**R994 (46) Rumination for Feb. 11, 2024**

The **T**heme: ***In The Beginning***

The **T**ext: *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.….* Gen. 1:1

The **T**hots:

Intro. : We are now one day after the Chinese New Year. How well have we been faring with our “**R**esolutions”?

 As we are still at the **Beginning** of the year, we can **R**emind ourselves of what we can still do.

 For this **R**umination, let us consider “***The Beginning***” as used in **R**elation to God, Christ and ourselves.

1. ***In The Beginning* GOD Created… Gen. 1:1**

***In the beginning*** *God created the heaven and the earth.*

* 1. That He might have the **P**riority in our **L**ives. Matt. 6:33

 *Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness;*

 *and all these things shall be added unto you.*

* 1. That He might have the **P**reeminence in our **L**iving. Eccl. 12:13

*Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*

* 1. That He might have the **P**raise from our **L**ips. Heb. 13:15

*By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually,*

*that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name*.

1. ***In the Beginning* was the WORD [Christ]… Jn. 1:1**

***In the beginning*** *was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

The “Word” has two “Formats”: as the Living Word and as the Written Word.

* 1. **As the Living Word [Christ].**
1. *The* *Word was with God.* Jn. 1:1a
2. *The Word was God.* Jn. 1:1b

Cf. *being in the* ***form*** *of God/ being in very nature God* (Cf. NIV)Phil 2:6

1. The Word *became flesh and lived among us.* Jn. 1:14, NIV

 He was *Emmanuel, God with us*. Mt. 1:23

Cf. *took upon Him the* ***form*** *of a servant… being found in fashion as a man* Phil. 2:7, 8a

* 1. **As the Written Word.**

***Beginning*** *at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them*

*in all the scriptures the things* ***concerning Himself****.* Lk. 24:27

*These are the* ***words*** *which I spake unto you…that all things must be fulfilled, which were* ***written***

*in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms,* ***concerning Me****.*Lk. 24:24 cf. 27

* + 1. The **P**entateuch (*Moses*) **P**ictured Him in His great **S**acrifice. Cf. Lev.
		2. The **P**rophets **P**redicted His **S**ufferings and **S**overeignty (Glory). I Pet. 1:10, 11
		3. The **P**salms **P**romulgated His **S**orrows and His **S**entiments. Cf. Psa. 22:1
1. ***From the Beginning* WE … I Jn. 1:1**
	1. The Apostles **P**roclaimed Him the *Word of Life*. I Jn. 1:1, NIV
		1. They had **H**eard Him with their **E**ars and had **S**tared (Gk. *Horao*) at Him with their **E**yes.
		2. They had **H**andled Him with their **H**ands and had **S**crutinised (Gk. *Theaomai*) **H**im closely.
	2. The Apostle John **P**redicted the return of the *Word of God* Rev. 19:11-**13**-16

To be *KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.*

* 1. In the meanwhile, **we** **P**roclaim the Lord’s Death until His return. I Cor. 11:26, NIV
		1. The early believers ***C****ontinued steadfastly in the Breaking of Bread*. Acts 2:42
		2. Let us continue to **C**ommemorate Him faithfully at the Lord’s Supper. I Cor. 11:26

 *For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death* ***till He come.***

* + 1. Let us continue to **C**elebrate **R**everently as we **R**ejoice in His **R**emembrance – *for He is* ***R****isen.*
			1. *Take, eat: this is My body…this do in remembrance of Me.* I Cor. 11:24
			2. *This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do ye…in remembrance of Me.* I Cor. 11:25

**Resolution for the New Year, 2024:**

* + - * + *This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the* ***first*** *month of the year to you.* Exo. 12:1

 *Seek ye* ***first*** *the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.* Mt. 6:33

* + - * + This shall be the Beginning of the year even unto the end of the year…

 *to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.* Deu. 11:13

* + - * + Year by year…*Thou shalt eat it before the LORD thy God*

 *in the place which the LORD shall choose, thou and thy household.* Deu. 15:20

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 994**

1. The Chinese believe this New Year (10 Feb. 2024) is **The Year of the Dragon.** According to their Zodiac calendar and its forecast of the Dragon Year, this year is going to be auspicious and prosperous.

However, the Bible seems to give a totally and completely different prophetic prospective perspective. A study of *The Chinese New Year of the Dragon* in the Scriptures (see [www.berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)) and its activities is believed to be so. The Dragon in the scriptures is deceptive, destructive and dreadful and its destiny is doomed for eternity.

In Revelation chapter Twelve, we have a Description of what the Dreadful Dragon (none other than the Deceptive Devil and the Subtle Satan) will Do, when he comes on the scene during the Great Tribulation (*the 1260 days*) as he seeks to annihilate Israel from the earth. Herewith is what the Bible has to say (Rev. 12:1-6, NKJV) what the Dragon will do –

*And there appeared a great ﻿wonder in heaven;* ***a woman*** *﻿clothed with ﻿the sun, and ﻿the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of ﻿twelve stars: 2 And ﻿she being with* ***child*** *cried, ﻿travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. 3 And there appeared another ﻿wonder in heaven; and* *behold* ***a great ﻿red ﻿dragon****, ﻿having seven heads and ﻿﻿ten horns, and seven ﻿crowns upon his heads. 4 And his tail ﻿drew ﻿the third part of the stars of heaven, and ﻿did cast them to the earth: and ﻿the dragon stood before ﻿the woman which was ready to be delivered, ﻿for to devour her child as soon as it was born. 5**And she brought forth* ***a man child****, who was to ﻿rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was ﻿caught up unto God, and to his throne. 6 And ﻿the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there ﻿****a thousand two hundred and threescore days* [1260 days] *–***

According to the above prophecy, Satan (the Dragon) will be cast down to earth to bring about great tribulation and destruction to the people of Israel (*the woman with child*) as has never happened before and will never occur again for a literal 1260 days – *For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.* (Mt. 24:21)

*Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for ﻿the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, ﻿because* ***he knoweth that he hath but a short time****. 13****And when the dragon saw that he was cast ﻿unto the earth, he persecuted ﻿the woman which brought forth the man child.***

Rev. 12:12, 13

What are the prospects of the above prophecy being fulfilled? One just needs to turn one’s eyes to what is happening to Israel in the Middle East today and we would realise, as Satan himself will do so, that the time is short and we need to be ready when the Lord shall come to take us back to be with Him in heaven. Are you ready? **REFLECT**

1. Yesterday the Chinese wished their friends “A Happy and Prosperous Chinese New Year”.

Do you think this year will be happy and prosperous?

Consider what is happening in the middle east between Israel and the other regional countries surrounding it, the economic downturns facing the rich and poor with no certain directions to be sure of what to expect, the political conflicts between east and west with no prospective peace, the environmental disasters in every clime and country, the sufferings of the homeless as well as the rich – what is actually happening to this world we are living in?

Are we living in the last days? Are we ready for the Lord’s coming? **REFLECT**

**Points to Ponder:** *The* ***L****amb Who* ***D****ied to* ***R****edeem will soon* ***D****escend from Heaven*

*as the* ***L****ion to* ***R****eign.*

***Whatever the Prosects of the Coming Chinese New Year, as with the Chinese Custom,***

***My Wife and I wish all our Chinese Partners in the Faith***

***A Blessed and Prosperous* (Josh. 1:8; Psa. 2:3) *New Year.***