

**PURPOSE OF STUDY:** To reveal the opposing marks of allegiance at the end of time – the Mark of the Beast and the Seal of God, and to urge the importance of taking a stand on God’s side.

### TEXTS:

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|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. REV 13:16-14:1       | 7. RO 4:11             |
| 2. REV 14:8-12          | 8. EZE 20:12, 20       |
| 3. REV 7:2-3            | 9. HEB 8:10 (DT 6:4-9) |
| 4. DA 6:17 (ES 8:8)     | 10. REV 13:1-4         |
| 5. REV 4:11 (PS 96:4-5) | 11. REV 13:15          |
| 6. EX 20:1f             | 12. REV 22:3-4         |

### THE STUDY:

- 1. How many marks are there in Revelation’s final crisis? REV 13:16-14:1**  
*There are two marks in Revelation, not just one. Both are received in the forehead; they are opposing marks of allegiance, one to the antichrist, the other to Jesus Christ.*
- 2. What dreadful warning is associated with receiving the Mark of the Beast? REV 14:8-12**  
*The Mark of the Beast is accompanied by the most fearful denunciation of wrath given in the entire Bible. Those who receive this mark are contrasted with those who “keep the commandments of God.” These are not Jews, but believers in Christ, because they also have the “faith of Jesus.”*
- 3. We know what the Antichrist’s mark is called; what does the Bible call God’s mark? REV 7:2-3**  
*God’s mark is called the Seal of God. Unlike the Mark of the Beast, it can only be received in the forehead. God’s mark contains His name (Rev. 14:1).*
- 4. What is the significance of a “seal”? DA 6:17 (ES 8:8)**  
*Seals were commonly used in Bible times to establish the authority of the lawgiver and the authenticity of legal documents. We still use them today (example – a notary seal). They testify that a legal document is official. All seals contain three essential elements - the NAME of the lawgiver, his TITLE, and his TERRITORY or jurisdiction (example – Michael B. Coleman, Mayor, Columbus, Ohio – identified on a Dept. of Weights and Measures seal found on a gas pump). As the lawgiver holds a position by which he claims his authority (ex. President, Mayor, etc.) –his title – God also has a title, found in His seal, by which He claims authority.*
- 5. What is the title by which God claims His authority? REV 4:11 (PS 96:4-5)**  
*God claims his authority because He is the Creator of Heaven and Earth (His territory). God’s seal, therefore, must identify His NAME, His TITLE (Creator), and His TERRITORY (Heaven and Earth). As seals were used in conjunction with legal documents, so we would expect to find God’s seal connected to His great legal document, the law of Ten Commandments.*
- 6. Where in God’ law do we find His seal? EX 20:1f**  
*Beginning with the first commandment, we will begin looking for the Seal. In the fourth commandment we find it. This is the only place in the Ten Commandments that identifies the Lawgiver. Without it, there would be no evidence in the law itself who gave it. This commandment testifies to the authenticity of the document, clearly giving the name, title and territory of the Lawgiver. The Sabbath, then, becomes a special sign to the believer that the document is official. Furthermore, the Sabbath signifies that the Lawgiver truly has the authority He claims.*
- 7. What New Testament term is used interchangeably with the word “seal”? RM 4:11**  
*The Bible uses the words “sign” and “seal” interchangeably.*

**8. What does the prophet Ezekiel refer to as God's "sign"? EZE 20:12, 20**

*The Lord says the Sabbath is the sign between Him and His people, that they may know that He is truly their Creator.*

**9. Under the New Covenant, how does God identify those who are His? HEB 8:10 (DT 6:4-9)**

*He puts His law in their minds and writes it in their hearts. This is symbolized by the hand and the forehead: The law in the forehead represents the law in the mind, in the beliefs; the law in the hand represents the law in the actions. It must be noted that in Revelation, the Seal of God can only be received in the forehead, while the Mark of the Beast can be received in either the forehead or the hand. This is because in the final test, there will be those who comply and receive the Mark, not because they believe in what it represents, but because they want to save themselves from persecution. God's law, on the other hand, must be obeyed from the heart.*

**10. So what is the Mark of the Beast? REV 13:1-4**

*Nobody can determine what the Mark of the Beast is until they determine WHO the beast is. We have already learned in a previous study that the Beast is the Roman Church-State, the Papacy. Once we know who the beast power is, we only need to ask what its mark of authority is.*

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 Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural Authority.”  
– Stephen Keenan, *Doctrinal Catechism*, p. 174.

The Bible says: “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy,” but the Catholic Church says: “No, keep the first day of the week,” and the whole world bows in obedience. – *Father Enright, “The Industrial American,” Harlan, Iowa, Dec. 19, 1989.*

The observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the Church. – *Luis Segur, Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today*, p. 213.

*The Beast power clearly and unequivocally states that Sunday worship is its mark of authority, while God says that Sabbath worship is His seal. Just as prophecy indicates, the final conflict will be over worship; there are two opposing marks of allegiance, each having to do with worship, each contrary to the other. The Bible further says the Mark of the Beast will be enforced by the new church-state image formed in honor, and with the authority, of the first beast, Papal Rome.*

**11. How will the Mark of the Beast be enforced? REV 13:15**

*A beast, or kingdom, speaks through its legislative power. Just as Papal Rome enforced her decrees through the laws of the state in times past, so she will do in the future. In connection with the second beast of chapter 13, which we will study in our next lesson, Sunday worship will be legislated with civil penalties for those who refuse to comply, ultimately ending in a death decree.*

**12. What does God promise to those who stand firm? REV 22:3-4**

*Those who gain the victory over the Beast and his image will receive eternal life; they will sing the song of victory; they will see God's face, and His name will be in their foreheads.*

**APPEAL:**

God is looking for people who will commit themselves to being loyal to Him; those in whose hearts and minds He can write His law. He wants to put His name in their foreheads, that they may be fitted to see His face in glory. Don't you want to be among those people? Won't you choose just now to make Jesus first in your life?