

The great conflict described in Revelation will ultimately result in two groups of people. There will be those with the seal of God and those with the mark of the beast. Our destiny will be determined by whose mark we bear. Only those who are marked with the seal of God will be ready for Jesus to come. Consequently, one of the most important questions we could consider is: Am I sealed with the seal of God? This is the question we will consider in this seminar.



Q1 **What question will be on the trembling lips of the wicked as they flee in terror from the glorious second coming of Jesus Christ?** Revelation 6:16,17

A

Q2 **When Jesus Christ returns, who will be able to stand?** Revelation 7:1-4

A

### THE SEAL OF THE LIVING GOD



Q3 **Where do believers receive the seal of God?** Revelation 7:3; 9:4; 14:1

A

The use of seals goes back to very ancient times. Sealing was probably first used as a mark of ownership for the seal served as proof of identity. Seals provided legal protection and a guarantee. Several Bible passages help us understand the mark or seal of God:

**1. THE STORY OF EZEKIEL 9:** Ezekiel received a vision in which one was told to "go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it." Ezekiel 9:4. Another six men were then commanded to go through the city and slaughter all who did not have the mark. They were told,

"Do not touch anyone who has the mark." Ezekiel 9:6. The detestable thing that God's marked people abhorred was idolatry. (See Ezekiel 8.) The mark revealed *THOSE WHO BELONGED TO GOD*. In this vision the mark also provided protection from severe judgement. It was a life and death issue.

**2. THE INSTRUCTION OF THE LORD:**

After the experience of the tenth plague in Egypt and the first Passover (see Exodus 11 and 12), the Children of Israel were told to dedicate their firstborn sons to God. They were told, "This observance will be for you like a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead that the law of the *LORD* is to be on your lips. For the *LORD* brought you out of Egypt with his mighty hand." Exodus 13:9. Then, after the ten commandments were outlined to the Children of Israel at Mount Sinai, the people were told, "Love the *LORD* your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them upon your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door-frames of your houses and on your gates." Deuteronomy 6:5-9. (Compare Isaiah 44:5.) The people of God had experienced *DELIVERANCE* and they were to live as *OVERCOMERS*.

**3. THE PRACTICE OF SLAVERY:**

In Old Testament times a slave who chose to continue serving his master was marked on his ear to indicate that choice. (See Exodus 21:5,6. and Deuteronomy 15:16,17.) The mark or brand on a slave's hand represented *FORCE* while the mark on the head symbolized *FREECHOICE*. In Revelation, the seal of

God is never placed upon the hand of a person for God does not use force. It is only placed on the head for this symbolizes *FREECHOICE*. We must *CHOOSE* to belong to God.

Q4 **What is the seal of God?** Compare Revelation 7:3,4 and 14:1

A

It is not a literal tattoo mark. In Bible times a name was associated with:

1. **BELONGING** or identity, (2 Chronicles 7:14; Isaiah 43:1; 63:19) and
2. **CHARACTER**. (Ezekiel 36:23.) To have the name of God signifies *BELONGING TO GOD* and being identified with the *CHARACTER OF GOD*.

## 1 Seal of Salvation — Belonging to God

Christians are people who belong to God. To have Jesus Christ's and the Father's NAME signifies *BELONGING TO GOD*.



Q5 **What price has been paid so that we can belong to God?** Revelation 1:5 and 5:9

A

Salvation is a gift. "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12. When we accept the gift of salvation and choose to believe in and follow Jesus Christ we experience the miracle of "new birth." (See John 3:1-21.) At baptism we take on the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus told His followers, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the *NAME* of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19.

At baptism we are sealed as belonging to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Paul wrote, "Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come." 2 Corinthians 1:21,22. "And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy

Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession - to the praise of his glory." Ephesians 1:13,14. (Also read Ephesians 4:30; John 6:27 and 2 Timothy 2:19.)



Q6 **At the glorious second coming of Jesus Christ who will be raised to life and given the inheritance of living and reigning with Him?** Revelation 20:4-6

A

The seven-fold Spirit seals us as belonging to the Father and the Son and we have the guarantee of receiving the promised inheritance when Jesus Christ comes.

## 2 Seal on Overcomers — The Character of God

Christians are people who follow Jesus Christ. To have Jesus Christ's and the Father's NAME is to be identified with the *CHARACTER OF GOD*.



Q7 **Upon whom will the name of God be written?** Revelation 3:12

A

The sealed ones are those who struggle and *OVERCOME*. (See Revelation 7:4; Genesis 32:28.) Revelation chapters 12-14 tell of Satan's attacks upon those who choose to be faithful believers in Jesus . . .

Q8 **How do believers overcome?** Revelation 12:11

A

Q9 **How are these overcomers in the battle with Satan described?** Revelation 12:17

- A
- 1.
  - 2.



Q10 **To be an overcomer, what qualities are needed?** Revelation 13:10

- A 1.  
2.

