

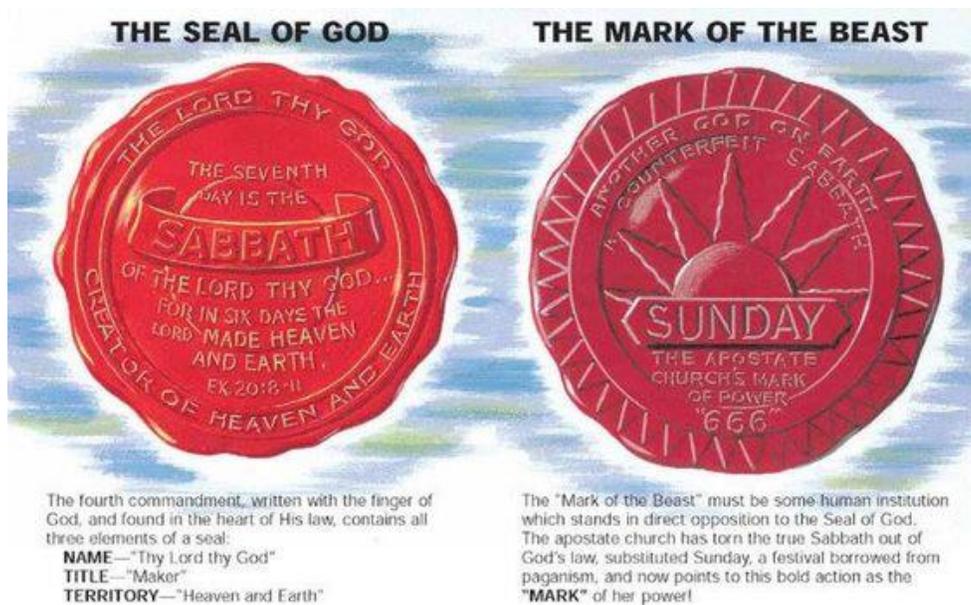
Seal of God
or
Mark of the Beast?



By C. Lisa Audain

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Ellen White wrote: "*The sign, or **seal**, of God is revealed in the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath...*" —8T 117 (1904).

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Introduction:

We are living in the time of the end that began in 1798^{ac} and will end when Christ returns to take His people home. During such time and just before Christ returns, the messages about the Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast will be of paramount importance in the minds of many. The receiving of either one of those 'marks' will be the test put towards the people on this earth and the dividing line between those who serve God and those who serve Him not.

As a result, one needs to have a clear understanding of what those 'marks' means in Scripture, in order to be on the right side of the argument in this great controversy. This argument began in heaven and will end with a Time of Trouble that has never before experienced by the people of God nor the occupants in this world. It will be a global show down that will identify where our loyalty lies; will we have the seal of God or will we have the mark of the Beast?

That is the question which will be answered by the position taken then and the position we occupy now. Let us therefore make sure that we are on the right side of the argument by having deep and precise understanding of both these 'marks' for the saving of our souls.

What is the Seal of God?

A seal is a stamp, mark or sign that can be seen in several bible verses within scriptures. The mentioned of the seven seals, in Revelation chapter 6 and Revelation chapter 8, is just one portion of scripture in which the word seal has been used. However, the term 'Seal of God' or the 'Seal of the Living God' is what needs to be explored at this point.

The Greek word that represents seal is "[Greek] Sphragis... a signet... the stamp impressed..." **James Strong, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, pg. 70.**

“...the signet-ring... which the Oriental monarch uses to give validity to official documents or to mark his property. The symbolism seems to be based on Eze. 9: 4; where a man provided with an inkhorn is bidden to set a mark... on the foreheads of the righteous in Jerusalem, with a view of being spared in an impending massacre. But for a mark made by the pen of a scribe the Apocalyptist, who has lately had before him the vision of the sealed roll substitutes the impression of the Divine signet-ring.” **Henry Barclay Swete, Commentary on Revelation, pg. 96**

1. It is noteworthy to indicate that when a King sealed a document; the seal gives the document its authenticity; it shows the giver’s authority as it identifies who gives it; and the realm in which He has jurisdiction or control (1Kgs 21:8; Esther 3:12; 8:8, 10).

1Kgs 21:8: - *“So she wrote letters in Abah’s name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city, dwelling with Naboth.”*

2. God being a King Himself, He also has a seal. (Rev 7:2; Rev 9:4; 2Tim 2:19).

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...”*

3. God uses His Law to seal His people; making them distinct from those who do not serve Him (Isa 8:16; Rev 12:17; Rev 14:12).

Isa 8:16: - *“Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples”*

4. So since it is the law that God uses to seal his people, when we have a closer look at the Law itself, which commandment within the law that shows forth God’s authority, His name and the realm in which he controls? It is the Sabbath commandment (Exo 20:11).

