



WARNING, BEWARE THE DRAGON

August 25, 2021

Leonard E. James

Lionhart Ministries

THE DRAGON

The Bible makes prolific use of symbols. These symbols represent beings, nations and persons throughout history. For Christians it is important to correctly understand what the symbols mean. It is not the purpose of this writing to give an exhaustive discussion of Biblical symbols, but to address one particular symbol, the dragon.

Revelation 12:7-12(NKJV)

- 7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,
- 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.
- 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.
- 10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.
- 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.
- 12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

Many of us recognize this passage as an endtime prophecy signalling the start of the Tribulation. Unfortunately, many who claim Christianity either have not been taught about the endtime and the Tribulation or, for various reasons, do not believe the teaching. I cannot address those issues in full in this short piece. I would urge the reader to study scripture and history and to pray for Divine understanding of these subjects.

This passage identifies the dragon as "the Devil and Satan". It also, speaks of a war in heaven resulting in the expulsion of the dragon and his angels. As we go forward we must remember that things in the heavenly realm are spiritual not physical. For us as physical human beings we can easily miss spiritual things. More on this later.

Other Heavenly Wars

Scripture makes other references to heavenly disputes involving the dragon.

Isaiah 14:12-15(NKJV)

- 12 "How you are fallen from heaven,
O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground,
You who weakened the nations!
- 13 For you have said in your heart:
'I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation
On the farthest sides of the north;

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
I will be like the Most High.'

15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,
To the lowest depths of the Pit.

This refers to the rebellion of Lucifer. Lucifer is another name of Satan, the Devil, the dragon. We can gain more insight into this heavenly conflict in the book of Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 28:11-19, 14(NKJV)

11 Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying,

12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God:

"You were the seal of perfection,
Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

13 You were in Eden, the garden of God;
Every precious stone was your covering:
The sardius, topaz, and diamond,
Beryl, onyx, and jasper,
Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold.
The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes
Was prepared for you on the day you were created.

14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers;
I established you;
You were on the holy mountain of God;
You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,
Till iniquity was found in you.

16 "By the abundance of your trading
You became filled with violence within,
And you sinned;
Therefore I cast you as a profane thing
Out of the mountain of God;
And I destroyed you, O covering cherub,

17 "Your heart was [b]lifted up because of your beauty;
You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor;
I cast you to the ground,
I laid you before kings,
That they might gaze at you.

18 "You defiled your sanctuaries
By the multitude of your iniquities,
By the iniquity of your trading;
Therefore I brought fire from your midst;
It devoured you,
And I turned you to ashes upon the earth
In the sight of all who saw you.

19 All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you;
You have become a horror,

And shall be no more forever.
From the midst of the fiery stones.

In this passage the “king of Tyre” refers to the dragon. It states, “You were in Eden, the Garden of God.” This is a clear reference to the serpent in Genesis 3. The serpent, commonly referred as the snake, was a reptilian form like a dragon. The context shows this is not a reference to a human king of Tyre.

Who is the Dragon?

In summary the dragon is a spirit being we call the Devil and Satan.

The Dragon is a Liar

Christ refers to the devil, the dragon, as a liar and the father of lies.

John 8:44(NKJV)

44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Christians strive to embrace truth. Even so, Christian must be careful to avoid believing and acting on lies, that is, to avoid being deceived. Christ left us a solemn warning about deception.

Matthew 24:4-13(NKJV)

- 4 And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you.
- 5 For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.
- 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.
- 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.
- 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.
- 9 “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.
- 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.
- 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.
- 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.
- 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

Here Christ warns His followers about deceivers and false prophets. He warns that “many will come in My name”, but be deceivers. This is an apt description of what is happening today. Many speaking from churches, the media and politics will use religious terms while the behaviors and policies they promote are from the dragon.

A DRAGON ON THE WORLD SCENE

The Bible uses symbols to refer to people and nations in prophecy. Sometimes a national symbol can give insight into how a nation can behave in the light of prophecy. We can often discern the nature and intent of individuals from the way they interact with nations who embrace certain symbols that are described Biblically.

The Dragon, A Symbol of China

China is a nation that is symbolized by the dragon.

Perhaps the best known Chinese dragon symbol is associated with the Chinese new year celebration.



