

## The Third Angel

### What is the fearful warning of the third Angel (vs. 9-11)

The mark of the Beast is, as we have seen above, an antisabbath. This points to a particular future enforced Sunday worship of some kind. What is the *image* to the beast? The image is a 'likeness' or something similar to the beast. This is what the Earth-beast gets the world to set up in order to enforce the mark of the beast. It is some form of a worldwide political, religious, economic system that enforces the false worship.

### Clarification

At this point we need to clarify a few things so people do not misunderstand what is being said. The Mark of the Beast is *not* Sunday worship per se. Here people get confused. The Mark of the Beast requires several factors to be in place *all at once* and at the *very end of time*.

These factors are:

- Enforcement of an anti-sabbath (Sunday Worship)
- Economic penalisation and oppression against Sabbath-keepers
- Both of these things backed by some level of State and, eventually, international support

The Mark is a *unique* and *future* event. No one has it currently. Sunday worship is *not inherently* the mark of the beast by itself. It is simply a human day with no blessing or divine authority behind it. Many good and true believers have kept Sunday and that is fine with God because it wasn't time for them to know any different. However, in the last days, God is enlightening and calling people to follow *His day* out of love for him. He wants us to be like Jesus and restore and enjoy true Sabbath keeping. In the end, when political and religious powers unite and oppose God's law, *then* opposition to the Sabbath, by keeping a human day, will be a Mark of following the beast, and not until then.

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# Prophecy Guide

Daniel 2

Daniel 7

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Revelation 12

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## Revelation 14a

# ***The True and the Counterfeit***

The best counterfeits are those that most closely look like the real. The final crisis in earth's history will be about a counterfeit.

**What does Paul say of Satan's tactics in 2 Cor 11:13-15?**

As we study Revelation we find that the main arena of the final conflict will also take place primarily within the Christian world. Satan will take on a decidedly 'Christian-like' mask. It will appear righteous. Satan knows that a blatantly antichristian approach has less ability to deceive, rather the best approach is to look like you're the good guy, you are God's or Christ's representative, even while attacking the very same.

**What is the Final Crisis all about?**

**What is the common element to all these verses?**

**Rev 13:4,8,15**

**Rev 14:7,9-11**

What is the final crisis all about? People like to talk about a big 'Armageddon' or the 'mark of the beast' without much idea of what it means. Popular ideas in Hollywood movies and, unfortunately, much Christian teaching, think it is about politics, or secret conspiracies or a global military war. This is not what the Bible says. The Bible says the final crisis is all about worship.

The gospel, or good news about Jesus who died for our sins, has been going to the world since Jesus came to this earth. Here in these verses the Three Angels of Revelation 14 preach the same gospel message but in the context of the end of time and the following messages.

## **The First Angel**

**What four things does the first Angel say in verse 7?**

1

2

3

4

This First Angel's message is the opposite to the activity of the dragon and beasts. It tells us to fear God – to put God first and obey him and to give God the glory. It announces that the judgment has come before the second coming. This we have seen in earlier studies is talking about God's pre-advent judgment (Daniel 7). In contrast to all the worship of the dragon and the beast, this message tell us to "*worship* him who made heaven, and earth, and sea." This is an allusion to the fourth commandment of the Sabbath, which is the memorial of creator worship!

## **The Second Angel**

**What does the Second Angel tell the world (vs. 8)?**

We will look in more depth at whom or what is Babylon is in the next study. Literal Babylon was the ancient enemy of Israel. This verse is referring to modern spiritual Babylon. In Revelation 17 and 18 Babylon is described as an impure women or Prostitute. Remember the pure women of Revelation 12 symbolised the Church of God. Thus the harlot or impure women Babylon symbolises the corrupted Church (she has daughters – so there are many of them!).

## **The Seal of God**

In the Book of Revelation the opposite to the Mark of the Beast is the Seal of God (Rev 7:1-3). The table on the pervious page suggests that part of the Seal of God includes the Sabbath. Interestingly, scholars have found that ancient kingdoms in Israel's day used to put their Seal, (with the name, title and dominion of the king), in the middle of their covenants. There is a direct parallel to the placement and function of the Sabbath in God's covenant the Decalogue. The Sabbath comes right in the middle and contains God's name ("The Lord" or Yahweh), title (your God) and dominion (maker of Heaven and Earth). The Seal of God on the foreheads of God's people involves more than this (i.e. it shows the character of the saints), but not less.

## **Daniel 7 Predicted the Change**

Daniel 7:25 tells us that the Little Horn (same power as the Sea-beast), during its long medieval reign, would 'attempt' or 'think' to "change *times and laws*." This is prophesying about the attempted change of the Sabbath, which is the 'time' within God's law. We know from history that this change was the attempt to replace God's Sabbath with the 'Day of the Sun' or Sunday. A day based in human tradition and not the Bible.

## **God's Response (Rev 14)**

What does God do in response to the activities of the evil trinity? God sends a message to the world and raises up a people to carry this message. The message of God's people is symbolised by three angels.

