power acts in the area of religion.

Revelation 13:7-8 It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Here we notice that the beast persecutes the true followers of Christ and requires the inhabitants of the earth to worship him. The “dragon” in chapter 12, as standing before the woman about to give birth to the child precedes this beast power. This child is none other than Jesus Christ (see study 25 – [The True Church](#)). Primarily the dragon represents the devil. Rev.12:9. However, Satan works behind the scenes, using men and governments to pursue his acts of hatred against Christ and His truth. What earthly government did Satan use in his attempts to destroy Jesus? A Roman governor sought to destroy Him at his birth, and a Roman ruler sentenced Him to death on the cross. The dragon which gave its “authority” (Rev. 13:2) to the religious power that had the “mark” was none other than “pagan Rome.” Now, what power acting in the realm of religion received from pagan Rome it’s “seat and great authority”? The historian states, “out of the ruins of political Rome arose the great moral empire in the “giant form” of the Roman church.” (*The Rise of the Medieval Church*, page 150, A.C. Flick.)



Satan works through men and governments to destroy God’s people.

Revelation 13:3-6 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?” And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

The wounding of the head was fulfilled in 1798 when Berthia at the head of the French Army, declared the political rule of the Papacy at an end, and took the Pope prisoner to France. However, “the deadly wound was healed”, for in 1929 the Lateran Treaty restored temporal power to the Pope, who was given the rule of the Vatican City. The prophet saw a much greater restoration when the wound was completely healed. Following the healing all but a faithful few would worship the beast. This is still future. The mouth speaking great things and 42 months parallels Daniel 7, when Rome oppressed the people of God during the dark ages.



Napoleons General, Berthia took the Pope prisoner in February of 1798.

There is only one power in the religious world that established its power in pagan Rome, and that is the Papacy – or the Roman Catholic Church. In “*History of the Christian Church*”, page 40, it states,

“The Popes filled the place of the vacant Emperors of Rome, inheriting their power, prestige, and titles from paganism.” We have noted that the Bible states how she received “power, seat and great authority from the dragon before it” – this has been accurately fulfilled. The beast power, therefore, is none other than the Papacy!

Revelation 13:18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.



The Pope is commonly called “Vicar of the Son of God”. In Latin this is “Vicarius Filii Dei”. Latin letters have numerical value (e.g. C=100) and the numerical equivalents of these letters total 666. He is also called “The Highest of the Clergy” of “Dux Cleri”, and this too totals 666.

V I C A R I U S F I L I I D E I = Vicar of the Son of God – Latin
 5 1 100 - 1 5 - - 1 50 11 500- 1 = 666

D U X C L E R I = Head of the Clergy – Latin
 500 5 10 100 50 - - 1 = 666

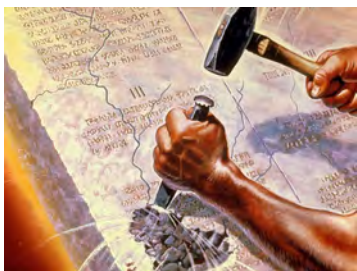
The beast’s identity is proven beyond all doubt.

WHAT IS THE MARK OF THE BEAST?

We have now identified the beast power as the Papacy. The next question is – “What is the mark of the beast?” It is not something visible like a tattoo, for it is received by choosing to accept it with our minds. Those who have the mark will be against God’s commandments because those who reject the mark are noted as “keeping the commandments of God”. Those mentioned in Revelation 14:9-11, who receive the mark are in direct contrast with those in Revelation 14:12 who keep God’s commandments and have the faith of Jesus.

Daniel 7:25 He shall speak *pompous* words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.

The prophecy states that the little horn power would intend or think to change the law of God. In



The Catholic Church claimed the power to change the day of worship from Sabbath to Sunday.

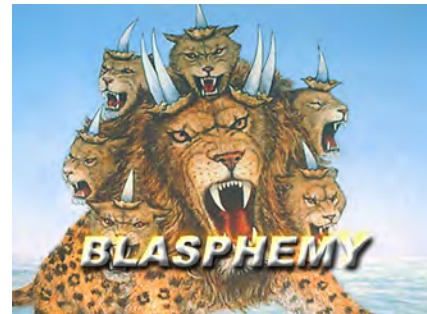
study 28 we saw how the Papacy has changed the Ten Commandments and, in particular, the fourth commandment, by changing the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. Please notice that no criticism is intended in this study toward people who are Roman Catholics. However, in fairness the truth of the false system of worship must be exposed to the world. Those who keep the commandments as changed by Rome, whether members of the Church of Rome or not, are in fact yielding their allegiance to the power that changed them. Thus this change would be a “mark” that would distinguish between those who follow man’s commandments and those who obey God’s holy law.

Does the church claim that she made the change in the commandments of God?
See study 14 for quotations. Here are a few ...

