

The Antichrist

~ 666 ~

His rise, reign, ruin
and restoration!

An explanation of Revelation chapter 13:1-10,18

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Introduction

Through much of the Christian era and particularly at the time of the great Protestant Reformation, the general view among the faithful was that the Antichrist was the Church of Rome. However, in reaction to the devastating influence of the Reformation upon the Church of Rome, a Counter Reformation was mounted, led by the Jesuits. One of the main goals of the Counter Reformation was to construct an interpretation of prophecy that would hide the true identity of Antichrist and remove the stigma from the Church of Rome. To do this the Jesuits created a school of prophetic interpretation called the Futuristic system of interpretation. This school cleverly perverted the prophecies to make them appear to teach that the Antichrist would be a Jew who would rise in the future - probably after the Second Advent or the Rapture - and would fulfill the predictions concerning the Antichrist.

This school of thought was then insidiously infiltrated into the Protestant churches and as a result it gradually robbed them of their protest against the Church of Rome. One instrument in accomplishing this goal has been the Schofield Bible.

Significance of Revelation Chapter 13

Revelation Chapter 13 is one of the most significant amongst the prophetic chapters of Daniel and Revelation which deal with the Antichrist. The other chapters are Daniel Chapters 7, 8 and 11 and Revelation Chapters 17 and 18.

Structure of the chapter

The *principle of repetition and enlargement*, which is widely utilized in Scripture and is particularly evident in Daniel and Revelation, is employed in Revelation Chapter 13. It is structured as follows:

Verses	Topic
1- 4	A brief sketch of Antichrist's career His rise, reign, ruin, resurrection and restoration
5-8	The reign of Antichrist
9-10	The ruin of Antichrist
11-12	The resurrection and restoration of Antichrist and through whom it is accomplished
13-15	The method by which it is accomplished
16-17	The medium used to accomplish it

Identifiers of the Antichrist

In Revelation Chapter 13 at least fifteen specifications are presented by which the sincere searcher may identify the earthly Antichrist.¹

1. A political entity
2. Rises amid numerous peoples
3. One of seven political powers or empires opposed to God
4. Connected with Western Europe
5. Reigns when the powers of Western Europe are reigning
6. Connected with the four kingdoms of Daniel 7, that is, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome
7. Seat of government is given to it by Imperial Rome
8. Becomes a universal or catholic power
9. Blasphemes
10. Persecutes and destroys the saints
11. Has a number - 666
12. Has political supremacy for 1260 years
13. Is mortally wounded
14. The wound heals
15. Antichrist is restored to world pre-eminence

We will now examine each of these identifying characteristics in turn.

1. A political entity

Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Revelation 13:1

In prophecy a beast represents a political power or kingdom. As the prophet Daniel's divine instructor declared:

Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which arise out of the earth...

The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth... Daniel 7:17,23

This reveals that the Antichrist will not be an individual but rather a political entity.

¹ There is a literal, earthly Antichrist and there is also the spiritual Antichrist - Satan himself – who inspires his earthly agent.

2. Rises amid numerous peoples

In prophecy, the sea represents a heavily populated region. The sea is comprised of water and the divine instruction is

The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. Revelation 17:15

3. One of seven political entities

...having seven heads...

This antichrist power is one of seven successive political powers in history that oppose God. These seven heads are discussed in detail in a later topic in connection with Revelation Chapter 17, where it will be shown that they represent seven successive kingdoms used by Satan to oppose God and his people.² Revelation 13 applies to a period when one of the 7 heads is in power.

And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded... v3

4. Connected with Western Europe

having... ten horns...

In the books of Daniel and Revelation these ten horns are mentioned ten times and every time they represent, at least initially, the ten divisions into which Western Rome separated in 476 AD

The ten horns are ten kings (kingdoms) who shall arise from this kingdom (Imperial Rome)... Daniel 7:24

Western Europe was the territory peculiar to Rome. The other territories which she conquered were territories peculiar to Greece, Persia and Babylon, etc. The ten divisions or kingdoms were formed from the Western division of the Roman Empire.



² See, A. P. Cooke, *The Riddle of Revelation 17* (Self published, 2010),

5. Reigns when the ten powers of Western Europe rule

...and on his horns ten crowns...

Crowns indicate sovereignty and the crowns upon the horns denote that the beast is in power when the ten horns are ruling; that is, when the Western European kingdoms had been formed and are in power. The ten kingdoms were established by 476 AD which means that Antichrist rises after that date.

6. Connected with the 4 kingdoms of Daniel 7

Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. Revelation 13:2

These four beasts have already been introduced in Daniel Chapter 7 and represent the four universal kingdoms of history.

Beast	Political Power
The Lion	Babylon
The bear	Medo-Persia
The leopard	Greece
The non-descript or dragon	Imperial Rome

...his mouth like the mouth of a lion...

The Antichrist is Babylon's mouth piece. When the Antichrist speaks, it is Babylon speaking.

7. Receives its seat of government from Imperial Rome

...The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. v2

The dragon is first mentioned in Revelation Chapter 12 and is shown there to represent Imperial Rome, which was used by Satan to try to destroy the Christ-child.³ Did Imperial Rome give its seat of government to any other power? It did, and this transpired in 330 AD when Constantine the Great removed the seat of government from Rome on the Tiber to the new Rome - Constantinople on the Bosphorus (Istanbul).

