



LESSON #14 - THE MARK OF THE BEAST PART 1

Introduction

You throw a stone into a pond. I want you to imagine three ripples—large, smaller, smallest

Three concentric circles: Law, first table, one commandment in the first table

Ripple 1: The Largest Circle: The final conflict will be over the Law of God

First: Satan hates the **commandments** of God

Revelation 12:17: *“And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”*

Second: God’s people at the end will have a seal on their foreheads. It is **the law** that is written on the **mind** and in the heart.

Revelation 7:3: *“Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their **foreheads**.”*

Hebrews 8:10: *“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their **mind** and write them on their **hearts**; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”*

Third: It is the **law** that is **sealed** among God’s disciples

Isaiah 8:16: *“Bind up the testimony, **seal the law** among my disciples.”*

Fourth: Those who have the seal of God depart from iniquity. It is the Law that defines good and evil (**Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14** where the law is linked with good and evil) **Matthew 7:23** uses the word *anomias* while **Luke 13:27** uses *adikia* but it is the same saying.

II Timothy 2:19: *"Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: 'The Lord knows those who are His,' and, 'Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity [adikia].'"*

Matthew 7:23 (NKJV): *"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness [anomias]!"*

Matthew 7:23 (KJV): *"But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity [anomias].'"*

Fifth: A comparison between **Revelation 14:9-11** and **14:12** reveals that there is a contrast between those who worship the beast and those who keep the commandments of God.

Revelation 14:11: *"And 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."*

Revelation 14:12: *"Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."*

The Smaller circle: Conflict over the first table of the law

First: Deuteronomy 6:4 summarizes the first table of the law (the first four commandments) and then **verses 5-8** command Israel to write them on the **forehead and the hand**

Deuteronomy 6:4 - 8: *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength [summary of the first table]. ⁶ "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them as **a sign** on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes."*

Second: The issue at the end time has to do with **worship (Daniel 3 [11 times])**. The **last six commandments** have to do with **horizontal** relationships between human beings. The **first four commandments** describe our **vertical** relationship with God

Revelation 13:4: *"So they worshipped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying: 'Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?'"*

Revelation 13: 8, 12, 15: *"All 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... ¹² And 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... ¹⁵ He was granted power*

to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed."

Revelation 14:9, 11: "Then 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. . .¹¹ and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

Third: Chapter 13 speaks of **false worship** to the **beast** and his **image** and receiving the **mark**. In contrast, **Chapter 14:6, 7** calls upon God's people to **worship God the Creator**. If you don't worship the Creator you will end up worshipping the beast.

Revelation 14: 6, 7 "Then 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—⁷ saying 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.**"

- Beast is **worshipped** (**Revelation 13:4**)
- **Image** is worshiped [second] (**Revelation 13:14**)
- Name is **blasphemed** (**Revelation 13:6**)
- Attack on the **Creator** (**Revelation 14:7 with 14:9**)

The Smallest Circle: An attack on the fourth commandment

First: Testimony of Scripture: We **worship** God because He is our **Creator** and the **memorial sign** of the Creator is the Sabbath

Psalms 95:6: "Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker."

Nehemiah 9:6: "You alone are the Lord. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You."

Revelation 14:6, 7 calls upon us to worship the Creator and strongly alludes to the **Sabbath commandment** in **Exodus 20:8-11**.

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Exodus 20:11: *"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."*

All flesh will come to worship on the Sabbath because God created a **new heavens and a new earth**.

Isaiah 66:22, 23: *"For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me," says the Lord, "So shall your descendants and your name remain."²³ And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another all flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the Lord."*

Genesis 2:2, 3: God placed His signature on creation week by resting on the Sabbath. The motivation clause in the fourth commandment explains that the Sabbath identifies who made the world and everything in it.

An **artist** signs the linen at the end of his work. It **identifies the artist**.

Genesis 2:2, 3: *"And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done."³ **Then** God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made."*

Did God **bless** and **sanctify** the Sabbath **for Himself**? God is the **fountain** of all blessing and he is the **personification** of all holiness

In the Bible the words "**sign**" and "**seal**" are used **interchangeably**

Romans 4:11: *"And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised. . ."*

In **Exodus 31:17** the Sabbath is described as a sign between God and Israel

Exodus 31:17: *"It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for [because] in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed."*

Ezekiel 20:12: *" . . . hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be a sign between Me and you, that you may know that I am the Lord your God."*

Ezekiel 8:16, 17 is in contrast to **Ezekiel 9:4**

- The **greatest abomination** was that the religious leaders were **worshipping the sun** toward the east

- In contrast were those who **sighed and cried** because of those **abominations** received the **seal on their forehead**
- Jerusalem was destroyed because the Sabbath was **desecrated** (made unholy)

Ezekiel 8:16, 17: *"So He brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house [among God's own people]; and there, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men [the leaders of the people] with their backs toward the temple of the Lord and their faces **toward the east**, and they were worshipping the sun toward the east.¹⁷ And He said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it a trivial thing to the house of Judah to commit the abominations [key word in **Revelation 17**] which they commit here? For they have filled the land with **violence**; then they have returned to provoke Me to anger [God's wrath in Revelation]. Indeed they put the branch to their nose."*

Ezekiel 9:4: *"... and the Lord said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it."*

Jeremiah 17:27: *"But if you will not heed Me to hallow the Sabbath day, such as not carrying a burden when entering the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, then I will kindle a fire in its gates, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched.""*

- **Revelation** picks up on this in **Chapter 7** and chapter **13:16, 17** with **14:1** where the contrast is once again seen between those who have the seal of God and those who have the mark of the beast.
- How **Sunday** came into the Christian church from **Paganism through Constantine**.
- It is the **same day** of the sun as in **Ezekiel**. Is it the same to **worship the sun** as to worship on the **day of the sun**?

