

China, Revelation's Beast:
*God's Warning on the Dragon
of Bible Prophecy*

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DEDICATION

Glory and Honor to the Lamb of God:

“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.” (Revelation 21)

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1 HAS THE BEAST ARRIVED?

“And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.” (Revelation 13, KJV)

Who, or what, is the sinister Beast of Revelation’s apocalypse?

And where can we find its infamous unholy number of 666?

Christ’s most trusted disciple posed these questions long ago, during the time when Caesar still walked the earth. Yet Revelation remains a riddle even in our modern day. Its elusive meaning has confounded theologians and scholars throughout history.

But no longer.

Finally, it’s time to reveal the answers!

We are going to unlock the secrets of the ages and shine a piercing bright light on the pages of Bible prophecy to reveal crucial information God gave you and me for navigating these End Times.

He wants you to understand His Word and know the truth about current events. That’s the mission of Prophecies Today Ministries.

The wheels are in motion; John’s vision is already happening....

Today, a massive and fierce Dragon has risen in the East.

It is becoming obvious that the colossal economic and military Chinese superpower will be the challenge of our generation.

Beijing’s rise to economic and military prominence has been incredibly rapid. At first it didn’t seem very threatening if you didn’t look too closely. This was promoted as a “peaceful rise” for the benefit of all. Businesses couldn’t wait to set up Chinese factories and crank out more products.

But now, with new political tensions and military exercises happening constantly in the South China Sea, along with frequent discussions about the prospects of actual war between the U.S. and China, the “peaceful” part of that rise seems doubtful. The “wolf warriors” don’t look very friendly anymore.

What do China’s leaders hope to achieve?

And what does God expect us to do about it?

Here's the good news: we already have this information! It was with us all these centuries, detailed ages ago for our benefit.

"The Beast and its image": those haunting words of prophecy recorded by John in the Book of Revelation, the final book in the New Testament of the Christian Bible, have intrigued the world for nearly two thousand years.

Now, at our point in history, we finally have the clues or "keys" needed to unlock and fully understand it. There's no guesswork here; we will build a solid factual and Biblical basis for understanding prophecy and double-check our results with the cross-references that God included.

In this book, you'll find that the infamous Beast of Revelation 13 has already begun to tread the earth. And it's big. You will learn the Beast's name, the meaning of its number, and its evil intent. Then we'll look ahead to its ultimate destiny and our own.

In fact, there are two Beasts in Revelation 13. First, we'll look at the "Beast from the Sea" and the atrocities of its evil reign as the world worshipped it.

After that, we'll identify the newer "Beast from the Earth" and learn the blasphemous ambition of the real-life Antichrist, as well as what you can do to get ready for history's grand finale that God is currently setting in motion.

"Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six."
(Revelation 13)



Babylon Riding a Beast (Luther Bible, 1534)

Are you ready to understand the Word, overcome the Beast, and prepare yourself for the return of Jesus? Let's get started!

Headlines and perceptions about China have changed drastically over the last 20 years, shifting from a long period of gullible admiration to recent anxiety and alarm as the rest of the world finally realizes that the Middle Kingdom has chosen a disturbing path of confrontation and aggression.

- *"China's WTO Deal: a Defining Moment for Global Cooperation"* (*International Herald Tribune*, September 2001, M. Moore)
- *"China's 'Peaceful Rise' to Great-Power Status"* (*Foreign Affairs*, September 2005, Zheng B.)
- *"China PLA officer urges challenging U.S. dominance"* (*Reuters*, March 2010, C. Buckley)
- *"Taiwan tensions raise fears of US-China conflict in Asia"* (*Associated Press*, October 2021, D. Rising)

In the wake of suffering through the COVID-19 pandemic, along with recent media coverage on the horrifying Uyghur genocide and many other abuses, a growing number of people in America and worldwide have finally awakened to China's dangers and had enough of its outrageous behavior.

Polls indicate that many nations now see the Chinese government in a negative light. This sentiment even transcends political party lines, both in

America and worldwide. These days, in our polarized societies, that type of agreement is unusual!

China is becoming universally distrusted. The U.S., Canada, Europe, Australia, and many countries in Asia have increasing concerns from citizens and from government officials about China's human rights abuses, safety violations, political interference, theft of intellectual property, and ruthless industrial competition. Beijing's actions are harming everyone, including China's own people.

- *"U.S. and Its Allies Sanction China Over Treatment of Uyghurs in a Collective Action"* (*Wall Street Journal*, March 2021, I. Talley)
- *"Negative views continue to dominate China's global image, survey finds"* (*South China Morning Post*, July 2021)
- *"G7 chides China on rights, demands COVID origins investigation"* (*Reuters*, June 2021, G. Faulconbridge)
- *"Global Condemnation of Chinese Government Abuses in Xinjiang: 43 Countries Join Unprecedented UN Declaration"* (*Human Rights Watch*, October 2021, L. Charbonneau)

But that's not all; suddenly the military leaders of the free world have acknowledged the China threat too. It has jumped from "barely on the radar" all the way to the top of their list.

That's a swift change in perceptions and priorities. After the War on Terror started, concerns about China's rapid rise were muted. War in the Middle East was the only politically correct topic. Cold War weapons programs (and their advocates) were curtailed.

Worrying about Communist military power was considered old-fashioned, even laughable, despite a continuing quiet arms buildup over in Beijing.

Now the cat is out of the bag: every single day brings news and high-level military statements about deterrence, competition, and what would be required to prevail in a future conflict against China.

- *"China, Russia listed as top threats in Pentagon's new National Defense Strategy"* (*The Hill*, January 2018, E. Mitchell)
- *"Army Leader Warns About Potential Land War with China"* (*National Defense*, March 2021, J. Harper)
- *"China Claims It Will Win the Race to a New Stealth Fighter"* (*National Interest*, April 2021, K. Osborn)
- *"USAF's Three Priorities: China, China, China; Air Force Leaders Warn the U.S. Will Lose Air Superiority Without Rapid Change"* (*Air Force Magazine*, October 2021, J. Tirpak)

We've all witnessed an abrupt recent shift of momentum in world events. From international agreements to aircraft carrier deployments, it's obvious that things are cooling off in the Middle East while starting to heat up in Asia.

These recent incidents add further questions to our list: Why did the 20-year war in Afghanistan end in such a chaotic withdrawal? What does China's massive economic rise and military buildup hold for the world? Will this new strategic competition between major world powers and alliances lead to World War III or to a peaceful resolution?

At the same time, there are puzzling issues back on the home front too. What parts do the boisterous Donald Trump and bumbling Joe Biden play in the grand scheme of history? What's really going on with COVID-19, vaccine mandates, and "wokeness" in our society? Will Jesus return anytime soon to straighten everything out?

Fortunately, we already have those answers too, if we consult the Word.

God gave us a detailed roadmap in the Revelation. That amazing book was prepared shortly after Jesus ascended. Yet its pages are filled with the most important landmark events in history that have been happening ever since.

This treasure of knowledge is intended for you and me. All we need to do is pick up the Bible and make a careful and intelligent analysis of the Word as it relates to past and current events.

Is that possible? You bet it is!

Jesus, our Messiah, did not make a mistake or cause good ink and scroll paper be wasted by instructing his closest disciple John to include the final chapter and closing argument of the Holy Bible. The Revelation is not optional reading. In our day, it's mandatory.

The advantages of hindsight and current events, along with new tools and methods, will enable us to surpass previous attempts in interpreting these prophecies.

And most importantly, the Holy Spirit is providing fresh insights in these last days as the Word of prophecy is unsealed. God's people are called to understand what is coming:

"I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia" (Revelation 1)

Last year (2021) God gave me a powerful gift, along with a call to action that electrified me. This was literally impossible to ignore; it instantly transformed the way I see the world.

Our Creator allowed me to understand Bible prophecy, but He required me to spread the Word and the understanding to others and to you, ASAP. I must bring these insights to you. That's why you're reading this.

After many days meditating in the Word with the Fire of the Holy Spirit (plus the help of several massive spreadsheets) I was able to start matching up historical events with the incredible prophetic verses of Revelation, Isaiah, and the Gospels.

Amazing patterns emerged to verify the identification of events, and the Hand of God throughout history became evident. The forces of evil were apparent there too, just as the Bible teaches.

From there, the project eventually grew into this book and then others: the "Prophecies Today" Series was born. Nothing was impossible anymore; every verse of the Bible could be understood with appropriate effort and humble attention to God's wisdom.

Now, whenever I pick up Revelation, it reads more like a plainly worded news report than a mysterious symbolic vision.

And through the Bible, God made this incredible store of knowledge available to everyone.

Regrettably, these days not everyone welcomes the Bible. That's the biggest handicap and blindfold for those who follow the ways of the world, severely limiting their comprehension, and it's no coincidence.

You'll find out how this trend, too, is connected with the two Beasts and serves the force that drives them.

In fact, many people project their own confusion and anger onto others by slandering God's Word of Love and Truth as ignorance and "hate" speech. Pretty ironic, isn't it?

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22)

You can tell at a glance that modern mainstream culture and media are not the Bible's biggest fans. Love is just too difficult for many people to fathom. They are eager to be accepted by the world.

Public schools and television denounce our precious and powerful Christian heritage as evil, while sin is openly celebrated, and actual crime is ignored. People of faith are increasingly censored from mainstream culture, along with logic (also known as *Logos*) and common sense.

Yet all those worldly efforts are in vain: God's plan is indestructible. When Jesus of Nazareth opens a door, no man can shut it.

"I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter." (Revelation 1)

Jesus Himself has declared that we will know the truth. He has opened the door with His own hand. We have our Bibles, and we sense the approach of a critical event in history. Can you feel it too?

Even non-Christians and ex-Christians are searching for answers in these strange times as they see today's events unfold. If that sounds like you, welcome to the "Prophecies Today" Series! We are going to uncover the answers for *everyone*. Come on in.

And for those who already spend precious time in the Word and know its value, new treasures await; you'll love the wealth of knowledge in the Bible passages revealed here with groundbreaking clarity into their meaning in our modern world and current events.

Now, let's delve into Chapter 13 of God's special prophetic book, the Revelation, and start our analytical reading to discover what's coming next in the End-Times plan!

It's time to identify the Beast, reveal its number, and find out what roles China and your own nation will play in the Final Days of history....

2 THE BEAST FROM THE SEA

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.” (Revelation 13)

Who is Revelation's “Beast from the Sea?”

This is the first of two Beasts we must identify in Revelation Chapter 13. We're all eager to learn about the second Beast.

To understand that second Beast correctly, God directs us to look at the first one as a prerequisite; the two are related. It's His universe, so let's do this His way!

The Bible also provides us with a big clue: we are shown an ancient prototype to help us understand the modern Beast from the Sea. History is repeating itself.

This Beast is deliberately reminiscent of the old Roman Empire: its seven heads are a dead giveaway for the renowned Seven Hills of Rome. This was intended to be fairly obvious to the Christian reader, both in John's day and our own modern times.

Modern secular society likes to present imperial Rome as a fun and enlightened place, but real Roman life in those days was often brutal as well as debauched.

Upon the Seven Hills of that malevolent empire reigned Caesar, whose name and title were blasphemous since the emperor was also worshipped as one of the Roman gods.

Rome's king-worship and compelled pagan state religion forced early Christians to either violate their faith or suffer the penalty of law. Most of the Apostles were put to death, as were many other believers during subsequent crackdowns on unapproved religious faith.

There have been recent attempts by biased pseudo-scholars with their own ideological agendas to minimize and deny the early persecution of Christians.

Don't be fooled by those self-contradictory academic shell-game scams! The record is as clear as it is appalling.

The famous Roman historian Tacitus recorded how vast numbers of Christ's followers were persecuted by Nero, who employed all sorts of brutal methods to kill them:

Mauling by predatory animals, crucifixion, and even burning them as torches at night to illuminate the gardens where Caesar held these sadistic exhibitions.

And Nero may have been the worst, but he was only one in a series of brutal Roman emperors.

- “A.D. 62—65” (*The Annals 15.44, 117 AD, C. Tacitus*)

The Roman Empire is long gone, and clearly the world didn't end with it. Here we are!

But Satan has not been idle during these last 2,000 years: a new demonically-inspired political system was created much nearer to our own times. Identifying this modern Beast is our first task in this book.

Through ancient Rome we were given a preview and a metaphor. Satan's new empire will have several characteristics like its predecessor: great military and political power, blasphemy against God, and persecution of Christians and others.

Here is how Revelation describes the Beast from the Sea:

“And the beast which I saw was 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.” (Revelation 13)

Those four predatory animals – leopard, bear, lion, dragon – are important clues to the Beast's unique identity. Unfortunately, this is where people tend to misread the map and take a wrong turn.

If Revelation were an Old Testament prophecy, dealing with earlier times and places from a strictly Hebrew worldview, the animals would likely refer to nations near the Middle East and surrounding Israel: Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome itself.

Those four kingdoms culminated in the original monster of the Roman Empire, which persecuted Christians and even temporarily killed the earthly body of Jesus Himself.

But look around you: we're no longer in the days of Nebuchadnezzar, nor the time of Caesar! Those ancient nations are no longer the biggest movers and shakers of our modern world.

Therefore, we should fully appreciate the value of this metaphor, but we must look beyond Roman times and Old Testament viewpoints to find our modern culprit.

Revelation 13 is our guidebook and map from all-knowing God for the End Times. It deals with the major powers and pivot points of our day, just as the ancient Roman Empire was familiar to the Apostles.

(In fact, the prophetic Word transcends our mortal limitation of time, using symbols and echoes from the past to paint the present and future.)

Our heavenly Father is omniscient and faithful; He knows our every need, and we have an up-to-date handbook with familiar landmarks to show us the way.

Let's start with the Beast's legs, the Bear. Looking at the nations of the world, what country comes to mind when you hear the word *bear*?

Canada is well-known for bears, but it has never been a dominant military power, and its official symbols are the maple leaf and the beaver. Neither of those mascots personify the fearsome, bloodthirsty demeanor we'd expect from an Apocalyptic Beast.

Alaska has impressive bears too, but they never became a national symbol.

Greenland has bears, and its Coat of Arms even features a bear symbol. But like Canada, Greenland is not a political or military world leader.

However, there is another candidate: *Russia* is a major power, it has a very tough reputation, and it has long been associated with the bear and portrayed as a bear politically.

Nor is this a recent trend; the symbolic Russian bear was popular in British and American media long before our modern political movements. (As were the lion, dragon, and leopard, which we'll identify in a moment.)

Even going as far back as Shakespeare's day, Russia already had this well-established association:

- "*Approach thou like the rugged Russian bear*" (*Macbeth*, 1623, *W. Shakespeare*)

Russia is home to more than half of all brown bears, earning the distinction of the world's largest population.

Some Russians today argue against associating their country with the bear. Fair enough. However, the symbol is almost universally recognized around the world.

Perhaps czar hunts and remote wilderness impressed early foreign visitors more than the local folks?

Yet there are strong indications that this bear identity motif started with the Russians themselves. For example, their St. Petersburg Hermitage Museum promotes an ancient Perm bear fetish amulet.

That demonstrates that the bear played a prominent role in historic *Ru*s

customs, according to the Russians' own information.

Moreover, a bear is the logo for United Russia, the nation's dominant political party which holds almost absolute power.

That's significant because political party logos are supposed to be primarily intended for a domestic audience. In contrast to logos designed for foreign audiences, such as the Russian Olympic mascot, which is also – you got it – a bear.

(Care to guess Russia's soccer mascot? Yep, that too. Bears everywhere.)

All of which somewhat undermines any argument that Russians merely humor the foreign misconception of a bear motif. But either way, it's difficult to separate Russia from its famous bear symbol!

- *“Mikhail Gorbachev calls for a new vote in Russia: Supporters of the United Russia Party gather together with the symbol of the Party Polar Bear to celebrate their party victory” (Associated Press, December 2011, S. Javed)*
- *“Russian Premier League adopts 'passionate bear' logo” (AFP, April 2018)*
- *“Russian magazine puts President Vladimir Putin being licked by a bear on cover” (The Independent, March 2015, L. Clarke-Billings)*
- *“Moscow 1980 Olympic Mascot - Photos and History” (Olympics.com, 2021, International Olympic Committee)*

Could Russia be part of the first Beast? How would modern Russia compare with the criteria implied by ancient Rome?

To match Revelation's contemporary Beast of the Sea to the Bible's designated example of Rome, we would need to find a great military power leading an empire, blaspheming God, and persecuting Christians.

Today Russia does not lead a formal empire, and it's a blessing that many Russians are once again allowed to openly identify themselves as Christians.

But in 1917 it was a different story; the Bolshevik Revolution started Russia on its path to world power. From 1922 to 1991, the nation was head of the Soviet Union.