As for Imperial Rome's ancient seat on the Tiber, the historians record as follows:

When the Roman Empire became Christian, and the peace of the Church was guaranteed, the Emperor left Rome to the Pope, to be the seat of the authority of

³ See, A.P.Cooke, "War on God's Woman," (Sydney: Self-published, 2010).

*the Vicar of Christ, who should reign there independent of all human authority, to the consummation of ages, to the end of time.*⁴

*The removal of the capital of the empire from Rome to Constantinople in 330, left the Western Church practically free from imperial power, to develop its own form of organization. The Bishop of Rome, in the seat of the Caesars, was now the greatest man in the West, and was soon forced to become the political as well as the spiritual head.*⁵

*And meekly stepping to the throne of Caesar, the Vicar of Christ took up the scepter to which the emperor and kings of Europe were to bow in reverence through so many ages.*⁶

In the Room of Constantine in the Vatican palace there are four superb paintings. The fourth one is entitled, *The Donation of Constantine*. It depicts the Roman emperor about to depart from Rome for Constantinople. He is presenting a statue of a warrior to the Bishop of Rome, representing the transfer of the city of Rome to the Papacy. This painting has been claimed to be a forgery but it has been used by the Papacy as a symbol of authority for her political claims. It is an acknowledgment from the Papacy that she received her seat from Imperial Rome.

Imperial Rome didn't just give the Papacy a political base; it gave her *power and great authority*. This was fulfilled by emperor Justinian when he officially decreed the Bishop of Rome to be the *universal bishop of the world and the corrector of heretics* in 533 AD.⁷ However this level of authority was useless without the political and military power to enforce it. This was supplied in 538 AD when the Emperor Justinian put down all resistance to the Papacy and enforced submission to it. Subsequently hundreds of thousands of non-Catholics were slaughtered as they attempted to flee the empire.⁸

8. Becomes a universal political power

...they worshipped the beast... v4

...And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. v7

The word *universal* also means *catholic*. Thus this power will be a catholic, religious, political power.

⁴ Francis P. Hays, *Papal Right and Privileges in Their True Light* (London: R. Washbourne, 1889),13-14.

⁵ Alexander Flick, *The Rise of the Medieval Church* (New York: G. P. Putnams and sons, 1909),168.

⁶ James P Conroy (Rev), *American Catholic Quarterly Review*, April 1911.

⁷ Samuel P Scott (tr), *The Civil Law* (Union, New Jersey: The Law Book Exchange Ltd, 2001),1:11-13.

⁸ Nicholas Summerbell, *History of the Christian Church* (Office of the Christian Pulpit, 1873),310-311.

Samuel Chandler, *The History of Persecution* (London: J. Gray, 1736),142-143.

Edward Gibbon, *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, 12 vols.(London: Strahan and Cadell, 1789),Chapter 47:24.

9. Practices blasphemy

...on his heads a blasphemous name. v1

...a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies... v5

...he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God... v6

According to Scripture *blasphemy* is the practice of usurping the position of, or claiming the prerogatives of God.

*...Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?
Luke 5:21*

The Church of Rome claims to forgive sin. Catholic authorities state this fact:

*If anyone saith that the sacramental absolution of the priest is not a judicial act...
let him be anathema.*

*If anyone saith that priests... have not the power of binding and of loosing, or
that not priests alone are ministers of absolution, let him be anathema.⁹*

To pardon a single sin requires all the omnipotence of God...¹⁰

*The priest not only declares that the sinner is forgiven, but he really forgives
him... so great is the power of the priest, that the judgments of heaven itself are
subject to his decision.¹¹*

*The poor sinner kneels at his confessor's feet. He knows he is not speaking to an
ordinary man, but to another Christ. He hears the words, 'I absolve thy sins' and
the hidden load of sins drops from his soul forever.¹²*

*A priest, in absolving a sinner, performs the very office of the Holy Ghost in the
sanctification of souls.¹³*

Another form of blasphemy is also indicated in the gospel of John.

*For a good work we do not stone you, but for blasphemy; and because you, being
a man, make yourself God. John 10:33*

The Papacy deifies man. It makes claims that should pertain only to God. Again, Catholic authorities confirm this fact:

*We define that the holy Apostolic See and the Roman Pontiff holds the primacy
over the wide world and that the Roman Pontiff himself is the successor of the
blessed Peter... the father and doctor of all Christians; and that to him... was
given... full power to feed, rule and govern the universal church.¹⁴*

⁹ Council of Trent, Session XIV, 1546 *Dogmatic Canons and Decrees*, Canons IX & X.

¹⁰ Saint Alphonsus de Liguori, *Dignities and Duties of a Priest* (Brooklyn NY: Redemptorist Fathers, 1926), 34.

¹¹ Michael Muller, *The Catholic Priest* (Baltimore: Kteuzer Brothers, 1876),

¹² William Doyle, *Shall I Be a Priest* (Dublin: Irish Messenegr Office, 1913),14-15.

¹³ Saint Alphonsus de Liguori,36.

¹⁴ Labbe and Cossart, *The Council of Trent* (Paris: 1671),12:1167.

In a large, authentic work by F. Lucii Ferraris, titled *Prompta Bibliotheca Canonica Juridica Moralis Theologica* printed in Rome in 1800 and sanctioned by the Catholic Encyclopedia (Vol. VI, p.48) we find the following statement regarding the power of the Pope:

The Pope is of so great dignity and so exalted that he is not a mere man, but as it were God, and the vicar of God..."