Second: The Testimony of Analogy

The **presidential seal** of the United States contains three elements: **Name, office, territory**

*"The fourth commandment is **the only one** of all the ten in which are found both the **name** and the **title** of the Lawgiver. It is **the only one** that shows by **whose authority** [the creator] the law is given. Thus it contains the seal of God, affixed to His law as evidence of its **authenticity** and **binding force**."* **Patriots and Prophets, p. 307**

Third: The Testimony of Archeology

Characteristics of the Middle Eastern seals at **Ugarit**:

- They were **covenants** between a sovereign and vassal

- They were written on **tablets** of clay
- The tablets were written on **both sides**
- The **seal** was in the **middle** of the tablet
- The seal contained the **name**, **title** and **territory** of the sovereign king

God gave the Ten Commandments in the way that documents such as this were written in that time:

Deuteronomy 4:13: “So He declared to you His **covenant** which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two **tablets of stone**.”

Exodus 32:15, 16: “And Moses turned and went down from the mountain, and the two tablets of the Testimony were in his hand. The tablets were **written on both sides**; on the one side and on the other they were written.¹⁶ Now the tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God engraved on the tablets.”

Exodus 20:8-11: “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** [name] **made** [office] **the heavens and the earth, the sea** [territory], and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”

Testimony of Prophecy and History

The little horn thought that it could **change the Law**. We have already identified the **little horn** or the beast as the Roman Catholic **papacy**. The question is: Does the **Papacy claim to have changed** God’s holy law?

Daniel 7:25: “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.”

John Gilmary Shea (1824-1892) who was an important Roman Catholic historian of his time:

“For ages **all Christian nations** looked to the Catholic Church, and, as we have seen, the various **states enforced by law** her ordinances as to worship and cessation of labor on Sunday. Protestantism, in discarding the authority of the Church, has no good reason for its Sunday theory, and ought logically, to keep Saturday as the Sabbath. **The State in passing laws for the due Sanctification of Sunday, is unwittingly acknowledging the authority of the Catholic Church**, and carrying out more or less faithfully its prescription. The Sunday as a day of the week set apart for the obligatory public worship of Almighty God is **purely a creation of the Catholic Church**.” John Gilmary Shea (who was an important Roman Catholic historian of his time), in **The American Catholic Quarterly Review**, January 1883, p. 139

Our Sunday Visitor, perhaps the most important and influential Roman Catholic journal in the United States:

*"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 accepting the Bible, in observing the Sunday, they are accepting the **authority of the spokesman for the church, the Pope.**" **Our Sunday Visitor**, Feb. 5, 1950*

Louis G. Segur (1820-1881) who was a French Roman Catholic prelate and apologist, and later a diplomatic and judicial official at Rome:

*"Question: What Bible authority is there for **changing** the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day of the week? Who gave **the Pope the authority** to change a command of God?" Answer: It was the Catholic Church which, by the authority of Jesus Christ, has **transferred this rest** to the Sunday. Thus the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an **homage they pay**, in spite of themselves, to the **authority of the [Catholic] Church.**" Monsignor Louis Segur, **Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today**, 1868, p. 213*

From the Catholic Encyclopedia:

*"Question: What is the Third Commandment? [the fourth commandment in Protestant Bibles, because the Roman Catholic Church removed the Second Commandment--**Exodus20:4-6**]" Answer: The Third Commandment is: **'Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.'**" Question: Which is the Sabbath day?" Answer: Saturday is the Sabbath day." Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?" Answer: The Catholic Church, after **changing the day of rest from Saturday**, the seventh day of the week, to Sunday, the first day, **made the third commandment refer to Sunday** as the day to be kept as the Lord's Day." **Catholic Encyclopedia**, vol. 4, p. 153.*

Priest Thomas Enright, CSSR, President of Redemptorist College, Kansas City, Missouri in a lecture at Hartford, Kansas on February 18, 1884:

*"Prove to me from the Bible alone that I am bound to keep Sunday holy. There is no such law in the Bible. **It is a law of the holy Catholic Church alone.** The **Bible** says '**Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.**' The **Catholic Church** says: No. **By my divine power I abolish the Sabbath day** and command you to keep holy the first day of the week. And lo! The entire civilized world **bows down in reverent obedience** to the command of the Holy Catholic Church." Printed in **The Hartford Kansas Weekly Call**, February 22, 1884, and the **American Sentinel**, a New York Roman Catholic journal in June 1893, page 173.*

From the office of Cardinal James Gibbons of Baltimore: "Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act . . . **AND THE ACT IS A MARK** of her ecclesiastical power." From the office of **Cardinal Gibbons**, through Chancellor **H.F. Thomas**, November 11, 1895

Roman Catholic theologian Henry T. Cafferata: *“A word about Sunday. God said: ‘Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day!’ The Sabbath was Saturday, not Sunday; why, then, do we keep Sunday holy instead of Saturday? The Church altered the observance of the Sabbath to the observance of Sunday. . . Protestants who say that they go by the Bible and the Bible only, and that they do not believe anything that is not in the Bible, must be rather puzzled by the keeping of Sunday when God distinctly said, ‘Keep holy the Sabbath day.’ The word Sunday does not come anywhere in the Bible so, without knowing it, they are obeying the authority of the Catholic Church.”* Henry T. Cafferata, **The Catechism Simply Explained** (London: Burns Oates & Washbourne Ltd., 1938), p. 89