

Revelation

S P E A K S



*Messages
of Hope
for a
World in
Turmoil*

Lesson 14

Revelation's Seal of Loyalty

[This chapter is based on Revelation, Chapter 13]

The Book of Revelation describes a titanic struggle between the forces of good and evil-between God and Satan, a rebel angel. Lucifer, that angel, has raised questions about God's loving intentions for His people. The chaotic, unsettled state of our society, with its epidemic of crime, violence, and immorality, graphically portrays the result of Satan's influence on Planet Earth.

The final issues focus on trust, loyalty, and obedience, in this great controversy between good and evil. The coming crisis over the Mark of the Beast is much deeper than the mysterious 666 on license plates in Jerusalem, or a laser tattoo for every individual, or bar codes on sales items, or a giant computer called "the Beast" in Brussels.

Before we discover who the Beast is and what the Mark of the Beast is all about, it is necessary to discover the central issue in earth's final conflict. Once we understand God's seal, Satan's mark will stand out in striking contrast.

1. Who are the objects of Satan's special attack in the final crisis? Revelation 12:17.

2. What mark will God's people receive at the end time? Revelation 7:1-3.

3. Of what are winds a symbol in the Bible? Jeremiah 49:36-38.

Revelation - 2

NOTE: Before the final outpouring of God's judgment in the seven last plagues, God's people will receive His Seal of Allegiance and Loyalty. Just as the blood of the Passover Lamb symbolized the faith of the Israelites and true worship, God's seal symbolizes genuine faith and true worship.

The Israelites, who, expressing their faith, placed the blood of the lamb on the doorpost, were protected as the angel of death destroyed the Egyptians. Likewise, God's people will be protected in the final crisis.

4. Around what does this final test revolve?

a. Revelation 14:6, 7 _____

b. Revelation 14:8 _____

c. Revelation 14:9, 10 _____

NOTE: The final test centers on the question of worship. It focuses on whom we worship, when we worship, and why we worship. Revelation sharply contrasts two worships-worshipping the Creator, and worshipping the Beast.

5. How does the Book of Revelation describe those who worship their Creator and refuse to receive the Mark of the Beast? Revelation 14:12.

6. Where is God's seal found? Isaiah 8:16.

7. What is another name for a seal? Romans 4:11.

NOTE: The words *seal*, *sign*, or *mark*, are often used interchangeably in the Bible. We may speak of God's sign or seal or the mark of His authority.

8. Since the final crisis is over God's authority to be worshiped, why is God worthy of our greatest praise and highest worship? Revelation 4:11

NOTE: Since God made us, He is worthy of our worship, praise, and adoration. We did not evolve. We did not create ourselves. He is to be exalted as our Creator.

9. What specific commandment in the heart of God's law calls us back to worshiping God as our Creator? Exodus 20:8-11.

NOTE: An official seal authenticates a document. Each seal must contain at least three things: the name, the title, and the territory of the one whose seal it is. For example, George Washington (name) President (title) United States (territory). The Sabbath commandment contains the (name) Lord God, (title) Maker or Creator, and (territory) heaven and earth, of the divine Law Maker. It is God's special seal, sign, or mark.

10. What does the prophet Ezekiel call the Sabbath? Ezekiel 20:12, 20.

11. Which day does the Lord tell us is His Sabbath? Exodus 20:8-10.

"The _____ is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God."

NOTE: The commandment specifically declares that the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. The Sabbath was not given for the Jews alone. It was created by God as a symbol of loyalty to Him for all mankind (Mark 2:27, 28).

12. When was the Sabbath given to the human race? Genesis 2:1-3.

13. How does the Bible indicate that God especially set aside the seventh day as the Sabbath?

a. Genesis 2: 1, 2 _____

b. Genesis 2:3 _____

c. Genesis 2:3 _____

Revelation - 4

NOTE: When we rest on the seventh day, it is as an acknowledgment of faith and trust in our Creator, who also rested on the seventh-day. We can never make a day holy. We can only keep the day that God has already made holy. The seventh-day Sabbath is the only day God ever set aside and sanctified.

14. When we worship on the Sabbath, whom do we especially worship? Ephesians 3:9.

NOTE: Since Jesus is both our Creator and Redeemer, when we worship on the Sabbath, we give Him our highest allegiance—we express our deepest loyalty.

15. Did Jesus worship on the Sabbath? Luke 4:16.

16. Did His disciples keep the Sabbath after His death?

a. Matthew 24:20 _____

b. Acts 13:43-46 _____

17. Why did God give Jesus this wonderful message found in Revelation? Revelation 1:1.

18. When did Jesus give John this wonderful message regarding loyalty to the Creator? Revelation 1:10.

19. Which day is the Lord's day?

a. Matthew 12:8 _____

b. Luke 6:5 _____

NOTE: Jesus, our loving Lord, calls all men and women to worship Him as the Creator. He revealed to His servant John wonderful truths about the last days in the Book of Revelation on the Sabbath day. How appropriate! The last book of the Bible, revealing heaven's truth about the final conflict between true and false worship, was given on the Lord's true day of worship.

20. How can we tell which day is the true Lord's Day?

The Bible presents three days in succession.

The day Christ died. _____ Luke 23:54.

The day Jesus rested in the tomb. _____ Luke 23:55,56.

The day Jesus was resurrected from the dead. _____ Luke 24:1.

NOTE: The Bible makes plain what day the seventh day actually is. Christ died on the preparation day, or Friday. Christians around the world remember Christ's death on "Good Friday." The next day, the women "rested according to the commandment." This was the Sabbath, or our Saturday. Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week-our Sunday. Webster's Dictionary says, "Saturday-the seventh day of the week." Consult a common calendar, and you will observe that Sunday is the first day and Saturday is the seventh day. Why do so many people worship on Sunday? The ancient prophet Daniel provides an answer.

21. What did the prophet Daniel predict Satan would attempt to do regarding God's law? Daniel 7:25.

22. What will be the ultimate fate of those who attempted to change God's Word? Revelation 22:18, 19.

NOTE: It is a serious offense against God to tamper with His law. God said, "Remember," but most of the world has forgotten His Sabbath. It is more than a matter of days-it's a matter of masters. The real issue is having faith which is solid enough to do what God says, by accepting Revelation's final call to worship Christ as Creator and by turning from Satan's clever substitute. (Read Isaiah 58:13.)

My Response

___ I choose to be faithful to Jesus by keeping His commandments.

___ I want to "remember" the seventh day, which is Saturday.

___ I am determined, with God's help, to be in that group who go up to worship God each Sabbath in the earth made new.