



1

How to Avoid Receiving the Mark of the Beast



2

It was a high day, a great day, a day that called for a special celebration with a parade and the royal band. King Nebuchadnezzar was excited.



3

He had invited dignitaries from all over the vast Babylonian empire to come. It was a day that he looked forward to with keen anticipation—and also a day he would never forget as long as he lived.



4

Some time before, the king had dreamed a strange dream. He had seen a great metal image.



5

He couldn't remember what it was, so Daniel had to reveal to him not only the meaning but the dream itself. Nebuchadnezzar could think of nothing else!



6

After all, he was the head of gold! His kingdom stood unrivaled in the world. And now every one would see a vivid demonstration of how great Babylon really was—how great HE really was!



7

He became defiant and ordered his servants to make a statue all of gold.



8

This image was all gold, not just the head, but also the entire body. Everyone was amazed with the dazzling beauty of this magnificent image. It was the king's way of signifying to the world that his kingdom would last forever.

18 - FOREVER MARKED



9

On this day thousands of important dignitaries in the king's empire assembled to witness the dedication of Nebuchadnezzar's image of gold.



10

Suddenly a hush fell over the vast crowd.
The trumpets sounded, and the king's spokesman proclaimed loudly,

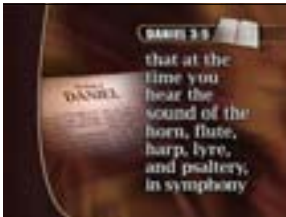


11

(Text: Daniel 3:4-6)

Daniel 3:4-6

"...To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages,



12

that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony



13

with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image



14

that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up;



15

and whoever does not fall down and worship



16

shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace."

Daniel 3:4-6



17

The music sounded.
All the people fell down and worshiped the image.
Well—almost all the people.



18

In the vast kneeling throng stood Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—three Hebrews who refused to disobey God by bowing and worshiping an idol.
Word soon reached the King.



19

(Video: 3 sec) Furious that anyone should dare defy his direct command, Nebuchadnezzar ordered the offenders to be brought before him.



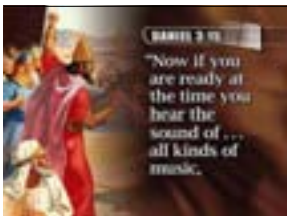
20

(Video: 3 sec) As the king looked at the three Hebrews, he recognized them at once.
They were extraordinary young men with great intelligence and many talents.



21

(Video: 2 sec) He had assigned them many responsibilities in the past, which they had faithfully and efficiently performed. Feeling somewhat kindly toward them, he decided to give them another chance.
Calling them each by name, the king said,



22

(Text: Daniel 3:15)
“Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of ... all kinds of music,



23

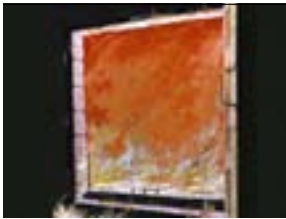
and you fall down and worship the image I made, good! But if you do not worship,



24

you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.” Daniel 3:15.
Once the king had made a pronouncement, he had to back it up or lose face before all the people.

18 - FOREVER MARKED



25

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego could see the flames from the huge furnace.
There could be no doubt about the king's intention.



26

What should they do? What would you have done?
Would they disobey a direct command of God?
Oh, it would have been so easy to rationalize that it wouldn't hurt just once to bow to an idol under these circumstances.

After all, their lives were at stake!
Wouldn't it be important to show respect for the king?



27

Evidently such thoughts never crossed their minds, for they had been taught God's commandments from childhood, and one of those commands said,



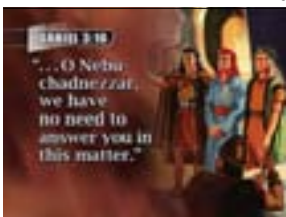
28

(Text: Exodus 20:4, 5)
"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything..."



