

The Mark of the Beast: Is it the Vaccine?

Presentation by R. Steven Norman, III
for the West Africa Division
January 22, 2022

Introduction

God's Word our source of truth and safeguard from deception.

Satan's Decoys

Matthew 24:4 - Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you.

Today, I want to look at two questions with you.

1. Where does the idea of the Mark of the Beast come from?
2. What is the Mark of the Beast and when will people receive it?

I. Where Does the Idea of the Mark of the Beast Come from?

Revelation Predicts a day when a religious power supported by the government will seek to force all people to receive the Mark of the Beast.

- **Revelation 13:15–17** -- The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. 16 It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, 17 so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.
- **Revelation 14:9–11** -- 9 A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, 10 they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name."

II. What is the Mark of the Beast?

A. There are Two Marks in Revelation: The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast

The Seal of God in Revelation

- **Revelation 7:2–4** -- 2 Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels

who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: **3** "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." **4** Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

- **Revelation 14:1 -- 1** Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

B. Old Testament Mentions of Mark on Forehead and Hand Obedience to Commandments Tied to Hands and Foreheads

- **Deuteronomy 6:6–8 --** These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. **7** Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. **8** Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.
- **Deuteronomy 11:18 --** 18 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

Passover a Sign on Forehead and Hand: Exodus 13:9

9 This observance will be for you like **a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead** that **this law of the Lord is to be on your lips**. For the Lord brought you out of Egypt with his mighty hand.

Sabbath a sign

Exodus 31:12–13 -- Then the Lord said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, "You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a **sign** between me and you for the generations to come, **so you may know that I am the Lord, who makes you holy**."

Ezekiel 20:12, 20 -- Also I gave them my Sabbaths as a sign between us, so they would know that I the Lord made them holy. **20** Keep my Sabbaths holy, that they may be a sign between us. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God."

Summary: The seal of God is not a physical seal or mark on the body of a believer. From OT times it has symbolized the determination to obey the commands of God and worship the Creator on the seventh-day Sabbath.

God's Call to Worship the Creator

Revelation 14:6–7 -- Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. **7** He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

B. The Mark of the Beast

In Revelation the Mark of the Beast a Counterfeit of God's Sign

Revelation 13:15–17 -- The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image

- could **speak**
- and cause all who refused to worship the image to be **killed**.
- 16 It also **forced** all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive **a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads**,
- 17 so that they could not buy or sell
- unless they had the mark, which is
 - **the name of the beast**
 - or the number of its name.

Revelation 14:9–11 -- 9 A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "**If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand**, 10 they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever.

- There will be **no rest** day or night for those who
- **worship** the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name."

The Mark of the Beast is. . .

- is not a physical mark. It will be the decision to act and worship in disobedience to God's commandments and following the beast and its image.
- To have the mark of the beast on the forehead or the hand means to accept and obey, or to support, the beast power.

Ellen G. White on the Mark of the Beast

The mark of the beast is the papal sabbath. —*Evangelism*, 234 (1899).

The sign, or seal, of God is revealed in the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, the Lord's memorial of creation.... The mark of the beast is the opposite of this—the observance of the first day of the week. —*Testimonies for the Church* 8:117 (1904).

Sunday keeping is not yet the mark of the beast and will not be until the decree goes forth causing men to worship this idol sabbath. The time will come when this day will be the test, but that time has not come yet. *Last Day Events* 224.6

But when Sunday observance shall be enforced by law, and the world shall be enlightened concerning the obligation of the true Sabbath, then whoever shall transgress the command of God, to obey a precept which has no higher authority than that of Rome, will thereby honor popery above God. He is paying homage to Rome and to the power which enforces the institution ordained by Rome. He is worshiping the beast and his image. As men then reject the institution which God has declared to be the sign of His authority, and honor in its stead that which Rome has chosen as the token of her supremacy, they will thereby accept the sign of allegiance to Rome—"the mark of the beast." And it is not until the issue is thus plainly set before the people, and they are brought to choose between the commandments of God and the commandments of men, that those who continue in transgression will receive "the mark of the beast." The *Great Controversy Between Christ and Satan* 449.1

Summary:

- The mark of the beast and the seal of God are connected to worship. Those who receive the seal of God are those who "keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ.
- Those who receive the mark of the beast are those who worship the beast and its image. The beast will blaspheme God's name and set itself as god and then demand worship. "No one can buy or sell unless he has the mark. The mark is the name of the beast or the number of its name" (Rev 13:17).
- No one is receiving the mark of the beast now.

Conclusion:

- Do not be misled by Satan's decoys.
- God loves you. Wants to save you, so He gave his only Son to die on a cruel cross. He also gave you prophecy to protect you from deception. Let us study the word of God so that we will be protected from conspiracy theories. The let us teach truth so that we when