

Revelation Study (Part 3)

PERGAMOS (A.D. 530 - 1530) – the third time period of the Gospel Day

- 3rd letter = Revelation 2:12-17
- Characteristic of this city/congregation best represent the third time period of the Gospel Day

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PERGAMOS

- Pergamos was 100 miles north of Ephesus (colder climate)
- Literal Pergamos was known for its amphitheater w/wild beasts
- Literal Pergamos was a producer of opium (discuss how this is like being drunk)
- It became the natural center for Emperor worship during the reigns of both Nero and Domitian.
- Pergamos means "height or elevation" (Strong's Concordance)
- The top of the hill was their Acropolis (temples), including the largest altar to Zeus in the world
- The Acropolis of Pergamos was one of the largest gatherings of temples in Greek culture. It was a major center of idolatry.
- Pergamos was also the site of the second largest library in the ancient world.
- Oath of allegiance to the Roman Emperor required, declaring him to be the one "Lord and God"

PAGANISM IS BOUND

- Paganism (dragon; Revelation 20:2) has been defeated and bound
- Bible says "Devil, and Satan" but the original Greek says "enemy" and "adversary" ("*And he seized the dragon—the old serpent, who is an Enemy and the adversary, and bound him a Thousand Years.*")
- Bound a thousand years (where is a thousand years on the chart?)
- The devil just changed clothes & took on another form
- He took on a supposedly "Christian" form
- **Constantine:**
 - Emperor from A.D. 324-337
 - passed laws against persecution of the Christians
 - never was a Christian
 - set in motion the transition from pagan Rome to papal Rome

WHO GAVE THE MESSAGE?

"These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges" (Revelation 2:12).

- Remember, Jesus appears to each era with a different attribute according to their needs.
 - Jesus walked in the midst of the churches – that means He knew how they were doing spiritually; He knew the opposition of their day & the extent of their obedience/disobedience
- **Ephesus** – "*he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks*" (Christ in control of His church)
- **Smyrna** – "*the first and the last*" (unchanging Christ)

- **Pergamos** – *"sharp sword with two edges"* – what is the "two-edged sword"? (The Word; Hebrews 4:12). People were changing the Word to suit their religious teachings, but Jesus was saying, "I am holding the sword!"
- The message to this age was: "God's Word does not change!"
 - religious leaders were changing God's Word
 - discuss how they were able to change God's Word (lack of Bibles/in Latin)

Where Was the Church?

"To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna" (Revelation 2:17).

- The true church had to hide because of the persecution
 - She was "in the wilderness" (Revelation 12:6)
 - living in the catacombs (burial place for Jews & Christians)
 - pagan Romans cremated their dead (thought to be superstitiously afraid of the catacombs)
 - is history changing? (Numerous website now say Christians did NOT hide in catacombs)
- Interesting Fact: All Christian catacombs in Rome are property of the Catholic Church, and no one is allowed to explore them without special permission from the Vatican. "It's not so easy to get the permission. That's one of the reasons there have been very few archaeological expeditions to less known tunnels in the last decades."¹
- They were overcomers, blessed to understand truth in time of darkness (yellow)

WHAT IS THE "BEAST"?

"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns" (Revelation 13:1).

- define by physical characteristics
- rose up out of **"the sea"** (minds of wicked religious people; apostates) – **Key:** Rev. 17:15; Isaiah 57:20
- the word **"beast"** is used to describe the spirit behind the system; look at how Daniel described the four kingdoms compared to how Nebuchadnezzar saw them
 - he saw their hideous natures
 - quick review of Nebuchadnezzar's dream compared to Daniel's vision
 - Paul said he fought with *beasts* at Ephesus (1 Cor. 15:32). He actually was fighting spirits from supposed Christians who were denying the Resurrection (1 Cor. 15:12).
 - read of the tortures in *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*, and you'll see a beastly spirit
- has **"seven heads"** and **"ten horns"** (same as dragon, letting us know it's something Roman)
- **"seven heads"** = government (**Keys:** Isaiah 9:6; Ephesians 5:23); seven heads of government
- **"ten horns"** = ten kingdoms (Daniel 8:20); ten minor kingdoms (horns = power to rule)
- notice the crowns (power to rule; 2 Chronicles 23:11) moved from the **heads** to the **horns**
- **Pagan Rome** – power to rule came through the seven heads of government (Regal Power, Triumvirate, Consular, Imperial, Decemvirate, Patrician, Military Tribune – successive)

