PERSONAL REFLECTION

Attention | What caught my attention tonight?

Connection | How does this connect with my life right now?

Invitation | What is God inviting me to do in response?

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Fri, Nov 6 | *America in Bible Prophecy*
11 am Sat, Nov 7 | *What the World Needs Now* (followed by an Italian-themed potluck lunch)

Visit the Hope Rising archive at
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DISCOVER BIBLE SCHOOL

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Hope RISING

How to Escape the Mark of the Beast

 # 08

DISCOVERY TIME

1. What are some items you own that you've written your name on? What ways do you go about making sure others know that a particular object actually belongs to you?
2. Read **Matthew 22:17-21** and ask:
   a. How could people tell whether the coin belonged to Caesar?
   b. If I want my heart to belong to God, what would it mean for me to bear the image and name of God in my life?

At the end of time, Satan ramps up his efforts to deceive God's people and lead them away from truly knowing God. The book of Revelation indicates that Satan does this through counterfeits. For every genuine gift God has for His people in Revelation, Satan has a deceptive counterfeit —- a counterfeit Christ, counterfeit Trinity, counterfeit city, counterfeit message, even a counterfeit seal of belonging.

UNDERSTANDING THE MARK OF THE BEAST

- ☐ Revelation 13:16 — The mark of the beast is enforced by the 2nd beast of Revelation 13. It is given in connection to a false form of mandated worship (v. 15), regardless of class or status, based on either internal loyalty (forehead) or outward conformity (right hand).
- ☐ Revelation 13:17 — The mark of the beast is accompanied by economic permissions at the end of time and is synonymous with the name or character of the beast.

- ☐ Revelation 14:9-11 — Receiving the mark in connection with worshiping the beast carries life-and-death consequence. Those who receive it are strangers to the rest that only comes through trusting Jesus (see Mt. 11:28)

UNDERSTANDING THE SEAL OF GOD

- ☐ 2 Timothy 2:19; Ephesians 1:13-14 — In the broader context of Scripture, God's seal is the work of the _____ _____ in a believer's life that evidences their belonging to God and assures them of their heavenly hope.
- ☐ While this is an experience available to anyone at anytime through Christ, Revelation points to a unique time at the end when this sealing by God's Spirit will distinguish those who belong to God from those who belong to the beast.
- ☐ Revelation 7:1-4 — The seal of God…
  - is given to those entirely surrendered to His will.
  - preserves God's servants in the midst of anticipated tribulation (compare Ezek. 9:1-11).
  - cannot be received by mere outward conformity like the beast's mark, but is instead embraced by God's covenant people only through internal loyalty (forehead).
- ☐ Revelation 14:1-5 — This same group of faithful followers of the Lamb have the Father's _____ written on their foreheads. The work of the Holy Spirit they've received is synonymous with the name or character of God

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

- ☐ Exodus 33:18-34:7 — In response to Moses' request to see God's glory, the Lord promised to proclaim His name. What Moses received atop Mount Sinai was not a title for God, but the law of God (34:4) and the revelation of His character (34:6-7). The name of God is synonymous with His _____ and is revealed in His law.
- ☐ Hebrews 10:15-16 —God promises through the Holy Spirit to internalize God's law in our hearts and minds and live out a life of obedience to God's law in our lives (see Ezek. 36:26-27). God promises the miracle of transformation from the inside out!
- ☐ Ezekiel 20:12, 20 — The _____ is a concrete sign that steadily assures us of this promise of transformation, embedded right in the center of His Ten Commandment law.
- ☐ What then is the seal that distinguishes those who belong to God from those who worship the beast at the end of time?
  - It is God's character revealed in God's law — written on the heart and revealed in an obedient life. And all this by the power of the Holy Spirit.
  - At the end of time, this trust in God to transform from the inside out will be especially evident through keeping the seventh-day Sabbath.

The seal of God	The mark of the beast
Sign of belonging to God	Sign of belonging to the beast
The work of the Holy Spirit	The work of the counterfeit Spirit
Synonymous with the name/ character/law of Christ	Synonymous with the name/ character/law of the antichrist
Revealed in a life of obedience to God's law, trusting in God's power	Revealed in a life of obedience to the beast's law, trusting in the beast's power

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

- ☐ If the beast is the apostate form of the Christian Church (Session 7), what then is its mark? The act of _____ God's law, especially the Sabbath.
- ☐ Does this mean that people currently have the mark of the beast? _____ because the issue has yet to be _____ (see Rev. 13:15-17).
- ☐ How then do we escape the mark of the beast? Our future allegiance will be determined by our present decisions to receive the Holy Spirit's work in our lives.