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# The 666 Antichrist

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## Introduction.

The identity of the mysterious man 666 has been a challenge for many people. Over the centuries a number of candidates have been suggested. Many of them have been fanciful guesswork. But if we examine any candidate in the light of the bible identification marks we can with certainty discover the identity of this man. The bible identification marks of the 666 antichrist are in two categories: - political and religious. They are taken from the writings of the prophet Daniel, the apostle Paul and the book of Revelation.

### (1) He is a small King whose kingdom came from the ruins of the Ancient Roman Empire.

In the book of Daniel in the Old Testament Daniel's visions give a prophetic portrayal of the rise of the Antichrist and the nature of his attacks on God. One of those visions found in chapter 7 of the book portrays the antichrist as a 'little horn' ie a political power whose rise to power is after the break up of the ancient Roman Empire. The vision goes through successive empires beginning with ancient Babylon then the dual kingdom of Medo-Persia, then Grecia and Pagan Rome. The Pagan Roman Empire breaks up into the divisions of Europe symbolized by ten horns on the head of the great dragon. It is after this that the little horn appears as a king of a small church/state of Europe. His attacks on God are persecution of God's people, the changing of God's law and blasphemy, i.e. claiming the titles and honour that belong only to God himself.

### (2) He has world wide political and religious influence

*Revelation 13:7-8* "The beast was permitted to go to war against the saints and conquer them. He was given ruling authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation, 8 and all those who live on the earth will worship the beast, everyone whose name has not been written since the foundation of the world in the book of life belonging to the Lamb who was killed..." NET

The giving of authority to the beast is a repetition of Rev 13:2, where the dragon delegated "his power and his throne and great authority" to the beast. The phrase "every tribe and people and tongue and nation indicates the same territory to which the end-time gospel is preached in Revelation 14:6. The sea beast thus offers a rival gospel to that of the three angels in Revelation 14. "Revelation of Jesus Christ" pp 408 Ranko Stefanovic 2002 Andrews University Press Berrien Springs Michigan.

The prophecy in Daniel 7:17 clearly identifies for us that a beast in apocalyptic prophecy represents a kingdom. This beast shown coming up out of the sea is a church state that preaches a false gospel to all the world so that all the world will worship it. Prophecy declares that 'All the inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast'; this refers to the time of the last battle just prior to the return of Christ. The Antichrist who oppressed God's people through out history will again seek to dominate the world and win allegiance of the people either by persuasion or force. The man who rules this **church/state** is mysteriously numbered 666.

### (3) He is a universal priest

*Revelation 13:18* "This calls for wisdom: Let the one who has insight calculate the beast's number, for it is man's number, and his number is 666." NET

**His number is 666.** This seems to suggest that the original readers had an ability to break the code, which must have been later lost. Since the second century, the most popular method utilized in attempting to decipher the cryptic number of 666 has been the technique known as gematria (a word derived from the Greek *geometria*, meaning "manipulation with numbers") in which each letter of the Hebrew, Greek, or Latin alphabet has its own numerical value. (e.g., "A" stood for 1, "B" for 2, "C" for 3, etc.). As a result, numerous conjectures have been made as to the meaning of the number 666. The numerical value may stand for various Roman emperors such as Nero and Caligula, or for others like Muhammad, Napoleon or Hitler; it may also refer to the inscription of vicarious filii dei of the papal tiara. None of these suggestions seems to be

convincing for at least two reasons. First, the possibilities of the technique of gematria regarding the number 666 are unlimited. Second, John nowhere in Revelation employs gematria as the method of identification. When he referred to the 144,000 having Christ's "name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads" (Rev 14:3) he did not intend any sort of mathematical calculation but a symbolic understanding of the number.

Babylonian mathematics was based on the sexagesimal system, in which basic counting units were the numbers 6 and 60. (The sexagesimal system has been accepted universally for the measurement of arcs and angles and for divisions of time.) Furthermore, the number six was also significant in the Babylonian religion. Sixty was the number of Babylonian supreme gods in the pantheon at different times (e.g., Anu and Marduck). (This explains why King Nebuchadnezzar's gold statue was 60 cubits high and 6 cubits wide; Dan 3:1). A popular amulet worn by the Babylonian priests contained a mysterious configuration of numbers in a square as follows.

