

Sermon Study Guide



The Mark of the Beast

August 15, 2021 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

Reflect

How do you understand the Christian term *rapture*? Is it an encouragement to you? Why or why not?

Read and Discuss

Scripture

Revelation 13:1-18

Discussion Questions

We gather from the passage these warnings on how Satan operates to deceive the world and draw believers from following Jesus.

1. **Warning #1: The enemy of God uses the cult of personality to deceive (v. 1-4).** What God-given vision did the apostle John see in these verses? What does the beast represent? Who is the source of the antichrist's power and what power will he be given? Why will people marvel and follow the antichrist during the tribulation? In our time and age right now, what cult of personality does the Devil use to deceive people? Are Christian leaders exempted from being used by the enemy? In what way could they be used to take away your focus from Jesus?
2. **Warning #2: The enemy of God persecutes Christians through various means (v. 5-10).** How is the antichrist described in these verses? What will happen to those who will come to Christ during the 7-year period of tribulation? Why does the devil persecute the Christians through the ages? How do you, as a follower of Christ, experience persecution? How are you standing up for Christ in the midst of persecutions? What are the small battles in your life and spiritual life? How are you winning those small battles?
3. **Warning #3: The enemy of God uses signs and wonders to fool the world (v. 11-15).** Who is the second beast that the apostle John saw in his vision? What is his role in taking people away from worshipping Jesus? How can you tell if something spectacular is from God or from Satan? What are the dangers of relying on signs and wonders instead of studying the Word of God and doing

simple fact-checking? How do you filter the things you hear, see, and experience to make sure that you are not deceived by Satan?

4. **Warning #4: The enemy of God uses temporary benefits to lead us away from eternal blessings (v. 16-18).** How will Satan use economics, such as the ability to buy and sell, to control people and gain their commitment and devotion? What will happen to those who will choose to get the mark? How about those who will choose to follow God in spite of the tribulation (Rev. 20:4)? Why does the current problem of not wanting to be vaccinated for Covid-19 have nothing to do with the mark of the beast? What should you do to remain firm and steadfast in your walk with God so that you will not be led away from God?

Respond

In Walk: Dallas Theological Seminary professor Dr. Michael J. Svigel said, "No passage of Scripture directs Christians to prepare for the Antichrist, but numerous passages instruct Christians to await Christ's return. It's a real problem if your end-times expectations are Antichrist-centered (which is fear) rather than Christ-centered (which is hope)."

How do you anticipate the end-times to happen? Does it encourage you to walk faithfully with God? Are there people whose salvation you need to pray for and witness to so that they will not go through the 7 year tribulation?

In Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You so much for the salvation we have through Your Son, Jesus Christ, that through Him, we don't need to go through the future tribulation, because as Your children You will take us safely away before it happens. May You find us faithful and waiting in anticipation for the coming of Christ soon. In His mighty name we pray. Amen.