Hence the Pope is crowned with a triple crown, as king of heaven and of earth and of the lower regions..."

*The Pope is as it were God on earth, sole sovereign of the faithful Christ, chief of kings, having plenitude of power, to whom has been entrusted by the omnipotent God direction not only of the earthly but also of the heavenly kingdom.*¹⁵

The Catholic Encyclopedia says of the Pope:

*The sentences which he gives are to be forthwith ratified in heaven.*¹⁶

Pope Leo XIII says:

But the supreme teacher in the Church is the Roman Pontiff. Union of minds, therefore, requires, together with a perfect accord in the one faith, complete submission and obedience of will to the Church and to the Roman Pontiff, as to God Himself.

*We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty.*¹⁷

In this encyclical, as well as capitalizing all pronouns which refer to God, the Pope has also capitalized those which refer to himself.

Alphonsus de Liguori, a sainted doctor of the Roman church, claims the same power for the Roman priests. He says:

*The priest has the power of the keys, or the power of delivering sinners from hell, of making them worthy of paradise, and of changing them from the slaves of Satan into the children of God. And God himself is obliged to abide by the judgment of his priest.... The sovereign Master of the universe only follows the servant by confirming in heaven all that the latter decides upon earth.*¹⁸

Pope Innocent III wrote:

*Indeed, it is not too much to say that in view of the sublimity of their offices, the priests are so many gods.*¹⁸

¹⁵ Lucius Ferraris, *Prompta Bibliotheca Canonica Juridica Moralis Theologica*, vol. 6 (Venice, Italy: Gaspar Storti, 1772), 6:48.

¹⁶ Charles Herbermann et al, "Pope," *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, (New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1912), 12:265

¹⁷ Catholic Church, *The Great Encyclical Letters of Pope Leo XIII* (New York: Benziger Brothers, 1903), 193, 304.

¹⁸ Saint Alphonsus de Liguori, *Dignity and Duties of the Priest*, (Benziger Brothers, Printers to the Holy Apostolic See, 1888) 27-28, 36.

The Pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ but HE IS JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF hidden under the veil of flesh.¹⁹ (Author's emphasis).

In 1335 Bishop Alvarez Pelayo laid down the doctrine that as Christ partook of the nature of God, so the Pope... is not simply a man, but rather a God on earth.²⁰

Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. v6

The above claims of the Pope amount to blasphemy against God's name, however the Papacy also blasphemes God's tabernacle. God's tabernacle is the Great Temple, the sanctuary in heaven.

Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. Hebrews 8:1-2

The temple of the tabernacle... in heaven was opened. Revelation 15:5

The Papacy has blasphemed God's heavenly tabernacle by setting up an earthly counterfeit tabernacle, in which are offered counterfeit sacrifices by a counterfeit priesthood to a counterfeit god.

The Papacy also blasphemes *those who dwell in heaven*. Apart from the Godhead, the other dwellers in heaven are the millions of angels, the messengers of God. The Papacy blasphemes them by claiming that the priests are greater than the angels and that the Pope can even excommunicate the angels.

The sacerdotal (priestly) dignity also surpasses the dignity of the angels.... All the angels in heaven cannot absolve from a single sin... the holy archangel can chase away devils, but he cannot free his client from their claims till a priest comes to absolve him... If I saw an angel and a priest, I would bend my knee first to the priest and then to the angel.²¹

The Pope is crowned with a triple crown, as king of heaven and of earth and of the lower regions... so that if it were possible that the angels might err in the faith, they could be judged and excommunicated by the Pope....²²

10. A persecuting power

It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them... v7

The word *saint* means a *holy one*, that is, one who is free from sin - one who belongs to God. The only way anyone can be free from their sins is by accepting the shed blood of Christ as payment for their sins.

¹⁹ Pius X, *The Catholic National*, (Paris, France: Benziger Brothers Publishing), July 13 1895.

²⁰ Henry C Lea, *Studies in Church History* (London: Sampson, Low, Son & Marston 1869), 389.

²¹ Saint Alphonsus de Liguori, 31.

²² Lucius Ferraris, 6:48.

...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin. I John 1:7

This action involves only true believers in Christ, that is, true Christians. However the Papacy has made war on true Christians. Note the official attitude of the Papacy toward those who dissent.

Much more can heretics (dissenters) after they are convicted of heresy, be not only forthwith excommunicated, but as surely put to death.²³

When she thinks it good to use physical force, she will use it... But will the Catholic Church give bond that she will not persecute at all ? ... The Catholic Church gives no bonds for her good behavior.²⁴

Professor Baudrillart, Rector of the Catholic Institute of Paris and later a cardinal, writes that the Papacy has employed physical force against dissenters:

The Catholic Church... loudly proclaims that she has, a 'horror of blood.' Nevertheless when confronted by heresy she... has recourse to force, to corporal punishment, to torture. She creates tribunals like those of the Inquisition... encourages a crusade, or a religious war... Especially did she act thus in the sixteenth century with regard to Protestants... she lit in Italy, in the Low countries and above all in Spain the funeral piles of the Inquisition. In France... and in England... she tortured the heretics whilst both in France and Germany... she encouraged and actively aided the religious wars. No one will deny that we have here a great scandal to our contemporaries..."

