

Monday

June 17

Lesson 12

Sealed for Heaven

In the coming crisis over worship, God's faithful people will not yield to worldly pressures (*Rev. 14:12*). They will be sealed by the Holy Spirit (*Eph. 4:30*) and cannot be moved. In ancient times seals attested to the authenticity of official documents. They were a distinctive, individualized mark. Since the final conflict centers on worship and God's authority as revealed in His law, we would expect God's seal to be embedded in His law (*compare Isa. 8:16*).

Read Exodus 20:8-11. What elements of a seal are contained in the Sabbath commandment?

Here we have three elements of an authentic seal: (1) The name to whom the seal belongs, "The Lord thy God." (2) His title, the One who "made"—the Creator. (3) His territory, "heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is." A seal is sometimes called a sign in the Bible (*Rom. 4:11*). The two words are interchangeable. As God's sign or seal in the heart of God's law, the Sabbath is at the center of the final conflict over worship (*Ezek. 20:12, 20; Rev. 12:17*).

Compare Revelation 7:1, 2 and Revelation 14:1 with Revelation 13:16, 17. Where are the seal of God and the mark of the beast received? Why do you think there is a difference?

"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. Revelation 14:1 KJV

MANASSEH SEALED. DAN MISSING. GEN 49:16, 17 - GEN 41:51

"Dan shall judge his people, As one of the tribes of Israel. Dan shall be a serpent by the way, An adder in the path, That biteth the horse heels, So that his rider shall fall backward." Genesis 49:16-17 KJV

"And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house." Genesis 41:51 KJV

** EPHESIANS 4:30-32 AND CONTEXT IF TIME

SEALED WITH AND BY THE HOLY SPIRIT - EPHESIANS 1 AND 4 - LAW IS A TRANSCRIPT OF GODS CHARACTER - SABBATH IS CENTRAL IN GODS LAW - HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD - BEING SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NO DIFFERENT THAN BEING SEALED WITH THE SABBATH - GODS LAW IS NOT SOME SEPARATE MORAL CODE INDEPENDENT OF GOD HIMSELF - IT IS A REFLECTION OF WHO GOD IS - THE HOLY SPIRIT SEALS US WITH WHO GOD IS - HIS MORAL LAW OF LOVE

ALREADY THE JUDGMENTS OF GOD ARE ABROAD IN THE LAND, AS SEEN IN STORMS, IN FLOODS, IN TEMPESTS, IN EARTHQUAKES, IN PERIL BY LAND AND BY SEA. THE GREAT I AM IS SPEAKING TO THOSE WHO MAKE VOID HIS LAW. WHEN GOD'S WRATH IS Poured OUT UPON THE EARTH, WHO WILL THEN BE ABLE TO STAND? NOW IS THE TIME FOR GOD'S PEOPLE TO SHOW THEMSELVES TRUE TO PRINCIPLE. WHEN THE RELIGION OF CHRIST IS MOST HELD IN CONTEMPT, WHEN HIS LAW IS MOST DESPISED, THEN SHOULD OUR ZEAL BE THE WARMEST AND OUR COURAGE AND FIRMNESS THE MOST UNFLINCHING. TO STAND IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS WHEN THE MAJORITY FORSAKE US, TO FIGHT THE

BATTLES OF THE LORD WHEN CHAMPIONS ARE FEW—THIS WILL BE OUR TEST. AT THIS TIME WE MUST GATHER WARMTH FROM THE COLDNESS OF OTHERS, COURAGE FROM THEIR COWARDICE, AND LOYALTY FROM THEIR TREASON. THE NATION WILL BE ON THE SIDE OF THE GREAT REBEL LEADER. . 5T 136.2

The seal of God is placed on the forehead. The forehead is a symbol of the mind and represents a conscious decision.

The mark of the beast is received either in the forehead or in the hand indicating that people are convinced intellectually and by their own choice accept Satan's lies or, alternatively, they conform to false worship to avoid being killed.

The devil hates those who are obedient to God. The great controversy comes to a climax when the dragon (Satan) wages war on the believing remnant who "keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" (*Rev. 14:12, NKJV*). They are settled in their loyalty to Christ.

Why is day-by-day faithfulness to the Lord the key to being prepared for when the final crisis arrives?

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