



# PROPHECY EXPO

## The Beast's Mark Versus God's Seal

I. The question of what is God's Seal versus what is the Beast's mark are questions rooted in understanding the drama of Revelation chapters 12-14 and its opponents

### A. Michael the Warrior

1. Michael is described as the leader of the angels in the context of war

"And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war."  
(Revelation 12:7; NASB195: SP1218)

2. Besides this reference in Revelation, Michael is also mentioned three times in the book of Daniel. Two of these references are mentioned in the context of a struggle with the Persians, where Michael serves as a "prince" on the side of the Israelites

"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia."  
(Daniel 10:13; NASB638; SP879)

"However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these *forces* except Michael your prince."  
(Daniel 10:21; NASB638; SP879)

3. The third mention of Michael in the book of Daniel, is shown to be the one creature who guards God's people and He is the one, who finally determines that it is time to begin the judgment

"Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued." (Daniel 12:1; NASB640: SP881)

4. The only mention of Michael in the New Testament is recorded in Jude 1:9, where Michael contends with the devil about the body of Moses. This verse, again, shows Michael in a war scene in which the devil and Michael are struggling over the body of Moses, which is obviously a unique and specific resurrection of Moses

“But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”  
(Jude 1:9; NASB188: SP1209)

5. These verses together reveal another role of Jesus, the Commander of the armies of heaven. He is the active Leader of the heavenly forces. Obviously, being the Leader of the angels does not in any way limit His position as the Son of God. Readers must understand the biblical writers struggled to understand and explain the attributes of the Divine. Consider this unnamed person, who is called “Captain of the LORD’s host” as mentioned in Joshua 5

“The captain of the LORD'S host said to Joshua, ‘Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.’ And Joshua did so.”  
(Joshua 5:15; NASB164; SP228)

6. In summary, we see Jesus in several roles in the Old Testament; He is Creator, Redeemer, Law-Giver—Passionate Forgiver and, finally, Commander-Warrior

B. The Dragon-Beast

1. It is in Revelation 12:9 that the opposer to God is fully unveiled

“And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”  
(Revelation 12:9; NASB195; SP1218)

Serpent	ὄφις
Dragon	δράκων
Devil	Διάβολος

2. The serpent (Greek, ὄφις)

“The serpent said to the woman, ‘You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’”  
(Genesis 3:4-5; NASB2; SP3)

“ For I am jealous over you with God's jealousy. I brought about your engagement as a pure virgin to one man—to be the partner of Christ. I am apprehensive lest somehow, comparable to the serpent's deluding Eve by his deceit, he might corrupt your concepts away from your simplicity and purity in Christ. For example, if an interloper drops in and proclaims another Jesus in contrast to Jesus we preached, or if you take on a different spirit from what you received, or a different gospel from the good news you accepted, you take it all in stride quite well.”  
(2 Corinthians 11:2-4; NASB145; SP1143)

### 3. The Dragon (Greek, δράκων)

“For behold, the LORD is about to come out from His place To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; And the earth will reveal her bloodshed And will no longer cover her slain.”  
(Isaiah 26:21; NASB504; SP710)

“In that day the LORD will punish Leviathan (δράκοντα) the fleeing serpent (ὄφις), With His fierce and great and mighty sword, Even Leviathan (δράκοντα) the twisted serpent (ὄφις); And He will kill the dragon (δράκοντα) who *lives* in the sea.”  
(Isaiah 27:1; NASB504; SP710)

### 4. The Devil (Greek, διάβολος)

“Appoint a wicked man over him, and let an accuser (διάβολος) stand at his right hand.”  
(Psalm 109:6; NASB442; SP624)

"Sing for joy and be glad, O daughter of Zion; for behold I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," declares the LORD. Many nations will join themselves to the LORD in that day and will become My people. Then I will dwell in your midst, and you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. The LORD will possess Judah as His portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem. Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD; for He is aroused from His holy habitation."  
(Zechariah 2:10-13; NASB670; SP916)

“Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan (Greek, Διάβολος) standing at his right hand to accuse him. The LORD said to Satan (Διάβολος), ‘The LORD rebuke you, Satan (Διάβολος)! Indeed, the LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?’ Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments and standing before the angel. He spoke and said to those who were standing before him, saying, ‘Remove the filthy garments from him.’ Again he said to him, ‘See, I have taken your iniquity away from you and will clothe you with festal robes.’”

(Zechariah 3:1-4; NASB671; SP916)

II. It should not be surprising that if God has a mark of allegiance that the accuser would have an alternate

A. God’s mark

1. The Lord knows who are His; they abstain from wickedness

“Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.”