## **The Three Angels Message**

**What does John see in Rev 14:6?**

**What does he have?**

**How far does his activity extend?**

## **What is the Specific Element of Worship at Issue?**

**How are God's people described in Rev 12:17 and 14:12?**

These people are clearly devoted followers of Jesus and the Commandments of God. It seems that such a combination will be rare in the last days and will mark such people as different from the rest of the world. For some reason people will not wish to follow Jesus' and God's commandments together in their natural harmony.

## **The Heavenly Visions highlight the Key Issue**

**What does God highlight in vision before the final crisis of Rev 12-14? See Rev 11:19.**

**At the end of the description of the final worship what does God again highlight in Revelation 15: 5?**

Both the beginning and the end of the chapters about the final worship crisis are focused on the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Temple, otherwise known, as the tabernacle of the testimony, within which was the Ark of the Covenant. The 'Testimony' is an Old Testament word for the *Ten Commandments* that were in the Ark. God's people are identified as those who keep 'the commandments of God.' The evidence is overwhelming that the final crisis is about God's covenant Law - the Ten Commandments.

Fill-in the gaps in this table as you compare Revelation 13 and Exodus 20 and the True and Counterfeit Commandments

Revelation 13	Exodus 20
<p><b>13:4</b></p> <p>Men _____ the Dragon ... and they also _____ the beast</p>	<p><b>20:3</b></p> <p>You shall have no other _____ before me</p>
<p><b>13:15</b></p> <p>He was given power to give breath to the _____ of the beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to _____ the image to be killed</p>	<p><b>20:4-6</b></p> <p>You shall not make for yourself an _____ ... you shall not bow down or _____ them</p>
<p><b>13:1,6</b></p> <p>(vs. 1) and on each head a _____ name (vs. 6) He opened his mouth to _____, God and to _____ his name</p>	<p><b>20:7</b></p> <p>You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in _____</p>
<p><b>13:16,17 – The Mark of the Beast</b></p> <p><b><i>Beast’s Name and Number</i></b></p> <p>13:17 “the mark, which is the _____ of the beast or the _____ of his name.”</p> <p><b><i>Regulation of Work and Economic Oppression</i></b></p> <p>13:17 “no one could _____ or _____ unless he had the mark.”</p> <p><b><i>Universal Extent</i></b></p> <p>13:16 “He forced everyone, _____ and _____, rich and _____, _____, and slave, to receive a mark.”</p>	<p><b>20:8-11-The Sabbath of the Lord</b></p> <p><b><i>God’s Name and Number</i></b></p> <p>20:but the _____ day is the Sabbath to the _____ your God.”</p> <p><b><i>Regulation of Work and Economic Protection</i></b></p> <p>20:10 “Six days you shall labour and do all your _____, but the ... Sabbath ... on it you shall do no _____”</p> <p><b><i>Universal Extent</i></b></p> <p>20:10 “no work “neither you, nor your _____ or _____, nor your manservant nor your _____ not your animals, nor the _____ within your gate.”</p>

Note to “not work” on the Sabbath in Exodus is explained as to not ‘buy or sell’ in Nehemiah 10:31; 13:15-22. It has the same meaning as the beast’s mark. The mark is about worshiping the beast, while the Sabbath is about worshiping the true God.

### **Commandments in Rev 12-14**

<b>Rev 11:19</b>	<b>Rev 12:17</b>	<b>Rev 13</b>	<b>Rev 14:12</b>	<b>Rev 15:5</b>
Ark of the Covenant (Decalogue)				Tabernacle of Witness (Decalogue)
	Saints keep the Commandments of God		Saints keep the Commandments of God	
		Counterfeit of the first Table of the Decalogue		

### **Centrality of the Decalogue (Ten Commandments)**

We can see the evil trinity counterfeits the first four of the Ten Commandments that talk about worshiping God. The evil trinity hates God’s Holy Law, which is an expression of the character and nature of God. In the Old Testament, God told Israel to write his covenant law on their foreheads and on their hands (Deut 6:8). The Beast’s mark is also on the forehead or on the right hand. Clearly the mark is obedience to laws that are in opposition to God’s Law.

### **Centrality of the Sabbath**

The climax of the rebellion is the Mark of the Beast and it is apparent that ***the Mark of the Beast is an Anti-Sabbath***. It is the regulation of worship (a worship day) in opposition to God’s Day. It is a counterfeit day in opposition to the Biblical Sabbath. *This is the issue in the final crisis – whether we will keep the commandments of God or follow the laws of man. Whether we will keep God’s Holy day or a day of human authority.*

### **It’s about Worship and Obedience not external Marks**

The Mark of the Beast is not a bar code or laser imprint that is put on people’s heads, as many people believe. Someone can tie you down and tattoo 666 on your head, but it does not constitute the mark of he beast. The Mark is about worship, obedience and allegiance.