Soviet Russia was a military superpower, the first Marxist nation, the world's first Atheist state, the dominant power of the East, and leader of the worldwide Marxist, Communist, and socialist movements. Yes, that was an empire!

But was the USSR also an “evil empire” or was that just a catchy phrase coined in 20th-century politics?

As Jesus taught us, let's look at the fruits to identify the tree. During its reign, Soviet Russia persecuted many Christians along with other groups, closed its own churches, promoted atheism, pioneered the abortion movement that spread to other nations around the world, killed millions of

its own citizens in purges, and distributed anti-God and anti-democratic doctrine worldwide.

Those actions would qualify Russia as the global leader of Satan's work of sin and evil during that era. Like Rome, the Soviet Union was an empire of persecution and blasphemy: denying God, outlawing Christianity, and elevating Marxism as a principle to revere.

That fits the depraved nature of Revelation's Beast.

- “*100 Years of Communism—and 100 Million Dead: The Bolshevik plague that began in Russia was the greatest catastrophe in human history*” (*Wall Street Journal*, November 2017, D. Satter)
- “*100 years of legalized abortion: Don't throw the woman out with the bathwater; In 1920, Soviet Russia was the first country in the world to legalize abortion*” (*Institute of Modern Russia*, November 2020)
- “*Russia's Journey from Orthodoxy to Atheism, and Back Again*” (*Religion & Politics*, October 2018, G. Zubovich)
- “*Why Stalin Tried to Stamp Out Religion in the Soviet Union*” (*History.com*, April 2021, N. Frost)

Russia provided the modern Beast's “legs” as its military, science, political, and technology powerhouse during the Cold War.

It is also the world's largest nation in terms of land area; you would need some sturdy, long legs to walk across it.

There is even a legitimate connection back to ancient Rome: Russia's official national emblem is not a bear (as bear objectors are quick to point out!) but instead a special double-headed eagle inherited from the Eastern Roman Empire.

Thus, Russia even derived some of its authority from a historical line back to Rome, while the Soviet Union also resembled Rome in terms of military might and acted like Rome in its persecution and blasphemy.

Russia is a perfect match for the Bear: we have successfully identified one component of Revelation's Beast from the Sea!

Can we recognize the other three animals? Next, let's look at the Beast's association with the *Dragon*.

This seems to be a Biblical play on words, because Dragon obviously represents the Devil. But in this context, it should relate to a nation or region as well. In ancient times that would again point to Rome; the *draco* was a widespread military symbol in the old Empire.

But we're no longer living in those ancient times. Moving forward to the present day, does any particular nation come to mind?

There's not much competition for the Dragon. Europe did have dragons in its folklore and fairy tales, but traditionally they played the “bad

guys” in the story, providing knights and other heroes a monster to slay.

(Wales is the exception to that rule, holding the dragon in higher regard as its flag emblem. But Wales is a small portion of the United Kingdom, which overall is associated with other symbols and cultural backgrounds.)

China, on the other hand, is a major nation boasting a long and enthusiastic association with the dragon symbol. This is famous internationally and locally: a popular emblem for China abroad and a celebrated icon among its own enormous population. Among other things, the Dragon was China's official designation of imperial power.

Performers in special costumes bring the Chinese Dragon to life in parades and festivals. The Dragon is everywhere in China; it is a beloved identity used by the Chinese people and their emperors.

For example, can you guess the name of China's J-20 stealth fighter?

(It's the “Mighty Dragon.”)

What dance is performed on Chinese New Year?

(That would be the “Dragon dance.”)

And the name of traditional Chinese racing boats?

(“Dragon boats.” And so on; you get the idea.)

Just one more: your local Chinese restaurant?

(If it's not a “Panda” it's probably a “Dragon.”)

The examples pile up and overflow; that could easily fill up an entire book of its own. If any major nation on Earth represents the Dragon, it must be China!



*"Crowd gathers at the river to watch dragon boat racing"
(Qing dynasty, Xu Y.)*

But would China's characteristics qualify it as part of this Beast?

Like Rome, the modern Beast from the Sea should be a major military power, blaspheme God, and persecute Christians along with other unapproved faiths. Would China during the Soviet Union's lifespan fit these criteria?

China has a very large military, although it was not highly effective during the 20th century.

Like the Soviets (and the Romans) China persecuted huge numbers of Christians and other unfavored religious and political groups.

According to the Communist Party's own Central Committee, 20 million people died and another 100 million were persecuted in the Cultural Revolution. Some international sources estimate twice that death toll.

Ironically, even some of China's top Communist leaders today suffered persecution during the Cultural Revolution. When the abuse has affected everyone from the highest to the lowest, you know it's a big problem!

China, Revelation's Beast (ARC)

- *“45 million died in Mao's Great Leap Forward” (South China Morning Post, September 2010)*
- *“Remembering the dark days of China's Cultural Revolution” (South China Morning Post, August 2012)*
- *“The Legacy of Mao Zedong is Mass Murder” (Heritage Foundation, February 2010, L. Edwards)*

Was 20th-century China blasphemous? Absolutely. To an even greater extent than Soviet Russia's ideological purists, Chairman Mao Zedong embraced the role of a divine leader, just as the Caesars had done in Rome.

Mao's brutal henchmen forced entire villages into worshipping his image, and he is still considered a literal god by millions of Chinese today.

- *“A sign of disaffection, rural worship of Chairman Mao is treated with caution” (Global Times, December 2015)*
- *“Mao Zedong, a persecutor of religions, is now worshiped like a god” (Asia News, December 2016)*
- *“Understanding the deification of Chairman Mao” (Globe and Mail, January 2013, M. MacKinnon)*
- *“Millions in China Still Revere Mao as a God or Demigod” (Deseret News, September 1996, B. Lim)*

Soviet Russia gave 20th Century Communism its military technology and political might, making it the undisputed leader of the East during the Cold War.

But the billion people of Mao's China was greater in terms of raw manpower and the corresponding statistical weight in world population. China made the Communist world impossible for other nations to ignore or discount, whether for war or peace, international relations, humanitarian concerns, or economic development.

That fulfills Revelation's requirement that the Dragon provide power and great authority to the first Beast. Thus, China is a perfect physical match for the Dragon, which also makes reference to Satan in the spiritual sense.

Our prophetic study has revealed the second major part of the Bible's Beast from the Sea; now we're getting somewhere!

3 IS GOD INTO POLITICS?

“And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?” (Revelation 13)

We have successfully identified two parts of Revelation's first Beast:

“feet of a bear” → Soviet Union

“dragon” → Communist China (and Satan)

With Soviet Russia and Mao's China as key members, now it's clear that the “Beast from the Sea” is taking on a distinctly Communist identity.

Therefore, judging straight from the Holy Bible, we can conclude that your grandpa and Ronald Reagan were absolutely right; Communism was a terrible thing!

It killed many tens of millions of people physically, dwarfing Hitler's Holocaust, and claimed perhaps even more lives spiritually with its relentless war against religious faith. In the process, it destroyed traditional culture, human dignity, and common decency. The struggle to contain this revolutionary doctrine dominated the 20th century.

God himself has weighed in directly on the matter with His own opinion in Revelation, so that settles it. We all know that some university professors and Hollywood directors might disagree, but Communism was downright evil. No two ways about it.

That itself is a crucial discovery in the Word.

Since God expresses a strong “political” viewpoint here, in direct opposition to the Beast of Communism, the Bible debunks a popular notion that religion and politics are separate realms. Now those two worlds are colliding.

Even many Christians have convinced themselves that God has little interest in human politics, yet the rise and fall of the Beast features prominently in His Bible, at the very climax of history.

This *political* Beast has dire *spiritual* consequences; according to the

Word, those who worship the Beast are damned. That's not very subtle, is it? So, it seems that God must be interested in politics after all.

It can be mind-bending to realize that Revelation's spooky demonic apparition, the Beast from the Sea, was actually Soviet Communism!

Somehow, perhaps through the many generations of retelling these vivid scenes, then influenced by modern movies and our own imaginations, we've come to expect the Beast and End-Time events to look more spiritual or magical. Something ethereal and abstract with eyes that glow, at least.

Not sweaty flesh-and-blood humans driving tanks and giving speeches in between meals, bathroom breaks, and sleep.

Now we realize the truth: we all have a spiritual component, but the Beast and the Antichrist are every bit as physically tangible as you are. This spiritual Beast from the pages of the Bible is all too *real*.

Going forward, we must assume that political choices are important for Christians.

Apparently, in God's eyes the worst system on Earth is the "Beast" model: beliefs and actions are completely dictated by an oppressive government with unlimited ambition for power and control.

Every time that happens, Satan has consistently used it to coerce people into blasphemy, cruelty, murder, idolatry, and abomination on a scale that is hard to even imagine.

From Babylon to Rome and the USSR, the entire span of human history shows a consistent pattern that tyranny serves Satan, not God. And the ultimate earthly dictators have been so-called "god kings" that aspire to be divine, blaspheming the one true God who is the only Being that we should adore.

Whether a would-be "god king" looks more like an ancient Pharaoh or the Cold War KGB, the spiritually oppressive outcome is similar.

Now let's return to the Beast from the Sea and finish evaluating its description:

"And the beast which I saw was 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." (Revelation 13)

We've identified two of its components, but we're not finished yet; we still haven't pinpointed the overall geography of the Beast itself. Taken as a whole, the Beast of the Sea should resemble a Leopard.

The actual leopard (the animal in nature) is found in Asia, Eastern Europe, and parts of Africa. In political cartoons it was used traditionally to

represent Asia.

Interestingly, those same regions provided a receptive home for the spread of Communist governments.

Reciting a few of the nations of Asia is like listing the major wars and purges of the 20th century: Vietnam, Laos, Korea, Cambodia.

Like Russia and China, these countries also experienced Marxist revolutions, slaughtering many citizens and repressing religious freedom. The revolutionaries of that era elevated themselves, along with Communism itself, as the only permitted objects of reverence.

- *“Laos: Massacre of unarmed Hmong women and children” (Amnesty International, May 2006)*
- *“UN: North Korea Commits Unspeakable Atrocities” (PBS Frontline, February 2014, S. Childress)*
- *“Khmer Rouge: Cambodia's years of brutality; In the four years that the Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia, it was responsible for one of the worst mass killings of the 20th Century” (BBC, November 2018)*
- *“Why Vietnam Isn't Talking About 1968: Fifty years after a turning point in the Vietnam War, the country's communist government is stamping out public discussion of painful memories.” (Politico, February 2018, B. Murray)*

Thus, Revelation's Beast from the Sea overall is a depiction of Communism, centered in Asia and Eastern Europe just like the Leopard. It also took hold in some parts of Africa.

Therefore, Revelation validates the Korean War and Vietnam War as righteous efforts against the Beast of Communism. Good luck hearing that on TV or in the classroom! But now we're hearing it from God Himself, and that says it all. Containing Marx's monster was essential.

The Marxists hoped to take over South America too, causing many battles in that region. They infected numerous countries with socialist movements, along with widespread criminal drug trade and the enduring Soviet outpost of Cuba.

The political struggles continue, but the ongoing popularity of Christianity throughout South America has so far thwarted any complete takeover of the region by an atheist ideology.

Let's review the Beast's introduction:

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.” (Revelation 13)

Like the Seven Hills of Rome, its modern counterpart had Seven Heads.

Since the modern 20th century Beast was Communist, the major “heads” might be enumerated as the Soviet Union, China, North Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Cuba.

Notice that each head was blasphemous, persecuting faith in God and enforcing the idolatrous worship of Communism and its own brutal local kings.

Now we have identified Revelation's bear, dragon, and leopard. The entire body of the Beast takes on a clear geographical shape, centered in Eastern Europe and Asia.

Its member nations undertook vicious revolutions and giant purges under the oppressive, blasphemous, and bloodthirsty Marxist ideology. The Bible's mysterious Beast of the Sea is unmasked as Communism, our Cold War arch enemy.

Some movie stars and news correspondents might wince at that characterization, but we must tell the truth!

There is still an unsolved piece of the puzzle: the Lion, or the mouth of the Beast. Is there any country or region today that we would associate with a Lion?

Africa certainly has plenty of lions, and it even had several Marxist governments during the 20th century, but none of its nations played a dominant world role in either military affairs or political ideology, as the Beast's “mouth” would suggest.

However, we do have a couple of viable Lion candidates. They may come as a bit of a surprise...

England played a leading role in military history and world affairs for centuries. The Barbary lion is its national symbol, also featured in the official United Kingdom Coat of Arms.

Moreover, England has consistently been portrayed as a Lion in political cartoons for centuries. (Incidentally, those are the same cartoons that tend to feature bears, dragons and leopards!)

Nor is the lion completely unique to England alone; it derives from traditional heraldry symbolism adopted long ago by the various European military powers. Thus, the lion has appeared in regional and national emblems throughout Western Europe, as well as the nations they colonized.



Political cartoon: *“The real trouble will come with the wake”* (Puck, Aug 1900)

And that’s not the only contender; the Lion of Judah has long served as a symbol of the Jewish people.

The Jews played a leading role in the entire Bible and in world affairs, so an additional Jewish reference in the Bible would come as no great surprise.

But this seems absurd; how could either Britain or Israel possibly fit into a Communist Beast?

England’s military alliances are firmly in the West, opposed to Communist dictatorships. During the Cold War of the 20th century, Great Britain was a staunch defender of democracy.

And as I wrote this book during 2021, some of the UK’s finest sailors and airmen have been currently deployed to the South China Sea with their U.S. Marines counterparts, operating F-35B stealth fighters on the brand-new aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth.

The British are ready to fight for freedom at a moment’s notice. In fact, together with NATO allies, they recently stood firm against Russian fighter jets in a tense standoff! Clearly, they can’t belong to the Beast.

Israel is one of America’s closest allies, operating some of its most advanced weapons and training with U.S. soldiers. They are not a Marxist nation, although their attitude towards Russia has been more flexible compared to the West.

- *“Russian forces confront British warship in Black Sea military encounter”* (CNN, June 2021, S. Halasz)
- *“Blended U.S. Marine, U.K. Royal Air Force Air Wing Aboard HMS Queen*

Elizabeth Will be Largest F-35 Deployment to Date:" (U.S. Naval Institute, April 2021, M. Shelbourne)

- *"US Marines train in urban warfare with Israeli military" (Jewish News Syndicate, November 2021)*

How could either of those democratic nations be the Lion representing the mouth of the Beast?

And if not one of those, what other candidates do we have?

The problem here is that we need to improve our understanding of the Beast's composition. Let's pay closer attention to the Word: remember, the Beast of the Sea represents the entirety of Communism.

That includes the abstracts of ideology and politics, and the flow of information and social influence, not merely the physical body of the land and people it controlled militarily during the Reagan years.

It also includes a bit of history: atheist Marxism did not originate in Eastern Europe! Nor did it arise in Asia.

This devilish doctrine originally came out of Western Europe. That is where the ideological seed of Marxist theory first took root to be published and promoted.

The Lion is starting to take shape.

Here it helps to "zoom out" and look at the big picture of human civilization from God's omniscient point of view over space and time.

After the ancient Beast of the Roman Empire collapsed, it broke into several pieces, mainly divided between the East and West. Unfortunately, Satan paved the way to gradually build a new and enhanced Beast from those remnants.

Eastern Europe would contribute substantially to the earthly body of the Communist Beast, while Western Europe harbored two ideological "mouthpieces" that produced the original voice to propagate the Beast's deceitful, destructive message.

Those malevolent men were Charles Darwin of England and Karl Marx of Germany, who also later moved to England to promote his nefarious schemes for worldwide subversion and revolution.

They were nurtured in a European environment already prepared for radicalism by the moronic brutality of the French Revolution and other anti-religious humanist movements.

The rise of these two incredibly influential scholar-reprobates and their grim place in history's timeline are marked by the Fifth Trumpet in Chapter 9 of Revelation:

“And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.” (Revelation 9)

(You may be wondering: Am I saying we can understand and calculate the seven Trumpet dates, or at least the first six? You bet we can! See my upcoming book “*Revelation's Seven Trumpets: Prophecy from the Cross to Armageddon.*”)

Surprisingly, it was the Christian stronghold of England that eventually harbored the vile patriarchs of Atheism and Communism. That was a terrible spiritual injury to Europe.

Likewise, the entire Western world has flirted with these ideologies to varying extents ever since, despite embracing representative government and retaining a portion of its Christian churches. Darwin and Marx are held in high regard among many in our upper classes.

This means that the Beast of the Sea was much larger than its own body; it had a more expansive voice, or spirit. In fact, while the body of Communism was centered in Eurasia and limited in scope, unfortunately the “mouth” had a global reach.

