

Is Samuele Bacchiocchi a Jesuit and/or Opus Dei?

I don't know... although for many years I and a host of others, particularly in the independent ministry wing of Adventism, have felt that he must be. After all, he was trained in the Jesuit's Pontifical Gregorian University, honored by the pope himself as a rising spiritual and academic star, and even published by a Catholic publishing house. His call for Biblical scholarship must certainly be a diabolical effort to discredit the writings of Ellen White — if she was already "shown" everything we need to know for salvation, what possible use could there be for "scholarship"? Ours is just to do or die, not to ask the reason why....

Samuele's (Bro. B's) recent intensive research into the annual sabbaths of the Hebrew economy has led me to ask some questions, and reconsider my former opinions. As a long time (14 year) part of the feast-keeping wing of Adventism, and as one who has been convicted for many years that festival observance has an indispensable and essential role to play in the spiritual development of the final generation, I have been happy to see Bro. B's two recent books on the feasts begin to challenge and dispel the profound and almost omnipresent error and ignorance on this subject within the Advent Movement. Not everybody has been pleased, however, and I'll comment on that a little later.

Reflecting for a moment on who the true Bro. B really is, it becomes apparent that there are essentially only two options to consider, namely:

Option # 1: Bro. B is a Jesuit and/or Opus Dei. In case this option is correct, it should be enormously instructive to all interested parties that Bro. B. has just spent two years of his life researching and writing on the annual sabbaths or festivals of Israel. This expenditure of effort by one who is arguably the highest-profile theologian in Adventism should at least convince the festival detractors and opponents that their pet peeve is of much greater significance than they had heretofore suspected; otherwise, why would Rome's "key man" in the "remnant church" give the matter such extended, focused attention? At a minimum, then, Bro. B's research constitutes a portentous wake-up call for the festival critics, particularly those in the SDA Reform Movement and the Independent Ministries, who have for many years dismissed this matter as a spiritual side show, something too far beneath their elevated spiritual dignity to be taken seriously. "Despise not the day of small things."

Option # 2: Bro. B is not a Jesuit and/or Opus Dei. This option begs the question — what was the man doing over in Rome, receiving a gold medal from the Pope, and instruction at the feet of Jesuit scholars? As I pondered these things, three noteworthy brethren from history came to mind: Moses, trained in all the knowledge of Egypt (which represented sin and oppression), mighty general over the Egyptian army (see Josephus), and groomed to be the next Pharaoh; Saul/Paul, Pharisee of the Pharisees, member of the Sanhedrin, zealous to track down and kill the True Worshipers; and Martin Luther, ardent Roman Catholic, who spent years of his life training for the Catholic priesthood. Each of these three brethren obtained a working knowledge of philosophies and political/spiritual machinery hostile to True Worship and the Chosen People. Each then received a call from the Heavenly Father to perform a special work in the presentation of spiritual truth and in the deliverance of the True Worshipers from demonic oppression. There seems to be a pattern here which we should consider very carefully. While I am not willing to acknowledge Bro. B as positively of the calibre of the three men just mentioned, I am considering the possibility that heaven is intervening in the affairs of mankind through Bro. B's ministry in accord with precedent as

noted. It seems that our Heavenly Father has obtained particular delight throughout past history in taking those trained by the enemy, and calling them to be champions for Truth. He may be doing it again.

One more point: of late, the folk over in Rome have reportedly refused to have anything to do with Bro. B or his books, but the rumour has continued to spread that he is a Jesuit. The thought occurred to me... if Rome wanted to discredit and reduce the influence of someone they felt had become a turncoat, would there be any better way to do it than to spread the rumour that that individual was a Jesuit? And could it be that some of those "independent," "historic," Adventist "ministers" who are so vocal in making the charge ~ have links to the Jesuit order themselves, and are doing their master's bidding? Just wondering...

So is Samuele Bacchiocchi a Jesuit and/or Opus Dei? I don't know, but I strongly suspect that, whatever finally proves to be the case, he is set for the rise or fall of many in Israel. Scripture tells us to "prove ALL things, and hold fast that which is good," not simply to prove those things which come from men we admire, and which agree with what we already believe. A failure to heed this admonition with respect to the research of Bro. B could prove to be spiritually fatal to many in this end-time generation. Let us all pray for wisdom to "rightly divide the Word of Truth" so we can stand in the final crisis.

Shalom!

Ron Buhler - Bible Student (905-775-9172)

"Salvation is of the Jews (Yahudi)... we know what we worship" Yahuashua ha Mashiach John 4:22