¹ <http://science.nationalgeographic.com/science/archaeology/rome-catacombs/>

- **Papal Rome** – power to rule came through the ten minor kingdoms (Anglo-Saxon, Lombards, Burgundians, Ostrogoths, Franks, Sueves, Huns, Vandals, Heruli, Visigoths—created when Rome declined & divided)

LIKE A LEOPARD, BEAR & LION

"And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion" (Revelation 13:2)

- **"like unto a leopard"** – reference to 3rd beast in Daniel's vision; leopard's most defining feature is its spots
- can a leopard change its spots? (Jeremiah 13:23)
 - spots = sin; *"keep this commandment without spot"* (1 Timothy 6:14)
 - spots = spiritual deception; *"Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings"* (2 Peter 2:13)
 - spots = worldliness; *"keep himself unspotted by the world"* (James 1:27)
 - leopard = swiftness; system arose quickly; the sun went down at noon (Amos 8:9)
- **"like unto a leopard"** – swiftness, sinfulness, and deceptiveness of this system
- **"feet of a bear"** – reference to what kingdom?
 - 2nd beast; Medes/Persians "laws and decrees" (Daniel 6:6-9)
 - this beast has manmade laws & decrees (doctrines)
- this kingdom is an accurate depiction of this church period
 - story of Daniel & the den of lions (Daniel 6:12)
 - what was Daniel's "crime"? couldn't pray directly to God; had to go through the king
 - in this church era, people cannot access God directly; they must go through Mary or one of the saints
- Daniel's punishment = den of lions (compare to martyrdom of this era)
- bear = represents brute force; for 1260 years they would "tread underfoot the Holy city" (Revelation 11:2)
- **"feet of a bear"** – used brute force to create & enforce manmade doctrines
- **"mouth of a lion"** – reference to which beast? (3rd beast in Daniel's vision; Babylon)

Characteristics of this kingdom/church era:

- (gold) richness; "The merchants of these things, which were made rich" (Revelation 18:15)
- (idols) image of gold; Roman Catholicism has many images
- "bow or die" – "be Catholic or die"
- lion's nature = predator; devours others; king of beasts; Roman Catholicism preyed on people, devoured people, and reigned longer than any other religious system
- what comes out of the mouth? Roar causes fear & intimidation
- **"mouth of a lion"** – teachings inspire fear & intimidation/mouth devours the life

WHERE DID THIS BEAST GET ITS POWER & AUTHORITY?

"And the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority" (Revelation 13:2).

- **"dragon"** = pagan Rome
 - proved this previously by the physical characteristics & description
- **"him"** = beast (papal Rome)

- "power" & "authority" (civil & religious) came from pagan Rome
 - (see later notes on Justinian Code)
- "his seat"
 - Whose seat is this?
 - letter to Pergamos (current church age): "I know . . . where Satan's seat is" (Rev. 2:13)
 - "the seat of the beast . . . was full of darkness" (Rev. 16:10) = Dark Ages
 - "seat" (from the dragon), "Satan's seat," and "seat of the beast" (same thing)
- "seat" in the Greek is the word *throne*
 - place of authority
 - this is the "seat" (throne) of papal Rome (Catholicism)
 - this is the place from which "he" (papal Rome) rules
- Who should be sitting on the throne? (God–Psalm 47:8; 93:2)
- The throne has an usurper
- Exactly who is sitting in this seat?
 - "man of sin . . . Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God" (2 Thess. 2:3-4).
- "man of sin" is actually sitting in "Satan's seat" (place of authority)
- Who is the "man of sin"?
 - When the Pope speaks *ex cathedra* (Latin for "from his seat"), he is said to be infallible.

THE PALE HORSE & ITS RIDER

"And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword" (Revelation 6:8).