Indeed, even among our friends and our brothers we find those who dare not look this problem in the face. They ask permission from the Church to ignore or even deny all those acts and institutions in the past which have made orthodoxy compulsory.²⁵

This book bears the sanction of the Roman Catholic authorities, and of their "Censor".

Dr J. Dowling wrote:

From the birth of Popery in 606, to the present time, it is estimated by careful and credible historians, that more than fifty million of the human family, have been slaughtered for the crime of heresy by popish persecutors, an average of more than forty thousand religious murders for every year of the existence of Popery.²⁶

Dr. W.E.H. Lecky wrote:

That the Church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among man kind, will be questioned by no Protestant who has a competent knowledge of history. The memorials, indeed, of many of her persecutions are now so scanty, that is it impossible to form a complete

²³ Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica: A Concise Translation*, ed. Timothy McDermott (Grand Rapids MI: Christian Classics, 1991),

²⁴ Father Phelan, in *The Western Watchman*, (St Louis: Western Watchman Publishing Co., 1908), 24 Dec 1908.

²⁵ Alfred Baudrillart, *The Catholic Church, the Renaissance, and Protestantism* (New York: Benziger Brothers, 1908), 182-184.

²⁶ John Dowling, *History of Romanism* (New York: Edward Walker, 1845), 541-542.

*conception of the multitude of her victims, and it is quite certain that no power of imagination can adequately realize their sufferings.*²⁷

The Anglican Scholar, Dr. H. Grattan Guinness, wrote:

*It has been calculated that the popes of Rome have directly or indirectly slain 50 millions of men and women who refused to be parties to Romish idolatries, who held to the Bible as the Word of God.*²⁸

These distasteful accounts of history abundantly confirm that the Papacy fulfils this ninth specification of the Antichrist.

11. Has a number - 666

Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666. v18 (See Appendix A)

In the Catholic Douay version of the Bible there is a footnote inserted by the Catholic translators which reads:

666. The numeral letters of his name shall make up this number.

This name represents the number of a man. The man predominant in the Papal system is unquestionably the Pope. The title *pope* means *father*. The word *Papacy* is also from the word *father*. This is in spite of Jesus' command:

But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ and you are all brethren. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. Matthew 23:8-9

The holy father is the man of the Papacy. As footnoted in the Douay Bible the numeral letters of his name, then, should make up the number 666. Therefore it is essential that the official name of the Bishop of Rome be confirmed as following the instruction in the footnote of the official Catholic Bible.

Six Catholic authorities are unanimous that the official name or title of the Pope is *Vicarius Filii Dei*, that is, *Vicar of the Son of God*. These authorities are:

1. The *Decretum* of Gratian - the founder of the science of Canon Law - 1148-1582 AD
2. The Revised Edition of the above authority - 1582 until now.
3. *The Roman Catholic Encyclopedia* of F. Lucii Ferraris, Volume 6, page 48.
4. Cardinal Manning, *The Temporal Power of the Vicar of Jesus Christ*, (231-232).
5. Philippe Labbe a distinguished Jesuit writer, *Sacrosancta Concilia Ad Regiam Editionem Exacta*. (Volume 1, page 1534).
6. Cardinal Gibbons, Baltimore, USA ,1904, in an official letter to an enquirer wrote:

²⁷ W.E.H. Lecky, *History of Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe* (London: Longman Green & Co, 1866), 2:32.

²⁸ Grattan Guinness, *The Approaching End of the Age* (London: Hodder and Straughton, 1879), 212.

On past occasions, at the coronation of the Popes, the presiding cardinal archdeacon, as he placed the crown upon the head of the new pope declared:

“Vicarius Filii Dei - Vicar of the Son of God”.

Calculating the number

Let us see if the numbers of the name Vicarius Filii Dei add up to 666.

Latin - In the Latin language there are seven numerals (originally there were six).

V	=	5	F	=	0	D	=	500
I	=	1	I	=	1	E	=	0
C	=	100	L	=	50	I	=	1
A	=	0	I	=	1			
R	=	0	I	=	1			
I	=	1						
U	=	5						
S	=	0						
		112	+		53	+		501 = 666

Without any manipulation each numeral of the Pope’s title adds up to exactly 666.

John Wycliffe is regarded as The Morning Star of the Protestant Reformation. Wycliffe’s followers were called Lollards. These believers claimed that 666 applied to one of the Pope’s other titles, Dux Cleri. Walter Brute, a Welsh layman, Oxford graduate and martyr, is on record as applying Dux Cleri to the popes.²⁹ It is claimed that whenever the Pope signs an official document, the signature is Dux Cleri, meaning Head of the Clergy.

Significantly, this official signature also adds up to exactly 666.

D	=	500	C	=	100
U	=	5	L	=	50
X	=	10	E	=	0
			R	=	0
			I	=	1
		515	+		151 = 666

²⁹ Le Roy Froom, *The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers* (Washington, DC: Review and Herald, 1954) 2:74. Edward B. Elliot, *Horae Apocalypticae*, 5 ed.(London: Seeley, Jackson and Halliday, 1862); Le Roy Froom, *The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers* (Washington, DC: Review and Herald, 1954), 2:74.

This means that whenever the Pope signs an official document, he signs 666.

It is interesting to note that when the identifying titles of Jesus Christ were nailed to the cross at Calvary, they were written in three languages.

*Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was:
JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.*

Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. John 19:19-20.

