

# THE MARK OF THE BEAST OF REVELATION 13

By Saul Leacock

Some of the most fearful and dire consequences used in Scripture is applied to those who receive the Mark of the Beast. Rev.14:9-11.

Hence we need to know what the Mark of the Beast is in order to avoid receiving it.

This is the punishment which will be meted out to the wicked who have rejected the 3 angels messages of Revelation 14:6-9.

The Mark of the Beast is formed by the second beast of Revelation 13:11—17.

This power makes an image to the first beast of Revelation 13 which is the Roman Papacy of the Middle Ages. Revelation 13:1—8.

It is a replica of the first beast which was a religious political persecutory power.

The second beast makes an image of the first beast, gives life to the image, so that the image of the beast speaks and cause that as many as would not worship the first beast should be killed. Revelation 13:15—17.

Anyone who receives the Mark of the Beast will be lost and will be destroyed in the outpouring of the wrath of God in the 7 last plagues. Revelation 16:2-4.

The majority will accept this Mark and will go along with the system of the world and churches at that time.

In contrast to the Mark of the Beast is the Seal of God which will only be received by the true people of God. Revelation 7:1—3.

While the Seal of God can be received in the forehead only (Rev.

7:3 & Rev.14:1), the Mark of the Beast will be received in both the forehead as well as the hand (Rev.14:9)

Both the Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast are of endtime application. In other words, no one has yet received either the Mark or the Seal. Only when the crisis breaks, when the image of the beast is formed, given life, speaks and persecutes, will everyone receive one or the other. Rev.13:15-17.

The world at that time will be divided into only two classes—the sealed and the marked—those who follow the lamb, have his character and have their minds fixed on him versus those who follow satan and his false principles.

The latter, the Marked, will ultimately persecute the sealed ones who refuse to yield to the Mark of the Beast system in the coming crisis. Rev.13:15—17.

Tragically, unless a person knows for certain what the mark of the beast is, he will inevitably end up with this dreadful mark.

Are you positive that you can identify the Mark of the Beast? Anything less can cost you your life forever!

Before we can go any further we need to identify the beast first.

There are **three (3) ways** of identifying the Mark of the Beast:

**Firstly**, Find out who is the beast and ask him what is his mark? The Bible says that the beast can speak. Rev.13:15.

**Secondly**, Whatever the Mark of the Beast is, it is the direct opposite of the Seal of God which only the 144000 will receive at that time, (Rev.7 and 14 compared) and

**Thirdly**, Those who receive the Mark are contrasted with those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus. See Rev.14:9-11 and verse 12.

So those who have the Seal of God keep the commandments of God, all ten, while those who receive the Mark of the Beast are commandment breakers.

According to James 2:10—12, if we keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, we are guilty of all.

There are folks today who claim that the commandments are abolished and that we are **not under the law**. But what does it mean to be under the law? See Romans 6:14. Those whom sin has dominion over, are under the law (guilty of breaking the Law) according to the Apostle Paul. Those who are under grace keep the commandments through the indwelling Christ. See also Romans 3:31.

Jesus said he did not come to abolish the law but to fulfil it. Mat.5:17—19. Fulfil means to fill full, to act in harmony with and in accordance with the law. See also Isaiah 42:21. So, far from abolishing the law, God wants to write it in our hearts and in our minds. Hebrews 10:16.

Revelation 13: 12,14 reveals that the two-horned beast exercises all the power of the first beast, makes an image of the first beast and then threatens those who refuse to bow to the image and Mark of the Beast.

**Firstly**, Let us identify the first beast mentioned in Revelation 13 and see its characteristics, so that we can find out by asking what is his mark.

**Question**: What does a beast represent in Bible prophecy? Daniel 7:17,23.

**Answer**: *“the fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom.”*

**Note**: A beast in Bible prophecy represents a king, a kingdom, a government or an earthly ruling organization.

**In Revelation 13, the first beast comes out of the sea. In prophecy what does sea or water represent?**

Rev.13:1; 17:15...“The waters which thou sawest..... are peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues.”

