**THE YEAR OF THE HORSE**31 JANUARY, 2014

12 Jan – Butterworth GH

19 Jan – Sungai Ara GH

26 Jan – Island Glades GC

02 Feb – Burmah Road GH

09 Feb – Burmah Road GH (Ch)

**Introduction:**  A Repeat Message on The Year of the Horse (1978, 1990, 2002, 2014)

**(1) The Significance of the Horse Year**

(a) The Horse in History - The Mongols; Alexander the Great; The Great Wall of China

(b) The Horse in Astrology.

**(2) The Symbols of the Horse –**

(a) The Horse in Astrology and Horoscope, etc.:

Ranked 7th among the 12 animals in Chinese astrology, the horse is viewed as a symbol of bravery and strength. Traits such as intelligence, endurance, speed and perseverance are associated with the horse.

**The Scriptures Against Spiritism, Astrology!**

Deut. 18:9-14 – **S**piritism, an **A**bomination

Deut. 18:15-19 – The **S**age **A**nticipated.

Deut. 18:20-22 – The **S**tandard **A**dministered.

(b) The Horse in Biblical Imagery – The Horse is a…

i. **S**ymbol of **S**peed. Isa. 30:16

ii. **S**trength and **S**afety. Psa. 33:17

**(3) The Scripture and the Horse.**

1st. of 154 occ. Gen 49:17; Last occ. Rev. 19:21

**O**ccurrences of Horses in KJV text:

*Horse* - 43 occ. in 41 verses; 1st. and last in OT - Gen. 49:17; Zech. 14:15; in NT in Rev. 6:2; 19:21

*Horses* – 111 occ. in 105 verses; 1st and last in OT - Gen. 47:17; Zech. 14:20; in NT in Jas. 3:3; Rev. 19:18

**O**rigin: The Jews may have obtained horses from Egypt (Deut. 17:16),

Canaanites before them had horses (Josh 17:16)

In Deut. 17:16 it is enjoined that the king *“shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he may multiply horses.”*

Uses: almost exclusively war-horses, or the property of kings and not of the common people.

 Horses were given by Egyptians to Joseph for grain. (Gen 47:17).

**A. BE NOT LIKE THE HORSE though A HORSE IS SPEEDY** **Psa. 32:9; Jer. 8:6**

**1**. Used of a People **Q**uick to do their Own **T**hing. Jer. 8:6b cf. 7:23:24 (-28)

*Every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle.*

 They refused to…

a. Obey God's **W**ord. 7: 23, 24a

b. Walk in God's **W**ays. 7: 23b, 24b

c. Follow God so that they might be **W**ell. 7: 23c, 24c

“***Well***” (*yatab*): Fr. root, to make well, lit. (sound, beautiful) or fig. (happy, successful, right)

In this Year of the Horse, God wants to wish us ***Well*** - A Happy and Prosperous (Successful) Chinese New Year.

**2**. Used of a People not **Q**uickened to the **S**igns of the **T**imes. Jer. 8:16

 "The Horses are Coming" Rev. 6:2-8

 *And I saw…and behold a* ***white*** *horse; Another horse that was* ***red****; lo a* ***black*** *horse; behold a* ***pale*** *horse:*

**3**. Used of God's People who must be **Q**uick to know the **T**imes and the **S**easons. Jer. 8:16, 7 cf. 7:24

for NOW it is high Time...cf. *It is not for you to know the times or the seasons.* Acts 1:6, 7

a. To **R**edeem the Time Eph. 5:15,16

b. To **R**ise up to the Times. Rom. 13:11ff

c. To **R**ealise that *Now* is the Time. II Cor. 6:2

**B. BELIEVE NOT IN A HORSE though A HORSE IS STRONG. Psa. 20:7**

**1**. Negatively our Strength will **F**ail without God. Psa. 33:17

 Be it found…

1. in Chariots and their **M**ultitude. {Isa. 31:1

b. in *Horses because they are* ***M****any*. {Isa. 31:1

c. in Horsemen and their **M**ight. {cf. Psa. 33:16

c. Without God it will fall **M**iserably.

