

# The Mark of the Beast



Amazing Facts  
Study Guide

## Amazing Facts Study Guide 20 - The Mark of the Beast

A tattooed number, a computer chip under the skin, or something more subtle? It's one of the most misinterpreted prophecies in all of the Bible - yet it is so important to correctly understand this subject. But in studying the mark of the beast, we must address some very sensitive issues, naming names and being specific. This is not a popular thing today, but we must be firm because God loves His people and He wants them to know the truth. This message is not ours, but Jesus'. And with eternal death facing those who receive the mark, it would be a crime to not help Him deliver this message. This lesson should probably be prefaced with a warning: "THE DEVIL DOES NOT WANT YOU TO READ AND COMPLETE THIS STUDY GUIDE." Please read Revelation 13:1-8, 14:9-12, and 16-18, and pray for the Holy Spirit to grant you an honest and understanding heart before embarking on this study adventure.

### ***An Urgent Reminder***

We learned from Study Guide 2 that a terrible conflict is in progress between God and the devil. It has raged through the centuries since Lucifer, heaven's most powerful angel, rebelled against God. With the angels who joined him, he attempted to overcome God and seize control of the universe. God and the loyal angels had no choice but to eject Lucifer and his angels from heaven. Lucifer, who became known as the devil and Satan, was infuriated. His determination to destroy God and control the universe has grown with every passing year. Amazingly, he has won the support of the vast majority of earth's people in his rebellion. The Lord also asks for people's loyalty and support, but He leaves all free to choose. Soon every person on earth will have aligned with either Satan or God. The final battle between Satan and God is just ahead, and it is described in the book of Revelation. This book points out that God has an emblem, or mark, which will identify His people. Satan also has an emblem, or mark, that will identify those who support him. As usual, Satan will work through an earthly power (symbolized in Revelation by a beast) to impose his mark. This Study Guide will reveal the beast's mark, which every lost person of the end time will receive. Unless you know what his "mark" is, how will you avoid receiving it?

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### **1. In order to know what the "mark" is, we must first identify the beast. How does the Bible describe the beast?**

#### **Answer:**

Revelation 13:1-8, 16-18 provides 11 identifying characteristics. They are listed below:

- A.** Rises from sea (verse 1).
- B.** Composite of the four beasts of Daniel chapter 7 (verse 2).
- C.** Dragon gives it power and authority (verse 2).
- D.** Receives a deadly wound (verse 3).
- E.** Deadly wound healed (verse 3).
- F.** Strong political power (verses 3, 7).
- G.** Strong religious power (verses 3, 8).
- H.** Guilty of blasphemy (verses 1, 5, 6).
- I.** Wars with and overcomes the saints (verse 7).
- J.** Rules for 42 months (verse 5).
- K.** Has mysterious number--666 (verse 18).

Do some of these points have a familiar ring? Certainly! We encountered many of them earlier when we studied about the Antichrist in Daniel chapter 7. **The "beast" of Revelation 13 is simply another name for the "Antichrist," which we learned from Daniel 7 is the papacy.** Prophecies of Daniel and Revelation often cover the same ground as prior prophecies, but each time new features are added that help make the prophecies certain. So expect to learn some new things about the Antichrist from this Study Guide. Now let's consider, one by one, the 11 points that describe the beast.

The beast of Revelation chapter 13 symbolizes the Antichrist.

#### **A. It would rise from the sea (Revelation 13:1).**

The sea (or water) in prophecy refers to people, or a populated area (Revelation 17:15). So the beast, or Antichrist, would arise from amid the established nations of the then-known world. The papacy, as we all know, arose in western Europe, so it fits this point.

#### ***A Word of Explanation***

In harmony with God's command to honor all people (1 Peter 2:17), we pause here to recognize the papacy for her many good deeds and activities. Her hospitals, orphanages, care for the

poor, homes for unwed mothers, and care for the aged are appreciated universally. She can honestly be lauded for many things. But, like all other organizations, she has also made mistakes. God pinpoints some of her errors in Revelation. The Lord, who blesses and comforts, must sometimes chasten and correct. Please ask His Spirit to speak to you as you study this crucial topic.

