

“The Seal and the Mark”

...

When we talk about the subject of the seal and the mark, most Adventists will state that they know that the seal of God is about the Sabbath and the mark of the beast is about Satan’s counterfeit, Sunday.

The current teaching on this subject has produced a dangerous condition among Adventists. They feel that they are safe and secure in knowing what is soon to happen.

We know that in order for any law to be official, it must have the seal of the lawgiver, and that would be true of God’s law as well. A seal must show three things, 1. The name; 2. The title and 3. The territory or dominion of the lawgiver. We are quick to show all three elements of the seal are in the fourth commandment, verse 11. We think because we know these things about the seal of God, that there is nothing to worry about, for we have the understanding of the seal in our foreheads.

Can we be sure that this is what the servants of God are to be sealed with? We may be under an erroneous belief because a false understanding is what Satan would want for us. Maybe it’s time to re-examine what we do believe for something we may have missed.

We all know that the issue is about WORSHIP. But let me state right now that the issue is a lot more than what day we worship. Most people believe that the issue between the seal and the mark is what it all adds up to. Can we really believe that that’s all that it is?

Revelation 7 verses 2 & 3 says this, **“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,**

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

Back to verse 2, **“And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: ...”** So, the seal belongs to someone. Who is the owner of this seal? The living God. A lot of people pass right over this, but it is important. Who is the living God?

Matthew 16:15, 16. Jesus speaking to the disciples, **“He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”**

So from this verse we see that God the Father would be the owner of the seal and Christ is His Son.

1 Thessalonians 1:9,10 **“For they themselves show of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.”** So, the Father is the owner of the seal and He is the living and true God, and He has a Son. But get the point, the seal does not belong to a group or a committee. It belongs to only one Person and that is only God the Father. If we misunderstand something about the seal, then we will miss something about the mark. This is very important and often overlooked. Understanding this point will help us better understand the mark.

Rev. 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.”** The 144,000 have the seal of the Living God in their foreheads and it is the Father's name. It is possessing the Father's name in the mind, and the fact that He is the One true and eternal God.

Matthew 22:37 **“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”** What happens in the mind? That's where worship is and the Father's name is written there. To love God involves every aspect of our being, it involves our understanding.

When Jesus was talking to the woman at the well He said this in John 4:23 **“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.”** In the last days there will be this group of people who are worshipping who? The Father and they will be specially sealed with the seal of the Living God, who is the Father and they will have the Father's name in their foreheads.

So, what about the Sabbath? I am not minimizing the importance of the Sabbath, let us read this with added understanding, 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.”** So, the Sabbaths are a sign between the LORD and the people that they may know that it is the LORD that sanctifies them. Now who is the LORD spoken here? When you see the LORD spelled in all caps, it is Jehovah in English or Yaweh in Hebrew. It is only the Father.

The Sabbath is a sign that the true and Living God the Father dwells in His people and it is His presence that makes them holy and sanctifies them. Now the sign, which is the Sabbath, is not the destination.

Having the presence of the true and Living God the Father dwelling in us makes us a holy, sanctified people. There are many people who keep the sign and do not have the Father's presence within them. It's an important point.

Numerous Adventists think they are safe. They believe they will never get the mark of the beast because they have the seal in their frontal lobes. But, are they really safe? Having the sign does not mean you have the reality. It would be one of the worst deceptions to go into the time of trouble thinking all is well and good and ending up on the wrong side.

This is all about worship and notice, the 4th commandment comes after the other three commandments, which also deal with worship. The 1st tells us who we worship; the 2nd tells us what we worship; the 3rd tells us how we worship; the 4th tells us when we worship and why we worship.

The First Commandment says, **"I am the LORD thy God, ...Thou shalt have no other gods before me."** This is Who we worship. He is a jealous God and wants nothing to be put before Him.

The Second Commandment says, **"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, ..."** This tells us What we worship. God is a living Being that cannot be represented by things.

The Third Commandment says, **"Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; ..."** This is How we worship. This commandment is about reverence.

And of course, the Fourth Commandment says, **"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy,"** This tells us When and Why we worship. All four of these commandments will be involved in the final conflict.

But Adventists have isolated the fourth commandment as the all-important commandment for the last days, at the exclusion of the other three. That is simplistic and shallow, but that is what we have done.

