

NOTE: This is the most severe warning in all Scripture, the warning against the mark of the beast. Clearly, God does not want anyone to receive this mark. The beast power threatens men with death if they don't receive the mark of the beast. God warns that people who receive the mark of the beast will suffer eternal death.

Here all the issues foretold in the book of Daniel come together. The whole world is forced to make a decision regarding obedience to God and the worship of God, or obedience to the beast and the worship of the beast. This is not a question between Saturday and Sunday. The day we keep is only the outward symbol. The real issue is, who is the supreme person in our lives, Christ or antichrist, Jesus or the beast? The day we honour and keep in this final crisis will reveal who is the supreme authority over our lives. The Sabbath is not a minor issue, because the real issue over the Sabbath is our relationship with God. To God's people, nothing is more important than their relationship with God. That's why they refuse to worship the beast and receive this mark.

26. When faced with a similar command by Nebuchadnezzar, how did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego respond? Daniel 3:16-18

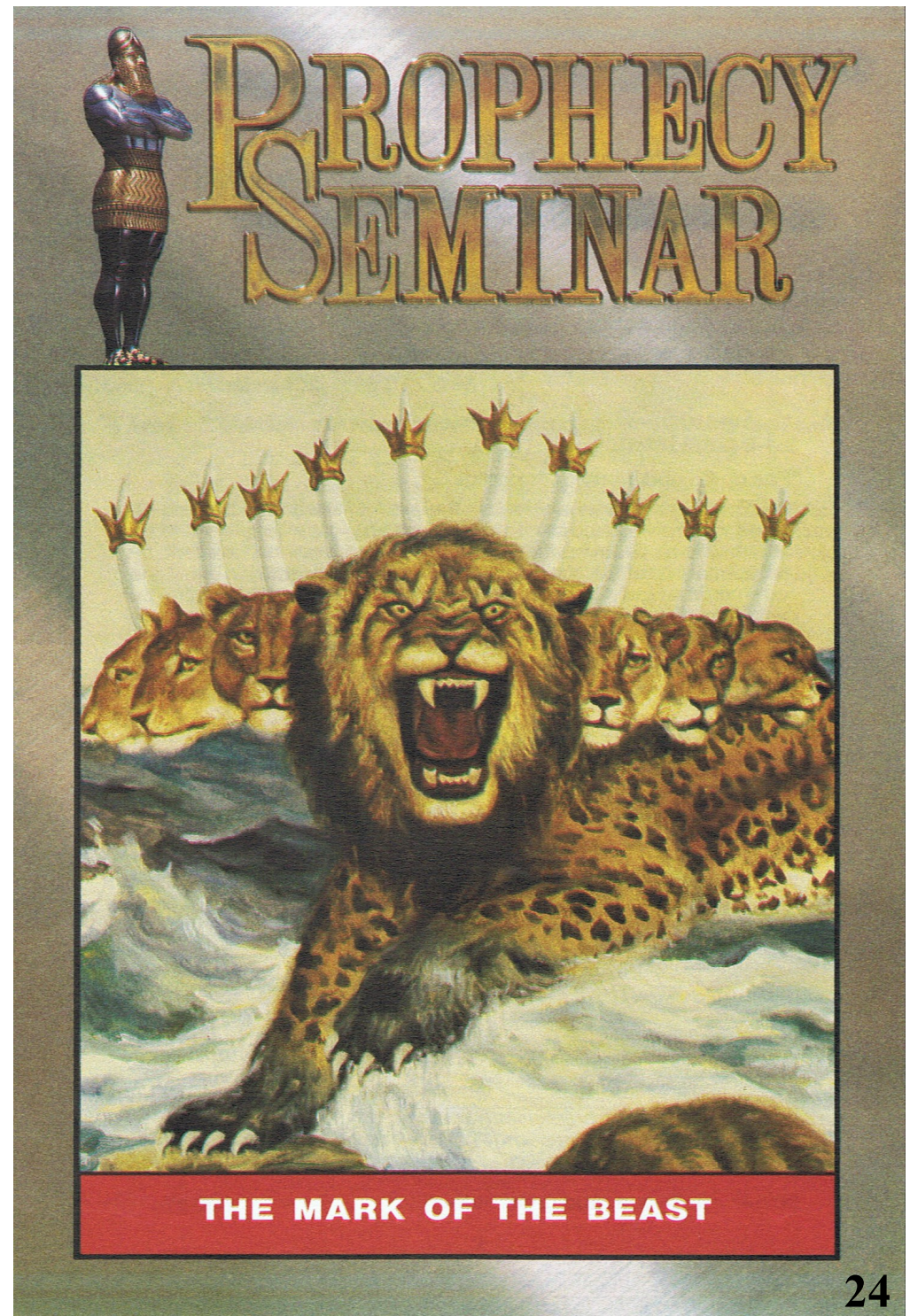
"Our God ... is able to deliver us... We do not serve your gods, nor will we _____ the gold image."

