

# KEYS TO BIBLE PROPHECY #13

## Revelation's Mark of the Beast and the Seal of God

### The Third Angel's Message

- "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God..." (Revelation 14:9).

### Identifying the Sea Beast of Revelation 13

11 Identifying Features of the Beast Power of Revelation 13	Explanations/Interpretation & Historical Fulfillment
1. Rises from the sea (vs. 1)	Waters represent people in Bible prophecy (Rev. 17:15). When the beast comes up out of the sea, it comes up out of a populated area of this earth. It comes up among the nations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The papacy, as we all know, arose in western Europe, so it fits this point</li> </ul>
2. Composite of four beasts: 10-horned beast, leopard, bear, lion. (vs. 2)	Beasts = kings/kingdoms (Dan. 7:17). In Dan. 7 the order of the beasts is: lion, bear, leopard, terrible beast w/ 10 horns. Rev. 13 orders the sea beast's descriptions in reverse: beast w/ 10 horns, leopard, bear, and lion. The reason for this is because Daniel was looking forward, the kingdoms progressed towards the end, but John in the book of Revelation was shown the future and then went backwards in time. LION represents Babylon, Bear represented Medo-Persia, the Leopard represented Greece, and the terrible beast w/ 10 horns represented Rome (See study guide for night #6). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The papacy incorporated pagan beliefs and practices from all four empires.</li> </ul>
3. It is a power that received the seat of its government or authority from the dragon (vs. 2)	The dragon is Satan (Rev. 12:9). In Revelation 12, Satan works through pagan Rome to destroy Jesus. So the devil working through the Pagan Roman empire gave the sea beast of Revelation 13 its seat of government & authority. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stanley's History, p. 40—"The popes filled the place of the vacant emperors of Rome, inheriting their power, prestige, and titles from paganism . . . The papacy is but the ghost of the deceased Roman Empire, sitting crowned upon its grave."</li> </ul>
4. Receives deadly wound, v. 3	The beast power was to be overpowered by physical force of some kind. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The deadly wound was inflicted when Napoleon's general, Alexander Berthier, entered Rome and took Pope Pius (the 6<sup>th</sup>) captive in February of 1798. Napoleon decreed that at the death of the pope, the papacy would be discontinued. The pope died in France.</li> </ul>
5. Deadly wound was healed, v. 3	The physical force of the deadly wound didn't totally destroy the sea beast—because as the Bible says, later in history the wound was healed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
6. Strong political power, v. 3, 7	The whole world followed after the beast—that indicates a strong political power. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Catholic Church has diplomatic relations with 176 states/nations according to the Vatican's website. That is most of the world when you consider that there are only 193 member states that belong to the United Nations. <a href="http://www.un.org/en/mainbodies/">http://www.un.org/en/mainbodies/</a></li> </ul>
7. Strong religious power: Revelation 13:3, 8	Revelation 13:8 "All who dwell on the earth will worship him . . ." Eventually, this power would become a world-wide religious system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is 1 Catholic for every 6 or 7 people in the world—the Catholic church is a strong religious power.</li> </ul>
8. Revelation 13:5, says—"And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies."	In Scripture, blasphemy occurs when an individual declares that he is God's equal or has God's privileges, such as forgiving sin. Jesus Christ is our only Savior. There is no one else that can forgive our sins except Jesus (Mark 2:7; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7:25). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Does the Priest truly forgive the sins, or does he only declare that they are remitted? The Priest does really and truly forgive the sins in virtue of the power given to him by Christ." (Joseph Deharbe, S.J., A Complete Catechism of the Catholic Religion (New York: Schwartz, Kirwin &amp; Fauss, 1924), p. 279.)</li> <li>• Here is another: "The pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, but he is</li> </ul>

		Jesus Christ, Himself, hidden under the veil of flesh" (Catholic National, July 1895).
9.	Revelation 13:7—"It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them."	This sea beast is a persecuting power—a power that persecuted, made war with the saints of God. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"That the Church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind, will be questioned by no Protestant who has a competent knowledge of history." (W. E. H. Lecky, History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe, Volume 2, p. 40.)</li> </ul>
10.	Reigns for 42 months, v. 5	In Bible prophecy, one prophetic day equals one literal year. Ezekiel 4:6 says, "I have given you a day for a year." Numbers 14:34 says, "I have appointed a day for a year." 42 prophetic months, 30 days in a biblical prophetic month. 42 x 30=1260 prophetic days. Apply the day/year principle, and we have 1260 years. Daniel 7 predicted the power would reign a time, times, and half a time (7:25). A time equals a year, times equals two years, and half a time would be half a year. So that is 3 ½ years. The Jewish year was 360 days. So 3 ½ times 360 = 1260 days. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The prophecy of the 1260 years (which we understand from Dan. 7's 3 ½ times and Rev. 13's 42 months) begins in AD 538 and last 1260 years.—bringing us to the year 1798.</li> <li>What happened in 538 AD? The Roman Emperor Justinian gave to the pope of Rome religious and civil authority. The papacy was to last for 1260 years and then receive a deadly wound.</li> <li>What happened in 1798? Napoleon sent his general, Berthier down to Rome to take the Pope captive. Berthier entered Rome in 1798 exactly as the prophecy predicted. He took the Pope captive and brought him back to France, where the Pope died in captivity.</li> </ul>
11.	Has mysterious number 6-6-6, v. 18.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the case of this Roman title, <i>Vicarious Filii Dei</i>, the letters, which have a numerical value as Roman numbers, add up to the Biblical 666. V is 5, I is 1, C is 100, I is 1, V is 5, I is 1, L is 50, I is 1, I is 1, D is 500, and I is 1. The total of these is 666. When you combine it with all of the evidence we have already discovered, I think it is safe to conclude that the beast is a symbol of the medieval church of the Dark Ages.</li> </ul>

