

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE

God's Last Message To Humanity, Part Three

IN REVELATION 14:6-12 WE HAVE GOD'S LAST MESSAGE to man, called the Three Angel's Messages. We know this is the final message because following its proclamation John was shown the "harvest of the earth" at the second coming of Christ. In this study we will explore the "mark of the beast" warned of in the Third Angel's Message and "the seal of God" as its opposite.

The Third Angel's Message—The Most Solemn Warning Conceivable

In **Revelation 14:9-12** we read the Third Angel's Message. It is a warning regarding false "worship" signified by the "mark" of the beast. God warns that we are not to follow the dictates of the beast in the matter of worship. God's faithful worshipers are distinguished as those who "keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."

Compare **Revelation 12:17; 14:7, 12; 15:2; 13:3-4, 8, 12, 15, 16; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-9; Daniel 7:25**. Notice that those who receive the seal of God are described as those who *keep God's law and worship Him as Creator*. Notice by contrast that the beast is specifically described as "the lawless one" and as attempting to *change God's law*. Those who receive the mark of the beast are described as those who *worship* the beast. It is evident that the mark of the beast involves some kind of violation of God's law in obedience to the beast specifically having to do with worship. It is also evident that the seal of God involves allegiance to God's law and the worship of God in a way that manifests loyalty to Him as the Creator rather than loyalty to the beast in violation of God's law. It just happens to be the case that there is only one of God's Ten Commandments that calls for the worship of God in light of His position and power as the Creator of all things. It is also the case that the Catholic Church claims to have changed that very commandment as the "mark" of her authority to require allegiance above the Creator. Which one of the 10 Commandments is it? _____.

The Seal of God

In **Revelation 7:1-4 and 14:1-4** the seal of God is the opposite of the mark of the beast. Discovering what the seal of God is will make it an elementary matter to understand what the mark of the beast is. By definition a seal is an identifying and authorizing sign, an emblem that distinguishes the authority of the one who issues a law or decree. A seal identifies that person's name, position, and domain of authority. A presidential seal would include: George Washington, President, United States of American. The seal of God must include His name, title and domain of authority.

Jeremiah 32:44—Men will buy fields for money, sign deeds and seal them, and take witnesses.

Nehemiah 9:38—We make a sure covenant and write it; our leaders, our Levites, and our priests seal it.

Daniel 6:17—Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.

Esther 8:8—You yourselves write a decree concerning the Jews, as you please, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's signet ring; for whatever is written in the king's name and sealed with the king's signet ring no one can revoke.

NOTE: "Sign" is from the Hebrew word *Owth*, which means "a distinguishing mark, a token, ensign, a banner, a remembrance" (*Strong's*). Compare Ex. 20:8, in which the Sabbath is said to be a remembrance of God as Creator.

NOTE: "Seal" from the Hebrew word, *chatham*, means "to fasten up by sealing, to lock up, to be stopped" (*Strong's*).

NOTE: There is only one document in the Bible written directly by God, and that is the Ten Commandments. And only one of the Ten that contains the elements that compose a seal: the name of the Lawgiver, His title and His domain of authority.

Deuteronomy 6:6-8—⁶ And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. . . ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

Isaiah 8:16, 20—¹⁶ Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples... ²⁰ To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Exodus 20:8-11—⁸ Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Exodus 31:16-17—¹⁶ Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. ¹⁷ It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.

Ezekiel 20:12, 20—¹² Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them. . . ²⁰ Hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be a sign between Me and you, that you may know that I am the LORD your God.

Song of Solomon 8:6-7, ESV—⁶Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death, jealousy is fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the LORD. ⁷Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If a man offered for love all the wealth of his house, he would be utterly despised.

The Mark of The Beast

In previous studies we discovered the identity of the beast power of **Revelation 13:1-10** to be none other than the Papal Church-State. We can easily discover, therefore, what the mark of the beast is by discovering what the Papal-Church regards as the distinguishing “mark” of its authority. It is clear in **Revelation 13:11-17** that the mark of the beast is some form of law-enforced worship that gives allegiance to the beast system (the Catholic Church-State) rather than to the Creator. God has also given us a strong clue to help us identify the mark of the beast by calling our attention to the fact that the beast power bears the number 666, which connects it with that _____ of ancient Babylon. See the previous study in which we learned that the Catholic Church is a modern continuation of ancient Babylon, and as such she practices _____ in denial of God’s authority as Creator. The mark of the beast does not become a reality until _____ is enforced by law.

“_____ is our mark of authority... The church is above the Bible, and the transference of _____ observance is proof of that fact.” (Catholic Record of London/Ontario, Sept. 1, 1923).

“Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change 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, Letter, November 11, 1895).

NOTE: “Frontlets” is the Hebrew word *towphaphah*, and it means the *bind* or *seal* or *mark*. The word refers to the Hebrew practice of binding the Law of God to their foreheads. This is the origin of the idea that Revelation calls the “seal of God in the forehead.” The seal of God, therefore, directly indicates the sealing of God’s Law into the minds of God’s end-time people.

NOTE: If the Sabbath commandment were removed from the Law, there would be no way to know who authored the Law or by what authority that unidentified one gives it. The Sabbath says the One who gives the Law is the Creator of heaven and earth. That’s whom it is we are dealing with, and without the Sabbath we would not know.

NOTE: Compare Eph. 1:13-14 and Rom. 5:5. The sealing work of the Holy Spirit is to permeate the human heart with God’s love, and love always leads to obedience to God’s Commandments.

“Behold Your God”—Isaiah 40:9

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All Scripture References are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.