

"Keep the _____ of _____
 and the _____ of _____"

NOTE: Revelation 14:9-11 warns against receiving the mark of the beast. Verse 12 tells what the victorious saints do to avoid the mark. They keep God's commandments and have Jesus' faith. Praise God it is Jesus' faith that makes the miracle of commandment keeping possible! My faith in Jesus' indwelling presence is the key (Romans 8:3, 4; Colossians 1:27, 28).

18. God's last warning message includes: Revelation 14:6-12

- a. Worship of the Creator (vs. 7) which means I keep the sign or mark of His Creatorship, His Sabbath. For emphasis, verse 7 even quotes part of the Sabbath commandment (Exodus 20:11).
- b. Do not receive the mark of the beast (vs. 9, 10) which means I must not accept and receive the devil's counterfeit sign of Sunday sacredness.

NOTE: God gives us these two solemn warnings. What could be more sobering? It is clear that a person who receives the mark of the beast will be lost.

19. Are you serious about escaping hell's fires?

Ans: _____

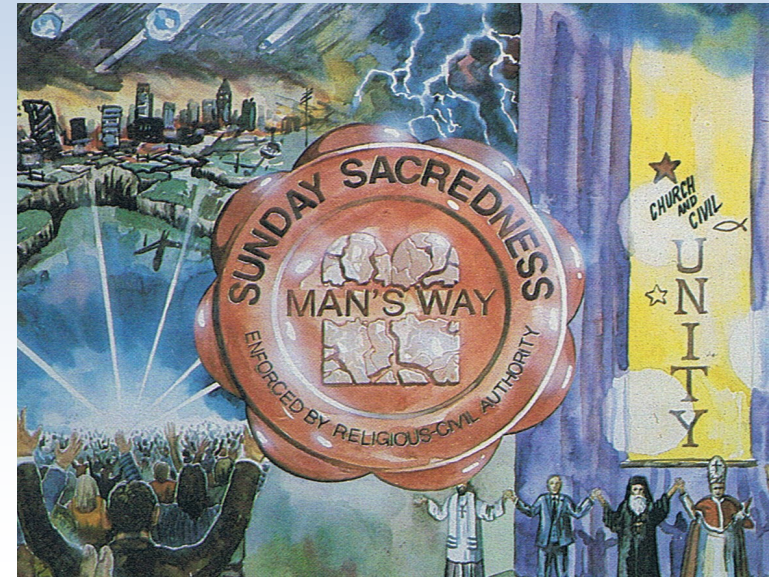
20. Are you serious enough to obey all ten commandments out of gratitude for your salvation?

Ans: _____

Study Guide 019

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THE MARK OF THE BEAST

The most fearful, awesome and shocking language in all the book of Revelation is used in speaking of the mark of the beast.

To read how God describes the punishment for those who receive the mark of the beast (Revelation 14:9-11) is enough to immediately put a sober look on any person's face.

Revelation points out the following specifically:

- a. Any person who receives this mark is lost.
- b. The majority of people on earth will accept the mark.
- c. Civil authorities will try to compel people to be so marked.

God teaches in Revelation that all people on this earth are rapidly dividing into two groups: one group following the God of heaven, and the other following Satan, who is represented by the beast. Those who follow God will receive the sign or number of God (see lesson 10). Those who follow

Satan, represented by the beast, will receive the sign or mark of the beast.

Tragically, unless a person knows for certain what the mark of the beast is, he will inevitably end up with this dreadful mark. Are you positive that you can identify the mark of the beast? Anything less can cost you your life.

This subject may cut across something you have loved from childhood. But surely, since God lovingly sent us this special message from Revelation, we will be anxious to hear and follow His counsel. This is what Jesus asks us to do in Revelation 1:3.

THE BEAST OF REVELATION 13:1-10

1. What does a beast represent in prophecy? Daniel 7:23

"The fourth _____ shall be the fourth _____."

NOTE: Beasts in prophecy represent kingdoms, governments, or earthly ruling organizations.

2. This beast comes out of the sea. What is water? Revelation 13:1; Revelation 17:15

"The waters. . . are _____ and _____ and _____ and _____."

NOTE: Water, in prophecy, represents the people of the world.

3. Nine points identify the "beast". What are they?

Study these identifying points in Revelation 13:1-10

1. Receives power, seat and authority from dragon (Revelation 13:12)
2. Comes up as Pagan Rome falls (Daniel 7:24)
3. Becomes a worldwide power (Revelation 13:3, 7)
4. Rules 42 prophetic months-1260 years (Revelation 13:5)
5. Is guilty of blasphemies (Revelation 13:5, 6)

NOTE: No one has the mark of the beast now. No one will be marked until the law forces a person to stop buying and selling unless he has the mark. When it becomes a major issue and people are forced to decide for either the mark of God or the mark of the beast, then those who work on Sabbath or observe Sunday as a holy day will be marked. Sabbath breaking however, even today, is a very serious matter, because it involves sin (1 John 3:4). Those who knowingly profane God's holy day now, will lose the ability to think and see clearly and will end up in darkness (John 12:35).

A TEST OF LOYALTY

14. How does God decide whom we serve? Romans 6:16

"His _____ ye are to _____ ye _____"

NOTE: God chooses to save everybody (I Timothy 2:3, 4). The devil desperately wants all to be lost. We choose whom we will serve by whom we obey (Joshua 24:15). I obey God and serve Him by accepting His Sabbath. Sabbath-keeping is not just a matter of choosing a day but rather a question of loyalty to Christ or anti-Christ, which is another name for the beast.

