

How To Have An Audience With The Antichrist*

*NOTE: We have purposely substituted the term ANTICHRIST for that of POPE. This is the only change we make in the original source material. The source for this article is *The Pope's Back Yard*, by Curtis G. Pepper, which we quote.

"It is easy to see the Antichrist. More than a million people do it each year, either on Wednesday in a general audience or on Sunday when he appears in his window above St. Peter's Square. In addition, another 7,000 people meet him personally to kiss his ring, or shake his hand, and receive a word of greeting. Six thousand others actually sit down in his office for a talk....."

Types of Audiences Explained

"St. Peter's Square. Strictly speaking, this is not an audience. No ticket is needed. You merely go to St. Peter's Square before noon any Sunday. At 12:00 the great bell of the basilica booms out the noonday Angelus prayer, and the shutters of the Pope's study window burst open. The Antichrist appears, dressed in white, smiling and waving to the crowd with a typical uplift of his arms. Some shout: *Evviva il Papa!* Others kneel in prayer. Still others stand and stare - or buzz away with their movie cameras. He delivers a brief message, which ends with his Apostolic blessing. At that solemn moment, Catholics usually kneel. So do many others. From start to finish, the ceremony lasts ten to fifteen minutes.

"General Audience. This can be more fun than any other - especially for those who are seeing the Antichrist for the first time. The size of the audience varies from 500 to 20,000 people. Large audiences are held in St. Peter's Basilica, smaller ones inside the Apostolic Palace - generally in the Hall of Benedictions, rich with frescoes and Swiss guards. If the audience is inside the Palace, the Antichrist walks in and sits down on his throne chair. If it is in St. Peter's, he is normally borne in on his *sedia gestatoria*, the portable gold throne chair. This has a purpose: it allows everyone to see him, and allows him to see everyone else. Once on his throne, he gives a short talk in Italian. This is then summarized by

relays of priests speaking French, English, Spanish, and Portuguese. The Antichrist enjoys these audiences. He has a list of the various groups - where they come from, what they do - which he reads aloud. This causes a great deal of cheering and waving back and forth. The general audience, then, allows the visitor to see the Antichrist at longer and more informal intervals than the other types of audiences. How well you see the Antichrist depends upon your admission ticket. Some are for seats close up, some farther back - and some are for standing room only. Tickets are available for the asking. You go to your own embassy to the Holy See and request them....Since there are a limited number of tickets, it is wise not to wait until the last moment - especially during the summer tourist rush. To get seats up front, it is advisable to bring a letter from your priest or bishop or in some way show that you should get special treatment....Meeting the Antichrist is primarily a religious event, so you dress as you would go to church back home.

"**Baciamano.** This is a personal meeting with the Antichrist - and little more. An aide tells him your name and who you are. He nods and extends his hand to have it shaken or to allow his ring to be kissed. Depending upon the time at his disposal, and also upon who you are, he may exchange a few words with you before passing on to the next person. This encounter can take place after a general audience, when you line up before his throne, or it can occur in one of the ten antechambers to his audience office. Generally speaking, a *baciamano* in the antechamber is more important than one held after a general audience....Many people would like to have this sort of meeting with the Antichrist, which makes it hard to arrange. Those who have done something for the Church, or internationally prominent personages, are usually granted this privilege.....

"**Special Audience.** This is a private encounter with the Antichrist, of a private nature and generally held in his office....Obviously, only persons whom the Antichrist has a special reason to see are so admitted.

"**Private Audience.** Granted only to very important people - heads of state, ministers, cardinals, bishops, other Christian leaders, or persons who have particular business with the Antichrist.

"**Official Audience.** Granted to heads of state or persons of equivalent rank making a state visit to the Holy See. This is always a formal and colorful event. St. Peter's Square is cleared of everyone, and the Antichrist's guards take over.....Any audience with the Antichrist is a moving thing....It is a dazzling experience even for kings and presidents. United States President Woodrow Wilson gave his top hat to an usher, but forgot to take off his overcoat, as he walked on hurriedly toward Antichrist Benedict XV. Papal chamberlains stopped him in the last antechamber - just in time.....That, of course, is part of the fun of going behind the Vatican walls - to find the Antichrist. And, once you find him, to be able to look beyond his guards and into the middle of his world."

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