



The Zion Letter

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THE RISE OF THE DRAGON

On February 10, 2024 the Year of the Dragon began on the Chinese Zodiac calendar believed by the Chinese to be a year of good luck. Revelation 12:9 says of the dragon: *“And the great dragon was thrown down that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world – he was thrown down to earth and his angels were thrown down with him”*. The majority of the world believes the dragon is a mythological creature. It is considered a god or a part of the folklore of many countries such as Scandinavia, Wales, Central America, all throughout Asia, and especially China who is best known for the dragon as part of their ancient mythology. I would argue that most people do not believe in dragons and that is what the Dragon/Satan wants you to believe. The bible however, says the Dragon is real, as I mentioned. Revelation 13:2 tells us that it is the Dragon who gives authority to the Beast. I have taught extensively on the Beast in recent years and will address the nature of the relationship between the Dragon and The Beast in this article. One thing we know for sure is that Satan is a liar so when the Chinese say that the dragon brings good luck you can bet that we are in for one heck of a ride in this Year of the Dragon. Let's break it down and see what parts of dragon folklore are true and what parts are false. Deception will be the downfall of mankind. Of that I am certain.

Which came first: the Biblical Dragon or the Mythological Dragon?

You might be surprised to find out that the dragon has been a part of the folklore, mythology, and religion of many nations long before John the Revelator wrote about him in Revelation 12, 13 and beyond. The dragon is the symbol of Wales and it is the symbol of China, so I racked my brain trying to figure out a connec-

tion between the Welsh dragon and the Chinese dragon since there is no documented connection. My first thought was that Marco Polo brought the dragon back to Europe along with spaghetti in the 1200s, but a little research revealed that the dragon pre-dated Marco Polo in Welsh culture. There were no ships from China to Wales or vice versa 1000+ years ago. So how did these cultures, so far removed from one another, come up with the same monster? As it turns out, dragons have a place in many cultures all throughout Asia, Mesopotamia (ancient Babylon/modern Iraq), India, Scandinavia and even the ancient Aztecs.



Let's see what these dragons have in common: According to Chatbot A.I. “Chinese dragons have a prominent place in Chinese mythology and are considered powerful, benevolent creatures associated with good luck, prosperity, and imperial authority”. Perhaps that is why the year of the Dragon is said to be a year of good luck. Are you feeling lucky? With the

world on the brink of WW III, war in the Middle East, the likelihood is that China will invade Taiwan any time now. In addition, Ukraine is out of ammunition and Russia is taking back territory won with the blood of Ukrainian soldiers. Meanwhile, Congress squabbles over a bill to fund military aid to Ukraine and Israel with provision additionally to seal up our own broken border. Many are asking why we don't put pressure on Europe to fund Ukraine since the U.S. has overwhelmingly shouldered this responsibility. The U.S. is broke. Prices continue to increase and we really don't have the money to help every country fight wars. I am, however, in favor of standing with Israel since Israel is the only nation in the Middle East killing Iranian, Syrian, Hezbollah, and Hamas terrorist leaders; many of whom are responsible for attacks on American bases in Syria and Iraq. Israel is really the only country trying to keep the barbarians from storming the U.S. but this gov-

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ernment still lets them in anyway. The U.S. is so broke we cannot even afford to pay the interest on our national debt and though I am no economist, I am aware that if interest rates keep rising, we will default on our debt (just like a person who cannot afford to pay their credit card or car payment – only on a much bigger scale). Then we will go bankrupt. We print money to pay the interest causing higher inflation which looks to be back on the rise. It appears that interest rates will *not* be going down any time soon. I'm not feeling lucky about our economy or the Dragon, but I am blessed of the Lord!

Dragons outside China:

“In Japanese religion dragons are known as “ryu” and are viewed as water deities associated with rainfall and bodies of water. They are often depicted as serpentine or fish-like creatures.” This is interesting because the dragon of Revelation uses water to try and destroy the Messianic Jews in Revelation 12:13-17; *“And the serpent (dragon) poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. But the earth helped the woman (Israel), and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth. So the dragon was enraged with the woman and went off to make war with the rest of her children who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus (Messianic Jews).”* I am fascinated by the water connection between the Japanese dragon and the dragon of Revelation 12 who uses water to try and destroy Messianic Israel.

