

Revelation 17 - Decoded

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Step by step indicators everywhere reveal the short time left before Christ's second coming. This chapter investigates Revelation 17 from a modern viewpoint, carefully matching historic events with the verses containing this last day prophecy in the Bible. The discussion will demonstrate the logical possibility that Pope Benedict XVI's rule will be interrupted by him stepping down from the Papal role. The throne will be passed over to the last Pope who will take a new Papal name, one that has never been used. This will be shown by taking several different paths of interpreting Revelation 17 by splitting our discussion into three distinct parts that wonderfully end with the same singular conclusion. Part I will discuss the chapter from a traditional literal text point of view (count of the kings), Part II will take a deep dive look into the depths of the number of the beast and explain at how it is really calculated (lines of the kings) and Part III will take a look at what has been found in the Bible codes regarding current events and the end of the harlot church described in Revelation 17.

¹ Because this prophetic outline is intended for seasoned Bible scholars, many smaller details have been left out. If you are at all unsure what the antichrist beast/power is please see appendix A before reading further. It is certainly not my intention to offend anyone; I am merely expanding on the views predominant at the time of the reformation.

Part I: Prophetic Text Examination

"And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will show unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:" Revelation 17:1 (KJV)

"and came one of the seven angels who had with them seven vessels and spoke with me saying come after me I shall show you the judgment of The Harlot who sits on waters many" Revelation 17:1 (Peshitta)²

This verse invites John to see what happens to the whore of Revelation. This refers to the dual religious and monarchal political system of the Roman Catholic Church.

"With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication." Revelation 17:2 (KJV)

"for with her fornicated kings of The Earth and have been drunk all of them dwellers of The Earth of the wine of her fornication" Revelation 17:2 (Peshitta)

This verse illustrates the fact that other nations have been involved with the murder of innocent Christians. More people died during the dark ages than in any other martyrdom event on the planet.

"So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet-colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns." Revelation 17:3 (KJV)

"and he brought me to the wilderness in spirit and I saw a woman who sat on a beast blood red full of names of blasphemy which had to it heads seven horns but ten" Revelation 17:3 (Peshitta)

A woman in Bible prophecy is used to describe a church, and a beast is used to describe a political state. It can be inferred from the above passage that this is not a good thing. Ellen G. White writes:

"In the issue of the contest all Christendom will be divided into two great classes--those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and those who worship the beast and his image and receive his mark. Although church and state will unite their power to compel 'all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond' (Revelation 13:16), to receive 'the mark of the beast,' yet the people of God will not receive it. The prophet of Patmos beholds 'them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his

² *The Peshitta Aramaic-English Interlinear New Testament*, Lulu Publishing, Glenn David Bouscher

mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God' and singing the song of Moses and the Lamb. Revelation 15:2 & 3."³

"And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:" Revelation 17:4 (KJV)

"and The Woman she was wearing purple and scarlet gilded in gold and stones precious and pearls and had to her a cup of gold in her hand and it was full of abominations and filth of her fornication" Revelation 17:4 (Peshitta)

"The woman (Babylon) of Revelation 17 is also described as having '...upon her forehead was a name written, *Mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots.*' Says the prophet: 'I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.' Babylon is further declared to be 'that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.' Revelation 17:4-6, 18 the power that for so many centuries maintained despotic sway over the monarchs of Christendom is Rome. The purple and scarlet color, the gold and precious stones and pearls, vividly picture the magnificence and more than kingly pomp affected by the haughty see of Rome."⁴

"And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." Revelation 17:5 (KJV)

"and upon between her eyes was written Mystery Babylon The Great The Mother of harlots and of the filth of The Earth" Revelation 17:5 (Peshitta)

The phrase "...THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS..." gives us the proof that this is an end-time prophecy. I

think that Franklin S. Fowler Jr. M. D. says it best:

When the Protestant churches broke away from the papacy, they were not harlots. They were part of God's people seeking to find direction and communion from God's Word. The Catholic Church would not become the mother of apostate churches until the pure thrust of the Reformation became adulterated and tainted. Pope Pius XI came into power in 1922. He was a politician and a religious leader. Though he forbade Catholic participation in ecumenical initiatives, he fostered links with eastern-right churches. However, there was a significant ecumenical conference in Stockholm in 1925 called the "Life and Work." This began the momentum of all subsequent ecumenical work by which Protestants began to compromise their doctrinal heritage of the Reformation. Thus -- the prophecy of Revelation 17 is an end-time prophecy that commences sometime after 1925 *when the children of the harlot also become harlots!*⁵

³ *The Great Controversy Between Christ and Satan*, page 450.

⁴ *The Great Controversy Between Christ and Satan*, page 382.

⁵ ©CS 2005 -- Franklin S. Fowler Jr., M.D., Director Christian Heritage Foundation, *Endtime Issues July 2005* - <http://EndtimeIssues.com/>

"And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration." Revelation 17:6 (KJV)

"and I saw The Woman who was drunk from the blood of the saints and from the blood of the witnesses of Yeshua and from the blood of the witnesses of Yeshua and I was astonished with astonishment great when I saw her" Revelation 17:6 (Peshitta)

"And no other power could be so truly declared 'drunken with the blood of the saints' as that church which has so cruelly persecuted the followers of Christ. Babylon is also charged with the sin of unlawful connection with 'the kings of the earth.' It was by departure from the Lord, and alliance with the heathen, that the Jewish church became a harlot; and Rome, corrupting herself in like manner by seeking the support of worldly powers, receives a like condemnation."⁶

"And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns." Revelation 17:7 (KJV)

"and said to me the angel Why? are you astonished I tell shall you the mystery of The Woman and of The Beast that bears her that has to it seven heads and ten horns" (Peshitta)

All of this is described and further detailed in various parts of the books Daniel and Revelation.

"The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and yet is; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is." Revelation 17:8 (KJV)

"The Beast which you saw been had and is not [This is telling us something new; a new period is being entered] is about to come up from the sea and to destruction is going and will marvel the inhabitants on Earth those whose not are written their names in The Book of Life from the foundation of the world when they see The Beast which was and is not and is approaching." Revelation 17:8 (Peshitta)

This pinpoints the time period that John is seeing his vision. There are three separate time periods associated with the beast described in this verse:

- 1) Papacy ruled Europe from 538AD to 1798AD. These were the dark ages. '...The beast was...'
- 2) Papacy lost power in 1798AD (Napoleon) and lost papal states in 1870AD (seized by Italy). '...the beast was not...'

⁶ *The Great Controversy Between Christ and Satan*, page 382.

3) Papal power restored in 1929AD by the Lateran Treaty (signed by Mussolini); '...yet the beast is.'

"And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth." Revelation 17:9 (KJV)

"here is the meaning for the one having to him wisdom the seven heads seven are mountains where sits The Woman upon them" Revelation 17:9 (Peshitta)

When "And here is the mind which hath wisdom..." is used, a more complex prophecy is discussed (i.e. Revelation 13:18 (Peshitta) says; "Here is wisdom, and whoever has a mind ion him, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a⁷ man - 666." The words 'Here is wisdom' indicate, in this very spot within the text. A Dictionary gives the context and meaning of the word used for "wisdom" (חכמתא):

"The right use or exercise of knowledge; the choice of laudable ends, and of the best means to accomplish them. This is wisdom in act, effect, or practice. If wisdom is to be considered as a faculty of the mind, it is the faculty of discerning or judging what is most just, proper and useful, and if it is to be considered as an acquirement, it is the knowledge and use of what is best, most just, most proper, most conducive to prosperity or happiness. Wisdom in the first sense, or practical wisdom, is nearly synonymous with discretion. I differs somewhat from prudence, in this respect; prudence is the exercise of sound judgment in avoiding evils; wisdom is the exercise of sound judgment either in avoiding evils or attempting good. Prudence then is a species, of which wisdom is the genus. Wisdom gained by experience, is of inestimable value. It is hoped that our rulers will act with dignity and wisdom; that they will yield every thing to reason, and refuse every thing to force."⁸

The word for "let calculate" (נהשביוהי) means:

"To compute; to reckon; to add, subtract, multiply or divide any sums, for the purpose of finding the amount, difference, or other result. This, to calculate the expenses of erecting a house, is to estimate and add together the several sums which each part of the materials and the work will cost. "⁹.