 God has His own **M**ajestic Horses and Chariots of fire! II Kgs. 6:15-17 cf. 2:11

**2**. Positively our Strength should **F**ocus on God. Psa. 20:7 cf. Pro. 21:31

a. Not in Material **P**rops - *chariots*

b. Not in Natural **P**rowess - *horses*

c. But in God’s Supernatural and **P**owerful Name - *Remember His Name.*

Let “HIS NAME” be the **W**atchword for the New Year, and the **W**ard for our Life.

*Some trust in Chariots, and some in Horses; But we will remember the Name of the Lord, our God*

Remember His Name when the Path before us....

i. is Dark - His Name is our **D**eliverance. Psa. 20:7

ii. is Hard - His Name is our **D**efence. 20:1

iii. is Good - His Name is our **D**elight. 20:5

**R**ejoice in God in times of Prosperi**ty**. 20:5

**R**ely on God in times of Advers**ity**. 20:7

**R**emember God for Time and Etern**ity**.

*He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man.
The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.*

**3**. Affirmatively let our Strength be in **F**aith trusting God. Psa. 147:10, 11

a. God's **S**trength is **S**uperior to any might. Hos. 1:7; Deut. 20:1

b. God's **S**pirit is **S**upreme over any might. Zech. 4:6, 7

 *It is Not by Might –* the **M**ultitude of Horses;

 *Nor by Power –* the **M**ight of Horses;

 *But My Spirit saith the* ***M****ighty Lord of Hosts.*

**C. BEHAVE NOT LIKE A HORSE because A HORSE IS STUBBORN. Psa. 32:9b**

**1**. It Needs the **Whip** for **C**ontrol (or it will become **H**eadstrong). Pro. 26:3

a. Be under the Master's **D**irection. Psa. 32:8; 33:18

b. Be under the Father’s **D**iscipline. Heb. 12:5-11

**2**. It needs the **Bit** and **B**ridle for **C**onstraint (or it will rush **H**eadlong) Psa. 32:9

a. To Control its Whole **B**ody. Jas. 3:3

b. To Control any **W**ee **B**it.

**3**. It needs the **Hook** for **C**ompulsion. Eze. 38:4

 "*I WILL BRING THE HORSES FORTH*..." (*in the Day of the Lord*)

a. From all over **the Earth** … Eze. 38:2-8, 14-16

 i. The armies in the North to the Valley of Hamongog. Eze. 39:11, 15 cf. 17- 22 (20)

 = valley of the multitudes of Gog

ii. All kings (Neutral or otherwise) to the Valley of Armageddon. Rev. 19:17-19 cf. 16:16

iii. All Nations to the Valley of Jehosaphat. Joel 3:2, 12 cf. Zech. 14:4

b. From the **Bottomless Pit**.

i. Locusts shaped like **H**orses. Rev: 9:1-12 (7)

ii. Locusts like the appearance of **H**orses. Cf. Joel 2:1-11 (4)

c. From **Heaven**. Rev: 19:11-16

i. The **A**ppearance of the **F**aithful and True on a White Horse. 19:11

ii. The **A**rmies of saints **F**ollowing on White Horses. 19:13

**SUMMARY**

**A**. **BE** NOT LIKE THE HORSE though A HORSE IS **S**PEEDY Psa. 32:9; Jer. 8:6

B. **BE**LIEVE NOT IN A HORSE though A HORSE IS **S**TRONG. Psa. 20:7

**C**. **BE**HAVE NOT LIKE A HORSE because A HORSE IS **S**TUBBORN. Psa. 32:9b

**CONCLUSION**

**Be Always Remembering the Lord of Hosts. Psa. 20**

**1**. The New Year **B**enediction. Psa. 20:1-4

**2**. The New Year **B**anner. Psa. 20:5

**3**. The New Year **B**elief Psa. 20:6-8

a. There is Individual Confidence: "***I***”. 20: 6

b. There is Mutual Reliance: "***We***" 20: 7-8

My Wife and I Wish You All A Blessed, Fruitful, Bountiful and **Prosperous** Chinese New Year.

*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way* ***prosperous****,*

*and then thou shalt have good success.* Josh. 1:8

*…and whatsoever he doeth shall* ***prosper***. Psa. 1:3

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