29

You shall not bow down to them nor serve them..."
Exodus 20:4, 5.
Calmly and without hesitation came their reply:



30

(Text: Daniel 3:16-18)
"...O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.



31

If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace,



32

and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.



33

But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods,



34

nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”
Daniel 3:16-18.

The rest of the story is exciting.

The king was furious and ordered that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual.



35

Then the King commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be bound and thrown into the fiery furnace. The fire was so intense that the soldiers who threw the three young men in the furnace fell back dead.



36

Suddenly, the king was on his feet running toward the opening of the furnace, shouting to his advisors that he saw four men walking around in the flames and that one looked like the Son of God!



37

Our Lord entered the fiery furnace. He was with the three Hebrews in the flames. He is a mighty deliverer.



38

Nebuchadnezzar commanded the Hebrews to come out of the furnace, and to everyone’s utter amazement, the trio stepped out without a hair on their heads singed or even the smell of smoke on their clothing!

The great golden idol was forgotten.

The headline story of the day, and for many years to come, must have been the amazing experience of those three young men.

18 - FOREVER MARKED



39

**Their God had saved them from the flames!
What a tremendous testimony to God's love and care for His faithful followers!**

**Is it possible that someday in the future, we will have someone dictate to us how to worship.
Is it possible that like these three Hebrews we may face the death penalty over the issue of worship.**



40

**"Well," you say, "I'm glad we don't have someone dictating to us how we must worship!"
That would be terrible! To face death if you didn't worship the way someone else commanded you.**



41

Do you know that according to Bible prophecy, the greatest crisis in history is just before us? And the central issue in this final crisis is worship?



42

**Like the three Hebrews, everyone living during earth's last hours will be faced with a similar choice?
A choice that will forever seal their destiny!**



43

Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon's powerful leader set up a counterfeit image that everyone was to bow to. The real issue was worship.

The second Commandment forbidding idol worship was the test of loyalty between worship of the true God and worship of false gods.

The furnace was heated seven times hotter than it normally was.

**A time of trouble greater than any time of trouble.
The penalty for disobedience to this church-state union was death.**

18 - FOREVER MARKED

Once again in the last days, God's word in the Book of Revelation reveals that a powerful world ruler will unite Church and state.

The central issue will revolve around worship.
The commandments will be the test of loyalty during earth's final time of trouble when once again a universal death decree will be passed.



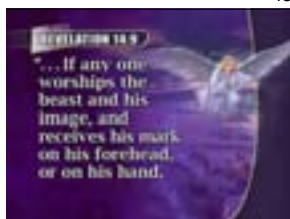
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The most solemn warning ever given to earth's inhabitants is recorded in the Book of Revelation.
Evidently God considers this message to be vitally important, for He said:



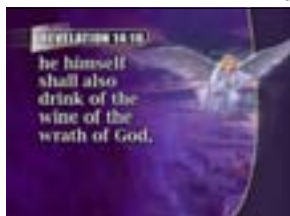
45

(Text: Revelation 13:9)
"If any man has an ear, let him hear."
Revelation 13:9.
We must listen to this most urgent message!



46

(Text: Revelation 14:9, 10)
"...If any one worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead, or on his hand,



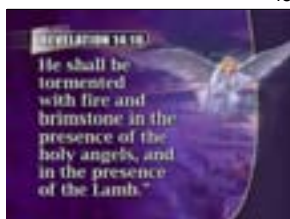
47

he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God,



48

which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation.



49

He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb."
Revelation 14:9, 10.

18 - FOREVER MARKED



50

Every person should carefully study this prophecy and make certain that he or she has nothing to do with the beast or his mark.



51

According to Bible prophecy, at the very end of time, earth's inhabitants will be divided into two groups: those who are loyal to God and obey His commandments, and those who worship the beast and receive his mark.



52

Intense pressure will be brought to bear on those who refuse to worship the beast or receive his mark. It will be just as serious a crisis as the three Hebrews faced as they stood before Nebuchanezzar.



53

(Text: Revelation 13:16, 17)

"He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,



54

and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Revelation 13:16, 17.