This is the verse in the original Aramaic: "Here is wisdom. And he wo has understanding should count the number of the creature, for it is the number of a man, six hundred and sixty-six." Revelation 13:18 (Peshitta)

⁷ Notice that John describes this as a single entity more than one. This clearly points to a single entity that the calculation of the number 666 equates to (not necessarily to the whole group).

⁸ "wisdom" – Webster's 1828 Dictionary. Last accessed 11/21/2022. URL = <https://m.egwwritings.org/en/book/1843/info>

⁹ "calculate" - Webster's 1828 Dictionary. Last accessed 11/21/2022. URL = <https://m.egwwritings.org/en/book/1843/info>

Based on these findings, we are to compute or calculate the number of the beast (See Figure 2 Papal Lines of Kings Totals); which is 666. The calculation process will be addressed toward the end of the study.

"And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space." Revelation 17:10 (KJV)

"and kings seven there are five have fallen and one is there is another not yet come and when he comes a little time is given to him to remain" Revelation 17:10 (Peshitta)

Notice that this verse begins with the word AND. This strongly suggests that this prophecy has a dual/multiple meaning. The context implies that it occurs after the papacy regains power. This becomes a time marker for this sequential prophecy. Revelation 17:10 states that there are seven kings [Popes], five have fallen one is and the other has not yet come (remember the time marker of Revelation 17:8); and when he cometh, he must continue for a short space. More research revealed that for each of the 7 Popes, if you add up the total number of years each papal name has reigned, you find that the John Paul series was by far the shortest (27 years). The next closest one is about 67 years. So, this element of the prophecy matches.

The word analysis is understood in our day as Pope Benedict XVI will not see death when leaving office. This has already transpired. Another aspect of this verse is that it accurately pinpoints WHEN this prophecy will be understood. Much as John was taken in vision through time to a specific point (a type) where he was to have a revelation of understanding as to the vision's future fulfillment, now we have the vision being explained from the point in time that the prophecy would (begin to) be understood by man on the earth (anti-type). This part of the prophecy was fulfilled when the understanding of the true meaning of the prophetic events began to be understood during the reign of Pope John Paul II. Figure 1 Physical Kings below illustrates the papal coats of arms¹⁰ for the Popes described in the prophecy of Revelation 17.

¹⁰ Graphics from: Wikipedia. <https://www.wikipedia.org/>

1 st King	2 nd King	3 rd King	4 th King	5 th King	6 th King	7 th King	8 th King
							
Pius XI 1922-1939	Pius XII 1939-1958	John XXIII 1958-1963	Paul VI 1963-1978	John Paul I 1978	John Paul II 1978-2005	Benedict XVI 2005-2013	Francis 2013-
Five are fallen					One is	Short space	Perdition

Figure 1 Physical Kings

"And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition." Revelation 17:11 (KJV)

"and the Dragon and Beast that which it brought and is not and it is the eighth and of the seven is and to destruction is going" Revelation 17:11 (Peshitta)

The first part of this passage describes the beast that was, and is not. This refers to the antichrist beast power when it lost power and 'was not' from 1798 - 1929. This also provides the link to the literal (papal) kings that are counted from 1929 until the end of time. See the next part; '...and is OF the seven...' (i.e. an integral part of). This verse is particularly useful in providing clarity as to a difference with this eighth entity. This eighth is described as having a king/Pope as a figure head but is more of a collective power (a mountain): The Beast. The text is describing the beast (Papacy) that Satan (Dragon) has brought (empowered).

Next; the actual implementation for the word 'of' (in that sentence) and all the interpretations stated a physical association. Mary had a son named Jesus; and he was raised in the town of Nazareth, the context would be Jesus OF Nazareth. This Pope will be brought up within the ranks of the Roman Catholic Church and therefore be "of the seven". At some point in the future, Satan will come personating the savior Jesus Christ and will empower the anti-Christ beast power (Daniel 8:23 and 24) with new life. Ellen White predicts the appearance of Satan in the following quote:

As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Savior's advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation (Rev. 1:13-15). The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: 'Christ has come! Christ has come!'

The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Savior uttered.¹¹

"And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast." Revelation 17:12 (KJV)

"and ten horns of The Beast ten kings are those who the kingdom not yet have received but authority as king one hour take with The Beast" Revelation 17:12 (Peshitta)

At some point during the reign of the final Pope (Francis), Satan will personate Jesus Christ and be involved with creating a peace treaty and ten regions of the world will be in control over all nations of the earth. These ten newly appointed powers give 'their' power and authority to the beast. It is interesting to note that these 10 kings are most likely represented by the ten toes on the statue in the dream that Daniel the prophet interpreted for king Nebuchadnezzar.

"These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast." Revelation 17:13 (KJV)

"these one will have to them and power and authority their to The Beast give" Revelation 17:13 (Peshitta)

The established powers on the earth turn their allegiance and authority to the one that has a secret alliance with and will be empowered by Satan, who eventually will rule the world.

"These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful." Revelation 17:14 (KJV)

¹¹ *The Great Controversy Between Christ and Satan*, page 624.

"these with The Lamb will war and The Lamb will conquer them because The Lord He is of lordship and The King of kings and because His people are called and chosen and faithful" Revelation 17:14 (Peshitta)

War will be waged against the remnant church and the commandment keeping group will be victorious!

"And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." Revelation 17:15 (KJV)

"and He said to me the waters that you saw upon which sat The Harlot the nations, and multitudes and peoples and languages they are" Revelation 17:15 (Peshitta)

Here, some of the rules of interpretation for the prophetic books of the Bible are explained. How very clear Paul makes it.

"And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire." Revelation 17:16 (KJV)

"and the ten horns that you saw on the Beast these will hate The Harlot and desolate and naked will make her and her flesh will devour and will burn her in fire" Revelation 17:16 (Peshitta)

The kingdoms of the earth initially are taken in by the great deception, but will eventually discover the truth. They turn on the great whore, and destroy her by fire.

"For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled." Revelation 17:17 (KJV)

"God for gave into their hearts to perform His pleasure and to do their purpose one and will give their kingdom to Beast that until are fulfilled the words of God" (Peshitta)

God orders the destiny of man to be in union with the beast; however, Satan is essentially in control of the entire earth after the close of probation. We are to be shown what the ultimate state of a world would be if Satan would be allowed to be in control. There is only one conclusion that can be made; all evil must be destroyed forever.

"And the woman which thou sawest is the great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth." Revelation 17:18 (KJV)

"and The Woman which you saw the city great that which has for itself the rule over the kings of The Earth" Revelation 17:18 (Peshitta)

God is saying that this city will rule the world! It is not surprising that Ellen G. White did not talk (specifically) about this. If she had known this information, the 1844 disappointment would not have happened. Remember; after the disappointment, "A hand was removed, revealing a mistake in the numbers and figures."¹² This revealed the true future events. When writing on the Revelation of Jesus Christ, Ellen White said some interesting things. "We do not understand the word as we should. The book of Revelation opens with an injunction to understand the instruction that it contains... We do not understand fully the lessons that it teaches, notwithstanding the injunction given us to search and study it."¹³ "There is need of a much closer study of the word of God; especially should Daniel and the Revelation have attention as never before in the history of our work. We may have less to say in some lines, in regard to the Roman power and the papacy; but we should call attention to what the prophets and apostles have written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God."¹⁴ The transmitted heavenly information also includes that found in the encoded messages within the pages of the Bible.