“The Catholic church for one thousand years before the existence of a Protestant ... changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday.” *Catholic Mirror*, September 23, 1893.

“Q. Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals of precept?

“A. Had she not such power she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her... She could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of the Saturday, the seventh day of the week, a change for which there is no scriptural authority.”
Keenan’s Catechism, page 125.



It is blasphemy to assume power to change the law of God.

The church openly claims that it has made an attempted change in the commandments relative to the day of worship.

The well-known Roman Catholic publication, “*Our Sunday Visitor*”, on February 5, 1950, chided the Protestant world for keeping Sunday. It stated:

“Practically everything that Protestants regard as essential or important they have received from the Catholic Church. They accept Sunday rather than Saturday as the day for public worship after the Catholic Church made that change... But the Protestant mind does not seem to realize that in accepting the Bible, and observing the Sunday, in keeping Christmas and Easter, they are accepting the authority of the spokesmen for the church, the popes.”

Protestants likewise recognize that this change rests solely upon the authority of the church. They recognize that there is no divine command for Sunday. “The observance of the Lord’s day (Sunday) is founded not on any command of God, but on the authority of the church” – ‘*Augsburg Confession of Faith*’, quoted in ‘*Catholic Sabbath Manual*’, part 2, chapter 1, and section 10.



The Catholic Church states that its tradition is equal to the Word of God.

“Where are we told in Scripture that we are to keep the first day at all? We are commanded to keep the seventh; but we are nowhere commanded to keep the first day... The reason why we keep the first day of the week holy instead of the seventh is the same reason that we observe many other things, not because the Bible, but because the church enjoined it.” Isaac Williams, DD. ‘*Plain Sermons on the Catechism*’, Volume 1, pages 334-336.

The only religious power that openly claims to have changed the law of God is the Papacy. Prophecy said the church would make the change and the church quite candidly says we did change the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. Thus it is concluded that the “mark” of the beast is the attempted change of the day of worship; for by doing this her “mark” of authority is giving her own law precedence over the law of God.

The most authoritative doctrinal council of the Catholic Church was the Council of Trent (1545-1563), which was called to determine “the doctrines of the Church in answer to the heresies of the Protestants” (*Catholic Encyclopaedia*, Vol. XV, Article “Trent”, page 30). At this critical council, the question of the authority of the Church over the authority of the Bible was the subject of long

and vigorous debate. The matter was not settled until the last session of the Council, and it is significant that the argument that turned the tide in favor of tradition was the change of the Sabbath. This action was cited as the final proof that the authority of the Church was superior to the authority of the Bible!

“Finally, at the last opening on the 18th of January, 1562, their last scruple was set aside; the Archbishop of Reggio made a speech in which he openly declared that tradition stood above Scripture. 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. With this, to be sure, the last illusion was destroyed and it was declared that tradition does not signify antiquity, but continual inspiration.” (*Canon and Tradition*, page 263, Heinrich Julius Holtzman, Luduigsburg, 1859).



Should we trust man's word instead of the Bible?

In 1895, J.F. Snyder, of Bloomington, Illinois, U.S.A., wrote to Cardinal Gibbons asking this question: “Does the Roman Catholic Church claim the act of changing the observance of the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day of the week as a mark of her power?” Through his Chancellor, the Cardinal gave the following answer:

“Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act. It could not have been otherwise, as none in those days would have dreamed of doing anything in matters spiritual and ecclesiastical and religious without her. And the act is a mark of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters.

Nov.11, 1895

(Signed) H.F. THOMAS,
Chancellor for the Cardinal”

Those who receive this “mark” will be those who give an outward visible sign of submission to the papal authority, and the “mark” will indicate a person’s direct opposition to the known will of God. In the last great crisis, when the Sabbath truth is fully understood, those who reject this light, and observe Sunday, will be declaring their opposition to the law of God. Sunday observance will become the distinguishing “mark” of those who have chosen to reject the Sabbath in favour of Sunday. Therefore, the keeping of Sunday will be the outward sign that a person has the mark of the

beast. When the nations in league with the Papacy compel men to receive the mark (Rev.13:16,17); then the issue will be clear for all, and the mark will be received or rejected, depending upon whose side the individual takes his stand.

WHAT IS THE SEAL OF GOD?

