

# Questions About Which Comes First - the Mark of the Beast or the Seal or Simultaneously

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Does the Mark of the Beast and the Seal of God happen simultaneously? The way I understand it, the Seal of God happens first.

## Answer:

That's a great and thoughtful question — and you're not alone in wondering how the **Mark of the Beast** and the **Seal of God** unfold in the timeline of last-day events. Let's break it down clearly and biblically.

### **The Seal of God Happens First**

According to **Revelation 7:1–3**, the sealing of God's people takes priority:

**“Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”**

*(Revelation 7:3)*

This shows that **God delays end-time destruction (the winds of strife)** until His people are sealed. So yes — **the seal of God comes first**.

It's an act of divine protection and ownership for those who are loyal to God's commandments, especially the **Sabbath commandment**, which is central to God's law and a sign of His creative and redemptive authority (see Exodus 20:8–11, Ezekiel 20:12, 20:20).

### **The Mark of the Beast Comes Later — as a Counterfeit**

The **Mark of the Beast** is introduced in **Revelation 13:15–17**, but it comes **after** the world is deceived and laws are enforced that demand worship contrary to God's commandments.

**“He causes all...to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark...”**

*(Revelation 13:16–17)*

This means the Mark is imposed **after** a clear test of loyalty between God’s commandments and man-made systems of worship — especially the **Sabbath versus Sunday** issue.

So while both seals mark allegiance (one to God, one to the Beast), the **Seal of God is proactive and protective**, while the **Mark of the Beast is reactive and enforced through coercion**.

### **Do They Happen at the Same Time?**

Not exactly simultaneously — here’s the progression:

1. **God seals His faithful people** first (Revelation 7:1–3; Ezekiel 9).
2. Then the **final crisis hits** — false worship is enforced globally (Revelation 13).
3. Those who reject God’s commandments accept the **Mark of the Beast**, whether by belief (forehead) or compromise (hand).

So the **Seal of God is settled before the Mark of the Beast is fully enforced**. But the two do represent **parallel loyalties** in the closing conflict.

### **Summary Chart**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Seal of God</b>	<b>Mark of the Beast</b>
Timing	Happens first (Rev. 7:1–3)	Comes after (Rev. 13:15–17)
Based on	Loyalty to God and His Sabbath law	Loyalty to false worship and tradition
Location	Forehead only (mind/conviction)	Forehead or hand (belief or action)
Result	Protection during plagues (Rev. 9:4)	Exposed to plagues (Rev. 14:9–10)

Eternal Outcome	Life and salvation (Rev. 14:1–5)	God’s wrath and separation (Rev. 14:9–11)
Symbolizes	God’s ownership and authority	Satan’s counterfeit authority

## Final Thought

You’re exactly right — **the Seal of God comes first**. It’s a divine mark on those who are settled into the truth, spiritually and mentally, and who will not be moved (see *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 446).

So now is the time to:

- **Understand God’s commandments clearly** (John 14:15)
- **Love the truth enough to follow it fully** (2 Thess. 2:10)
- **Trust Jesus to seal your heart and mind** with loyalty to Him