

THE TRUTH

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Lesson 18 - The Truth About the Mark of the Beast

Do you enjoy solving a mystery? To do so you look for clues that help you work your way toward the solution. In His inspired Word, God provides the needed clues with regard to the number **666**, the **name**, or **mark** of the wild beast of Revelation chapter 13. In this study, we will look at four main lines of reasoning; vital clues that will reveal the meaning of the mark of the beast. We will consider how the Bible uses symbols, the identity of the wild beast, what is meant by 666 being, "a man's number" and the significance of the number 6 and why it is written in triple digits, namely, 600 plus 60 plus 6, or 666. **[Revelation 13:18]** Finally, what is the mark of the beast?

BIBLE PROPHECY SYMBOLS

- **Seas** - _____ **[Revelation 17:15]**
- **Winds** - _____ **[Jeremiah 49:36-37]**
- **Beast** - _____ **[Daniel 7:17]**

DANIEL 7:1-8

NOTE: The Bible book of Daniel sheds much light on the meaning of symbolic beasts. Chapter 7 contains a vivid description of "four huge beasts," a lion, a bear, a leopard, and a fearsome beast with big teeth of iron. **[Daniel 7:2-7]** Daniel tells us that these beasts represent "kings," or political kingdoms, that rule in succession over vast empires. **[Daniel 7:17, 23]**

- **Lion** represents _____ [605-539 BC]: _____
- **Bear** represents _____ - _____ [531-339 BC]: _____ Gods people
- **Leopard** represents _____ [331-168 BC]: _____
- **Iron beast** represents _____ [168 BC-476 AD]: _____
- **Little horn** represents _____ [538-1798 AD]: _____ Gods authority

"Out of the ruins of the Roman Empire there gradually arose a new order of states whose central point was the Papal see, the Roman Catholic Church." **[The Church and Churches, 42, 43]**

The Leopard Beast Of Revelation 13 - Identical To The Little Horn of Daniel 7

NOTE: Regarding the beast of Revelation 13 the Bible points out that it combines in itself the joint characteristics of the four beasts of Daniel's vision. This first beast of Revelation represents the combined forces of all political rule opposed to God in the world.

1. Who then is the "beast" of which we are told *not* to "worship" or receive his "mark" in our "hand" or "forehead?" [Revelation 13:1] Ans. The _____ Church

NOTE: The leopard beast of Revelation 13 represents the same power as the “little horn” of Daniel 7 and this power is “papal Rome”. The following will make this clear:

- The “little horn” was a _____ power. **[Daniel 7:25]**
- The “leopard beast” is a _____ power. **[Revelation 13:6]**

“There is a man on earth that can forgive sins and that is the priests. The priest stands as a mediator between God and man.” **[Leviathan, 457 Thomas Hobbes, Historian]**

“All names in the scriptures which are applied to Christ, indicating that he is over the church, are the same names applied to the pope.” **[The Authority of Counsels Vol. 2, 266]**

- The “little horn” made _____ with the _____, and prevailed against them. **[Daniel 7:21]**
- The “leopard beast” also makes _____ with the _____, and overcomes them. **[Revelation 13:6]**

“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 It is impossible to form a complete conception of the multitude of her victims, and it is quite certain that no powers of imagination can adequately realize their sufferings.” **[W. E. H. Lecky, History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe, vol. 2, p. 32, 1910 edition]**

“From the birth of popery to the present time, it is estimated by careful and credible historians, that more than fifty millions of the human family, have been slaughtered for the crime of heresy by popish persecutors,—an average of more than 40,000 religious murders for every year of the existence of popery to the present day. Of course the average number of victims yearly, was vastly greater, during those gloomy ages when popery was in her glory and reigned despot of the world; and it has been much less since the power of the popes has diminished to tyrannize over the nations, and to compel the princes of the earth, by the terrors of excommunication, interdiction, and deposition, to butcher their heretical subjects.” **[John Dowling, The History of Romanism, pp. 541-542]**

- The “little horn” arose on the cessation of the pagan form of the _____ . **[Daniel 7:25]**
- The “leopard beast” receives his power from the dragon, “_____ ,” **[Revelation 13:2]**

“Long ages ago, when Rome through the neglect of the Western emperors was left to the mercy of the barbarous hordes, the Romans turned to one figure for aid and protection, and asked him to rule over them; and thus... commenced the temporal sovereignty of the popes. And meekly stepping to the throne of Caesar, the vicar of Christ took up the scepter to which the emperors and kings of Europe were to bow in reverence through so many ages” **[American Catholic Quarterly Review, April, 1911]**

The word, “seat,” means the “seat of government.” The word “see,” used in the “Holy See,” means the same. There the pope sits today in the City of Rome, the seat of the ancient pagan empire. Pagan Rome gave papal Rome its seat, or see.

