

Sermon 09: The Sealing – Marked for Eternity

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Opening Scripture:

“Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” (Revelation 7:3)

Opening Hymn: #618 – “Stand Up! Stand Up for Jesus”

Closing Hymn: #213 – “Jesus is Coming Again”

Introduction: The Story of the Titanic’s Identifying Mark

On **April 10, 1912**, the **Titanic** set sail on its maiden voyage, famously marketed as “unsinkable.” What many people don’t realize is that every ship built in that era had an **identification stamp**, called a “builder’s mark,” signifying the company that constructed it. This mark verified its **authenticity, ownership, and craftsmanship**.

Even after the Titanic sank, deep-sea explorers later found **the identification number stamped into its steel**, proving which ship it was—despite being at the bottom of the ocean for over a century.

That **mark was permanent**.

The Bible tells us that in the last days, **God will place a mark—not on ships, but on His people**. This is known as **the sealing of God’s faithful**. It is not a physical mark but a **spiritual sign of loyalty and ownership, identifying those who belong to Him**.

Today, we will examine:

1. **What the Sealing Means in Scripture**
2. **How to Be Sealed for Eternity**
3. **The Difference Between God’s Seal and the Mark of the Beast**

I. What is the Sealing of God’s People?

A. Biblical Foundation for the Seal (Revelation 7:1-3)

- God tells the angels to **hold back destruction** until His people are **sealed on their foreheads**.
- This is a **spiritual mark of protection**, showing who belongs to God.

B. The Seal Represents Character Transformation (2 Timothy 2:19)

- *“The Lord knows those who are His.”*
- The sealing is not just **God choosing us**, but **us choosing God daily**.

C. The Seal of God vs. The Mark of the Beast (Revelation 13:16-17)

- **Everyone in the last days will receive either the seal of God or the mark of the beast.**
- The mark of the beast symbolizes **disobedience and allegiance to worldly powers**.
- The seal of God represents **obedience and faithfulness to Christ**.

Ellen White writes:

“Only those who receive the seal of the living God will be sheltered in the time of trouble.” (*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 445)

II. How to Be Sealed for Eternity

A. The Seal is Connected to God’s Law (Isaiah 8:16)

- God’s **seal** is found in **His law**, specifically the fourth commandment—the Sabbath.
- Exodus 31:13 – *“It is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations.”*

B. The Seal is Placed in the Forehead (Hebrews 10:16)

- This means that **God’s law and character must be in our minds and hearts**.
- It’s not about a visible mark, but **who we worship and obey**.

C. Only Those Who Overcome Are Sealed (Revelation 3:10-12)

- The sealing is for those who **remain faithful despite trials and persecution**.
- The early Christians were **sealed through suffering**, standing firm despite opposition.

III. The Difference Between God’s Seal and the Mark of the Beast

Seal of God	Mark of the Beast
Placed on forehead (mind, character)	Placed on forehead or hand (belief or forced compliance)
Represents obedience to God's law	Represents disobedience and human authority
Linked to the Sabbath commandment (Exodus 31:13)	Linked to false worship enforced by law
Given by God through the Holy Spirit	Given by Satan through deception and coercion

Ellen White warns:

“When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not.” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 605)

Conclusion: The Story of the Sealed Bible in Hiroshima

In 1945, when **the atomic bomb** dropped on **Hiroshima**, it destroyed nearly everything in its path. But **one Bible survived**—with its pages **miraculously intact**, though its cover was burned.

The surviving words on one of the open pages read:

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.” (Matthew 24:35)

This Bible was **sealed in fire**—yet **its message endured**.

Likewise, **God's people will go through fire, but they will be sealed and preserved by His power**.

Final Appeal: Are You Ready to Be Sealed?

The final sealing is happening **right now**.

- **Will you choose loyalty to God's commandments or compromise with the world?**
- **Will you allow Christ to write His law on your heart?**
- **Will you stand firm, even if the world stands against you?**

Just as the Titanic **was identified by its builder's mark**, you too **will be identified**—either by **God's seal or the enemy's mark**.

Which will you choose?