

GOD'S SEAL OR SATAN'S MARK?

The messages of the three angels (Revelation 14:6-12) contain the wonderful invitation to accept the everlasting gospel of Christ and the truths that comprise His way of life, and terrible warnings to flee from error and deception and the mixture of truth and error which can only result in religious confusion. As our Lord prepares the redeemed (Revelation 14:1-5) to enter His eternal kingdom at His second coming (Revelation 14: 14:16), the devil works feverishly to mislead and deceive the world with his errors which he attempts to mask as truth. Tragically, Jesus said that only the minority would accept the right way (Matthew 7:13,14; Revelation 13:8). Throughout history, only the minority have gone God's way.

The third angel issues the most awful warning in all of the Bible. Re-read it in Revelation 14:9-11. It actually depicts man's final day of choice on this earth. For all who choose God, the Bible says that there is a "seal"--the seal of God. For all who reject God, the third angel warns that there is to be a terrible "mark"--the mark of apostasy. What exactly are they? Why do some get one, some the other?

1. Scripture uses the word "seal" in connection with those who have accepted Christ as their Saviour and who have thus been set apart as God's own. Read Ephesians 1:13 and 4:30.

(a) What is the reason why one is thus sealed? _____

(b) Who does the sealing? _____

(Thus, Abel was sealed as his offering of blood was accepted by God. Hebrews 11:4. All who have ever accepted Christ throughout history in Old or New Testament times have been sealed as God's own by His Holy Spirit.)

2. The Bible also uses the seal, or the act of sealing, in another way. Carefully read Revelation 7:1-3.

(a) Who is sealed according to verse 3? _____

(b) Note that verse 1 says that this sealing takes place "after these things." Read Revelation 6:12-17. In connection with what time in earth's history does this sealing take place?

(Here is pictured a final sealing, as the judgment is closing, of all in whom the three angels' messages have done their work. It represents God's saying, "I approve of their immovable faith in Christ as their Saviour, and of the lives they are living as the result of the indwelling working of the Holy Spirit by Whom repentant people have been sealed since the days of Abel. They reflect in their lives My character as revealed in the ten commandments, and worship only Me, the Creator of heaven and earth." Revelation 7:13-17 portrays their experience in Christ, and their eternal reward.)

3. Right here, we come to a very significant point. Thoughtfully answer these questions.

(a) What will one do who truly worships his Creator? Re-read the last part of Revelation 14:7, and Exodus 20:8-11. Then answer.

- (b) Of what was the eternal Sabbath to be a sign to Israel, and to us, according to Exodus 31:12-17, especially verses 13 and 17?
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(The Sabbath is truly the "seal" of the ten commandments in that it, as in all legal seals, contains name, title, and extent of rule. It points out the Author of the commandments – God, His title--the Lord Who made everything, and His rule--over everything that He created.)

4. In light of all we have studied in this series of lessons, the great test is this: Do we yield ourselves in everything to the authority of God, and Christ, and the Holy Spirit? Is Christ truly our Saviour? Have we accepted the ten commandments, including the Sabbath, as our way of life? Have we let God change our habits, our thoughts, our relation to time, money, life itself? Are we letting the Holy Spirit make us totally and daily loyal as we study and come to understand truth? Wouldn't all of this be involved in our receiving God's final seal, His eternal seal of approval? Is there any other way to be truly safe to save? God will allow no second entrance of sin after He ushers in His eternal kingdom.
5. Turn now to consider, by way of contrast, what the third angel means by the mark of the beast. We need first to discover what the beast is, in this particular setting, for there are many beasts in Revelation.
- (a) What is Satan himself called in Revelation 12:9? _____
- (b) How is pagan Rome represented in Revelation 12:3,4? _____
- (c) What new beast arises in Revelation 13:1,2? _____
(Compare this beast power to the little horn power in Daniel 7:20,21,25. See lesson 15. Review question 2.)
- (d) From whom does the leopard-like beast (Revelation 13:1,2) get his power? Re-read verse 2. _____
- (e) What further beast arises in Revelation 13:11? _____
- (f) What does the lamblike beast do in verse 12? _____
- (g) What is his great act in verses 16, 17? _____
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(Summary: The third angel of Rev. 14:9-11 is concerned with the beasts and the mark that immediately precede it in chapter 13. Papal Rome followed and received its power from Pagan Rome. The lamblike beast (many expositors believe this to be the United States) also exercises great power and in some way leads men to worship the leopard beast power.)