"When we as a people understand what this book means to us, there will be seen among us a great revival..."¹⁵ "When the books of Daniel and Revelation are better understood, believers will have an entirely different religious experience. They will be given such glimpses of the open gates of heaven that heart and mind will be impressed with the character that all must develop in order to realize the blessedness which is to be the reward of the pure in heart. . . .The Lord will bless all who will seek humbly and meekly to understand that which is revealed in the Revelation."¹⁶

Because Revelation 17 contains multiple prophecies with dual interpretations, this is only part of the discussion. The next part discusses the mysterious number 666 and the truth about how it is calculated. At the end of the chapter, I will show how all parts of the prophecies fit together perfectly.

¹² *Review and Herald, November 1, 1850* par. 10.

¹³ *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, page 113.

¹⁴ *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, page 112.

¹⁵ *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, page 113.

¹⁶ *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, page 114.

Part II: Calculation of the Number 666

The Babylonians counted their gods and then added up all the numbers from 1 to 36. The first god they counted got the number one assigned to it (which was the sun god for the purposes of the counting process), and the second god (the moon god) they counted got the number two assigned to it, and so on up to all 36 supreme gods. The gods numbered from 3 through 36 were considered the children of the sun god, which included the various stars and constellations that these gods were associated with. Now, if you have not guessed it by now, the sum of the numbers from one to 36 totals 666, which they assigned to the god associated with the sun. The sun god had several numbers assigned to it, the numbers 1 (used for counting purposes) and 666. They performed the calculation like this: $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7 + 8 + 9 + 10 + 11 + 12 + 13 + 14 + 15 + 16 + 17 + 18 + 19 + 20 + 21 + 22 + 23 + 24 + 25 + 26 + 27 + 28 + 29 + 30 + 31 + 32 + 33 + 34 + 35 + 36 = 666$.

Research has shown that this method showing the connection between the number 666 and the seven heads of the scarlet beast of Revelation 17, closely parallels the method used by the Babylonians for calculating the number of their gods detailed above. In like fashion, add up the total counts of the 7 papal "lines of kings" and it totals 665. Because of the injection of the Babylonian worship practices into the Christian religion by the Roman Catholic Church, it is to this religious system of worship that the number 666 applies. There can be no other meaning, for to apply any other meaning is to divorce the actual history of this number from the facts of history of the Christian Church.

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The relationship between the 'lines of kings' and Revelation 17 was discovered while contemplating the interpretation of the 666 number from Revelation 13:18 and recognizing that the popes have numbers after

their names, such as Benedict XII. It was noted that the text in Revelation 13:18 was introduced by the phrase "Here is wisdom." while the text in Revelation 17:9 says, "Here is understanding for him who has wisdom.". These phrases are complementary; one gives the riddle while the other gives the solution. This forms the basis of the theory that there is a connection between the number 666 and the 7 heads in Revelation 17. Knowing that the beast itself is the papacy, this connection was researched. First a list of the popes was made, and then the numbers added together for all the popes. This came to a number much too large. About that point it was noticed that there were seven names when the numbers after the names are ignored.

This last discovery is interesting because of the prophecy in Revelation 17:9 – 11 (Peshitta), which says: "9here is understanding for him who has wisdom.". From the logic developed thus far, the explanation of the meaning of the vision is expected to follow. Continuing in verse 9; "...The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. 10And there are seven kings, five have fallen and one is and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue for a little while. 11And the dragon and the creature that was and is not, even he is the eighth and is one of the seven and goes to destruction." The seven heads are in fact the seven names of physical popes/kings that reigned after the year 1798 detailed above in Figure 1 Physical Kings (this was the year that the pope was taken captive by one of Napoleon's leading generals).

The perspective of John's vision is a view of the Papacy when five of the Papal names had already reigned (Pius, Leo, Gregory, John and Benedict), i.e. from the perspective of Pope Paul VI (1963-1978), one was at that time (Pope Paul), and there was one more yet to come who had never been before - John Paul I. John Paul I's reign was very short lasting only 33 days. So, these elements of the prophecy matched exactly with the history of the 7 Papal names (lines of kings). The text says to count or calculate the number, so if you simply make a list of the Popes for each name (line of king), count the Popes in each name (i.e. line), and then add up the count for each name/line, and finally add up the count totals for all the

names/lines (excluding antipopes and any pope's that resigned), the total comes to 666! Figure 2 Papal

Lines of Kings Totals visually summarizes the discussion above and will add even more clarity to the topic:

Lines of Kings																
Pius	Title	Leo	Title	Gregory	Title	Benedict	Title	John	Title	Paul	Title	John Paul	Title	Francis	Title	Column Total
1	St. Pius I (140-154)	1	St. Leo I (the Great) (440-461)	1	St. Gregory I (the Great) (590-604)	1	Benedict I (575-579)	1	St. John I (523-526)	1	St. Paul I (757-767)	1	John Paul I (1978)	1	Francis	78
+ 2	Pius II (1458-1464)	+ 2	St. Leo II (682-683)	+ 2	St. Gregory II (715-731)	+ 2	St. Benedict II (684-685)	+ 2	John II (533-535)	+ 2	Paul II (1464-1471)	+ 2	John Paul II (1978-2005)	= 1		+ 91
+ 3	St. Pius III (1503)	+ 3	St. Leo III (795-816)	+ 3	St. Gregory III (731-741)	+ 3	Benedict III (855-858)	+ 3	John III (561-574)	+ 3	Paul III (1534-1549)	= 3				+ 136
+ 4	Pius IV (1559-1565)	+ 4	St. Leo IV (847-855)	+ 4	Gregory IV (827-844)	+ 4	Benedict IV (900-903)	+ 4	John IV (640-642)	+ 4	Paul IV (1555-1559)					+ 105
+ 5	St. Pius V (1566-1572)	+ 5	Leo V (903)	+ 5	Gregory V (996-999)	+ 5	Benedict V (964)	+ 5	John V (685-686)	+ 5	Paul V (1605-1621)					+ 231
+ 6	Pius VI (1775-1799)	+ 6	Leo VI (928)	+ 6	Gregory VI (1045-1046)	+ 6	Benedict VI (973-974)	+ 6	John VI (701-705)	+ 6	Paul VI (1963-1978)					+ 21
+ 7	Pius VII (1800-1823)	+ 7	Leo VII (936-939)	+ 7	St. Gregory VII (1073-1085)	+ 7	Benedict VIII (974-983)	+ 7	John VII (705-707)	= 21						+ 3
+ 8	Pius VIII (1829-1830)	+ 8	Leo VIII (963-964)	+ 8	Gregory VIII (1187)	+ 8	Benedict VIII (1012-1012)	+ 8	John VIII (872-882)							+ 1
+ 9	Blessed Pius IX (1846-1848)	+ 9	St. Leo IX (1049-1054)	+ 9	Gregory IX (1227-1241)	+ 9	Benedict IX (1047-1048)	+ 9	John IX (898-900)							= 666
+ 10	St. Pius X (1903-1914)	+ 10	Leo X (1513-1521)	+ 10	Blessed Gregory X (1271-1276)	+ 10	Blessed Benedict XI (1303-1304)	+ 10	John X (914-928)							
+ 11	Pius XI (1922-1939)	+ 11	Leo XI (1605)	+ 11	Gregory XI (1370-1378)	+ 11	Benedict XII (1334-1342)	+ 11	John XI (931-935)							
+ 12	Pius XII (1939-1958)	+ 12	Leo XII (1823-1829)	+ 12	Gregory XII (1406-1415)	+ 12	Benedict XIII (1724-1730)	+ 12	John XII (955-963)							
= 78		+ 13	Leo XIII (1878-1903)	+ 13	Gregory XIII (1572-1585)	+ 13	Benedict XIV (1740-1758)	+ 13	John XIII (965-972)							
		= 91		+ 14	Gregory XIV (1590-1591)	+ 14	Benedict XV (1914-1922)	+ 14	John XIV (983-984)							
				+ 15	Gregory XV (1621-1623)	= 105		+ 15	John XV (985-986)							
				+ 16	Gregory XVI (1831-1846)			+ 16	John XVII (1003)							
				= 136				+ 17	John XVIII (1003-1009)							
								+ 18	John XIX (1024-1032)							
								+ 19	John XXI (1276-1277)							
								+ 20	John XXII (1316-1334)							
								+ 21	Blessed John XXIII (1958-1963)							
								= 231								

