

The Mark of the Beast



or the
Seal of God?

Bible Study Pathways
Lesson 24

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A Story to Ponder...



A LEGAL SEAL

I looked at the packages I had just bought, "Kirkland Signature" one read, "Guaranteed to exceed the quality standards of the leading national brands." Another stated, "Nature's Way, Satisfaction Guaranteed". In addition, several packages boasted the USDA-Organic label. Each quality assurance has specifications and standards that the products must measure up to before receiving the signature or seal of the company. Presidents, kings, and notaries must consider carefully before placing their seal on a document. Revelation also records two seals or marks of authority that man must choose between...



Rev 13:16-18 "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."



We are warned that the beast and his image will persecute, kill (Rev. 13:15) and remove the right to buy or sell from everyone unless they have what three things? 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____



Rev. 15:2 "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." (Rev. 20:4)



Does the Bible record that there are any that resist and overcome this coercion? _____



In the Bible, a name meant something. It often represented the character of a person. When character changed God sometimes gave a new name. (Gen. 35:10, Gen. 17:5, Gen. 17:15; Matt. 1:21) So ultimately, having the name of the beast would be to be like it in character.



Rev 13:1 "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy."



What name does the Bible specifically say the beast wears? _____
(Review Texts from Lesson 22--John 10:33, Rev. 2:9, Matt. 9:2,3; Mark 2:5-7)



Rev 13:18 "Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six." (2 Thess. 2:3, 4)



What is the number of the beast? _____ Which man with similar characteristics does the Bible describe? _____
What characteristics does he have? _____



Rev. 13:16 "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:"



In what two places do people receive the mark of the beast?



The "forehead" (frontal lobe) suggests the making of a conscious choice/decision in their mind. The "hand" suggests the "actions" or just going along with it, for convenience sake.



What seal does God say is supposed to be in our foreheads? _____
(Deut. 11:18, Matt. 22:37, Luke 10:27, Rev. 14:1, Rev. 7:2)



By reading through Revelation 13, we notice that the issue connected with the "mark of the beast" is "worship" and in Rev. 14:9, 12 that it is contrasted with God's people keeping his commandments.



Isaiah 8:16 Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.

2 Tim.2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. (1 John 3:4)



Does the Law of God identify His mark or seal? _____

If you look at a 'seal' of any leader or official, you will see three components: their Name, their Title, and their Territory. Do we see these components in the 10 Commandments? (Ex. 20:3-17; Hint: vs. 8-11)

Name _____, Title "Made"=Creator, Territory _____



This places the 7th day Sabbath as the "Sign" or "Seal" of God.



Does God confirm this interpretation? _____

Exodus 31:13, 17 "Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you...It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed." (see also Ezekiel 20:12, 20)



The Hebrew word translated "sign" literally means "Mark". The 7th day Sabbath is "God's Mark" - it is the evidence that He is the Creator and the True God! Think about this for a minute. We get a "day" from how long it takes the earth to make a complete rotation on its axis, the month from how long it takes the moon to rotate around the earth, and the year by how long it takes the earth to completely circle around the sun. So where do we get our 7 day week? Creation, it is the seal of God's creative power. (Gen. 2:1-3)

💡 The dragon and the beast (the man of sin) both want to be like God and seek to change times and laws. (Isaiah 14:12-14; 2 Thess. 2:3,4; Dan. 7:25, Rev. 13:6) so we can expect counterfeits of God's law and especially a counterfeit of that portion regarding time—the 7th day Sabbath.

❓ Has the "beast" power done this?

"Protestants ... accept Sunday rather than Saturday as the day for public worship after the Catholic Church made the change... But the Protestant mind does not seem to realize that ... in observing Sunday, they are accepting the authority of the spokesman for the Church, the pope." Our Sunday Visitor, Feb. 5, 1950

"It is well to remind the Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, and all other Christians that the Bible does not support them anywhere in their observance of Sunday. Sunday is an institution of the Roman Catholic Church, and those who observe the day observe a commandment of the Catholic Church."

Priest Brady, in an address, reported in the Elizabeth, N.J., News of March 18, 1903

"Prove to me from the Bible alone that I am bound to keep Sunday holy. There is no such law in the Bible. It is a law of the holy Catholic Church alone. 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." - (Priest Thomas Enright, CSSR, a lecture printed in the Hartford Kansas Weekly Call, February 22, 1884.)

"Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act... And the act is a MARK of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters."

Letter from C.F. Thomas, Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons on October 28, 1895

CONCLUSION

Sunday worship is the "Mark" of the Beast!

Just like the authority for the "7th day Sabbath" is based solely on the authority of our Creator God - the authority for "Sunday" worship is based solely on the authority of the beast power!

But notice that in Revelation 13:15-17 this "Mark" is being forced on people. In other words, Sunday sacredness is the Mark of Rome's authority, but it doesn't take the "prophetic stage" until the 2nd beast, the USA, passes laws to enforce its observance. Many people don't know the issue about Sunday vs. Sabbath.

They honestly believe they are worshipping God by keeping Sunday. God understands this, and He judges them accordingly. (Acts 17:30)

But the final test is on the horizon. The truth of the Sabbath vs. Sunday issue is coming to light. All men on earth will be tested to see if they will obey the beast and a decree of man or the command of the Creator who says in

John 14:15 "If ye love me, keep my commandments".