

Name: George VI
 Title: King
 Territory: Great Britain and Dominions.

The Seal of God

The Fourth Commandment, written with the finger of God and found in the heart of His Law, contains all three elements of a seal:

Name: "The Lord thy God"
 Title: "Maker"
 Territory: "Heaven and Earth"

NOTE: *The Bible makes it plain that the CASUAL, SUPERFICIAL OBSERVANCE of the Sabbath day—viewed only as a formal or legal exercise—does not constitute the "Seal of God". The Sabbath DAY, standing by itself and regarded merely as a SLICE OF TIME, is not the "Seal". God's "Seal", in the deepest sense, is THE WRITING OF HIS COMMANDMENTS UPON THE SURRENDERED HEART IN TRUE CONVERSION, BY THE INWARD WORKING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (Eph. 1:13; 4:30; Heb. 10:15, 16; Ezek. 36:26, 27; 20:12, 20). The "Seal of God" is therefore A CHARACTER-SEAL, A FIXED INCLINATION OF HEART AND WILL, IN AGREEMENT WITH THE KNOWN WILL OF GOD. It is the restoration of the lost "image of God" that man possessed in Eden.*

However, this voluntary, inward reception of the Spirit's "Seal" will inevitably be MANIFESTED BY A LIFE OF OUTWARD OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S KNOWN COMMANDS (John 14:15; II Tim. 2:19; Rev. 14:12). Especially in the setting of the last days, when the authority of God as Creator is universally challenged and despised, and His commandments are openly spurned, THE PUBLIC OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH BECOMES THE DISTINGUISHING MARK OR "SEAL" OF THOSE WHO WORSHIP GOD AS THE "MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH".

Says James G. Murphy: "The observance of the Sabbath connects man with the origin of his race, with the six days creation, and with the Creator Himself. He that observes the Sabbath aright holds the history of that which it celebrates to be authentic, and therefore believes in the primeval and absolute creation of the heavens and the earth, and as a necessary antecedent to all this, in the Creator, who at the close of His latest creative effort, rested on the seventh day. The Sabbath thus becomes a SIGN by which the believers in a historical revelation are distinguished from those who have allowed these great facts to fade from their remembrance (Ex. 31:15) . . . The observance of the Sabbath then, becomes the characteristic of those who cherish the recollections of the origin of their race, and who worship God as Jehovah, the historical God, who has revealed Himself to man from the dawn of his existence as the God of love . . . The act of creation is the origin of all title to the creature, and to the obedience of the intelligent creation. The creation of man is commemorated in the fourth commandment. Hence it contains the fountain-head of all authority in God, and all duty in man." (Commentary on the Book of Exodus, pp 143, 144, by James G. Murphy)

2.—WHAT IS THE "MARK OF THE BEAST"?

The "Beast" of Revelation 13 has already been identified as the Papacy, in Lesson 32. The "Mark of the Beast" must therefore be some conspicuous sign of Papal authority—some widely-accepted Papal counterfeit—which stands in direct opposition to the "Seal of God". There can be no doubt whatever as to the identity of this "Mark" of Papal power. The institution of Sunday—a rival, man-made Sabbath—meets all the requirements of the "Mark of the Beast", which is the outward, public, visible sign of submission to Papal authority.

(See Chart No. 44—*The Mark of Apostasy*)

NOTE: *In the light of what we have learned about the INWARD and SPIRITUAL nature of the "Seal of God", the "Mark of the Beast" must also be SOMETHING DEEPER THAN THE OUTWARD SUPERFICIAL OBSERVANCE OF A PARTICULAR DAY. Fundamentally, this "Mark" must also be A CHARACTER-SIGN, A FIXED INCLINATION OF HEART AND WILL, IN DIRECT OPPOSITION TO THE KNOWN WILL OF GOD.*