The voice of the Beast was (and still is) heard daily around the world, permeating every single nation on Earth.

This fulfills the prophecy:

“And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” (Revelation 13)

Look around you; this spiritual conquest has been going on right under our noses for a long time....

- *“blasphemy against God”* → God, the Bible, and Christians are mocked and slandered in schools and the media.
- *“to overcome them”* → Christian prayer and discussion in public is frowned upon, sometimes prosecuted. Popular culture favors evolution, atheism, immorality, abortion, and socialism.
- *“over all kindreds”* → Socialism and sin are promoted in every country on earth, even to your own children.
- *“shall worship him”* → Communism, socialism, atheism, immorality, feminism, environmentalism, political correctness, social justice, and “wokeness” all use Marxist principles and accomplish the Beast’s

objectives.

Remember when I joked about the ideological tendencies of many college professors, movie stars, and news anchors earlier in this chapter? That was actually a big hint about the “Lion’s” voice!

Turn on the TV, pick up the paper, browse the Internet, take a college class, or peek at your child’s textbook and you’ll likely see the ideas of Karl Marx staring right back at you.

Socialism is being marketed around-the-clock at full volume as gospel truth, along with an unhealthy dose of Charles Darwin to diminish any lingering traditional religious faith. It’s spiritual poison.

- *“Pulitzer Prize board faces fresh calls to strip New York Times reporter Walter Duranty of his 1932 award after he COVERED UP the disastrous famine in Stalin’s Soviet Union” (Daily Mail, June 2021, K. Griffith)*
- *“N.C. college professor who left China raises alarm over woke politics: Born in China, Zhang warns that cultural trends in the United States appear ominously familiar.” (Carolina Journal, July 2021, J. Moore)*
- *“Wokeness Is Based on Communism—Here’s Why You Should Worry” (National Interest, August 2020, J. Stepman)*
- *“How Hollywood Sold Out to China: A culture of acquiescing to Beijing’s censors is now the norm, and there’s little sign of it changing.” (The Atlantic, September 2021, S. Li)*

Not only that; you’re probably struggling with at least a few problems at home resulting from socialist political policies implemented at the local, state, and federal level.

Higher taxes, fewer jobs, aggressive welfare, biased spending, poor healthcare, grinding regulation, crippled industry, scarcity of resources, rising prices, growing crime, anti-religious campaigns, racial and social discord, imperious mandates, and intrusive regulations:

Those social and economic maladies are the numerous typical symptoms of coming down with a bad case of socialism!

Marxist policies never work in practice; they are designed only to *exploit* rather than to *solve* problems. It’s all hype. Revolution and power are the only goals.

- *“Inflation is surging and people are hopping mad” (NPR, November 2021, S. Horsley)*
- *“Omicron prompts rethink of vaccine impact, COVID-19 mandates: Mandates have curbed almost everything except COVID-19 cases” (Yahoo Finance, December 2021, J. David)*

- *“Climate alarmism is doing terrible damage to the young: Young people are told their lives are over before they’ve even begun.” (Spiked, December 2021, P. Anderson)*

Schools, mainstream media, and some of our political organizations amplify the voice of the Marxist Beast and help it recruit new members, opportunities, and agents of influence.

They weaken resolve against resisting tyranny, while spreading chaos and confusion. That’s why socialists were helped into place at prestigious organizations by some of our worst enemies.

Commie-sympathizing elites, with their privileged positions of influence over our citizens and their children, are the internal cross which the free world has had to bear for so many decades even while fighting the political and military body of the Communist Beast.

Wokeness in particular is nothing more than Communism Lite 2.0. It’s simply a more racialized and gender-bending upgrade, in contrast to the “love-in, hate-in” Hippie culture that our enemies encouraged for past generations. But the goal has never changed: tear down Christian culture and freedom so the Beast can weaken us.

Hopefully that burden will be removed very soon; it’s high time that we put people with decency, accountability, and real Christian values back in charge of our corrupted schools, media, and political parties!

- *“A Short History of Communist Subversion of America: The U.S. government was first penetrated by communist agents in the 1930s” (Epoch Times, September 2018, J. Nyquist)*
- *“Mom who survived Mao’s China calls Critical Race Theory America’s Cultural Revolution” (New York Post, June 2021, L. Brown)*
- *“Parents take a stand against FBI crackdown on CRT opponents” (New York Post, October 2021, C. Patteson)*
- *“Ground Zero of Woke: Universities are making themselves not just disliked and disreputable but ultimately irrelevant and replaceable” (American Greatness, October 2021, V. Hanson)*

But be of good cheer; we already know how this story ends, friends.

Christ has an amazing and inspiring ending planned for history’s great saga, and He remains victorious.

As our Savior himself said in John 15, the servant is not greater than his Master. Of course, we will have our burdens too. But much greater things are in store for those who faithfully treasure His instructions!

The geographic connection to Rome’s Eastern and Western descendants

explains the mysterious Biblical name of this first Beast; both its physical body and ideological spirit arose from Europe before spreading to Asia.

A little “prophetic slang” or ancient terminology will be useful. In classical Greek, Roman, and Hebrew tradition (permeating the realm where Jesus and Caesar walked) the known civilized world was centered around the Middle East.

The notable civilizations of Babylon, Egypt, Persia, Greece, and Rome dominated ancient maps and histories, just as the ruins of those ancient empires still make impressive historical sites today.

Many of these kingdoms were either connected by land or separated by a relatively small amount of water.



Approximation of the known world in Greek times

Jewish prophets sometimes referred to these familiar civilized connected regions as the Earth, while other lands (some requiring a substantial ocean journey) were called the Sea.

This land/sea designation continued in prophecy and could also indicate “this region” versus “other places” depending on context.

Thus, we have a growing vocabulary for the Revelation:

- “*dragon*” → symbol of China (also representing Satan)
- “*sea*” → outside the ancient “civilized known world” (typically an ocean voyage, or beyond older maps)
- “*earth*” → within the ancient “civilized known world” (Middle East, Rome/Greece, N. Africa, W. Asia)

Let's keep reading the Word to see what comes next....

“And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.” (Revelation 13)

Sure, Communism was a problem, but it died in 1991. Right?
(Or so it seemed at the time...)

- “*Communism Is Dead; Other Problems Are Alive*” (*New York Times*, September 1991, C. Whitney)

As we deduced previously, the Communist “Beast of the Sea” had seven

venomous “heads”: the Soviet Union, China, North Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Cuba.

For decades the Soviet Union was the Beast's pride and joy, the leader of World Communism and practically a *mecca* for many academic, journalistic, bureaucratic, and militaristic devotees. Then suddenly, Communist Russia was gone forever.

Or was it?

In any case, the Beast still had numerous other heads, plus a global voice; Communism itself had not disappeared by any means.

“The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.” (Revelation 17)

Whether Moscow is still Communist is anyone's guess; officially on paper it is not. Yet the Bear has never integrated into the free world, nor has it demonstrated a genuine multi-party democracy.

Opposition party leaders generally don't live into ripe old age, while political and military alliances and goals remain similar to the Soviet days. Putin gives speeches fondly reminiscing about those days and bemoaning the end of that Communist empire.

Our military is once again busy trying to keep a step ahead of Russia. Moscow still retains much of its Cold War military capabilities, now upgraded to include stealthier platforms and hypersonic weapons.

NATO is worried again too. Europe has been struggling with positioning enough military manpower and equipment to convince the Kremlin that expanding the Rus territorial borders again would be too costly. As usual, the Russians seem skeptical.

- *“Jailed Russian opposition leader Navalny wins EU's top human rights prize amid renewed calls for his release” (Associated Press, October 2021)*
- *“Why Russia Is Pouring Billions into Hypersonic Weapons” (National Interest, November 2021, M. Episkopos)*
- *“Putin Rues Soviet Collapse as Demise of ‘Historical Russia’: the ‘greatest geopolitical catastrophe’ of the 20th century” (Reuters, December 2021)*
- *“G-7 warns Moscow of ‘massive consequences’ if Russia invades Ukraine” (Washington Post, December 2021, J. Hudson)*

However, it's still a tremendous blessing that the Soviet Union no longer exists. Many Eastern European nations now embrace freedom.

The collapse of the USSR started to bring Russia's reign over the Eastern world to an end. Moscow has since been surpassed by others in

most areas: economy, technology, overall military strength, and political power.

Amazingly, that too was specified in Revelation:

"They worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?"

And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months." (Revelation 13)

The Soviet Union was militarily impressive in its day, and no one was eager to start an all-out fight between two nuclear superpowers.

But what's all this about 42 months?

Jewish Prophecy often uses one unit of time to denote another, such as a day for a year. A month is nominally 30 days, so 42 months can represent $30 \times 42 = 1,260$ years.

(The number 1,260 appears repeatedly throughout the Revelation; it is one of the mathematical "keys" used to identify and verify events throughout the prophetic history. For more info, see my upcoming book "*Revelation's Seven Trumpets: Prophecy from the Cross to Armageddon.*")

The nation we know as Russia was first established by the Rus people. One of their earliest settlements was Ladoga, founded in 753 AD.

$753 \text{ AD} + 1,260 = 2013 \text{ AD}$.

Thus, from Moscow's cradle to the end of Russia's Eastern dominance was an incredible 1,260 years, although only the final 72 of those years were under the Communist flag.

These numbers prophetically echo Rome's own rise and fall, from its founding by Romulus in 753 BC to the Empire's faded remnants being surpassed by the rise of Christian France under Clovis in 508 AD, also 1,260 years. Quite a coincidence! This stood out in my spreadsheet:

$753 \text{ AD} + 1,260 = 2013 \text{ AD (Russia)}$

$753 \text{ BC} + 1,260 = 508 \text{ AD (Rome)}$

And what happened during the year 2013, you might ask?

The Eastern world entered a new era....

4 THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH

We have examined the reign of the first Beast of Revelation 13, a Communist monster “from the pit of Hell” that turned people against God and each other.

That “Beast from the Sea” dominated much of the globe under the Soviet Union’s leadership, until it was declared dead under Reagan.

Yet it still exists as a loose alliance of the remaining totalitarian states, bolstered by the raucous voice of Marxist philosophy embedded throughout our education and media worldwide.

Now we confront a new challenge as Revelation’s second Beast is born:

“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.” (Revelation 13)

A “Beast from the Earth” is rising.

What nations or political system are we dealing with this time?

Let’s keep reading God’s Word to find out:

“And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.” (Revelation 13)

Notice how closely these two Beasts are related? People often overlook that the second Beast requires people to worship the first.

That’s a valuable clue! It’s unusual for one system to serve another.

And in the previous chapters we deduced that the first Beast was Marxist, under Soviet leadership.

Therefore, now we are looking for another powerful world system that is different, yet still promotes Communism. This second Beast should be newer than the first.

Does such a system already exist? And if so, where?

Revelation gives us another vital clue: this isn’t the first time we’ve seen the word *dragon*; it was used in reference to the first Beast. Spiritually it designates Satan, who is the ultimate master and enabler of these evil

political machines.

But the *dragon* is also the most popular symbol of a nation right here in the physical realm: China. And we have already deciphered the words *sea* and *earth* as they are used in the prophetic tradition:

- “*dragon*” → symbol of China (also representing Satan)
- “*sea*” → outside the ancient “civilized known world” (typically an ocean voyage, or beyond older maps)
- “*earth*” → within the ancient “civilized known world” (Middle East, Rome/Greece, N. Africa, W. Asia)

China was an important component of the first Beast, giving it added power and influence through the sheer size of its population.

But Russia was clearly the undisputed leader of the Communist world throughout the 20th century; the Kremlin always took center stage.

Now, if China finally takes the lead and becomes the head and voice of an updated monster, the second Beast would be from the classical “Earth” of the ancient known world, which included parts of Asia.

Could China be the second Beast? How would we recognize it?

Let's examine the Bible's criteria for the Beast from the Earth:

“And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men” (Revelation 13)

Therefore, one requirement is that the second Beast must be able to call down fire from Heaven or the sky. (Either meaning is possible in the Bible's Greek and Hebrew.) That verse could inspire spectacular imagery for an apocalyptic Hollywood movie!

But there's one big problem: ironically, these days with contemporary missiles and bombs, this feat is really not so difficult to accomplish. Any modernized nation with a decent military budget can call down literal fire from the sky on command.

Not only the major military powers of USA, Russia, China, and Europe, but also pretty much everyone else. Iran recently demonstrated a visually impressive missile and drone strike. If we try to identify the Beast this way, it would create a long list of suspects.

Furthermore, through the “magic” of movies, even Hollywood can do it. We've all seen fire coming down from the sky, both in the comfort of our homes and on the theater big screen.

And with pyrotechnics and other tricks, many of the amazing effects we see in the movies can be duplicated live, in real life. From rock concerts to New Year's celebrations, fiery displays are almost “normal” in the modern world.

“Fire from heaven” is not such a rare commodity these days, compared to ancient times.

If every well-equipped nation can produce fiery effects from the sky, not to mention Hollywood studios and entertainment venues, what makes this sign so unique? How could it deceive the entire world to follow the second Beast?

The key to understanding this verse is waiting for us in another chapter of the Bible: the Beast's miraculous sign recalls the ministry of God's mighty Old Testament prophet Elijah.

The Hebrews had a bad habit of endlessly wavering between YHWH and Canaanite paganism, so God allowed himself to be put to a test.

“Elijah came unto the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. Call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God.” (1 Kings 18)

Continuing in the Old Testament, we see how Elijah's display of fire from Heaven turned the Jews back to God:

“Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God.” (1 Kings 18)

China is well-known for its large stockpile of missiles, as well as its long history of fireworks and explosives. Pyrotechnics are plentiful there. Creating a special fiery display wouldn't be too difficult.

So don't get me wrong; if China decided to make a “fire from heaven” extravaganza, it could be big enough to qualify this verse quite well in the literal sense.

But since missiles and fireworks are nothing unique to China or any other nation, it isn't actually helping us to narrow down the field of candidates and identify the Beast from the Earth.

That's because we're too busy searching the sky for flames and overlooking a prophetic figure of speech! In the Bible, “fire from heaven” means divine or supernatural proof used to convince the public. That is the legacy of Elijah's ministry.

Has any modern nation provided “supernatural” proof of its claims?

Indeed, China's economic rise is popularly called the “*China miracle*.”

You can search the Internet for that phrase and find hundreds of results

about this modern-day marvel from news articles in the mainstream media. The entire world has witnessed China's rise, along with the heavily-documented fact that it was called miraculous.

- *"China's Miracle Demystified"* (World Bank Blogs, March 2010, J. Lin)
- *"The China Miracle Isn't Over -- It Has Entered Its Second Phase"* (Forbes, March 2017, M. Zakkour)
- *"China anniversary: How the country became the world's economic miracle"* (BBC News, October 2019, By V. Harrison)
- *"Is China's economic miracle all that it appears?"* (Australian Broadcasting Corporation, July 2021)

Other than the nation of Israel being restored after World War II, China is the only nation in modern times popularly associated with the word "miracle."

Isn't that an unusual word in this agnostic secular age, where mainstream society is hesitant to acknowledge anything miraculous or supernatural?

Usually, the news media would drag their heels to avoid any mention of a "miracle." But in this case, it was just the opposite; they couldn't stop talking about it! The phrase became part of common English usage.

Chinese economic transformation has been stunning: starting from dirt-poor villages and starving farmers, in 40 years Red Communist China has drawn upon the entire world's financial resources and technology to fill its landscape with endless shiny skyscrapers and automobiles.

And as the "world's factory" China is hyper-industrialized. It handles mind-boggling amounts of production and global trade.

Rather than asking what products you have in your home that are Made in China, it's more revealing to ask whether you have anything that *isn't* made there.

Having amassed incredible wealth in such a short time, China now has more billionaires, supposedly, than the USA. China's wealth and commerce have been staggering, channeling the flow of so much of the world's economy into its own frenzied growth. Decades of development were compressed into just a few years.

- *"These Are the Super-Rich People Shaping China"* (Fortune, March 2016, M. Stepan)
- *"How China Got Rich"* (Magellan TV, 2019, M. Wood)
- *"China is the world's factory, more than ever"* (The Economist, June 2020)
- *"China overtakes U.S. as home to the most dollar billionaires"* (South China

Morning Post, March 2021)

Of course, Communist appearances are always deceptive! This time is no exception to that rule.

Like a Las Vegas magic show, the Chinese “miracle” used some mirrors and hidden doors. The gullible world’s investment money was sucked into an endless debt-driven building spree, racing to erect skyscrapers as fast as possible only for us to discover later the reality of deceptive accounting, growth for growth’s sake, and “ghost cities.”

And magic is a risky business. Like everyone and everything else in China, businessmen and their wealth are considered completely expendable resources of the State.

