

God's Law Immutable Bible Study

1. The entire Christian world will be divided into two great classes—those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and those who worship the beast and his Image and receive his mark.
2. When God's people were delivered from Egypt, God commanded His people to build a sanctuary for Him, so that He might dwell among them. **Exodus 25:8**. The sanctuary was no mere structure at which people gathered for worship and sang songs; its design outlined God's provision for the complete removal of sin from His people. In answer to prophecy, Jesus, our great high priest, entered the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary in 1844 to accomplish the final atonement just previous to His literal Second Coming return to earth. (That presentation is titled "What is the Sanctuary?" and is a separate study.)
3. God's character is unchanging and His law is unchanging. **Malachi 3:6**. Matthew 5:18; Psalm 111:7-8.
4. Included among the Ten Great principles of love is the fourth commandment. **Exodus 20:8-11**.
5. The last book of the Bible, Revelation, also highlights the enduring necessity of obedience to God's commandments. **Revelation 12:17; 14:12**. A special warning is there given concerning the mark of the beast. This message prepares all believers on planet earth for the literal return of Jesus. Revelation 14:6; Romans 2:12-16; Hebrews 11:6.
6. Without obedience to God's commandments, no worship can be pleasing to Him. **1 John 5:3**; Proverbs 28:9.
7. God is the Creator. Christian worship acknowledges this in a concrete manner. Psalm 95:5-6; Isaiah 40:25-26; 45:18; **Revelation 4:11**; Exodus 20:8-11; Revelation 14:6, 12. The message which commands men to worship God, and keep His commandments will especially call upon them to keep the fourth commandment.
8. In order to understand the mark of the beast, let us first recall the meaning of those agents described in the book of Revelation. The dragon seen in Revelation 12 and elsewhere, primarily represents Satan. It also stands for pagan Rome. The primary activity of the dragon is persecution (Revelation 12:12, 13, 15-17). The beast in Revelation 13:1-10 represents the Papacy, and its primary activity is blasphemy. **Daniel 7**. The period of Papal supremacy began in AD538 and terminated in AD1798 with the capture and then death of the Pope. Daniel 7:2; Revelation 17:15. But that deadly wound is later healed. Revelation 13:3.
9. The remainder of this study outlines the agents and sequence of events especially involving the mark of the beast. Another beast arises in the end-time. **Revelation 13:11**. It is represented as having two horns like a lamb yet speaking as a dragon. Its primary attribute is deception. Revelation 13:14-15. In point of time it rises to power near the close of the 1700s. Only one nation meets the specifications of this prophecy: the United States of America. The lamblike horns indicate youth, innocence, and gentleness. America in 1798 was a government founded on the concept of civil and religious liberty. The Constitution lays down the right of the people to self-government, providing that representatives elected by the popular vote shall enact and administer the laws. Republicanism (representation of the people) and Protestantism (freedom from compelled worship and trampling of conscience) became the fundamental principles of the nation.

10. Perhaps, you say, America doesn't work that way any more. But it still has its Constitution, its system of rights, elections, legislation, and governance. The word from God is that it has the good things but that it also manifests the bad things: it speaks as a dragon. As time advances, less participants have the original spirit of an institution. America is not immune to that fact. The Bible has been correct on this point all along. What does the beast of Revelation 13:11 do?

Revelation 13:12-14.

11. He tells people to make what specifically? **Revelation 13:14.** The 'speaking' of the nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities. By such action it will give the lie to those original principles which had been the foundation of its policy. A spirit of intolerance and persecution shall develop in America. The authority of this nation shall be exercised in enforcing an act of submission and homage to the Papacy.

12. The image is made by the two-horned beast, and is an "image to the beast." The Papacy is a church that controls the power of the state and employs that control to further its own ends, especially for the punishment of heresy. In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends. **Revelation 13:16-17.** The 'image to the beast' represents that form of apostate protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas.

13. The keeping of God's law and its violation, will mark the distinction between the worshipers of God and the worshipers of the beast. **Revelation 14:12.**

14. Only by changing God's law could the papacy exalt itself above God; whoever should understandingly keep the law as thus changed would be giving supreme honor to that power by which the change was made. Such an act of obedience to papal laws would be a mark of allegiance to the pope in the place of God. **Daniel 7:25.** In the change of the fourth Commandment the papal power openly sets itself above God.

15. The worshipers of the beast will be distinguished by their efforts to tear down the Creator's memorial, to exalt the institution of Rome. **Mark 2:28; Isaiah 58:13; Matthew 15:9.**

16. When the world is enlightened concerning the obligation of the true sabbath, then, whoever shall transgress the command of God, to obey a practice which has no higher authority than that of Rome, will thus honor the Roman Catholic system above God. People will understand the sabbath issue and choose sides. **Revelation 14:6.** The warning against the sin of Sunday observance will command the attention of the world. A global separation will occur. Revelation 13:16; 15:2-3.

17. The entire Christian world will be divided into two great classes—those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and those who worship the beast and his Image and receive his mark.

Some Notes

The world today matches the description given by the prophet in Revelation chapters 18 and 19. Babylon, representing the Papacy, leads in global religious influence. The political class (the “Kings of the earth”) are closely united with global megacorporations (the “merchants of the earth”) in “public-private partnerships” of vast proportion and power. This concentration of power wields unprecedented control globally. A vast medical/pharmaceutical cartel sways the health of earth’s billions. The same group literally owns the main media outlets telling people how to think about ideas and events. The United Nations is a vast, unelected, anti-representative body shaping the policy of nations. Distribution over the food supply for the planet is also concentrated into a small handful of corporations owning other corporations. Meanwhile, the American Constitution’s guarantees of liberty and security from surveillance have been turned upon itself in the erection of an unprecedented intelligence apparatus gathering data on every person. This global civilizational grid of power monopolies has mostly overtaken the design of representative government and personal liberty. The scenario of the future marked out in Revelation 13:11-17, unthinkable just 30 years ago, today awaits only an opportune crisis to be set in motion.

Roman Catholics acknowledge that the change of the Sabbath was made by their church, and declare that Protestants by observing the Sunday are recognizing her power. In the Catholic Catechism of Christian Religion, in answer to a question as to the day to be observed in obedience to the fourth commandment, this statement is made: “During the old law, Saturday was the day sanctified; but the church, instructed by Jesus Christ, and directed by the Spirit of God, has substituted Sunday for Saturday; so now we sanctify the first, not the seventh day. Sunday means, and now is, the day of the Lord.”