The Antichrist also is identified in the same languages, and in all these three languages the Pope's name adds up to the numerals 666.

Hebrew - The Hebrew term for the Roman power was *Romiith*. Unlike Latin, every letter serves as a numeral in the Hebrew language.

R	=	200
O	=	6
M	=	40
I	=	10
I	=	10
TH	=	<u>400</u>
Total	=	666

Greek - The Greek term for *The Latin People* (the Romans) was *Lateinos*. In the Greek language every letter also serves as a number. Lateinos was the god of the year, the sun god, from whom the Latins claimed descent...they also claimed their language was a sacred language dedicated to the worship of their god...it seems little less than genius that the Latins were able to devise a numerical system in which when these six letters were chosen they added up to the number 666.³⁰

While *The Latins* (Grk *Lateinos*) was originally applied to the Romans, the Latin language became central to the Papal system of worship.

*They Latinize in everything. Mass, prayers, hymns, Litanies, Canons, Decretals, Bulls – all are in Latin. The Papal councils speak Latin. The Latin Vulgate... is the only authentic Version. All things with them are Latin.*³¹

*The pope still speaks and writes... in his official capacity in Latin. Latin is stamped on the whole papal system.*³²

³⁰ Murl Vance, *The Trail of the Serpent* (Pune, India: Oriental Watchman Publishing 1991),119-120.

³¹ Albert Close, *Antichrist and His Ten Kingdoms*, 4th ed. (London: Thyme and Co., 1944),115.

³² *Ibid.*, (quoting Rev Joseph Tanner, MA)

It is not surprising that the head of such a system would be flagged in prophecy and identified by the number of the name, as follows:

L A T E I N O S

$$30 + 1 + 300 + 5 + 10 + 50 + 70 + 200 = 666$$

The number 666 was sacred to sun worship. It originated in Babylon and had great significance.

It was the great master summary number of paganism. It sums up all 36 gods of the Babylonian astrological system. (The summary number of 36 is 666).³³

666 had a widespread use in the mysteries as a secret number referring to Lucifer and to his earthly representative or mouthpiece...there may be far more to the xxx (666) found so frequently in mystic and church art than appears on the surface.³⁴

The sacred solar seal with its 36 numbered compartments added up to 666. This was the Sigillum Solus, seal of the sun, with which Jesus was sealed in the tomb (Matthew 27:62-66). This number 'holds in its embrace the whole realm of pagan deities. This number summarizes, as does no other sacred number in all paganism, the gamut of pagan idolatry – it is above all others the truly universal number of the apostasy ... these numbers apply in a peculiar and significant way to any religion which is based on astrology and claims universality'.³⁵

The number 666 lies in the very nature of pagan idolatry, which as we have seen, is nothing but disguised demon worship.

Father Montfaucon tells us that demon worship was carried on in the early church by those claiming to be bishops of Christ.³⁶

This occurred when the church was descending into apostasy.

There is also a connection between the three fingers of the "blessing hand" and three 'waws' or 6's³⁷ which we must not overlook. The Jesuit Kircher pictures this hand with three commas on the upraised fingers and we find the same marking repeatedly in the works of the secret societies...the history of three upraised fingers, or two fingers and a thumb, as used in the blessing hand runs very deeply into paganism.³⁸

Thus, whenever the Pope presents his hand in blessing, he is actually invoking the power of Lucifer.

³³ Adding every number from 1 to 36 totals 666. Thus 36 is the *summary number* for 666.

³⁴ Murl Vance, 112.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, 85.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, 104 -108.

³⁷ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waw_\(letter\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waw_(letter))

³⁸ *Ibid.*, 113, 126.

The Babylonian priests wore a popular amulet which contained numbers in a square that added up to 666. The Roman priests wore a similar amulet which had the same numbers.

12. Politically supreme for 1260 years

...he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. v5

The margin reads *to make war for forty-two months*.

He was allowed to exert authority for forty-two months. (Moffatt, Phillips)

This is a symbolic prophecy. Therefore any time mentioned in the prophecy must be taken as symbolic. This is an important principle of prophetic interpretation.

Remember, however, that symbols in prophecy only apply until the Second Advent. Therefore the time period of Revelation Chapter 13 must begin prior to the Second Advent and must have a symbolic application - specifically: a day for a year.³⁹

In a Bible month there are 30 days. Therefore forty-two months calculates to 1260 symbolic days or 1260 literal years. This time period is mentioned seven times in the books of Daniel and Revelation and it always refers to the same period. It is an important key in the prophetic interpretation of these books.

Any attempt to give this period a literal application of three and a half literal years must always be rejected. The Jesuit Futuristic system uses this method in an attempt to destroy this vital key and thereby avoid the stigma of the Papacy being identified as the Antichrist.

The year when the Papacy achieved political supremacy was 538 AD. Four events transpired in 538 AD which led to the Papacy becoming supreme at that time:

1. The Arian (anti-Catholic) kingdom of the Ostrogoths who had controlled Italy, was conquered and soon thereafter disappeared. This was the last of the three kingdoms that had stood in the Papacy's path to political power.⁴⁰
2. Roman Catholicism was made the official religion of the state. In 533 AD Justinian had decreed the Pope to be the *Universal Bishop of the World and the Corrector of Heretics*. In 538 AD this decree was made effective. This commenced a new era in history. It marked the commencement of the Middle Ages.⁴¹
3. In 538 AD the Papacy itself underwent a great change. Until this year the Bishops of Rome were counted as *saints*, but from 538 onwards they were considered as rulers of state. This was because they were now political rulers.⁴²
4. In 538 AD the persecution of non-Catholics commenced. Justinian decreed that all must join the Catholic Church or leave the empire and have their goods

³⁹ The principle of a year representing a day in Bible prophecy is confirmed in Ezekiel 4:6 *I assign you a day for each year.* RSV.