That means if the Communist Party begins to doubt a billionaire’s single-minded loyalty to the government (or for any other arbitrary reason) he may suddenly vanish from public sight for a period of time to have a “talk” with the authorities.

Maybe he’ll show up again later, maybe not. Several famous Chinese businessmen have disappeared recently.

- *“China’s Ghost Towns Haunt Its Economy: As debt piles up, whole new cities of apartment towers sit largely empty amid flashy amenities such as museums, stadiums and a replica of the Sphinx” (Wall Street Journal, June 2018, D. Fong)*
- *“Why China’s Evergrande debt crisis is the tip of an iceberg: The woes of the world’s most heavily indebted property developer could soon mean problems for Xi Jinping, China’s economy and beyond.” (The New Statesman, September 2021, G. Magnus)*
- *“Disappearing Billionaires: Jack Ma and Other Chinese Moguls Who Have Mysteriously Dropped Off the Radar” (Forbes, January 2021, J. Wang)*
- *“Outspoken Chinese billionaire Sun Dawu sentenced to 18 years in prison” (CNN, July 2021, B. Westcott)*

And that’s only the tip of the iceberg. Since China’s *modus operandi* is to break every conceivable rule, its “miracle” rise has produced mind-boggling levels of pollution, theft, safety violations, environmental destruction, and human rights abuses such as torture, forced labor, even genocide.

(Not to mention the harrowing times we’ve had dealing with the Chinese gift to the world of a laboratory-enhanced COVID-19 virus.)

People around the globe are beginning to wake up to the deception and dangers of trade with Red China. News headlines, formerly infatuated with the “miracle” in China, have become more sober in recent years as the world sees the evidence and begins to realize it was duped.

China, Revelation's Beast (ARC)

- *"China's Economic Miracle Is Ending"* (Forbes, May 2021, B. Conerly)
- *"China's Days as World's Factory Are Over, iPhone Maker Says"* (Bloomberg, August 2020, D. Wu)
- *"U.S. Senate passes bill to ban all products from China's Xinjiang"* (Reuters, July 2021, M. Martina)
- *"US bans China Telecom over national security concerns"* (AFP, October 2021)
- *"China's Growth Model is in Crisis"* (Jacobin, November 2021, H. Hung)

But why did China perform these devious miracles? What exactly is China promoting to the world? Where is all that money going?

Again, God's ancient Word is our faithful guide to modern history:

"And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live."
(Revelation 13)

We already know, as detailed in the previous chapter, that "the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live" is global Communism under Soviet leadership. (Revelation's "Beast from the Sea.")

China's amazing economic rise to power deceptively promoted the concept that authoritarian Marxism, or Communism, with a few adjustments could be a viable system to solve humanity's problems under Chinese leadership, as well as a reliable business partner for democratic nations.

And if you haven't realized this yet, here's a hint: God emphatically does not agree! That sets the stage for the climax of human history and Christ's victory over Satan's efforts at His return.

Through the second Beast's Satanic reversal of the test of Elijah and Baal, the False Prophet "proved" that the false god of Communism (and the other various branches of Marxism) might be the "true" system to admire, serve, follow, finance, and revere.

During that miraculous rise that boosted the fortunes of the Communist world after its difficult years following the Cold War, China really had some people convinced. From global organizations and mainstream media to big business investors and thrifty consumers, everyone was whistling China's tune.

- *"We have faith in China, despite volatility: The head of the International Monetary Fund said Thursday that she's not concerned about volatility in China's markets"* (CNN, January 2016, A. Petroff)

- *"How the Communist Party Guided China to Success"* (*New York Times*, February 2017, I. Johnson)
- *"Biden said America's survival depends on proving to China that democracy can outpace autocracy"* (*Business Insider*, April 2021, J. Haltiwanger)
- *"America can learn from Communist China, says Berkshire's Charlie Munger"* (*CNN*, June 2021, P. Monica)

Beyond ideology, China's deception primarily promoted the trade itself. This funneled money from the entire world into Chinese government-controlled industries, which the Communist Party used to build up a massive military stocked with the very latest technology. That was the goal driving Beijing's sudden interest in capitalistic business.

China's rise was not only about skyscrapers and factories, but more importantly to enable a gleaming brand-new colossal inventory of cutting-edge missiles, tanks, and jet fighters.

Your money and my money helped build the Beast's new high-tech military, complete with stealthy planes, advanced warships, and cutting-edge hypersonic missiles, all thanks to China's "global business" schemes and deceptions aided by our gullible political and business leaders.

- *"China's Economic Rise Enables Military Growth: 'a comprehensive transformation of its military.'"* (NPR, August 2010, T. Gjelten)
- *"China Could Have 1,000 Nuclear Warheads by 2030, Pentagon Says"* (*New York Times*, November 2021, H. Cooper)
- *"Report: New Stealth Aircraft and Capabilities in China's Air Arms Eroding U.S. Advantages"* (*Air Force Magazine*, November 2021, J. Tirpak)
- *"China Racing Ahead of US Navy at Breakneck Speed; Building 20 Warships Per Year In 17 Shipyards – Top Official"* (*EurAsian Times*, November 2021)

And who is China's army intended to subdue? You and me, of course!

With the world's support and access to global financial resources, China was able to raise up an impressive and powerful Satanic idol:

"Saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed." (Revelation 13)

Once again, this imagery would make a great Hollywood production. In olden days, an evil talking apparition would be jaw-dropping!

These days? Not so much. We have everything from 3D movies and animatronics to VR, talking gadgets, and robots. Avatars that speak are not

quite as earth-shaking anymore; they entertain our children on TV.

If you or I can slap a talking apparition onto a web page or interact with one at a public display, here and now with current technology, how could the Beast's conversational "image" bamboozle the entire world?

I'm not saying it's impossible; Satan and the Beast always use technology for evil, and a talking demonic figurehead could be a handy prop.

In fact, China has been pursuing realistic avatars as a demonstration of its Artificial Intelligence technology. A virtual reporter fooled Chinese news audiences for two months before the secret was revealed.

- *"China Reveals AI News Anchor, Almost Indistinguishable from a Real Human: I am the virtual twin of the original host. I have been running—reporting the news—undetected for 70 days now"* (*Epoch Times*, January 2022, S. Lin)

Yet this did not cause alarm or worship, nor did it change world viewpoints about China; 3D characters just don't have the same effect on modern audiences.

A virtual beast figure is possible—fairly easy, in fact—but wouldn't be necessary to fulfill this prophecy.

There's a more likely explanation, possibly even scarier because it has already happened. It's completely real and tangible!

It has been worshipped for years already, has spoken to an attentive world audience, and has put to death many people who failed to bow before it.

The word "image" here in the Bible means a likeness. You could also call it a "copy" or "clone."

And of all the nations in our modern world, can you tell me which country is best known for copying and cloning things?

That's right, Communist China!

China is famous for copying anything and everything: from plastic toys to stealth aircraft, to clone the work of others without embarrassment or apology is the modern Chinese Communist way of life.

In its "miraculous" rise, China copied a large portion of the U.S. economic and industrial system, not for its own sake (other than indulging the luxury tastes and egos of Communist Party leaders) but primarily in order to finance the creation of a giant and vibrant copy of the Soviet Union's former geopolitical might; it is a likeness or "image" of the first Beast.

And by what means? More copying, of course! China has been feverishly duplicating everyone else's military equipment and technology, including stolen U.S. weapon designs, to build up a vast arsenal of knock-off replica

hardware.

In some cases, China has even surpassed the technology of the other major powers by building on experimental research that was never put into production after the Cold War ended.

They also continually pursued next-generation weaponry for two decades, drawing upon the latest international scientific efforts while the free world's militaries were busy hunting primitively armed terrorists in the hills and caves of Afghanistan.

Imagine a clone going into production before the original! In China, that can happen.

- *“Pentagon sounds alarm on China's 'hundreds' of hypersonic tests: Weapons with potentially global reach add new wrinkle for U.S. homeland” (Nikkei, October 2021, R. Nakamura)*
- *“Block IV Upgrade: F-35s Could Fall Behind Chinese Stealth Fighters if US Delays Modernization Plans” (Eurasian Times, November 2021, A. Dangwal)*
- *“Chinese Spy Convicted of Conspiracy to Steal Cutting-Edge US Aviation Technology” (Epoch Times, November 2021, E. Fu)*
- *“China uses abandoned NASA design to develop 6,000-mph hypersonic nuclear missile engine” (Washington Examiner, December 2021, L. Gentile)*

Modern China combines the worst elements of Communism and Capitalism (the two divergent horns) into a true Frankenstein's monster that is the Beast from the Earth.

This new Beast is diligently preparing for war, and it has the unique distinction among tyrants of being so wealthy and so involved in commercial production that it can afford the latest technology and scale industrial output to militarily challenge any other world power. It's a huge problem.

That is how China breathed new life into the almost-dead and defeated Beast of Cold War Communism, performing yet another miracle:

“And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.” (Revelation 13)

It is Marxism (“with Chinese characteristics”) that China demands its citizens revere, on pain of torture or death.

It is Marxism and high-tech tyranny, under Chinese control and leadership, that Beijing and its bribed bureaucratic and media minions have been promoting to the world.

- *“China Surges in Americans' Views of Top World Economy” (Gallup, February*

China, Revelation's Beast (ARC)

2011, L. Saad)

- *“World should learn lessons from China in coronavirus fight” (Reuters, 2020)*
- *“African countries have much to learn from 'Chinese miracle'” (CCTV, 2021)*
- *“The China miracle as a model for Latin America” (Shanghai Daily, 2021)*

And for a long time, the world welcomed this sketchy narrative of a Communist regime zealously dedicated to the pursuit of world peace in a Capitalist utopia brimming with cheap products of dubious quality.

But after the COVID-19 fiasco and China's subsequent behavior, global opinion finally began to turn against the Beast. This sets the stage for our next scene in the human saga between good and evil....

5 ANTICHRIST'S AMBITION TO RULE THE WORLD

"Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!" (Matthew 18)

The evil side of our End-Times chessboard is taking shape, but there is still a major piece missing.

We've already examined the reign of the first Beast, a Soviet-led Communist monster that turned humans against their Creator and one another. The Soviet Union perished, yet Russia never bloomed into a land of freedom and honest industry.

The Bear continues to dream of its former glory and eye the territory of smaller neighbors with lingering interest, harboring a grudge against America and the free world who are weakened into tempting targets by the socialists within.

Then we identified the second Beast, a Chinese Marxist-Pseudocapitalist hybrid manufacturing leviathan that churns out the entire world's commercial industry, slave labor and all, for the purpose of cloning a mighty war machine in the Communist tradition.

This Chinese Dragon's army, the world's biggest, is stocked sky-high with the latest hardware and technology. All of it is based on designs stolen and imitated from every other major nation of the world.

These two powerful totalitarian strongholds pave the way for the Bible's most infamous tyrant to finally make his appearance....

Who or what is the Antichrist, and what new abominations will that unholy being bring into the world?

Since China is the second Beast, could the Antichrist be Chinese?

How would we recognize such an entity?

This chapter is where we tackle that problem!

Like the Beast itself, the Antichrist has been "hiding in plain sight" for some time without being noticed. Even Christians haven't spotted this

presence among the turmoil of the modern world.

But a man fitting the description is walking the Earth today. You've seen his name and his face many times. You've even seen his number, although you probably never realized it.

We will use the Book of Revelation, along with recent events, to identify this "Man of Sin" and "False Prophet."

First, how can we recognize this End Times spiritual supervillain?

Any serious study on Antichrist must include this famous verse from Paul:

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition" (2 Thessalonians 2)

This Man of "Sin" can also be translated as "Lawless." Isn't that the perfect word to sum up everything about the Communists that run modern China?

That nation has infinite sins, overflowing with bloody injustice and brutality on a level that the world is only beginning to understand.

But "lawless" captures the very essence of how no rule is too big or too small to be casually ignored, intentionally broken, or painstakingly cheated around and trampled upon by the uncouth leaders of Beijing.

If there is a law or a rule, consider it broken.

An agreement? Not worth the paper it's written on.

A moral or ethical standard? Mere foolishness, to the eyes of a Beast.

"Might makes right" is the one and only law recognized by the predators of the Communist world, just as "tooth and claw" is the jungle law of their namesakes in the animal kingdom.

- *"How does China cheat on trade? Let us count the ways" (Fox News, June 2018, S. Mosher)*
- *"Study Confirms China Cheating on United Nations Environmental Agreement" (Competitive Enterprise Institute, May 2019, B. Lieberman)*
- *"Chinese students and their parents fight for the right to cheat" (Quartz, June 2013, L. Kuo)*
- *"How China Cheated and Stole Its Way to Become the World's Second-Best Military Power: Cheaters sometimes prosper." (National Interest, March 2020, R. Farley)*

What other qualities can we expect in the Antichrist?

Remembering that ancient Rome was designated as the spiritual model for recognizing the modern Beast, we should look to the Caesars for additional clues.

Caesar was powerful but depraved, blasphemed God, and persecuted those who would not bow.

Revelation sums up these qualities:

“And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.” (Revelation 13)

Like Caesar, the modern Antichrist brutally punishes those who do not worship him. He also brings the Communist Beast back to life, giving it a renewed propaganda voice globally.

(In the previous chapter, we inferred that the “image of the beast” is probably not a spooky muttering avatar; instead it means a new likeness or clone of the Soviet Union’s former political and military might, which now exists in Communist China.)

Does China’s leader persecute and kill those who refuse to kowtow?

Yes, continually. The Middle Kingdom is second to none in brutal religious suppression and atrocities against Christians, political dissidents, and anyone else who doesn’t worship the Beast.

The repression and atrocities include a spectrum of abuse all the way from surveillance and threats to torture, rape, genocide, and butchering for profit.

- *“The Beijing Olympics has become an exercise in genocide denial” (Washington Post, January 2022, J. Rogin)*
- *“Chinese Woman Dies After 10 Years of Constant Torture Because She Wouldn’t Renounce Her Faith” (Epoch Times, March 2021, D. Li)*
- *“China forcefully harvests organs from detainees, tribunal concludes” (NBC News, June 2019, S. Smith)*
- *“China Uses Rape as Torture Tactic Against Uighur Detainees, Victims Say” (Voice of America, February 2021, A. Kashgarian)*

Has China given Communism a new life and a bigger voice?

Again, yes. Before the COVID-19 backlash, Communism was so invigorated that its views were often parroted uncritically throughout the world’s news media like an echo chamber.

Unapologetic socialists and atheists have also preached Satan's doctrine inside every nation’s schools and universities, giving the Beast a louder voice than ever.

Even after COVID-19, with international public opinion largely turned against China, the rapt media hasn’t completely abandoned its former reverence for the Beast. When the head of the Communist world speaks,

the entire planet listens.

Satan's current apparition, the Beast from the Earth, is a monster created by Communists and their allies: it is anti-God, anti-human, anti-freedom, and full of every imaginable evil and vice.

And the Communist Party's leader, currently Xi Jinping, is the modern Chinese Caesar who rules the Beast from his throne in Beijing.

At the end of the previous chapter, we asked:

What happened in the year 2013?

That was the year Xi ascended to his reign as China's "President."

Xi ended China's period of strategic "openness" and Beijing quickly overtook Moscow as the dominant military power of the East.

This overshadowed Russia, bringing the Bear's era of dominance over the East to an end.

What other qualities would identify the Antichrist?

We still haven't explored perhaps the most important trait of all:

"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." (2 Thessalonians 2)

Blasphemy is a key attribute of the modern Beasts, just as it was integral to the historical Beasts of Rome and Babylon. More specifically, this is the blasphemy of a person claiming to be divine, denying the true God YHWH and his son Jesus of Nazareth.

From Julius Caesar onward, each Roman leader craved worship and had himself declared one of the pagan gods, just as the ancient rulers of Babylon and Egypt had done long before Rome began. Human history is pitted with the decaying remains of these so-called "god kings" who wanted to be exalted above their fellow mortals.

But could any powerful king be worshipped as a god today? That sounds like a relic from the distant past, difficult to reconcile with our modern high-tech secularized world full of iPhones and automobiles. Surely that's impossible!

Or is it?

Recent news headlines tell a very different story, that of a 21st-century leader forcing all the citizens of a high-tech wealthy nation to revere his name, treasure his words, and even worship his image.

In China, Christians are being told that Xi (not Jesus) saves. His pictures and statues replace religious ones at churches and Buddhist temples. People

are ordered to worship him and punished heavily if they refuse.