NOTES:
 1) Antipopes and Popes that resigned are not counted.
 2) Antipopes: John XVI, John X (Century) & Benedict X (1058).
 3) Resigned: Benedict XVI.
 4) Lines of kings are the ones that reigned after 1798. The total of that name/line of kings is then calculated.

Figure 2 Papal Lines of Kings Totals¹⁷

¹⁷ Assigned papal names/titles from the Catholic Encyclopedia: List of Popes (<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12272b.htm>). Some additional materials from: <http://www.666man.net/>

Also of note is the 'Prophecy of the Popes'. St. Malachy had visions of the Popes beginning in late 1139 through the beginning of 1140. He wrote manuscripts of the prophecies and had given them in good faith to Pope Innocent II where they were placed (unread) in the archives for nearly four centuries. The prophecies list only those Popes who are canonically elected. This prophecy inspired the search in the Bible codes for a name of an entity that will have considerable power during the last Popes reign shortly before and during the destruction of the Vatican. In a dramatic attempt to deceive the entire world, it is during this time that Satan will appear as an angel of light, as well as the apostles of Christ as given to us in the Bible prophecy:

"13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." 2 Corinthians 11:13 and 14 (KJV)

A modern-day prophet describes the resulting future events:

"Through spiritualism, Satan appears as a benefactor of the race, healing the diseases of the people and professing to present a new and more exalted system of religious faith; but at the same time he works as a destroyer. His temptations are leading multitudes to ruin."- *The Great Controversy (1888)*, page 589

In St. Malachy's prophecy, this figure is known as "Petrus Romanus" of whom he states:

"In the final persecution of the Holy Roman Church there will reign¹⁸ Peter the Roman, who will feed his flock among many tribulations; after which the seven-hilled city will be destroyed and the dreadful Judge will judge the people."¹⁹

What has been discovered about Pope Francis regarding his name also shows prophetic fulfillment. Saint Francis of Assisi, Italian San Francesco d'Assisi, baptized Giovanni, renamed Francesco, original name Francesco di Pietro di Bernardone Pietro. His original middle name is Peter²⁰.

The conclusions from all of this are profound and very amazing. Pope Benedict XVI resigned and his short reign will not be counted in the 'Lines of Kings' calculation of the number of the beast. He will be

¹⁸ Notice that it is NOT stated that Peter would be his name as Pope.

¹⁹ *The Prophecies of St. Malachy*, Tan Books and Publishers, Inc., Rockford, Illinois 61105, page 96

²⁰ pi(et)-ro\ as a boy's name is a variant of Pedro (Spanish, Portuguese) and Peter (Greek), and the meaning of Pietro is "rock". Read more at <http://www.thinkbabynames.com/>

counted in the literal count of the last Popes in the "...five are fallen..." (by the 1929 Lateran Treaty) portion of the prophecy. Pope Francis I, who has an assigned number of one (his name has never been used before by any other Pope), will in fact be the last Pope ever. Sometime during his lifetime, Jesus will come and end this world. We cannot know the year of Jesus' coming from this prophecy alone.

Part III: Bible Code Evidence

The Lord has provided 'end times special information' for those that are seeking it. The Bible codes are a very useful tool to use in the examination of biblical prophecy. Issues, questions, and concerns as well as their solutions and answers are provided to us in the hidden text of the Bible. Many times, there may be multiple ways to interpret a prophecy. It is then that we can invoke the Bible codes to assist in finding the true interpretation of the prophecy. We search for key related words / phrases and develop them into extended information that leads us towards ultimate truth. This is precisely the reason why the term "Babylonian" was searched for and subsequently discovered at relevant skips and proximity to the "six hundred sixty six is a cipher" Bible code matrix shown in Figure 3 Six Hundred Sixty Six is a Cipher (the technical details are shown in Figure 4 Six Hundred Sixty Six is a Cipher (Technical Details)). The Bible code is a cipher, and this matrix validates the use of the ancient Babylonian method to count/calculate the number 666. The following are the Bible code matrix results of an investigation and the subsequent analysis of the biblical encoded information regarding the key prophecies that we have been discussing here. The following matrices are some of the results of the investigation:

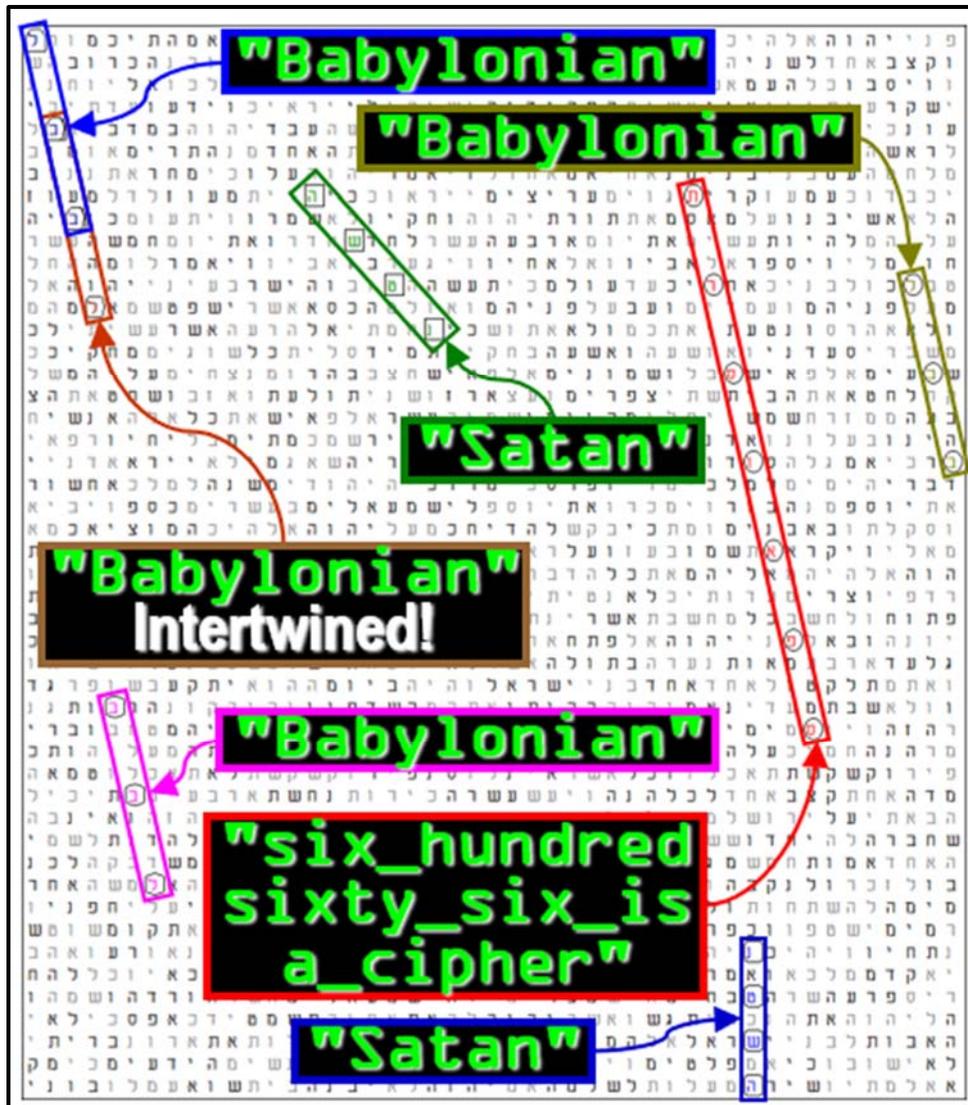


Figure 3 Six Hundred Sixty Six is a Cipher
(The biblical calculation of the number 666 is a cipher.)