⁴⁰ The three kingdoms that were uprooted to make way for the supremacy of the Papacy were the Heruli, the Vandals and the Ostrogoths.

⁴¹ George Finlay, *Greece under the Romans* (London: Clarendon Press, 1877), 198, 240.

⁴² Charles Bemont and Gabriel Monod, *Medieval Europe* (New York: Henry Holt, 1902), 120.

confiscated. This resulted in the flight and subsequent massacre of hundreds of thousands who endeavored to escape.⁴³

Darkness descends

The year 538 AD commenced the awful era of papal persecution that produced many millions of martyrs and which today is an embarrassment to so many Catholics.⁴⁴

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. v8

This was truly the situation in the world of the era over which the Papacy presided. All submitted except for a faithful minority of saints who were hounded, persecuted and martyred. 538 AD marked the beginning of the Middle Ages, also known as the Dark Ages.

Because it was the period when the Papacy dominated Europe, the Catholic Church has undertaken to falsify the historical picture in order to improve her image. The Dark Ages have been glamorized as an age of chivalry, of peace, unity and glory. Unfortunately, the exact opposite was the case. It was an age of oppression, superstition and fear. It was a time of feudalism, of appalling ignorance and of prolonged persecution. As the learned historian, Dr James Wylie declared

*The noon of the Papacy was the midnight of the world.*⁴⁵

Dr N. Summerbell wrote:

*The Dark Ages, introduced by the persecution of an enlightened church in the sanguinary wars of Justinian to exalt the Catholics, continued up to the fourteenth century. It was a long, dark night when ignorance, bigotry and cruelty reigned, and truth, purity and justice were crushed out.*⁴⁶

Another author also wrote:

*The noontide of the papacy was the world's moral midnight. The Holy Scriptures were almost unknown, not only to the people, but to the priests..... God's law, the standard of righteousness, having been removed, they exercised power without limit, and practiced vice without restraint. Fraud, avarice, and profligacy prevailed. Men shrank from no crime by which they could gain wealth or position..... For centuries Europe had made no progress in learning, arts, or civilization. A moral and intellectual paralysis had fallen upon Christendom.*⁴⁷

The prediction stated that the beast was to continue to make war for forty-two months or 1260 years. The Papacy is the only power in history that has reigned supreme for that period of time. It covers the majority of the Christian era.

⁴³ Nicholas Summerbell, *History of the Christian Church*, 310-311.

⁴⁴ Alfred Baudrillart, *The Catholic Church, the Renaissance and Protestantism* (London: K. Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co. Ltd., 1908), 184.

⁴⁵ J.A. Wylie, *The History of Protestantism* (London: Cassell and Co. Ltd., 1878), 1:16.

⁴⁶ Nicholas Summerbell, *History of the Christian Church*, 34.

⁴⁷ Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy* (Mountain View, CA.: Pacific Press Publishing Assn., 1898); Nicholas Summerbell, *Ibid*.

Many enquire as to the reason why Heaven would have permitted such a vast period of oppression, especially upon the saints of God. There are two probable reasons:

1. This world is an object lesson for the unfallen universe. In permitting the Papacy full reign, God revealed to the universe the results of the principles of Satan's rule. The Papacy is the masterpiece of Satan's deception and during the 1260 year period, the universe saw what would result when Satanic principles dominate.
2. The extended period of persecution kept the true church pure. Had affluence and popularity been the lot of the true church, it would have been ruined by corruption and apostasy, as was the early church. Persecution maintained the purity of the faith.

This brings us to the thirteenth point of identification, which gives us the end point for the 1260 year period.

13. A mortal wound

And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded... v3

mortally wounded (TCNT and Weymouth)

a death blow (NEB)

a mortal wound (RSV)

slain (margin KJV)

He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints. v10

This verse parallels the first part of v3.⁴⁸ The supremacy of the Papacy was to continue for 1260 years. Therefore the deadly blow would not be dealt until the 1260 years were concluded.

The 1260 years of Papal political power ended in 1798. It was in this year that the predictions were fulfilled concerning *the deadly wound* and of going *into captivity* and of being *killed with the sword*.

It is important to recognize that it was the head of the beast that received the deadly wound. It was not the Roman Catholic Church as such that was wounded or slain. The Catholic Church has continued to function.

The Papacy is a union of church and state, of religious and civil power. The beast represents the political aspect of the church. In Revelation Chapter 17, which is an amplification of Revelation Chapter 13, the religious element is symbolized by the harlot and the civil or political element is symbolized by the seven-headed beast on which the harlot rides.

⁴⁸ At that time (1798) the pope was made captive by the French army, the papal power received its deadly wound and the prediction was fulfilled – *He that leads into captivity shall go into captivity*. Cited in Ellen G. White, 439.

