

A Bible Prophecy Series

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The Mark of the Beast Lesson #13

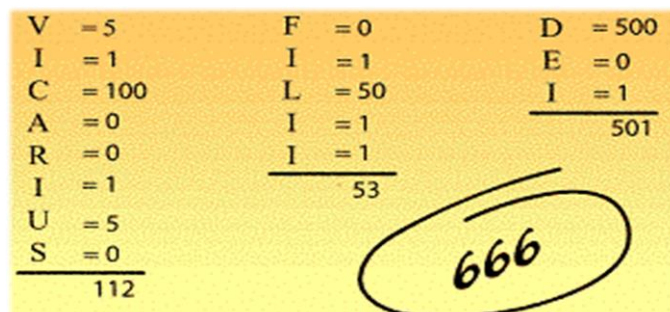
Introduction:

What is the Mark of the Beast... a number, a tattoo, a barcode? Let's take the time to let God explain this mysterious Mark.

1. **Is the Mark of the Beast a number?** - Revelation 13:16, 17
No, the mark, the name, and the number are three different and distinct things.
2. **Which one is 666?** – Revelation 13:18
666 is the number of the beast's name. Many people believe 666 is the mark and are therefore looking for something that Bible prophecy does not teach.
3. **What does the Bible say will happen to those who receive the mark?** Revelation 14:9, 10
This is obviously something we must avoid. If the Bible tells us we must avoid it, how can we avoid it if we don't know what it is?
What is the mark of the beast if it is not 666? That is exactly what we will learn today. First let's review who the beast is.
4. **Who is the beast?** – Revelation 13:1-3
We saw in a previous lesson that the beast is the same as the little horn in Daniel 7. This represents the Roman papacy. Remember this is not saying that anyone who belongs to the Roman church is the beast or has the mark. God has His people in all churches (John 10), however it means the system of worship doesn't follow the Bible and will play a significant role in the last days.
5. **Does the number 666 have to do with the papacy?**
The official title of the papacy is Vicar of the Son of God or as in Latin, the official language of the church: Vicarius Filii Dei.
This name had numerical value in the Roman numeral system. When you add them together they equal 666.

Numbers in the Bible are symbolic. Seven represents perfection or completion.

V = 5	F = 0	D = 500
I = 1	I = 1	E = 0
C = 100	L = 50	I = 1
A = 0	I = 1	<hr/> 501
R = 0	I = 1	
I = 1	<hr/> 53	
U = 5		
S = 0		
<hr/> 112		



The image shows a yellow rectangular box. Inside, there is a table with three columns of Roman numeral values. The first column lists V=5, I=1, C=100, A=0, R=0, I=1, U=5, S=0, and a total of 112. The second column lists F=0, I=1, L=50, I=1, I=1, and a total of 53. The third column lists D=500, E=0, I=1, and a total of 501. Below the table, the number 666 is circled in black.

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God created the world in seven days and rested on the Sabbath. Six is the number of man, he was created on the sixth day. So, 666 represents the papacy exalting itself above the authority of God the father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

6. **What two groups does Revelation portray in the last days?**

Revelation 14:9-12

Group 1 – Those who worship the beast and receive His mark. We are warned not to follow the creature, or beast (Rev. 14:9). Group 2 – Those who are loyal to God and keep His commandments. God calls us to worship Him as creator (Rev. 14:7).

7. **Does God have a mark or seal?** Revelation 7:2, 3

God's loyal people who worship Him as creator are sealed with the seal of God in their forehead. Both groups are identified by how they worship God. One honors God as creator the other follows a practice set up by the papacy. One group is sealed for their loyalty to God the other is marked with the authority of the papacy.

8. **What does God seal among His people?** – Isaiah 8:16

Seals are associated with legal documents. When you transfer a piece of property it has to be made official by having a seal affixed to the paper. So, God's seal is part of a legal document – the Ten Commandments. He says, Seal the law among my disciples.”

*Every seal contains three elements: The **name** of the person whose authority is represented by the seal; their official **title**; and the **territory** they have authority over. Presidents of countries have seals. The seal of the president of the U.S. has all three elements: name – Barack Obama; title – President; territory – United States of America. A notary public seal also has these three elements.*

9. **What is God's seal?** – Exodus 20:8-11

We know it has to do with the law. Only one place in the law contains the three elements of a seal. His name – The Lord; His title – Maker and Creator; His territory – Heaven and Earth.

Without His seal in the fourth commandment this law would be an unsealed and unofficial document. Only the true God could seal His law with His name, title, and territory. Only God could say the reason we should obey these laws is because “I am your creator and earth is my possession.”

10. **Is a sign and a seal the same thing?** – Romans 4:11

The Bible is clear that the Sabbath is a special sign or seal of God. The words sign and seal are used interchangeably. Circumcision was an outward sign/seal of faith Abraham had.

11. **Is the Sabbath an outward sign/seal of God's people?** – Ezekiel 20:12, 20

The seal of God is His Sabbath. God's people love Him enough to follow Him and worship not how they see fit but, in the way that God specifies. God's people learned to love, trust, and obey Him as the loving, powerful God He is.

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12. **Does the mark of the beast concern worship?** - Revelation 14:9, 10
Yes, this passage tells us there is a way not to worship.
13. **What does God call for in the first angel's message?** - Revelation 14:6, 7
We are told to worship the Creator. We honor God's ownership of our lives. If He tells us to honor Him by keeping the Seventh-Day Sabbath holy as a memorial to Him as Creator then we do it, not to earn salvation, but because we love and respect God.
14. **What character trait do those who give their lives to Jesus and worship Him as Creator have?** - Revelation 14:12
They have faith in Jesus, which gives them the faith of Jesus, which leads them to keep His commandments.
15. **What does the papacy (the beast) claim as its *MARK or authority*?**
Sunday is our mark of authority... The church [of Rome] is above the Bible, and this transference of the Sabbath observance is proof of that fact." (Catholic Record, September 1, 1923)

"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 the Scriptures should be the sole authority, should logically become Seventh-day Adventists and keep Saturday holy." (Saint Catherine Catholic church Sentinel; May 21, 1995. A local Church in Michigan's church paper.)

Conclusion:

So, the question becomes, which will we choose? Will we choose to honor God as our Creator? OR will we choose to keep a day that honors the power God said would think to change times and laws?

We live in the sealing time. No one has the mark of the beast today. It is yet future when the papacy will unite with other churches to pressure people to obey the mark of its authority. But today we are preparing to receive the seal or the mark. Today we want to declare our allegiance to Jesus. Is it your desire to follow Jesus and follow and to honor Him by keeping His seventh-day Sabbath holy and not the papacy's false Sabbath, Sunday?

Let's pray...Amen.