Term	Translation	Skip	R Factor (in Matrix)	Start	End
תוסאפס	six hundred sixty six is a cipher/code	870851	-1.527 1.197	Isaiah 25:3.18	Daniel 1:14.19
השטן	Satan	435424	-6.020 -3.296	Isaiah 25:4.3	Jeremiah 42:10.54
השטן	Satan	-435426	-6.020 -3.296	Psalms 127:1.4	Amos 5:14.26
בבל	Babylonian	870851	-8.659 -5.935	Amos 4:9.25	Leviticus 16:1.11
בבל	Babylonian	870851	-8.659 -5.935	2 Chronicles 1:4.2	1 Kings 7:7.20
בבל	Babylonian	-870851	-8.659 -5.935	Amos 2:4.76	Deuteronomy 12:12.54
בבל	Babylonian	-870851	-8.659 -5.935	Amos 3:7.18	Deuteronomy 12:28.42

The ELS reference is 217713 characters between rows.
 There are 7 displayed terms in the matrix.
 The matrix starts at Deuteronomy 12:12.8 and ends at Psalms 127:1.40.
 The matrix spans 10232558 characters of the surface text.
 The matrix has 48 rows, is 47 columns wide and contains a total of 2256 characters.
 There are 0 significant terms in the matrix.
 The matrix odds are even (1 chance in 1).
 The cumulative 'R' Factor for the displayed matrix is 0.000.

Figure 4 Six Hundred Sixty Six is a Cipher (Technical Details)

Figure 5 Know the Vatican is a Harlot (the technical details are shown in Figure 6 Know the Vatican is a Harlot (Technical Details)) is a Bible code matrix that identifies the Vatican as a harlot church that fell away from the true teachings of Christ. The phrasing of the central term implies that there is more than one church that diverged from the truth.

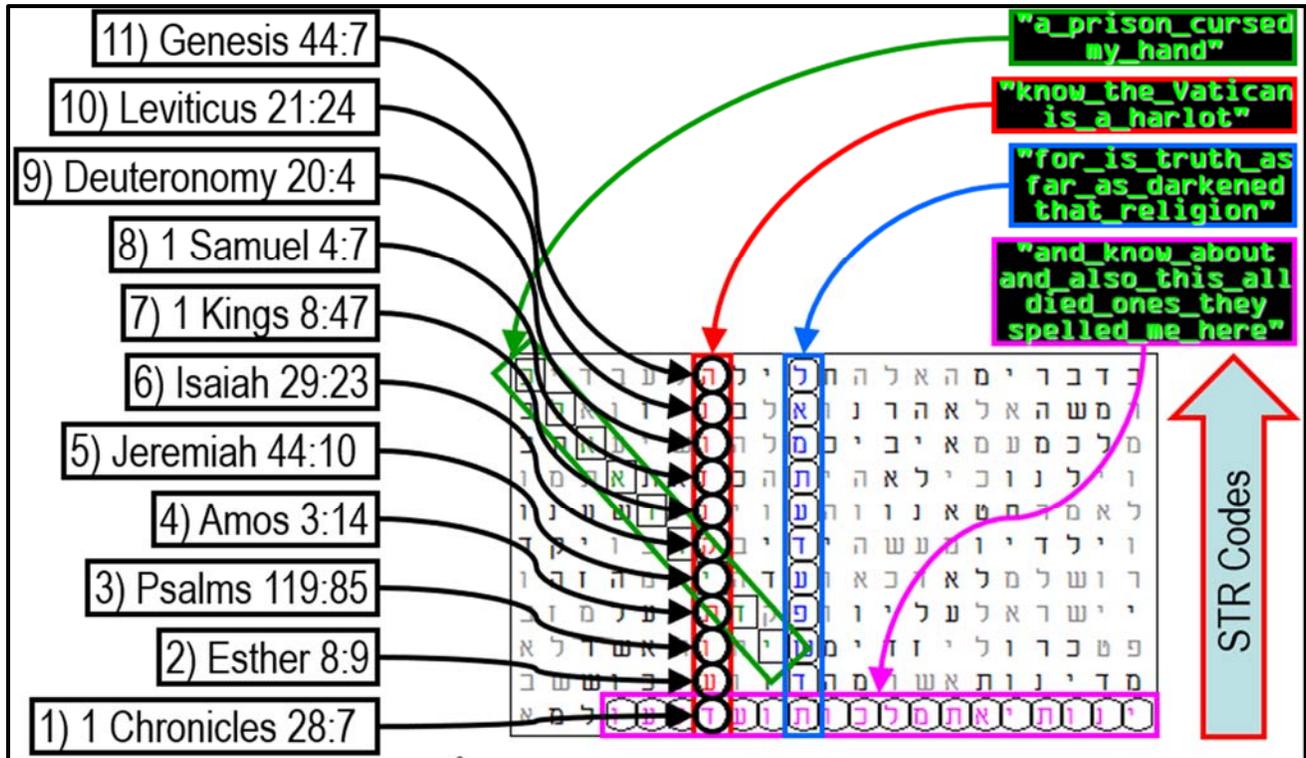


Figure 5 Know the Vatican is a Harlot
 (The Vatican is identified as a harlot church.)

Term	Translation	Skip	R Factor (in Matrix)	Start	End
דעות־קנוונה	know the Vatican is a harlot	-107157	3.462 7.176	1 Chronicles 28:7.18	Genesis 44:7.36
כלאארדי	a prison cursed my hand	107156	-0.745 2.969	Genesis 44:7.42	Psalms 119:85.11
לאמתעדעפּשדט	for is truth as far as darkened that religion	107157	3.576 7.291	Genesis 44:7.33	1 Chronicles 28:7.15
ועלדעותוכלמתאיתוני	and know about and also this all died ones they spelled me here	-1	14.797 18.511	1 Chronicles 28:7.21	1 Chronicles 28:7.4

The ELS reference is 107157 characters between rows.
 There are 4 displayed terms in the matrix.
 The matrix starts at Genesis 44:7.22 and ends at 1 Chronicles 28:7.24.
 The matrix spans 1071591 characters of the surface text.
 The matrix has 11 rows, is 21 columns wide and contains a total of 231 characters.
 There are 4 significant terms in the matrix.
 The matrix odds are 1 chance in 1.71014301121398E32 in favor of significance.
 The cumulative 'R' Factor for the displayed matrix is 32.233.