55

Eventually, a decree will be passed condemning to death those who refuse to worship the beast and his image.



56

(Text: Revelation 13:15)

Of the second beast of Revelation, the Bible says: "He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak



57

and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed." Revelation 13:15.



58

Man says, "If you do not worship the beast, we will not buy anything from you or sell anything to you, and eventually we will kill you."



59

God says, "If you worship the beast, you will receive the wine of the wrath of God."



60

Every person on earth will be faced with the most difficult decision they have ever had to make.

What are these judgments of God that is to be poured out upon the wicked?

Revelation holds the answer:



61

(Text: Revelation 15:1)

"Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous:



62

seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete." Revelation 15:1.



63

Three of the seven last plagues are specifically targeted at the beast and those who worship him.

Certainly God would not allow His judgments to come upon people without warning.



64

That is what is so wonderful about God!

He will not pour out the seven last plagues upon mankind without first giving everyone an opportunity to know what the mark of the beast is and how to avoid receiving it.



65

With His last warning message, God gives the key to unlock the prophecy, so that we can understand what it is all about.

No one need face this coming crisis unprepared.

It is so vital for us to know who this beast power is and how we can avoid receiving his mark.

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Let's turn to a prophecy found in the Book of Revelation, and read about this beast power.

66



(Text: Revelation 13:1-8)
The disciple John wrote: "Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea,

67



having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns,

68



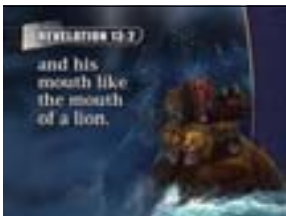
and on his heads a blasphemous name.

69



Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear,

70



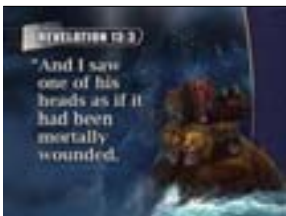
and his mouth like the mouth of a lion.

71



The dragon gave him his power, and his throne, and great authority."
Revelation 13:1, 2.

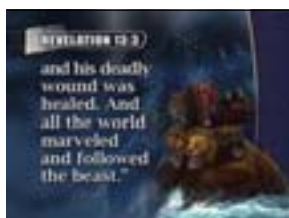
72



"And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded,

73

18 - FOREVER MARKED



74

and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.



75

So they worshipped the dragon who gave authority to the beast;



76

and they worshiped the beast, saying 'Who is like the beast?



77

Who is able to make war with him?"



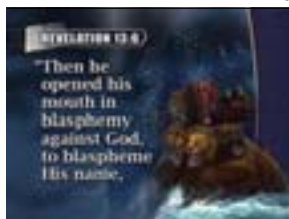
78

And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies,



79

and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months." Revelation 13:3-5.



80

"Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name,



81

His tabernacle and those who dwell in heaven.

18 - FOREVER MARKED



82

It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them.



83

And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.



84

All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written



85

**in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."
Revelation 13:6-8.**



86

**We need to look at this prophecy point by point.
Here God again uses prophetic symbols to outline His warning to the world.**



87

**And what does a beast symbolize?
Daniel 7 taught us that beasts represent kingdoms or ruling powers.**

**Here in Revelation, we find pictured something truly spectacular—a composite beast made up of all four of Daniel's great beasts!
You have never seen a beast like that!**

A review of Daniel's four beasts will be instructive and help us understand the beast power we are now studying.

18 - FOREVER MARKED



88

What did the lion represent? Yes, Babylon!



89

The bear? Right again: Medo-Persia.



90

And what about the leopard? Greece, yes.



91

And the terrible ten horn beast? You remember well! Yes, it represented the Roman Empire.



92

The beast of Revelation 13 is a power that follows these four great world empires.

We find now a remarkable thing: only one power on earth has all the characteristics used in this prophecy. Scripture and secular history make identification certain. Speaking of the beast, John wrote,



93

(Text: Revelation 13:2)

"The dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority." Revelation 13:2.