NOTE: The events of ancient Babylon have close parallels to the events under the imposition of the mark of the beast. God's people in both cases were threatened with death if they did not worship the image. But Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego declared boldly that whether God delivered them or not, they would not worship the image. In the last days, when the mark of the beast is inflicted, God's people, like the three Hebrews, will make the same decision. Whether God delivers them or not is unimportant. They have settled the issue. God is the supreme authority in their lives, and nothing can swerve them from obedience to God and the worship of God, even if they are threatened with death.

27. Is it your desire to avoid the mark of the beast by beginning now to develop a strong, personal relationship with God through daily Bible study and prayer and a regular keeping of God's seventh-day Sabbath on Saturday?

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According to Daniel 11:40-45 there is a major conflict involving the people of God at the time of the end (See Lesson 21). While the book of Daniel does not give extensive details about this conflict, the book of Revelation does. In this lesson, we will examine, not only the general implications of the final conflict as found in the book of Daniel, but also the specific issues of the conflict as described clearly in the book of Revelation.

CONFLICT IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL

The stories in the book of Daniel illustrate the crisis that the prophecies foretell that God's people will go through in the end time. Two of these are the stories of the fiery furnace in Daniel 3 and the lions' den in Daniel 6.

1. What did Nebuchadnezzar command people to worship? Daniel 3:4-6

"Fall down and worship the gold _____."

NOTE: An image was erected on the plain of Dura (see Lesson 5). Those who refused to bow down and worship the image were to be thrown into a "burning fiery furnace". Here was an attempt by Nebuchadnezzar to force people to worship false gods and break the commandment of God that forbade bowing down to images. The issue was clearly false worship and disobedience to the commandments of God.

2. What was Daniel prohibited from doing in the crisis of Daniel 6? Daniel 6:7

"Whoever _____ any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions."

NOTE: While, in Daniel 3, there was an inducement to false worship, in Daniel 6 there is a command that prohibits genuine worship. Daniel is not allowed to even pray to his God. In the crisis that will come to God's people in the time of the end, both issues will be present. At first, the authorities will attempt to induce them to false worship. When that fails, the authorities will eventually prohibit the true worship of God. The conflicts in the book of Daniel will be repeated in the end time. The book of Revelation contains the startling details.

THE BEAST IN REVELATION 13

3. Describe the beast in Revelation 13. Revelation 13:1, 2

It "was like a _____, his feet were like the feet of a _____, and his mouth like the mouth of a _____. The _____ gave him his power, his throne, and great authority."

THE SEAL OF GOD

21. What is to be placed in the foreheads of God's servants before these final climactic events take place? Revelation 72, 3

"The _____ of the living God."

22. Where are the servants of God sealed? Revelation 7:3

"On their _____."

23. What does God write in our foreheads or minds? Hebrews 8:10

"I will put My _____ in their mind."

NOTE: If God writes His law in our minds, and the seal of God is placed in the mind, then it follows logically that the seal of God is found in the law. Every seal of any government official or any seal on any legal document has three essential parts: (1) the person's name, (2) the person's title and (3) the person's dominion. God's seal, likewise, must have His name, His title and His dominion.

24. Where is the seal of God found in God's law? Exodus 20:8-11

"For in six days the _____ made the heavens and the _____, the sea, and all that is in them."

NOTE: "Lord God, maker of the heaven and earth." God's name, God's title, and God's dominion are found only in the fourth commandment of the Ten Commandments. Amazingly, God has placed His seal in the Sabbath commandment, just as the beast has put his mark in the Sunday commandment.

The saints are sealed in their minds with the seal of God, indicating that by spending this quality time with God in proper Sabbath-keeping, they have developed a deep, personal relationship with Christ. Only those who have such a deep, personal relationship will be able to resist the imposition of the mark of the beast.

25. What warning does God give concerning the mark of the beast? Revelation 14:9, 10

"If anyone _____ the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also _____ of the wine of the _____ of God."

NOTE: History bears out that the Roman Church indeed did change the times and the law by attempting to change God's sacred seventh-day Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. She did this, not by authority of Christ or the Bible, but by her own authority (see Lesson 11).

19. Does the Roman Church agree with history about the change of the Sabbath?

See Exhibit # 1

NOTE: Since the Roman Church so clearly fulfills the identifying marks of the beast and the little horn delineated in Revelation 13 and Daniel 7, even admitting to attempting to change the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday, it becomes very clear that the Roman Church is the beast of Revelation 13.

If the Roman Church is the beast, then the mark of the beast would be the mark or sign of the authority of the Roman Church. If we wish to discover what the mark of the beast is, we simply have to ask the Roman Church, what is the mark of your authority and power?

20. What does the Roman Church claim is the mark of her authority and power?

- a. "Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change (from Sabbath to Sunday) was her act ... And the act is a mark of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters." Reply to a letter dated October 28, 1894, and addressed from Cardinal Gibbons by Chancellor C. F. Thomas.
- b. "It was the Catholic Church which ... 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." **Plain Talk About Protestantism of Today**, p. 213, Monsignor Louis Segur.

