

"666 ... WHO IS THIS MAN?"

"Here is **wisdom**. Let him that hath **understanding count the number of the beast**: for it is **the number of a man**; and his number is **Six hundred threescore and six**." (Revelation 13:18) ... the **antichrist**.

All the efforts so far, to uncover the identity of this beast, the antichrist, has centred on using **gematria** ... that is ... an **alphanumeric code** where **letters** and **words** in the **Hebrew alphabet** are **assigned numbers, values, or calculations** ... for example:

The **first** letter of the Hebrew alphabet, **Aleph**, is given the number of **ten**.

The **second** letter of the alphabet, **Bet**, is given the number of **twenty**.

The **third** letter of the alphabet, **Gimmel**, is given the number of **thirty**

The fourth, **Dalet**, is given **forty** ... and so on.

It is commonly used in Jewish culture to understand text, particularly within the Torah, on a deeper and more spiritual level. This type of coding practice was thought to be first used back in the 8th century BC. There have also been English and Greek gematrias that have been used to try and uncover the identity of the antichrist.

Using gematria in **English** you can have

a=1, b-2, c=3, d=4 and so on.

or a=10, b-20, c=30, d=40 ... plus other variations.

In **Greek** you can have alpha = 1, beta = 2, gamma = 3 delta=4 and so on.

We all been in fits of laughter with Basil Brush, the comedic puppet on TV, and other well-known figures, 'proving' to be the anti-christ!

However, have the theological pundits been barking up the wrong tree? Instead of an actual quantitative number ... could 'the number' be the **character** of a particular man?

Instead of the endless Hebrew, indeed, English and Greek gematria, should we be looking at a **subjective** or **non-quantitative answer** for a man called the antichrist?

The Websters 1828 Dictionary has this definition for a meaning of the word 'number':

"To get one's number is to discover one's TRUE CHARACTER AND MOTIVES."

Getting the number of a man could simply be **understanding** or **knowing someone well enough** to **anticipate** what they will do or how they **will behave** ... as opposed to a mathematical quantity such as ... days, people, years, weights or someone's phone number perhaps?

Have you ever heard the following:

"Oh, don't worry, **I've got his number** - he's a typical brat."

"You don't fool me ... I've got your number."

Yes Dear Reader, we are all familiar with the rock group Iron Maiden and their rendition of their "Six, Six, Six – the Number of the Beast" with its terrifying video and lyrics of who this creature is. Indeed the whole world have been led to believe, and are looking, for a beast, the antichrist that will appear, with a grotesque and evil persona.

Is this simply a red-herring description of the beast? Should people be looking for a different man?

Let's start right at the beginning ...

"Here is wisdom." (Revelation 13:18)

Dear Reader, remember that this is John the Divine writing in the Book of the Revelation, concerning the **seven years of tribulation** ... the time of **Jacob's trouble** (<u>Jeremiah</u> 30:7) ... a **Jewish dispensation**.

When a Jew reads the word '**wisdom'** he immediately thinks of what? ... Solomon, the Books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, 1 Kings, 2 Chronicles as follows:

- 1. **Solomon's wisdom** (1 Kings 3:16-28) and the two women with the dead baby.
- 2. Solomon's wisdom (2 Chronicles 9:10-23)
- 3. The **proverbs** of **Solomon** (<u>Proverbs 1:1</u>) in the Book of Proverbs with the word '**wisdom'** mentioned 53 times!
- 4. Ecclesiastes, written by Solomon ... 'wisdom' mentioned 25 times!
- 5. **Solomon's wisdom** in 2 Chronicles 1:7-12;9:3-6,7-10,11-13

So when a Jew reads the phrase '**Here is wisdom**', it reminds him of Solomon! Solomon! Solomon! ... ad infinitum.When God asked Solomon what he wanted, he said wisdom (2 Chronicles 1:11).

Indeed, Solomon was "... the son of David, king in Jerusalem. Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity. I the Preacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem. And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith." (Ecclesiastes 1:1-2, 12-13)

Next Dear Reader, we are told "... Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast ..." (Revelation 13:18).

Question: How do you get understanding?