Dragon dance in Chinese New Year

<https://nationalsymbolss.com/2019/03/04/china/>

The dragon is prominent in Chinese history, religions and culture. We have to be careful and avoid the conclusion that the Chinese nation and culture is more Satanic than any other because it uses the dragon symbol. It is not. However, it is not a Christian culture.

The Chinese Communist Party(CCP)

Today China, the People's Republic of China, is ruled by the Chinese Communist Party, the CCP. The CCP has adopted the Socialist-Marxist philosophy originated by the German philosopher,

Karl Marx. It has been modified by such individuals as Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin and Mao Zedong. It is an absolute dictatorship in that there are no freedoms of religion, speech or press. It is led by Xi Jinping whose purpose is to be the leading power in the world. Part of the effort to achieve that end is the creation of militarized artificial islands in the South China Sea to disrupt major trade and travel routes there.

Over the last 40 years the Chinese have placed itself in the majority of the industrial supply chains. U.S. corporations have outsourced much of their manufacturing and other functions to China in the name of reduced costs. In addition many of the high technology companies have imported Chinese labor into the U.S. via the H1B visa program. This has had the effect of reducing wages and employment opportunities for U.S. citizens. Also, U.S. companies seeking entry into the Chinese markets have been required to release much of their proprietary technology to the Chinese. In addition, the Chinese have infiltrated into the U.S. education, media and political arenas. I will address those actions later in this piece.

Wuhan Virus

Early in 2020 we were made aware of a highly contagious virus said to originate in Wuhan, China. It has been called the Corona virus and COVID-19. The validity of the statistics of the number of infections and deaths is suspect because the whole issue has been politicized. It is clear that as of this date (January, 2021) over 90,000,000 infections and about 2,000,000 deaths have been reported worldwide.

The behavior of the Chinese government has been suspicious as the outbreak spread around the world. The government restricted travel from Wuhan to destinations within China, but allowed travel outside China. There is reason to believe the Chinese Communist Party wanted the virus to infect other countries. Reports in the media have done little to bring clarity.

SOURCE OF U.S. POWER AND PROSPERITY

Since World War II the United States has enjoyed unparalleled power and prosperity. So much so that many American citizens and leaders take it for granted and believe it was achieved by some special merit of our own not enjoyed by people of other nations. It would do well at this point to rehearse the source of our power and prosperity.

U.S. Founding Documents & Philosophy

The U.S. was founded by migrants from Europe, primarily England. It was a British colony. Most of the people coming here in the 17th and 18th centuries were escaping the abuses of the European monarchies, including that of England. A key component of those abuses were religious in nature; the European governments exercised control over the churches.

Declaration of Independence

The relationship between the 13 colonies that became the U.S. and England deteriorated until the colonies declared independence from England on July 4, 1776. A key phrase in this document is:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

This states that our rights as Americans derive from our Creator, our God, and not from government.

The Constitution

The Constitution of the United States took effect in 1789. This document forms the basis of U.S. law and justice. It originally consisted of seven articles and ten amendments known as the Bill of Rights. Its foundational concept is limited government. The powers of the national government that it established were divided among three co-equal branches whose functional intent is to serve as a check and balance on each other. The idea was to prevent tyranny by preventing the accumulation of too much power in one group of individuals. The function of the Bill of Rights was to limit the power and scope of the government, not only in the three branches, but also in the states and the association with police and other law enforcement bodies. It is important here to note the limitations on government power in the First Amendment which reads as follows.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

It is important that this First Amendment addresses the freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly and petition. It is critical that the first freedom is freedom of religion. This means that government, under the Constitution, cannot interpose itself between a person and their god. I use lowercase for god to establish the lack of a national religion. It also avoids requiring that a person have a religion. The implication is that government does not get into religion beyond assuring that each person can practice their faith or lack of faith as they see fit. Of course, certain practices like human sacrifice or child abuse are forbidden because these involve acts of crime that deny life and safety to the victims.

Christianity in the United States

Christianity is the largest religion claimed in the United States. However, the U.S. cannot lay claim to perfection or superiority over other nations with regard to its practice of Christianity. The citizens of the U.S. are human. Humans are not perfect. However, because of its founding principles people in the U.S. have enjoyed unparalleled ability to live out the principles of the Bible, however imperfectly. It is clear that we Americans have enjoyed great favor, blessings and protection from God.