**Note:** Since in Bible prophecy, water represents the people of the world, this beast refers to a kingdom which arises from among the masses of the people. It is religious, political, blasphemous and persecutory in nature and comes out of Roman territory as revealed in Daniel 7 (from among the ten horns of the Pagan Roman 4<sup>th</sup> beast, plucking up three horns upon its rise).

**The following are nine (9) points which identify the beast. What are they? Rev. 13:1 - 10.**

- 1. Receives power, seat and authority from the dragon (Satan and Pagan Rome as the medium) . **See Rev. 13:12 and Rev.12:2-4**
- 2. Comes up as (shortly after) Pagan Rome falls (**Dan. 7:24**). After 476 AD when Pagan Rome was divided.
- 3. Becomes a worldwide power (**Rev. 13:3,7**).
- 4. Rules for 42 prophetic months - 1260 years (**Rev. 13:5**).
- 5. Is guilty of blasphemies (**Rev. 13:5,6**).
- 6. Receives a deadly wound which heals (**Rev. 13:3**).
- 7. Receives worship – Is a religious power (**Rev. 13:4, 8**).
- 8. Persecutes God’s saints (**Rev. 13:7**).
- 9. Has a mystic number - 666 (**Rev. 13:18**).

In Daniel 7, the first three (3) beasts were earthly kingdoms . Daniel 7:4 says that the first beast was like a lion (Babylon--606

B.C. to 538 B.C). Daniel 7:5 says that the second beast was like a bear (Medo-Persia–538 B.C. to 331 B.C).

Daniel 7:6 says that the third beast was like a leopard (Greece–this is the kingdom of Alexander the Great (331 B.C to 168 B.C).

Then, the fourth beast, a dreadful and terrible beast with iron teeth and destructive, was the Pagan Roman empire (168 B.C—476 AD) . It is out of the fourth beast that the little horn emerges.

**There is a striking parallel of the first beast of Revelation 13 to the little horn of Daniel 7.** These very same characteristics about the little horn power are revealed in **Daniel 7:20—25.**

This passage clearly shows that **the little horn** came up

1. From **among** the ten horns on the beast, so it is part of the beast. (the ten divisions of Rome or from the Western geographical Roman territory),
2. Arose **after** them (after 476 AD when Rome was divided),
3. It plucked up three (3) horns upon its rise. (Papal Rome came into existence after the driving out of three Arian powers, the Heruli, the Vandals and the Ostrogoths),
4. It persecuted the saints of God for a period called ‘time, times and the dividing of time’ which is the same as the 42 prophetic months of Revelation 13 or 1260 years (Compare Rev.12: 6, 14),
5. It speaks Great Words against the Most High (which is blasphemy),
6. It seeks to change times and laws,
7. It was a world-ruling power. It ruled the then-known populated world for 1260 years,

8. It had eyes (insight and intelligence of happenings) and a look more stout than his fellows (meaning a prosperous or wealthy look)
9. It was diverse or different than all the other kings before.

**Note well:** There is only one power which fulfils all of these characteristics. History proves that **the Roman Papacy** working through **the Roman Catholic Church** during the Middle Ages (which arose in 538 AD) not only received its power, seat and great authority from Pagan Rome, that she was a worldwide power for 1260 years (538 – 1798), during which time she puts to death some 50 million Christians who refused to bow down in worship to her, but, also made the blasphemous claim that she was able to forgive sins, and that the Bishop of Rome was “God on earth.”

(Please, remember, we are not referring to the people of the church—not the wonderful Christians who comprise this church or even the popes—but the system itself.)

**Secondly,** Having identified the Beast of Revelation 13 and Daniel 7 Bible prophecies, let us now allow him to answer the question as to what is his mark.

### **What then is the Mark of the beast?**

We shall allow the Papal system to tell us what its mark of authority is.

The following comes from **the Catholic Record of London, Ontario, Canada, Sept. 1, 1923:**

“Sunday is our **mark** of authority... the church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of the fact.”