Listen now, this is not unprecedented as another group of people have done it before. Look at John 8:42, **"Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me."** You see the Jews claimed that God was their Father, but they rejected His begotten Son, in spite of all the evidence in Scripture and what they witnessed. They could not come to accept the Son-ship of Christ.

A little while later in John 12:44, **"Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me."** Now the Jews in rejecting Christ were really rejecting who? The Father. But the Jews believed that they had the Father and to prove that, they were excellent Sabbath keepers. They were keeping the law and it gave them this sense of safety and security that they had the approval of God, while

they were rejecting the Lord of the Sabbath. So, what did Sabbath-keeping do for them? Absolutely nothing.

In 70AD, over one million Jews were destroyed in Jerusalem, ... while they were keeping the Sabbath. This example has a parallel with another group of people in the last days who also keep the Sabbath.

Jesus said in John 5:23, **“That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.”** And this is what the Jews had done, they rejected Him and failed to recognize Him as the Son of God. This is so important for we do not want to fail to recognize Jesus as the literal, begotten Son of God.

Also, the fact that the Father had sent His Son, John 3:17, which of course means He had to have a Son to send. We are in trouble if we miss that point. Today we as a people have failed to recognize Jesus as the literal Son of God. The problem comes from the fact that we have idolized the Sabbath and magnified Sabbath-keeping to the point where we have made it our Savior. In other words. our trust and our confidence is in the fact that we keep the Sabbath. We have a sense of pride because we are so smart, because we know the truth and reason, these poor Christians that go to church on Sunday. But the fact is that most SDA's do not understand the more important issues, which makes them totally unprepared for the time of trouble. This is serious.

You know the pious Sabbath-keeping Jews condemned Jesus, the Son of God and Lord of the Sabbath, for Sabbath breaking. This is a similar problem today because when you try to highlight Jesus as the literal begotten Son of God, they say that is an irrelevant side issue, it's all about the Sabbath. We need to wake up because the Jews at that time were a picture of us today and God wants us to see that.

God's prophet wrote this, **“*Satan is working that the history of the Jewish nation may be repeated in the experience of those who claim to believe present truth. The Jews had the Old Testament Scriptures, and supposed themselves conversant with them. But they made a woeful mistake. The prophecies that refer to the glorious second appearing of Christ in the clouds of heaven they regarded as referring to His first coming. Because He did not come according to their expectations, they turned away from Him. Satan knew just how to take these men in his net, and deceive and destroy them.*”** {17MR 13.1} The Jews believed they understood the scriptures and they had a certain expectation of what was going to happen. When it didn't happen according to their understanding, they ended up being lost. We believe we have all we need to know about the seal and the mark, because we have all our charts and studies, but what if we have missed something very significant? It could be a very serious thing and would be too late a wake-up call for a lot of people.

“Those who would have the seal of God in their foreheads must keep the Sabbath of the fourth commandment.”--7BC 970 (1899). {LDE 220.2} Now this

makes it clear that God's last day people will keep the Sabbath, which is a sign, in order to receive the seal in their foreheads.

“True observance of the Sabbath is the sign of loyalty to God.”--7BC 981 (1899). If you have the sign but you don't have the right God, then that will keep you in the state of deception. There are people whose salvation will depend on how they respond to present truth.

“Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads--it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved--just as soon as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. Indeed, it has begun already.”--4BC 1161 (1902). {LDE 219.4} So, the sealing is a settling into the what? The truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so God's people cannot be moved from that truth. Question: What is the first thing we think of when we hear the seal? Most people would answer the Sabbath. But it is the owner of the Sabbath that should be the first thing because it is the seal of the Living God. So, the truth of the Living God and settling into that truth is part of the seal. The seal is not settling into error, especially when that error has to do with confusion about the one true living God. Most SDA's have settled into the error of a unity of three co-eternal gods. The seal of God is given to who, according to Revelation 7:3? The servants of our God.

Jesus said in John 12:26, ***“If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.”*** The servants of God will be following Jesus and will be sealed because they are settling into the truth and what is called present truth.

So, what is the first thing we think of when we say the Mark of the Beast? We say it is Sunday. It's what we have been taught. But Sunday alone is not the issue.

The seal and the mark are parallel entities, but there is something additional. For one thing Sunday is a sign. This is an issue about whether we will worship the God of the Sabbath or the god of Sunday.

You have heard Adventists say, ***“Even if they hold a gun to my head, I will keep the Sabbath!”*** People believe it is in their willpower that will help them through the time of trouble. I used to believe that also, but. It really should alarm us.

