

The final study from the Revelation Chapter 13, describes the last great test for the inhabitants of the earth, especially God's **remnant** people. The nature of this test is often misunderstood, based on misapplication of Scriptures. However, we will apply the *Literary Tools and Principles* used in prior studies, with the empowering of God's Holy Spirit, to gain clear understanding of God's Word, the Bible. The final test for the world will come through the passage and enforcement of Sunday Worship Laws, the **Image to the Beast**, by a global *New World Order* begun in the U.S.A. The Bible states that all will be forced to adhere to these laws on penalty of death (Revelation 13:15). Recall from our previous study that the Image to the Beast is closely related to the identifying *mark* of the Catholic Church, also known as the *Beast from the Sea*. This identifying mark, or **Mark of the Beast**, is that which identifies those who comply with the Image to the Beast. We have understood that the Image to the Beast is to be spiritually interpreted. Similarly, the Mark of the Beast is neither a literal mark, but rather a symbolic moniker of that church system. In fact, the Mark of the Beast is *Satan's counterfeit* to the **Seal of God**. Let us first understand God's Seal and its application that we may understand how it is counterfeited.

Q: *What are the Lord's counsels to His people regarding His commandments? Read Deuteronomy 6:4-8, 11:13-19.*

A: God desires that His laws be our constant meditation to order our lives. We are to teach them to our children and to have them figuratively written on our hands and between

our eyes, on our *forehead*, to serve as frontlets, guarding us against the allurements of the world.

Q: *Since the Lord strictly forbids placing any markings or piercings on our bodies (Lev. 19:28), what does He mean by writing the commandments on our hands and our forehead?*

A: Our forehead and our hands are symbolic of our thoughts and our works, respectively. The forehead, guarding the **frontal lobe** of the brain, is the seat of thought, where all reasoning and decisions are made. God desires that our thoughts and our actions be in harmony, in accordance with His commandments (Rom 2:14,15; John 14:15; Philip 2:5-9).

Among the 10 Commandments lies a particular commandment that is significant and distinct in identifying the One, True, and Only God. As a presidential seal incorporates a person's name, title, and territory over which he or she has authority, so God has placed His own identifying *seal* within the 10 Commandments.

Q: *Read the 10 Commandments, written in Exodus 20:1-17, and identify the Seal of God bearing His name, His title, and His jurisdiction, the territory over which He holds authority.*

A: The **Fourth Commandment**, which calls all to, "*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy*", is the **Seal of God** (Exodus 20:8-11). In this commandment, God's name "*The Lord*", His title "*thy God*", and His jurisdiction "*heaven and earth, the seas and all that in them is*" are clearly revealed, certifying His reign over all Creation (Isaiah 42:8; Revelation 4:11; Genesis 14:22). We acknowledge God as Sovereign as we rest in Christ, ceasing from our labors, to

permit Him to keep His day holy in us (Isa 8:16, 58:13, 14).

Q: *What else is the Sabbath to be a sign? Read Ezekiel 20:12, 20 and Isaiah 8:16.*

A: The Sabbath is a sign or token of unity between God and His people. It affirms that He by His grace, has *sanctified* them (set them apart), and that He is their personal God.

Q: *Consider other examples of God's seal of authority being placed upon His people in the following verses. What follows the placement of the seal or mark of God? Read Ezekiel 9:1-11, Revelation 7:1-3, 9:3-5.*

A: We see God's wrath being poured out upon all who **do not** have the mark or seal of God in their foreheads. All who have not been sanctified by God's indwelling Holy Spirit *intellectually* [in their thoughts], and *spiritually* [in their hearts and deeds], in keeping all of His commandments by faith, including the Fourth Commandment that affirms His Sovereignty, will ultimately face His punishment.

We have learnt that the Seal of God is the Fourth Commandment, calling all to honor God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sovereign over heaven and earth by keeping the 7th day rest [Sabbath] (Matthew 12:8, Mark 2:28; Revelation 1:10). It is upon this point that Satan has forged a counterfeit, called the *Image to the Beast*. In our prior study, we read from the Catechism of Catholic Doctrine that by the authority it claims "*Jesus Christ bestowed upon her*", rather it usurped, the church substituted God's Sabbath [the 7th day] for the day of the sun, Sunday [the 1st day]. Consider these additional quotes from Catholic sources regarding

Sunday as a day of worship:

- "*The Pope has power to change times, to abrogate laws, and to dispense with all things, even the precepts of Christ.*" Decretal De Translat. Espiscopo. Cap., Pope Nicholas, 1447-1455AD [compare Daniel 7:25]
- "*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
- "*She took the pagan Sunday and made it the Christian Sunday... and thus the pagan Sunday, dedicated to Balder [Baal], became the Christian Sunday sacred to Jesus.*" Catholic World, March 1894
- "*Of course, the Catholic church claims that the change was her act, and the act is a mark of her ecclesiastical power.*" Faith of our Fathers, James Cardinal Gibbons, 1876
- "*The Bible says remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day. 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.*" American Sentinel, Father Enright, June 1893

