

Big Picture Bible Study

The Secret Behind Secret Societies

In Revelation 17 we see a religious power (v.3: woman) that controls a political power (v.3: riding on a beast), which resembles the pagan tradition (v.3: seven heads and ten horns) that we have seen many times in our study. She is an unfaithful Christian church (v.1: harlot) that has inherited the antichrist teachings (v.5: name is Babylon). This system lost power (ch.13v.3: wounded to death) but here has its power restored to it by the political powers of earth (v.13: ten horns give power to beast). This is the RCS, again, and it will be the power that leads the world to enforce laws contrary to the law of God (v.2: kings and people commit fornication) and will be the power that tries to destroy the people of God (v.14: makes war with the Lamb) but Jesus will return and destroy this usurping power (v.14: the Lamb will overcome them all).

Luciferianism: Lucifer is the true son of God; Jesus is a second son who will be defeated. Lucifer is the true luminary/victor and will be worshipped in the end. Supposedly, Lucifer brings the light of human divinity to those who are worthy through enlightenment. This is the single, true theology that is present in all religions and was given by God to man in antiquity, but was lost over the ages. The three parts of this wisdom: **alchemy** (personal enlightenment), **astrology** (prophetic understanding), and **theurgy** (magical rituals).

- **Tower of Babel** (Noah—Ham-Cush-Nimrod)
 - *The original false trinity: "Father-Mother-Child" – Nimrod, Semiramis, & Tammuz*
- **Ancient Mystery Religions** (Babylon, Egypt, Persia, Greece, Rome, India, etc.)
 - *Witchcraft, sorcery, eastern mystical traditions (Buddhism, Hinduism)*
- **Kabbalism** (Judaism influenced by occult teachings)
 - *Babylonian captivity influenced many Jewish thinkers and philosophers*
- **Gnosticism** (early Christian church)
 - *The Nicolaitans were one of the first Gnostic groups*
- **Knights Templars** (early Middle Ages Christianity)
 - *They were actually excommunicated for gross obscenities and worshipping Baphomet.*
- **Rosicrucians** (Renaissance/Reformation Christianity)
 - *Built on esoteric truths of the ancient past that are concealed from the average man and that provide insight into nature, the physical universe, and the spiritual realm.*
- **Freemasonry** (Protestant Christianity)
 - *Only the initiated know the real secret meaning of Masonic symbols*
- **The Jesuit Order** (Counter Reformation – 1534 A.D.)
 - *Created to infiltrate all levels of society and influence to use cunning deceit and treachery, and to ultimately bring esoteric control of all aspects of the world to the Papacy in Rome.*

The Wisdom Of God

The secret wisdom of the Elite Enemy has been the downfall of many intelligent men and women. Satan uses whatever avenues are open to try and cause each of us to fall. The deep complexity, symbolism, numerology, and philosophy of all these secret societies and occult wisdoms are as babbling babies compared to the open beauty of the plan of salvation. Never forget: we serve the Creator.

- **II Corinthians 4:2** – we are to renounce the hidden things of dishonesty
- **I Corinthians 1:20** – God has made foolish the _____ of this world

According to **Ephesians 3:8-11**, the only thing in the world that is unsearchable is the _____ of Christ. This is the message that we preach and it is to give the mystery of the gospel to _____ by introducing them to the eternal purpose that was accomplished in the life and death of _____.

The Mark of the Beast

There are two beasts in Revelation chapter 13—the Beast from the Sea and the Beast from the Land. We have already spent the time to identify each one. Do you remember who they were?

- **"Beast from the Sea"** (Revelation 13:1-10): _____
- **"Beast from the Land"** (Revelation 13:11-17): _____
- **Revelation 13:15-17** – the Mark of the Beast is on the *hand* and the *forehead*
 - The right hand is symbolic of _____
 - The forehead is symbolic of _____

The Mark of the Beast is not the "markofthebeast" it is the MARK... of the Beast. Once we are sure who the Beast is, we just need to ask ourselves, "Do they have a mark? What is the mark of their authority?"

- Arises from the sea: _____
- Is a composite of four beasts: _____
- Receives power from dragon: _____
- Receives a deadly wound: _____
- Deadly wound is healed: _____
- All the world wondered: _____
- Given power over all nations: _____
- Speaks great things against God: _____
- Makes war and overcomes the saints: _____
- Rule with power for 42 months: _____
- Has the number 666: _____

Who is the Beast from the Sea? _____

The RCS was given political authority to enforce religious laws in the year _____ and this power was taken away, separating church and state in the year _____. and political authority was returned to the church in the year _____. with the signing of the Lateran Treaty. Vatican City has its own army, its own money, receives political delegates, and sends an ambassador to the United Nations.

The Seal of God

The Mark of the Beast is the polar opposite to the Seal of God—they are mutually exclusive. Don't worry about getting the Mark if you already have the Seal.

- **Revelation 7:1-4** – in the end, the 144,000 receive the _____
- **Revelation 14:12** – they keep the _____ and have the _____ of Jesus
- **Revelation 12:17** – these righteous also have the _____ of Jesus
- **Revelation 19:10** – the testimony of Jesus is the _____

The righteous will keep the law and will listen to God's word.

