

# SALVATION IN SYMBOLS & SIGNS

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Corresponds to Program 59

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

## UNMASKING THE MARK OF THE BEAST - PART 3 STUDY GUIDE

### UNMASKING THE MARK OF THE BEAST – PART 3

**W**e are going to continue our study in Revelation chapter 13, where the issue is worship. The question we have so far discovered is who we will worship: God or the two earthly powers symbolized as “beasts” from the “sea” and from the “earth.” (Revelation 13:1, 11; Daniel 7:17, 23).

There are a couple of key points in this chapter that we have not yet considered. These, with their associated questions, will be addressed in this study:

1. The first key point is meaning: what does it mean that the mark of the beast can be received in the forehead or in the hand?
2. The second key point is timing: do people have the mark of the beast right now or is this still in the future?

#### Revelation 13:16

This text allows for two options for those who receive the mark of the beast. Some will receive it in the forehead, others in the hand. In sharp contrast, those who refuse the mark of the beast have but one option: they will be sealed in the forehead by God’s holy angels (Revelation 7:1-3). There is no “mark in the hand” option for those who receive God’s holy seal of approval and protection. This reveals an important truth: the seal of God in the forehead represents the mind. The New Covenant promise of God is that He will place His law in the minds of His people (Hebrews 8:10; 10:16). Remember, the whole controversy between the devil (dragon) and the woman (God’s remnant church) is that the devil is making war against those who keep the commandments of God and the testimony and faith of Jesus (Revelation 12:1, 9, 17; 14:12).

So, what does it mean to receive the mark in the hand versus the forehead?

**Mark of the beast in the hand** — The hand is a symbol of our actions (Ecclesiastes 9:10). Receiving the mark in the hand represents those who do not necessarily believe that Sunday is the Lord’s day, but they go along so that they can buy and sell.



“He causes all...to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads...” **REVELATION 13:16**

**Mark of the beast in the forehead** — This represents those who have been deceived into believing that worship of the beast is the worship of God (2 Thessalonians 2:8-12). They believe in their minds that they are doing the right thing in keeping Sunday as the Lord’s day, even though there is no Biblical command to support this belief.

The mark of the beast in the forehead or in the hand covers everyone who is convinced in their mind or are just going along with their actions.

#### Revelation 13:15-18

There are four aspects that we need to consider when it comes to the issue of the mark of the beast. These four areas are counterfeits to the first four commandments of God.

1. **The worship of the beast** — “Thou shalt have no other gods...” (Exodus 20:3)
2. **The image of the beast** — “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image...” (Exodus 20:4)
3. **The name of the beast** — “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain...” (Exodus 20:7)
4. **The mark of the beast** — “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8).

Since the worship, image, and name of the beast counterfeit the first three commandments, it only makes sense that the mark

### KEY SCRIPTURES

**Exodus 20:3** THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS

**Exodus 20:8** REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY

**Revelation 12:4** HIS TAIL DREW A THIRD OF THE STARS

**Revelation 13:17** NO ONE MAY BUY OR SELL

of the beast is the counterfeit to the fourth. The seventh-day Sabbath is the day that God has blessed and hallowed for us to remember Him as Creator, to cease for a day from all our works as He did from His (Exodus 20:8-11; Hebrews 4:9, 10).

## CHARACTER AND THE DAY OF WORSHIP

The final crisis reveals character qualities that are being developed in all people. This final test is not just about a day. It will reveal whether we support coercion, deception, anger, and accusation, or whether we are filled with the New Covenant principles of God's Law of love.

The following is a list of character qualities, based on Revelation 12 and 13, that God wants to deliver us from before the final crisis. Prayerfully consider this list and ask God to show you how many of these character qualities, if any, you may be developing. Then, ask God to deliver you from them by beholding Christ and the infilling of the Holy Spirit:

### Revelation 12:4

Deception is a character quality of the devil who deceived a third of the angels in heaven, and will deceive the entire world (Isaiah 9:15; Revelation 12:9). Are we deceptive?

### Revelation 12:10

The spirit of continual accusation is the spirit of the devil who accuses us before God, day and night. Are we constantly accusatory?

### Revelation 12:17

The devil's anger with the woman causes him to make war with the remnant of her seed. Are we developing the spirit of anger? Are we making war against people that we dislike or disagree with?

### Revelation 13:3, 14

The "beast" was wounded by "a sword" but did not die, and eventually the old "beast" comes fully back to life. Do we fully die to the world and live for God? Or is our old self wounded by God's Word (sword), yet we choose to never fully surrender that to God and die to self? (Hebrews 4:12; 1 Corinthians 15:31).

### Revelation 13:4

The devil wants us to worship him through the counterfeit worship system set up by man's word, disregarding God's Word. Are we worshiping the devil by worshiping men, instead of following God's Word? Do we put man's word above God's Word?

