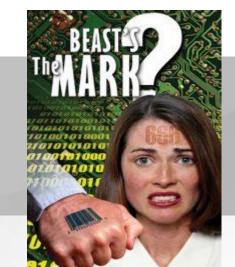
Lesson 15 &16 – The Beast and His Mark



Introduction: The Bible tells of a mark, or sign, that will identify the Beast and his followers. By receiving this mark one gives allegiance to the Beast, and acknowledges His authority to be greater than God's! In this lesson we will identify that mark.

Identifying the Beast of Rev. 13:1-8, 18

- It would receive its <u>power</u>; <u>seat</u> and great <u>authority</u> from the dragon. The dragon, though primarily Satan, also represents Pagan Rome. History is clear that the Papacy received its power from old Pagan Rome. The Pope is Caesar's successor.
- Would become a <u>World</u>-wide power.
- Would rule for 42 months. (A prophetic day = 1 yr) 1260 yrs
- Would be guilty of <u>blasphemy</u>. (Claiming to be God and to forgive sins. The Pope is considered by many JC Himself, hidden under a veil...
- Would receive a deadly <u>wound</u> which would eventually heal. Then the entire world would follow him. (inflicted in 1798 stated to regain in 1929)

Con't Identifying the Beast of Revelation 13

- Would have the mystic number <u>666</u>. Rev. 13:17, 18 says count the number of a man.
 Would be a religious power – it is involved in <u>worship</u>. This power is not a secular government but is involved in spiritual matters. The Pope gives advice to religious leaders
- Would war with and persecute the <u>saints</u>. It is common knowledge that the Papacy did persecute and destroy millions of Christians during the middle ages for their faith. Many modern Catholics disapprove of these persecutions.

There are many beautiful, sweet, loving Roman Catholic Christians who serve Jesus gladly and whom Jesus counts as His Children. He calls them out of religious confusion however.

1. What sign, or mark, reveals allegiance to God? Deut. 11:1, 8, 18 Deut. 11-:1, 8, 18

- ¹ Therefore thou shalt love the LORD thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, alway.
- ⁸ Therefore shall ye keep all the commandments which I command you this day, that ye may be strong, and go in and possess the land, whither ye go to possess it;
- ¹⁸ Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.
 [Note: The outward observance of God's commandments is a "sign on your hand," and believing them is as "frontlets between your eyes." This is GOD'S symbolic mark in the forehead and in the hand. The Further-study verses are Deut. 6:6, 8; Ex. 13:9.]

Frontlets -The meaning of the injunction to the Israelites, with regard to the statues and precepts given them, that they should "bind them for a sign upon their hand, and have them as frontlets between their eyes," was that they should keep them distinctly in view and carefully attend to them.

2. People look at outward marks, but where does God look? 1 Sam. 16:7b [Ps. 37:37; Eze. 9:4]

1 Samuel 16:7b

 ⁷ But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Ezekiel 9:4

 ⁴ And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

3. Everyone will one day receive a mark. What mark will God's people receive? Rev. 14:1 [Rev. 7:2-4]

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.

Revelation 7:2-4

- ² 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,
- ³ Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.
- ⁴ And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

[Ans: The "seal" of the living God in their foreheads

4. Anciently a name represented one's character. God wants to write His name-or character-in us. God's character is described in His law. Where will God's character, or law, be written? Will this writing be visible to mankind? Heb. 10:16 [Note: In prophecy the forehead symbolizes thoughts, and the hand symbolizes actions. Jer. 31:33; Heb. 8:10]

Hebrew 10:16

¹⁶ 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;

Hebrews 8:10

¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Answer: God's law will be placed in our hearts and He will write them in their minds interchangeably. It is not a visible mark.

5. Which one of God's laws especially identifies God's people, marking them as those who accept His authority? Eze. 20:12, 20

Ezekiel 20:12, 20

- ¹² Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.
- ²⁰ And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God.

Exodus 20:8-11

- ⁸ Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- ⁹ Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:
- ¹⁰ 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:
- ¹¹ 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.

[Note: The fourth commandment is God's "seal." It contains His NAME, TITLE, and DOMAIN-the elements of an official seal. Ex. 20:8-11]

6. Will the Beast power acknowledge God's authority? 2 Thess.2:4 [Isa. 14:12-14]

2 Thess. 2:4

 ⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Isaiah 14:12-14

- ¹² How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!
- ¹³ For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:
- ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Answer: No, he will not. He opposes everything that is of God.

7. What will the Beast boast that he can do to God's law? Dan. 7:25 Daniel 7:25

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.

[Note: The Man of sin claims preeminence over God, for he says he can change His laws! Only one of greater authority can change another's law. The Papacy repeatedly claims the responsibility for changing the Sabbath commandment as proof of its authority. "The day mentioned in the Bible is not the Sunday . . . but the Saturday It was the Apostolic Church which changed the changed to the Sunday." "Isn't it curious that many protestants . . . observe Sunday . . .[which] rests upon the authority of the Papacy and not upon an explicit text in the Bible? That observance remains as a reminder of the Mother Church."-John O'Brien of Notre Dame in The Faith of Millions, 1974, pp. 136-137, 400, 401. **Rom. 6:16**]

7A. Since we have now positively identified the beast as the papacy, let's permit the papacy to tell us what its mark is.

