

The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast

Revelation 7:1-4 declares that " And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 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. 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."

We notice from these verses that the seal of God is found in the foreheads of the servants of God. We also notice that the number sealed is 144,000. We also notice this in Revelation 14:1, "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty *and* four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads." **We notice here that the seal of God and the Father's name are written in the foreheads of His children. These are synonymous and symbolic. The fact that they are symbolic becomes even clearer when the seal is contrasted with those who receive the mark of the beast in Revelation 14:9, 10** "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:"

God's children receive His name/character in their foreheads and the children of disobedience/rebellion receive the mark of the anti Christ in their forehead. Obviously, the seal of God is something that is symbolic; it must be a sign of submission to God's will that they receive; an outward sign of an inward experience of trust in His power to save them from sin. This is the decision they have come to in their minds/foreheads. The mark of the beast is the outward sign of an inward experience of rebellion against God. The decision these people will have made is to live in rebellion against God and this is the decision they have arrived at in their mind/forehead.

What are these outwards seals/marks that represent these inward experiences of holiness vs. rebellion? What clues are given whereby we may ascertain the answer? Esther gives us some clues, "Then were the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that *were* over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and *to* every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring." Esther 3:12 This experience in Esther gives insight into the significance of what pharaoh gave to Joseph. "And Pharaoh took off his

ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;” Genesis 41:42

We see in these stories several very significant things in regard to seals/marks. Kings had rings that contained their seal. Whenever a king sealed a document, it authenticated that document and gave it absolute authority. Without the king’s seal, the document was voided. The king’s seal contained three things; his name, his position, and his area of jurisdiction. In Esther’s day, the king’s seal would read: Ahasuerus, king, Persian Empire. It is still the same today. Even notary public’s, when sealing a document, thereby legalizing it; have seals that contain these three elements. A king’s seal made a document binding, legal, authoritative; or, the law of the land.

At this juncture, we must ask, “Has God given to mankind any binding, legal documents, or a law, in which He has ascribed His seal?” Isaiah 8 tells us, “Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.” Verse 16 God gave the 10 commandments as a legal document to the human race to let them know what His will is for humanity and Isaiah tells us that God’s law is sealed. Thus, somewhere in the 10 commandments is God’s seal. This seal authenticates the law of God and contains the three elements that characterize all seals the world over. Again, all seals contain the name of the person, his title, and his area of jurisdiction.

Within the Ten Commandments, we find God’s seal found in the fourth commandment and in no other commandment. “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.” Exodus 20:8-11 Within verse 11, we find the three elements that contain the seal of God. Name: Lord

Title: Maker/Creator

Jurisdiction: heaven and earth

The Sabbath, as outlined in God’s law, is the seventh day of the week that we call Saturday. This day is set apart for rest from labor and for special communion with our Maker. The Sabbath is set apart by the weekly cycle of creation and has nothing to do with the moon cycle.

With the Sabbath being the seal of God, let us plug this back into Revelation 7 and 14 and see if it fits. Is the Sabbath an outward sign of an inward experience? Does the Bible anywhere indicate that the Sabbath is a sign of God’s work in our lives? “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.” Ex. 31:13 Ezekiel 20:12 says the same thing, “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.” These verses plainly show that the Sabbath is a sign of God’s power to save us from our sins and rebellion. “Then the Sabbath is a sign of Christ’s power to make us holy. And it is given to all whom Christ makes holy. As a sign of His sanctifying power, the Sabbath is given to all who

through Christ become a part of the Israel of God. And the Lord says, "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; . . . then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord." Isa. 58:13, 14. To all who receive the Sabbath as a sign of Christ's creative and redeeming power, it will be a delight. Seeing Christ in it, they delight themselves in Him. The Sabbath points them to the works of creation as an evidence of His mighty power in redemption." DA, pg. 288,289

Those who embrace the 7th day Sabbath, who have the experience of victory over sin through faith in Christ, will ultimately receive the seal of God. To the contrary, we read of those who would receive the mark of the beast. Since the Sabbath is the sign of loyalty and obedience, the mark would have to be in stark contrast to the seventh day Sabbath. Do we see anything in our world today that is in stark contrast to the seventh day Sabbath? Are there any other 'rival' days of the week in which people worship while still claiming allegiance to Heaven? The answer is all too obvious: Sunday is the mark of the beast. In contrast to the Biblical Sabbath, Sunday stands out as a sign of rebellion against God and His authority in one's life.

Even the beast power of Revelation 14:9, the papacy/Roman Catholic Church, claims Sunday as her 'mark' of authority in religious matters. Listen "Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change [from Saturday to Sunday] was her act. And the act is a MARK of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters. — C. F. Thomas, Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons.

"Sunday is our MARK of authority.... The church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact. — Catholic Record, September 1, 1923 (Ontario).

The beast power, the Vatican, goes further in chiding the 'Protestant' world. "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 the Sunday, they are accepting the authority of the spokesman for the church, the Pope. — Our Sunday Visitor, February 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," March 18, 1903.

A seal and a mark; which will we choose? A seal and a mark; we have much to lose!!!