1	32	34	3	35	6
30	8	27	28	11	7
20	24	15	16	13	23
19	17	21	22	18	14
10	26	12	9	29	25
31	4	2	33	5	36

The total of this sequence of numbers in the amulet both horizontally and vertically is 666. Six is thus the number of Babylon.... *"Revelation of Jesus Christ" pp 417 Ranko Stefanovic 2002 Andrews University Press Berrien Springs Michigan.*

The number 666 refers to a priest of end time Babylon. He is neither an Israelite priest nor a priest that will minister in any Jewish temple. But considering he is a Babylonian priest we must ask the question, does this mean that the ancient city of Babylon is going to be inhabited, and be the centre of world politics and religion? The Lord tells us through the prophets Jeremiah and Isaiah.

**Jeremiah 50:35** *"Destructive forces will come against the Babylonians," says the Lord. "They will come against the people who inhabit Babylonia, against her leaders and her men of wisdom...NET*

**Jeremiah 50:39-40** *"Therefore desert creatures and jackals will live there; ostriches too will dwell in it. But no people will ever live there again; no one will dwell there for all time to come. 40 I will destroy Babylonia, just as I did Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighboring towns. No one will live there; no human being will settle in it," says the Lord." NET*

**Isaiah 13:19-20** *"Babylon, the most admired of kingdoms, the Chaldeans' source of honor and pride, will be destroyed by God just as Sodom and Gomorrah were. 20 No one will live there again; no one will ever reside there again. No bedouin will camp there, no shepherds will rest their flocks there." NET*

It is clear from what God has told us in the above passages from the Old Testament that the ancient city of Babylon lying waste in the desert of modern day Iraq will never be inhabited. Twice we are told that Babylon was overthrown like Sodom and Gomorrah, that is, totally and permanently destroyed. It will never be inhabited. Saddam Hussein attempted to rebuild it but he and his regime came to an end and the project was stopped.

The man 666 is a Babylonian priest, that is a priest whose religion is a counterfeit of the truth and a rival to the true religion of God. God's last message to the earth just before the second advent of Christ is to come out of end time Babylon, i.e. false religion.

**Revelation 18:1-4** "After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison of every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury. And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues." NKJV

It is interesting to note that warning against receiving the mark of the beast and the command to come out of Babylon is given to the whole world. And God's people who are scattered throughout the whole world come out of Babylon to avoid receiving the plagues. The plagues that are to fall on end time Babylon are the world wide seven last plagues mentioned in Rev 16. If a person can be anywhere in the world and be in Babylon and be anywhere in the world and come out of Babylon then Babylon cannot be a literal city. Babylon must cover the whole earth. The end time city of Babylon the great as portrayed in Revelation 17 and 18 is a world wide system of false religion that controls the secular governments and commerce of the world in the last days. The head of this system is a universal priest.

#### (4) He thinks to change the law of God.

In 2Thessalonians 2:3 the apostle Paul also refers to the Antichrist as the man of sin.

**2Thessalonians 2:3** "Let no one deceive you by any means; for that day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition," NKJV

**Man of Sin** – other versions of the bible say "man of lawlessness". This is the same description as given by the angel to the prophet Daniel when he described the antichrist as the one who would think to change times and laws. In Daniel 7:25 we read

**Daniel 7:25** "He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time." NKJV

According to these verses being lawless is the same as attempting to change the law. This seems strange as all leaders have cause to change and modify laws as they see fit according to the circumstances and times in which they live. This would hardly be an identification mark of antichrist unless the laws of God are being referred too. This is what is meant in Daniel's prophecy. The laws of the Most High are the laws that the antichrist intends to change.

#### (5) He is a false apostle.

In 2 Thessalonians 2:3 the apostle Paul refers to the Antichrist as the son of perdition.

**2Thessalonians 2:3** "Let no one deceive you by any means; for that day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition," NKJV

**The son of perdition** - The only other place in the bible where this expression is used is in John 17:12 where Jesus Himself uses it to describe Judas Iscariot, the disciple who betrayed Him. Jesus was in prayer to the Father in the garden of Gethsemane and was discussing his disciples. He admitted that one of them was lost.