(2 Timothy 2:19; NASB166; SP1175)

2 Even though it might be an external mark, it really has to do with faith; that is, trust in God

“and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them.”

(Romans 4:11; NASB121; SP1108)

3. God’s mark will have something to do with redemption

“And it shall serve as a sign to you on your hand, and as a reminder on your forehead, that the law of the LORD may be in your mouth; for with a powerful hand the LORD brought you out of Egypt.”

(Exodus 13:9; NASB50; SP70)

4. It will highlight the unique character of God: Creator

“The twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ‘Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.’”  
(Revelation 4:10-11; NASB191; SP1213)

5. The Sabbath has always been a universal symbol of God and His creative power

“Also I gave them My Sabbaths to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them.”  
(Ezekiel 20:12; NASB602; SP829)

“Sanctify My Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between Me and you, that you may know that I am the LORD your God.”  
(Ezekiel 20:20; NASB602; SP830)

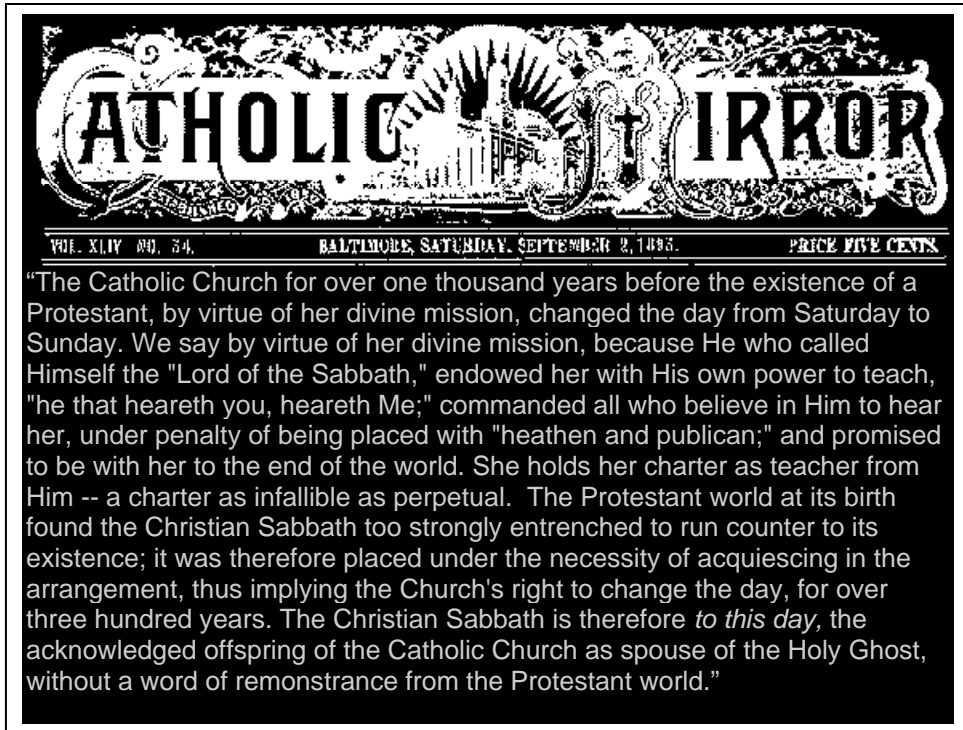
6. It was given to Israelite and non-Israelite alike

“But the seventh day is a Sabbath of the LORD your God; *in it* you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you.”  
(Exodus 20:10; NASB56; SP77)

“Also the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, To minister to Him, and to love the name of the LORD, To be His servants, everyone who keeps from profaning the Sabbath And holds fast My covenant.”  
(Isaiah 56:6; NASB527; SP736)

“Even those I will bring to My holy mountain And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar; For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.”  
(Isaiah 56:7; NASB527; SP736)

B. A mark of the Beast



“The same tenacious adherence to the ancient God of light has left its trace, even to our own time, on one of the most sacred and universal of Christian institutions. The retention of the old Pagan name of ‘Dies Solis,’ or ‘Sunday,’ for the weekly Christian festival is, in great measure, owing to the union of Pagan and Christian sentiments with which the first day of the week was recommended by Constantine to this subjects Pagan and Christian alike, as the ‘venerable day of the Sun.’ His decree, regulating its observance, has been justly called a ‘a new era in the history of the Lord’s day,’ It was his mode of harmonizing the discordant religions of the Empire under one common institutions.”

Arthur Penrhyn Staley, *Lectures on the History of the Eastern Church*,  
p. 184

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