

VICARIUS FILLII DEI

by

Campbell M Gold

(2008)

CMG Archives
<http://campbellmgold.com>

--()--

Vicar of the Son of God (Vicarius Filii Dei) and the Number of the Beast - 666

Is the Pope the antichrist?

Many have asked this question, and many have linked the Pope with the beast/antichrist of the Book of Revelation. In support of this hypothesis, it is suggested that the 'number' of the beast or antichrist, as revealed by John as 666, equates to the Pope's title of, 'Vicarius Filii Dei' (Vicar of the Son of God).

This claim was strongly presented by the Seventh-day Adventist, Uriah Smith, in his book, *The United States in the Light of Prophecy*:

The pope wears upon his pontifical crown in jeweled letters, this title: "Vicarius Filii Dei," "Viceregent of the Son of God;" the numerical value of which title is just six hundred and sixty-six The most plausible supposition we have ever seen on this point is that here we find the number in question. It is the number of the beast, the papacy; it is the number of his name, for he adopts it as his distinctive title; it is the number of a man, for he who bears it is the "man of sin."

(*The United States in the Light of Prophecy*, Uriah Smith, Battle Creek, Michigan: Seventh-day Adventist Publishing Association (1884), 4th edition, p.224)

Papal Tiara

It is suggested that the papal tiara has inscribed upon it the designation, 'Vicarius Filii Dei' (Vicar of the Son of God). A protestant woman visiting Rome, in or around 1832, said that she 'witnessed' Pope Gregory XVI wearing a crown with the words on it

Moreover, the papal tiara was routinely worn, and seen, before and after a Pontifical Mass at the Vatican, as noted in the following Catholic Encyclopaedia entry extract:

Pontifical Mass

The solemn pontifical Mass celebrated by the pope in St. Peter's has some peculiar ceremonies... The pope, wearing the falda, amice, alb, cincture, pectoral cross, stola, cope (mantum), and tiara is carried into the basilica on the *sedia gestatoria* under the canopy and with the two *flabella* borne



on either side... The pope returns to the altar to finish the Mass. After the blessing the assistant priest publishes the plenary indulgence. At the end of the last Gospel the pope goes to the *sedia gestatoria*, puts on the tiara, and returns in procession as he had entered. (*The Catholic Encyclopedia*, 1911, Vol 12, Online, <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12232a.htm>)

The Beast

The beast/antichrist is described by John in the Book of Revelation:

- Rev 13:16 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:
- Rev 13:17 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.
- Rev 13:18 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. (*The Bible - King James Version*)

Thus, according to Rev 13:16-18, there are three distinct characteristics that identify the beast:

- 1) The mark (e.g. barcode delimiters (binary) - 0110 ... 0110 ... 0110 = 666)
- 2) The name (e.g. Vicarius Filii Dei)
- 3) The number of the name (e.g. 666)

Vicarius Filii Dei

Literal Meaning:

- 'Vicarius' - means 'substituting for', or 'in place of'
- 'Filii' - means 'son'
- 'Dei' - means 'God'

Latin Numerological Analysis

The following tables equate Latin numerals with their decimal values, and apply this to 'Vicarius Filii Dei':

Numeral	Name	Value
I	unus	1
V/U	quinque	5
X	decem	10
L	quingenta	50
C	centum	100
D	quingenti	500
M	mille	1000

Vicarius Filii Dei – Numerological Equivalent		
Vicarius	Filii	Dei
V = 5		
I = 1		
C = 100	F = n/a	
A = n/a	I = 1	D = 500
R = n/a	L = 50	E = n/a
I = 1	I = 1	I = 1
U = 5	I = 1	Total: 501
S = n/a	Total: 53	
Total: 112		
Totals: 112 + 53 + 501 = 666		

Conclusion

From the above, many believe that the Pope (Vicarius Filii Dei) is indeed the beast/antichrist (666).

--()--

The Other Side

According to official Catholic sources, there is no prima facie evidence of writing (e.g. Vicarius Feilii Dei) on papal Tiaras; and further, there is no prima facie evidence that 'Vicarius Feilii Dei' has ever been used as an 'official appellation' of the pope.