- *“Jesus won't save you — President Xi Jinping will, Chinese Christians told” (Washington Post, November 2017, S. Denyer)*
- *“Portraits, Statues of Mao and Xi Replace Deities in Temples” (Bitter Winter, November 2019, C. Congxin)*
- *“China orders Christians to renounce faith in Jesus and worship President Xi Jinping instead” (Christianity Today, July 2020, N. Flannagan)*
- *“How China's Xi Jinping destroyed religion and made himself God” (NY Post, February 2020, S. Mosher)*

Not only has the ancient practice of deifying a king been revived in China, but emperor worship is being taken to new extremes.

Even a caesar, pharaoh, or lugal of archaic times was content to be considered merely one god among a numerous divine pantheon. That was audacious enough. Kings might persecute minority religions, but they usually did not dare to disrupt the dominant faith of their subjects.

(The Egyptian Akhenaten tried to reduce that system to just himself and the solar disc, a more favorable number of deities for dividing veneration, but he faced a huge backlash for his effort.)

Here something new and even more sinister is taking place: China's emperor demands sole worship. Communism in general, and himself in particular as its ultimate manifestation, must be elevated above all else. Xi takes the ancient god-king lust to a new and unprecedented level, aspiring to be the only god.

This is unusual, even among tyrants and “god kings.” The only precedent might be China's own first Communist tyrant, Mao Zedong, who also demanded undivided outright worship from his miserable subjects.

There are even hints that Xi may gradually reduce Mao's acclaim in order to increase his own. Currently they are both worshipped, which benefits Xi as he rises to the near-mythical status that Mao holds.

Ongoing news reports of this deified 21st-century dictator are shocking. Xi is worshipped as a god today while persecuting all other religions. “Xi Jinping thought” is even being retroactively edited into Chinese editions of the Bible.

- *“To Steer China's Future, Xi Is Rewriting Its Past: A new official summation of Communist Party history is likely to exalt Xi Jinping as a peer of Mao and Deng, fortifying his claim to a new phase in power.” (New York Times, November 2021, C. Buckley)*
- *“Chinese Jews celebrate Hanukkah in secret amid government crackdowns”*

(Jerusalem Post, December 2020, A. Reich)

- “Chinese Leader Xi Surpasses All Predecessors, Including Mao, According to Centennial Propaganda” (*Epoch Times, August 2021, J. Luo*)
- “In China, they’re closing churches, jailing pastors – and even rewriting scripture” (*The Guardian, October 2021, L. Kuo*)

What about China’s emperors in the pre-Communist days? They were extremely arrogant, yes, but generally acknowledged their place in the grand scheme of things.

Chinese kings traditionally aspired to be “Number One Under Heaven” or Tiān xià dì yī. (天下第一.) This is now a popular line spoken by magical sword-fighting heroes in Chinese TV shows.

It was already outrageous, but even that has been overtaken; it’s not enough for the new emperor in Beijing to be merely called #1 on earth. He craves a higher status than any historical monarch or legendary hero!

Xi’s new motto is “Above Heaven” or “Higher than the Sky.” (高于天.)

- “革命理想高于天-新华网” or “Revolutionary ideals are higher than the sky” (*Xinhua, May 2015*)

Yes, the Communist supreme leader is blasphemous.

His ambition for kingship and acclaim is unlimited. China watchers are noticing his infinite and dangerous ambition.

The military world too has realized that Xi is up to something big. Western nations have sprung into action, struggling to regain advantage and deterrence.

But at the furious pace of China’s technological progress, keeping one step ahead of the Dragon is no easy matter.

The world is anxiously watching the South China Sea, where American, British, Indian, and Japanese aircraft carriers have been sailing in an unprecedented display of collective strength, hoping to discourage Xi’s China from making a move to absorb its small democratic neighbor Taiwan.

- “Warships from Australia, Japan, U.K., and U.S. join forces in Maritime Partnership Exercise 2021” (*U.S. 7th Fleet Commander, October 2021*)
- “U.S. Fighter Jets Will Operate from Japan’s Newest Aircraft Carrier, the JS Izumo” (*Popular Mechanics, September 2021, K. Mizokami*)
- “South China Sea: Top US general says China preparing to invade Taiwan” (*EconoTimes, November 2021*)

Remember Hong Kong? It's gone. That former freedom-loving outpost at China's doorstep has been swallowed up already by the Communists.

This spurred Taiwan to start upgrading its F-16s, which constantly intercept Chinese military aircraft.

Australia is attempting to upgrade its armed forces while warning of China's threatening ambitions.

Japan has begun frantically enhancing its military posture, having sensed that if Xi takes Taiwan, he will desire all of Asia.

And then, if Xi takes Asia, would he be satisfied to stop there?

- *"Taiwan's first F-16V combat squadron to be commissioned Nov. 18"* (CNA, November 2021, M. Yu)
- *"Japan's Coming Defense Buildup: With China in mind, Tokyo vows to double military spending"* (Wall Street Journal, October 2021)
- *"'Cult of the new red emperor': Tony Abbott slams China during contentious Taiwan trip"* (Sky News Australia, October 2021, B. McKee)

Let's be realistic: a man who feels so troubled by the lofty traditional motto of "Number One Under Heaven" that he is compelled to change it to "Higher than the Sky" does not desire only Asia.

He could never rest being merely a Chinese "President" or even a regional emperor, which historical kings have also accomplished in the past. That feat has been done already. This king is tormented by a much greater and more difficult vision.

After all, how can a man be higher than heaven itself?



Mao ceramic devotional figurine

To be Number One, Xi must excel all others past and present.

Yes, that includes the monuments of Pharaoh and the powerful legions of Caesar, but that's not all.

An obstacle much closer to home is the memory of Chairman Mao, who made a billion Chinese kowtow, including Xi's own family. That past leader is still worshiped as a literal god daily by millions, and like Caesar, his face adorns money and the public square.

To equal Mao's achievement is not enough, especially for the angry inner boy behind Xi's prim smile whose family name was belittled during Mao's humiliating Cultural Revolution. His dream of national and personal "rejuvenation" requires that he strive for something much bigger:

Xi Jinping evidently hopes to conquer the entire world and be worshipped as a god-king or supreme monarch by every human on this planet.

"Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all." (Daniel 11)

That insane and blasphemous ambition, as a human political leader is driven by literal and metaphorical "demons" to rage against almighty YHWH and his fellow man, is precisely what earns a mysterious Biblical figure the diabolical title of *Antichrist*.

6 THE NUMBER OF A MAN

“Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.” (Revelation 13)

Now we come to the Antichrist’s unholy number, which as everyone knows, is 666.

Or is it?

Most people (outside of Bible translators and scholars) don’t realize that in some of the oldest New Testament manuscripts, the Beast’s number was written as 616.

This discrepancy is nothing new or recent; it was documented in the very early days of the Christian Church that these two different variants of the evil number exist in NT sources. Since then, additional source manuscripts have been discovered, further increasing the evidence.

- *“Against Heresies: Book 5, Chapter 30” (Irenaeus, 180 AD)*
- *“The Other Number of the Beast: 616; Oxyrhynchus Papyri LVI 4499” (University of Oxford, 2006/250 AD)*
- *“Revelation! 666 is not the number of the beast (it’s a devilish 616): a newly discovered fragment of the oldest surviving copy of the New Testament” (UK Independent, September 2011, T. Anderson)*
- *“The Number of the Beast in Revelation 13 in Light of Papyri, Graffiti, and Inscriptions” (Luther Seminary, October 2016, C. Koester)*

I’m not going to cherry-pick my own favorites from among the information that God has given us. Neither will I follow the assumptions of a particular group. In fact, when we examine the evidence, a logical explanation for the two variants will quickly become apparent!

Therefore, here we’ll evaluate both actually-recorded potential candidates for the Beast’s number, 666 and 616, written in the original Greek as χξς or χις.

Most people try to add up the letters of various famous names, choosing

their candidates more or less at random, to see which fit a total of 666 or 616.

After all, we are directed by God's Word to count (literally "pebble") the number. And thanks to our modern world with computers everywhere, it's much easier than in the past. Gematria calculators are part of today's high-tech landscape on the Internet.

But when you try that approach, you will soon realize what the early church bishop Irenaeus already warned about long ago: countless names and phrases (including both the serious and the silly) can add up to 666.

Using this method alone is unlikely to yield a definitive answer. People keep attempting it, but they keep coming up short: either empty-handed (too many possibilities) or with a personage famous in their own day or meaningful only to their specific denomination. Unfortunately, these seem irrelevant to everyone else.

Obviously, God didn't intend for us to simply give up and ignore the Revelation that He gave us. Nor did He make a mistake in the Instruction Manual provided. The Beast's number is there for a reason.

So yes, we definitely can solve this problem! We simply need to approach it with wisdom and a more refined technique. Do it the right way.

Throwing every name we can randomly brainstorm into the calculation hopper and expecting the right answer to pop out is unrealistic, because relevant *output* requires relevant *input*.

We can't ignore the other Biblical criteria for the Beast and the Antichrist; those are part of God's directions for solving the problem.

Once we restore those prerequisites to put the calculation into its proper context, it becomes much easier to answer. Then we can aim for the right balance of confirmation, using unvarnished facts, without letting "confirmation bias" derail the process.

Revelation's modern Beast echoes ancient Rome: the Roman Empire was designated by God as the forerunner and definitive illustration of the type. That is where we should always look for an example.

And on the Seven Hills of Rome, Caesar reigned supreme. He demanded both worship and tribute from his subjects.

Which of the Caesars was the ancient model of Antichrist? Likely all of them: they all held the same blasphemous position, presiding over a cruel and immoral empire that required its citizens and slaves to worship a depraved, sinful human emperor as one of their pagan idols.

The Caesars had coins minted with their deified royal names and likenesses. That made it difficult for any man to "buy or sell" without holding the emperor's graven image and "divine" logo in his hand.

Roman money was connected to blasphemy, brutality, and abomination.

China, Revelation's Beast (ARC)

It caused a huge difficulty for Christians and Jews at the time, because it violated God's commandments.



"NERO CAESAR AVG GERM IMP"
(Roman Bronze Coin, 66 AD)

Nero is the most famous example. He brutally persecuted the early church, and it's well-known that NERO CAESAR also could be transcribed as NERON CAESAR to fit both 666 and 616 in Hebrew Gematria.

"נרו קסר" equals 616
(50+200+6+0+100+60+200)

"נרון קסר" equals 666
(50+200+6+50+0+100+60+200)

- "Solutions suggested by the Hebrew method of numbering" (*The Number and Names of the Apocalyptic Beasts*, 1848, D. Thom)

These Hebrew sums for "Nero" explain why the discrepancy exists in the Greek NT source manuscripts; some in the early Christian community would have been familiar with both popular variations of Caesar's number.

One or more scribes either accidentally wrote down the wrong version, or intentionally "corrected" it to the more widely acknowledged of the two numbers. Why? Because both numbers had roughly the same meaning ("Caesar") to those early Christians.

And through that mistake, ironically the correct interpretation has been confirmed for us: to Jews and Christians at that time, the number 666 or 616 was understood as "Caesar." We should do likewise. In today's world, that would be his modern equivalent.

There is disagreement on which number came first, 666 or 616. It would

be ideal to know which number John recorded with his own pen, but either way, evidence proves that the two variants emerged almost immediately.

Even by itself, that fact would be significant. But the matter is settled beyond any doubt when we factor in Revelation's own description of the Beast, with its Seven Horns that match Rome's Seven Hills, and the fact that Caesar was historically recognized as the cruel enemy of Christians in that era, crucifying them and burning them as torches at night.

Thus, we have the benefit of a double confirmation to correctly understand the number the same way it was perceived when Revelation was recorded.

Meanwhile, it's also possible to tally up the Latin spelling of the name, rather than transliterating it into Hebrew.

Caesars had long names and grandiose titles. Nero's full regal name was ornate: Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus.

However, that's not how he started off in life; he was formerly Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus, and then briefly Nero Claudius Caesar Drusus Germanicus.

Roman Coins often added abbreviations of honorary phrases and titles such as IMP, DIVI, or PM. Names were also truncated to fit the available space, such as CLAVD for Claudius or AVG for Augustus.

(You can image how pompous the imperial declarations may have been when space was not a factor!)

All those names and titles fit perfectly with Nero's reputation for extravagance, while making it quite easy to match Caesar's various designations to 666 or 616 using their Greek numeral values:

"I. NERO C. CAESAR A.G." equals 666.
(10+0+50+5+100+70+0+60+0+60+1+5+200+1+100+0+1+3)

"CLAVD. CAESAR A.G." equals 666.
(60+30+1+200+4+0+60+1+5+200+1+100+0+1+3)

"DI. I. NERO CAESAR" equals 616.
(4+10+0+10+0+50+5+100+70+0+60+1+5+200+1+100)

"NERO CL. CAES. (L.D.A.)" equals 616.
(50+5+100+70+0+60+30+0+60+1+5+200+0+30+4+1)

- Tool: "*Gematria Calculator: Greek Beta Code*" (*RidingTheBeast.com*)

Finally, the most commonly-used characters of the Roman Numeral system (DCLXVI or 500+100+50+10+5+1) also add up to 666, further

implicating the entire culture and government of Rome at that time.

Among all the mysterious symbols of Revelation, ironically the Beast's number was not intended as a difficult puzzle. It was supposed to be the easy part!

"A Beast like Rome, an Antichrist like Caesar." That's the message.

Besides being a confirmation, 666 or 616 was simply a way to convey or discuss the historic Antichrist's identity without writing "CAESAR, EMPEROR OF ROME" in the New Testament scrolls.

Thus, today we are looking for a modern equivalent of the historical Caesars. That solves the thousand-names-that-fit problem, because very few people are candidates to begin with.

How many people do you know who are sadistic tyrants with direct executive power over a mighty nation: a king for life, commanding a large empire or superpower with a world-class military and huge economy, while demanding literal worship in the local temples and churches of all religions and denominations as a god, on pain of death?

(Literally; I'm not talking about hyperbole or figures of speech.)

It takes a very particular type of person to fit the bill.

That rules out various pet theories such as the Pope, Elvis, heavy metal bands, island dictators, obscure authors, elite wealthy secret societies, and cult leaders. Some of those may be evil, but none of them fit the entire criteria unless we exaggerate.

We've already established that both Xi Jinping and Mao Zedong (or generally speaking, the supreme leaders of Communist China) would literally fit all of the Biblical criteria for Caesar's successor, just as modern China itself matches the characteristics of the second Beast.

But would modern Chinese kings also pass the ancient Biblical number test?

Communist China has not only matched, but even surpassed Rome in some of the other "Beastly" attributes: the incredible power of modern military technology combined with a massive standing army, the largest number of innocent citizens slaughtered, and demanding worship from the biggest population of any nation in history.

And here, China may have outdone Caesar yet again; the modern Chinese version of Revelation's unholy number is written in a very special way!

Just as China's Communism had been hiding in plain sight after the collapse of the Soviet Union, this number was also parading right in front of our eyes for many years unnoticed.

I was amazed to discover that the name doesn't merely total the

specified number. It is the number.

This man's name literally looks like the Beast's number, verbatim, as it was written down in Greek numerals. It's like someone saying, "Hello, my name is 616." (Or: "Hi, I'm 666.")

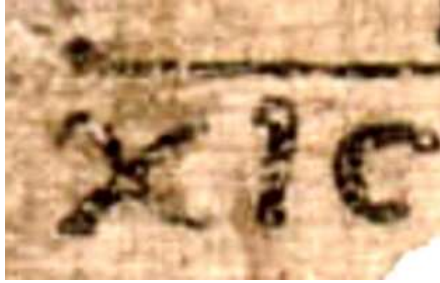
What does that name look like? In the Greek New Testaments, the unholy number was written literally as $\chi\zeta\varsigma$ or $\chi\iota\varsigma$. You'll notice that there are three different Greek characters in that profane number. That's because a bit of the essence is lost in our English translation with its Arabic numerals.

The Greek number was actually 600+60+6. (Or 600+10+6.) Those are the three unique characters, each having its own intrinsic value, unlike our own repetition of the same digit (6) with the value depending on its placement.

An extra wrinkle on the problem is this: the last symbol (a "stigma" or stroke representing the 6) had some known variations, so that it could be written similar to our letters C, S, or J.

Therefore, if we use the possibly older 616, the Beast's name could look approximately like XIS, XIC, or XIJ depending on which *stigma* shape is used.

Here is an image of “616” from the New Testament manuscript *Oxyrhynchus Papyri*:



(Keeping in mind that *Stigma*, the last digit, could be written differently.)

Do we know of such a man in existence? Yes, and you've already seen his name and photo frequently in the news!

This leader is already walking the earth. He has been shaking hands with dignitaries and delivering speeches that generate headlines.

He is continually in front of us, mentioned everywhere, but “hiding in plain sight.” God's people have mostly failed to recognize him, just as they overlooked China itself.