Christ has a sign that He seeks to place upon the foreheads of His people. In Revelation 7 we see God’s people sealed with the Seal of the living God that they might stand in the day of wrath. There are three elements of a seal. A seal is a mark or sign of authority, and is used by rulers and officials to make laws and agreements valid. It contains the NAME,

TITLE (or office), and TERRITORY of the lawgiver. For example, a typical royal seal of Queen Elizabeth would contain these three elements:

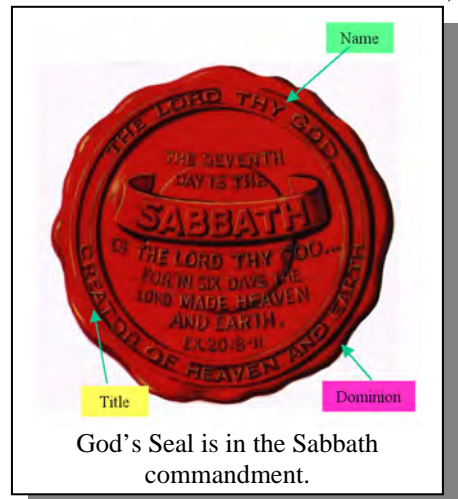


Name – Elizabeth
 Title – Queen
 Territory – British Commonwealth

Exodus 20:8-11 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the LORD your God. *In it* you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who *is* within your gates. For *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

In this fourth commandment, written with the finger of God, we find these three elements:

Name – The Lord thy God
 Title – Maker or Creator
 Territory – Heaven and Earth



The acceptance of the Sabbath truth will thus demonstrate the reception of the “seal of God”. However, a casual, superficial observance of the Sabbath is only a legal exercise and does not constitute the “seal of God”. God’s seal is the writing of the commandments upon the surrendered heart in true conversion by the inward working of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13; Hebrews 10:15,16). The seal of God, therefore, is a character seal – a heart in agreement with the known will of God. The inward reception of the seal is manifested in the life by outward obedience to the commandments of God. The observance of the Sabbath will become the distinguishing mark or “seal” of those who worship God as the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

Exodus 31:16,17 Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations *as* a perpetual covenant. It *is* a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.



God’s people are sealed by keeping all of God’s commandments.

God’s people of old were distinguished from the heathen by their observance of the Sabbath. It was a “sign” that Jehovah was their God, and they were His people. At the end of time, it will still be a “sign” of those who show themselves to be on the Lord’s side.

Revelation 7:1-3 After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. Then 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 granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”

Here are God’s people receiving the “seal of God” before the four winds are let loose on the earth (winds represent strife). These have God’s “mark” of authority upon them. They are His property. In 1 Kings 21:8 we have an example of a king’s seal, which gave the documents proper authorisation. Here in Revelation 7 we see God claim His own children. The “Mark of the Beast” can be received in the forehead or the hand. When we understand the Sabbath-Sunday issue, it becomes clear as to why this is so. The forehead represents the intelligence, and in this case is used to represent an intellectual commitment. The acceptance of Sunday can be accepted intellectually, but some will be forced into observing the day because of law. These receive the mark in the hand (the hand is used for work); many will not have any conscientious belief on the subject. However, the only way the seal of God can be received is by an intellectual commitment to the Sabbath truth. God never uses force when asking men to follow Him. He leaves the choice with the individual. Those who keep the Sabbath, and receive the “seal” will do so because they have willingly chosen to give God their allegiance.



America will make a law enforcing Sunday Worship.

Revelation 13:11-15 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted *power* to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

In these verses we see a uniting of religion and politics. The lamb-like beast is going to copy the same pattern of the first beast. There are five identifying marks to show who the lamb-like beast represents:

1. The beast would arise out of the earth. We have noted in study 25 that this represents new or sparsely populated land.



Two horned beast that came out of the earth.

2. This beast arises when the other beast is falling. In other words, it would grow into power about the time of the Papal overthrow.
3. It has two lamb-like horns. Lamb-like represents youth and innocence. The new free world, after the dominance of the papacy, introduced civil and religious liberty.
4. This beast has no crowns on its horns. In other words, it is not a monarchy but some form of republic.

5. It exercises a power equal to the first beast. This indicates a formidable, supreme, world power.

There is only one power in history to meet these five specifications, and that is the United States of America. It was not established by military conquest like European kingdoms, but grew up quietly in the sparsely populated new world. It became a nation as the Papal power was waning. No nation in history has been more dedicated to civil and religious liberty. It is a republic – not a monarchy, and has become the richest and most powerful nation on earth. This nation has been a benefactor to mankind, but a change of character is predicted. We have noticed this lamb-like (a symbol of Christ) beast, will speak as a dragon (a symbol of Satan). The terror of the dark ages of religious suppression is to be repeated at the very end of time. A religious tyranny as ruthless as the Spanish Inquisition.

There are five other identifying marks predicting this remarkable change:

1. It speaks as a dragon. Here we see a startling change from democracy to dictatorship.
2. It forces the worship of the first beast. Rather than maintaining its protestant heritage, it now becomes a crusader for Papal restoration.
3. It deceives multitudes by working miracles. It uses physical marvels as ultimate truth in religion instead of the Word of God. Miracles are not a sign of truth. The powers of evil can perform miracles (2 Thess. 2:9). The Bible is our safeguard – not miracles.