15. How does God count me if I am neutral? Matthew 12:30

"He that is not _____ Me is _____ Me."

GOD'S PEOPLE LOVINGLY OBEY

16. What did Christ's disciples say when facing a test? Acts 5:29

"We ought to obey _____ rather than _____."

NOTE: And Jesus said, "In vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matthew 15:9.

17. How can I make sure I will not receive the mark? Revelation 14:12

HOW THE MARK IS RECEIVED

10. Why does God command His angels to hold earth's final destruction? Revelation 7:1-3

"Hurt not the _____ ...till we have _____
the _____ of God in their _____."

NOTE: God is holding back devastating destruction from the earth until His people receive His seal, sign or mark, which is His Sabbath. Soon every person on earth will be in one of two groups: God's group, with His Sabbath mark, or the Beast's group, with his counterfeit Sunday mark.

11. Who will receive God's wrath in the last days? Revelation 14:9, 10

Those who receive the _____ of the _____

NOTE: God's wrath is contained in the seven last plagues which we will study in a soon-coming lesson (Revelation 15:1; 16:1,2).

12. Where is the beast's mark placed on people? Revelation 13:16

"In their right _____ or in their _____."

NOTE: The mark is not literal. Remember, we are dealing with symbols. The forehead represents the mind with which we serve God (Romans 7:25), and the hand is a symbol of men's work. (Ecclesiastes 9:10). Those who accept Sunday observance willingly are marked in the forehead. Those who agree to work on the Sabbath to avoid boycott or death are marked in the hand.

13. Do people who now observe Sunday have the mark? Revelation 13:16, 11

"And that _____ man might _____
or _____ save he that had the _____"

6. Receives a deadly wound which heals (Revelation 13:3)
7. Receives worship—a religious power (Revelation 13:4, 8)
8. Persecutes God's saints (Revelation 13:7)
9. Has a mystic number 666 (Revelation 13:18).

NOTE: Only one power fulfils all of these characteristics. History proves that the Papacy not only received its power, seat and great authority from Pagan Rome, that she was a worldwide power for 1260 years (538 to 1798), during which time she put to death some 50 million Christians who refused to bow down in worship to her, but, also made the blasphemous claim that she was able to forgive sins, and that the bishop of Rome was "God on earth".

Revelation uses the ancient custom of giving numerical value to official names or titles to help identify this power. A chief title of the bishop of Rome is "The vicar of the son of God", in Latin, "Vicarius Filii Dei".

This name adds up to exactly "666"!

V - 5	F - 0	D - 500	112
I - 1	I - 1	E - 0	53
C - 100	L - 50	I - 1	501
A - 0	I - 1		
R - 0	I - 1	501	666
I - 1			
U - 5	53		
S - 0			
112			

So the Papacy fits all nine points.

4. Who gives this message of warning in Revelation? Revelation 3:19

Jesus says, "As many as I _____, I _____ and _____;
be _____ therefore and _____."

NOTE: This is a message of love from Jesus. There are many beautiful, sweet, loving Christians of the Roman community, who serve Jesus gladly and whom Jesus counts as His children.

This is not an attack on our Christian friends but an account of the historical Roman religious system which has demonstrated so much power in ages past. Thank God Jesus loves us enough to give us this gracious warning that we might avoid receiving the mark of the beast.

5. What then is the mark of the beast?

We shall, in all fairness, allow the papal system to tell us what its mark of authority is.

NOTE: The following comes from the **Catholic Record of London, Ontario, Canada**, Sept. 1, 1923: "Sunday is our **mark** of authority...The church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of the fact."

6. Are there other proofs of the change?

Yes. From the **Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine** by Peter Geiermann, we read the following on page 50:

Q: Which is the Sabbath day?

A: Saturday is the Sabbath day.

Q: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

A: Because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.

NOTE: The Papacy claims that it changed the day of worship from Saturday to Sunday and that Sunday observance by the world is its sign of authority and power. We summarize by saying, God's mark or sign of power is Sabbath and Sabbath-keeping, while the beast's sign or mark of power in religious matters is Sunday and Sunday-keeping. Many Roman Catholic sources too numerous to quote here testify to the change.

**7. Did the papacy really change God's fourth commandment?
Daniel 7:25**

No! "And _____ to change times and _____."

NOTE: Daniel 7 is a parallel prophecy to Revelation 13. The message is clear, the papacy only thought they could change God's day of worship; the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is still binding; Sunday is not a holy day (Exodus 20:8).

8. What concern did God have in Ezekiel's day? Ezekiel 22:26

"Hid their _____ from My _____."

NOTE: It's still happening today. Many religious leaders say, "There is no difference between Sabbath and Sunday." But God still says, "Thou hast despised mine holy things, and hast profaned my Sabbaths." Ezekiel 22:8.

**9. What did God say about attempts to change His law? Deut. 4:2;
Luke 16:11**



Do not _____ or _____ a single thing. _____ and _____ will pass away before one tittle of the _____ fails."

NOTE: Popular churches are embarrassed. As we studied before, virtually all churches admit in their official writings that there is no scripture for Sunday sacredness.