### Revelation 13:5-6

The devil wants us to speak great words and blaspheme God, His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. The word blaspheme means "to vilify." Do we vilify God's name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven? Do we paint a dark picture of God, heaven, and His angels?

### Revelation 13:11

The devil wants us to look like a lamb, but speak like a dragon. Do we make only an outward profession to be like Jesus the Lamb? Do we look like Christians, but speak and act like the devil?

### Revelation 13:12

The devil wants us to exercise authority and control over people, forcing them to do his bidding. Are we controlling and forceful?

### Revelation 13:14-15

The devil uses miracles and great wonders to deceive and kill people who don't follow his program. Do we use our talents and influence to "cancel" people who don't do things the way we want them to?

### Revelation 13:16-17

The devil uses economics to force people to follow his agenda. Do we use our economic power to bring people over to our way of thinking and doing what we want?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you could very well be preparing your character to receive the mark of the beast without even realizing it. Yes, the issue revolves around worship—the Biblical day versus the day established by man—yet it's much deeper than that. The core issue in this final test is character. It is not so much that anyone will fail to be faithful to God because of a day. Rather, when the economic pressure and hatred against Bible truth mounts, many will choose to go along with man's day instead of God's because of a failure in character (Matthew 24:9-12; 25:8). They will support a system that is anti-biblical: deceptive, accusatory, angry, vilifying, controlling, coercive, self-focused, forceful, and misleading. Ultimately, they will follow a course of "cancel culture" toward those who step out of line.

## THE BEAST WITHIN

The "sea" and "earth" beasts are a composite of us: we, the people. The reason why the "beasts" come into power is because they have people who support them. And the people who support these earthly powers are the people who have become like these earthly powers, in taking on such characteristics as deceitfulness, anger, and control. The devil is seeking to counterfeit God's tabernacle on earth and lead the entire world to worship him instead of the true and only King of the North (Isaiah 4:5, 6; Psalm 48:1, 2; Isaiah 33:20; Ezekiel 37:26-28).

### Revelation 14:1-5

Revelation 14:1-5 is an interlude between chapter 13 and the final proclamation of the everlasting gospel in chapter 14:6-12. In Revelation 12 and 13, we see a focus on the dragon and the characteristics manifested in the two earth-

ly powers and all who follow them. In contrast to this, we now see the characteristics of the Lamb and all who follow Him. As you read these character qualities, prayerfully consider that God wants these to be your character qualities, instead of those of the dragon:

1. **They stand on Mount Zion.** This is the place to be occupied by all the redeemed. We can have this experience by coming out of the world by God's grace, and sitting "in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:1-6).
2. **They have the Father's name written in their foreheads.** How do we attain this? By beholding His image, we are changed into the character of Christ through the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18).
3. **They were redeemed from among men** (1 Peter 1:18, 19). How? By the blood of the Lamb—the doing and dying of Jesus—and not by their own merit; by trusting in God's Grace and not in their own works (Ephesians 2:8-10).
4. **They are virgins.** How? They cling to Jesus, the Everlasting Gospel and rely on the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 11:2-4).
5. **They follow the Lamb wherever He goes.** This is exactly the opposite of those who follow the beast. How do they do this? Instead of following men and worshiping according to man's word, they follow God's Word and the Lamb who is the Word (John 1:1).
6. **They are first fruits or "born again"** (James 1:17-18; John 3:3). They have a deep heart experience, not just an outward form. How? By partaking of God's Word, they are fully surrendered to God and live what they profess.

7. **They have no guile in their mouths.** This means that unlike those who follow the earthly powers, they refuse to be accusatory, angry, or vilify. (Psalm 15:1-3)
8. **They stand without fault before God.** They are not controlling, deceptive, or forcefully imposing their will on other people.

These eight character qualities will be found in those who are preparing for heaven, and who give the final message of the three angels to all the world (Revelation 14:6-12).

### Summary

The final crisis resolves around worship. Will we worship God or the devil? Will we worship according to God's Word or man's word? Will we worship based on God's authority or man's authority? The answer is based partly on Biblical information and largely on character preparation. Those who study and follow the Bible as their highest authority, worship God according to His Word on the seventh-day Sabbath, a holy day instituted in Eden for all mankind and affirmed by the Lord of the Sabbath (Genesis 2:1-3; Mark 2:27, 28). Those who worship according the authority of the "sea beast" and the "earth beast" do so because of the character they have been developing. As is usually the case, this end-time crisis reveals true character. Those who go along with the earthly powers have been compromising their characters for a long time. They find it natural to lend their support to these earthly powers because these earthly powers represent the way they act and live. Those who follow the Lamb have been sitting in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. They live above the influences and darkness of this world, refusing to follow its practices when those practices are in opposition to God. ★