An incorrect application

Some claim that the deadly wound was administered by the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century; but that event occurred before the close of the 1260 year period. The Reformation hurt the Catholic Church in certain countries of Europe, but it did not slay the political element. The Papacy continued to war against the saints more strongly than ever. It organized the Counter Reformation which amounted to open war against Protestantism. The Papacy established the terrible order of the Jesuits, whose sole purpose was to destroy Protestantism and to elevate the position of Papacy. The Papacy inspired the Thirty Years War in an endeavour to win Europe back to Catholicism. The Papacy was alive and well after the Reformation.

The deadly wound to the head of the Papacy occurred in 1798 at the behest of the Revolutionary government of France. It directed General Berthier to invade Italy and destroy the Papacy.

*There is one thing more essential to the attainment of the end desired and that is to destroy, if possible, the centre of unity of the Roman Church.*⁴⁹

In response Berthier arrested Pope Pius VI and gave orders for the abolition of the Papacy. He carried the Pope prisoner to France where he died the following year. Italy was declared a republic. This momentous event was recognized by authorities as the death-knell of the Papacy.

*Berthier entered Rome on the 10th of February, 1798 and proclaimed a republic. ...Half of Europe thought Napoleon's veto would be obeyed and that with the pope the Papacy was dead.*⁵⁰

*Orators deliver its (the Papacy's) funeral oration with a joyous blasphemous irony. It has ceased to exist. It well seems as if everything were finished.*⁵¹

*Rarely during all its history has the church known a more critical situation.... In short, Catholicism as a whole seems dying.*⁵²

The stripping of the church's political power constituted the deadly wound. The church continued as a religious body but the political element was destroyed. A secular government was established.

*... a proclamation was issued, declaring... a free and independent republic, under the special protection of the French army. A provisional government was acknowledged, as established by the sovereign people; and every other temporal authority emanating from the pope was suppressed, nor was he any longer to exercise any function.*⁵³

⁴⁹ Francois-Alphonse Aulard, *Christianity and the French Revolution* (New York: H. Fertig, 1966),151.

⁵⁰ Joseph Rickaby, *The Modern Papacy*, Lectures on the History of Religion (London: The Catholic Truth Society, 1910),1.

⁵¹ Jean Lefflon, Historian, at the Catholic Institute of Paris, 1798.

⁵² Joseph Schmidlin, *Histoire Des Papes De l'epoque Contemporaine* (Paris: L. Marchal, 1938),1 Pie VII,4.

⁵³ John Adolphus, *The History of France* (London: George Kearsley, 1802), 2:364-365.

It was the Papal government that was slain. While various attempts were made to recover her political power, they were not successful. After seventy years of lingering between life and death, the Papacy gave its last gasp when Victor Emmanuel annexed the Papal territories and became the political head of Italy. (See Appendix B for detailed historical data). However the initial wound was inflicted in 1798.

14. The wound heals

...and his deadly wound was healed... v3

If the inflicting of the wound was the loss of the Papacy's political power, then the healing of the wound must be the restoration of its political power. At the turn of the 18th century the world in general believed that the Papacy was finished. To all appearances the restoration of its former power appeared to be an impossibility but the Biblical prediction 1900 years before had declared that *its deadly wound was healed*.

Today the fulfillment of this prediction is indisputable. The Papacy's political power has revived. An almost unbelievable change has occurred. The recovery began around the time of the Great War of 1914 -1918 and climaxed in 1929. In that year Mussolini, dictator of Italy, officially restored to the Papacy her political power. The Pope became a king again: he had the right to rule. He was able to re-establish the Papal court and the Papacy was once again recognized as a political entity.

To commemorate the treaty, Mussolini constructed a special street leading from Rome to the Vatican called *The Avenue of Reconciliation*. This treaty was recognized and published as a *healing*.

A crowd, tense with excitement, is here to witness the passage of these two men (Mussolini and Cardinal Gaspari) whose pen will HEAL A WOUND of fifty-nine years.⁵⁴ (Author's emphasis)

In affixing their autographs to the memorable document, HEALING THE WOUND which festered since the 1700's, extreme cordiality was displayed on both sides.⁵⁵

More than eighteen hundred years after the prediction by John in Revelation, the identical term is unwittingly employed to describe the fulfillment of this remarkable prophecy.

15. Antichrist's power is restored

...And all the world marveled and followed the beast. v3

...and they worshipped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" v4

...and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast (Papacy), whose deadly wound was healed. v12

Since 1929 the Papacy's revival and restoration has amazed the world. One hundred years ago, no Roman Catholic could hold public office in Great Britain or the United

⁵⁴ *The Catholic Advocate* (Brisbane Australia), 18 April, 1929

⁵⁵ *San Francisco Chronicle*, 12 February, 1929.

States. The Roman Catholic Church was a hated and despised church. It was considered by millions to be unchristian, pagan, idolatrous, degrading and oppressive and a curse to the community.

Today Roman Catholicism is looked upon in exactly the opposite light. It represents an amazing reversal of public opinion.

Today Catholic institutions in Great Britain are more powerful than before the Reformation. In the USA the position of the Papacy is even more impressive. She occupies a dominant position with regard to its policies and matters of control. As J. Rickaby of the Society of Jesuits, declared:

Yet since then (1798) the Papacy has been lifted to a pinnacle of spiritual power unreachd maybe since earliest Christian history.⁵⁶

The place of the Papacy in world affairs seems to stand out in bolder relief than at almost any other epoch of its long existence.⁵⁷

As it reached the Atomic Age, the Catholic Church found itself in perhaps the most powerful condition in its history, in terms of numbers, influence and prestige.⁵⁸

The extent of Antichrist's end-time power

...And all the world marveled and followed the beast. v3

Various translations concur that the extent of Antichrist's restoration will be worldwide.