Exo 20:8-11: - *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, or thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: **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."

He being Creator, that is the sign of His Authority; it identifies Him by name (Lord God) and shows His jurisdiction (the heavens and the earth). The Sabbath commandment contains all these elements, thus by the very composition of this commandment, there we can see, God's seal or mark. So the Seventh Day Sabbath is the seal of the living God.

Name: **The Lord our God**

Title: **Creator**

Territory in which He controls: **Heaven and Earth**

*"The seal of God's law is found in the fourth commandment. This only, of all the ten, brings to view both the name and the title of the Lawgiver. It declares Him to be the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and thus shows His claim to reverence and worship above all others. Aside from this precept, there is nothing in the Decalogue to show by whose authority the law is given." **The Great Controversy** by E. White pg.384*

5. The Sabbath is a memorial of creation of the earth in six literal days. It is the sign of the work of Creationship that separates the true and Living God from all false gods and goddesses (Isa 42:5, 8; Isa 43:11-15; Ps 86:6-10; Isa 44:24; 1The 1:9; Jer 10:10-12).

Jer 10:10-12:- "But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation. Thus shall ye say unto them, the gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens. He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion."

6. Thus those who 'keep the Seventh Sabbath day' acknowledges who is the True God and Creator of the universe. (Exo 31:16, 17; Gen 2:1-3; Exo 20:8-11).

*Exo 31:16-17:- "Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a **perpetual covenant**. It is a sign*

between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.”

7. Therefore the Sabbath is a sign of the True God. Thus the keeping of the Sabbath identifies that you are worshipping the True God in contrast to false gods (Eke 20:20).

Eke 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.”

8. It is also a sign of Sanctification. God’s maintenance of Sinfreeness in our hearts. Therefore in order to keep the Sabbath holy one must therefore be holy or sinfree. This is the contrast between those to just go to church on the seventh day (Saturday) and those who keep the Sabbath Day (Seventh Day) holy and go to church on that day. (Eke 20:12; Exo 20:8; Exo 31:13; Lev 20:7, 8).

Exo 20:8:- “Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.”

Lev 20:7, 8:- “Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God. And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the LORD which sanctify you.”

9. The Sabbath also shows forth God’s providential care for man; His love and mercy towards us. Man is called to rest and lay down their burdens. Therefore the Sabbath means rest from secular labor as following God’s example (Mk 2:24, 27; Matt 12:1-7; Genesis 2:2, 3; Exo 20:9; Matt 11:28-30; Exodus 34:21).

Matt 11: 28-30:- “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto yours souls.”

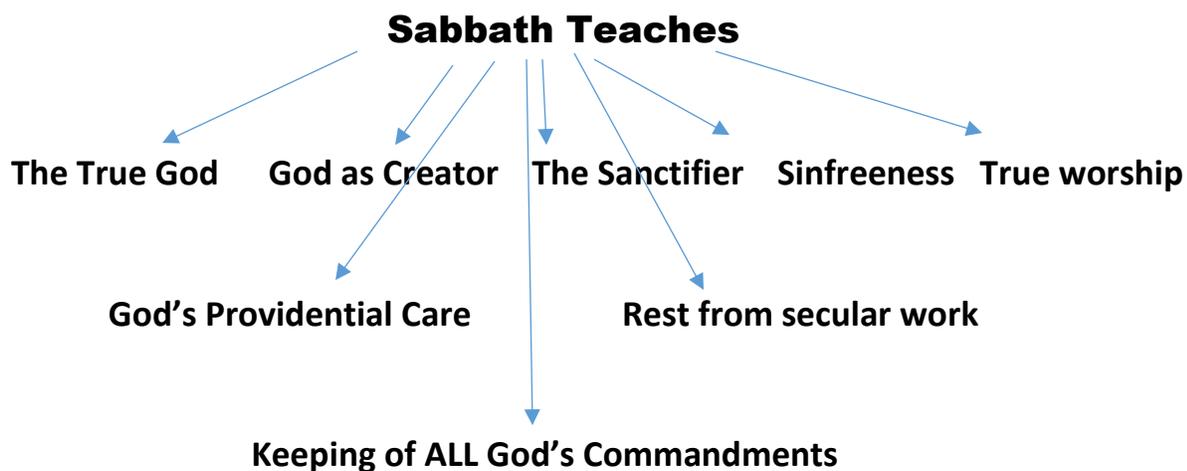
10. It is a perpetual covenant of true worship (Gen 2:1-3; Isa 66:22, 23; Ps 111:7, 8; Exo 31:16).

Isa 66:22-23:- “For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from on Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.”

11. The Sabbath also stands for keeping of all God's Commandments. Since one cannot break one without breaking all, the same in contrast, one cannot keep one without keeping all. (Exodus 16:28-31; Jam 2:10).