- "pale horse" = described a little differently in Zechariah's description of the 4 horses
 - "grisled and bay horse" (Zech. 6:6-7)
 - (definition of "grisled": spotted or sprinkled with gray)
 - (definition of "bay": dappled [spotted marking])
 - "speckled, and white" (Zech. 1:8)
- remember, the horse (spirit) in this era was giving rise to a system coming in the next era
- this was a white horse with spots on it
 - white = light & spots = sin or darkness
- a mixture of **truth** (white) & **darkness** (spots)
- from a distance it looks like a white horse
- "pale horse" = spirit of compromise (a little bit of truth & a little bit of error)
- "rider" = name is Death (represents something that was once alive, spiritually)
- killed with the "sword" (Word without the Spirit kills; 2 Cor. 3:6)
- they had the wrong spirit—the spirit of compromise instead of the Holy Spirit
- "Hell" – that which follows spiritual death
- "rider" = system of Protestantism

REVIEW HORSES & THEIR RIDERS

- Horses are militant spirits (unseen power behind the system)
- Riders are flesh-and-blood representations of the spirit behind the system
- **White horse** = Holy Spirit (this Spirit was given & the church was "born in a day")

- **Rider** = Christ's body (the church)
- **Red Horse** = spirit of unbelief (spirit caused pagan Rome – tolerant of other gods – to begin its persecution phase)
 - **Rider** = system of pagan Rome
- **Black Horse** = spirit of apostasy (not backsliding, but retaining the spiritual profession while not possessing a true experience)
 - **Rider** = system of Roman Catholicism (papal Rome)
- **Pale Horse** = spirit of compromise (people received light & left Catholicism only to soon compromise on the message)
 - **Rider** = system of Protestantism

CONTINUING TO DEFINE THE BEAST: NAME OF BLASPHEMY

"And upon his heads the name of blasphemy" (Revelation 13:1).

- Pope is called "Vicar of the Son of God."
 - Vicar means "a person who acts in the place of another."
- For years when the mass was said in Latin, the people said, "Dominus Deus Nostra Papa," which translates to "Our Lord God the Pope."
- Pope Leo XIII said, "We [referring to the popes] hold upon the earth the place of God Almighty."
- Tetzl, who sold the indulgences that so stirred up Martin Luther, was going through Germany with this cry: "The Lord God Omnipotent hath ceased to reign—He has resigned all power to the Pope."
- The title that they still use, Pontifex Maximus, was an old pagan title ascribed to the high priest and to the Caesars of the pagan Roman Empire. The Pope holds that same title today.

WHAT IS 666?

"Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six" (Revelation 13:18).

- False religion's definition:
 - the number of future antichrist, BUT:
 - ** there are many antichrists (1 John 2:18)
 - ** antichrists were working in Apostle John's day: *"And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world"* (1 John 4:3).
 - mark of the beast
 - ** BUT this is the "number" not the "mark"
 - implant, microchip, tattoo (to be able to buy & sell)
 - ** that is a literal interpretation: this is speaking spiritually
- "the number of the beast" = "the number of a man"
 - beast is a religious system, so this man must represent a religious system as well
- use the Roman numerical system (which assigns numerical value to letters)
- Irenaeus (Church bishop in 2nd century; studied under Polycarp whose pastor was the Apostle John) noted that the historical language of Rome (in all its official acts) is

LATEINOS, which when assigned the same value = 666 ²

– also, Lateinos is masculine (the number of a MAN)

- Official title for the Pope: VICARIUS FILII DEI
 - English translation: *Vicar of the Son of God*
 - 1st reference of this in: forged imperial decree (Donation of Constantine), which transferred authority over Rome & the western part of the Roman empire to the Pope. ³

Donation of Constantine: "as the Blessed Peter is seen to have been constituted *vicar of the Son of God* on the earth, so the Pontiffs who are the representatives of that same chief of the apostles, should obtain from us and our empire the power of a supremacy greater than the clemency of our earthly imperial serenity is seen to have conceded to it" ⁴

- This title for the Pope is found in many letters, papal decrees, and in the canon (church law)
- This title was on many pope's miters
 - by assigning numbers to the Latin inscription on the pope's miter = 666 (see chart on handout)
 - note: many Catholics denies that this inscription is or was ever on the Pope's miter
- ** Catholic Weekly magazine *Our Sunday Visitor* (April 18, 1915): "What are the letters supposed to be in the Pope's crown, and what do they signify, if anything? The letters inscribed in the Pope's mitre are these: Vicarius Filii Dei, which is the Latin for Vicar of the Son of God." ⁵

SEVEN WOMEN

"And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach" (Isaiah 4:1).