**John 17:12** “While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.” NKJV

This clue given by the Apostle Paul in 2 Thessalonians indicates that the Antichrist cannot be a pagan dictator like Nero or be a non-Christian Jew. Like Judas, the Antichrist the son of perdition will be a professed follower of Christ while inwardly denying Him. He will be a false apostle, an insider like Judas, looking Christian on the outside while inwardly rejecting everything the Christian gospel stands for. A Judas – a secret enemy while a seeming friend – a familiar friend yet a fatal foe who betrays with a kiss and a “hail master!”

### **(6) He rules a European church state that imitates the ministry of Christ.**

The Apostle John in the book of Revelation sees a beast arises up out of the sea having seven heads and ten horns. This sea beast is the Antichrist. It acts as a counterfeit of Christ imitating Christ’s life and ministry on earth

#### **A comparison between Christ and Antichrist**

<b>Christ</b>	<b>Sea Beast</b> (Rev 13:1-8)
Christ at his baptism came up out of the water to begin His ministry. (Luke 3:21-23)	The beast comes up out of water to begin his ministry (Rev 13:1)
Jesus resembles the Father. (John 14:9)	The beast resembles the dragon. (12:3)
Jesus has many crowns (Rev 19:12).	The beast has ten crowns. (13:1)
Jesus is a lamb with seven horns (Rev 5:6).	The beast has ten horns. (13:1)
Jesus receives power, throne and authority from the Father (Matt 28:18).	The beast receives power, throne and authority from the dragon. (13:2,4)
Jesus had a forty-two month ministry (Three and a half yrs as indicated by John’s gospel)	The beast was given authority for forty-two months. (13:5)
Christ and was slain. (Rev 5:6)	The beast and was slain (13:3)
Jesus was resurrected after the crucifixion. (Rev 1:18)	The beast is resurrected to life after receiving a deadly wound. (13:3)
Jesus receives worship after the resurrection. (Matt 28:17)	The beast receives worship after the deadly wound is healed. (13:3-4,8)
Jesus received all authority in heaven and on earth after His resurrection. (Matt 28:18).	The beast is given universal authority over the earth after the healing of the deadly wound. (13:7)

All of the above identify the sea beast as an apostate religious system that counterfeits Christ’s ministry on the earth. The fact that this religious system is presented in the symbol of a beast suggests that its political authority and power is under the guise of religion. Furthermore, the activities of this power are reminiscent of the activities of the little horn of Daniel 7 which arises after the fourth beast. Both Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 refer to the power that arises out of the Roman Empire and succeeds it after its breakup. see “Revelation of Jesus Christ” pp 401-413 Ranko Stefanovic 2002 Andrews University Press Berrien Springs Michigan

### **(7) He is destroyed by the brightness of the return of Christ.**

**2 Thessalonians 2:8** “and then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will destroy by the breath of his mouth and wipe out by the manifestation of his arrival.” NET

The majority of candidates put forward to be the antichrist are either dead or will be dead when Jesus Christ returns. This rules them out as being the Antichrist because he is to be destroyed at the return of Christ.

## Our identification marks for the 666 Antichrist are these:

- (1) He is a small King whose kingdom came from the ruins of the Ancient Roman Empire.
- (2) He has world wide political influence
- (3) He is a universal priest
- (4) He thinks to change the law of God.
- (5) He is a false apostle.
- (6) He rules a European church state that imitates the ministry of Christ.
- (7) He is destroyed at the return of Christ.

With these clues we can now apply them to some candidates. Across the centuries many candidates have been suggested. Here are a sampling.

### Candidates for the Beast.

- (1) Nero Ceasar.
- (2) Prince Charles.
- (3) Henry Kissinger.
- (4) A future Jewish dictator.
- (5) The Office of the Pope of Rome.

These identification marks can be applied to any candidate. If you have one of your own put them to the test and see what score out of seven they get. Only three candidates will be discussed here. Nero, a future Jewish dictator, and the office of Pope.

### Nero Ceasar

Ques 1. Was Nero a king whose kingdom was built on the ruins of the ancient Roman Empire?

Ans. No. He ruled the Roman Empire before its breakup.

