



## THE ANTICHRIST OF BIBLE PROPHECY

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The Bible gives 17 different distinguishing points that clearly identify this apostate power.

1. It is a power that was to arise during the time of the kingdoms which immediately followed Rome. Daniel 7:24.
2. It was to be a "diverse" or different power than any of the previous kingdoms. (That is to say it was to be a religious power as well as a political one.) Daniel 7:24.
3. It was to ascend the throne of the Caesars. Revelation 13:2.
4. It was to receive its power and authority from Rome. Revelation 13:2.
5. This power was to destroy three kingdoms in its rise to supremacy. Daniel 7:24.
6. It was to maintain its power for a period of 1260 years. Daniel 7:25.
7. At the end of the 1260 years, this power was to receive a "deadly wound." Revelation 13:3.
8. The "wound" would eventually be healed. Revelation 13:3, 12.
9. During this 1260 years it was to make war against God's people. Daniel 7:21.
10. It would speak "great things" against God. Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5.
11. It was to be guilty of blasphemy. Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5, 6.
12. It would think itself able to change God's time and His law. Daniel 7:25.
13. The man at the head of this power exalts himself above God. 2 Thessalonians 2:4.
14. He claims to be God. 2 Thessalonians 2:4.
15. It would have the incriminating number 666, which is a man's number. Revelation 13:18.
16. It would be an amazing world-wide power. Revelation 13:5
17. It shall deceive multitudes into accepting its "mark" and following her into perdition. Revelation 13:16; 14:9-10.

"Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding *count* the number of the beast: for it is the number of a *man*; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six." (Revelation 13:18) Here we find that it has a number of 666 and it is the number of a "man," not the number of a computer, a bar code, or any of the other wild and fanciful theories being circulated today. It is a man's number, but does this number apply to a man within the Roman Catholic church? As in each of the previous specifications, we shall once again let the church of Rome answer for itself with the following quotation from one of its official papers:

"Question - Is it true that the words of the Apocalypse in the 13th Chapter 18th verse refer to the Pope? "Answer -The words referred to are these 'Here is wisdom. He that hath understanding, let him count the number of the beast. For it is the number of a man; and the number of him is six hundred sixty-six.' The title of the Pope of Rome is Vicarius Filii Dei. This is inscribed on his mitre; and if you take the letters of his title which represent Latin numerals (printed large) and add them together, they come to 666:

V I C ar I V s f I L I I De I  
5 1 100 1 5 1 50 1 1 500 1 = 666

Add these together and the results are 666." (Our Sunday Visitor, Nov. 1, 1914)

Why they would ever have let such an amazing admission as this slip into their publications is most difficult to understand, but with her own mouth the Church of Rome pleads guilty before the bar of

the universe that she is the antichrist of Bible prophecy. We must keep in mind, however, that the number 666 is only one of 17 specifications which identify this power, and there is not anyone, anywhere, able to find another power in all the earth, other than the Roman Catholic church which fills all 17 of these biblical points.

These biblical facts not new teachings, but ancient teachings of the Christian church that have been suppressed. For centuries God's people have presented these Bible truths, even at the cost of their lives. It has been estimated that before the Protestant Reformation as many as 150,000,000 were martyred for standing in opposition to this apostate power.

Many of the great Christians of previous centuries, including those of the Reformation, shared this biblical understanding of prophetic truth and identified the antichrist with the Roman Papacy. Among them were the Waldenses, Albigenses, Huguenots, Huss, Jerome, Wyclif, Luther, Calvin, Zwingle, Melancton, Osiander, Gill, the martyrs - Crammer, Tyndale, Latimer, Ridley, and a host of others.

John Calvin wrote in a letter to Charles V: "I deny that see (the pope) to be... the vicar of Christ who, in furiously persecuting the gospel, demonstrates by his conduct that he is antichrist... and I deny him to be the head of the church, who by his tyranny lacerates and dismembers the church after dissevering her from Christ, her true and only head." (Tracts Relating to the Reformation, Vol. 1, pp. 219, 220)

Ulrich Zwingle declared: "I know that in it (the Papacy) works the might and power of the Devil, that is, of the Antichrist. Yet I cannot approve their proclaiming the Word of God solely because of their hatred against the Pope. I desire much more that the love of God would be their motive in resisting Antichrist." (Hauptschriften, Vol. 7, p. 135)

Andreas Osiander stated in 1524: "I proved to my listeners, solely from the Holy Scriptures, who this Antichrist is, simply by lining up all the texts referring to him, and did not need to give any additional comments on them... When Constantine moved out of Rome, the Antichrist moved in." (Moller, Andreas Osiander, pp. 13, 14)

Martin Luther agonized: "O' how much pain it has caused me, though I had the Scriptures on my side... that I should dare to make a stand alone against the pope, and hold him forth as antichrist. Twas so I fought with myself and with Satan, till Christ, by His own infallible word, fortified my heart against these doubts." (Martyn, pp. 372, 373)

The final identifying point of the Antichrist is that this power will have a universal mark of its power and authority, which will be enforced upon all mankind through boycott and eventually a death decree. There will be a union of church and state to enforce this mark, which will stand in contrast to God's seal.

Once the Protestants join hands with the Catholics and Spiritualists and seek the power of the civil authority in enforcing their decrees, the world will then be plunged into the most dreadful campaign imaginable, for we read: "He had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads. And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." (Revelation 13:15-17)

Now that we have verified the identity of this antichrist power, there remains only to discover what its mark is. This is a most important issue with which every individual upon this earth should concern himself, for whether or not one receives it shall result in either eternal life or eternal damnation. As can be seen in Revelation 14:9-11, the most awesome punishment to be handed out by God will fall upon those who receive this mark. "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name." (Revelation 14:9-11)

It is not difficult to discover what this mark is, for all we must do is ascertain if there is any teaching of the Roman Catholic Church that has been accepted by all people - Protestants, Catholics, and non-church members alike - and which can be considered a universal mark of acceptance by all people.