**B. It would be a composite of the four beasts of Daniel chapter 7 (Revelation 13:2).**

Study the comparison below to see how it all fits together:

	<u>Daniel</u> <u>chapter 7</u>	<u>Revelation</u> <u>chapter 13</u>	
<b>Babylon</b>	Lionlike beast (vs. 4)	"Mouth of a lion" (vs. 2)	
<b>Medo-Persia</b>	Bearlike beast (vs. 5)	"Feet of a bear" (vs. 2)	
<b>Greece</b>	Leopardlike beast (vs. 6)	"Like unto a leopard" (vs. 2)	The papacy is the Antichrist.
<b>Rome</b>	Ten-horned beast (vs. 7)	"Having ... ten horns" (vs. 1)	

The four beasts of Daniel 7 are depicted as part of Antichrist, or the beast, because the papacy incorporated pagan beliefs and practices from all four empires. She clothed them in spiritual garb and spread them to the world as Christian teachings. Here is one of many supporting statements from history: "In a certain respect, she [the papacy] has copied her organization from that of the Roman Empire, has preserved and made fruitful the philosophical intuitions of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, borrowed from both Barbarians and the Byzantine Roman Empire, but always remains herself, thoroughly digesting all elements drawn from external sources." <sup>1</sup> This point definitely fits the papacy.

**C. The beast must receive its power, seat (capital), and authority from the dragon (Revelation 13:2).**

To identify the dragon, we go to Revelation chapter 12, where God's end-time church is pictured as a pure woman. In prophecy, a pure woman represents God's true people or church (Jeremiah 6:2; Isaiah 51:16). (In Study Guide 23, we will present a detailed study of God's end-time church of Revelation chapter 12. Study Guide 22 explains Revelation chapters 17 and 18, where fallen churches are symbolized by a fallen mother and her fallen daughters.) The pure woman is portrayed as pregnant and about to deliver. The dragon crouches nearby, hoping to "devour" the baby at birth. However, when the baby is born He evades the dragon, fulfills His mission, and then ascends to heaven. Obviously the baby is Jesus, whom Herod tried to destroy by killing all the babies in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:16). So the dragon represents pagan Rome, of which Herod was a king. The power behind Herod's plot was, of course, the devil (Revelation 12:7-9). Satan acts through various governments to accomplish his ugly work--in this case, pagan Rome.

King  
Herod  
tried to  
"devour",  
or kill,  
Jesus at  
birth.

We will quote just two supportive references from history, though there are many: (1) "The Roman Church ... pushed itself into the place of the Roman World-Empire, of which it is the actual continuation. ...The Pope ... is Caesar's successor." <sup>2</sup> (2) "The mighty Catholic Church was little more than the Roman Empire baptised. Rome was transformed as well as converted. The very capital of the old Empire became the capital of the Christian Empire. The office of Pontifex Maximus was continued in that of Pope." <sup>3</sup> So this point also fits the papacy. She received her capital city and power from pagan Rome.

**D. It would receive a deadly wound (Revelation 13:3).**

The deadly wound was inflicted when Napoleon's general, Alexander Berthier, entered Rome and took Pope Pius VI captive in February of 1798. Napoleon decreed that at the death of the pope, the papacy would be discontinued. The pope died in France in August of 1799. "Half Europe thought ... that without the Pope the Papacy was dead." <sup>4</sup>

So this point also fits the papacy.

**E. The deadly wound would be healed, and the entire world would give homage to the beast (Revelation 13:3).**

Since its healing, the strength of the papacy has grown and increased until today she is one of the most powerful religio-political organizations and influence-centers in the world. Malachi Martin, consummate Vatican insider and intelligence expert, reveals the following in his best-selling book

*The Keys of This Blood* <sup>5</sup> (page numbers in parentheses):

More than 100 nations have state representatives at the Vatican.

***ABOUT THE POPE:***

He is as determined to be world ruler as was Constantine in his day (49). He is protected by four governments (120). He is the best-known person of the 20th century (123). He is personal friends with the leaders of 91 countries (490). People of the world seem to him ready for strong worldwide moral government with control (160). Sixteen thousand journalists covered his American visit (490).

***ABOUT THE PAPACY:***

The American ambassador says the Vatican is unmatched as a "listening post" (120). The Vatican knows by Saturday what will happen on Monday anywhere in the world (439). Papal structure is prepared for worldwide rule now (143).

