



2018 Q2 Preparation for the End Time - Lesson 11 God's Seal or the Beast's Mark?

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SABBATH

Memory Text – Revelation 15:3, “Great and Marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty, just and true are they way, thou King of saints.” This begins the song of Moses and the Lamb, sung by those who had gotten the victory of the beast and over his image, and over his mark and over the number of his name.

This week, we will study the mark of the beast and the seal of God, with the aim of understanding how to receive the seal of God and salvation....to overcome, because the end of all things is at hand!

The Bible is like a giant jigsaw puzzle, with the pieces of each issue scattered throughout to encourage us to keep reading and studying it. Take any one verse and run with it and you'll have only a partial piece of the picture, or maybe get the wrong idea altogether.

SUNDAY

God's Sign Identifying His People

In Old Testament times there were two outward identifiers of God's true people. One of them was circumcision (visible to those you are intimate with – including non-Jews, cult prostitutes, etc.), the other was Sabbath Worship (visible to all).

Regarding Circumcision, which began at Abraham:

- **Genesis 17** it is sign of the covenant between God and Abraham and his descendants that He would be their God and give them an everlasting possession of the land He was giving to them.

Paul explained the New Testament perspective:

- **Romans 2:28,29**, “A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code.”
- **Circumcision of males on the 8th day of life**, was a sign of the covenant of salvation. It was meant to symbolize the need for renewal of the heart.



- **1 Corinthians 7:19**, “Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God's commands is what counts.
- **Galatians 5:6**, “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”
- **Galatians 6:15**, “Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, what counts is a new creation.”
- Does circumcision mean, be more sensitive to God, cut off anything that decreases sensitivity to God?

Regarding the Sabbath, which began at Creation:

- **Genesis 2:1-3**, “This the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing, so on the Seventh day he rested from his work. And **God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.**”
- **Isaiah 58:13,14**. “If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the Lord's holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, **then you will find your joy in the Lord and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob.**” The mouth of the Lords has spoken.”
- **Hebrews 4:9**, “**There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.** Let us, therefor, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.”

Isaiah is told by God that in the new earth, we will continue to worship on his Sabbath:

- **Isaiah 66:22-23**, “As the new heavens and the new eath that I make will endure before me,' Declares the Lord, 'so will your name and descendants endure. From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me, 'says the Lord.”
- **The only reason we have a 7 day week is because of God's command.** There is nothing in nature that calls for a 7 day week. We have the earth's rotation that defines 24 hour days. We have the earth's rotation around the sun that defines a year, we have the moon that marks off months.

MONDAY



The Beast and False Worship

Worship means loyalty, emulation, relationship:

- **The three angels' messages of Revelation 14 separates all of humanity into two groups:** those who worship the Creator by keeping all of His commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath command, and those who worship the creator.
- **Revelation 14: 9-11**, “A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: **If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury**, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises forever and ever. **There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name.** This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.”
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- **Exodus 20:8-11**, “**REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY by keeping it holy.** Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, no the alien within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

Note that the one commandment that says “Remember” is the only one we choose to forget.

TUESDAY

The Seal of God

Part of Prince Harry and Megan Markle's wedding scripture:

- **Song of Solomon 8:6.7:** “Place me as a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, it's jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned.
- **Function of a seal:** To insure correct authorship and protection, to ensure no changes have been made, to indicate completion.



- **Ellen White**, one of the church founders wrote, "By keeping His Sabbath holy, we are to show that we are His people. His word declares the Sabbath to be a sign by which to distinguish the commandment keeping people. This God's people are to preserve among them a knowledge of Him as their creation. Those who keep the law of God will be one with Him in the Great Controversy." Manuscript 14, 1901
- **Lesson Paragraph 4:** The seal is given to true worshipers of God while the mark is given to worshipers of the beast. The seal is given only in the forehead, indicating a definite choice of the mind to worship God in the way the He has commanded. The mark, on the other hand, is given either in the forehead or in the hand. This means that people may worship the beast for one of two reasons. Either in their minds they agree with it, thinking that they are truly worshiping God, or they don't agree with it but they go along with it because they are afraid of the serious consequences of not conforming; being unable to buy or sell and eventually being killed. Revelation 13:15,17
- **Lesson paragraph 3,** " The book of Revelation describes another sealing, just prior to the Second Advent. **This final seal is given to the 144,000 at the time of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain.** They have God's name (or signature) written in their foreheads. Through the Holy Spirit's work in their lives, they come to reflect God's character."
- Ellen White wrote, "Those who are uniting with the world are receiving the worldly mold and preparing for the mark of the beast. Those who are distrustful of self, who are humbling themselves before God and purifying their soul by obeying the truth, these are receiving the heavenly mold and preparing for the seal of God in their foreheads." Testimonies for the church, vol.5, p 216

WEDNESDAY

The Mark of the Beast

- **Rev 13:11-18: "The Beast out of the Earth** – Than I saw another beast coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He was give power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. **He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beat or the number of his name.** This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beat, for it is man's number. His number is 666."