Now let me ask you a question. What is more important; when you worship or Who you worship? WHO! And God put that as His number One Commandment.

Revelation 13:16, 17 ***“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: 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.”*** What does this tell us about the beast?

He has a mark, he has a name, and the number of his name. Listen carefully. If you have any one of these three things, you're on the wrong side. What is his name?

Revelation 13:1 **“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.”** The name of blasphemy. What is blasphemy?

Blasphemy is to make a mortal person God, which He is not, and so it is with the church at Rome. One man posing as the Vicar of Christ over 1.2 billion Catholics around the world.

Blasphemy is when a mortal man claims the prerogatives of God which do not belong to any mortal, such as hearing the confessions of another mortal and then instructing that person how to get forgiveness by doing penance. That is blasphemy.

And of course, the Pharisees accused Jesus of blasphemy on two occasions; one where they said that He is a man claiming to be God. The other time, when He, being a man, claimed to forgive sins. Well as the Son of God He committed no blasphemy. Think about this for a moment; God's true, end time, remnant people have the name of the God they worship in their foreheads. The true and Living God.

The beast's followers have the name of the god they worship in their foreheads, the name of blasphemy. Let's focus now for this actual name of blasphemy that we are looking for as it would be connected to their primary basis of all their worship.

Some people are not aware of this, but the Catholic doctrine of Sunday worship is NOT their primary doctrine. What is the PRIMARY doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church? It is the Trinity

Let's read it in the: *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

234 The mystery of the **Most Holy Trinity** is the **central** mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God in himself. It is therefore the **source of all the other mysteries of faith**, the light that enlightens them. It is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the “hierarchy of the truths of faith.”

So, you see the Catholic Church knows that it is more important who you worship than when you worship. The Trinity is the name of the God they worship. The Trinity had its origin in Paganism and goes back to Nimrod who died and his wife Semiramis told them he is the god of the sun. Two years after his death, she said that she was impregnated with the sun god's rays, later that December 25th, giving birth to Tamuuz, the pagan son of god.

The Trinity worship is connected to the sun god.

Look at this quote from the Handbook for Today's Catholic, page 16. **“The mystery of the Trinity is the central doctrine of the Catholic Faith. It is the mystery of God in himself. Upon it are based all the other teachings of the Church.”** So, by this statement, they would say that even Sunday worship is based on the Trinity. As a matter of fact, that is what Rome says is the reason for keeping Sunday.

The whole system is blasphemous worship, and Paul warned the church of the coming apostasy in 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4: **“... and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”** Their worship of the Trinity through a Triune God is not the problem of the Roman Catholic Church only; it also exists for all of her daughters as well. Even Ted Wilson, president of the General Conference of SDA's, has declared that the SDA Church believes in the Triune God; which brothers and sisters is the Roman Catholic Trinity. But there are many SDA's who believe in the Tri-Theism form of the Trinity belief, three separate and distinct co-eternal Gods. Any three god scenario is a Trinitarian. However, growing numbers of the world church, are now non-Trinitarian, embracing the pure non-trinitarian faith of the pioneers of the Adventist Church, when God taught them the foundational doctrines, which the current church says they were wrong.

Now let's look at the parallel Mark of the Beast. Sunday is its sign. The Trinity is the name of the beast power, and is its primary doctrine on which all its beliefs are based. Once again, the issues are about worship. Who you will worship and when you will worship? Either the Father, the True and Living God and His Sabbath, or one's worship will be to the counterfeit system with the beast's name of blasphemy, the Trinity and on the day dedicated to the sun god. There's more.

Revelation 17:3 **“So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.”** Remember, if you have the names of blasphemy, you're in the same group with those that have the mark of the beast. That is why in verse 5 it says, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. All of her daughters have the same name. Remember in Ezekiel chapters 8 & 9, there is a list of abominations that exist among God's professed people. All the abominations listed in chapter 8 have to do with who they worship. Chapter 8 ends with the leadership worshipping the sun. Sister White told us that these scriptures apply to God's church of the last days and she encouraged us to study them. Truth is progressive and God is unfolding new truth for us today. Look at what she said in 6T 17.1:

“The light we have received upon the third angel's message is the true light. The mark of the beast is exactly what it has been proclaimed to be. Not all in regard to this matter is yet understood, nor will it be understood until the unrolling of the scroll; but a most solemn work is to be accomplished in our world. The Lord's

command to His servants is: "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.""
Isaiah 58:1. {6T 17.1}

In her statement she said regarding the mark of the beast, "Not all in regard to this matter is yet understood, nor will it be understood until the unrolling of the scroll; ..." She wrote this over 100 years ago and truth has been unfolding since then. But what more is there to the mark of the beast?

