**10 Feb. 2024 Burmah Road Gospel Hall**

**The Year of the Dragon**

Legend says that the farther Dragons travel from their home in China, the more toes they lose. This is why the Chinese Dragon has five toes, the Korean Dragon has four toes and the Japanese Dragon has three. Fortunately, when wandering dragons return home to China, all their missing toes grow back. But, as most dragons would prefer to keep all their toes all the time, few dragons ever wander very far from home.

**You are a Dragon if you were born in… 1916 – 1928 – 1940 -1952 – 1964 – 1976 – 1988 – 2000 - 2012**

*If you were born in the Year of the Dragon, you are the life of any party and the star of any group. You possess natural charisma and boundless energy, which attracts people to you. However, your inclination towards exhibitionism can be interpreted as arrogance and puts off many people. Your brave and charitable nature makes you a good friend. You lack patience with people who cannot keep up with stamina, and can be obstinate and too outspoken, even through there is often value in your criticism. You are a born leader and find it difficult when your career progress is in the hands of another person. It is crucial for you to have new challenges and sufficient free reign. Your partners are often spellbound by your impressive presence and charming ways and it is not unusual for you to have many admirers and flit from one partner to the other. Your ideal partner is someone who is not threatened by your star qualities and gives you the space to express yourself – Monkeys and Rats are ideal.*

Deut. 18:10-14 *- There shall not be found among you anyone who …practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.*

*For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you.*

*You shall be blameless before the Lord your God.*

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**Rev. 12:7, 8**  
**The Biblical Dragon: (Rev. 12:9)***the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan...*

The Chinese Predict and believe that the Year of the Dragon will usher in Peace and Prosperity.

The Bible Prophesies that the Year of the Dragon will bring in Persecution unPrecedented in History, i.e. when the Dragon comes on the scene.

**A. BEWARE OF THE DECEPTIVE DRAGON.**Texts: Eph. 6:11; 2 Cor. 2:11; 1 Pet 5:8

**1**. It is a **M**ystery

**2**. It is a **M**yth

a. Its **S**ense: A legendary monster - huge, bat-winged, fire-breathing, scaly lizard or snake with a barbed tail.

b. Its **S**ymbolism: In general, a dragon was symbolic of the principle of evil.

i. In **E**gypt, the god Apepi was the great serpent of the world of darkness.

ii. In **E**urope: the dragon was symbolic of sin and paganism.

iii. In the **E**ast, the Chinese dragon *lung* (q.v.) represented *yang*, the principle of heaven, activity and maleness in the *ying*-yang (q.v.) of Chinese cosmology. It is regarded as a symbol of benevolence.

c. Its **S**hape

i. The **C**haldean dragon *Tiamat* had four legs, a scaly body, and wings,

ii. Both **C**hinese and Japanese dragons, though regarded as powers of the air, are usually wingless.

iii. The **C**odex (biblical) dragon, the old serpent,

*has seven heads and ten horns*, *and seven crowns upon his heads.* Rev. 12:3, 9

**3**. It is a **M**etaphor

a. **T**wice used of Pharaoh of Egypt in Eze. 29:3; 32:2 (*whale*, KIV; *monster*, NIV); cf. Isa. 51:9

b. The **T**erm, *dragon* is also used of Satan –

c. **T**ransliterated from *drakon* (Gk.) occurring 13 (cf. Gen. 14:4) Times in 12 verses *in* Revelation:

Rev. 12:3, 4, 7 (x2), 9, 13, 16, 17; 13:2, 4, 11; 16:13; 20:2

29:3 *- Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself*.

32:2 *- …Pharaoh king of Egypt, and say unto him, Thou art like a young lion of the nations, and thou art as a whale in the seas.*

Isa. 51:9 *- Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon?*

**B. Beware of the Deadly Dragon.** **Rev. 12**

**C. Behold, the Defeated Dragon. Rev. 12:7-9**

**1**. The **A**ssaults on the **D**ragon.

a. The Dragon **D**uelled with Michael and his angels. 12:7 cf. Dan. 12:1

b. The Dragon **D**efeated: he and his angels cast down to earth. 12:8, 9b ct. Eph. 2:2

c. The Dragon and its **D**eception identified. 12:9a

**2**. The **A**ccomplishments **A**gainst the Dragon. **Rev. 12:10-12**

a. The **S**ong of Victory of the **S**aints in Heaven. 12:10

b. The **S**ecret of the Victory. 12:11

c. The **S**ummary of the Victory. 12:12

**3**. The **A**ggression (Great Tribulation) *from* the Dragon. **12:13-17**

a. For God’s **P**eople. 12:17a

i. The Great **P**ersecutor – *great dragon, old serpent…Devil…Satan*

ii. The Great **P**ersecution – 12:13 cf. 12:9

*persecuted the woman*…*to be carried away of the flood*

iii. God’s **P**rotection – *the earth... swallowed up the flood* 12:16 cf. Isa. 59:19

b. For Christ’s **P**ossessors. 12:17b

**4**. The **A**ssistants with the Dragon. 13:1-13

a. The First Beast. 13:2, 4

*A beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, …like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.*

b. The Second Beast. 13:11

*I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.*

**5**. The **A**chieved End - the Dragon IN the Dungeon. Rev. 20:1-10

a. The **S**entence on the Dragon’s **A**ssistants 19:20

b. The **S**entence on the Dragon, the **A**ccuser. 20:2 cf. 12:9, 10

i. **I**mprisoned a thousand years. 20:2

ii. **I**nterim release after a thousand years. 20:7-9

iii. **I**mperishable sentence forever. 20:10

**D. Be sober – the Devouring lion** is active in the year of the **D**ragon. I Pet. 5:8

**1**. His **A**ppointed time is short. 12:12 cf. I Cor. 7:29; Rom. 13:11ff

**2**. His **A**uthority can now be felt. 12:3 cf. Dan. 7:7, 20, 24

**3**. His **A**ssistants are in place. 13:2, 4, 11 cf. Matt. 24:5; Rev. chs. 13, 17

**4**. He is **A**bout to Flood the earth. 12:15, 17 cf. Matt. 24:6-8

**5.** The **A**dvanced Technology is here. Cf. Dan. 12:4

**6**. The **A**dvice to the Saints.

a. **W**ake up.

Rom. 13:11ff - *now it is high time to awake*

b. **W**atch and pray –

Mk. 13:33- *ye know not when the time is.*

c. Be **W**ise to His **W**ays and do the **W**ill of the Lord

Eph. 5:16, 17 - *redeem… the time*

d. **W**alk in **W**isdom.

Col. 4:5, 6 - *redeeming the time*

e. **W**atch in all things.

II Tim. 4:3-5 - the time will come.

f. The **W**ord to read and obey.

Rev. 1:3 - *the time is at hand,* cf. Rev. 12:4

**W**ake up,   
**W**alk in **W**isdom,   
be **W**ise to the **W**ays of the **W**orld, read the **W**ord of God,   
do God’s **W**ill and   
be **W**atchful for **C**hrist’s **C**oming in the Year of the Dragon

***A Blessed and Fruitful Chinese New Year    
TO ALL Chinese Saints!***