No evidence of writing on tiaras existing in 1832

As mentioned previously, a protestant woman visiting Rome, in or around 1832, said that she 'witnessed' Pope Gregory XVI wearing a crown with the words on it. And it is further claimed that Pope Gregory XVI had worn a papal tiara with these words clearly visible on it at a Pontifical High Mass, during Easter, 1845.

However, in 1832, when it was claimed that Gregory XVI was seen wearing a tiara with 'Vicarius Filii Dei' written thereon, only four tiaras were in existence:

- 1) One from the eighteenth century
- 2) A papier-mâché tiara, which was manufactured in 1800 during the papal exile that resulted from the occupation of Rome by French troops
- 3) The one given by Emperor Napoleon I to Pope Pius VII in 1804 (**Picture – Right**)
- 4) The 1820 tiara of Pope Pius VIII

No Pope has ever worn the 1804 tiara - it was deliberately designed, upon Napoleon's orders, to be too small to fit on a head, and much too heavy to wear. In any case, Popes refused to wear it on



principle, because it was made from parts of older tiaras, which had been broken up and stolen from the Vatican in 1798.

Consequently, Gregory XVI could only have been wearing one of three tiaras – 1) the 18th century tiara, 2) the tiara from 1800, and 3) the tiara from 1820.

All three tiaras exist, are on public display, and none contain writing. Further, the records of their manufacture and maintenance also contain no evidence supporting the claim of writing upon the Papal Tiara.

In consequence of no evidence of 'Vicarius Filii Dei' being found on any papal crown, it has been suggested that it exists on a papal mitre. However, the words have not been found on any of the vast number of mitres found in the Vatican. Also, references have been made to a 'triple tiered mitre'. However, mitres are not, and never have been, triple tiered - only the papal crown is triple tiered.

Conclusion

From the above, many believe that the Pope is not the beast/antichrist.

--()--

Final Word – From the Horse's Mouth

The following questions and answers appeared in, *Our Sunday Visitor*, the largest Catholic weekly in America:

Our Sunday Visitor, November 15th, 1914

Is it true that the words of the Apocalypse in the 13th chapter, 18th verse refer to the Pope?

The words referred to here: "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 Vicarivs 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:

VICARIVS FILII DEI
5 1 100 1 5 1 50 1 1 500 1

Add these together and the result will be 666.

This "argument" was submitted to Rev. Ernest R. Hull, and answered in the following manner: "Almost every eminent man in Christendom, who has enjoyed the privilege of possessing enemies, has had his name turned and twisted till they could get the number 666 out of it. In past history there have been numberless beasts or Anti-Christ's, all of whose names counted up to 666. I fancy that *my own name*, especially in Latin form, might give the number of the beast:

ERNSTVS REGINALDVS HVLL
5 1 50 500 5 5 50 50 - 666

Quod erat demonstrandum, namely, that Rev. Ernest R. Hull is Anti-Christ, or the Beast of the Apocalypse!"

Perhaps a little ingenuity with *your* name will show that you are the beast of the Apocalypse too.

(*Our Sunday Visitor*, P. 3, Sunday, November 15th, 1914)

Our Sunday Visitor, April 18th, 1915

What are the letters supposed to be in the pope's crown, and what do they signify, if anything?

The letters inscribed in the Pope's mitre are these: *Vicarius Filii Dei*, which is the Latin for Vicar of the Son of God. Catholics hold that the church which is a visible society must have a visible head. Christ, before His ascension into heaven, appointed St. Peter to act as His representative. Upon the death of Peter the man who succeeded to the office of Peter as Bishop of Rome, was recognised as the head of the Church. Hence the Bishop of Rome, as head of the Church, was given the title "Vicar of Christ."

Enemies of the Papacy denounce this title as a malicious assumption. But the Bible informs us that Christ did not only give His Church authority to teach, but to also rule. Laying claim to the authority to rule in Christ's spiritual kingdom, in Christ's stead, is not a whit more malicious than laying claim to the authority to teach in Christ's name. And this every Christian minister does.

