

THE VOICE OF PROPHECY SPEAKS

WHAT BIBLE PROPHECYSAYS ABOUT YOUR FUTURE

FOREVER MARKED - #23

In Daniel 3 King Nebuchadnezzar proclaimed a death decree to all subjects who would not bow and worship a graven image of himself. Even Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were included but these three Hebrew worthies knew God's commandments in Exodus 20:4,5. Their reply to the King was, "*O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter...our God...will deliver us....*" (Daniel 3:16-18.) Did you know that like the three Hebrews, everyone living during earth's last hours will be faced with a similar choice? A choice that will involve obedience to God and His commandments or worshiping and obeying another power. A death decree *Revelation 13:15* if you do not worship the image of the beast power.

In Revelation 13:9, God considers His message as **very** important! "*...let him hear.*" His response to this is found in Revelation 14:9,10 In other words, in the last hours of earth's history, there will only be two groups of people. Those who love and obey God's commandments and those who worship the image of the beast.

Intense pressure tactics will be brought to bear! Revelation 13:16,17 says there will be an economic boycott against God's people.

Question: *How prove you that the church hath power to command feast and holy days?*

Answer: *By the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of: and therefore they fondly contradict themselves by keeping Sunday strictly and breaking most other feasts commanded by the same church.*

Question: *Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals of precept?*

Answer: *Had she not had such power she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no scriptural authority.*

- An Abridgement of the Christine Doctrine, p.58

Daniel 7:25 predicted that this power would "think to change times and laws."

Satan will try to **force** everyone to receive this **mark** of the beast. *Revelation 13:16,17*. And he will recruit secular governments to enforce through civil legislation, this mark. *See: Revelation 13:18*

Remember, no one has the mark of the beast **now!** It is still future. But some day the crucial test will come to every man: *Shall I obey God-or shall I obey man?*

"As for me and my house, we shall serve the Lord"!

For those on planet earth who obey the traditions or commands of men, prophecy says that they will receive the wrath of God as a consequence of their disobedience to God's moral laws/principals. They have associated themselves with sin not with a Saviour! *See: Revelation 15:1* **But** notice that the first three plagues are specifically targeted at the beast power and those who worship him. The Good News is that God will not allow the 7 last plagues to fall upon mankind without first giving everyone an opportunity to know what the mark of the beast is and how to avoid receiving it. God **warns** us in prophecy so no one need face this coming crisis unprepared!

In Revelation 13:1-8, God foretells and provides us with a way of escape. The ten horn or non-descript beast is the power that follows after the four great world powers of Daniel 7. Revelation gives a picture of Satan working through powers or agencies, never stepping out into this great battle with the church of God in visible form. *See: Revelation 12:3-5* The "man-child..." is none other than Jesus Christ!

What nation did the devil work through at the time of Jesus' birth? **Ans:** It was the pagan Roman Empire. Prophecy and history confirm that pagan Rome, would give its "power", its "seat" (or capitol city), and "great authority" to the Little horn power, which is the Bishop of Rome! A union of church and state resulted, with the church ruling over the state! Vatican City today "sits" on the seat of the Old Roman Empire!

But **remember**, the prophecy here is talking about an organization, a system of theology, and **not**

about individuals! Most of God's true people have been in this system over the centuries, without truly understanding these prophecies. He refers to them as His people *See: Revelation 18:4* The beast of Revelation 13 and the Little Horn of Daniel 7 are the same entity or power.

The prophet John said that this power would have a distinguishing **mark** that it would one day try to **force** upon the entire world! *See: Revelation 13:16,17*

God is telling us that "this mark" is a symbol of rebellion or disloyalty to the government of God. The bible describes those who **do not** receive this "mark" as follows: "*Here is the patience (endurance) of the saints: here are those who keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*" Revelation 14:12 Make no mistake, the end-time issue will centre on the commandments of God!

In contrast Revelation 7:2,3 shows us the **mark** or "seal" of God in this controversy! It is the sign of the "creator". When you discover God's seal, or mark, it will be easy to discover the counterfeit mark that the beast power will enforce. "*Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me...*" Ezekiel 20:12; Exodus 31:13

God says that The Sabbath is His sign or mark of His **authority**. What does the beast power say is the mark of its authority?