6. What then is the "mark"?
- (a) Whom does the leopard-like beast power blaspheme in Revelation 13:6?
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- (b) What does the little horn, the same power, think to change, in Daniel 7:25?
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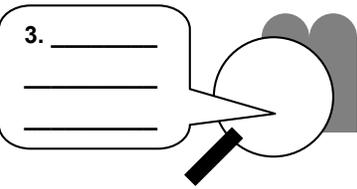
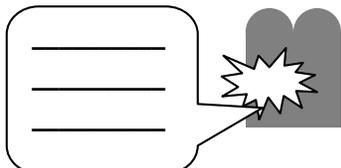
(c) What is the mark? Review lesson 23, question 6(c). Satan, through this earthly power, seeks to remove the seal of God's authority from the ten commandments, and then seeks to replace it with a mark of his own authority. Remember, he "thinks" to do this.

Could we then say that the mark of Satan's authority is a changed day of worship? And that a great final struggle will come on earth as Satan attempts to force all men to acknowledge this mark? Revelation 13:16,17.

Just as the "seal" of God involved more than the keeping of a day, so the "mark" of the beast involves more than the keeping of a different day. It is a struggle, under the severest test, wherein is determined who will submit to the total authority of God and thus be found with a perfected character fit for heaven, or who, with clear understanding of the issue involved, will choose to submit to the one who has always opposed God and thus ally himself against God's claims, until both he and Satan are destroyed forever in the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:10,14,15.)

7. When is the mark given? Answer: When the conditions of Revelation 13: 16,17 take place. We know it has not occurred, yet. But when it does, then all of the terrible curses of the third angel will be heaped on those with the mark.
8. As the third angel's message closes, what is the contrast in Revelation 14:12?

God will finally have a group of people who believe in Him fully, who are loyal to Him, and who have characters like His own, as portrayed in the ten commandments. These He will "reap" at His second coming, and take into His eternal kingdom. What is your resolve, today?

	Since 1844	In the Last Days	Probation Closes	Jesus Comes
<p>From the Beginning, TRUTH</p>	<p>3 Angles –</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1a,b. _____</p>	<p>2. God has a special _____</p> <p>TEN Commandments</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; margin-right: 10px;"> <p>3. _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> </div>  </div>	<p>4. _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>8. _____</p> <p>– Rev. 14: 12,14-16</p>
<p>From the Day of Sin, ERROR</p>	<p>3 Angles –</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>5,6. Satan has a _____</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; margin-right: 10px;"> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> </div>  </div>	<p>6c. _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>8. _____</p> <p>– Rev 14: 17-20</p>

Introduction**Revelation 14:1-16**

¹Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. ²And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. ³They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred *and* forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. ⁴These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from *among* men, *being* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

⁶Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people— ⁷saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

⁸And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”

⁹Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

¹²Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

¹³Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’”

“Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.”

¹⁴Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat *One* like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. ¹⁵And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, “Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” ¹⁶So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

Matthew 7:13, 14

¹³“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Revelation 13:8

⁸All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

1a. Ephesians 1:13

¹³In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Ephesians 4:30

³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Answer: (a) We trust in God and hear the Word of truth. (b) The Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 11:4

⁴By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

2a. Revelation 7:1-3

¹After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. ²Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, ³saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

Answer: The servants of God.

2b. Revelation 6:12-17

¹²I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. ¹³And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. ¹⁴Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. ¹⁵And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Answer: At the close of the judgment before Christ comes.

Revelation 7:13-17

¹³Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

¹⁴And I said to him, "Sir, you know."

So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. ¹⁶They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

3a. Revelation 14:6, 7

⁶Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people— ⁷saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

Exodus 20:8-11

⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰but 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. ¹¹For *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.

Answer: Keep the Sabbath holy.

3b. Exodus 31:12-17

¹²And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ¹³“Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it *is* a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that *you* may know that I *am* the Lord who sanctifies you. ¹⁴You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for *it is* holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does *any* work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. ¹⁵Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh *is* the Sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord. Whoever does *any* work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. ¹⁶Therefore 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.’”

