



# THE BIBLE STANDS

*The Bible stands though the hills may tumble,  
It will firmly stand when the earth shall crumble;  
I will plant my feet on its firm foundation,  
For the Bible stands.*

## Lesson 23: God's Seal vs. The Beast's Mark

Name:

Date:

### 1. What did John see coming out of the earth? Revelation 13:11.

"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon."

In previous lessons we have learned that "beasts" in prophecy represent kingdoms, and that the "sea" and the "earth" represent, respectively, the eastern and western hemispheres.

The nation, therefore, represented by this beast which was "coming up" at the very time that the first beast of Revelation 13 was taken "into captivity" (Revelation 13:10, 11), in a continent uncrowded by "peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues" (Compare Genesis 1:10 with Revelation 17:15), is none other than the United States of America.

### 2. How is this beast described? Revelation 13:11.

"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon."

From the start, the United States was characterized by its unique separation of church and state, allowing freedom of religion to all people. But its lamblike bearing is to reverse into a power that speaks as a dragon.

### 3. How much power will this beast exercise? Revelation 13:12.

"And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed."

### 4. The USA will cause the world to do what? Revelation 13:12.

"And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed."

### 5. What great wonders will he do? Revelation 13:13.

"And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,"

### 6. What are those miracles calculated to do? Revelation 13:14.

"And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live."

### 7. What will he propose that the people shall do? Revelation 13:14.

“And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.”

“And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast.” Revelation 13:15.

During the supremacy of the first beast, the religious decrees of the church were enforced by the strong arm of the state, effecting a union of religious and civil power. When the United States adopts the same course, it will have created an image of the beast.

**8. No longer hesitant to enforce religious duties, what will the government use force to make everyone do? Revelation 13:16.**

“And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:”

**9. What means will be employed to compel all to receive this mark? Revelation 13:17.**

“And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”

**10. What ultimate penalty will be set for violating this law? Revelation 13:15.**

“And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.”

**11. What warning does God give regarding this law? Revelation 14:9-11.**

“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, 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: 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.”

**12. What will come upon those who don't heed this warning? Revelation 16:2.**

“And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.”

**13. The mark of the beast can be received where? Revelation 13:16.**

“And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:”

**14. John saw an angel ascending from the east having what? Revelation 7:2.**

“And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,”

**15. The people of God are to be sealed where? Revelation 7:3.**

“Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.”

**16. What does this seal contain? Isaiah 8:16.**

“Bind up the testimony, seal the law among My disciples.”

**17. How will God seal His law among His disciples? Hebrews 10:16.**

“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;”

**18. When God’s law is written in our minds, what will be our testimony? Psalm 40:8.**

“I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within my heart.”

**19. What are they called who are sealed in their foreheads? Revelation 7:3.** “Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.”

“Servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.” Ephesians 6:6.

**20. Christ’s people are described as having what written in their foreheads? Revelation 14:1.**

“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father’s name written in their foreheads.”

**21. When God proclaimed His name to Moses, what characteristics did He mention? Exodus 34:5, 6.**

“And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.”

**22. What engraved words were to be displayed upon Aaron’s forehead? Exodus 28:36-38.**

“And thou shalt make a plate of pure gold, and grave upon it, like the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD. And thou shalt put it on a blue lace, that it may be upon the mitre; upon the forefront of the mitre it shall be. And it shall be upon Aaron’s forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things, which the children of Israel shall hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall be always upon his forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD.”

**23. What does God require of us, that we may possess His character? Leviticus 20:7; 1 Peter 1:16.**

Leviticus 20:7 “Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.”

1 Peter 1:16 “Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

We learned in a previous lesson that “sanctify” means to reserve for sacred use, to consecrate, or to make holy.

**24. What has the Lord done which reveals His authority as the true God? 1 Chronicles 16:26.**

“For all the gods of the people are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.”

**25. At creation, what did God sanctify as the sign of His authority? Genesis 2:3.**

“And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made.”

**26. What has He given us as a sign that He is the Lord that sanctifies us? Ezekiel 20:12.**

“Moreover also I gave them My sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.”

**27. What has He asked us to do as the sign of our allegiance to Him? Ezekiel 20:20.**

“And hallow My sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between Me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God.”

**28. In contrast, what has the Beast power declared to be the mark of its authority?**

“But the Protestant mind does not seem to realize that in . . . observing the Sunday . . . they are accepting the authority of the spokesman for the church, the pope.”—Our Sunday Visitor, Catholic weekly, Feb. 5, 1950.

“Sunday is our mark of authority! . . . The Church is above the Bible, and this transference of sabbath observance is proof of that fact.”—The Catholic Record, London, Ontario, Sept. 1, 1923.

“Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act . . . And the act is a mark of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters.”— Office of Cardinal Gibbons, through Chancellor C. F. Thomas, Nov. 11, 1895.

“The observance of Sunday by protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the church.”—Louis Segur, Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today, 1868 ed. p. 213.

**30. All their worship is in vain who are doing what? Matthew 15:9.**

“But in vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”

**31. When man-made laws go contrary to the law of God, whom ought we to obey? Acts 5:29.**

“Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”

**32. Who will stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God? 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, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.”

**33. How were they able to overcome? Revelation 12:11.**

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”

Thought Summary:

Sabbath observance signifies an acknowledgment of the Creator’s authority, and that Sunday observance marks those who acknowledge the Beast’s authority.

Do you desire to obey God with your whole heart, having His seal inscribed in your forehead?