Jam 2:10:- *"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."*

12. The below diagram is a summary of the above points on what the Sabbath teaches:



13. Those points identifies in the Sabbath is what the Holy Spirit uses to seal the People of God in obedience to Him; it is also our protection. (Eph 4:30; 2Tim 2:19; Rev 7:2, 3; Rev 9:4).

Rev 9:4:- *"And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, either any green thing neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads."*

14. Therefore what does it mean to keep the Sabbath or to have the Seal of God? The Sabbath rest is God dwelling in man on that day, to make and keep him holy. All secular work is put aside. Therefore it will involve a denial of one's self (Isa 58:13-14; Phi 2:13; Heb. 4:3-5; 1Pet 1:16; Ps. 132:13, 14).

Isa 58:13-14:- *"If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honorable; and shalt honor him, not doing therein own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor*

speaking thine own words; Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father; for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.”

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

15. It began and ends from Sunset to Sunset. (Lev 23:32; Gen 1:5).

Lev 23:32:- *“It shall be unto you a Sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, **from even unto even**, shall ye celebrate your Sabbath.”*

What is the Mark of the Beast?

Satan has always sought to have a counterfeit of everything that God has or does. So in contrast to the Seal of the Living God, Satan also has his mark. This mark belongs to the Beast given by Satan, himself. (Rev 13:4)

It is not a computer chip or anything to do with technology. This mark is a knowledge in the heart that exalts and gives worship to Satan. This knowledge is seen in the works of those who serves Satan.

However firstly, let us understand who or what this Beast is, so we can understand what is his Mark.

16. The term ‘Mark of the Beast’ is seen only in these scriptures (Rev 13:17; Rev 14:9; Rev 15:2)

Rev 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.”*

17. The above texts show the position of those who overcame the Beast. But who is this Beast? In bible prophecy a Beast represents a kingdom or power (Dan 7:3, 17).

Dan 7:3, 17:- *“And four great Beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another....These great Beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.”*

18. When Daniel was given this prophecy in the book of Daniel, the four kings or kingdoms in bible history represented Babylon, Media Persia, Gercia (Greece) and Rome. Rome was the last power that ruled the then world and were in existence in John’s time who was the last disciple to die.

John gave reference to that Beast in Revelation 13:1, which was the same description given by Daniel. Thus showing that it was the same power that they referred to. (Dan 7:7, 8, 19-21; 23-26; Rev 13:1).

Revelation 13:1-3:- *“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.”*

That fourth kingdom or the Beast with 10 horns is Papal Rome or the Papacy, known as the religious headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church. This fourth Beast was the power that changed times and laws (Dan 7:25).

Dan 7:25:- *“And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until **a time and times and the dividing of time.**”*

19. So now that we have identified who or what is the Beast, it is now important for us to zero in on what is the mark of Papal Rome or the Roman Catholic Church that wore out the saints of God from the time that they came into power – 538ac to 1798ac – 3 ½ years represented by **a time and times and the dividing of time.**
20. This Beast was known for changing times and laws. Nowhere in the Bible has it been told that Christ changed His law. But in history there was a changing of God’s law from the Seventh Day Sabbath (Saturday) to that of the first day of the week (Sunday). There was a parting from the true day of worship to a false day of worship; a parting from principles of truth that were already working in Paul’s and John’s day (2 Thes 2:7; 1Jn 4:3).

2Thes 2:7:- *“For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.”*

1Jn 4:3:- *“And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.”*

21. There came a power that sought to change times and laws; in an attempt to counteract these principles of truth. Specifically the Seventh Day Sabbath, which was their main focus (Dan 7:24, 25; Isa 24:5).

Isa 24:5:- *“The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.”*

22. This power is working via a religious organization on this earth that is an embodiment, in acceptance of ALL Satan’s arguments. A fourth office is established in the Roman Catholic Church, as the Pope is seen as god with god on earth.

And as such, a change of the Seventh Day Sabbath to the First Day was made by them as a sign of their authority. (2Thes 2:3, 4).

2Thes 2:3, 4: *“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there comes a falling away first, 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, shewing himself that he is God.”*

Below are some quotations from the Roman Papacy itself, formed as doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church and from other Authors.

“Roman Catholics acknowledge that the change of the Sabbath was made by their church, and declare that Protestants by observing the Sunday are recognizing her power. In the Catholic Catechism of Christian Religion, in answer to a question as to the day to be observed in obedience to the fourth commandment, this statement is made: “During the old law, Saturday was the day sanctified; but the church, instructed by Jesus Christ, and directed by the Spirit of God, has substituted Sunday for Saturday; so now we sanctify the first, not the seventh day. Sunday means, and now is, the day of the Lord.”