Q11 **Why are those who are sealed described as blameless?** Revelation 14:4,5,12

- A 1.  
2.

**God only seals those who obey Him.** The ten commandments reflect God's holy character. The fourth command identifies the name, authority and realm of God. (Read Ezekiel 20:12,20.) Peter and the other apostles declared, "We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." Acts 5:32. Paul wrote, "Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: 'The Lord knows those who are his,' and, 'Everyone who confesses the NAME of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.'" 2 Timothy 2:19. These are not Old Testament believers. New Testament Christians, waiting for the second coming of Jesus Christ, considered it a joy to obey the commandments of God. (Read John 14:15 and 1 John 2:3-5; 5:3,4,13,18-21.) Those who are sealed have the great principles of the Ten commandments written on their minds. (See 2 Corinthians 3:3-6; Hebrews 8:10.) We will know that they are written there when: (1) we feel bad about breaking God's commandments, and when, (2) we desire to obey God. (Read Psalm 40:8.)

3.

**God only seals those who are faithful to Him.** Their faithfulness is evidenced by their rejection of human traditions which some have substituted for God's commandments and their obedience to God. (Read Matthew 15:1-9; Mark 7:7-9; Colossians 2:6-8; Galatians 5:6; Ephesians 2:8-10; James 2:8-16.) Those who are sealed by the Holy Spirit are faithful and obedient believers.

### 3 Seal of Protection — and the Promise of God



Q12 **The final winds of strife and trouble are not unleashed until God's people are sealed. (Revelation 7:1-3.) Who will be protected from the evil, destructive powers that we are warned about with the sounding of the fifth trumpet?** Revelation 9:4

A

The context reveals that the grass of the earth, the plants and the trees represent people. Those with the seal of God will be protected during the plagues just before Jesus comes for they have "been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name." Revelation 15:2. (Compare Revelation 7:1-4.) To be saved when Jesus Christ comes we must have the seal of God. If we have not been sealed by God we will have the mark of the beast!

### THE MARK OF THE BEAST

The beast is described in Revelation 13:1-8. There we read that multitudes reject God by their worship of the dragon and the beast, and their persecution of His faithful and obedient people. (Revelation 13:4,7.)



Q13 **What does the beast blaspheme and slander?** Revelation 13:5,6

A

Q14 **In contrast to the seal of God, where is the mark of the beast placed?** Revelation 13:16

A

Q15 **What is the mark of the beast?** Revelation 13:16,17. (Compare Revelation 14:11; 15:2.)

A

The mark of the beast is in direct contrast with the seal of God. It is the *NAME OF THE BEAST* in contrast to the *NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE LAMB*. Satan hates the name of Jesus Christ and the Father. To have the name of the beast signifies *BELONGING TO THE BEAST* and reflecting the *CHARACTER OF THE BEAST*. (Also read Genesis 11:4; Isaiah 14:4,12-14.)

## 1 The Mark of Slavery — Belonging to Satan & the Beast



Q16 **By what means is the mark applied?**  
Revelation 13:16

A

Q17 **The Holy Spirit seals those who belong to God. Who controls those who have the mark of the beast?** Revelation 16:13,14

A

## 2 The Mark of Rebellion — The Character of Satan



Q18 **What is it about God's people that angers and causes the dragon and the beast to attack them?** Compare Revelation 12:17

and 14:12

A They ...

and

Satan despises Jesus Christ and the commandments of God. He uses deception and false teachings to distort the commandments. He employs people to confuse others concerning God's will. (Read Revelation 2:6,14,10; 19:20.) Those who are opposed to God are opposed to the commandments of God for they expose sin. (See 1 John 3:4; Romans 3:20; 7:7.) This rebellion has even crept into the Christian world with some who confess the name of Jesus Christ disregarding one or even all of the Ten commandments. (See Matthew 7:15-23.) We are either on God's side or Satan's side.

## 3 The Mark of Damnation — and the Wrath of God



Q19 **What will be the fate of those who receive the mark of the beast?**  
Revelation 14:9,10

A

The mark of the beast offers no protection at the time of final judgement. Those with the mark of the beast will be damned. They will suffer the seven last plagues (Revelation 9:4; 16:2,10,12-14,19), be killed by the brightness of Christ's coming (Revelation 19:19-21), and, at the end of the thousand years, they will be destroyed in the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:7-21:5.)

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response...

The contrast between the *SEAL OF GOD* and the *MARK OF THE BEAST* involves the issues of loyalty and worship. Those who have the seal of God follow the Lamb, Jesus, who is faithful and true. They are overcomers and proclaimers of truth. Those who have the mark of the beast follow the deceiver, Satan. They have been overcome and are deceived. Do we worship and obey the Creator-Redeemer, or are we on the side that disregards the will and commandments of God?



**Have you ever faced pressure to turn away from God? What do you think of the ten commandments? What positive things could you share with your friends? How strong is your resolve to obey the ten commandments of God - even if faced with a death threat?**