

# Earth's Last War 4 of 12

## *Two Flags—God's Seal / The Mark of the Beast*

#0289

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—March 1960

This morning, I want to study with you the two flags in earth's last war as foretold in Revelation. You remember that in our first lesson we studied about the two leaders, the Lamb and the dragon. And then we studied about the issue that the two armies fight over. It's the question of which shall receive what? Worship; the Creator or the creature; the One who made all things or something that He has made. Shall Christ be worshiped as Creator, or shall Lucifer or any of his representatives be worshiped?

All the world soon is going to worship the beast, my friends. I was much impressed in looking at Revelation 13, to notice this expression, speaking of the beast, the representative of Satan:

“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him,  
whose names are not written in the book of life of the  
Lamb slain from the foundation of the world”  
Revelation 13:8.

There's only one way to keep from worshiping that beast, my friends, and that is to be sealed shut with the Lamb in His book, the Book of Life. I want to get wrapped up in Him and with Him, don't you?

Then, yesterday we studied how that worship is demonstrated. The way we demonstrate worship is by what? Obedience:

“...to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his  
servants ye are to whom ye obey...” Romans 6:16.

So if we obey Christ, the Creator, and keep His commandments, then we're His. But if we obey Satan as he works through his many, many forms of false religion, if we keep the commandments of men, instead of the law of God, then, dear friends, we show who we belong to, don't we? And all the world is rapidly ranging under appointed leaders in one or the other of these two camps.

In wartime the flag stands as the symbol of authority and the sign of loyalty and allegiance, so in this great warfare that we are entering into even now and that will soon culminate in the last great battle, the war rages around the two ensigns, the sign of Creator worship and the sign of creature worship. The two are brought to view in the book of Revelation.

Let us go to Revelation 7, and we will read there:

“After these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree” Revelation 7:1.

Winds in the Bible are a symbol of war and strife. You remember that in Daniel 7, the various beasts of prey representing the great kingdoms of the world rose from the great sea as it was lashed by tempestuous winds. And so the great sea of humanity is churned by these winds of war and strife. Here, John sees the angels of God holding back those winds. What for?

“...I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads” Revelation 7:2–3.

Here is God’s sign, or seal, or mark. The terms are used interchangeably.

Notice where God’s seal or sign is being placed. Where is it? In the forehead.

You know, it’s an interesting thing that as the men who study the human body have delved more and more into the mysteries of anatomy and physiology, they have found that the particular part of the brain that’s right here in front, the forehead, is the part that has especially to do with reason and judgment and conscience.

So it is a very exact statement, this that the seal of God is placed in the forehead. It’s right there in the forebrain that we need to have this mark of God deeply imprinted, not on the outside, the skin or bone. Oh, no. But deep down there in the gray matter friends, deep down in those billions of brain cells that have to do with thought and reason and decision for Christ and His truth.

It’ll be a wonderful thing to have that seal in there so deep that the only way to get rid of it would be to get rid of the man that has it, won’t it? Oh, when Satan comes against the chosen people of God in this last controversy, and he finds that they are absolutely impregnable to every delusion and assault; it’s going to amaze him. I thank God that He is sealing His servants in their foreheads.

Now, you notice that the angels are holding back the winds until that work is finished. That expression, dear friends—Watch this!—relates not merely to war among the nations, although it includes that. But it relates especially to this war that you and I are studying. While, of course, as we’ve already seen, this war between Christ and Satan began in Heaven and has been carried on, without intermission, from that time till this, nevertheless this last great battle which we’re studying as

earth's last war, cannot come—the fullness of that conflict will never burst upon us—until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.

And the reason for that is very simple, friends. God is not going to let the issue come. He's not going to let this battle be joined, for everything depends on it until His army is ready. Satan would like to have the test come right today. Oh, I'm so glad that angels are holding things back, aren't you?

Oh, what is our time for then, friends? While the dear Savior is holding up those wounded hands and praying for us, while angels are holding back the forces of persecution, how we should be stepping fast that God may help us to get to that place where that seal will be fully imprinted in our hearts and minds, God speed the day. What do you say?

Now let's look at this seal or sign. Just what is it? Let us turn to Ezekiel 20, and we will read there in the plainest of language just what God's seal or sign is:

“And hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God” Ezekiel 20:20.

What is the sign? The Sabbath. Again:

“Moreover also I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them” Ezekiel 20:12.

So in these two verses, we are plainly told that the sign between God and His people is what? The Sabbath. This is the sign of allegiance, the seal of God's law. And of course, if it is the seal of His law, we should expect to find it in the law. And it is, friends, isn't it? Oh, yes. It's in the very heart of the law—the Sabbath commandment, the Fourth Commandment. Shall we say it together?

