

**INTRODUCTION:** How many have heard people express worry over receiving the mark of the beast?

pause between 7 trumpets & 7 bowls continues, description of events & persons in Great Tribulation

**Gen. 3:** Sin entered & God responded (prophecy re: Jesus)

**"The devil wrestles with God, and the field of battle is the human heart." –Dostoyevski**

**MAIN IDEA:** We must conquer our personal sin with Jesus' help. Why? Let's take a look at the Great Tribulation to learn what we can.

**I. First, God gives Satan authority over earth for a short time**

- A. to wage war for 3 ½ years (5)
- B. to war against the saints & to overcome them (7)
- C. over every tribe, tongue, and nation (7)
- D. Why? Me: Allowing sin to be really sinful so that His justice will be obvious to all.

**NOTE:** The devil has limited authority over earth now.

**II. Second, the devil wants to "be" God**

- A. will create an "evil" trinity:
  - 1. he is "god" (4)
  - 2. beast from sea (antichrist) is his "messiah" (3)
  - 3. the beast from the land is his prophet (12)
- B. to be worshiped (4, 12) by all not in Lamb's book of life
- C. to deceive... with signs (13-15)
- D. to execute judgment
  - 1. killing any who do not worship him (15)
  - 2. sealing souls for eternity (16-17)

**NOTE:** While the devil will have authority to kill God's people, he cannot harm them eternally, nor deceive them.

**III. Finally, God will empower His children**

- A. by salvation (name written in the Lamb's Book of Life)

**NOTE:** Surrendered to Jesus (Rom. 10:9, Matt. 16:24-25); loving Him & obeying Him (John 14:23)

- 1. we worship Him and will worship no others
- 2. our eternity is secure, and we trust Him for it
- B. to hear God's Spirit (9, 2:7, Matt. 11:15)
  - 1. & recognize God's sovereign hand (Rev. 13:9-10)
  - 2. through living in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16, 25)
- C. to have patience & faith (10)
  - 1. patience...ability to be long-suffering (more grace)
  - 2. faith...trusting God (having confidence in), His promises, His goodness, His love
  - 3. so we trust Him in the worst of times
- D. to have God's wisdom (18)

**mark of the beast**

- restricting commerce based on receiving the mark
- on right hand or forehead    • a mark or a name or a number (666)
  - 1. they will recognize the mark of the beast
  - 2. they will not receive it
  - 3. they will love God more than life itself
  - 4. no one knows what it will be

**Application Points:**

- 1. personal sin makes us vulnerable to the devil & his deceptions
- 2. faithfulness to Jesus protects our eternity
- 3. faithfulness to Jesus will draw the devil's attacks
- 4. faithfulness to Jesus secures God's empowerment

**CONCLUSION:**

**ALTAR:** Search my heart, O God. Prayer to conquer sin.