However, over the last five to six decades our culture, our national life, has drifted from Godly principles. This has occurred because, as a nation, we have strayed from both Godly and Constitutional principles. Our culture has come more and more to reject and ignore God and His instruction. There are two issues that exemplify the national departing from God.

Leviticus 18:21-22(NKJV)

21 And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through the fire to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.

22 You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.

Abortion

The first issue is child sacrifice embodied in the phrase, "let any of your descendants pass through the fire to Molech". This concerns the practice of child sacrifice in pagan worship. While we do not see ourselves sacrificing our children, the practice of abortion does kill our children. On January 22, 1973 the Supreme Court of the United States issued the Roe vs. Wade decision essentially legalizing abortion. Abortion is the act of killing one's own child before birth. Recent developments are tending toward killing the child shortly after birth.

Homosexuality and the LGBTQ Movement

The second issue concerns homosexuality that is addressed in verse 22. On June 26, 2015 the U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling in the Obergefell vs. Hodges case that declared that same sex marriage is protected by the Constitution. Later the Obama White House was illuminated in rainbow colors to celebrate the decision.

State of U.S. Culture

There has been a continual drift away from God toward the dragon, Satan, over the years. The U.S. is entering a period of decline as a result. The history of ancient Israel is filled with periods of revival and decline associated with their adherence to or rejection of God and His teachings. There are two books by Jonathan Cahn centering on the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack that draw parallels between Israel and America in this regard.

1. Cahn, Johnathan, *The Harbinger: The Ancient Mystery that Holds the Secret of America's Future*, FrontLine, 2012.
2. Cahn, Johnathan, *The Harbinger II: The Return*, FrontLine, 2020

HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF CHINA

'Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it.'

-- George Santayana, philosopher

The actual statement is said to be, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

One of the most significant things in the historical context of China is its impact of world trade. China is the most populous country in the world throughout history. While this exposition does not contain a detailed history of China, it does point to some important milestones in its history.

The first milestone regards the travels of the Italian merchant, Marco Polo (1254-1324). Marco Polo traveled to many parts of Asia. The most significant in this context is China. He wrote of his travels in

what is known as “The Travels of Marco Polo”. This gave rise to great interest in Medieval Europe to open trade with China. This interest continues, worldwide, to the present day.

At the time most people viewed the earth as flat and there was great fear that if one ventured forth too far, they would fall off the edge. However, this thinking became discredited and a number of European nations, notably Spain, Portugal and Italy considered an alternative. Basically, trade routes to China and India involved traveling East over land and sea to reach China. There were people who believed they could “reach the East by sailing West”. This opened an age of exploration in Europe which led to the discovery of the “New World”. Explorers, such as, Christopher Columbus, Vasco da Gama, Amerigo Vespucci and others encountered a large land mass now known as North and South America. The inhabitants of this area were erroneously called “Indians” because they thought they had reached India. Eventually, Ferdinand Magellan is credited with being the first explorer to sail around the world. This led to the founding of the present-day nations of North and South America, including the United States. All of this was motivated by the desire to trade with the nations of Asia, primarily China.

Impact of Chinese Trade on the United States

It would surprise most Americans to find that American national history involving China actually begins in the early 1800’s.

The United States (U.S.) was formally created as an independent nation in 1776 when thirteen British colonies in eastern North America separated from the British. In 1803 the U.S. purchased land held by France in the Louisiana Purchase. The famous exploration of Lewis and Clark extended the reach into Oregon. Also, California was acquired from Mexico. At this point U.S. territory reached the Pacific Ocean.

Almost immediately there were people in the U.S. who pushed to open trade with China from the west coast. In the early 1800’s goods were transported by coal-powered steamships. However, the route ran from the west coast of the U.S. to Honolulu, Hawaii to Shanghai, China. The distance from Honolulu to Shanghai exceeded the range of the steamships. The route passed through the Bonin Islands which were close to Japan. The best-known of the Bonin Islands is Iwo Jima of World War II fame. The U.S. chose to establish a coal replenishment station on Chichi Jima another of the Bonin Islands. A U.S. fleet under the command of Commodore Perry sailed to Japan in 1853 in an effort to intimidate the Japanese and thus began a tense relationship that culminated in the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. A more detailed discussion of this can be found in the book, *Flyboys: A True Story of Courage* by James Bradley published in 2003 by Little, Brown and Company. This book discusses the World War II battle involving Iwo Jima and Chichi Jima.

