

WHY SO MUCH CONFUSION FOR R323???

R323 – The actual Orange Book Reprint (Reprints from 1919) says as follows :

“ The following explanation is reprinted merely for its historical interest. For the reason that the Greek numerals for six hundred, sixty and six are used in the oldest MMS. It would not be proper to accept any explanation setting forth six plus six plus six. Pastor Russell in later years approved the explanation given in Scripture Studie, Vol. VII”*

We find this statement above has been edited in the Expanded Biblical Comments BOOK , for whatever reason the EBC REMOVED the reference pointing to the 7th volume and simply says as follows:

“323:6 “Since Greek numerals for six hundred, sixty and six are used in the oldest manuscripts it would not be proper to set forth six plus six plus six.”* – As we see the rest of the quote has been omitted in the EBC, and thus seems to be a little misleading in our opinion. We do not in any way say this was done intentionally, perhaps it was just an error in typesetting etc.

We have attached the what we would call an implausible “proof” that our Pastor endorsed this - clip from The Finished Mystery (note here Vicarius Filii Dei is spelled correctly for the first time– the only case in our research to date) :

*“Mrs. A.,’ said Miss Emmons, ‘I saw a very curious fact the other day; I have dwelt upon it much, and will mention it. A person, lately, was witnessing a ceremony of the Romish Church. As the pope passed him in the procession, splendidly dressed in his pontifical robes, the gentleman’s eye rested on these full, blazing letters in front of his mitre (tiara— crown): **VICARIVS FILII DEI**, the Vicar of the Son of God. His thoughts, with the rapidity of lightning, reverted to Rev. 13:18.’ ‘Will you turn to it?’ said Mrs. A. Alice opened the New Testament, and read: ‘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.’ She paused, and Miss Emmons said, ‘He took out his pencil, and marking the ‘numerical letters of the inscription on his tablet, it stood 666.’ ” (Smith.)*

This explanation was approved by Pastor Russell, and was given by him at a Convention Question Meeting.”