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GOD'S SEAL AND SATAN'S MARK

Satan's deceptive power becomes more and more evident as we trace his efforts against God and His people. His daring attempt to destroy God's Holy Law reached its peak in his endeavor to substitute Sunday for God's Sabbath, which has fooled the majority of people. This issue is destined to become the central point of controversy in these last days when Satan is trying to deceive the "very elect." It will divide the whole world into one of two classes.

1. What are the two classes that will exist at the end of the world?

Matthew 13:47-49

2. How will God's people be distinguished from the wicked? Revelation 7:1-3

3. Where is the law to be written? Hebrews 10:16 _____

Note: The law is sealed on God's people or written on their minds. The forehead is the seat of the mind. We keep the law with our mind, symbolized by the forehead.

4. On what basis does God base His claim to our worship and obedience? Isaiah 40:25, 26; Jeremiah 10:10-12; Psalms 96:5 _____

5. What day is the reminder of God's creative power? Genesis 2:1-3

Note: God is going to seal His law among His disciples on their minds. A seal represents authority. God claims authority because He is our Creator. God set up a seal or memorial of creation in the seventh-day Sabbath

6. Why is the Sabbath command used by God as a distinguishing sign of His true followers? Ezekiel 20:12, 20

Note: We rest on the Sabbath day as a memorial for creation and salvation. He who is the Creator is also the creator of our holiness. We have no holiness apart from God. This is in direct contrast to a religion that teaches salvation by sacraments or works. Salvation comes from grace alone (undeserved favor from God) and there is nothing we can do to earn it.

21-2

7. How are the “saints” or people of God distinguished from the wicked?

Revelation 14:12

*Note: Satan has a counterfeit for every truth that God has made known. Just as there is the **Holy Trinity** of the Godhead: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, so Satan has an “**unholy trinity**” that will make its debut in the very last days. In this lesson as well as the next we will explore who and what these three are.*

8. Describe the beast that John saw. Revelation 13:1, 2

- a. Heads and horns _____ b. What name on each head? _____
c. Resembled a _____ d. Feet like a _____
e. Mouth like a _____ f. Who gave the beast its power? _____

9. Who is the dragon? Revelation 12:9 _____

Note: In order to decipher who or what the beast is we need to study the prophecies of Daniel. Daniel is the book of the Old Testament that points to the end time prophecies and Revelation is the book in the New Testament that also points to end time prophecies. Daniel sheds light on Revelation and Revelation expands the prophecies of Daniel. They need to be studied in light of one another.

10. What did Daniel see come out of the sea? Daniel 7:2, 3 _____

11. What does a beast represent? Daniel 7:17, 23 _____

12. What does the “sea” represent? Revelation 17:15

Note: In Daniel 2, God revealed through his prophet Daniel that there would be but four great world empires. The fourth kingdom, Rome would then be divided into ten tribes. These were comprised of ancient Europe and history has confirmed this. Since Daniel 7 also tells of four successive kingdoms, it is apparent that this prophecy parallels the prophecy of Daniel 2. Because God identified the first kingdom in Daniel 2 as Babylon, we know that the other three would have to be Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome.

21-3

*These beasts came out of the sea, or a thickly populated territory. Daniel saw a sea tossed about by a strong wind. Winds depict strife and war (Jeremiah 49:36, 37). Thus each of these nations emerges from war and strife. Isn't this usually how most nations make their debut? In contrast, the leopard-like beast of Revelation 13 came up out of the sea, but no winds were mentioned, for it was **given** its power from Satan.*

13. How many horns did this beast have? Revelation 13:1 _____

*Note: These **ten horns** are the **same ten toes** of the statue in Daniel 2 that speaks of the dividing of the empire of Rome. Ten barbarian tribes finally broke Rome's long iron rule. These ten tribes ruled for a while and three fell away entirely. The remaining seven became the forerunners of modern Europe. This is the same beast (or nation) spoken of in Daniel 2 and 7.*

14. What does the "little horn" have power to do? Daniel 7:19-25

- a. "Eyes and mouth that spoke _____"
- b. "Waging _____ against the _____ and _____ them"
- c. "Speak against the _____"
- d. "_____ His saints"
- e. "Try to _____ the set _____ and _____"

*Note: This power arises **out** of the divisions of Rome. This little horn power would be **different** from the first ten. They were all political powers; this would be a **religious power**.*

15. What power sprang up from the ten tribes of early Europe and became a religious world leader? What same power persecuted the saints and thought to "change God's laws?"

16. Which of God's laws (commandments) deal exclusively with time?

Conclusion: The world is rapidly being arrayed under one of two banners, bearing the authority of God or Satan. To decide to be loyal is to invite opposition but the end result is inner peace and eternal life. The Bible is clear about Satan's intentions. We will discover more about this in our next lesson.