You have been witnessing the more today. So, if you stop at Sunday as the mark of the beast, you are in danger because she said there is more. The Trinity is a very relevant part of the mark of the beast. It is only because of worshipping the wrong god that people end up worshipping on the wrong day. At this time, as God's servants today are revealing this truth around the world, they are being ridiculed by their own brethren. That is proof as to how brilliant Satan's plan has been.

Let me ask you this question. Is it possible that a Sunday worshipper can be worshipping the True and Living God? In Rev. 18:4 God says come out of her My people. The answer would be yes.

Let me ask you another question. Is it possible that a Sabbath-keeper can be ignorantly worshipping the god of Rome? If you're keeping the right day and have the wrong god, the trinity in your frontal lobes, how can you possibly get the seal or even be a candidate for the latter rain?

Now listen to this quote from 7BC 979.12 ***"The third angel's message has been sent forth to the world, warning men against receiving the mark of the beast or of his image in their foreheads or in their hands. To receive this mark means to come to the same decision as the beast has done, and to advocate the same ideas, in direct opposition to the Word of God."***

Now think about that. To receive the mark. You can be advocating the same unbiblical ideas. The beast tells us what their most important idea is. The Trinity is the basis of all their doctrines. This pertains to worship and they strongly advocate it. The mark of the beast has far more to deal with than just Sunday worship. If we advocate the same God as Rome, the trinity, in any three god scenario, what are we promoting? The Mark of the Beast, according to God's prophet.

There was a lady by the name of Mrs. Hastings who was dearly loved by everyone who knew her, even James White. Shortly after her untimely death, Sister White had a vision and wrote these words of comfort to her husband and children: ***"I saw that she (Mrs. Hastings) was sealed and would come up at the voice of God and stand upon the earth, and would be with the 144,000. I saw we need not mourn for her; she would rest in the time of trouble, and all that we could mourn for was our loss in being deprived of her company. I saw her death would result in good."*** Letter 10, 1850 {2SM 263.3} Written in 1850. It is obvious from this statement that there were

among our pioneers, those that went to their graves sealed. That means that they were not only Sabbath-keepers, but the Pioneers had the correct understanding of the Godhead. Keep in mind, our pioneers were Non-Trinitarians. Here is proof:

In the Book "The Trinity, written by three highly educated Andrews University Professors, Woodrow Whidden, Jerry Moon and John W. Reeve, we find this quote, **"That most of the leading pioneers were non-Trinitarian in their theology has become accepted Adventist history, ... More recently, a further question has arisen with increasing urgency: was the pioneers' belief about the Godhead right or wrong? As one line of reasoning goes, either the pioneers were wrong and the present church is right, or the pioneers were right and the present Seventh-day Adventist church has apostatized from biblical truth."** The Trinity - Page 191

What does this mean? SDA historians admit that the early pioneers were non-Trinitarians. James White was a very vocal anti-Trinitarian and he remained so to his death at age 60. Sister White never said he was wrong. Their position was that there were two Divine Beings in the Godhead and that their shared omnipresent Holy Spirit called the Spirit of God or the Spirit of Christ is the third person of the Godhead and that the Father God is the eternal Father and Jesus was begotten at some point in eternity. That's what Mrs. Hastings believed, and Sister White says she was sealed. For our soul's salvation sake, we better not miss what God has been revealing to His people in these last days. But like in 1888, the majority not only rejected the message for that time, so in these last days, they are not only rejecting the message, they are rising up against it. So how can we today with a different god called the Trinity, expect to be sealed like Mrs. Hastings? There will not be among the 144,000, different groups with different views on what composed the Godhead.

The correct understanding was given to our early pioneers by unquestionable authority. All who are sealed worship the True and Living God. My prayer is that this has made you more aware of the deeper issues as it pertains to what is required when it comes to the seal and the mark and the issue of Who we worship. Remember that Satan is at war with the remnant and we need to give his deceptive genius credit because he has deceived the people who think they know it all. His strategy from Sister White's death and the following 6-1/2 decades was to make Adventists change Gods, which they officially did in 1980.

AMEN

Richard C, Vaughn