Are there other proofs of the change? Yes.

From **the Convert’s Catechism of Catholic doctrine by Peter Geiermann,** we read the following on page 50:

- Q. Which is the Sabbath day?
- A. Saturday is the Sabbath day.
- Q. Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?
- A. Because the Catholic church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.

“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, February 5th, 1950. Library of Christian Doctrine.

“Question.- Have you any other way of proving that the (Catholic) church has power to institute festivals of precept (to command holy days)? Answer.- 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, A Doctrinal Catechism, p. 176.

“The Catholic church for over one thousand years before the existence of a protestant, by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday”. –The Catholic Mirror, Sept., 1893.

“Of course the Catholic church claims that the change was her act...and the act is a mark of her ecclesiastical authority in religious things.” –H.F. Thomas, Chancellor for Cardinal Gibbons.

Note: The Papacy claims that it changed the day of worship from Saturday to Sunday and that Sunday observance by the world is its sign of authority and power.

## So the beast has told us what is his mark.

**Thirdly,** What is the Seal of God that the Mark of the Beast is the opposite to?

Scriptures reveal that God's Seal is in and bound up with his law. See Isaiah 8:16.

Therefore, where in God's law of ten commandments can I find God's Seal? We would first have to find out what are the characteristics of a seal.

A seal, back then, as it is today, contains the Name of a person, his Title and the Territory over which he rules. There is only one commandment which contains all these three characteristics of a seal.

That is the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment of Exodus 20:9–11, namely, the Sabbath commandment.

Name—Lord thy God (Yahweh)

Title—Maker or Creator (made)

Territory—the heaven, the earth, the sea and all that in them is.

So the seventh-day Sabbath is the sign or seal of God and identifies his true people as commandment keepers. (see Tract on “The Lord's Day of Rest” or online evidence for the history of the attempted change from Saturday to Sunday as the Sabbath).

**Since those who receive the Mark of the beast are contrasted with those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, it means that those who receive the Mark of the beast are commandment breakers.** Rev. 14:12.

God is presently holding back devastating destruction from coming on the earth (Rev. 7:1-4) until his people receive his seal, sign or mark, which is his true Sabbath keeping. (Compare Ezek. 20:12,20 with Romans 4:11. Sign = seal). Soon every person on

earth in the endtime crisis, will be in one of two groups: God's group with his 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath seal, or the beast's group, with his counterfeit Sunday Sabbath mark.

**Note well:** It is **only when Sunday keeping is made compulsory by law**, when it is **state-enforced by legislation**, that those who refuse to keep the commandments (all ten including the true 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath), that Sunday keeping (the spurious and counterfeit Sabbath) **will become the Mark of the beast at that time**. Therefore, no one has the mark of the beast now. No one will be marked until the law forces a person to stop buying and selling unless he has the Mark of the beast. Therefore, the Mark of the Beast and the Seal of God are of future, endtime or eschatological application.

The Mark of the beast is not a literal mark or a tattoo or a chip in the skin but a **spiritual mark**, which only angels can see, and has to do with worship. Rev.14:9—11; Ezekiel 9. No doubt economic issues will be involved in seeking to galvanize or bring the world under its control through chips, tattoos or smart cards. But the Mark is not a literal mark. Remember we are dealing with symbols. The forehead represents the mind (has to do with agreement and the will) with which we serve God (Rom. 7:25), and the hand is a symbol of men's work (Eccl. 9:10) or simply going along with the system lending a helping hand. Those who accept Sunday observance willingly at that time are marked in the forehead. Those who agree to work on the Sabbath to avoid boycott or death, and compromised the truth are marked in the hand. In other words, those who just go along with it for the sake of convenience will be receiving the Mark in their right hand (has to do with acting—going along with it—although not necessarily agreeing).

When it becomes a major issue and people are forced to decide for either the Mark (Seal) of God or the Mark of the beast, then those who work on Sabbath or observe Sunday as a holy day will

also be marked by God. While men (governments) will condemn God's people at that time to death for refusing to obey their laws, the Law of God condemns those who are refusing to obey and submit to the Law of God.