In Korean culture, *“Korean religion also features dragons known as “Yong” or “Yongwang” (sounds like John Wayne to me). Korean dragons are seen as divine beings associated with water, weather, and fertility. They are often depicted with multiple claws and considered guardians”* (3) The Japanese and the Koreans view the dragons as gods, and very real at that as they both have a water connection. Vietnamese dragons are also associated with water. Even Central American societies, the Aztecs, worshipped a feathered dragon called Quetzalcoatl. These dragons were also associated with elements like wind and water and said to be responsible for natural phenomena. I find this interesting because Ephesians 2:2 refers to Satan as *“The prince of the power of the air,”* so it makes sense that he would have limited power over storms, tornadoes, and hurricanes. Thus in native Central American cultures, dragons are considered gods and very real beings. I don't believe in coincidences. The question is how did these pagan cultures incorporate Satan in his serpentine form into their religions and mythologies long before Columbus sailed the ocean blue? The best answer I can come up with is that their shamans and occult priests, having given themselves completely over to devil worship of pagan deities, saw a revelation of the greatest devil of them all - Satan,

the Dragon. He was revealed to them for evil purposes and for deception. In a similar way the Dragon was revealed to John the author of Revelation for our understanding and knowledge so we would not be deceived by the dragon/Satan. I was at a concert the other night where a man behind me loudly commended that the year of the Dragon means good luck and that he was going to have a lucky year. I asked the man if he believed everything that came out of the Chinese media. He said he had no reason not to. I answered that they are run by Communists and that it is next to impossible for the average person to get a message out to the world. I told him that the dragon is Satan according to Revelation 12:9. He mocked me, so I said go ahead and believe what you want, but I am willing to bet that by the end of this “year of the dragon” he won't be feeling quite so lucky. It is the Chinese who will have good luck from the year of the Dragon, not the U.S. or believers.

24,000 Chinese migrants cross southern border into San Diego:

As I was preparing to write this article it caught my attention on Fox news that 24,000 Chinese migrants had illegally crossed over a mountain into San Diego since January 1, 2024. Reportedly most of them are young men of military age. I researched what the requirements are to leave China: One needs permission from the government and a pretty good reason for leaving China. These men flew to Ecuador where no visa is required for entry and made their way to the American border. Do you think they came to be farm laborers or maybe work in Silicon Valley? Yeah, right. There are plenty of Chinese students studying at Harvard and Princeton who will go to Silicon Valley. I also found out that it is impossible to vet Chinese migrants since they had no visas or passports. Furthermore, the U.S. has no extradition treaty with China so sending them back is not an option. I get the strong sense we are being invaded by elite Chinese soldiers, terrorists from Yemen, Syria, Iran and other Islamist countries. Abraham Lincoln once said, *“If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide”* (4) quote January 1838, Springfield, Illinois. In my view China is the chief among dragons on the earth. I do believe that there probably is a serpentine creature in the depths of the ocean and maybe even in Loch Ness which just happens to be connected to the ocean by a tidal river. But images of creatures such as “The Beast” are given to us to help us under-



stand spiritual concepts. China represents the power and authority of Satan/the Dragon in a more practical sense; on earth, in our time, rather than that of the actual winged sea serpent who breathes fire.

The Dragon and The Beast :

As I wrote in a previous article called *“The Image of the Beast”* published in February 2022, (see it at www.forzionsake.org), a statue of a Beast with the body of a leopard, the feet of a bear, the face of a lion, and the wings of an eagle was placed outside the United Nations in New York City in November of 2021. The UN called it *“The Guardian for International Peace and Security”*. As a result of Christian outrage over this statue’s similarity to the Beast of Daniel 7 and Revelation 13, it was taken down one month later. That statue was perhaps the first time an image of the Beast came from the pages of the Bible (Revelation 13) into reality. According to Revelation 13:2, the body of the beast is that of a leopard (Iran’s animal symbol), the feet of a bear (Russia’s animal symbol), and the face of a lion (Great Britain’s national animal symbol). So the Beast is a confederation of nations or a United Nations. The Beast is first prophesied in less detail in Daniel 7. Daniel’s beast comes up out of the sea (representing the nations/gentiles, see Rev 17:15), just like the more detailed beast in Revelation 13:1-2. However, Daniel’s Beast has the wings of an eagle that are quickly plucked (see Daniel 7:4). In Daniel, the animals of the Beast have not joined together, but they are the same basic animals that make up the Beast of Revelation 13 with the exception of the Eagle’s wings which do not appear in Revelation 13. The last time we see the Eagle’s wings (representing the United States) is Revelation 12:14.