*As the sign of the authority of the Catholic Church, papist writers cite “the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of; ... because by keeping Sunday, they acknowledge the church’s power to ordain feasts, and to command them under sin.”— Henry Tuberville, **An Abridgment of the Christian Doctrine**, page 58. What then is the change of the Sabbath, but the sign, or mark, of the authority of the Roman Church—“the mark of the beast”? **Great Controversy**, E. G. White pg. 381*

*“Pope Leo XIII made the following statements: We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty.” **Encyclical Letter, June 20, 1894. Quoted in, Ibid, p. 40.***

*“Not the Creator of Universe, in Genesis 2:1-3, but the Catholic Church can claim the honor of having granted man a pause to his work every seven days.” **S.C. Mosna, Storia della Domenica, 1969, pp. 366-367***

*“The Pope is of great authority and power that he can modify, explain, or interpret even divine laws.... The Pope can modify divine law, since his power is not of man, but of God, and he acts as vicegerent of God upon earth.” **Lucuis Ferraris, Prompta Bibliotheca, “Papa,” art. 2.***

*” The Pope has the power to change times, to abrogate laws, and to dispense with all things, even the precepts of Christ. The Pope has the authority and often exercised it, to dispense with the commands of Christ.” **Decretal, de Traniatic Episcop. Ferraris, Ecclesiastical Dictionary***

*”The Bible says, Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day. The Catholic Church says, No! By my divine power I abolish the Sabbath day, and command you to keep the first day of the week. And lo, the entire civilized world bows down in reverent obedience to the command of the **holy** Catholic church! “**Father Enright, C.S.S.R. of the Redemptoral College, Kansas City, History of the Sabbath, p. 802.***

*“Is not every Christian obliged to sanctify Sunday and to abstain on that day from unnecessary servile work? Is not the observance of this law among the most prominent of our sacred duties? But you may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify.” **James Cardinal Gibbons, The Faith of Our Fathers (1917 ed.) pp. 72, 73.***

23. This satanic movement is what is perpetuating Satan's arguments in a religious grab upon the face of the earth. A counterfeit Sabbath by the exaltation of Sunday as the day of worship is what is being propagated to change the knowledge that it gives about God.
24. Sunday 'holiness' (which is the Mark of the Beast) or a sign of their Authority is what is now being represented as achieving the very same points as the genuine Seventh Day Sabbath.
- a. Sanctifying people.
 - b. Causing proper worship to God.
 - c. Identifies who are the Christians
 - d. Makes people children of God.
 - e. Sunday giving hope to the world.

"Sunday "is the identity of the Christian community and the center of his life and mission," that "we cannot live without joining together on Sunday," that only those Christians "who lived in accordance with Sunday" have "attained new hope," and that "the Christians of today will rediscover the crucial importance of the Sunday Celebration."" (**Pastoral Visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Bari for the Closing of the 24th Italian National Eucharistic Congress, Homily of Pope Benedict XVI, Sunday, May 29, 2005**).

"People cannot be sanctified except on Sunday, that Christ transferred Sabbath sacredness to Sunday, that only those who keep Sunday belong to Christ, that only on Sunday does "the risen Lord makes Himself present among his followers," that only these "worship God properly" and that may Sunday "regain all its importance."" **Letter of Pope Benedict XVI to Cord. Francis Arinze.... From the Vatican, November 27, 2006.**

"Sunday is an "obligation for all the faithful" which brings "authentic freedom enabling them to live each day," that it is the Lord's Day, that it is "a day to be sanctified," and those who do not keep it suffer "the loss of an authentic sense of Christian freedom" and the loss of being "the children of God," that Sunday is the "primordial holy day" and "is meant to be kept holy," "a day of rest from work," which hopefully "will also be

recognized by civil society” “by law.”” **Sacramentum Caritatis... Given by Pope Benedict XVI in Rome, at Saint Peter’s February 22, 2007**

25. Thus in the close of this earth’s history, the gospel of the true Sabbath will be preached and it will be the controverted point of discussion in contrast to the Mark of the Beast (Rev 13:11-18).

26. Those who receive the seal of the living God and develop a character of Christ in holiness and those who receive the Mark of the Beast will develop the same character of Satan himself. It is all about where your allegiance lies.

27. A dire warning is given to all those who receive the Mark of the Beast. We must therefore heed this warning. No one will receive the Mark of the Beast until a thorough understanding is given and they chose to reject the truths explained. (Rev 14:9-11).

Our total consecration to God now and our obedience to His will are the only deciding factors that will determine which side that we will be on. Satan’s hates God’s Seventh Day Sabbath because it is the only summaristic truth that exposes His claims and denies him the worship that he craves. Thus it is the same hatred that will be seen towards God’s people who stands on God’s side.

May we deepen our commitment towards God and His cause and live our lives in harmony to God’s will. We will suffer persecution but God has promised us victory (2Tim 3:12; Rom 8:35; Ps 91:1-11; 1John 4:4).

May God add His many blessings. AMEN