Let's change that by revealing the number of his name.

We now know that the second Communist Beast of Revelation is led by China, and we've seen its economic “miracles” that deceived the world to invest our hard-earned money in its abominable atrocities and military buildup.

Who is the current leader of China in 2022? Xi Jinping.

Xi is his family name, like your “last” name of Smith or Jones. In Chinese the family name properly comes *before* the personal name: “Xi Jinping” is in the same order as “Smith, Jeffrey.”

That means his complete family name and “first” initial is XI J.

Does that look familiar?

“XI J” is written approximately the same as the Greek 616, if we use the variant of *stigma* that looks similar to our J.

By the way, that is a true and official version of Xi's name; it's not merely a rough English transliteration. That's because not only Simplified Chinese characters but also Pinyin romanization are both recognized and standardized in Mainland China. The spelling is correct, according to their own officially mandated system.

“Xi J.” is 616, the Beast's number!

(And remember, that's not my own opinion. Those three characters were literally written down, verbatim, in the Greek New Testament almost two thousand years ago as you've seen with your own eyes in the source manuscript.)

We've solved one puzzle, but that's not all; there's *another* strange modern Chinese link with the ancient and evil number of 616.

Deng Xiaoping was a former supreme leader or "President" of Communist China. He generally ranks third in fame and influence, right below Mao and Xi.

But Deng played a crucial part in bringing the Beast to life. (Or more specifically, growing the evil Communist baby dragon of decades past into the "larger than life" rampaging monster we see today.)

Here is his name in Simplified Chinese characters:

邓小平

And here, once again, is the character for his family name of "Deng":

邓

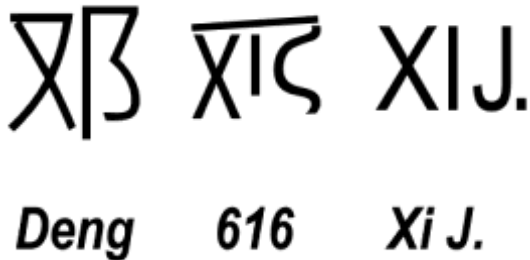
Since the same letters of the Greek alphabet were used to write numbers as well as words, eventually Greek numerals came to be distinguished by adding an optional "overbar" line above them.

That was also the case in New Testament manuscripts, as you could see in the previous "616" photo.

And if we were to remove a line from the top of the Chinese 邓 (or "Deng") character, what would the remaining shape look like?

It would be similar to XIS (or XIJ) giving us 616 once again!

If you line up the Chinese “Deng” with Greek “616” and Pinyin “Xi J” all in a row, the visual effect is stunning:



In both cases, the shapes not only add up to 616; they are 616.

So, to non-Chinese eyes the modern simplified typeface character for 邓 (or “Deng”) resembles the Greek 616 with its customary overbar.

Of course, we’re not aiming to make all the experts happy; these might not impress every modern Greek and Chinese native or scholar with their finely schooled aesthetic taste for the correct modernized forms of the characters, along with anti-religious bias and social conformance to current trends in academic schools of thought.

But it’s a good rough match for the actual required shapes, and it fits all three of the writing systems involved in a New Testament numeric prophecy about a Beijing Communist: Simplified Chinese characters, Pinyin, and Greek numerals.

That’s the second Chinese leader whose name passes the Bible’s 616 test!

Deng Xiaoping certainly deserves this abhorrent recognition; he played perhaps the key role in creating the modern Beast from the Earth.

It’s true that Mao Zedong imposed Communism on China, but Mao’s China was a feeble and sickly Beast, dangerous mainly to its own vulnerable citizens. Militarily weak despite its massive population, it was poor and technologically primitive, a puny threat unable to challenge the wealthy and high-tech democratic West.

It was this man, Deng Xiaoping, whose diabolical strategy and vision gave Satan’s Beast all the money and industrial capacity it needed to grow into the mighty world-threatening behemoth that we face today. He put China on a crash course of international business, trade, education, and manufacturing.

The result was truly almost a “miracle.” From rags to riches, from huts to skyscrapers, from machetes to stealth fighters, the Chinese Beast gained

strength and modernized faster than any other nation in history.

Finally, it is Xi Jinping who has returned Communist China from the temporarily cordial business demeanor and calculated “openness” back to its fierce and hostile Marxist roots.

Under Xi, business is risky, relations are unfriendly, and war is only a matter of time.

Here's another interesting fact: Xi Jinping happens to be the seventh “President” of the People's Republic of China. If that sounds familiar, you may have recalled this Bible verse:

“And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.” (Revelation 17)

Xi is returning China to stricter Communist discipline and moving the world rapidly towards a major war.

Other than Mao, Xi is the most domineering, proud, and defiant Communist Chinese leader: warlike, demanding, cunning, and ruthless. He regularly purges the Communist Party to demote or eliminate groups of officials who don't support him.

Chinese schools require every student to study the semi-deified “Xi Jinping thought.” That is similar to the way Mao's vapid “Little Red Book” was required reading in China during the 1960s and 70s.

Term limits don't appeal to Xi; he probably will be a lifetime monarch, as Mao was. He's truly a dictator's dictator.

- *“Xi Jinping looks to secure his political future by reinterpreting China's past: A key meeting of the ruling Communist Party on Thursday approved a rare “historical resolution” that could help the Chinese leader stay in power indefinitely.” (NBC, November 2021, A. Smith)*
- *“To Steer China's Future, Xi Is Rewriting Its Past: A new official summation of Communist Party history is likely to exalt Xi Jinping as a peer of Mao and Deng, fortifying his claim to a new phase in power.” (New York Times, November 2021, C. Buckley)*
- *“Xi Jinping Vows to Shape Mankind's Common Future” (Epoch Times, July 2021, N. Hao)*

We have calculated a match for two Chinese supreme leaders with the unholy number 616.

Shall we try for a third?

There is still Mao Zedong himself to consider, although during his time in the 20th century, world Communism was still firmly under the ultimate leadership of Russia.

There's something different about Mao compared to any subsequent mainland Chinese leader: during his reign, the global news media was still using the older non-Communist Wade-Giles romanization system.

Therefore, his name was usually spelled Mao Tse-tung. That's what we'll use for our calculation. (Pinyin has since become the new standard for romanizing Chinese names.)

And what does that spelling add up to in the Greek?

"MAO TSE" equals 616.
(40+1+70+0+300+200+5)

(The "S" in "TSE" corresponds to the Greek "Σ" or Sigma, a different character than the Stigma we saw in "Xi J.")

Again, this is the official and correct spelling, just as it appeared in newspapers at the time. "Mao" and "Tse" were the family name and family-generation name, comparable to a Smith family where all the siblings are given the same middle name after their grandfather.

The "tung" was his personal name, like our Tom or Dan. Thus, "Mao Tse" is the complete family portion of Mao's name, spelled properly as in world news and official China government publications.

- *"Mao Tse-tung: Father of Chinese Revolution" (New York Times, September 1976)*
- *"Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung" (People's Liberation Army Daily, 1966)*

That makes three Chinese leaders matching 616. And those are the Big 3 in Communist China; as I'm finishing this book, Xi just held an official Party conference to have himself elevated into that exclusive VIP ultimate dictator club, an "Unholy Trinity" of sorts with Comrades Mao and Deng.

It's probably safe to say generally that each "President" of Communist China is a modern Caesar from a spiritual standpoint, just as each Caesar of ancient Rome was the historical prototype.

That being the case, could we also anticipate an overall connection between China and the unholy number, just as Rome's numbering system (DCLXVI or 500+100+50+10+5+1) adds up to 666?

Sure enough, there is a stunning connection:

Chinese are the only people on Earth (other than a few seriously-misguided schoolkids and rock guitarists pursuing a Heavy Metal look) to enthusiastically adopt the number 666.

The Beast's number 666 is literally everywhere in China. It lovingly

China, Revelation's Beast (ARC)

adorns the names of storefronts. It's even used like an emoji in text chats!

The profane number is widely respected by the Chinese people; they don't consider it evil.



Chinese 666 emoji

Just as “6” is pronounced “six” in English, it has its own Chinese language pronunciation: “liu.” (That approximately rhymes with “mew.”)

In Chinese, “666” or “liù liù liù” (六六六) sounds similar to “cool, smooth, awesome” or “liū liū liū” (溜溜溜).

Also, 666 is considered lucky in China, because when gambling or competing with three dice, as in the traditional “Cee-lo” (四五六) game, it’s the highest number that can be rolled.

To Western or Christian eyes, it’s shocking to see 666 plastered everywhere. And it should be; the Chinese nation as a whole has unwittingly adopted the Biblical symbol used to designate Revelation’s “Beast from the Earth.”

The mainland Chinese don’t realize it, but they have marked *themselves* clearly for easy recognition as subjects of the Beast!

- “666 Has Nothing to Do with Satan in China” (TechNode, July 2016, E. Xiao)
- “Why Chinese People are Obsessed with 666” (YouTube: Goldthread, July 2018, D. Li)
- “Sṣ’ Ng Luk” (Chinese Games with Dice, 1889, S. Culin)

By following the Bible’s instructions, we’ve used the number of the Beast to verify the identities of both the classical Antichrist prototype in Rome and his modern Communist counterpart in China.

And we’ve linked both of the evil numbers found in New Testament source manuscripts, 666 and 616, to the Caesars of old as well as to modern China and its leaders. No matter which number you prefer, we’ve covered it!

But we can’t stop there; now that we understand this amazing treasure of knowledge from Revelation, how will we use it?

What’s the next step of the plan?

It’s remarkable just to see these ancient prophecies come to life right

China, Revelation's Beast (ARC)

before our eyes during this final stage of history, but surely God wants us to do something practical about them, right?

I'm glad you asked.

The next chapter may be the most important. That's where we start on a plan of action to defeat the Beast and share a tremendous victory with Jesus at His triumphant return!

Are you ready to win? Let's begin....

7 REPENT, PREPARE, STRENGTHEN (AND QUIT FEEDING THE BEAST!)

“If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God” (Revelation 14)

God has revealed the identity of Revelation 13’s pair of Communist Beasts. That information is a huge blessing; now we know what we’re dealing with! We also know how God Himself feels about some of the world’s political movements and policies.

We’ve even unveiled the attributes to look for in a modern Antichrist, including the blasphemous, outrageous desire to rule our entire planet and demand global worship.

Obviously, such evil plans affect everyone; it’s not the kind of problem any of us can afford to ignore.

But we still haven’t looked at the practical steps we should take to address these issues. That’s our task in this chapter!

Now what? How does God want us to respond to Satan’s latest monstrosity?

Good news: we have these answers too; they have been patiently waiting for us in the Bible for a hundred generations. Finally, it’s time to dust them off and take them to heart.

Here are 7 steps you can take to defeat the Beast and get ready for the victorious return of Jesus.

This chapter is a crash course in cleaning off the filth and confusion promoted by Communists, then doing your part to steer our society and military back on track while getting ready for a front-row seat to the End-Times Extravaganza that Jesus Himself is preparing for you!

According to the Words of Christ in Revelation and Matthew, we will be held accountable for our actions and choices. When He returns, there will be “gnashing of teeth” from those who ignore His counsel. That’s not the outcome you want, friend. Listen to Him:

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of

heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 7)

He wants you to be victorious. And to help others. So, let's tackle this: it's the most important part. Get off the mobile phone for a few minutes, hunker down to read this carefully, and pay close attention to what God has revealed to us in the Bible!

1. Don't identify or associate yourself with the Beast.

Be careful on this first step; it might look really simple at first, but there's actually more to it. Satan is cunning, and his trap has some hidden and camouflaged surprises lurking behind the more obvious, shiny parts. If you're not alert, you'll avoid one snare only to fall into another.

For instance, if you're smart, right now you don't have any Satanic-themed tattoos on your body. (Laser them off *pronto* if you do.) That's easy to understand. Here we are talking about something a little more subtle and tricky!

Because, as we've learned, the modern Beast is Communist. You will need to remind yourself that Satan's real-life monster is not dressed up like a Halloween devil outfit; instead, its infrastructure is primarily Russian and Chinese.

But its voice and influence permeate every nation through countless Marxist advocates in media, bureaucracy, and academics. Learn to recognize them.

The Beast is military and political. And it's very flexible; it has a habit of finding new ways to appeal to people. This deceives us into getting involved with all sorts of evil. As Revelation emphasizes, the world was fooled:

“And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast” (Revelation 13)

Therefore, be on guard and don't identify yourself or associate yourself in any way with the Communist Beasts of Revelation 13 (Russia and China) or with Satan and sin in general.

There are several different ways that the Beast entangles people, so here we'll cover the most common....

2. Don't be Communist, socialist, a China enthusiast, or “woke.”

The Bible's Beast is Communism, a poison that destroys nations, lives, and souls. If you're a big fan of Communist China, Russia, or “Che” you're not right with God. Get your mind and your life straightened out.

But once again, it's not quite that simple! You have to do more than avoid wearing "I'm a Commie" T-shirts. (Although that's a great place to start.)

Here's why: these days, Communism is promoted under many other names. Remember, Satan and his minions are devious. So, take note:

Do you consider yourself an environmentalist? Maybe a feminist?
Are you a "woke" or "progressive" Christian?
Perhaps a social justice warrior? Or a socialist?
Do you promote "racial justice" or judge people by color?
(Curveball: How about a red-pilled "player" practicing "game"?)

If you belong to any of those, I've got some bad news:
You're not a Christian.

Yep, you heard me right: those are not the fruits of a Christian.

In fact, you're leading a Communist lifestyle!

(Technically pseudo-communist, but spiritually it's about the same.)

Embracing one of these identities is like marking your own forehead: you are telling the world that you have rejected YHWH and belong to the Beast and Satan.

That's not a good look. It will keep you out of the Lamb's Book of Life! Sorry, but you can't have it both ways. Choose which side you're on.

Sever all ties with the Beast while you can. Time is short; do it now.

- *"The Feminist Vision of Friedrich Engels: Engels helped lay the foundations for a Marxist understanding of women's oppression."* (Jacobin, September 2021, J. Doyle)
- *"Marxist Theory - Environment: Capitalism, with its insatiable pursuit of profit, is responsible for destroying the environment. We need to fight for socialism"* (Socialist Appeal, November 2021)
- *"What critical race theory is really about: Abandoning Marx's economic dialectic of capitalists and workers, they substituted race for class and sought to create a revolutionary coalition of the dispossessed based on racial and ethnic categories"* (NY Post, May 2021, C. Ruzfo)
- *"Want to Dismantle Capitalism? Abolish the Family: Arguably the most infamous demand of The Communist Manifesto is the 'abolition of the family.'" (The Nation, May 2019, R. Ho)*

If you follow any variety of Marxist dogma, you are giving God the finger and bowing down to worship evil. Bad choice.

Just going to church isn't enough to fix that. Calling yourself a "Christian" won't work either, unless you repent and search your mind and

heart to be born again! No one can fool Jesus. He knows. He is the judge: not you or the people you know.

He still wants you back; you just have to forsake the ways of the world.

Then you'll have the spiritual fruits of a real Christian, and you'll be clearly stamped with His holy seal just as Revelation 7 promises.

3. Stop buying Made in China.

Of all the tricky schemes, this one might be the most deceptive!

Buying the garbage-quality products that China cranks out of its bloodstained factories is one of the worst things you can do to yourself and your country. It's individual and national suicide, plus it has spiritual consequences.

Here's why....

First, any product from mainland China is unsafe, unreliable, and unethical. From milk powder that poisons babies to low quality appliances that catch fire, Chinese merchandise simply can't be trusted.

Even the Chinese themselves don't trust Made in China! They import certain food items for their own kids. But they ship us everything from car jacks that collapse to fake medicine full of deadly synthetic heroin. China products can literally kill you.

- *"China's parents haunted by melamine baby milk scandal: 300,000 children in China were poisoned.... Six babies were killed by the toxic substance, which was used by 22 companies to artificially boost the protein levels that showed up in nutrition tests" (South China Morning Post, February 2020)*
- *"Harbor Freight recalls over 1.7 million jack stands that can suddenly collapse: the tooling used to make the stands near Hangzhou, China, had become worn out due to age and was manufacturing inconsistent parts" (Autoblog, November 2021, R. Glon)*

That's already bad, but it gets worse: buying "Made in China" makes you a partner and associate in a multitude of Communist crimes! You are linking yourself financially with the Beast and funding its barbaric atrocities.

Just like the ancient Roman coins bearing Caesar's image, which faithful Christians and Jews resisted, buying "Made in China" puts innocent blood on your hands.

China sets up modern concentration camps and prison workshops where parts are assembled by bruised and sleepless religious, ethnic, and political prisoners between torture and brainwashing sessions. It's a living Hell.