We find that the dragon represents Satan, for the Bible says,



94

(Text: Revelation 12:7-9)

"And there was war in heaven . . .

18 - FOREVER MARKED



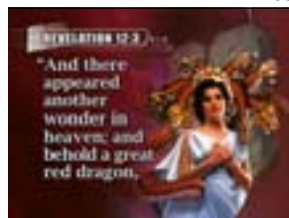
95

and the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, which deceives the whole world..."
Revelation 12:7-9.



96

Of course, Satan never steps into the battle in visible form. He works, disguised, behind the scenes, through other agencies, powers, and people.
Revelation gives a picture of the gigantic struggle between Satan and the church:



97

(Text: Revelation 12:3-5)
"There appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon,



98

having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads . . .



99

And the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered,



100

for to devour her child as soon as it was born.



101

And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron:



102

and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne."
Revelation 12:3-5.



103

Who is this man-child?

The answer is Jesus Christ!

Behind the scenes the dragon, or Satan, is seen working desperately through a world power to destroy Jesus.

That is exactly what happened.

What nation was the devil working through at the time of Christ's birth?



104

As we turn the pages of secular history, we discover that pagan Rome, under the Caesars, was ruling when Christ was born.



105

Herod the Great decreed that all male infants in Bethlehem, up to the age of two, be slain in an attempt to kill Jesus when He was born.



106

A Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, condemned Christ to death.



107

Roman soldiers nailed Him to the cross, and a Roman seal secured the entrance to His tomb. Satan worked through pagan Rome to destroy Christ.



108

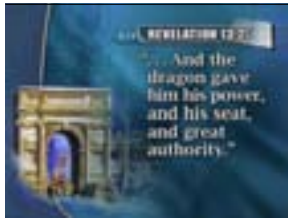
**And Jesus was resurrected and ascended to Heaven exactly as the prophecy predicted.
Does this give you confidence in Bible prophecy?**



109

The prophecy further predicted that this power, pagan Rome, would

18 - FOREVER MARKED



110

**(Text: Revelation 13:2)
give its “power,” its “seat,” and “great authority” to the beast.
Did pagan Rome fulfill this prophecy?
And if so, to whom was it given?**



111

For many centuries, the Roman church used a document entitled “The Donation of Constantine” to prove its right to the city of Rome. This document, later proven to be a forgery, gave them claim to the church’s right to rule Western Rome, both politically and religiously.

This document was the basis used to justify their power as a kingdom, with the pope as the king.



112

In A.D. 300, Constantine moved his capitol to Byzantium and changed the name of the city to Constantinople in honor of himself.



113

**When Constantine left he gave his seat to the bishop of Rome. The Bishop of Rome became the head of the church, as well as a king upon a throne.
A union of church and state resulted, with the church ruling over the state.**



114

Vatican City lies in the middle of Rome, the city that was the seat of the old Roman Empire.



115

The Roman church continues there even today, not only as a religious power but as a political power as well. Almost every nation of the world sends ambassadors to the Vatican.



116

It is very important to keep in mind that the prophecy is talking about an organization, or a system of theology. It is not singling out individuals!



117

There are great numbers of sincere people who worship God but do not yet know what you are learning today from Bible prophecy about this power.



118

A close study of the identifying marks of the beast power in Revelation 13 makes clear that it is the same power as that symbolized by the little horn of Daniel 7, which we considered before.



119

The prophet John said this beast power would have a distinguishing mark and that it would try to force it upon everyone in the world!



120

(Text: Revelation 13:16, 17)

“He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand, or on their foreheads:



121

and that no one may buy or sell, except one who has the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”
Revelation 13:16, 17.



122

According to God’s Word, this mark must be a symbol of rebellion or disloyalty to the government of God.
The Bible clearly describes another group who will not receive the mark of the beast.



123

(Text: Revelation 14:12)

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are those who keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”
Revelation 14:12.