Ques 2. Did Nero have world wide political influence?

Ans. Only over the Roman Empire.

Ques 3 Was he a universal priest?

Ans. Only in the Roman Empire. The Emperor was considered the priest of the Roman religion.

Ques 4 Did Nero think to change the laws of God?

Ans. No. As a pagan and an evil man he never gave God's laws any notice.

Ques 5 Was Nero a false apostle?

Ans. No. He never professed Christianity

Ques 6 Did the pagan Roman Empire imitate the ministry of Jesus Christ?

Ans. No.

Ques 7 Will Nero be alive and ruling at the return of Christ.

Ans. No

So Nero scores 0 out of 7 as a contender for the Antichrist.

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## A Future Jewish Dictator (Assuming one comes to power)

Ques 1. Will such a person be a king whose kingdom will be built on the ruins of the ancient Roman Empire?  
 Ans. If he is based in Europe or in Israel then yes.

Ques 2. Will he have world wide political influence?  
 Ans. Remains to be seen.

Ques 3. Will he be a 666 universal priest?  
 Ans. No. The number 666 refers to a Babylonian priest. Not a Jewish one.

Ques 4. Will he change God's laws?  
 Ans. Remains to be seen. As a Jew highly unlikely.

Ques 5. Will he be a false apostle?  
 Ans. No. To do this he would have to be a professed Christian.

Ques 6. Will his church state imitate the ministry of Jesus Christ?  
 Ans. Israel would have to become a professed Christian state to fulfill this. Highly unlikely

Ques 7. Will he be alive at the return of Christ.  
 Ans. Remains to be seen

The Maximum such a man could score is 3 out of 7.

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## The Office of the Pope of Rome.

Ques 1. Is the Pope a small King whose kingdom came from the ruins of the Ancient Roman Empire?

Ans. Yes. His kingdom is in the city of Rome itself. Regarding the Pope the *Ecclesiastical Encyclopedia* says: "He is likewise bishop of the universal church. He is likewise the divine monarch and supreme emperor and king of kings. Hence the Pope is crowned with a Triple Crown, as being king of heaven, and of the earth and the lower regions." Extract from *Ferraris Ecclesiastical Encyclopedia RC printed in Rome 1890*

Ques 2. Does the Pope have world wide political influence?  
 Ans. Yes he most certainly does and his political influence is growing stronger.

Ques 3. Is the Pope a universal priest?  
 Ans. Yes. He is the head priest in Roman Catholicism.

Ques 4. Does the Pope claim authority to change the law of God?

Ans. Yes. "The pope is of so great authority and power that he can modify, explain, or interpret even divine laws... The pope can modify divine law, since his power is not of man but of God, and he as vicegerent of God upon earth with most ample power of binding and loosing his sheep. Whatever the Lord God Himself, and the redeemer, is said to do, that his vicar does, provided he does nothing contrary to the faith." Extract from *Ferraris Ecclesiastical Encyclopedia RC printed in Rome 1890*

**What law of God has the Roman Church changed that was the focus of bible prophecy?**

**Peter Geiermann, "The Converts Catechism of Catholic Doctrine 2nd. Ed 1910 p50.**

Question : which day is the Sabbath day?

Answer : Saturday is the Sabbath day

Question : why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

Answer : we observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the catholic church, in the council of Laodicea (336 AD), transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.

**Stephen Keenan “A Doctrinal Catechism.” p. 174.**

Question: Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals of precept.

Answer: Had she not such power, she could not have done that which all modern religionists agree with her; - she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no scriptural authority.

Ques 5. Is the Pope a false apostle?

Ans. Yes. He falsely claims to be the successor of the Apostle Peter.

Ques 6. Does the Pope rule a European church state that imitates the ministry of Christ?

Ans. Yes. The Roman Catholic Church claims to continue the priestly ministry of Christ.

Ques 7. Will the office of Pope remain until the return of Christ?

Ans. Yes.

The office of Pope scores 7 out of 7 as a contender for the antichrist.

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Now that we have discovered the identity of the beast-the church of Rome, and the man who rules it - the Pope of Rome. We can now turn our attention to answering the question, what is the mark of the church of Rome/beast?

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