Satan has issued a challenge in establishing Sunday worship as the mark of his authority. This mark was set-up by the Catholic Church, propagated by Protestant denominations, and will soon be enforced by law in the United States and globally. Satan not only challenges men, but will also coerce

The Seal versus The Mark

Revelation Chapter 13 – Part 6 [Based on verses 16-18]



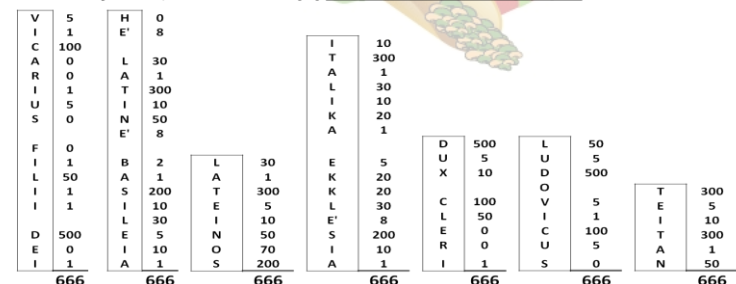
vs.



Unlike the time of Joseph however, those who seek the aid of government will be outside the will of God, receiving the Mark of the Beast on their right hands or their foreheads. God has assured His sustenance (bread and water), and His protection during this global **Time of Trouble**, to all who in faith keep His commandments (Isa 33:15, 16; Dan 12:1; Ps 27:5, 6, 91:1-16).

God has made known the identity of the world system known as **the Beast** finally through the number **666**, the summing of his self-declared titles. This mysterious number, historically ascribed to infamous men and women of great wickedness, is undeniably confirmed in two world languages in the figure below. God leaves no question among His saints in knowing that which might cause their ruin. **Praise God!**

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**. Revelation 13:18



Roman Numeral Values							Greek Numeral Values										
I	V/U	X	L	C	D	M	A	B	E	E'	I	K	L	N	O	S	T
1	5	10	50	100	500	1000	1	2	5	8	10	20	30	50	70	200	300

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fend for themselves or die. The world will be completely divided into two camps with no middle-ground. Governments will carefully monitor the activities of individuals in order to enforce strict regulations (1 Kings 18:1-12). Therefore, this will be a most perilous time for those who faithfully uphold all of God's commandments.

Q: Consider another occasion in the Bible where men and commerce were under the total control of government. What was the catalyst to the crisis and how did men respond? Read *Genesis 41:1-43, 47:13-26; 1 Corinthians 10:11*

A: The famine in Egypt that God foretold his servant Joseph, was the handiwork of Satan. Brought by an **east wind**, it was intended to destroy the ancestors of Jesus Christ so that God's **Everlasting Covenant** would be thwarted. In mercy, God made provisions to spare their lives and the lives of countless millions through Joseph. During the progressively harsh years of famine, the masses found themselves at the mercy of Pharaoh's government for sustenance. With the collapse of the financial system, and having nothing more to offer Pharaoh in payment for food, the people sold themselves into slavery. God has foretold both in type and through the writings of the prophet John, another coming world crisis. Similar to the calamities that befell Ancient Egypt, there will be a catalyst, whether by natural causes [i.e. climate change], manmade, or perhaps both, that will prompt the *Passage of a Sunday Law*, the *Image to the Beast in the United States*. Once established in the United States, it will soon be enforced globally with the *Mark of the Beast*.

them to keep his counterfeit Sabbath through the *Mark of the Beast*, in opposition to God's commandment. The Bible states, "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:" Revelation 13:16. {Emphasis added}

Q: Compare the placement of God's seal upon the faithful, to the placement of the Mark of the Beast on those who conform to worshipping the Image to the Beast. What are the differences? Review *Rev 7:3; Deut 6:4-8; Heb 8:8-12*.

A: God desires to have His laws written upon the forehead of His people by **His Holy Spirit**, whereas Satan applies the Mark of the Beast to the forehead **or** the right hand of his followers. God's desire is for our thoughts to be continually upon His Law and naturally, the works of our hands will follow; whereas, Satan makes no such distinction. Satan is neither concerned whether by consent or coercion individuals keep his spurious Sabbath. Those who consciously affirm the counterfeit Sabbath, a tradition of men (Mark 7:6-8) in rebellion to God's commandment, will receive a mark on their foreheads. Whereas, those who by their works disobey God's Fourth Commandment for fear of civil punishment, will receive a mark on their right hands.

Q: What will be the fate on earth of those who refuse to receive the Mark of the Beast? Read *Revelation 13:17*.

A: The Bible describes a forthcoming worldwide restriction upon commerce for those who refuse the Mark of the Beast, the name of the Beast, or the number of His name. Individuals will be prohibited to buy or sell and thus, left to