- •Which day is the Sabbath? Saturday is the Sabbath. Then why do We observe Sunday instead of Saturday. We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday. Catechism of Catholic Doctrine p. 50
- •Sunday is our Mark of authority. The church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact. The Catholic Record, London, Ontario Canada September 1, 1923
- •The Papacy claims that it changed the day of worship from Saturday to Sunday and that Sunday or Sunday-keeping is its mark of authority and power. God's mark or sign of power, is Sabbath and Sabbath-keeping and the beast's sign or mark of power, is Sunday and Sunday-keeping.

8. What is it that identifies and marks the Beast power? 2 Thess. 2:3, 7-9

2 Thess. 2:3 7-9

- ³Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;
- ⁷ For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.
- ⁸ And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:
- ⁹ Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

[Answer: "Sin" and "lawlessness" (NKJV). Note: "Sin is lawlessness" (1 John 3:4)⁴ Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

9. When Jesus comes, all will have accepted God's mark or the Beast's mark. How are those who have received the mark of the Beast described? Matt. 7:21-23]

Matthew 7:21-23

- ²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
- ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?
- ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

2 Corr. 11:13, 14

- ¹³ For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.
- ¹⁴ And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.
- ¹⁵ Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

[Answer: They call Jesus "Lord" but "practice lawlessness" (NKJV). 2 Cor. 11:13-15; Matt. 7:13, 14; 1 John 2:3, 4

10. How are those who receive God's mark (Rev. 14:1) described? Rev. 14:12

Revelation 14: 1, 12

- 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.
- ¹² Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.
- [Ans: They too call Jesus Lord, but they "KEEP" God's commandments. James 2:10] ¹⁰ For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.



11. What will Satan do to those who refuse to receive the mark of the Beasts authority by keeping Sunday? Rev. 12:17 [Rev. 22:14 (KJV or NKJV)]

Revelation 12:17

 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

 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.



12. How will Satan make war with them? Rev. 13:16, 17 [2 Tim. 3:12] Revelation 13:16, 17

- 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:
- ¹⁷ 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.

2 Timothy 3:12

¹² Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

13. While God's followers symbolically receive God's name in their foreheads, the Beast's followers receive the Beast's name (his character of lawlessness), signified by a number. What is the number of the Beast? Rev. 13:18

Revelation 13:18

• 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.

[Note: To get an explanation of the person with this number, go to (Our Sunday Visitor, April 18, 1915). The numerical value of this name is 666. This is one explanation that fits the prophecy and, when compared with all other prophecies, helps to identify the Beast power. People will receive the Beast's name in their right hand when Sunday laws become enforced and they yield obedience, and they will receive it in their foreheads when his character of lawlessness is written in their minds. Rev. 15:2]

14. What warning has God given against receiving the mark of the Beast? Rev. 14:9-11 [Ps. 37:12-20, 32-40]

Revelation 14:9-11

- ⁹ 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,
- ¹⁰ 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:
- ¹¹ 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.

15. According to Revelation 13:11, John saw another beast rise up out of the earth about the time that the beast of verse 1 went into captivity (vs. 10). Whom do you think this beast represents?

The United States

And I beheld another beast coming up our of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he excerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them that dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. Revelation 13:11, 13 16. What two tragic things does this second beast cause people to do? Revelation 13:12,16

To "worship the first beast" and "to receive a mark" in the hand or forehead

And causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to <u>worship</u> <u>the first beast</u>, whose deadly wound was healed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to <u>receive a mark in their right hand</u>, or in their <u>foreheads</u>. Revelation 13:12, 16 America will lead out in forcing people to receive the mark of the beast. That magnificent country will soon repudiate religious freedom and will force people into false worship. What other restrictions will be placed upon those who refuse to worship the beast and receive his mark?

Revelation 13:16, 17

They will not be able to buy or to sell unless they have the mark.





Revelation Presents Two Groups

Is it now clear that those who worship the beast and his image will be lost?

 One Group worships the Creator. Revelation 14:7
 One Group worships the Beast. Revelation 14:9

Where is the beast's mark placed on people? Revelation 13:16

• "In their right hand or in their forehead." The mark is not literal. We are dealing with symbols here. The forehead represents the mind in which we worship and serve God. Romans 7:25 and the hand is a symbol of work. Ecc 9:10. Those who accept Sunday observance willingly are marked in the forehead. Those who agree to work Sabbath to avoid boycott or death are marked in the hand.

 Commitment: God says that the Sabbath marks His people as His, and that the Beast would make war on them. The Beast is that "lawless" one who would try to "change" God's law, specifically the command involving "times"- i. e., the Sabbath. Thus, when Sunday keeping is enforced by law it will constitute the mark of the Beast. "You are that one's slaves whom you obey" (Rom. 6:16). Today God is calling us to receive His mark (or seal). As you look upon your crucified Savior, will you acknowledge His authority by obeying Him and keeping His Sabbath?

