

## **Daniel Perrin – L12: Precursors – Thursday, June 19: The Mark of the Beast**

1. Sometimes we're reluctant to talk about this because we're not informed or skilled enough
  - a. OR we don't have a spirit of confrontation
  - b. SOME of us need to be more reluctant to talk because we LOVE to win arguments – feel like pummeling
    - And lose people in the process
    - We need to learn to talk about this lovingly, because it matters to every person alive.
2. **Revelation 13:16–17** – *He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, <sup>17</sup> and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*
  - a. Through months of Bible study and prayer the early Adventist believers who had anchored their hope to Christ and the Scriptures discovered in God's Word that this referred to the conflict over loyalty to God seen in rejecting the coming mandate to honor a counterfeit in place of the 7th day Sabbath.
  - b. Don't take their word for it. And 10 minutes here is not going to do it.
  - c. YOU need to study what the Mark of the Beast is using proper Bible study methods comparing Scripture with Scripture (comparing any preacher's interpretation with Scripture)
    - NOT imaginations / guesses / Not based on fictional accounts from movies or books
3. Some skeptics have claimed that God did NOT lead those before us in an accurate understanding of Bible truth
  - That their ideas were helpful to *THEM* in their day — but NOW the world is more enlightened, and we can work together in unity
  - Why highlight the difference of a day?
4. Here's the point of the Mark of the Beast: NOT complicated or confusing
  - a. It comes down to this: You must CHOOSE
    - Not multiple options: ONLY TWO
    - As it was in Eden
    - You have to take sides / Make your stand / Stake your life on it
    - AND, you can't just say, "Daniel Perrin said this was true ..."
      - That won't be good enough
      - You will DEMONSTRATE what YOU believe
    - You will SHOW (not just SAY) who you're with
  - b. Whether you believe it is about the Sabbath or something else, this is true: The truth is going to come out
    - One way or another, the truth (ABOUT YOU) is going to come OUT
    - What is hidden INSIDE (whether good or bad) will be on display
    - SO that there is NO DOUBT about the side you have chosen.
    - People can't see to the heart — SO, events ordained by God to take place will reveal OUR hearts
      - That *hidden* part of our heart (cherished sin / stubborn pride / deep-rooted selfishness)
    - EITHER, we will work with God to allow Him to GET IT OUT
      - OR, It is going to be brought out — to show the foundation on which we have built.
5. But to consider the skeptics...
  - a. Could the beast's mark be something OTHER than an attack on the 4th Commandment (the first day substituted for the 7th day, then mandated upon all people)?
6. The Beast's enforced Mark in Revelation 13 has to do a couple things
  - a. A Law people can be penalized for breaking... in clear opposition to God's Law

- b. Has to be something the 1st beast of Revelation 13 (Papacy) WANTS implemented
  - c. Enforced by secular Government (starting with the 2nd beast – the United States)
  - d. To be enforced, it has to be Something visible that demonstrates loyalty – not just a thought crime
    - Not forcing people to cover, steal, commit adultery
  - e. One sign – easy to recognize – for all that can be enforced Universally AND Worldwide
    - AND will easily divide people into two recognizable groups
  - f. Dividing line of worship that requires an intentional choice (**Rev. 13:15** – involves WORSHIP)
7. In God's Law, Only the Sabbath commandment fits those markers
- a. There is no pragmatic or selfish reason for honoring the 7th Day Sabbath EXCEPT loyalty to God's authority as Creator.
  - b. Only THIS command is under attack
8. Would someone really kill over a day?
- a. If we have learned a lesson from the history of human war, it is that people will kill for anything
  - b. We look around at the world the way it is through CARNAL sight and say,
    - "that's impossible that the whole world will be turned against a minority"
    - Yet that very scenario has played out on smaller scales many times before
  - c. Angels are currently holding BACK evil
    - People are still experiencing the work of the Holy Spirit — restraining the full expression of evil
    - There will come a day when the Holy Spirit is fully received OR rejected
  - d. With nothing left to hinder evil desire, motivated by Satan, many will do exactly what the Bible says unrestrained evil does in human hearts
    - Satan was a murderer from the beginning
    - People are already murdering with their words
    - Free from restraint, words will be expressed in heart-felt action — a willing desire to kill
9. You don't CHOOSE the seal of God or the Mark of the Beast out of nowhere at some future point.
- a. That will be the culmination of your life decisions
    - Resisting the Holy Spirit in a mundane small matter marks you as one who resists the Holy Spirit
    - Violating your conscience marks you as one who will violate the conscience
    - Rejecting light that God has given you to study marks you as one who hates light
  - b. Conversely: submitting your will to God seals you as one who follows God's will
  - c. SO that by the time you have are faced with a life-and-death decision
    - You don't THEN make the decision
    - NO, your character will be REVEALED — whether you are Sealed or Marked
10. Before Jesus returns (PRECURSORS): He will be answered, one way or another
- a. The WARNING about the Mark of the Beast is our loving INVITATION from God through Prophecy

Stone has been laid upon stone of Bible interpretation

- b. **6T 17.1** – *The light we have received upon the third angel's message is the true light. The mark of the beast is exactly what it has been proclaimed to be. Not all in regard to this matter is yet understood, nor will it be understood until the unrolling of the scroll; but a most solemn work is to be accomplished in our world.*