

SALVATION IN SYMBOLS & SIGNS

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Corresponds to Program 29

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the NKJV and KJV.

THE SEAL OF GOD STUDY GUIDE

THE SEAL OF GOD

The 144,000 are distinguished by the fact that they have the seal of God. Those who are lost receive the mark of the beast.

What is the seal of God? Let's put the pieces together by starting in Ephesians 1:13-14:

“In 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, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

Here we learn that those who hear the gospel message and believe and receive the truth of salvation in Christ are sealed by the Holy Spirit into the promise of eternal life when Christ returns. It is the work of the gospel to restore us into the image of God, as Adam had in the garden before the fall of mankind. When we have the “mind of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:16), it will be revealed in our lives, our character. We will have God's law in our hearts and mind. We will love righteousness, because we are like Him who made us.

“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.” (Ezekiel 36:25-27).

This is the New Covenant, the law of God — what He wants to seal in our hearts:

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

“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.” Isaiah 8:20.



“The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God ... For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is.” **EXODUS 20:10-11**

Every Christian in the world today worships God on one of two days, either Sunday or Saturday. Those who keep Saturday believe that the seventh-day Sabbath was given, not just to the Jewish nation, but to mankind at the creation of the world. It has never been set aside or changed by God (Mark 2:27; Genesis 2:2-3; Matthew 5:17-18). In the context of the gospel, the Sabbath is a “sign” that God alone saves us and makes us holy (Ezekiel 20:12). It acts as a continual reminder of what God has done *for us without us*. This is why the Sabbath commandment is so important. It stands as a “sign” or “seal” of salvation (Isaiah 56:1-7). (The words “sign” and “seal” are used interchangeably in the Bible; see Romans 4:11.)

The Sabbath contains three characteristics of a seal:

1. Name: The Lord God
2. Title: The Creator
3. Domain: Heaven and Earth

These characteristics are found in the Sabbath commandment:

“The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God ... For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is.” (Exodus 20:10-11).

KEY SCRIPTURES

Eze. 36:25-27 HEART OF FLESH FOR HEART OF STONE

Mark 2:27 THE SABBATH WAS MADE FOR MAN

1 Corinthians 2:16 WE CAN HAVE MIND OF CHRIST

Ephesians 4:30 GRIEVE NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT

So the Sabbath is the Lord's day and stands as a sign or seal of His salvation.

Notice again how the Bible declares that God's people are to be sealed into the gospel truth by the power of the Holy Spirit:

1. "In whom ye also trusted,
2. after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation:
3. in whom also after that ye believed,
4. ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise"
(Ephesians 1:13).

We trust, by hearing the truth of the gospel of salvation, then we believe and are sealed by the Holy Spirit.

So we find that God's people are to be sealed with the seal of God. This seal is directly connected with the word of truth, the gospel of salvation and the Sabbath, the fourth commandment of God's law. This is because the Sabbath is a sign of the gospel, of resting in God for salvation (see Hebrews 4:1-10). And so Paul says, "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." Ephesians 4:30. Amen. ★