- **Revelation 19:20**, “But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. **With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image.**”
- **Revelation 14:9-11**, “A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: **'If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury**, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises forever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name. **This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.**”
- **Revelation 20:4**, “I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. **They had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands.** They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”

Other marks in the Bible:

- **Genesis 4:8-16, Mark of Cain** – A visible mark so that no one would kill him, after he murdered his brother, lied about it and was unrepentant..
- **Leviticus 19: 28** – Do not put tattoo marks on yourself. I am the Lord.
- **The last sentence just before the pink section**, “”the mark of the beast will not be given until this final test does come. Therefore, no one has yet received the mark of the beast.” Question – what about the people who died before the end of time?
- **Sunday worship came about when Constantine changed the seventh-day Sabbath** to coincide with the pagan “Day of the Sun”, what we know as Sunday, to get everyone he ruled over on the same page.

THURSDAY

The Sabbath as the Seal

Why did God create the Sabbath?

- For 6 days, He had used tremendous power to create the earth.
- We can take a very small amount of matter and create an atom bomb. Can you imagine how much energy it would take to create matter from energy?



- He could have said, “I am all powerful! Worship, love and trust me!” But instead after witnessing his powerful creation, he created the seventh day to allow us to **think about HOW he uses his power.**
- **God cannot make us love or trust him.** Love and trust must be won.
- **John 1:1-4, 14, 34, “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men....The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth....I (John the Baptist) have seen and I testify that this (Jesus) is the Son of God.**
- **John 13:1-6, “It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extend of his love. The evening meal was being served and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.”**
- That same night, not just Judas, but every single disciple was either going to betray him, deny him, or abandon him. But he washed All of their feet.
- This Jesus is the same one who created the world, who has all power. But look how He uses it, THIS is what God does with His power:
- **Luke 22:27, at the Last Supper, Jesus tells his disciples, “For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.” Think about what this means!**
- **Revelation 4:9-11, “...You are worthy, our Lord and God to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”**
- Even in death, Jesus rested on the Sabbath, and during his ministry on earth, he went to the synagog on the Seventh-day Sabbath. Are we followers of this God?
- **A wedding ring shows that I am married to the man who gave it to me.** We promised to love and be faithful to each other, to serve and be intimate only with each other, but what if I ran around on him, was unfaithful? Would I not be taking his name in vain? It is a sign of our marriage, but it isn't our marriage.



- **So, the Sabbath is a sign of our relationship with God. It doesn't save us.** Many people kept the Sabbath, but won't be saved. Think of the church leaders in Christ's day who wanted his body removed from the cross by the Sabbath, so they could go home and worship their creator on the Sabbath.
- Only an intimate, trusting and loving relationship with Christ Jesus/God saves us. The Sabbath is a sign, not the actual relationship.

So why keep the seventh day Sabbath? Here are a few reasons among many:

- 1) It is a sign for all to see which God we worship, who has our heart, our love and trust.
- 2) It is the means of keeping our relationship with God close and intimate.
- 3) It is the perfect symbol of the fact that we cannot save ourselves, that from start to finish it is Christ's work made possible through faith.

Look at the miracles Jesus did on the Sabbath. He could have chosen to do them on any other day. He could have healed everyone in sight. He did these miracles for a reason:

- **Luke 6:1-11** Man with a shriveled hand was restored – It is good to save life.
- **Luke 13:10-16** A woman crippled for 18 years – compared to untying a donkey and giving it water, set free from bondage.
- **Luke 14:1-6** A man suffering from dropsy in the house of a prominent pharisee – compared to pulling a trapped son or animal out of a well.
- **John 5** A man paralyzed for 38 years – whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life...he has crossed over from death to life.
- **John 7:23** Healing the whole man
- **John 9** Man born blind. Jesus performed a miniature version of the creation of man, spitting into the dirt, rubbed mud on the man's eyes to make him see. And those who see are not blind. He not only healed the man's eyes, but recreated the part of his brain that interprets sight, as the body would have gotten rid of those unneeded brain cells as the child developed.
- The Great Controversy by Ellen White, Page 605 says, “the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God's law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the other choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God.”

FRIDAY

Further Thought



I see many surprised people at the end of time:

- Matthew 7:21-23 describes people telling God at the end of time what they did in his name, and were told to get away from God because he doesn't know them (or they don't know him). These are people doing amazing things for God, but having no intimate relationship with Him.
- Matthew 7:21-23 describes the wise and foolish builders, build on the rock, not on sand, which is the only way you will survive when the storms come.
- Matthew 25:31-46 describes that what you do or do not do for one of the least here on earth, you did or did not do for Jesus/God.
- Luke 1:67-74 – John the Baptist's father Zechariah prophesies that one of Jesus' mission to earth is to enable us to serve God without fear.

Read Psalm 107:1-32

- We are ignorant, trapped, sick, overwhelmed and imbalanced, but Jesus has showed us what God is really like. Through his life and death, he has offered us freedom to choose, power to cut us free from our addictions, has healed us through His Holy Spirit, and has calmed and balanced us in preparation for going home.
- **John 17:3**, “This is eternal life, that you know God.”
- He asks us to “**Remember**” the sign in time that shows the world we are His and His alone. It costs nothing, except our time. Nothing can separate our love for Him and His love for us. We have his seal and the impress of his insignia ring on our characters. Allow God to work through you to bring as many of your brothers and sisters as you can with you, because **the end of all things is at hand!**