124

Make no mistake, the great issue to which this world is coming will center on obedience to the commandments of God!

18 - FOREVER MARKED

One group of people receives the mark of the beast, while the other is loyal and true to God by keeping all His commandments and maintaining faith in Jesus.



125

God's people will also receive a mark, but it will be God's mark, God's seal.



126

It will be placed on the foreheads of His followers.



127

(Text: Revelation 7:2, 3)

"Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God:



128

And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,



129

saying, 'Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees,



130

till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

Revelation 7:2, 3.



131

I want that seal, don't you?

Nothing is more important than that.

The final conflict of world history is over the seal of God or the mark of the beast. It's between God's sign and a counterfeit sign.

When we discover God's seal, or mark, it will be easy to discover the counterfeit mark that the beast power will enforce. God tells us what His sign or seal is:



132

(Text: Ezekiel 20:12)
“Moreover I also gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me...”
Ezekiel 20:12.



133

(Text: Exodus 31:13)
Again, God says, “Speak also to the children of Israel, saying, ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep,



134

for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations,



135

that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you.”
Exodus 31:13.



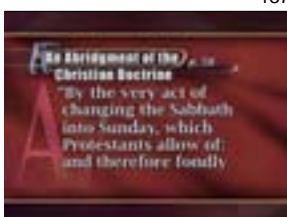
136

God said that the Sabbath is His sign or mark of authority. What does the beast power say is the mark of its authority?



137

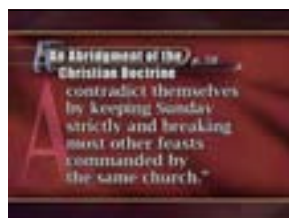
The following quotation is taken from a Catholic catechism: “QUESTION: How prove you that the church hath power to command feast and holy days?



138

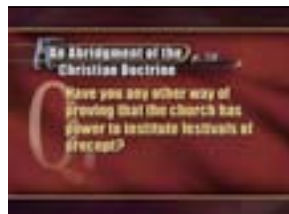
“ANSWER: By the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of: and therefore they fondly

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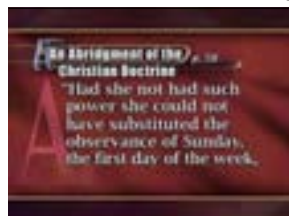
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contradict themselves by keeping Sunday strictly and breaking most other feasts commanded by the same church.



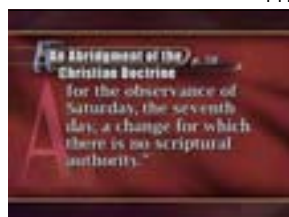
140

“QUESTION: Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals of precept?”



141

“ANSWER: Had she not had such power she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week,



142

**for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no scriptural authority.”
–An Abridgment of the Christian Doctrine, Henry Tuberville, p. 58.**



143

**Sunday is the mark of the Roman Church’s religious authority, according to her own testimony.
She readily admits that she changed the day of worship from Saturday to Sunday, and further,**



144

she says this act is the “mark of her ecclesiastical power and authority.” (Letter from C.F. Thomas, Chancellor to Cardinal Gibbons, October 28, 1895.)

The Roman Church challenges Protestants to show why they have desecrated God’s day and turned from



145

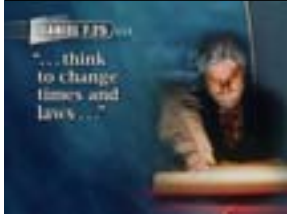
(Video: 2 sec) the Bible Sabbath to follow a day that was instituted by

18 - FOREVER MARKED



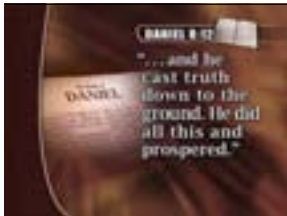
146

(Video: 5 sec) custom,
tradition,
and the church of Rome.



147

(Text: Daniel 7:25)
Daniel predicted that this beast power would "...think to change times and laws..."
Daniel 7:25.