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it” Exodus 20:8–11.

Precious Sabbath!

Now notice. What does it point to? It points to creation. Ah, but we studied the other morning that the real issue in this war is whether the Creator shall receive worship or the creature shall receive worship. You see then how the Sabbath

becomes especially important as the sign of the worship of whom? The Creator. And that is the issue. So the issue focuses on the sign of Christ's creative power.

You remember that in Jeremiah 10, God contrasts the fact that He's the Creator with the fact that all these gods that the nations worship have never made anything.

Again, we're invited:

"Oh come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker" Psalm 95:6.

That's the reason we're to worship Him.

I think that you probably would like to have called to your attention some very fine statements on this, in the book *Great Controversy*, page 436—438. You will remember that in the first angel's message in Revelation 14, which is the first part of God's last message to this world, the focal point of that message is to worship whom? Him that made Heaven and earth, and the sea and fountains of waters (Revelation 14:7), language borrowed more or less from the closing part of the Fourth Commandment. So notice the comment on this:

"By the first angel, men are called upon to 'fear God, and give glory to Him' and to worship Him as the Creator of the heavens and the earth. To do this, they must obey His law" *Great Controversy*, page 436.

And then the writer goes on, pointing out in the next paragraph that the duty to worship God is based upon what? The fact that He's the Creator. And various verses are cited, some of which we have already noted.

So on page 437, the application is brought down to our time. In the prophecy of Revelation 14, we have brought to view a group of people who are worshipping the Creator and keeping God's Sabbath holy. Read all of that page and the next page, and notice that the Sabbath is, from Eden to Eden, the sign of God's creative power. It is the mark that distinguishes the worshipers of the Creator from those who worship the creature.

Now let us look at the other side of the picture, the sign of creature worship. We'll go back in our thinking to the early ages of this world.

Lucifer, of course, Satan, has been a student of the revelations of God since they were first given to the human family. He has devoted the energies of that wonderful mind to a study of how to counterfeit everything that God has made. We must remember that Satan is not a creator. He's not the creator at all. So he cannot originate anything. He only perverts, substitutes, counterfeits. That's all he does from beginning to end.

So as he gave study to this matter, it's very clear that he thought to divert the minds of men from the worship of God as Creator, to something else. When you look out, whether you look out today over the world, or whether you look back through the pages of history, you find people worshiping just about everything— Think of those bulls and beetles that they worshiped in old Egypt. And Egypt was a highly civilized country. Think of the trees and the stones, the animals and the birds, the serpents and the crocodiles, that down through the ages have been worshiped by various nations in various religious services.

But now, among all the different things in Heaven or earth that have been worshiped or could be worshiped, apart from the Creator, there is one that is outstanding. It is the sun shining in its glory. There's nothing else like it to the eye of man. Anybody can see that it's the source of light and heat for this world and that from it, life seems to come. At least all life as we know it here is dependent on it. So it is easy to see how in the early ages, man, guided by the Devil, turned his attention to that which he could see, the most glorious object, thereby forgetting the One he could not see, the real glorious Creator enthroned in the heavens above.

So sun worship has, in all ages, been the great feature of paganism. Look at it in ancient Babylon or ancient Egypt. Look at it in Greece and Rome. Look at it today. Think of Japan. What does it have there, right on its flag? The sun.

I suppose, brother, when you were over in India, you saw many symbols of sun worship. I have photographs of the sun worship in India. All over the world, you'll find that heathen people are, in one way or another, recognizing the sun as a great object of worship. Sometimes there are mysteries in which the sun is represented by many other objects. Many of the birds and animals that have been worshiped, have been worshiped as representatives of the sun.

In the early ages of Christianity, when Satan was making his great attempt to combine the forms of Christianity with the falsehoods of paganism, he early conceived the idea of taking the pagan Sunday, and making it the day for those who followed Christ to meet in their services.

The Roman emperor, Constantine, was the one who made the first Sunday law in the year 321 A. D. That's 300 years after Christ. But that wasn't the first time that anybody had raised his voice in favor of Sunday. No. It was the bishop of Rome that led out, my friends, in the honor bestowed on Sunday.

Over a long period, the transfer took place so that God's seventh-day Sabbath was again and again downgraded. And this pagan holiday was exalted more and more to take its place until finally, in the council of Laodicea, in the middle of the fourth century, the Roman Catholic Church officially transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday, as it boasts of in its catechism.