- "seven women" – one in each church era
- their mother is MYSTERY BABYLON, the mother of harlots (Rev. 17:5)
 - Roman Catholicism calls herself "the mother church"
 - do any other religious organizations refer to themselves in this manner?
- how do we know these women are "harlots"?
 - "wear our own apparel" – they don't want to wear the garments of salvation & the robe of righteousness (Isaiah 61:10) for that is not seductive
 - "eat our own bread" – they don't want the Bread of Life (Jesus; John 6:51); they want their own doctrines
- "let us be called by thy name" – they want to be known as Christians
- "take away our reproach" – take away their sin

² *Against Heresies* by Saint Irenaeus, Book V, Chapter 29

³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donation_of_Constantine

⁴ <http://www.aloha.net/~mikesch/666.htm>

⁵ <http://www.remnantofgod.org/osv1915.htm>

- "sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34)
- what is in each woman's hand? (cup; she is offering something to drink)
- what is supposed to be in the cup? ("cup of salvation"; Psalm 116:13)
- what is the cup? ("Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup"; Matthew 23:25)
 - it's the part you can see; the outward appearance, or the form of the system
- but the contents (should be salvation) have changed to something that intoxicates
- *"Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD's hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad"* (Jeremiah 51:7)
 - Babylon once had some light, but she is now false religion
- **What's in her cup?** "because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication" (Revelation 14:8).
 - It's something intoxicating; it's deceiving (Proverbs 20:1).
 - People who drink from this cup come under the influence of another spirit (not the Holy Spirit)
 - This causes them to commit spiritual adultery or fornication
 - What is spiritual fornication? Leaving the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13), leaving the spiritual husband (Christ; Isaiah 54:5 and Ephesians 3:9), and joining another body (a harlot body).
- *"Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid"* (1 Cor. 6:15).

THE PRIEST AND PEOPLE SYMBOL (CONFESSIONAL)

- Sinner is told to confess his sins to the priest to receive forgiveness
 - the priest is acting in the place of Jesus, dispensing Christ's forgiveness
 - *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ"* (1 Timothy 2:5).
 - "mediator" = ones who intervenes between two (God & man)
 - "The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is a Sacrament in which we are sorry for our sins, confess them to a priest, receive forgiveness for them and are reconciled with God and the Church." (Catholic.org)
- Traditional confession:
 - "Bless me Father, for I have sinned. It has been _____ (amount of time) since my last confession."
 - then begin to list your sins: try to list them all (including how many times you committed them)
 - end: priest will say, "I absolve you." (Grant remission or pardon of sins)
- Great danger
 - many have reported priests ask very suggestive questions when "helping" one confess

THE PRIEST AND PEOPLE SYMBOL (COMMUNION)

- Catholicism teaches the bread (Eucharist) becomes the literal body of Christ and the wine His literal blood
 - if the Eucharist is dropped before consuming, you are to pick it up and eat it
 - there are special ways to dispose of a "Sacred Host"

- God forbade drinking blood (Genesis 9:4; Leviticus 17:11-12; Acts 15:29)
- this is called a "daily renewal" of Christ's sacrifice
 - ** "ONE sacrifice for sins, for ever" (Hebrews 10:12)
- "this do in **remembrance** of me" (Luke 22:19)

PAGANISM & CATHOLICISM

- Roman Catholicism incorporated pagan idols, pagan titles, and pagan symbols in their attire
 - Pope Gregory sent missionaries to convert the pagans with the instructions to not destroy their temples, festivals, holidays, etc. "that the people might not be startled at the change" ⁶
 - this was Catholicism's secret to such rapid growth: she consumed the religions about her
- **Pope's Mitre**
 - fish god (Dagon); refer to the story of the Ark being taken by the Philistines
 - Note: worshipers of Babylon had to kiss the Babylonian god-king's ring & slipper
- **Mother/Child Worship**
 - Babylon worship of Semiramis and child Tammu
 - many (if not all) other nations have had some type of divine mother and child worship
- **Mary Worship**
 - considered a "mediator" (just as you would go to your mother – kind – before you would go to your father – stern)
 - ** Rome says, "He came to us through Mary, so we must go through Mary to get to Him."
 - believe Mary remained a virgin the rest of her life (thus the term "Virgin Mary")
 - ** Mary had four other sons & at least two daughters (Matthew 13:55-56)
 - no doubt, Jesus was thinking of this coming false teaching when He said in Matthew 12:48-49: *"Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!"*
 - believe that Mary suffered w/Christ; so, she helped redeem the human race
 - bow down, worship, pray to statues of Mary
 - ** *"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God"* (Exodus 20:4-5).
- **IHS**
 - Greek for Jesus the Savior of men
 - seen on "monstrance" (holds the wafers for communion)
 - pagans: Isis, Horus, Seb (the mother, the child, and the father of the gods)
- **Sun Disk and the Monstrance**
 - Monstrance holds the Eucharist (host), which is supposedly Christ's body
 - pagan symbol of sun worship
 - when the monstrance is held up, the people kneel in worship