148

(Text: Daniel 8:12)
He also predicted that this power would cast "...the truth to the ground. He did all this and prospered." Daniel 8:12



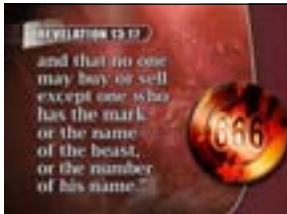
149

John predicted that Satan will try to force everyone to receive the mark of the beast:



150

(Text: Revelation 13:16, 17)
"He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand, or on their foreheads,



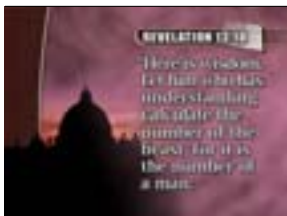
151

and that no man may buy or sell, except one that has the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."
Revelation 13:16, 17.



152

In order for this power to fulfill all of this prophecy, it will try by using the power of civil governments to enforce its mark of authority at the end of time on everyone.
Notice how God clearly identifies this power:



153

(Text: Revelation 13:18)
"Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man:

18 - FOREVER MARKED



154

**His number is 666.”
Revelation 13:18.**



155

What does “the number of the beast” mean, you may be asking. Many people have asked that question.



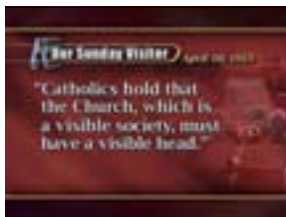
156

**We shall let the Catholic Church answer. Latin is the official language of the Catholic Church.
The pope, in Catholic theology, stands for the whole church.**



157

One of the pope’s titles is said to be Vicarius Filii Dei, meaning “Vicar of the Son of God,”



158

“Catholics hold that the Church, which is a visible society, must have a visible head.”



159

(Video: 9 sec) You will see that the numerical values of the Latin letters is easy to calculate

**Vicarius Filii Dei
Vicarius 5,1,100,0,0,1,5,0 = 112
Filii 0,1,50,1,1 = 53
Dei 500 0 1 = 501
=666**

Here is another clear identifying mark that the church of Rome is the beast power of Revelation 13.



160

What may we conclude from a study of the prophecies in God's Word?

We can see that the time is coming and is not far distant, when everyone will be required to keep the first day of the week in direct violation of the command of God!



161

A recent directive entitled: "Apostolic Letter, Dies Domini, of the Holy Father, John Paul II, to the Bishops, Clergy, and Faithful of the Church, on keeping the Lord's Day Holy," has been sent out to the church leaders admonishing them to press for the keeping of Sunday as a time of rest and worship.

Could it be that this well-intentioned letter is setting the stage for laws favoring Sunday observance rather than the Bible Sabbath?



162

It even goes so far as to suggest that they should work toward civil legislation to make it a reality.

Does that sound familiar?

Just as the prophecy says!

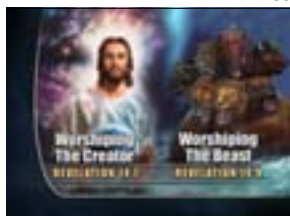


163

A question that many people ask is, "Does anyone have the mark of the beast now?"

No, not a single person has the mark of the beast yet.

God has true followers in every church.



164

When the mark of the beast is enforced by civil law, every person must then choose between allegiance to God by keeping the Sabbath according to the commandments of God—

or allegiance to the beast by keeping the day substituted by man's authority.

Then, and only then, will anyone receive the mark of the beast!

To every soul will come the crucial test: Shall I obey God or shall I obey man?

It is not just a matter of days.

It is a matter of masters!

18 - FOREVER MARKED



165

(Text: Romans 6:16)

Paul wrote: "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey,



166

you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death,



167

**or of obedience leading to righteousness?"
Romans 6:16.**



168

A most solemn moment will soon face every inhabitant on Earth.

No one will be able to buy or sell who does not have the mark of the beast.



169

First comes a boycott, then the death decree.