Thus, Sunday, as a day for the Christian to worship, owes its origin, first of all, to paganism, and second to the union of paganism with Christianity in the mystery of iniquity, which developed as the Papacy.

I want to read a statement on this from Dr. Edward T. Hisscocks, the author of the *Baptist Manual*. He read this at a minister's conference, and they were a group of Sunday keeping ministers. But this is his statement:

“Of course, I quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Christian history as a religious day as we learned from the Christian fathers and other sources. But what a pity that it comes branded with the mark of paganism, and christened with the name of the sun god when adapted and sanctioned by the Papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism”  
Dr. Edward T. Hisscocks.

There you have it, friends.

I heard Elder F. C. Gilbert, the converted Jewish brother, tell about how he was present at the meeting when Dr. Hisscocks read that. He just happened to be there in the providence of God and got a copy of the paper from Dr. Hisscocks. That's why I'm reading it to you. Elder Gilbert said that as he sat there in that large meeting of Sunday keeping ministers and Dr. Hisscocks came to that point, he couldn't help but say, “Amen.” And they all looked to see who was saying amen to that point.

Well, the man was telling the truth. He was giving the facts of history, the authority which can be gathered from many, many sources. I just read that because it is so well stated. Now, my friends, there, you see, are the facts.

One more point. Come over to Revelation 13, and what do you find? You find this, that not only is the dragon of Revelation 12 and the leopard beast of Revelation 13 interested in this last war, but you find in Revelation 13:11, another power brought to view—a beast coming up out of the earth with two horns like a lamb. You know what that power symbolizes, what that symbol represents? Our own country. You understand that in the last part of the 11<sup>th</sup> verse when he opens his mouth, he speaks like what? A dragon. Yes. He looks like a lamb but talks like a dragon.

And you know that there is soon to come in this country a movement, oh, yes, it's already here and gaining force, to establish the mark which came from paganism and was adopted by the Papal power, to take that mark and to enforce it upon the minds and consciences of men right here in this country.

Let us read it:

“And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast...”

That's the likeness, just like it.

“...that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive...”

What?

“...a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name”  
Revelation 13:15–17.

Here you have it then—the mark of the beast to be enforced right here in this country to around the world as the dragon, the beast, and this two-horned beast combine their forces, as we shall see more fully in future lessons.

Now friends, the thing I want you to see this morning is that the issue focuses on this matter of the mark. It says there in plain language that unless men receive that mark, either in their right hand or in their foreheads, they can't do what? They can't buy or sell. Economic pressures are to be brought. And it is a fact that right now in this country in various places, the labor unions are joining with the churches and with other organizations to try to bring pressure upon those, who otherwise would pay no attention to it, to try to close things up on Sunday. They're even having men with placards walk up and down in front of places of business, urging people not to patronize those stores because they are kept open on Sunday.

Do you see the beginning of that boycott spirit, my friends? All we need to do is accentuate it a bit, multiply it a bit, and we have all that the prophecy is calling for. It's coming just ahead, just over the hill.

Oh, I ask again, why is it being held back? Ah, because God's servants must be sealed in their foreheads before all the terrible persecution of the great time of trouble, just beyond the close of probation, is allowed to break.

What is the most important thing before us then, this morning, my friends? To get that seal in our foreheads.

I would like to have you read this chapter on “God's Law Immutable” that begins in *Great Controversy* on page 433. Notice the wonderful things in that chapter, identifying the seal of God on the one hand, and the mark of the beast on the other, and clearly showing how prophecy is being fulfilled and is soon to be fulfilled in all its fullness.

In Revelation 14, we're given a view of the triumphant company who get the victory over the beast and the image and his mark. And we find in these opening verses a picture of them standing with the Lamb on Mount Zion having the harps of God, and the Father's name written in their foreheads; this shows that the seal is more, friends, than merely the keeping of a day. It shows that it is the reception of

God's character in all its fullness. To state it in the beautiful words of *Early Writing*:

“Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble must reflect the image of Jesus fully” *Early Writings*, page 71.

Yesterday morning, as I walked down and past Lake Edna, I saw in the peaceful waters reflected the stars of heaven. If you and I will keep our hearts open heavenward and our faces turned toward the sanctuary above, the bright and Morning Star will be reflected in our faces.

Precious Lord, we choose to stand by Thy flag this morning. We choose to turn from the commandments of men and keep the commandments of God through faith in Jesus Christ. Write Thy holy law in our hearts. May we love Thy Sabbath, the sign of Thy creative power, the seal of Thy redeeming love. And may we come to so delight in Thy day and so love the symbol of Thy creative power that we would rather die than give it up. We ask it in Jesus' name, amen.

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