After World War II China came under the control of the Chinese Communist Party. During the Cold War the U.S. endeavored to engage China as a counterweight to the Soviet Union. A part of this strategy was the effort to improve U.S.-China relations during the Nixon Administration beginning in 1971. Once again, a major motivation was to enter the Chinese market of over one billion people. After the fall of the Soviet Union in 1988 the efforts to increase trade with China increased until China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001.

Over the last 20 years much of the U.S. manufacturing capacity was moved to China. There was a hope that by increasing trade the Chinese government would become more democratic. This hope has been in vain. The Chinese have moved aggressively on the world scene to increase their influence, often at the expense of the U.S.

THE DRAGON & EVENTS OF 2021

America is at a crossroads in 2021. American leadership in government and business, the Elite, over the last few decades has not consistently acted in the national interests. The Elite has been misguided and selfish. American manufacturing led the world through two world wars in the last 110 years. Since World War II that manufacturing prowess has been squandered in the interest of cheap foreign labor, primarily in the Dragon nation, China. U.S. technology companies have followed suit.

Most distressing is the practice of the nation's political leadership to pander to foreign interests in the pursuit of a Global Utopia. Currently, the next President Joseph Biden (who will assume office tomorrow as this is being written) is in a highly compromised position, particularly with China. His family has been enriched by questionable business dealings with China and other nations, such as, Ukraine and Russia. There has barely been any concern raised by other political leaders or the press. One newspaper, the New York Post, published an article concerning Hunter Biden, Joseph Biden's son, and material that has been uncovered regarding his dealings. Information on this issue has been muzzled by a high technology company.

Another major political family, the Clintons, have engaged in similar behavior without serious question or consequence. This behavior has cost American lives as in Benghazi in 2012.

We have this verse from Ecclesiastes.

Ecclesiastes 8:11(NKJV)

11 Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

Too many Americans simply shrug our shoulders in helplessness often voting for persons who are overtly corrupt and who tell lies with impunity. Meanwhile those who voice objections are "cancelled".

THE CHRISTIAN CHALLENGE REGARDING THE DRAGON

The key for Christian Americans at this time is to avoid compromise. To seek God in our personal lives as never before. The following are some suggestions.

1. Learn and live God's Word. Take to heart Christ's statement to the dragon.

Luke 4:4(NKJV)

4 But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' "

2. Watch and pray so that you are informed as much as possible so that you will not be deceived by false prophets or corrupt leaders.

Luke 21:34-36(NKJV)

- 34 “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.
 - 35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.
 - 36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”
3. Participate in and support the preaching of the Gospel to draw people to Jesus Christ and His Kingdom.

Matthew 28:18-20(NKJV)

- 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
- 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

The challenge for Christians at this time is to beware of the dragon both spiritually and politically.

A Solemn Warning

We have witnessed the silencing of conservative voices by major media concerns and “Big Tech”. There is growing concern that Christian voices will be silenced and churches shut down. Some of this has already happened. But, God, Almighty, cannot be cancelled!

I will conclude with a solemn warning from events surrounding Babylon’s fall as a result of the arrogance of Nebuchadnezza’s son, Belshazzar, in Daniel chapter 5. It is worth noting that this occurred during Judah’s captivity. Belshazzar chose to ignore the humbling of his father. There was a saying uttered by the old folks from my childhood, “He got too big for his britches.”, his pants. The very hand of God appeared during Belshazzar’s revelry and wrote a final message in Aramaic to him, the “Handwriting on the Wall”. The following is extracted from the context.

Daniel 5:25-31(NKJV)

- 25 “And this is the inscription that was written:
MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.
- 26 This is the interpretation of each word. MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it;
- 27 TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting;
- 28 PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.”
- 29 Then Belshazzar gave the command, and they clothed Daniel with purple and put a chain of gold around his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

30 That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain.

31 And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, *being* about sixty-two years old.

Daniel, the prophet, interpreted the writing. Unfortunately for Belshazzar he did not live to see another sunrise. America should take note of the warnings from scripture and history. We Christians have an obligation function as watchmen and prophets. Our Divine charge is presented in Isaiah 58.

Isaiah 58:1(NKJV)

- 1 "Cry aloud, ¹spare not;
Lift up your voice like a trumpet;
Tell My people their transgression,
And the house of Jacob their sins.

We cannot be silent!