Figure 6 Know the Vatican is a Harlot (Technical Details)

In 2013 it was discovered that one of the Bible code matrices that had been discovered contained instructions to unlock an additional layer of the encoded information within the Biblical text. The message described bringing the surface text verses together by the encoded messages themselves. These messages are called Surface Text Relevancy (STR) codes. The numbers in Figure 5 Know the Vatican is a Harlot (and Figure 7 The Tree of Rome is the Beast) correspond to the biblical texts quoted below. The STR codes detailed and expanded (in square brackets) information is below:

1) "...I will establish his kingdom...and my judgments..." 1 Chronicles 28:7 (KJV) **[The Lord will allow the Vatican kingdom to be established and also to receive the judgments that it deserves.]**

2) "...it was written according to all...unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language..." Esther 8:9 (KJV) **[All of these events have been written / encoded in the holy Bible before they took place and will be proclaimed to all the people of the earth.]**

3) "The proud have digged pits for me, which are not after thy law." Psalms 119:85 (KJV) **[These wicked people, that have no regard to God's law, will set traps for the people of God.]**

4) "That in the day that I shall visit the transgressions of...the altars...and the horns of the altar shall be cut off..." Amos 3:14 (KJV) **[The Lord will make the enemies of the righteous powerless;]**

5) "They are not humbled even unto this day, neither have they feared, nor walked in my law, nor in my statutes, that I set before you and before your fathers." Jeremiah 44:10 (KJV) **[because they are proud, and do not keep The Ten Commandments of God.]**

6) "But when he seeth his children, the work of mine hands, in the midst of him..." Isaiah 29:23 (KJV) **[The people will see the work of God in the deliverance of the saints.]**

7) "Yet...in the land...they were carried captives, and...have sinned, and have done perversely...committed wickedness;" 1 Kings 8:47 (KJV) **[Some of the saints will have been taken captive by the evil ones that pervert the truth and commit wicked acts against the people of God.]**

8) "And...were afraid, for they said, God is come...And they said, Woe unto us..." 1 Samuel 4:7 (KJV) **[At the end, God's people will be delivered and the wicked will be afraid. "Soon I heard the voice of God, which shook the heavens and the earth. There was a mighty earthquake. Buildings were shaken down on every side. I then heard a triumphant shout of victory, loud, musical, and clear. I looked upon the company, who, a short time before, were in such distress and bondage. Their captivity was turned. A glorious light shone upon them. How beautiful they then looked! All marks of care and weariness were gone, and health and beauty were seen in every countenance. Their enemies, the heathen around them, fell like dead men; they could not endure the light that shone upon the delivered, holy ones."-Early Writings, 1882, pages 272 and 273]**

9) "For the Lord your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you." Deuteronomy 20:4 (KJV) [The Lord will be with Team144K as the message grows into the Loud Cry]

10) "...unto all the children of Israel." Leviticus 21:24 (KJV) [so that all the Lord's children will hear the message.]

11) "...they said unto him...saith my lord these words..." Genesis 44:7 (KJV) [Team144K prophesied these words that the Lord has said.]

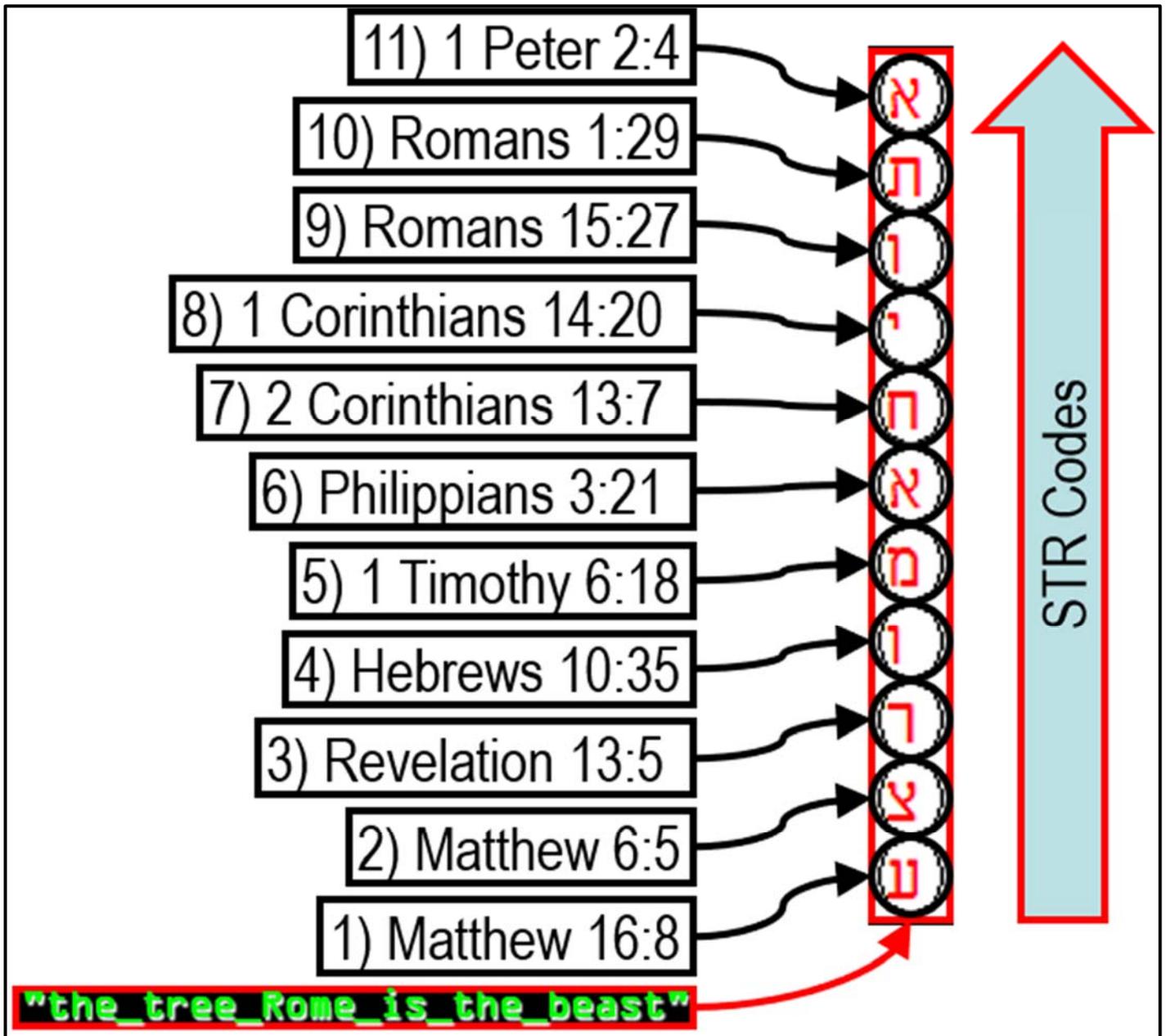


Figure 7 The Tree of Rome is the Beast
(The anti-Christ beast power branches to other countries as a tree.)