**Obviously, the wound is healed and the eyes of the nations are upon the Vatican, so this point also fits the papacy.**

**F. It would become a strong political power (Revelation 12:3, 7).**

See item E above.

Millions of Christians lost their lives during periods of papal persecution.

**G. It would become a very powerful religious organization (Revelation 13:3, 8).**

See item E above.

**H. It would be guilty of blasphemy (Revelation 13:5, 6).**

The papacy is guilty of blasphemy because her priests claim to forgive sins and her popes claim to be Christ.

### **I. It would war with and persecute the saints (Revelation 13:7).**

The papacy did persecute and destroy millions of saints during the Dark Ages.

### **J. It would reign for 42 months (Revelation 13:5).**

The papacy reigned for 42 prophetic months, which equals 1,260 years--from A.D. 538-1798.

Points H through J also clearly fit the papacy. We touched on them only briefly here because they were covered thoroughly in Study Guide 15, question 8, items E, G, and H.

### **K. It would have the mysterious number 666 (Revelation 13:18).**

This verse says, "It is the number of a man," and Revelation 15:2 says it is "the number of his name." What man do you think of when you think of the papacy? Naturally, we all think of the pope. What is his official name? Here is a Catholic quote: "The title of the pope of Rome is "Vicarius Filii Dei" (English: "Vicar of the Son of God").<sup>6</sup> Malachi Martin, in *The Keys of This Blood*, uses the same title for the pope on pages 114, 122. A footnote for Revelation 13:18 in some Douay [Catholic] versions of the Bible says, "The numeral letters of his name shall make up this number." Notice the chart at right, which shows what happens when we total up the Roman numeral value of the letters of the name.

\* V and U each equal five in Roman numerals.

Again, the papacy fits the identification point. The beast with the "mark" is the papacy. No other power in history could possibly fit these divine descriptive points. Now that we have positively identified the beast, we can discover her mark, or symbol of authority. But first, let's look at God's sign of authority.

<sup>1</sup>Andre Retif, *The Catholic Spirit*, trans. by Dom Aldhelm Dean, Vol. 88 of *The Twentieth Century Encyclopedia of Catholicism* (New York, Hawthorne Books, 1959), p. 85.

<sup>2</sup>Adolf Harnack, *What is Christianity?* trans. by Thomas Bailey Saunders (New York: Putnam, 2nd ed., rev., 1901), p. 270.

<sup>3</sup>Alexander Clarence Flick, *The Rise of the Mediaeval Church* (reprint: New York, Burt Franklin, 1959), pp. 148, 149.

<sup>4</sup>Joseph Rickaby, "The Modern Papacy," *Lectures on the History of Religion*, Lecture 24, (London: Catholic Truth Society, 1910), p. 1.

<sup>5</sup>(New York, Simon & Schuster, 1990)

<sup>6</sup>"Answers to Readers' Questions," *Our Sunday Visitor*, Nov. 15, 1914.

## **2. What is God's mark, or symbol, of authority?**

"I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them." Ezekiel 20:12. "It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth." Exodus 31:17.

**Answer:** God is saying in the texts above that He gave us His Sabbath as a glorious sign of His power to create and His power to sanctify (convert and save) us. In the Bible, the words seal, sign, mark, and token are used interchangeably.<sup>7</sup> God's sign, the Sabbath, represents His holy power to rule as Creator and Saviour. Revelation 7:1-3 says it will be written upon the foreheads (minds--Hebrews 10:16) of His people. It will signify that they are owned by Him and have His character. Hebrews 4:4-10 confirms this by saying that when we enter His rest (receive salvation), we should keep His seventh-day Sabbath holy as a symbol, or mark, of salvation. True Sabbathkeeping signifies that a person has surrendered his life to Jesus Christ and is willing to follow wherever Jesus leads.

Since the symbol, or mark, of God's authority and power is His holy Sabbath day, it seems likely that the symbol, or mark, of God's challenger--the beast--might also involve a holy day. Let's see if it does.

<sup>7</sup>(Compare Genesis 17:11 with Romans 4:11 and Revelation 7:3 with Ezekiel 9:4.)

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## **3. What does the papacy say is her symbol, or mark, of authority?**

**Answer:** Notice the following section from a Catholic catechism:

"*Question:* Have you any other way of proving that the Church has power to institute festivals of precept?"

