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666

One of the most intriguing arguments used by the Seventh-day Adventists in their literature and evangelisation campaigns, is the method of identifying the Antichrist according to the exhortation given in Revelation chapter 13, where the Beast is described.

Rev 13:16 Also it causes all, both small and great,
both rich and poor, both free and slave,
to be marked on the right hand or the forehead,

Rev 13:17 so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark,
that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.

Rev 13:18 This calls for wisdom:
let the one who has understanding
calculate the number of the beast,
for it is the number of a man,
and his number is 666.

Seventh-day Adventists did not discover or originate the method by which they pinpoint the Beast as the papacy of the Roman Catholic Church. This method had been used at least as early as the second century, long before SDAs adopted the calculation as certain proof of their own interpretation.

The method relies on the fact that in the ancient languages (Hebrew, Greek and Latin), letters of their alphabets also served as numerals. Therefore certain letters possessed numerical values, so that the numbers within words or names can be added to give a grand total.

For various sound biblical reasons, it is generally accepted that the Roman Catholic Church is in some way related to the Beast. The popes have long proclaimed themselves “The Vicar of Christ,” which is more significant than might be suspected. The word “Vicar” is more than the title of a minister or servant of Christ, as might be thought by Anglicans, whose ministers are routinely addressed as Vicar Whomever. The word vicar in Latin, is “VICARIUS.” From this word we get the English “vicarious,” and they both mean, “ONE WHO STANDS IN THE PLACE OF.”

Therefore, although we see the local humble Anglican vicar as a **representative** of Jesus on earth, which is not too dire a concept – what the popes are actually saying, is something altogether more sinister and blasphemous, for that title is connected with the name of the Beast – also called the **Antichrist**. In Greek, the language of the New Testament, this is *antichristos*.

Strong's Dictionary says:

G500 ἀντιχριστος antichristos

From [G473](#) and [G5547](#); an *opponent of the Messiah*: - antichrist.

But “one who is against Christ” is not the only interpretation. The Greek word “anti” means not only “against,” but **“in the place of.”**

G473 ἀντί anti

Thayer Definition:

1) over against, opposite to, before

2) for, instead of, in place of (something)

Therefore the name ANTICHRIST means, **“One who stands in the place of Christ.”** Literally, Antichrist is not only Christ's *opponent*, but one who *claims to BE CHRIST*. That both these definitions are true of the Beast, is confirmed by Paul's prophecy:

[2Thessalonians 2:3](#) Let no one deceive you in any way.

For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first,

and **the man of lawlessness is revealed,**

the son of destruction,

[2:4](#) **who opposes and exalts himself**

against every so-called god or object of worship,

so that he takes his seat in the temple of God,

proclaiming himself to be God.

Paul refers to this individual as “the man of sin” and “the son of destruction,” but we recognise him as the Beast, the Antichrist, by his characteristics. He is boastful and blasphemes God. This man is so arrogant that he will even enthrone himself in the temple, pretending to be God. He will **oppose God**, and **claim to be God**. Both of these actions are defined by “anti” in Greek. **This man is definitely the Antichrist, in both senses of the word.**

In Latin, the title of the Pope which is inscribed on his tiara, is **VICARIUS FILII DEI**.

“One who stands in the place of the Son of God.” This blasphemous title is just one of many boastful claims made by the papacy. Obviously, when translated into Greek, the title becomes **“ANTICHRIST.”**

In the SDA Daniel and Revelation Prophecy Seminar (1989), Lesson 9, there is an inserted Exhibit which covers identification of the Little Horn as the papacy. It reads in part:

I. It has a number that adds up to 666.

Notice that Revelation 13:18 does not say the number 666 is written out. Rather, it says that to discover the number of the Beast, one must count the number of the Beast, or add it up. An ancient custom was to use the Roman numeral system on peoples' names, adding up the various totals of the letters. That would then be the person's number. The Bible says the Beast has a number, and the numbers add up to 666. One of the official titles of the head of the Roman Church in Latin is Vicarius Filii Dei, meaning "Vicar of the Son of God." Please notice below that the numerical value of the letters of his name add up to the Biblical 666:

V	5	F	o	D	500		112
I	1	I	1	E	o		53
C	100	L	50	I	1		501
A	o	I	1				
R	o	I	1				
I	1						
U	5						
S	o						
TOTALS:	112	+	53	+	501	=	666

So the Papacy fits the sixth point.

Of course, over the centuries, there have been slews of calculators proposing manifold names as the Beast based on similar sums, in Greek, Hebrew and Latin, some specific and others more general as in the above case. They cannot all be correct. The Pope is here identified, but not the particular name of the ultimate one who might be expected to fulfil the prophecy. The exact name cannot be expected to be calculated until the man himself has appeared in the very last days.

In the meantime, there are other methods which have been used for speculation. Some of these give us solutions that connect general concepts with the number 666. As a point of interest, the Hebrew letter "waw" or W is assigned the numeral 6. This is intriguing in light of the current proliferation of the World Wide Web – www.prefix.com thus associating the number 666 with every online excursion.

While we cannot set too much store by every name which adds up to 666, it is enlightening to observe the trend of connected words which fit perfectly.

If the Papacy fits the 6th identifying point of the Beast, so does this next name.

E	o	G	o	W	10		100
L	50	O	o	H	o		555
L	50	U	5	I	1		11
E	o	L	50	T	o		
N	o	D	500	E	o		
TOTALS:	100	+	555	+	11	=	666
ELLEN GOULD WHITE				=	666.		