Term	Translation	Skip	R Factor	(in Matrix)	Start	End
עצרומאחיוותא	the tree Rome is the beast	-21100	3.998	8.621	Matthew 16:8.10	1 Peter 2:4.33
<p>The ELS reference is 21100 characters between rows. There are 1 displayed terms in the matrix. The matrix starts at 1 Peter 2:4.33 and ends at Matthew 16:8.10. The matrix spans 211001 characters of the surface text. The matrix has 11 rows, is 1 columns wide and contains a total of 11 characters. There is 1 significant term in the matrix. The matrix odds are 1 chance in 9963.977 in favor of significance. The cumulative 'R' Factor for the displayed matrix is 3.998.</p>						

Figure 8 The Tree of Rome is the Beast (Technical Details)

The Bible code matrix in Figure 7 The Tree of Rome is the Beast (the technical details are displayed in Figure 8 The Tree of Rome is the Beast (Technical Details)) contains significant STR codes that detail specific events that take place during the second rise of the Papacy (see Revelation 13) and are in agreement with the Spirit of Prophecy. The STR codes detailed and expanded information is shown below:

- 1) "...Jesus knew and said to them..." Matthew 16:8 (Peshitta) **[Jesus knows our carnal nature and says]**
- 2) "...you should not be as the hypocrites...truly I say to you, they have received their reward." Matthew 6:5 (Peshitta) **[not to be hypocrites. They have already received their reward, which is absolutely nothing!]**
- 3) "And a mouth was given to him for speaking great things and blasphemy and authority was given to him to act for forty-two months." Revelation 13:5 (Peshitta) **[It is suggested that the papacy is full of hypocrites and that the Pope blasphemies. (Of special note is the fact that letters in this code touch in Revelation 13 where the second rise to world power and domination of the Papacy is described. The second rise to power is allowed to last forty two literal months or 3.5 years).]**
- 4) "Therefore, do not lose the boldness that you have, for it will have a great reward." Hebrews 10:35 (Peshitta) **[The saints are instructed to be bold regarding their mission to spread/swell the third angel's message into the Loud Cry.]**
- 5) "And command that they should do good works and should increase in pleasing occupations and should be ready to give and to fellowship," 1 Timothy 6:18 (Peshitta) **[God's faithful remnant are asked to do good things and be rich in kind acts. Prepare and study materials that will be presented to the world during the Loud Cry.]**
- 6) "who will change the body of our humiliation that it would be in the likeness of the body of his glory, according to his great power by which all is made subject to him." Philippians 3:21 (Peshitta) **[The Holy Spirit will transform the saints and fit them with the armor needed to stand in the time of trouble. all of this takes place as the papal power extends its reach around the world.]**

7) "But I beg God that there may be no evil in you, so that our proof may be seen, nevertheless, that you may do good things and that we may be as rejected." 2 Corinthians 13:7 (Peshitta) **[Jesus asks the remnant to cleanse their vessels by doing good so that the heavenly community will have less to do to prepare the saints.]**

8) "My brothers, do not be children in your minds. But rather, be babies to evil things and be mature in your minds." 1 Corinthians 14:20 (Peshitta) **[Jesus is asking for everyone to train and prepare their minds.]**

9) "They desired this, because they are also indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have partnered with them in spiritual things, they are indebted also to serve them in fleshly things." Romans 15:27 (Peshitta) **[The evil ones became wrapped-up in the evil doings of the collective evil.]**

10) "being filled with all wickedness and fornication and bitterness and evil and greed and envy and murder and strife and deceit and evil reasonings" Romans 1:29 (Peshitta) **[As the shaking takes place the wicked will continue their wicked ways,]**

11) "The one to whom you are drawn is the living stone that men have rejected, yet with God is chosen and honored." 1 Peter 2:4 (Peshitta) **[while the faithful will be purified and continue in the path of righteousness and become precious to God.]**

The reader will notice that one thing is for certain; all parts of the prophecy and the current understanding of the interpretations point to the same conclusion. However, if one looks at all three theories, in the perspective that I am presenting, they marvelously complement each other and fit our current situation perfectly. So, in conclusion, whether you count using 'lines of kings', 'physical kings' or examining the 'end times special information' (Bible codes) evidence the prophecies of Revelation 17 are: uniform, consistent, and complement each other. A more complete picture of the end times is now known. Only time will tell for certain if all is correct and does not need adjustment; but if the same conclusion is reached utilizing diverse valid prophetic sources and interpretation of the same prophecy, then we can be reasonably certain that we are looking at something that is very close to ultimate truth.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.bellresearchlab.com/>

Appendix A: The Anti-Christ Beast Power

In a recent e-mail I was asked the question; what is the biblical definition of the beast or how does the Bible define this beast. This question is on many people's minds today and yet one would receive several different answers to this very important, and yet so fundamental question as to the identity of the anti-Christ beast power. If we have any chance at determining who or what this power is we must look to the scriptures and see how it is described. Then we can put the clues together and solve the mystery. Please note that: the little horn of Daniel 7, the man of sin of 2 Thessalonians 2:3, the sea beast of Revelation 13, and the woman on the beast of Revelation 17 & 18 all represent this anti-Christ power. Here are the facts, straight from the Bible.

ITS BEGINNING

- 1) The little horn grows out of the 10 horned fourth beast (Rome). Daniel 7:8
- 2) The man of sin owes his rise to the removal of a hindering power. 2 Thessalonians 2:7
- 3) The sea beast comes from the "sea" meaning many people (densely populated Europe).
Revelation 13:1
- 4) The woman on the beast arises in a city with seven hills (Rome) and rules over many waters (peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues). Revelation 17:9

TIME OF ORIGIN

- 1) The little horn comes up among 10 horns (the divided successors of the Pagan Roman Empire).
Daniel 7:24
- 2) The man of sin is revealed only after the fall of the hindering Pagan Roman Empire. 2
Thessalonians 2:7

- 3) The sea beast receives power, seat and authority from the Dragon (Satan working through Pagan Rome). Revelation 13:4
- 4) Woman on the beast arises among the ten horns (divisions of Rome) that will hate her. Revelation 17:16

RELIGIO-POLITICAL CHURCH-STATE POWER

- 1) The little horn has the elements of: diverse power, blasphemes God, exercises authority over the saints, changes times and laws of the most high. Daniel 7:25
- 2) The man of sins political characteristics not mentioned, but demands and receives worship. 2 Thessalonians 2:4
- 3) The sea beast is a composite of Daniel's beasts, which are kingdoms, and wear crowns, that demands and receives worship. Revelation 13:4
- 4) The woman is an apostate church – the beast is the power of the state, hence this is a religious-political power having a priest-king ruler. Revelation 17-15

BLASPHEMOUS PRESUMPTION

- 1) In this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things and words against the most high. Daniel 7:8
- 2) The man of sin exalts himself above God. 2 Thessalonians 2:4
- 3) The sea beast has a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies. Revelation 13:5
- 4) The woman on the beast is full of names of blasphemy. Revelation 17-3

TIME OF DOMINANCE

- 1) The little horn is given power over the saints for a time, times and a dividing of times (1260 years). Daniel 7:25
- 2) The sea beast is given power for forty and two months (1260 years). Revelation 13:5

WARRING AGAINST GOD'S PEOPLE

- 1) The little horn made war with the saints and prevailed against them. Daniel 7:21
- 2) The sea beast makes war with the saints and overcomes them. Revelation 13:7

GREAT POWER

- 1) The little horn looks more stocky than his fellows. Daniel 7:24
- 2) The man of sin has all power signs and lying wonders 2 Thessalonians 2:9
- 3) The sea beast is powerful; who is able to make war with him? Revelation 13:4
- 4) The woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.
Revelation 17-2

DEMANDS DIVINE HOMAGE

- 1) The little horn sets himself over the saints, times, and laws of the most high. Daniel 7:25
- 2) The man of sin sets himself up as God, above all that is worshipped. 2 Thessalonians 2:4
- 3) The sea beast causes multitudes to worship him. Revelation 13:8
- 4) The woman is the apostate "mother" of harlot churches. Revelation 17-5

IT'S END

- 1) The little horn has its dominion taken away, to consume and to destroy it unto the end (the second coming). Daniel 7:26
- 2) The man of sins end comes as the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming. 2 Thessalonians 2:8
- 3) The sea beast is cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 19:20
- 4) The woman on the beast is utterly burned with fire. Revelation 17:16

Revelation 13

A Panoramic View:

- Verse 1) Arises among multitudes and people. The dragon/Satan (sea beast with seven heads and ten horns) provides the foundation of its power. The ten horns represent the pieces of the fallen Roman empire.
- Verse 2) Satan gives the beast power, his throne, great authority.
- Verse 3) The beast's power was forcibly taken away (Napoleon-1798).
- Verse 4) The Satan and the anti-Christ beast power have different forms than any known state of authority.
- Verse 5) It was given power for forty two months in prophetic time (1290 years).
- Verse 6) Speaks blasphemous words.
- Verse 7) Killed some of God's saints.
- Verse 8) The ones that worship/believe in him are NOT written in the book of life.
- Verse 9) An important announcement will now be made:
- Verse 10) The same thing that happened to the saints will happen to the supporters of the anti-Christ beast power.
- Verse 11) Another beast/power arises comes up out of a sparsely populated area of the earth; later in time than when the beast receives its seemingly mortal wound.
- Verse 12) This second beast/power will do all the things that the anti-Christ beast power has done in the past and force worship of the first beast that had received the mortal wound and then still lived.
- Verse 13) This power makes fire come down from above in front of people.
- Verse 14) This power deceives the people of earth by the things that it does.
- Verse 15) This second beast/power provides a SECOND RISE TO POWER to the first beast/power and image to cause all the inhabitants of the earth to worship the first beast/power.
- Verse 16) This second beast/power causes people to receive the mark of the beast.
- Verse 17) The mark of the beast has something to do with the ability to exchange money (for food, etc...). The second beast/power attempts to stop the saints from being able to buy or sell unless you have "the mark".
- Verse 18) There is a deeply hidden puzzle/cipher for us to unlock; when you calculate the number of the beast you will reveal timing clues as to when this will happen and who (the man and his number) will be involved in this.

Now that we have quite a few facts describing the anti-Christ beast power, let's put them all together.

The identity of this power must have all of the above mentioned characteristics to be a valid candidate; it can't even miss one of the attributes. There is only one entity that contains all of the noted characteristics, the Papacy²¹.

²¹ The second beast/power is the United States.

Appendix B: Objections

There are objections to the interpretation presented here based on the idea that in Daniel 2 and 7, the visions there have explanations which always start with the prophet Daniel's time, language, place, and empire he is in;. Of course, they forget that Daniel 8 does not start there also. But, they claim, this vision in Revelation 17 must also be of John's time because the vision is followed by an explanation which includes the statement: five have fallen, one is, and one more is yet to come..." (Revelation 17:10). They conclude that the "one is" must be John's time. This is a mistaken idea, though, because at the beginning of the chapter, the explanation begins with the statement that John is going to be shown the punishment of the woman. The vision is then shown. But, the explanation has already started, and continues after the vision. Again, the beginning of the explanation is about the punishment of the woman. This is something that is clearly yet future, even by their definition because of their statement that the "one is" is at the time of John. The chapter clearly does not start with John's time, especially given that the woman is the apostate church which has not yet been punished. Dating John's vision using this interpretation is way off the mark.

So, it would appear that under their premises, the chapter backs up in time. This is not impossible, but it makes better sense to consider that maybe the whole chapter is dealing with events near the end of time, not at the time of John and then forward towards the punishment of the woman. Further, under their premises, they must place the scarlet beast prior to the time of John, for heads cannot exist independent of the body and they claim that the 5th head is at the time of John. This also ignores the clear evidence from Daniel (with no counterexamples from Daniel) that heads on a beast are to be considered concurrent rather than sequential. Their premises rule that out and clearly go against the rules laid down in Daniel. Of course, some of those who believe this will try to say that the scarlet beast is the dragon. That may appear logical but it ignores the clear evidence pointing towards the papacy as being the scarlet beast. And, you still have the concurrency problem. So, this objection should be put to rest by the facts.

The typical method employed for calculating the number 666 has been through what is called gematria, or assigning a numerical value to each of the letters in a name (based on the Roman numeral system), and then adding up the numbers translated from the letters contained in a name. For example, one of the titles that the Popes used to claim is Vicarius Filii Dei (which roughly translated means Vicar of God). This number can be run through using the rules of gematria and it does add to 666. There are a number of other such similar results found with the papacy, the Catholic Church, and even some of the names associated with Italy. But, none of the other methods such as the gematria system, employs the original method used by the Babylonians, which means they are historically inaccurate and therefore of current value. Further many individuals' names add to 666 under the gematria system. Should they be called the 8th king too? I think not. Although this is interesting to note that the gematria value of Vicarius Filii Dei is 666, this total is not the Pope's exclusively and is a relatively weak argument that is easily countered. This is the reason why it is not used as further evidence identifying the anti-Christ beast power in this chapter.

One last point about this is that the alphabet system we who speak English or many European languages use is only one of more than 30 in use in the world today. What about those who use an alphabet where Roman Numerals cannot be assigned because there are no equivalent Roman alphabet letters that can be assigned a numerical value? Must they be denied knowledge of this because of that quirk in history which gave them the "wrong" alphabet? However, counting and adding is valid in all languages and is not alphabet dependent. That gives virtually every person in this world access to this information as the rules of arithmetic are not language or alphabet dependent.

There are those who wonder about the connection between the seven kings and the seven heads, or in other words, are the seven heads the seven kings? Remember that from Daniel 2, 7, and 8, we learn that heads can represent names (see Daniel 2:38 which says "Thou art this head of gold." which puts a name to that head), kings, nations, and so on. So, the seven kings are in fact stand-ins for the seven heads. They are synonymous or one and the same. This is not contradicting the statement in Revelation 17:9 which

says "The seven heads [papal names] are seven mountains [lines of kings] on which the woman sits [its kingdom]." It merely is making all of them equivalent. From Daniel it is known that heads = kings.

But this applies only to the seven kings, not the 8th king is a king indeed, but the equivalency to mountains does not apply as it does not say that it does. Let's not read into the text what is not there. There is only a count of 1 needed to fill out the number to 666, which can be done by one single Pope with a name that has never been used before in history.

Some have suggested that the phrase indicating that the 8th king is said to be of the seven (Revelation 17:11) means that the 8th must be some sort of resurrected member of the seven kings. This, suggests that somehow one of them comes back or is literally resurrected to become the 8th king. But the context would suggest otherwise. The 8th king is NOT said to be a mountain, meaning that his name is unique. It seems extremely unlikely that any returning 7th king would take a different name than he already has, especially since he would be recognized, so consequently that argues against the 8th being a literally returned member of the seven kings. Further, to literally be from one of the seven kings, he would have to be resurrected from the grave, for all members of the seven kings have in fact died in order to leave office. For this and other reasons (papal name change, etc...), it is unreasonable to believe that the 8th is literally part of the 7 kings, but rather this phrase indicates what the Aramaic text suggests - he follows in sequence the 7th king which tells you he is different from the first 7.

Some had argued that Ratzinger would change his name to fulfill the final count of one. As history shows, this did not happen. This is interesting however since there have been many Popes that have not been counted. "They claimed to be popes when they had not been officially elected, or there were other problems with their claims of office. These are called anti popes, and their number is usually not counted by

Catholic officials."²² Now even if all evidence is distributed equally on either side of the balance scale, using Occam's razor²³ the **Replacement Theory** is the winner. This (as we now know) has all transpired.

New Papal Names are VERY RARE anymore! New names were common in early Papal history, but are extremely rare now. John Paul was the first new name to occur in Papal history since Pope Lando, who was elected in 913 AD. That means that when the name John Paul came (1978), it had been about 1,165 years since the last new Papal name was announced! Thus, when the 8th came along and had a new Papal name, it was a very big event because then the world had two new Papal names occur in a very short time period.

²² <http://www.666man.net/>

²³ Occam's razor; states that among competing hypotheses, the one that makes the fewest assumptions should be selected.