And for those who receive the mark of the beast, the seven last plagues.

Do you see why this issue is so important?

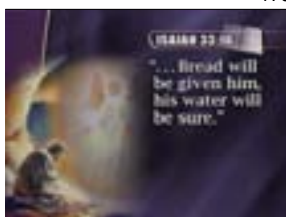
Why it is a life and death matter?

Why it is so vital that we choose now to honor God?



170

There is good news for those who choose to honor God and receive His seal.

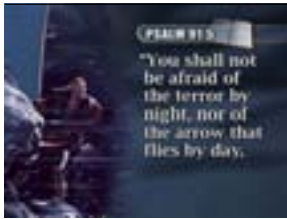


171

(Text: Isaiah 33:16)

They may not be able to buy or sell, but God says, "Bread will be given him; his water will be sure."

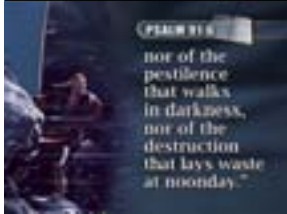
Isaiah 33:16.



172

(Text: Psalm 91:5-8)

And concerning the plagues to be poured out upon the earth, God promises: "You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day,



173

nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.



174

A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you.

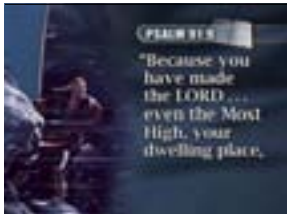


175

Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked."

Psalm 91:5-8"

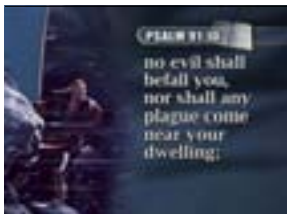
And, as if you might still wonder what will happen, the Bible says,



176

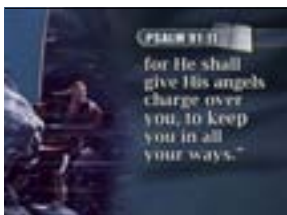
(Text: Psalm 91:9-11)

"Because you have made the Lord ...even the Most High, your dwelling place,



177

no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;



178

for He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways."

Psalm 91:9-11.

But God gives a wonderful promise to those who choose to follow Him:

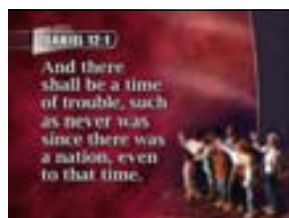


179

(Text: Daniel 12:1)

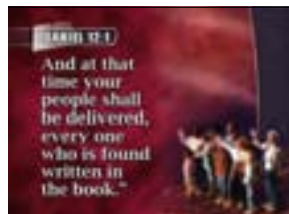
"At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people.

18 - FOREVER MARKED



180

And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time.

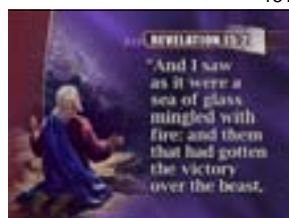


181

And at that time your people shall be delivered. Everyone who is found written in the book."

Daniel 12:1.

John was shown a vision of those who gained the victory over the beast:



182

(Text: Revelation 15:2)

"And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast,



183

and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name,



184

stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God."

Revelation 15:2.

Even now, God is pleading with His true followers to step out of the counterfeit religious systems to follow Him completely.



185

(Text: Revelation 18:4)

"Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins,



186

and lest you receive of her plagues." Revelation 18:4.



187

It costs something to choose to follow God. Remember the three Hebrews who courageously, even in the face of certain death, and without any delay to rationalize, took their stand for God?

18 - FOREVER MARKED



188

God through His Holy Spirit has been speaking to you through these meetings. He is making his last call to a dying world to get ready for the Second Coming of His Son.

He is coming to take home with Him those who have chosen to follow Him all of the way. Won't you like the three Hebrews take your stand for God and His truth tonight?

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