As for the Beast and the Dragon, it is the dragon who gives the Beast *“power and his throne and great authority.”* Rev 13:2 Shortly after the statue of the Beast was placed outside the United Nations, the winter Olympics were held in China. Russian president Vladimir Putin (the feet of the Beast) went to China to meet with Xi Xing Ping (the Dragon) to seek power and authority to begin war with Ukraine. Ping blessed Putin’s war, but told him to wait until the Olympics were over. So Putin waited until February, 2022 to begin his war with Ukraine. When a beast such as a rhinoceros or a lion moves, what is the first part of the animal’s body to move? The feet. It makes sense that the first image of the Beast was placed at the United Nations, because the UN is the Beast; the Beast is a confederation of nations or a United Nations. Shortly after this statue appeared at the UN, Russia (the Bear’s feet on the Beast) sought per-

mission from China, the Dragon, to make war. China controls “BRICS” a federation of nations started by China for the purpose of challenging the world order dominated by the United States. The first member nations, originally founded in 2009, were Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. In 2023, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates were added to the BRICS group. Interestingly four of the five new members have peace treaties with Israel. But because of the Biden administration helping Yemen (who has been at war with Saudi Arabia) obtain weapons and removing them from the terrorist list, Biden essentially made Saudi Arabia an enemy of the U.S. Under the Abraham Accords accomplished by President Trump, Israel and the U.S. were keeping peace in the Middle East, and reigning in Iran with tough sanctions. These effective measures were discontinued under the Biden administration, thus freeing up billions of dollars in frozen Iranian assets which are now being used to fund terrorism and build nuclear weapons. As a result, these countries are now seeking the protection of China, the Dragon.

All nations with the possible exception of Israel are part of the Beast (United Nations). We saw it play out that, when a nation such as Russia seeks to go to war, they first must seek China’s favor to receive power and authority. It is no secret that China is behind Iran who is wreaking havoc in the Middle East with their oil money. Iran sells billions of dollars in oil to China and is their number one trade partner. According to Perplexity Pro, Iran needs China more than China needs Iran. So once again we see another war in the Middle East that is, and will drag, the United States into full scale conflict with Iran (we are the Goat of Daniel 8 in prophecy). The current war is sponsored by the leopard (Iran) with the blessing of the Dragon, China. As I taught in my message eight years ago *“The Last President of the United States”* and in a more recent newsletter about the Daniel 8 war between Iran and the United States, there is only one thing stopping the war from beginning in earnest. Even though U.S. military bases and ships have been attacked over 160 times in recent months by Iranian proxies, something is holding our fearless President back from attacking Iran, the force behind all the chaos in the Middle East including Hamas’ attack on Israel. I believe it is fear of China/the Dragon that is keeping Biden from attacking Iran directly. Does the Chinese government have Biden in a compromised position or is Biden just afraid of making a move that might provoke China in some way? Either way he is reluctant to oppose China or its proxies.



Conclusion:

“For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in Heaven, that you should say, ‘who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us that we may hear it and do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us... But the word is very near you...it is in your heart, so that you can do it.” DT 30:11-14. The point being, it is not too difficult for you to understand the Beast or the Dragon, the book of Revelation. Perhaps we need someone to explain it to us. I don’t claim to know it all, but I believe that God has been giving me an understanding of the Apocalypse, bite by bite. I have much more to say and would like to teach on the Man of Lawlessness and how we will know where and when he is coming. I do not know who he is, but I have some thoughts. If this article stirred you to think and to study on your own about the Dragon and the Beast, then I have done my job. Time is short, my friends. Shorter than you think. A.I. is a tool that can accomplish great things for mankind in the right hands, but we know it is going to fall into the wrong hands and be used to deceive the many. I can envision a day when men will say, if A.I. doesn’t agree with what believers say, then believers are liars. I dread the thought of A.I. being used to create robots and machines like in the movie Terminator and meant to harm you and me. If you follow the stock market at all, you know that trillions of dollars are being invested in A.I. right now. The world is changing at the speed of light and most people haven’t a clue. I feel convicted that I must deepen my own spiritual walk and I challenge you to deepen yours. The Dragon is very real and I fully believe it is manifesting through China in the earth today. The Beast is also very real, and I believe that as Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 say, some of the nations of the Beast are making war and devouring much flesh. Some nations will be devoured and others will flourish. I hope this has helped you see more clearly.

In Yeshua’s love,
Rabbi Joe

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