Satan will seek to force the whole world to break God's commandments.

4. It urges the making of an image to the first beast and gives life to the image. Here we see a church-state monopoly, patterned after the Mediaeval Papacy.
5. It enforces the worship of the image and the reception of the “mark of the beast” under pain of death. Here we find man’s basic freedoms being repudiated. The commandment-keeping minority are boycotted and persecuted.

WHAT IS THE IMAGE TO THE BEAST?

The Papacy is not merely a church, but a combination of church and state. This is the very essence of the Papal system. The church used the arm of the state to enforce its dogmas, often resulting in the punishing and martyrdom of so called “heretics”. According to this amazing prophecy, America will take the lead in creating an “image” or replica of the Papal system in the time before the end of the world. The image to the beast can be likened to a person looking in a mirror and seeing his reflected image. It is not him in reality, but it is his exact image. So here we see a reflection of the Papacy in apostate Protestantism. There will be a repudiation of everything Protestantism ever stood for in the promotion of religious liberty. The state will be employed to enforce religious laws and the rights of individual conscience will be sacrificed on the altar of conformity.

The prophecy shows that the focal point of conformity is Sunday sacredness, which involves the reception of the “mark of the beast”. In the enforcement of Sunday we see an exact “image” to the Papacy, because Sunday observance was enforced during the dark ages. It was then that the blood

of martyrs flowed. In excess of 150 million martyrs perished under the hand of the Papacy during the mediaeval ages. This is what happens when the church uses the state to force the conscience of man.

Revelation 16:2 So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.

A fearful time is ahead for those who have the “mark of the beast” and those who worship his image. When the seven last plagues are poured out they directly affect them.

Psalm 91:9,10 Because you have made the LORD, *who is* my refuge, *even* the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling.

God’s people, though oppressed, will ultimately gain the victory over the opposing powers and stand triumphant on the sea of glass.

Daniel 12:1 At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, *even* to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book.

Even though this time of trouble is extreme, God’s people are promised deliverance, and an eternity free from trouble, because their names are written in the book of life.

To keep the Sabbath is a sign that we give our allegiance to God and not to man. The issue is not over whether one day is any better than another, but it is what the day stands for that counts. Sunday observance is a “mark” of the church’s power, but the Sabbath is a “sign” of Christ’s power. If a man stamped on a piece of red, white and blue cloth nobody would be over-concerned. But if that red, white and blue cloth were the Australian flag, patriotic Australians would take very strong exception. It is not the cloth – but what it stands for. The Sabbath is Christ’s holy day, but Sunday is man’s substitute. Depending on which day you keep, shows whose side you are on. It is a matter of allegiance, not just a day.



Jesus will stand up for His people.

My friend where do you stand on this issue? There is only one right choice. Take your stand by God’s flag of allegiance and acknowledge Him as the great Creator by upholding His great sign and keep the seventh day Sabbath – His holy day. Christ is calling you to obedience so that you will not receive the mark. He is showing you the way to eternal life. In the last great conflict God’s people are identified as those who “keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus”. Revelation 14:12. Dear friend, do you love Jesus enough to obey Him? He said “if you love me keep my commandments”. John 14:15.

Review Sheet – The Mark of the Beast

ASSIGNMENT – Read the Bible study carefully before answering the following questions.

1. Before Jesus returns, how will man be forced into submission? Rev 13:16,17
He causes all...to receive _____
That no one _____,
 2. What will happen to the person who submits to receiving the mark? Rev 14:9,10
If anyone worships the beast...and receives his mark...he himself _____
 3. What is the beast power of Revelation 13?
Answer _____
 4. Explain how the beast was “mortally wounded” and was healed.
Answer _____
 5. What are two names given to the Pope and what is their Latin numerical value? Rev 13:18
Answer _____
 6. What is the obvious difference between those who have the mark of the beast and those who do not? Compare Rev 14:9-11 with Rev 14:12.
Answer _____
 7. (a) What change did the Papacy make in the commandments of God to demonstrate her mark of authority?
(b) Therefore, what is the outward sign that a person will have the “mark of the beast”?
Answer: (a) _____
(b) _____
 8. What three elements constitute the “seal of God”? Exodus 20:8-11
Answer _____
 9. The observance of the true Sabbath will become a distinguishing mark or seal. Was this the case for ancient Israel? Exodus 31:16,17.
Shall keep the Sabbath --- It is _____
 10. What is the image to the beast?
Answer _____
 11. The wrath of God is poured out upon those who have the “mark of the beast” in the seven last plagues. What is the first plague? Rev 16:2
A foul and _____
 12. During this time of great trouble, what happens to God’s people who have refused the mark and have the seal of God? Daniel 12:1
There shall be a time of trouble – your people shall _____
- Have you taken your stand by God’s flag of allegiance – the Seventh-day Sabbath?
YES _____ NO _____