Answer: It will be a sign or seal.

4. No Texts**5a. Revelation 12:9**

⁹So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Answer: The great dragon and serpent.

5b. Revelation 12:3, 4

And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

Answer: Dragon with 7 heads and 10 horns.

5c. Revelation 13:1, 2

¹Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. ²Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like *the feet of* a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.

Answer: Papal Rome.

Daniel & 20, 21, 25

²⁰and the ten horns that *were* on its head, and the other *horn* which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance *was* greater than his fellows.

²¹"I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,

²⁵ He shall speak *pompous* words against the Most High,
Shall persecute the saints of the Most High,
And shall intend to change times and law.
Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand
For a time and times and half a time.

5d. Revelation 13:1, 2

¹Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. ²Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like *the feet of a bear*, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.

Answer: Dragon – Satan working through pagan Rome.

5e. Revelation 13:11

¹¹Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.

Answer: Lamblike beast.

5f. Revelation 13:12

¹²And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

Answer: Cause those who dwell on the earth to worship the first beast.

5g. Revelation 13:16, 17

¹⁶He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ¹⁷and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Answer: Cause those loyal to the beast to receive a mark.

Revelation 14:9-11

⁹Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and

brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

6a. Revelation 13:6

⁶Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

Answer: God. Also His name and His sanctuary.

6b. Daniel 7:25

Answer: Times and law

6c. Revelation 13:16, 17

¹⁶He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ¹⁷and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Exodus 31:12-17

¹²And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ¹³“Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it *is* a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that *you* may know that I *am* the Lord who sanctifies you. ¹⁴You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for *it is* holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does *any* work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. ¹⁵Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh *is* the Sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord. Whoever does *any* work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. ¹⁶Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations *as* a perpetual covenant. ¹⁷It *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.”

7. Revelation 13:16, 17

¹⁶He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ¹⁷and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

8. Revelation 14:12

¹²Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

GOD'S SEAL OR SATAN'S MARK?

Notes for the Instructor

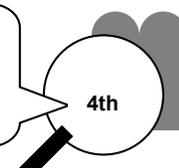
Purpose of lesson 28: This is a critically important lesson in completing the discussion of the three angels messages, and in further establishing the centrality of total loyalty to God in connection with eternal salvation. It also further underlines the immovable place of the ten commandments and the Sabbath in following God. Certainty in all of these things further opens the door for the presentation of God's last day church in lesson 29. The lesson must be presented with great care, lest we be misunderstood. Review the fuller treatment of the subject in Unto a Perfect Man, pages 160-164.

During the study itself: Questions 1 to 4 are the easier part of the lesson. In connection with question 5(a), show that Satan "works through" earthly powers. Show the transition clearly in question 5(d), as the red dragon (Pagan Rome) passes on power to the leopard-like beast (Papal Rome). In connection with question 5(f), show that the lamblike beast has the power of the leopard-like beast, and leads to the worship of the leopard-like beast.

Note question 6(b), study carefully 4BC 832,833. It is critical to understand this.

Appeal: Emphasize loyalty throughout the lesson. Emphasize loyalty in connection with the commandments of God and faith of Jesus in question 8.

Illustration: The visual aid is an attempt to clarify the great truths of the lesson by seeing the contrasts. The two "sides" become clear, as well as the result of being on the right side.

	Since 1844	In the Last Days	Probation Closes	Jesus Comes
<p>From the Beginning, <u>TRUTH</u></p> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; margin-top: 20px;">+</div>	<p>3 Angels – Proclaiming truth for the Last Days</p>	<p>2. God has a special "SEAL"</p> <p>TEN Commandments</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin: 10px;"> <p>3. Sabbath Seal of the Law</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  <p>4th</p> </div> <p>1a,b. Spirit seals God's People to Day of Redemption</p>	<p>4. A People loyal to God</p>	<p>8. Saints Reaped - Rev. 14: 12,14-16</p>
<p>From the Day of Sin, <u>ERROR</u></p>	<p>3 Angels – Warnings to Flee from error in Last Days</p>	<p>5,6. Satan has a "MARK"</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin: 10px;"> <p>Sabbath authority removed</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  <p>4th</p> </div>	<p>6c. A people loyal to Satan</p>	<p>8. Disloyal Reaped – Rev 14: 17-20</p>