- The “little horn” to continue for a _____, _____, and the _____ of time, or _____ years. [Daniel 7:25]
- The “leopard beast ruled for _____ - _____, or _____ years. [Revelation 13:5]
- The “little horn” lost _____. [Daniel 7:26]
- The “leopard beast” himself to be ‘led into _____.’ [Revelation 13:10]

NOTE: This took place in 1798, when the French general, Berthier, took Pope Pius VI prisoner, and hastened him as a captive from prison to prison. He died in the French fortress of Valence eighteen months later.

“Of the leopardlike beast it is declared: [Rev. 13:5-7 quoted] this prophecy, which is nearly identical with the description of the little horn of Daniel 7, unquestionably points to the papacy.” [The Great Controversy, 439]

666 EXPLAINED [Revelation 13:18] VICARIUS FILII DEI

In the Scriptures, certain numbers have symbolic significance. The number seven, for example, is often used to symbolize that which is complete, or perfect, in God’s eyes. For instance, God’s creative week comprises seven ‘days,’ or extended time periods, during which God completely accomplishes his creative purpose regarding the earth.

Six is one short of seven. Would it not be a fitting symbol of something imperfect, or defective, in God’s eyes? Yes, indeed! [1 Chronicles 20:6, 7] Moreover, six repeated three times, as 666, powerfully stresses that imperfection.

V = ___	I = ___	C = ___	A = ___	R = ___	I = ___	U = ___	S = ___	= ___
F = ___	I = ___	L = ___	I = ___	I = ___				= ___
D = ___	E = ___	I = ___						= ___
								= ___

2. What is the “mark of the beast?” [Revelation 14:8] Ans. _____

LET’S THINK

NOTE: The mark of the beast is not a “literal mark” that will be stamped on people’s foreheads or on their hands. Why not? The beast is symbolic; hence the mark of the beast must be symbolic. Prophecy would not couple a literal mark with a symbolic beast. The mark of the beast is something you can resist. God charges you to resist it! If the mark of the beast were a literal mark that could be stamped on a man’s forehead or stamped in his hand and he couldn’t resist it, they could tie a man down and place the mark on him whether he wanted it or not. But, God charges you to resist it, and the fact that you can resist it shows that it is not a literal mark, because you could not resist receiving a literal mark. They could overpower you physically and make you take it.

The dry cleaner puts a mark on customers clothing to distinguish them from other customer’s clothing. A rancher puts a mark on his cattle to distinguish them from other ranchmen’s cattle. So the mark of the beast is symbolic of some spiritual observance, which distinguishes those who accept it as obeying the

authority of the Catholic power on this particular point. The mark of the beast must be some disobedience to one of God's commandments.

ROME SPEAKS

- a. "Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change from Sabbath to Sunday was her act. And the act is a **MARK** of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters." [**October 28, 1894 and addressed from Cardinal Gibbons by Chancellor C.F. Thomas.**]
- b. "Sunday is our **MARK** and authority the church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact." [**Saint Catherine May 21, 1995, Catholic Church Sentinel**]
- c. The Catholic Church by its own infallible authority created **Sunday** a holy day to take the place of the Sabbath of the old law [**Kansas City Catholic, February 9, 1893**]
- d. "The observance of **Sunday** by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves to the authority of the Catholic Church." [**Plain Talk to Protestants, 213**]

NOTE: Some will say, "I don't think it makes any difference what day a man keeps, just as long he keeps a day." This is a question of whether we will obey Jesus Christ as our supreme Lord by keeping the seventh day, which He sanctified for man; or whether we will put the Catholic Church above Jesus Christ by keeping Sunday, which they have attempted to substitute for the keeping of the seventh day. Whom will we acknowledge as the supreme authority in religious matters? Choosing Sunday in the place of the Bible Sabbath is actually placing the authority of the Catholic Church above the authority of God.

"The Bible says, Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day. The Catholic Church says, No! By my divine power I abolish the Sabbath day and command you to keep holy the first day of the week. And lo, the entire civilized world bows down in reverent obedience to the command of the holy Catholic Church." [**American Sentinel N.Y., June 1, 1893, 173**]

3. Has anyone received the "mark of the beast" yet? Ans. _____

"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 worshipping 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." [**Great Controversy, 449**]

4. What is the only way one can avoid receiving the "mark of the beast?" [Rev. 7:2, 3] Ans. By _____ God's _____

In other words, begin to observe the true seventh-day Sabbath of the Bible, and there can be no mark of the beast in your life. Is there room for the mark of apostasy when the seal of God is in your life? Of course not. The way to prevent disaster is to prepare your heart to seek God and obey Him.