

Revelation 14

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We began our studies in **Isaiah 4:1**. God says that in the last days, all the churches that call themselves Christian will abandon pure, Bible-based worship in favor of man-made doctrines and traditions. We saw how God foretold world history in **Daniel**, chapters **2** and **7**. We saw how those prophecies are precursors to those in **Revelation 12** and **13**, where God warns of perilous times ahead. Persecution of God's people during the 1260 years of Papal domination will be repeated just before Jesus Christ returns. We saw that the chaos in the world today will provoke the Protestant leaders in America to seek a union with the secular government to enforce their doctrines to gain peace. We saw that the laws they strive to have passed would involve forced observance of Sunday as a mandatory day of rest. They will even unite with the pope, paying him homage as the leader of the religious world as a means to see their plans fulfilled.

Bible prophecy warns that these churches have traded the law of God for man's tradition. They will force the world to break the seventh-day Sabbath commandment to keep Sunday holy, a day that has its origin in pagan sun worship that was never blessed by God.

When this law goes into effect, such will be the **mark of the beast** in their forehead or hand. Those who believe that it is right to keep Sunday as the law receive the mark in their forehead. Those who simply go along with it, though they are indifferent, receive it in their hand. Scripture tells us that all the world will be marked. Those who refuse the mark of the beast will possess the **seal of God** in their foreheads.

Revelation 14 contains God's final messages, His last plea to receive the seal of God and refuse the mark of the beast. Human history will end as it began. There will be a test of obedience to determine the fate of each individual in the entire world, just like in the beginning.

What was the test of obedience at the beginning?

Genesis 2:9, 16-17

⁹ And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every _____ that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil...

¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

¹⁷ But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely _____.

In the beginning, there were two trees. To eat of the tree of life meant eternal life and faithfulness to God. To choose the tree of the knowledge of good and evil meant sin and death. In the last days, just before Christ's return, it will be between **two days**: Sabbath or Sunday. Sabbath means life everlasting, Sunday will mean destruction and death.

NOTE: No one yet today has the mark of the beast. It will only become the mark when laws are passed, and freedom of religion is no longer in effect. There will be countless souls in heaven who kept Sunday as the sabbath who never knew the difference. **Acts 17:30** says that God "winked" at people's ignorance. It is when they come to the knowledge of the truth that God commands repentance. Once a soul is exposed to the truth, they are then responsible for acting on it. When Sunday becomes law, the issue will be brought to the forefront. Those who know that the seventh day (Saturday) is the true Sabbath will not bow to Sunday.

God's people were always in the minority from the beginning. Those who abandon God's law have always persecuted those who desire to keep it.

Genesis 4:3-8

...it came to pass, that Cain brought of the _____ of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

⁴ And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his _____ and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had

respect unto Abel and to his offering:

- ⁵ But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very _____, and his countenance fell.
- ⁶ And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?
- ⁷ If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door.
- ⁸ And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and _____ him.

NOTE: Both brothers worshiped the same God. Cain was a farmer. Abel was a shepherd. They both brought offerings to the Lord in their worship of Him. Abel brought the sacrifice of his flock in obedience to Lord's command. **Hebrews 9:22** says that without the shedding of blood, there can be no forgiveness. Abel's sacrifice looked forward to the coming of the Messiah to redeem the world from sin. His older brother Cain worshiped God his own way by bringing the fruits of his labor. God could not accept Cain's offering. Not only was it not what God had commanded, but it also relied on his own merits, negating the need for a Savior.

Abel was a constant reminder to his older brother that Cain was rebellious. Cain killed Abel in a jealous rage. **Genesis 4:15** says, "And the Lord set a mark upon Cain." All Christians claim to worship the same God. During the tribulation, it will be the majority who will be rebellious in choosing Sunday, just as Cain was in worshiping his own way. And it will be the majority who will persecute God's real believers for their adherence to the one true God and His rightful Sabbath. They will go as far as wanting their death, just as Cain killed Abel for doing what is right. Just like Cain, those who will choose the Sunday law will receive a mark—the mark of the beast. Those who refuse that mark will receive the seal of God.