### Strong Similarities between Daniel 7 & Revelation 13

Daniel 7	Revelation 13
The "little horn" or kingdom "came up among them"--the 10 horns which were the kingdoms of Western Europe (8)	Rises from the sea (vs. 1)—a populated area of the world
It would be "diverse" or different from the other 10 kingdoms (24).	Different in that it is both a strong political power, v. 3, 7 & strong religious power, v. 3, 8
It would make war with and "wear out" or persecute the saints (Daniel 7:21, 25).	Revelation 13:7—"It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them."
It would emerge from the pagan Roman empire--the fourth world kingdom (Daniel 7:7, 8).	It is a power that received the seat of its government or authority from the dragon (vs. 2) through the Pagan Roman Empire.
God's people (the saints) would "be given into his hand" for "a time and times and the dividing of time" (Daniel 7:25). Time = 1 year; times = 2 years; ½ time = ½ year. 1 yr. + 2 yrs + ½ yr. = 3 ½ years. 360 days/year in Jewish calendar times 3 ½ years <b>equals 1260 days.</b>	Reigns for 42 months, v. 5. 42 months times 30 days per month in Jewish calendar <b>equals 1260 days.</b>
It would "speak great words against" or blaspheme God (Daniel 7:25).	In Revelation 13:5, the Bible says the same power speaks "great things and blasphemies."

- These six parallels indicate that **the little horn power of Daniel 7 is the same power as the sea beast of Revelation 13.**

### The Seal of God

- The seal of God is only in the forehead, not the hand (Revelation 7:2,3). Since God never forces us, and only says, 'Whosoever will,' God's people only receive His seal in their mind. They accept His sign freely.
- Sign, seal, mark are the same thing in the Bible (see Romans 4:11).
- Isaiah 8:16, "Seal the law among my disciples."

- Ezekiel 20:12 says—“Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me . . .”
- The Sabbath is God’s sign, God’s seal, God’s mark. The Sabbath symbolizes worship of the God who created heaven and earth. It reveals our allegiance to this Creator.
- Every seal makes a document legal. A seal authenticates a document. Every authentic seal has 3 things. It has the name of the one sealing, the title of the one sealing, and the domain of the one sealing.
- God has a seal, and God’s seal contains the three things that make documents legal.
- God said in Exodus 20:8—“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” Exodus 20:11, “For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”
- The Lord, that’s His name. Maker, Creator, that’s His title. Heaven and earth, the sea and fountains of water, which is His domain.
- Ezekiel 20:20— “Hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be a sign between Me and you, that you may know that I am the LORD your God.”

### **The Mark of the Beast**

- What does the Roman Catholic Church claim is the sign of its authority? It’s only fair to look at what the church says of itself. Notice, the “Catholic Record”, Sept. 1, 1923—“Sunday is our mark of authority . . . The Church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact.”
- Here is a statement from the rectory at St. Catherine’s Church. It’s from the Church newsletter, May 21, 1995— “Perhaps the boldest thing, the most revolutionary change the Church ever did happened in the first century. The holy day, the Sabbath, was changed from Saturday to Sunday. . . not from any directions noted in the Scriptures, but from the Church’s sense of its own power. . . People who think that the Scriptures should be the sole authority, should logically become Seventh-day Adventists, and keep Saturday holy.”
- Mark 7:6-9, “He [Jesus] answered and said to them, ‘Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: “This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men -- the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.’ He said to them, ‘All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.’”
- Does anyone have the mark of the beast right now? There are many Christians who love Jesus and do not understand the central issues that we have been talking about in this prophecy series. In their hearts they want to serve Christ but they do not fully understand that there is a church system that has tried to change God’s law – Sabbath to Sunday. They do not understand that this church system claims the mark of its authority is to place tradition above the Bible. Before Jesus returns, He will make these issues clear to all mankind—that’s why the 3 angels messages is a to be proclaimed throughout the whole world. In the future, church and state will unite. It is at this point, when the issues are clear, that the Mark of the Beast will be enforced. At this point men and women must make their decision.
- In the future, the final issue of loyalty will center around worship. Worship God on His Holy Sabbath day? Or accept the Mark of the Beast—the mark of the Catholic Church’s authority—that they claim to have changed Sabbath to Sunday. If God didn’t inspire the papacy to change Sabbath to Sunday, then who did? It was a deception of Satan—Satan is behind this attack on the 7th day Sabbath.

† Watch this presentation again, or share with a friend by searching for: Centralia SDA Church on Youtube or <https://tinyurl.com/unlockingprophecy>

† Text your Bible Questions to: 360-322-1260

Additional Bible Texts: John 10:33; Rev. 14:7, 12