Answer: By continuously reading as the scripture says

"... whoso readeth, let him understand:" (Matthew 24:15).

What? ... the newspaper? New idea? Reader's Digest? No ... the Bible!

So Dear Reader, we read as much as we can about Solomon, his wisdom, his character, his strengths and weaknesses, what influenced him and so on and so on.

So with this injunction, our answer as to the identity of the beast aka the antichrist is contained within the Bible ... remember we are looking for the character and motives of a man in the Bible ... **not** determined by a gematric number.

Now it is interesting, that the word 'wisdom' (Revelation 13:8) is mentioned in the same verse as the **beast**. Is there a connection?

Let's study this further with the question "Who in the Bible has their name associated with the number six hundred and sixty six?

There are two men ... Adonikam and Solomon.

1. "The children of Adonikam, six hundred sixty and six ... to set forward the work of the house of the LORD." (Ezra 2:13; 3:8)

He was leader of **six hundred** and **sixty six** men who came out of the exile in Babylon, to help **build the temple** in Jerusalem.

2. The second is **King Solomon**:

"Now the weight of gold that came to **Solomon** in one year was **six hundred threescore and six** talents of gold," (<u>1Kings 10:14</u>)

What do we know about Solomon?

- 1. He built the temple! (2 Chronicles 3:1)
- 2. He was the son of David! (Ecclesiastes 1:1)
- 3. He had great wisdom and wealth! (1 Kings 4:29-30; 2Chronicles 1:12)

- 4. All the people were happy and prospered under Solomon and he had their 100% confidence! (2 Chronicles 7:10-11)
- 5. King Solomon was given rest and peace from enemy nations (1Chronicles 22:9)
- 6. He wrote 3,000 proverbs and 1005 songs! (1Kings 4:32)
- 7. The Queen of Sheba's spirit left her upon seeing his wealth and wisdom (2 Chronicles 9:3-4)
- 8. He was Mister Popular ... to the tune of 100%. If a democratic vote was held, he would have been a 'shoo-in' ... with 0% chance of losing!

He could do no wrong! OR COULD HE?

He went the catastrophic wobble, as he railed against, and disobeyed God ... falling backwards ... marrying queens from other cultures, building them palaces and sacrificing babies to their gods in the fire and so on ... as the following scriptures attest:

"But king Solomon loved many **strange** women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the **Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians,** and **Hittites**;... And he had **seven hundred wives**, princesses, and **three hundred concubines**: and his wives turned away his heart. ... And **Solomon** did **evil** in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. Then did Solomon build an high place for **Chemosh**, the abomination of **Moab**, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for **Molech**, the **abomination of the children** of Ammon (burning babies). And likewise did he for all his **strange wives**, which **burnt incense** and **sacrificed** unto their gods." (<u>1 Kings 11:1-3,6-8</u>)

Talk about a split personality!

And this will be **the number of the beast** ... this will be **the character of the beast** aka the antichrist ... Satan's right hand man in the seven year tribulation.

Now Israel, in rejecting Jesus Christ as their Messiah, will be waiting for someone to be their Messiah with similar credentials to the historical Solomon.

Yes, Dear Reader, this man, the beast, will be a 're-incarnation' of King Solomon with the following resume:

- **1.** He will be able to **trace his ancestry** back to being **the son of David**. Although all ancestry records have been destroyed or can't be found, this will not be a problem with the strong delusion sent by God (<u>2 Thessalonians 2:11</u>) ... and remember the ultraconservative Jewish hardliners will settle for nothing less.
- 2. Be the main man who re-builds the temple
- 3. Promise and deliver peace and safety (1 Thessalonians 5:3)

Man! This guy has the goods!

Then the double cross comes as follows:

"And he (the beast aka antichrist) shall confirm the covenant with many for one week (at the start there will be a seven year peace deal): and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that

determined shall be poured upon the desolate." (<u>Daniel 9:27</u>; <u>Matthew 24:15</u>; <u>Mark 13:14</u>).

And there, Dear Reader is the number of the beast ... **no name at this stage** ... but that will come after the tribulation.

The best we can do at this stage is to <u>warn those left after the rapture</u>, that their antichrist will be a **Solomon type character**.

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