(Our Sunday Visitor, P. 3, Sunday, April 18th, 1915)

Copies of Quoted Pages

Bureau of Information

Questions are answered, so far as possible, in the order received; hence those who seek information through this Bureau must not become impatient if the answer to their queries does not appear for several weeks after we receive same.

Why does the priest couch his right hand on the forehead of the penitent when he says, "I absolve thee?"

The words referred to are those: "There 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;

VICARIUS FILII DEI
V I C A R I U S F I L I I D E I
Add these together and the result will be 666.

This "argument" was submitted to Rev. Ernest R. Hull, and answered in the following manner: "Almost every eminent man in Christendom, who has enjoyed the privilege of possessing enemies, has had his name turned and twisted till they could get the number 666 out of it. In past history there have been numberless beasts or Anti-Christians, all of whose names counted up to 666. I fancy that my own name, especially in Latin form, might give the number of the beast:

ERNESTVS REYNALDVVS HVLL
E R N E S T V S R E Y N A L D V V S H V L L
Qvod erat demonstrandum, namely, that Rev. Ernest R. Hull is Anti-Christ, or the Beast of the Apocalypse."

Perhaps a little ingenuity with your name will show that you are the beast of the Apocalypse too.

Inquirer, West Lafayette, O.—It is right so long as there is no law forbidding it. "Why do you think evil within your heart?" Personally we are acquainted with unmarried Protestant ministers who are held in highest esteem.

A Worried Girl—Mention it the next time. Don't worry about the past.

From Page 3 of
OUR SUNDAY VISITOR
Sunday, November 15th, 1914

Bureau of Information

Questions are answered, so far as possible, in the order received; hence those who seek information through this Bureau must not become impatient if the answer to their queries does not appear for several weeks after we receive same.

After the death of a man's wife, would the laws of the Church permit him to marry his deceased wife's sister, who is at present tenderly caring for his children, and whom he loves for the sorrow she is making, without any personal or private nature are best answered by one's confessor.

Please explain the letters on the picture of "Our Lady of Perpetual Help."

The first two letters near the feet of the Divine Child are Greek.

A good Catholic will obey the laws of the state enacted for the maintenance and support of our Public School system.

What are the letters supposed to be in the Pope's crown, and what do they signify, if anything?

The letters inscribed in the Pope's mitre are these: *Vicarius Filii Dei*, which is the Latin for Vicar of the Son of God. Catholics hold that the Church which is a visible society must have a visible head. Christ, before His ascension into heaven, appointed St. Peter to act as His representative. Upon the death of Peter the man who succeeded to the office of Peter as Bishop of Rome, was recognized as the head of the Church. Hence to the Bishop of Rome, as head of the Church, was given the title "Vicar of Christ."

Enemies of the papacy denounce this title as a malicious assumption. But the Bible informs us that Christ did not only give His Church authority to teach, but also to rule. Laying claim to the authority to rule in Christ's spiritual kingdom, in Christ's stead, is not a whit more malicious than laying claim to the authority to teach in Christ's name. And this every Christian minister does.

A Worried Inquirer—There is no reason for desisting your work.

Worried Wife—Have confidence that your prayers to the Sacred Heart will be answered.

J. W.—Yes. S. M. S. It is not necessary.

It would be impossible for us to answer questions by personal letters. Questions of a purely personal or private nature are best answered by one's confessor.

Please explain the letters on the picture of "Our Lady of Perpetual Help."

The first two letters near the feet of the Divine Child are Greek.

I would be impossible for us to publish all the letters and communications sent to our office for publication. Many of them would be of local interest, but of no general interest. We endeavor to please our readers in as far as this is possible. The letters which appear in our "Readers Speak to Readers" column are not fabricated in our office, but are sent in by the persons whose name and address they bear.

I asked a question months ago and wanted a personal answer. I enclosed a two-cent stamp for return, but as yet have received no answer.

It would be impossible for us to answer questions by personal letters. Questions of a purely personal or private nature are best answered by one's confessor.

Please explain the letters on the picture of "Our Lady of Perpetual Help."

The first two letters near the feet of the Divine Child are Greek.

From Page 3 of
OUR SUNDAY VISITOR
SUNDAY, APRIL 18th, 1915

End

--()--

<http://campbellmgold.com>

25101008/1