

Wednesday

May 29

The Mark of the Beast

Read Revelation 12:12, 17 and Revelation 13:7. How do these texts reveal Satan's wrath? Why is the devil so angry with God's end-time people?

12:12 - HE KNOWS HIS TIME IS SHORT

12:17 - [THE WOMAN BROUGHT FORTH THE MAN CHILD AND SHE IS CLOTHED IN THE SUN, STANDING ON THE MOON AND HAS A CROWN OF 12 STARS.] THE DEVILS ANGER AT THE WOMAN WHO WAS JUST IDENTIFIED CAUSES HIM TO WAR AGAINST THE REMNANT OF HER SEED IDENTIFIED AS KEEPING THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD AND HAVING THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS.

13:7 - MAKES WAR WITH THE SAINTS WHO ALSO KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD, AND THE KEEP THE FAITH OF JESUS. THE DEVIL IS ANGRY WITH ANYONE WHO KEEPS WHAT GOD GIVES THEM IN NEW COVENANT EXPERIENCE.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE DEVIL IS ANGRY WITH THE WOMAN. THE SOURCE OF HIS ANGER IS A SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATION OF A CHURCH, WHO IS CLOTHED WITH THE SUN, STANDING ON THE MOON AND CROWNED WITH 12 STARS. THE NATURAL OUTWORKING OF HIS ANGER IS TO WAR AGAINST THE REMNANT OF THE WOMAN'S SEED.

IT IS IMPORTANT THEN, TO IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF THE REMNANT THAT HAS COMMANDMENT KEEPING AND TESTIMONY OF JESUS POSSESSING FAITH. THE SOURCE IS IN THE WOMAN'S GARMENT, HER POSITION ON THE MOON, AND THE CROWN OF STARS ON HER HEAD. IT IS THIS THAT PRODUCES A COMMANDMENT, KEEPING TESTIMONY OF JESUS POSSESSING REMNANT. SATAN'S WAR IS DIRECTED AGAINST THE REMNANT, BUT ONLY AS THEY IDENTIFIED WITH THE WOMAN. IN OTHER WORDS, WE CANNOT SIMPLY KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS, AND HAVE THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS AND THINK THAT THE DEVIL IS ANGRY WITH US. HE MAY BE QUITE DELIGHTED WITH THE PEOPLE WHO PROFESS TO KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS, AND HAVE THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS. THE JEWISH NATION PROFESS TO KEEP GOD'S COMMANDMENTS. MANY CHRISTIANS PROFESS TO HAVE THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS. YET THEY WERE NOT CLOTHED WITH THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST - THE SUN (MAL 4:2). THEY WERE NOT STANDING ON THE MOON - THE WORD OF GOD (PS 119:105). THEY WERE NOT WEARING 12 STARS SYMBOLIZING GODS, ORGANIZED CHURCH THAT HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD (REV.2:10; 6:2; 21:12, 14).

Revelation 12 outlines the cosmic conflict between Christ and Satan down through the ages. It climaxes with Satan's final attack on the people of God. Revelation 13 introduces the dragon's two allies, the beast from the sea and the beast from the land. These two powers join him in making war on God's people.

Read Revelation 13:4, 8, 12, 15 and Revelation 14:7, 9-11. (See also Rev. 15:4, Rev. 16:2, Rev. 19:20, Rev. 20:4, Rev. 22:9.) What one key theme appears in all of these verses?

WORSHIP

OUTLINE MARK OF BEAST — BY MEMORY -

WORSHIP BASED ON MANS POWER OR GODS POWER.

WORSHIP BASED ON MANS WORD OR GODS WORD.

WORSHIP BASED UPON MANS AUTHORITY OR GODS AUTHORITY.

SABBATH IN EDEN AS A SIGN OF RESTING IN GODS FINISHED

WORK! EXPLAIN

CHRISTIANS AND THE WORLD HAVE ONE OF TWO CHOICES -

WORSHIP GOD BASED ON GODS POWER, GODS WORD, AND GODS

AUTHORITY OR WORSHIP ACCORDING TO MANS ECONOMIC

POWER, MANS WORD AND MANS AUTHORITY. IN THE FINAL

CRISIS - ITS THAT SIMPLE.

Note the contrast. Either people worship the Creator or they worship something else. The Creator is worthy of worship (Rev. 5:9). The controversy between Christ and Satan began in heaven over worship: "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High" (Isa. 14:14, NKJV). Satan wanted the

worship belonging only to the Creator. According to Revelation 13, he succeeds through the activity of the land beast (Rev. 13:4).

A comparison with Daniel 7 shows that this land beast is the same as the little horn that "seeks to change times and laws" and exercises authority for 1,260 prophetic "days," that is, for 1,260 years (Dan. 7:25; compare Rev. 13:5; see Lesson 6). The only part of God's law of Ten Commandments dealing with time is the fourth commandment. This church has attempted to change the day of worship from Saturday, the seventh day, to Sunday, the first day of the week.

For an earthly power to seek to change the day of worship, the seventh-day Sabbath, which God Himself gave as a sign of His authority (Exod. 31:13; Ezek. 20:12, 20), is an attempt to usurp divine authority at the most basic level possible. On this point, then, is the focus of the final conflict over true and false worship.

For this reason, Revelation identifies the people who are faithful to God as those "who keep the commandments of God" (Rev. 12:17, Rev. 14:12). This includes the seventh-day Sabbath, not Sunday. Those who refuse the final call of the three angels to worship God on His holy day (Isa. 58:13) and who worship the beast on his counterfeit sabbath, Sunday, will receive the mark of the beast (see Lesson 11).