Revelation 7:1-2

- ¹ And after these things I saw four _____ standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four _____ of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.
- ² And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God
- ³ Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

NOTE: The angels here are holding back the winds of strife. We are in that time now. The only reason why all hell has literally not broken loose today is that God is holding it back so that all who will receive His seal will have ample time to make their choice.

What is the seal of God?

An official seal contains three elements: a **name**, a **title**, and a **territory**. For instance the Presidential Seal would say; Donald Trump, President, United States of America. The seal of God contains these three elements as well.

In **Revelation 14**, God sends three angels to warn the world of the coming tribulation. The message of the first angel gives us a clue we need to find God's seal:

Revelation 14:6

- ⁶ And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,
- ⁷ Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

NOTE: These angels are symbolic of God's faithful messengers who preach the everlasting gospel to the world. It's the pure, Bible-based gospel of Jesus Christ presented, as the apostle John said, in Spirit and truth. It is a call to return to worshiping God His way so that you can receive His holy seal. Notice that it says that His judgment *has* come. Then he pleads that we should "worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea." That is the clue to the seal of God. It is a direct quote from the fourth commandment:

Exodus 20:8-11

- ⁸ Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- ⁹ Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:
- ¹⁰ But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:
- ¹¹ For in six days the LORD **made heaven and earth, the sea**, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

There is the seal of God: The LORD, which in the original Hebrew is *Jehovah*, His name. "Made" acknowledges Him as the Creator, His title. "Heaven, earth, and the sea," are His territory—all the elements of an official seal written in the middle of His holy law, the Ten Commandments.

The first angel's message is a call to come back to pure worship by remembering that which had been forgotten by nearly all of Christianity; the seventh-day Sabbath. In doing so, the soul is filled with the Holy Spirit as Jesus enters the heart. The seal of God written in the forehead.

Isaiah 8:16

Bind up the testimony, seal the _____ among my

disciples.

The second angel's message:

Revelation 14:8

And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

NOTE: Babylon is not just a literal fallen empire. In prophecy, Babel means confusion. God says that spiritual Babylon is fallen because she made all nations drink of the wine of her fornication. Wine is a symbol of doctrines. Fornication indicates the acceptance of doctrines that are not of God.

Hosea 1:2

...for the land hath committed great whoredom by departing from the Lord.

NOTE: The NIV puts it this way, "...for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord." In Christianity, many doctrines have their roots in ancient pagan Babylon. Among them is Sunday sacredness. These pagan traditions and beliefs were handed down through the four major empires to Rome. In **1 Peter 5:13**, the apostle mentions, "The church that is at Babylon." Since that empire was long since fallen by Peter's time, we know he was using the term "Babylon" as a code name for Rome. It was the empire of his day, persecuting the early Christian church. The Catholic Church's doctrines and beliefs have continued the pagan rites and traditions. Nearly all the Protestant churches that have broken away from her have maintained portions of those pagan beliefs. Again, Sunday being among them.

The second angel's message is a call to come out of the churches that teach pagan practices. Not just Sunday worship, but all things heathen, including bowing to idols, spiritualism, and necromancy (praying to the dead). All these have become mainstream in one form or another in modern Christianity.

Revelation 14:9-11

⁹ And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

¹⁰ The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

NOTE: This is the sternest, most serious, and the final warning God gives to the inhabitants of the earth. Liking His church to the planting and pruning a vineyard, God says in **Isaiah 5:4**, "What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it?" All that God could do to save souls has been done. Judgment has come. All will be judged according to the choices they make either for God or against Him. Either for His holy law or against it. For Jesus, or Satan. There is no middle ground. Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me." **Matthew 12:30**.

The Lord commands the preachers:

Isaiah 58:1

Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

Today there is an ever-growing trend for pastors to preach smooth sermons. They do not warn the people of the things we are sharing with you for fear of offending them. But God knows what they do:

Isaiah 30:9-10

This is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits.

Malachi 2:8

But you have departed from the way; You have caused many to stumble at the law.

NOTE: Once again, Jesus identifies His true followers, those who receive the seal of God, which is His holy law in their foreheads:

Revelation 14:12

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.