Sabbath breaking however, even today, is a very serious matter because it involves sin (1 John 3:4; James 4:17.). Jesus said that those who knowingly profane God's holy day now will lose the ability to think and see clearly and will end up in darkness (John 12:35).

God's seventh day Sabbath is a test of loyalty now and will be then in the endtime. Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me." Mat.12:30.

Additionally, the disciples insisted, "We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29.

Jesus Himself said "...in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Mat.15:9.

How can I make sure I will not receive the Mark of the beast in the endtime? See Rev. 14:12.

- 1. By submitting to Christ, receiving his mind and allowing him to reproduce his willing obedience in the heart, we "keep the commandments of God." See Hebrews 13:20,21.
- 2. "Have the faith (testimony) of Jesus." Reflecting the character of Jesus fully in my life.

Rev. 14:9 - 11 warns against receiving the Mark of the beast. Verse 12 tells what the victorious saints do to avoid the Mark. They have the Faith of Jesus which enables them to keep God's commandments as Jesus said he did and that makes the miracle of commandment-keeping possible! John 15:10.

Worship of the Creator means that I keep the sign or mark of his creatorship, his Sabbath.

This issue of the Mark of the beast or the Seal of God is a part of a bigger picture of the long drawn-out controversy between Christ in the person of his saints and satan working through his final wicked generation of sinners. Rev.12:7—9,17.

Scripture tells us that God does not change. Malachi 3:6; His law does not change. Psalm 89:34. God specifies the seventh day, Saturday, as the Sabbath. The Sabbath was never changed by either Christ or His disciples. He Himself ratified or established the New Covenant and then died. Hence **Sabbath keeping was a part of the righteousness of God in New Covenant obedience.** (Hebrews 9:16, 17).

Far from abolishing his law, (in Matthew 24:20), Jesus Himself predicted that the Sabbath would be in effect binding and should be observed/kept in 70 A.D **at the destruction of Jerusalem**—over 35 years after his death! If our Lord believed that his resurrection would change the Sabbath to Sunday, He would not have said this.

The Bible gives no indication of any New Testament change in the day of worship. And the New Testament is completely silent on any controversy over the Sabbath in the New Testament church. **Even in Paul's day there was no Sabbath-Sunday controversy.** So those who refer to Romans 14 (One man esteems a day...let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind) and Colossians 2:16 (Let no man therefore judge you...about Sabbath days) are taking the Word of God completely out of context, are deceiving others, and will have their reward in the Day of Judgment. (See Matthew 5:19.)

So the great Apostle was not addressing any Saturday-Sunday controversy **even in the Galatian issue** (“Stand fast in the liberty.. and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage..”Galatians 5:1), because **it did not exist and was not an issue in his day,** as he himself kept the seventh day Sabbath at the time and encouraged

others to do so. (Acts 13:42). **Salvation by works versus salvation by faith was the central issue.** Sabbathkeeping of itself is not legalism, else both Jesus and the apostle Paul were legalists. (See Luke 4:16). This is a serious charge or indictment considering the fact that the same Apostle said, “Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law”. Romans 3:31.

Friend, will you respond to Jesus’ word, “if ye love me keep my commandments” John 14:15. He insisted, “if ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love.” John 15:10. **THIS IS NOT LEGALISM BUT TRUE COMMANDMENT KEEPING!**

Then the Promise will be fulfilled, “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.” Rev.22:14.

Praise the Lord. May we recognize that the truth does indeed set us free.

### **A HEARTFELT PRAYER TO GOD**

**FATHER, GIVE ME A HEART WILLING OBEDIENCE TO YOUR WORD, THAT I MAY ALLOW YOU BY YOUR SPIRIT TO SEAL ME, WORKING IN ME “THAT WHICH IS WELL-PLEASING IN YOUR SIGHT” AND THUS AVOID RECEIVING THE MARK OF THE BEAST IN THE ENDTIME. IN JESUS’ NAME . AMEN.**

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