

THE SEAL OF GOD AND MARK OF THE BEAST: PART 2



666



Lesson 12
for
June 17,
2023

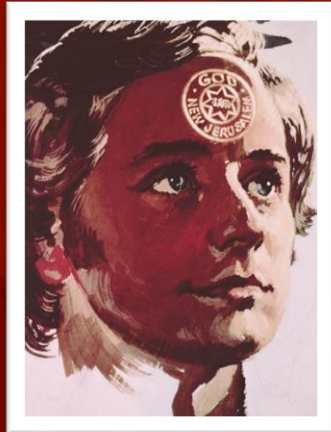
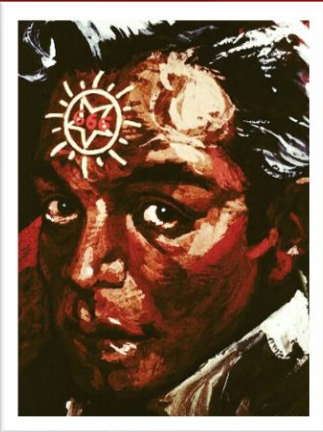
"He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints" (Revelation 13:10)



A universal apostasy has been foretold in Revelation. Political and religious powers will tempt everyone to worship Satan.

Those powers will impose a distinctive mark. Those who reject that mark (to receive God's seal instead) will be condemned to death.

Therefore, it is of vital importance to know how those events will happen, and to understand what the mark of the beast and the seal of God are.



The road to apostasy:

- A mortal wound is healed
- A horn, a beast, a lawless one



The apostasy:

- How will it happen?
- What is the mark and how will it be received?



The seal of the redeemed



THE ROAD TO APOSTASY

A MORTAL WOUND IS HEALED

“And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.” (Revelation 13:3)



The prophecy stated that “the beast” would have authority for 42 months (Rev. 13:5).

Revelation 11 explains that those 42 months are 1,260 days. During that time, God’s witnesses would prophesy with difficulty (Rev. 11:2-3).

In Revelation 12, 1,260 days are equal to “a time and times and half a time” (Rev. 12:6, 14), the same period that Daniel foretold for the persecution of God’s people (Dn. 7:25).

Following the day-year Bible principle, we can interpret the 1,260 days as 1,260 years (Nm 14:34; Ez. 4:6; Lv. 25:8). Therefore, the 1,260 days took place from 538 AD to 1798 AD.





538 AD: Justinian I sent troops to Rome to liberate them from the Ostrogoths. He then made the Pope governor of Rome



Middle Ages: The Roman Catholic Church used the power of the state to persecute those who wanted to live according to God's Word, like the Waldensians or the Huguenots



1798 AD: Napoleon Bonaparte commanded General Berthier to imprison Pope Pius VI and dissolved the Papal States

The prophecy goes beyond these events. The beast was mortally wounded and lost its authority, but it would recover its power (Rev. 13:3).

Between 1870 AD and 1929 AD, the Pope didn't have any territory and the Vatican was part of Italy. On February 11, 1929, Pope Pius XI and Benito Mussolini created the Vatican City State. The wound was healed.





A HORN, A BEAST, A LAWLESS ONE

"The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders," (2 Thessalonians 2:9)

A horn (Dn. 7:25)

He shall speak pompous words against the Most High

Shall persecute the saints of the Most High

Then the saints shall be given into his hands for a time and times and half a time

Daniel, John, and Paul identified the same power: The Roman Catholic Church (as an institution, not the church members themselves).

A beast (Rev. 13:2-7)

The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority

He was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies

He was given authority to continue for forty-two months

It was granted to him to make war with the saints and overcome them

A lawless one (2Ths. 2:3-12)

He sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan

With all power, signs, and lying wonders





THE APOSTASY

HOW WILL IT HAPPEN?

"These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast." (Revelation 17:13)

During the final apostasy, the scarlet beast on which Babylon is seated (not the beast in Rev. 13) will use the civil powers (symbolized by its 10 horns) to give power to the beast (Rev. 17:12-13).

They try to fight against Jesus, the Lamb. However, they will be defeated (Rev. 17:14).



How will it happen? We don't know the details, but the world will look for a leader who could help them in the greatest crisis ever. The religious and political leaders will choose one main leader: the horn, the beast, the lawless one. The image of the beast will impose its mark of loyalty.



WHAT IS THE MARK AND HOW WILL IT BE RECEIVED?

“He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,” (Revelation 13:16)

The mark can be received in two ways (Rev. 13:16):

1. On the right hand. By obeying the imposed rules even if we don't agree.
2. On the forehead. By actually believing that the imposed rules are true.



The mark is related to worship (Rev. 13:15).

According to Rev. 13:17 [NIV], the mark “is the name of the beast or the number of its name.”

Names in the Bible represent the character of the person. Therefore, we will have to choose between God's character and the beast's.



The worldly powers will suggest that everyone will have to worship or rest on the same day in order to overcome the crisis. And that day will be Rome's one, Sunday.

The background of the image is an abstract watercolor-style composition. It features large, irregular splatters and smaller droplets of color, primarily in shades of light blue, teal, and lime green, with some darker blue and purple accents. The colors are set against a plain white background, creating a vibrant and textured effect. The overall aesthetic is artistic and modern.

THE SEAL OF THE REDEEMED



“Then 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.” (Revelation 14:1)

Those who reject the mark of the beast will be sealed by God. They will have the name (character) of Jesus and will show it by keeping His commandments (Rev. 14:12).

The fourth commandment (the Sabbath) determines who we worship.

We are sealed by the Holy Spirit when we accept Jesus (Eph. 4:30). The Holy Spirit will give us the faith to stand firm in the final crisis. He will help us to receive the mark of the true worshippers of God (Ez. 9:4; 20:12; Rev. 7:3).

His title and
His domain

His Name



“Among earth's inhabitants, scattered in every land, there are those who have not bowed the knee to Baal. Like the stars of heaven, which appear only at night, these faithful ones will shine forth when darkness covers the earth [...] and in the hour of deepest apostasy, when Satan's supreme effort is made to cause ‘all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond,’ to receive, under penalty of death, the sign of allegiance to a false rest day, these faithful ones, ‘blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke,’ will ‘shine as lights in the world.’ Revelation 13:16; Philippians 2:15. The darker the night, the more brilliantly will they shine.”

E. G. W. (Prophets and Kings, cp. 14, p. 188)