⁶ *The Story of Christmas* by Michael Harrison

RELIC WORSHIP (PAGAN)

- **Pagans in many cultures worshiped relics**
 - Greeks worshiped the bones of their heroes
 - Buddha's tooth worshiped
 - The Blessed Mantle (Muhammad gave to a poet)
 - The Black Stone of Kaaba (Muslim relic)
- **Relic Worship (Catholic)**
 - **(Pics 1 & 2)** "An estimated 6,000 pilgrims braved heavy rain to venerate the relic of St. John Vianney's heart when it arrived in England in July 2012." ⁷
 - **(Pic 3)** Saint Ivo of Kermartin is paraded through the streets (the rest of his bones have gone missing)
 - **(Pic 4)** Praying to the shinbone of Mary Magdalene
 - **(Pic 5)** Collection of "Holy Skulls" (Greek island of Andros); one skull is said to produce myrrh; men have been praying for the saint to reveal himself, so they'll know who this skull belongs to. ⁸
 - **(Pic 6)** Teresa of Avila (considered a role model for the church)–"Her heart, hands, right foot, right arm, left eye and part of her jaw are on display in various sites around the world."⁹
 - "It is lawful to have images in the Church, and to give honor and worship unto them." (Catechism of the Council of Trent)
 - ** This contradicts the 2nd commandment (Exodus 20:4-5)

PAGAN HOLIDAY/CATHOLIC HOLIDAY (SATURNALIA & CHRISTMAS)

- Saturnalia was a festival in which the Romans commemorated the dedication of the temple of the god Saturn.
- They believed that winter was due to the sun losing its power due to a battle between the sun god & the god of the dead.
- They believed in human sacrifice including the sacrifice of small children & infants in which were offered to their gods in order to empower the sun to return with strength.
- At the festival's conclusion, December 25th, Roman authorities believed they were destroying the forces of darkness by brutally murdering the innocent man or woman who they chose to represent "the forces of darkness."
- In the 4th century The Roman Catholic Church adopted the Saturnalia festival hoping to take the pagan masses in with it." ¹⁰
 - keep in mind paganism isn't a thing of the past! The holiday of Saturnalia is still celebrated
- **Note:** there are other ties to paganism and Christmas (example: Dec. 25th was the Sun

⁷ <http://ivarfjeld.com/category/vatican-skulls-and-bones/>

⁸ <http://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2010/04/myrrh-streaming-skulls-of-panahrantos.html>

⁹ Marypages.com

¹⁰ <http://thetruthandlight.wordpress.com/2008/12/25/saturnalia-the-real-roots-of-christmas/>

God's birthday, Nimrod's birthday, Persian god Mithra, son of Zeus [Dionysus], Roman god Attis)

- It is believed that birthdays were not celebrated among the early true believers. So, why the celebration of Christ's birthday, when the emphasis was on His death & resurrection?

TIME FRAME

- Pergamene Age = A.D. 530-1530 (1000 years)
- Forming earlier (Constantine made Christianity the official religion)
- A.D. 530 – Roman Catholic Church firmly in power
 - Justinian Code (issued by Emperor Justinian) A.D. 529-544
 - Comprised of a compilation of all the laws of the Roman Empire, going back to Emperor Hadrian
 - Numerous provisions served to secure the status of Christianity as the state religion of the empire, uniting Church and state, and making anyone who was not connected to the Christian church a non-citizen. (wikipedia)
 - The very first law in the Codex requires all persons under the jurisdiction of the Empire to hold the Christian faith.
 - "We desire that all peoples subject to our benign empire shall live under the same religion that the Divine Peter, the Apostle, gave to the Romans We order all those who follow this law to assume the name of Catholic Christians, and considering others as demented and insane, we order that they shall bear the infamy of heresy" (Justinian Code, Book 1)
 - Here is one example of the dragon giving the beast his authority & power

HOW LONG WOULD THIS BEAST HAVE POWER?