Many governments have confirmed that China is pursuing genocide,

forced labor, and other human rights violations at this very moment. Those persecuted by the Communist government (Christians and other unfavored groups) are routinely beaten, raped, and overworked. Sometimes they are even butchered, simply to harvest their organs for the profitable medical transplant industry.

- *“More countries join condemnation of China over Xinjiang abuses: 38 countries joined Germany at the United Nations this week in condemning China's human rights abuses in the northwest region of Xinjiang, where the government is engaged in a sweeping campaign of demographic genocide against Uighur Muslims and other ethnic minorities” (Axios, October 2020, Z. Basu)*
- *“China forcefully harvests organs from detainees, tribunal concludes: China's organ transplant trade is worth \$1 billion a year, according to a tribunal” (NBC, June 2019, S. Smith)*

Is that enough damage? There's even more: buying “Made in China” cripples your national industries and weakens your military.

Here's how that works. Your hard-earned money is rapidly building up China's massive high-tech military. Who is this war machine designed to fight against? That's right; against us!

Every dollar you spend on Chinese-made junk contributes funding toward more advanced weapons that will be aimed at your own soldiers and cities. Not the best survival strategy, is it? This is like a real-life IQ test! Let's get smarter and stop paying China to target us.

Meanwhile, the Communist scheme is shrewdly designed to destroy our manufacturing capabilities. China's government uses subsidies, intellectual theft, rule breaking, improper substitutions, fakes, bribes, and many other forms of cheating along with slave labor to sell products so cheap that legitimate industries cannot compete. Then it raises prices again to funnel money into its military and bureaucratic needs.

Our companies downsize, outsource, or go out of business. That puts other militaries and nations at a huge disadvantage against China's rapid development.

- *“Former Military Leaders to Newsmax: 'Deceitful' China 'Cheating the System'” (Newsmax, August 2021, C. Kim)*
- *“US needs ‘manufacturing renaissance’ to compete with China: Reagan Institute warns of ‘inadequate’ investments, ‘exceedingly fragile’ supply chains, and ‘insufficient’ accountability” (Breaking Defense, November 2021, B. Williams)*
- *“Deal with the Devil: Apple Signed \$275 Billion Contract with China to Avoid Crackdown” (Breitbart, December 2021, L. Nolan)*
- *“Tom Cotton Marks 20 Years of China's ‘Great Hollowing’ of U.S. ‘Industrial*

Base, Economy, and Working Class: Millions of Americans lost good-paying, blue-collar jobs to the 'China trade shock' in the years that followed" (Breitbart, December 2021, J. Binder)

Think that's all? No, there's still one more problem, and it's huge. When you buy "Made in China" you participate in blasphemy against God!

China wants to control the entire world. For what ultimate purpose? The Chinese emperor dreams of soothing his tortured ego by making the entire planet bow before him. He would insult our God YHWH by trying to act like a deity himself. Anyone supporting that effort is giving money to Satan's favorite cause.

You can't escape that idolatrous blood-money link, friend; the stains on your hands will testify against you to the all-seeing God:

"And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil" (Isaiah 1)

Modern China is the culmination and ultimate realization of Satan's work in this world. Don't walk; *run* away from any association with it. Stop hurting yourself. Don't buy another Chinese item. Just quit now!

You'll be so glad you stopped supporting the Beast financially. Your home will be better spiritually, you'll be closer to God, plus you can avoid much of the supply-chain drama; no waiting on lousy Chinese products to arrive on slow boats and sit at backed-up ports.

Shop around and you will find great deals on great products made in USA, Canada, Mexico, Europe, and democratic nations in Asia!

4. Don't do business with China.

Buying evil is bad enough; that's already hurting yourself and your neighbor. If you're selling Made in China merchandise, or have any other business connections to mainland China, you're heading for serious trouble in this world and the next!

You're not only sinning; you're causing others to sin as well, and making innocent people get hurt brutally, while harming and weakening your own country. God won't tolerate this if we continue. So, clean up your act: cut all business ties and other entanglements with the Beast!

Don't kid yourself; it's impossible to make a good product in China. Whatever safeguards are put in place, the Communists will always find a way to cheat on safety, ethics, and everything else. The Party controls all the

people that run its factories.

No one's going to pull a fast one on Jesus either; read Revelation. There's no way you can win or keep your hands clean in business with China. Pull out now while you still can. If you don't, the coming war will unceremoniously end your production anyway, and you'll be stuck with no product.

Bring your business back home, or set up shop in a democratic nation where workers have rights and partnerships can be trusted. Build on solid ground, as Jesus taught. Clean up your supply chain too; don't rely on China-made components. Pulling out of China is even a trend now. Follow the smart people and move your operations out of China without delay!

5. Don't worship the Beast.

We all know that "worship" means to adore, honor, revere.

But there's more to this word's meaning, especially as it was used in ancient times: to cower or appease. To prostrate or bow.

You could also say to "kowtow" (叩头) since we're talking about China.

Don't do any of those things!

Don't be a big "fan" or admirer of mainland China and all things Chinese. (The same goes for Russia.)

Likewise, don't fear China. You *should* fear any connection to it, and only a fool would fail to recognize the massive threat presented by its military. Channel that into urgent, smart preparation and strength, but never fear or appeasement.

Don't bow to mainland China or shower it with respect and affection. Remember, it's the Beast.



"Kowtowing Official" (China, Song Dynasty)
[Don't be like this guy!]

Yes, Chinese culture before Communism is an interesting study, as is the language.

But history shows clearly that China already had huge problems with the incredible cruelty and social control exercised by its traditional emperors. They paved the way for Mao and Xi. It's no coincidence that China adopted the "dragon" as its symbol long ago.

So, keep everything in perspective; do not adore the Dragon. The Christian culture is the only one to admire. Jesus called his followers the "salt of the earth."

China has Christians too; millions of them! Pray for them; true believers are heavily persecuted, and others are co-opted, just like the Christians of ancient Rome. All are under intense pressure and scrutiny.

And remember that there are many freedom-loving people of Chinese heritage in other nations including our allies of Taiwan, Singapore, and Malaysia, plus dissidents and expats, and many distinct non-Chinese Asian nations and peoples.

Racism is not of God; it and "wokeness" are two sides of the same worldly coin. Avoid both.

6. Repent of your sins and turn to God.

Too often, this is overlooked or even scorned.

Big mistake! That ridicule comes from sheer ignorance. God's ways are higher. Repentance is strength, not weakness. A mighty warrior repents before he fights, just as he trains for the fight.

We need mighty civilians too, helping to keep our nation running smoothly. Do what you can to be the salt of our society, as Christ instructed. Be pure, noble, resilient, and strong.

This is the standard initial step for any spiritual undertaking. It is also something that strengthens your nation. Without it, we are weak and divided. But as Jesus taught, with God we can accomplish anything. So first we must return to Him and follow His commandments.

This is something all of us need to do, reborn Christians too; repentance is not a once-in-a-lifetime event to practice only before baptism. Examine your life and repent once more! Renew your walk with Jesus. Be more honest in your evaluations. Improve your behavior. Study the Word diligently. Be a better person.

Remember the roadside signs that read "Repent, for the End is near"? Strangely, I haven't seen one of those for ages. But now we've finally arrived, and the End is actually in sight!

Where did all those roadside signs go? It was the right message, just a little off on the timing.

Peter said it well:

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." (2 Peter 3)

Jesus himself said it best of all:

"And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." (Matthew 25)

How do we repent? What is considered sinful?

The Bible specifies these in several lists. Here's one:

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." (1 Corinthians 6)

Here's another list of examples:

“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Galatians 5)

And since we're focusing on Revelation, here's a list from that book:

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” (Revelation 21)

If you indulge in sin, or if you vote for a political platform or politician that promotes abortion and immorality, you are not living a Christian life.

Don't fool yourself. Wash the blood and filth off your hands and turn back to God. You'll be amazed at how much repentance can change your life.

If you're not a Christian, become one! Despite what Hollywood and all the “experts” will tell you, that's your one and only ticket. It's already paid for. Grab it and don't let go.

In this book, I've already shown you that Revelation's ancient predictions have come true. Therefore, you should be realizing that the Bible is correct about Jesus. Now you must take action; choose Him.

And remember: if you're either sanctimonious or an indulgent sinner, you are not a real Christian yet. Heed the many warnings that Christ himself gave us about this in the Gospels. Follow Jesus, not the world. Worship Him, not the flesh or your own ego.

Be a stronger Christian: walk closer to God, be more thankful, honor Him in everything you do. Refine and temper yourself to be the person He created you to be.

Don't follow your feelings. Follow Jesus.

While you're shedding sinful habits, don't forget to throw away all your idols and abandon sorcery!

Yes, I'm deadly serious. At first glance, those can seem like relics from ancient times, irrelevant to our era. Yet the Bible warns us against them.

That's because they're still everywhere, just rebranded with a modern theme!

Yesterday's pagan idols have become today's individual legacy/reputation and trophies. People still worship the works of their own

hands, but the focus has turned toward revering ourselves and our creative efforts, along with worldly pleasures and our most prized possessions.

"Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made" (Isaiah 2)

Traditional witchcraft and the occult are celebrated now more than ever in television and literature, where they can corrupt kids and adults alike. You may not consider yourself corrupted, but then again, you're not God. It's His judgment that counts.

Meditative exercise trends and spiritualism continue to tempt people into the snare of idolatry. Meanwhile, the marvels of our modern technology can provide some of the same allure as sorcery of old. Keep your gadgets and interests in perspective and keep Jesus first in your life!

7. Support your military and prepare for a rainy day

It's your responsibility as a citizen (at least, if you prefer survival) to make sure your military has adequate funds and uses them wisely.

That means voting smart. If you vote for big social and "green" spending, perversion, murder, disarmament, and addictive welfare when your country is racing to compete with China's military technology, you need to consider what keeps you alive and free.

We need adequate money spent on the right balance of military hardware. China is big, and it has copied our economic and industrial systems to fund its arsenal; there's simply no way to compete with it on a shoestring budget.

- *"Pentagon Rattled by Chinese Military Push on Multiple Fronts: 'The pace at which China is moving is stunning'" (Associated Press, November 2021, R. Burns)*
- *"Air Force Leaders: 'We Are Out of Time,' China Has Caught Up" (Air Force Magazine, September 2021, A. Hudson)*
- *"'We need to deliver capabilities sooner and faster': The top admiral of the US Indo-Pacific Command has issued a stark warning to America and its allies as tensions have continued to build in China." (Daily Mail, November 2021, T. Taylor)*
- *"China is National Security Threat No. 1: Resisting Beijing's attempt to reshape and dominate the world is the challenge of our generation." (Wall Street Journal, December 2020, J. Ratcliffe)*

Also, don't let your nation's military become a "woke, broke joke" with politically correct activists in charge and a clown car of socialist agendas

distracting from the readiness of our soldiers.

Many lives are at stake, including your own. We need the U.S. military fighting fit, unified, well-trained, well-supported, sober, and patriotic.

China's soldiers won't be distracted by climate change paranoia, diversity quotas, or questions about how many genders there are. They also won't be fighting among themselves about race or confused regarding who the enemy is.

Anything less than 100% focus on winning war is not going to work!

- *"China's military prepares for war, while America's military goes 'woke'" (The Hill, July 2021, S. Cropsey)*
- *"Rep. Dan Crenshaw: Military focus on 'woke training' is national security threat; military leaders are prioritizing woke training over actual war fighting" (NY Post, July 2021, S. Chamberlain)*
- *"Latest US military hypersonic test fails: The US suffered a setback in the race with China and Russia to develop hypersonic weapons when its latest test failed" (CNN, October 2021, O. Liebermann)*
- *"Signature block pronouns now allowed for Airmen, Guardians: 'An inclusive force is a mission-ready force'" (U.S. Air Force, December 2021)*

War affects citizens too, not just soldiers.

If you suddenly lose electric power, Internet, and/or cell phone reception (or if your phone and computer start to act strange) there's a fair chance that World War III has begun.

Then again, it may be only a bit of weather.

Either way, you'll want to be ready!

Have some supplies and skills. If electricity, groceries, and services shut off today and stayed off for a few weeks, could you handle it? Make sure you can.

Read your Bible more. Get closer to God. Bodily survival is futile without spiritual life. Devote your entire being to YHWH. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Have a virtuous home. Serve others. Get to know Jesus. Correct your worst flaws.

Learn to protect yourself and your family. First-aid supplies and knowledge are a must too.

Many survival and first-aid resources are available on the Internet including manuals by FEMA, Red Cross, and the Marine Corps.

- *"Basic Disaster Supplies Kit: Being prepared means having your own food, water and other supplies to last for several days" (FEMA Ready.gov, November 2021)*
- *"First Aid/CPR/AED Participant's Manual" (American Red Cross, 2016)*

- *"First Aid" (U.S. Marine Corps, July 2004)*

We've briefly touched on several areas to get your life, your soul, and your nation back on track. You'll need to be strong to defeat the Beast, and pure to greet Jesus at his return.

Take heart; we're not doing this alone!

God Himself is with us; He is very involved in this End Times saga, and we have a very special destiny and role to play in these events. You'll be amazed at what happens in the days ahead.

This chapter was only a crash course to get you off to the right start; it covered a little bit of everything.

But you will need to stay on the right track! Be sure to learn more about preparing what you need physically and spiritually to survive these turbulent End Times.

It's also crucial to get ready for the Big Event: our upcoming reunion with Jesus! That's something you don't want to miss.

(For more info, see my upcoming book *"Clothed in White: Repent and Prepare for Christ's Kingdom."*)

I bet you also noticed some obvious hints in this book about the infamous Mark of the Beast, yet I stopped short of explicitly defining it.

That's because these days, with so many popular theories and trends on everything from microchips and bar codes to masks and vaccine mandates, that topic has become too big to cover thoroughly in a single chapter!

You'll need to know exactly what the Mark is and how to avoid it; that is crucial for your future. Satan is wily, and people are his prey.

For the real lowdown on the subject with meticulous detail, see my upcoming book *"Are You Marked or Sealed? Avoid the Beast's Curse in Prophecy."*

What happens now?

Glad you asked. Let's talk about the next big thing:

You could call it the Ultimate Showdown between the good guys and the bad guys.

Or you could simply call it a Wedding Feast....

8 WORLD WAR III, THE MARRIAGE SUPPER

“And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God.” (Revelation 19)

The world is cruising rapidly toward World War III, which Revelation ironically calls the “marriage supper.”

The Bible says a big war is coming.

Meanwhile, the world’s militaries are also warning about a major war.

And they’re not just talking; they are frantically buying, developing, and upgrading military equipment and moving it into position for what’s coming.

It’s a huge effort. Something earth-shaking is on the way.

What are they expecting?

We see clues: our soldiers are training to fight a widespread, fast, high-tech conflict with an extremely well-armed modernized adversary, on a scale and scope never seen before.

China has ordered its soldiers to be ready for war “at any second.” America’s military is conducting frequent large exercises with allies. Think tanks and pundits are cranking out concerns and suggestions continually.

This comes after two decades of hearing the mantra that superpower conflicts were a thing of the past. Not anymore!

- *“Xi Jinping orders China's military to be ready for war 'at any second'” (South China Morning Post, January 2021)*
- *“Navy and Marine Exercise to Span 17 Time Zones on a Scale Last Seen During the Cold War” (Stars and Stripes, August 2021, A. Bath)*
- *“‘No Timeout’ In Future Wars: unrelenting, brutal, and chaotic” (Breaking Defense, March 2020, S. Freedberg)*
- *Does the World Have the Will to Stop Xi Jinping?” (Heritage Foundation, August 2021, R. Wilkie)*

Continuing the Bible quote that opened this chapter, after the birds of

Heaven are summoned, here's how Revelation describes the "supper" heralding Christ's return:

"That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great." (Revelation 19)

It's a vivid scene, but also a surprising focal point.

Why would Revelation place such emphasis on these "fowls in heaven" that come simply to feast on the grisly aftermath of war?

In terms of victory or loss (whether for military science or moral considerations) usually the final scene of buzzards cleaning up after the conclusion of war might be the *least* important aspect of a battle for us to understand beforehand.

Does it make sense to devote so much ink drawing attention to this particular detail?

Let's ask someone who knows a great deal about the End Times!

He was at the Jewish Temple with His followers:

"Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matthew 24)

His answer included this noteworthy statement:

"As the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together." (Matthew 24)

At first glance that seems easily explained; in the old days, battles would be marked by vultures who feasted on the remains of those who fell. The word for "eagle" could also be used to denote carrion eaters.

Jesus knew that those birds would soon be busy at their grim work among the ruins of Herod's Temple in Jerusalem.