The whole earth went after the beast in wonder. (Moffatt)

The whole earth went after the beast in amazement and wonder. (Amp. Bible)

The whole earth went after the beast with wonder. (RSV)

The whole earth went after the beast in wondering admiration. (NEB)

The whole earth followed the animal with wonder. (Phillips)

The whole earth was amazed and followed the beast. (GNB)

How it will attain world dominion

Revelation 13:11-17 reveals how the Papacy will attain world dominion. A particular nation enforces Papal recognition and special methods will be employed to bring about universal acceptance of papal worship.⁵⁹

This is a tremendous prediction. It reveals how world events will finally work out. The ultimate power to wield world control is not Communism, Russia or China. It is the Papacy.

⁵⁶ Joseph Rickaby, 1.

⁵⁷ Bishop James Ryan, *New York Times*, 12 May, 1940.

⁵⁸ Time Magazine, *1962 Person of the Year*, January 4, 1963.

⁵⁹ See A.P.Cooke, *When Religious Persecution Returns* (Sydney: Self-published, 2010),

Conclusion

In the final conflict that is soon to envelop the world there will be only two sides; two groups. There will be those who worship and obey the Beast and those who worship and obey the Lamb. It will be a choice between truth and tradition; the law of God and the laws of men, between Jesus Christ and Antichrist.

Appendix A

Murl Vance

Murl Vance is considered by many to be the greatest authority on the number 666. He was a theology graduate from Pacific Union College in the United States of America. He spent twenty years researching the number 666, and produced 25,000 pages of microfilmed evidence in support of the claim that the number 666 is the master number of paganism and of the secret societies such as Freemasonry and, in particular, Catholicism. He proved beyond question that 666 truly applies to the Pope and identifies him as the disguised High Priest of Witchcraft, a position which originated in ancient Babylon.

While the author was visiting him in Los Angeles in 1956, Murl Vance donated a copy of his extended research. This was subsequently published in India in two volumes entitled: *The Trail of the Serpent* and *Breaking the Code of the Secret Societies*

The penalty for disclosing such secrets is death. It appears that as a result of his disclosures, Murl Vance was murdered.

Appendix B

The mortal wound to the Papacy

The historical record of how the Papacy's mortal wound was inflicted is given in *Historians History of the World*, Vol. IX (1908 ed)

In 1798 General Berthier, at the order of the French Government...in February, 1798, occupied its capital (Rome). Their General demanded that the pope should resign his temporal sovereignty, retaining his universal bishopric, and receiving a large pension. Pius obstinately refusing, was carried into Tuscany and thence into France, where he died.... On the 20th March, 1798 the constitution of the Roman or Tiberine Republic was formally proclaimed. (p 556)

In 1799 the French armies were forced to withdraw from Italy.

In 1800 a new Pope was elected, who was restored to ruler ship of the Tiberine; the Roman Republic.

Meanwhile the old Pope having died the preceding year, a conclave which opened at Venice in March, 1800, had raised to the papal chair, Cardinal Chiarmonti... he was allowed by all parties to return to Rome and assume the government of the provinces which had formed the Tiberine Republic. (p 564)

In 1809 the Papal throne was again overturned. "...The Papal state was openly claimed as a fief hold under Napoleon...

In May, 1809, Napoleon dated... a decree which annexed to the French Empire those provinces of the papal state which had not already been seized. The Pope...was transported into France... where he was kept a close prisoner till 1811. (p 571)

After the fall of the popedom, an attempt was made to give unity and a show of independence to the Italian provinces of the empire. (p 573)

After the fall of Bonaparte in 1815, most of the territories of the church in Italy were restored to the Pope. An attempt was made to restore the pre-Napoleonic conditions, but a new spirit of national independence was astir.

Insurrection broke out in the Papal States due to the maladministration of Popes Leo XII and Pius VIII.

The subjects of the papal provinces declared openly against the temporal sovereignty of the pope, and on the 26th February, deputies from all the revolted states united in proclaiming a new republic. (p 586)

However, the political heads of the allied nations put down these insurrections by arms. The Holy See had all its possessions restored and

...the leading powers of Europe interposed to recommend concessions by the Pope to his subjects.

1848 - Insurrection in Rome. The minister of Pius IX was assassinated. The Pope fled to Gaeta.

1849 - A Republic was declared in Rome under Mazzini. However France sent an army to Italy, which restored the Pope's position. (p.597)

1870 - The French leave Rome. Victor Emmanuel enters Rome and annexes the Papal Territories to Italy. The Pope appeals to the King of Prussia, but in vain. The Pope retires to the Vatican and styles himself in protest *The Prisoner of the Vatican* and refuses to leave. (p.622-623)

It is clear that 1798 marked the initial wounding of the Papacy. The election of another Pope did not necessarily restore Papal power. It was an attempt to do so, but the history summarized above shows that while the Papacy endeavored to regain control over the people of Italy, the people themselves rejected Papal authority.

The Pope was kept in office by foreign powers, not by the support of his own people. Finally the support of all foreign powers was withdrawn and the Pope in styling himself as *prisoner of the Vatican* in effect admitted that his political power had vanished.

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