- Revelation 11:2 – *"the holy city shall they tread under foot [bear] **forty and two months.**"*
- Revelation 13:5 – *"And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue **forty and two months.**"*
- Daniel 7:25 – *"And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until **a time and times and the dividing of time.**"*
- Revelation 12:14 – *"And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for **a time, and times, and half a time,** from the face of the serpent."*
- Revelation 12:6 – *"And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there **a thousand two hundred and threescore days.**"*

PROPHETIC TIME SYMBOLS

Prophetic Time Symbols

"a day for a year" (Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6)

example: spies in Canaan 40 days – wandered in the wilderness 40 years

Forty-two months x 30 days to a Jewish calendar month = 1,260 days

Time = 1 year or 12 months x 30 days to a Jewish calendar month = 360 days

Times = 2 years or 24 months x 30 days to a Jewish calendar month = 720 days

Dividing of Time = ½ of a year or 6 months x 30 days to a Jewish calendar month = 180 days

Time + Times + Dividing of Time (360 days + 720 days + 180 days) = 1,260 days

1,260 days or "each day for a year" = 1,260 years (A.D. 270 - 1530)

MARK, NAME & NUMBER:

Revelation 13:16-17 – *"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive 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."*

- **All:** no one was exempt from the power of this system
- **Mark:** the "mark" is IN not ON
 - remember the mark of the beast is NOT 666 (this is the "number of his name")
 - we know these are 2 different things because Revelation 13:17 says "OR"
 - Romans 16:16-17 tells us to "mark those who cause division." Is this a literal mark?
 - the mark is the same, whether it's in the hand or forehead
 - mark = false thinking, false doctrine
 - every sectarian religion has their own "mark"
- **Right Hand:** *in* their right hand [right hand of fellowship]
 - Galatians 2:9 *"James, Cephas [or Peter], and John . . . gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship."*
 - right hand denotes fellowship
 - when you join a church, you are marked with their doctrines; you take in their teachings
- **Foreheads:** or *in* their foreheads [in their minds]
 - Revelation 7:1-3 speaks of having the "seal" (Holy Ghost given understanding) in their foreheads.
 - Ezekiel 3:8-9 *" . . . thy forehead strong against their foreheads. As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead."* (This is speaking of being strong minded.)
 - Revelation 22:4 *"And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads."* (If the beast gives a literal mark, this Scripture must be literal as well. But this is speaking of having clear understanding of the church and the Father's name.)
- **Buy & Sell:** doing business (spiritually)
 - Proverbs 23:23 *"Buy the truth and sell it not."*
 - Pilgrim's Progress: Christian and Faithful got in trouble in the city of Vanity because they wouldn't buy and sell. They said, "We buy the truth."

- You cannot do business with false religion without this mark; you cannot teach or preach
- **Number:** Revelation 13:18 – *"Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number [not mark] of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six."* (Review chart of 666)

"REPENT; OR ELSE" (REVELATION 2:17)

- **Repent or Penance:**
 - Jesus' message to this era was "repent or else"
 - But Roman Catholicism didn't preach repentance. It preached penance:
 - Repentance means to turn, to go another direction.
 - What is penance?
 - ** "self punishment to right a wrong"
 - ** Catholic Definitions:
 - the assignment a priest gives after confession (say 5 Hail Marys & 3 Our Fathers)
 - fasting
 - self-chastisement (beating)
 - eating bitter plants
 - in essence, doing things that cause self discomfort
- The people of this era didn't repent.
- For a thousand years, there was no public message declared.
- Then God loosed the sword (His Word), and a deadly wound was dealt to the beast.

QUOTES FROM CATHOLIC PUBLICATIONS:

- "How can you get the true meaning of the Bible? You can get it only from God's official interpreter, the Catholic Church." *A Catechism for Adults*, p. 10
- "We must, therefore, conclude that the Scriptures alone cannot be a sufficient guide and rule of faith ... because they are not of themselves clear and intelligible even in matters of the highest importance." *The Faith of Our Fathers*, p. 73
- "The Bible does not contain all the teaching of the Christian religion, nor does it formulate all the duties of its members." *The Faith of Millions*, pp. 153-154
- "Can you learn to save your soul just by reading the Bible? No ... because the Bible does not have everything God taught." *A Catechism for Adults*, Q. 1, p. 52
- "The Bible was not intended to be a textbook of Christian religion." *Catholic Facts*, p. 50