The new covenant between God and His people on earth is opened up to every human being—there is not a special, literal Israel; it is now Spiritual Israel.

- **Hebrews 8:10 (Jeremiah 31:31-34)** – the law is written on our _____

This is the moral law that existed before sin began in Heaven. This is the sign of the covenant between Yahweh and His people. Those who keep all 10 will not receive the Mark of the Beast. However, there are two main areas of deception.

The Two “Changed” Commandments: #4—the Sabbath

First of all, the importance of the Sabbath has been very clear to us. However, we now see an even heavier importance to the 4C as it relates to the Seal of God.

- **Exodus 31:13-17** – the Sabbath is a _____ between God and His people.
- **Ezekiel 20:19-20** – to keep His commandments, we **MUST** keep the Sabbath.

It is not Sabbath-keepers who make a big deal about this commandment; it are they who claim to have changed the holy day of God. The RCS claims to have the ability to change the law of God and they point to the fact that the whole world seems to observe Sunday-sacredness as the _____ of their authority.

- All the evidence points to the _____ as being the Beast from the Sea
- The authority to change the law of God is the _____ of the Beast

The Two “Changed” Commandments: #2—the State of the Dead

The idea that death is not really death, but rather a transition to a different state of consciousness has its origins in the Garden of Eden.

- **Genesis 2:16-17** – God said that disobedience would surely result in death
- **Genesis 3:4** – the first lie was when Satan said they would surely _____ die

The original lie was that man is innately immortal and will survive in the afterlife. Pagan religions: that man is innately immortal and will survive in the afterlife.

- **1 Timothy 6:15-16** – the only person who has immortality is _____
- **John 3:16** – eternal life is a _____ for those who believe and follow Jesus
- **1 Corinthians 15:51-53** – it is a gift that we receive at the _____

Every person on earth will not receive eternal life; only those who believe Jesus, accept grace, and have their lives change to live according to the 10C will receive this gift. Therefore, there cannot be an immortal soul residing in each of us.

- **Genesis 2:7** – recipe for man: _____ + _____ = _____
 - **Ecclesiastes 12:7** – in death, the union is broken and the “soul” is no more
- Our breath is the very Spirit of life that was given to us by God! When we die, the Spirit leaves the body; there is no “soul” apart from breath and body.
- **John 11:11-14** – Jesus refers to death like a _____
 - **Daniel 12:1-2** – at the Second Coming, the dead in Christ will _____

Those who die do not go directly to Heaven. They are as if they are sleeping. The very next thing they see will be the Second Coming together with us!

- **Ecclesiastes 9:5-6** – the dead do not know anything because they are asleep
- **Job 21:32** – they do not go anywhere but rather remain in the _____

Our society has attached a lot of emotion to this teaching—we want to believe that our deceased loved ones are happy and in Heaven with Jesus. But this defies both logical and theology. Why would it be a comfort to know that they have to watch the terrible world from their position in Heaven? How could they have received the reward of Heaven if the judgment is still in progress?

- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** – true comfort is knowing that we will be “caught up _____ with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air”

Consider this: if you believe that the dead go straight to Heaven, then it will be very easy for fallen angels to appear to you in the form of your deceased relatives to try and convince you that the law has been changed. However, it is because of the very fact that we know that the law _____ be changed that we will see this deception for what it truly is. But we **must** know what the Bible teaches.

The Right Hand & The Forehead (Revelation 13)

The United States (*v.11: Beast from the Land*) will eventually legislate and enforce a religious law (*v.11: speak like a dragon*) that goes against the 10C and will lead the world nations to follow this same law (*v.14: deceives those who dwell on the earth*), returning the civil authority to enforce religious laws (*v.15: the image of the beast*) to the Papacy (*v.1: Beast from the Seat*). Those obey this law (*v.16: the Mark of the Beast*). By their own thoughts and actions (*v.16: right hand or forehead*) will be the only ones allowed to participate economically in the new society (*v.17: buy and sell*).

- **Isaiah 59:6-7** – the wicked have _____ and _____ of iniquity
- Deuteronomy chapter 5 contains the recapitulation of the _____
- **Deuteronomy 6:6-8** – here, the very next verses after the 10C, God tells Israel to bind the law as a _____ upon the _____ and the _____

Keeping God's law in our hands and foreheads simply means in our actions and our thoughts: our characters. In the last days the mark will be in our actions (hand) and in our thoughts (forehead).

This process is extremely important for us to understand because the issue at the end of time is **worship**, and if we do not understand the true law of God then we will not be able to distinguish between the counterfeit and the true worship. Also, to make matters more serious still, we have been entrusted with these truths and the judgment will begin with us.

- **Ezekiel 9:4-6** – the sealing and the execution will begin at the Sanctuary, meaning it will begin with those who have the _____—God's people

Once the investigative judgment of Heaven has gone through the case of every living soul, it will pass to the judgment of the living so that at the Second Coming, Jesus' prophecy will be true that His “reward is with Him.” The first living people to be judged will be the people of God who have His faith, His testimony, and keep His law.

We must keep true God's word and receive the Seal of God.