

Bible Study Topic:

The Mark of the Beast; The Seal of God

- Genesis 4:3-5** Both Cain and Abel claimed to be worshipping God with their sacrifices. Abel's was accepted because he brought exactly what God asked; Cain's was not because he worshiped in his own way.
- Exodus 31:13** The act of keeping the seventh-day Sabbath is our sign of loyalty to God. Humanity declares the day of worship is not important; God declares its importance is forever. As God accepted Abel's offering of obedience through faith in the Lamb to come, so today He accepts our offering of obedience through faith in the Creator of the Fourth Commandment.
- Daniel 3** Bowing down to the image or statue of Nebuchadnezzar was an acknowledgment of Nebuchadnezzar's authority over the authority of God, who forbade the worship of images (Exodus 20:4-5). Keeping Sunday is an acknowledgment of the authority of the Catholic church over the authority of God, who declares His law to be everlasting (Psalms 111:7-8).
- Rev. 14:9-11** The beast is the power that claims to have changed the holiness of the seventh-day Sabbath to the first day Sunday. Thus Sunday "sanctity" is the "image to the beast," or the acknowledgment of the beast's authority over the authority of God, just as worshipping Nebuchadnezzar's image was an acknowledgment of the king's authority over the authority of God.
- Rev. 13:15-17** The mark of the beast is received by those who keep the counterfeit Sabbath, in response to legislation (laws) introduced to force the observance of Sunday sacredness (See Romans 6:16). It may not be a literal mark, but rather an attitude of rebellion, which demonstrates itself by the day chosen to worship. Since national Sunday legislation has not yet occurred, the mark of the beast is still future.
- Exodus 20:8-11** In the Fourth Commandment are found all the elements of an official seal:
- Title: God
 - Area of Jurisdiction: Heaven and earth
 - Right to rule: Creator
- Exodus 31:16-17** This seal or sign that God is our Creator and we are His people is found in the observance, through faith in Jesus, of the seventh-day Sabbath.

- Revelation 14:12** Those who receive the mark of the beast are described in verses 9-11; those who receive the seal of God are described in verse 12.
- Revelation 7:3, 14** The commandment keepers who receive the seal of God trust in Jesus for their power and for their goodness, not in their own works.
- Revelation 16: 1-2** The seven last plagues are poured out on those who receive the mark of the beast, but God's people are promised protection (see Psalms 91, Isaiah 3:10-11, Psalms 46).
- Question:** "Have you any other way of proving that the (Catholic) Church has power to institute festivals of precept?"
- Answer:** "Had she not such power... she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no scriptural authority."
Doctrinal Catechism, p. 175 (Roman Catholic).