"*Answer:* Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her--she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority."<sup>8</sup>

So the papacy is here saying that it changed Sabbath to Sunday and that virtually all churches accepted the new holy day. Thus, the papacy claims that Sunday as a holy day is the mark, or symbol, of her power and authority.

<sup>8</sup>Stephen Keenan, *A Doctrinal Catechism* [FRS No. 7.], (3rd American ed., rev.: New York, Edward Dunigan & Bro., 1876), p. 174.

#### 4. Did God predict such a change in Scripture?

**Answer:** Yes! In describing the Antichrist in Daniel 7:25, God said it would "think to change times and laws."

**A. How has the papacy tried to change God's laws?** In three different ways: In her catechisms she has (1) omitted the second commandment against veneration of images, and (2) shortened the fourth (Sabbath) commandment from 94 words to just eight. The Sabbath commandment (Exodus 20:8-11) clearly specifies Sabbath as the seventh day of the week. As changed by the papacy, the commandment reads: "Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day." Written thus, it can refer to any day. And, finally, she (3) divided the tenth commandment into two commandments.

**B. How has the papacy attempted to change God's times?** In two ways: (1) She has changed the time of the Sabbath from the seventh day to the first day. (2) She has also changed God's "timing" for the beginning and closing hours of the Sabbath. Instead of counting the Sabbath day from sundown Friday night to sundown Saturday night as God mandates (Leviticus 23:32), she adopted the pagan Roman custom of counting the day from midnight Saturday night to midnight Sunday night. God predicted these "changes" would be attempted by the beast, or Antichrist.

Notice the following section from a Catholic catechism:

"*Question:* Which is the Sabbath day?

*Answer:* Saturday is the Sabbath day.

*Question:* Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

*Answer:* We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday."<sup>9</sup>

Here is another Catholic statement: "The Church is above the Bible; and this transference of Sabbath observance from Saturday to Sunday is proof positive of that fact."<sup>10</sup>

The papacy is saying in these references that its successful change of Sabbath observance to Sunday worship is proof that its authority is greater, or "above," Scripture.

<sup>9</sup>Peter Geiermann, *The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine* (St. Louis, B. Herder Book Co., 1957 ed.), p. 50.

<sup>10</sup>*The Catholic Record* (London, Ontario, Canada, Sept. 1, 1923).

#### 5. How could anyone dare attempt to change God's holy day?

**Answer:**

We ask the papacy, "Did you really change Sabbath to Sunday?"

She replies, "Yes, we did. It is our symbol, or mark, of authority and power."

We ask, "How could you even think of doing that?"

It's a pertinent question. But the question the papacy officially asks Protestants is even more pertinent. Please read it carefully:

"You will tell me that Saturday was the *Jewish* Sabbath, but that the *Christian* Sabbath has been changed to Sunday. Changed! but by whom? Who has authority to change an express commandment of Almighty God? When God has spoken and said, Thou shalt keep holy the seventh day, who shall dare to say, Nay, thou mayest work and do all manner of worldly business on the seventh day; but thou shalt keep holy the first day in its stead? This is a most important question, which I know not how you can answer. You are a Protestant, and you profess to go by the Bible and the Bible only; and yet in so important a matter as the observance of one day in seven as a holy day, you go against the plain letter of the Bible, and put another day in the place of that day which the Bible has commanded. The command to keep holy the seventh day is one of the ten commandments; you believe that the other nine are still

binding; who gave you authority to tamper with the fourth? If you are consistent with your own principles, if you really follow the Bible and the Bible only, you ought to be able to produce some portion of the New Testament in which this fourth commandment is expressly altered." <sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup>Library of Christian Doctrine: *Why Don't You Keep Holy the Sabbath-Day?* (London: Burns and Oates, Ltd.), pp. 3, 4.

**Tragically, both Catholicism and Protestantism stand guilty before the judgment bar of heaven for rejecting God's holy Sabbath--His sacred sign of identification.**

**6. What solemn warnings has God given regarding His law and His sign, or mark?**

**Answer:**

**A. God warns religious leaders against causing people to stumble by saying that some commandments do not matter** (Malachi 2:7-9). For example, some ministers teach, "It doesn't matter what day you keep holy."

**B. God warns people who want their ministers to preach smooth fables rather than the truth about His law** (Isaiah 30:9, 10).

