

refuse to worship (cf. Revelation 13:11-15), and that the mark of the beast represents the badge of the Antichrist which will identify those who are his followers (cf. Revelation 13:16,17).

The Seventh-day Adventists also say that this passage predicts that the observance of the Sabbath on the seventh day of the week will be restored, and that it will be a worldwide test of loyalty to God, and that only those who observe the Sabbath on the seventh day of the week will be saved. These assertions, however, are based on the assumption that the mark of the beast in this passage represents the badge of the papal power which is the observance of the Sabbath on the first day of the week, but since that is a false assumption, these assertions are simply not true.

In this passage, therefore, John did not predict the things which the Seventh-day Adventists say he predicted. What then did John predict in this passage? In this passage John predicted that the people of the world will be warned by an angel flying in midheaven that those who violate the first commandment and worship the Antichrist and his image, and receive his badge in their forehead or in their right hand will suffer the wrath of God unmingled with mercy, and will be tormented continuously throughout all eternity in the presence of Jesus Christ and the holy angels. In this passage John also predicted that those who are saved will heed this warning, and will obey the commandments of God and maintain their faith in Jesus even though it results in their death. The context of this passage suggests that these predictions will be fulfilled in the last half of the Tribulation period which will last for three and one-half years, and which will immediately precede the return of Christ to earth to reign for one thousand years.

In view of these facts it is abundantly clear that the Seventh-day Adventist interpretation of this passage is not the correct interpretation.