NOTE: What a bold admission! The Bible indicates that the Roman Church is the beast. The beast says that her mark of authority is her ability to change the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. Thus, the mark of the beast is the Roman Church's attempt to change the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. This she claims to be the mark of her authority and power. When Revelation 13 describes a time when no man is able to buy or sell unless he has the mark of the beast, it is talking about the United States enforcing Sunday-keeping by legislation in order to get people to worship and bow to the authority of the Roman Church. Please note that no one has the mark of the beast today. It is yet to come. But, when it comes, God's people must resist it. To keep the mark of the beast is to fail to keep God's sacred Sabbath, the sign of our relationship with God. To the people of God, a relationship with Him is more important than obedience to the beast.

PS-24

NOTE: Revelation 13:1-10 primarily describes the papal system as it operated during the Dark Ages. The beasts mentioned here are the same as Daniel's beasts in Chapter 7 (see Lessons 9 and 15).

4. What happened to the papacy at the end of the Dark Ages? Revelation 13:3, 10

"One of his heads as if it had been mortally _____,
... He who leads into captivity shall go into _____."

NOTE: In 1798 Berthier the French general under Napoleon, took the pope prisoner, thus inflicting the deadly wound.

5. What was to happen to the papacy after he received a deadly wound? Revelation 13:3

"His deadly wound was _____ and all the world
_____ and followed the beast."

NOTE: After receiving the deadly wound in 1798, the papacy was to be revived. Eventually, the whole world would wonder after this revived papacy. Revelation 13:11-18 adds some very significant details, however. It points out that this revived papacy will not stand alone. It predicts that another power would join with it to force people into worshipping the first beast, the papacy.

6. Describe the second beast that John sees in Revelation 13. Revelation 13:11

- a. "Coming up out of the _____."
- b. "He had two horns like a _____."
- c. "And spoke like a _____."

7. Where did the first beast come from? Revelation 13:1

"Out of the _____."

8. What do the seas represent? Revelation 17:15

"Are _____, multitudes, nations, and tongues".

NOTE: The first beast rose out of the sea; the second beast rose out of the earth. If the seas represent multitudes of people, the earth must represent an underpopulated area of the earth.

9. What is happening to the first beast as John sees the second beast

arising? Revelation 13:10

The first beast is going into _____

NOTE: John sees the second beast arising at the same time as the first beast is going into captivity sometime around 1798.

10. How does John describe the second beast? Revelation 13:11

"He had two horns like a _____ and spoke like a _____."

NOTE: A lamb is a symbol of innocence and freedom. In its beginning, this second beast would appear to be an innocent, freedom-loving nation, but eventually it would speak as a dragon. The Bible characterizes this second beast as a power that arises around 1798 in a new sparsely-populated country, instead of arising out of the teeming multitudes of Europe. Only one power on earth meets these specifications - the United States of America. Certainly, we can be thankful for America and the great freedoms it allows, but the Bible predicts that the time will come when America will no longer be the freedom-loving nation that has characterized its first two hundred years of existence. It will speak as a dragon.

11. How does the dragon speak? Revelation 12:13

"He _____ the woman who gave birth to the male Child."

12. Whose power does the United States exercise, and what does it cause people to do? Revelation 13:12

a. "He exercises all the authority of the _____ beast in his presence."

b. "And causes the earth and those who dwell in it to _____ the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed."

NOTE: The issue in this conflict is the same issue that we have seen throughout the book of Daniel; the issue of true worship versus false worship. The first beast persecuted those who disagreed with it. The second beast will likewise persecute dissenters in its attempt to force people to worship this first beast, the papacy, whose deadly wound is now healed.

13. What does the second beast do in order to convince the world to worship the first beast? Revelation 13:13, 14

"He performs great _____, ... and he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those _____ which he was

granted to do in the sight of the beast."

NOTE: Through false signs, wonders and miracles, the United States and its people will join hands with the revived papal apostasy and convince the world that they have God's truth because of all the miracles being performed.

14. What does the second beast create as a result of all these miracles? Revelation 13:14

"Telling those who dwell on the earth to make an _____ to the beast."

NOTE: An image is likeness. The beast power was a union of church and state, persecuting those who disagreed. An image to the beast would, therefore, be an American cooperation of church and state that will persecute those who disagree.

15. What does the image of the beast proclaim will be done to those who do not worship It? Revelation 13:15

"Cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be _____."

16. What does this revived papal-American union now impose on people? Revelation 13:16

"To receive a _____ on their right hand or on their foreheads."

17. What happens to those who do not receive this mark? Revelation 13:17

"No one may _____ or _____ except one who has the mark."

NOTE: This second beast, which we now see to be a coalition of American religious leaders with a revived papal apostasy, will seek to persecute those who disagree with it. It will impose the mark of the beast, with all its economic restrictions, and ultimately will attempt to execute the death penalty upon those who do not worship this power. To worship the beast does not mean that a person needs to join the beast power. One only has to bow in humble obedience to the authority of the beast power, and thereby worship the beast.

THE MARK OF THE BEAST

18. What does the papacy think it has the ability to do? Daniel 7:25

"And shall intend to change _____ and _____."