**C. God warns people about hardening their hearts against the truth of His law** (Zechariah 7:12).

**D. God warns people who say it would seem "strange" to keep God's law--like the Sabbath, for example** (Hosea 8:12).

**E. God states that the upheaval, tragedy, problems, and woes of earth come because people refuse to follow His law--and have even tried to change it** (Isaiah 24:4-6).

**F. God warns religious leaders who refuse to preach the prophecies of the end time** (Isaiah 29:10, 11).

**G. God solemnly warns that leaders who teach there is really no difference between sacred things (such as God's holy Sabbath) and common things (such as Sunday) will face His indignation** (Ezekiel 22:26, 31).

**7. Revelation 13:16 says people will receive the mark of the beast in the forehead or in the hand. What does this mean?**

**Answer:** The forehead represents the mind (Hebrews 10:16). A person will be marked in the forehead by a decision to keep Sunday as a holy day. The hand is a symbol of work (Ecclesiastes 9:10). A person will be marked in the hand by working on God's holy Sabbath or by going along with Sunday laws for practical reasons (job, family, etc.). The sign, or mark, for either God or the beast will be invisible to people. You will, in essence, mark yourself by accepting either God's sign or mark, the Sabbath, or the beast's mark, Sunday. Though invisible to men, God will know who has which mark (2 Timothy 2:19).

**8. According to Isaiah 58:1, 13, 14, what decisive message does God deliver to His people in the last days?**

"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression." "If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, ... Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord." Isaiah 58:1, 13, 14.

**Answer:** He says, show "my people" that they are (innocently perhaps) sinning because they are trampling on My holy day, and ask them to quit breaking My Sabbath so I can bless them. Speak loudly so they will hear you!

Notice that the third angel of Revelation 14:9-12, who brings the message about the mark of the beast, speaks with a loud voice also (verse 9). The message is too important to treat as ordinary. It's a life-or-death issue. Jesus says His sheep, or people, will follow Him when He calls them. (John 10:16, 27).

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**9. Do people who worship on Sunday (as a holy day) have the mark of the beast now?**

**Answer:** No! No one will have the mark of the beast until Sunday worship becomes an issue forced by law. At that time (just ahead), those who decide to follow the false teachings of the beast and worship on Sunday (the beast's counterfeit holy day) will receive the mark of the beast.

Those who follow Jesus and obey His truth will keep His Sabbath day holy and receive His mark. Those who expect to refuse the beast's mark in the future must step under Jesus' Sabbath banner now. His power is available to those who obey Him (Acts 5:32). Without Him, we can do nothing (John 15:5). With Him, all things are possible (Mark 10:27).

**10. According to the book of Revelation, whom did John specifically see in God's eternal kingdom?**

**Answer:** The answer is threefold and very clear:

**A. Those who have God's mark, or sign (His Sabbath), in their foreheads** (Revelation 7:3).

**B. Those who refused to identify with the beast or his image and who refused to have his mark or name in their foreheads** (Revelation 15:2).

**C. The people who--today and for eternity--follow where Jesus leads, trusting Him fully in everything** (Revelation 14:4). There is no other way.

**11. What is Jesus saying to people today?**

"He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12.

**Answer:** What a fantastic promise! If we follow Him, we will not end up in darkness but will, instead, have glorious truth. Nothing could be more exciting! Further, following Him and keeping His Sabbath will put God's mark on our foreheads and protect us from the dreadful plagues (Psalms 91:10) that will fall upon the disobedient (Revelation chapter 16). It also marks us as ready for translation at Jesus' second coming. What blessed protection and assurance God has offered us!

***An Urgent Alert***

You will discover some astounding information as you study the final three Study Guides of the nine that deal with the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-14. These Study Guides will explain (1) the role of the United States in earth's final conflict, (2) how churches and religions of the world will be involved, (3) what world conditions will precipitate earth's final battle, and (4) Satan's amazing strategy for deceiving billions.

Perhaps you are wondering what Protestant churches have to say about the papal claim for changing Sabbath to Sunday. The quotes that appear in the "Your Thought Questions Answered" section of this lesson will provide the shocking answers.

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**12. I have now decided to begin keeping His seventh-day Sabbath (Saturday) as His holy day and follow Him wherever He leads.**

**Answer:**