Furthermore, the same expression (from the Master of parables) serves as a very interesting metaphor about Christians and Himself, concerning the signs of the last days.

But there's another significant prophecy here, one that contains the real "meat" of this passage, and it is usually overlooked!

The disciples had asked about the Temple's destruction and also the End Times, since they assumed those two events would happen together.

Jesus answered both questions at once by drawing a parallel; unlike his audience, the Savior could see far beyond those first-century surroundings into our modern era, where a very different type of bird rules the sky....

That's because "Eagle" happens to be the name of the F-15, America's top air-superiority fighter jet from 1976 to 2005. It is undefeated in combat, dominating other aircraft with 100+ victories and still going strong in U.S. inventory and allied air forces.

Like its namesake in the natural world, the F-15 Eagle is legendary for its speed, power, and altitude. With an almost-unchallenged ability to climb vertically at record-setting speeds and look down on other planes from a lofty 65,000 feet, this Mach 2.5 aircraft is the king of 4th generation fighters.

Here's an interesting fact. The F-15 Eagle was supposed to be retired due to its lack of stealth, but since the successor was not purchased in sufficient numbers, that never happened.

In fact, the U.S. Air Force is currently buying some brand-new modernized F-15EX Eagle IIs that will continue to serve in non-stealth air roles such as weapons truck, interceptor, hypersonic missile launcher, jammer, escort, and backup dogfighter.

Besides adding extra muscle to the modern air wing, the ongoing service of the F-15 has the unintended side effect of ensuring that every detail of Christ's prophecy is literally fulfilled, including the word *Eagle*.

- *"40 Years of Dominance: Why the F-15 Has an Air-To-Air Kill Ratio of 104 to 0"* (*National Interest*, July 2019, D. Leone)
- *"F-15EX Eagle II named, unveiled"* (*Eglin Air Force Base*, May 2021)
- *"US Air Force F-15C Eagle Records Longest Known Air-to-Air Missile Shot"* (*The Aviationist*, April 2021, D. Cenciotti)
- *"F-15 Eagle - Fact Sheet Display"* (*United States Air Force*, April 2019)

You see, Jesus wasn't just talking about vultures eating carrion. Two thousand years ago Christ was already describing modern air combat, prophesying about the war overhead that would herald His return.

Controlling the sky above the battlefield has become the *most* important factor in modern war. These planes are true birds of prey, establishing the initial dominance within a region so that ground or sea forces can follow. That's why Revelation, like Jesus himself, gave it such prominent coverage!

Of course, the F-15 is not America's only "bird." The Eagle's replacement in the air-superiority role is the 5th generation stealth fighter F-22 *Raptor*. (That name is also a bird of prey.)

The F-22 is a stealthy and supercharged sequel to the F-15's winning formula. It recreates the traditional speed and power proven by the Eagle,

but with stealth, supersonic cruise, and super-agility added into the equation.

That means the Raptor can see others before it is seen, maintain high speeds efficiently, and outmaneuver anything that manages to come within visual range. There were only 187 built, but they are incredibly formidable.

- *“F-22 Raptor: Digital, Dominant, Ready” (Lockheed Martin, November 2021)*
- *“F-22 Raptor - Air Force: Fact Sheet Display” (United States Air Force, September 2015)*
- *“F-22 Raptor: Why Did the U.S. Military Cut Back the Ultimate Fighter? When the F-22 program was trimmed down to 187 aircraft in what appeared to be an abrupt and potentially inexplicable shift, the U.S. Air Force placed itself at much greater risk” (National Interest, November 2021, K. Osborn)*
- *“That time an F-22 pilot told the Iranian Air Force to go home: the Raptor pilot checked out the armaments the Iranian planes were carrying, then pulled up on their left wing and radioed them” (We are the Mighty, April 2020, B. Stilwell)*

Besides the Eagle and the Raptor, America's other “birds” have also dominated the skies for decades, include the trusty, nimble single-engine F-16 Falcon and the Navy's carrier-launched F-18 Super Hornet.

In recent years they've been joined by the new versatile and stealthy F-35 Lightning, which will be flown by at least 15 allied nations and counting! It's the most technologically advanced fighter in current production, able to sneak around enemy radar efficiently to get to the action while boosting overall battlespace awareness.

The “Lightning” and “Hornet” aren't bird names, yet the shape and profile of each still resemble a bird, carrying on the traditional appearance of U.S. fighters. Furthermore, “Lightning” is the very word Jesus used to describe His return.



F-35A prepares for refueling (USAF)

The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter will play a central role in all 21st century deterrence and combat. It has become the new common denominator in joint force exercises between the U.S. and its allies, allowing closer teamwork between nations, and will be receiving engine upgrades to increase range and performance.

Jesus mentioned both names in the same breath, and we now know that the Lightning and the Eagle have been training to fight in concert, leveraging one's speed and power with the other's stealth and intelligence, while the hard-hitting Raptor and its future replacement wreak havoc on the enemy.

- *"The F-35 is Going to be the Free World's Fighter: Switzerland is now the fifteenth nation to decide to acquire the F-35"* (1945, August 2021, D. Goure)
- *"20:1 Kill-Ratio: How Just One F-35 Can Kill Twenty Enemy Fighter Jets"* (National Interest, April 2021, M. Episkopos)
- *"Built for Air Superiority: The F/A-18 Super Hornet is the backbone of the U.S. Navy carrier air wing"* (Boeing, November 2021)

- *“Congress Wants AETP Engines to be Installed in All F-35As Starting in 2027” (Air Force Magazine, December 2021, J. Tirpak)*

From paying close attention to the words of Jesus, we also know something about the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter that even the people flying and maintaining it haven't realized; “Lightning” is the perfect name!

Some pilots and ground crew feel that the name could be improved, and prefer to call the F-35 “Panther.” But Jesus seems to prefer the official name. After all, which is mightier, a bolt of pure energy from heaven or a snarling feline wild beast?

When an animal encounters a storm in nature, if the two make contact, the lightning wins. Likewise, to fight the military Beast predicted in Revelation, I would stick with the name “Lightning.”

Ironically, the F-35 itself is also vulnerable to *real* lightning from storms, often parked under lightning rods for protection. It needs to improve in the area of withstanding the forces of nature, together with man-made directed energy attacks.

Perhaps that's God's sense of humor, drawing attention to the name and reminding everyone in a secular age that He is still the boss. Never forget that.

- *“The F-35's New, Much Better Nickname is ‘Panther’: Nobody likes the F-35's real name. Nobody.” (www.popularmechanics.com, May 2018, K. Mizokami)*
- *“Which Lightning Strikes Harder? — US Air Force' Witty Tweet Over F-35 Lightning-II Jet gets Netizens Rolling: It seems the world's ‘most advanced’ fighter jet, F-35 Lightning II, is itself vulnerable to lightning!” (Eur.Asian Times, July 2021, J. Kalita)*

Now, let's remember what Jesus was telling us about these “eagles” in reference to the End Times. Where do we find all the high-tech and heavily-armed birds of prey gathering today?

Increasingly, the world's most capable military aircraft are spending more of their time in and around the South China Sea.

Eagles and Raptors are often sent to Asian runways for practice and deterrence, while Lightning and Hornet pilots from America and allied nations hone their war skills on aircraft carriers that roam the seas near China and Taiwan.

As Christ prophesied, that's where the action will be.

- *“Singapore moves six F-15s to Guam for joint training with US forces” (Defense News, April 2017, M. Yeo)*
- *“The U.S. Air Force Is Sending Dozens Of F-22 Stealth Fighters to Practice for*

War with China" (Forbes, July 2021, D. Axe)

- "Taiwan upgrades F-16 fighters with U.S. stealth-busting radar: bolstering its defense capability with cooperation from the U.S. despite years of objections from mainland China" (Nikkei, November 2021, Y. Nakamura)
- "Taking Flight: China, Japan, and South Korea Get Aircraft Carriers" (Foreign Policy Research Institute, January 2021, F. Chang)

America, Europe, Australia, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Singapore, India, and other democratic nations are joining forces in the Pacific, making significant efforts to deter China and improve readiness for battle.

Meanwhile Chinese industries are cranking out planes, ships, and missiles at a frantic pace. And China has two million active soldiers to man the military effort.

The Chinese government media is busy conveying threats and taunts to the world from China's bureaucrats and generals: "Meet us in the sky" being one of the most memorable. Revelation's monster keeps growing larger and baring its teeth more often, even as the birds begin to circle.

Not only these war planes, but also the two opposing national "eagles" of America and Russia (remember its non-bear emblem!) are focusing more of their attention on the islands near China.

Southeast Asia is rapidly heating up...

- "Thousands of Ships, Millions of Troops: China is Assembling a Huge Fleet for War with Taiwan" (Forbes, July 2021, D. Axe)
- "U.S. And Chinese Carrier Groups Mass in The South China Sea" (War Zone, April 2021, A. Keboe)
- "Indo-Pacific Forces from 21 Partner Nations Kick Off SEACAT: Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Canada, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, New Zealand, Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, United Kingdom, United States, and Vietnam" (U.S. Pacific Fleet, August 2021, L. Chatmas)
- "Chinese Air Force Commander Challenges US Military: Meet Us 'In the Sky'" (Newsmax, September 2021, S. Reyner)

Pundits and bureaucrats are divided on whether an all-out war will happen.

However, the Bible never wavers on predicting this war; it's coming.

That, too, is well-supported by independent facts reported in the Christophobic mainstream media. It all boils down to these calculations:

1. China's leaders have staked their reputation on a promise to subdue Taiwan. If that doesn't happen, the Communist Party leaders would "lose

face” in front of their own people. In Chinese culture, that is to be avoided at any cost.

2. Meanwhile, Taiwan has no interest in “reunification” with the Communist mainland. The island is a democracy with its own government and culture. No sane person wants to hand Beijing the keys and suffer the fate of Hong Kong or the Uyghurs.

3. America is deeply committed to defending Taiwan's independence, as are its allies in Asia and Europe. There really isn't any alternative for the free world; if Taiwan is lost, Japan and Australia know they could be next. Nor can Europe afford to give Russia the idea that land-grabs are now tolerated.

4. China has already acquired way too many advanced technologies for anyone to be comfortable; one of its few remaining weak points is the inability to create sophisticated microchips domestically. That, along with weak jet engine technology and inadequate soldier training, is the only reason World War III hasn't started already. Allowing Beijing to take over the world's top semiconductor HQ (also known as “Taiwan”) is simply not an acceptable option.

- *“Xi given more power to wage war on Taiwan” (Asia Times, November 2021, J. Pao)*
- *“Taiwan won't be forced to bow to China, President Tsai says during National Day celebrations” (CNN, October 2021, E. Cheung)*
- *“China Says it Will Hold Supporters of Taiwan's Independence Criminally Responsible for Life” (Reuters, November 2021)*
- *“Biden vows to protect Taiwan in event of Chinese attack” (CNN, October 2021, K. Liptak)*

Will this be a “hot” war? If so, how hot?

We're living in a day when electronic, space, and cyber warfare along with influence on politics, economy, and information are just as important as explosions in the air, land, and sea.

But the world is overflowing with missiles, bombs, and bullets. Both sides have plenty of weapons, including nuclear ones. (And there is some research into new types of weapons that supposedly could make even the nuclear ones look puny in comparison.)

Meanwhile, as I quoted in the previous chapter from 2nd Peter, the Bible prophesies that the Earth's elements will literally be melted at the end of days.

God is sovereign and high-minded. There are always multiple avenues He can choose to fulfill His prophesies. Peace, truth, and righteousness are the ultimate outcomes of our future, and we should welcome them. It's

possible to have more decisive economic and cyber effects with fewer explosions, just like the last showdown we had with the Beast at the end of the Cold War.

But a plain reading of the Bible and news headlines makes an enormous, earth-rending fiery-hot “kinetic” war, on a scale far beyond even World War II, look increasingly likely. We must be 100% ready for that militarily, socially, and spiritually.

Either way, a war is coming up and the Beast is eventually going down. The mighty Eagles and the stealthy Lightning will play key roles in the battle ahead; Jesus Himself has spoken it. Every word will be fulfilled.

When will history's biggest fireworks begin?

Estimates range all the way from tomorrow morning to the Communist Party's official Taiwan “reunification” deadline of 2049.

No doubt Xi Jinping and his generals are weighing the pros and cons of waiting a few more years versus going ahead. China still holds the initiative, since it prepared single-mindedly for the last 20 years while America was distracted elsewhere. It has a collection of missiles that outrange U.S. aircraft carrier operations, while it also needs no lengthy supply chain to fight in the South China Sea.

America will eventually overcome those obstacles and introduce a new generation of weaponry designed specifically for this conflict. China's economy and population have already peaked; waiting too long might erode its strength.

On the other hand, China's ongoing industrial output capacity and technology development is still an enormous juggernaut that could provide some added advantages later, as new battleships and fighter jets pile up; moving too soon against the battle-tested U.S. military is also a gamble.

Xi's productive lifespan as a leader, plus China's aging society and changing economy, will all factor into the Communist calculations.

All of which could be irrelevant; when opposing military forces are circling and sizing each other up, as they are right now in Southeast Asia, war can break out at any moment regardless of plans.

God knows the exact day; we don't. Not even Xi Jinping knows for sure, nor does General Milley's friend Li Zuocheng of the People's Liberation Army! Any local military incident or routine political statement could become the spark that lights the fuse.

- *“K.T. McFarland: China Could Make Its Move by March” (Newsmax, November 2021, S. Fitzgerald)*
- *“China could invade Taiwan in the next 6 years, assume global leadership role, U.S. admiral warns” (NBC News, March 2021, A. Suliman)*

- *“China could mount full-scale invasion by 2025, Taiwan defence minister says” (The Guardian, October 2021, H. Davidson)*
- *“China’s 2049 plan a big challenge before the world” (South Asia Monitor, April 2021, I. Valchev)*

Do you think we’re still a long way from the end? Let me nudge you awake. In 2009, the mainstream media reported that the Euphrates River was drying up.

And in 2021, as I was writing this book, the U.S. military withdrew from Afghanistan in a clumsy, embarrassing, impossible-to-miss operation that left both vulnerable civilians and expensive military equipment stranded behind in the hands of the enemy.

- *“Iraq Suffers as the Euphrates River Dwindles: a river so crucial to the birth of civilization that the Book of Revelation prophesied its drying up as a sign of the end times” (New York Times, July 2009, C. Robertson)*
- *“This One Will Hurt for a Long Time’: US Veterans Despair as Taliban Claim Much of Afghanistan” (Stars and Stripes, August 2021, J. Lawrence)*

If you’re familiar with the New Testament, you may recognize these events as the fulfillment of ancient Bible prophecy during Revelation’s “Seven Last Plagues” of the End Times:

“And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.” (Revelation 16)

Friend, that has already happened. It’s history. We all saw the front-page news headlines. We watched the chaotic airport scenes in Kabul on TV. It was a spectacle that damaged the world’s opinion of Uncle Sam.

With America no longer manning a giant military outpost in one of China’s neighbors, the Communist rulers have a much more attractive route to conduct military and political excursions. The way is prepared.

And that event wasn’t even the first End-Times plague; it was the 6th out of 7!

That’s how far along we are in history.

The 7th and final plague will be Armageddon itself; thus, we are already near the end, in the final hour. It’s drawing near!

The clock is ticking; the sand is trickling down. Are you ready?

Our destiny, our curse, our blessing, the challenge of our generation: call it what you will, but our *immediate future* is to face and defeat Satan’s Beast

with Jesus Himself fighting in front of us!

And with Jesus in the battle, we all know the final outcome.

The world will cheer with us, in victory, as the Beast finally collapses. We will defeat the Beast with Christ's assistance; that is already written.

But there may be some very tough moments along the way. In fact, this will be the greatest challenge that civilization has ever faced. It should not be taken lightly.

Get ready! Prepare yourself and your nation physically, mentally, and spiritually. This is our task. There is a gigantic battle ahead; it will be one for the books.

"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh." (Revelation 19)

It is amazing to live in such exciting, monumental times and watch the climax of history unfold, right before our eyes! It's a front-row seat.

That is the gift God gave us through the Revelation.

His blessings and mercy are endless, and His judgments are just.

May YHWH bless and strengthen you in your preparations to serve Him and follow our Redeemer, Jesus of Nazareth, until the end of days and the Kingdom beyond....

Amen.

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him: If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8)

We've learned such glorious insights into God's plan, but there is so much more crucial information packed into Revelation!

As amazing as it is to finally know the Beast's true identity, that's only a mere drop in the bucket when it comes to the vast wealth of God's prophecy stored up on the sacred pages of the Holy Bible.

To understand the entire span of history after Jesus, see my upcoming book "*Revelation's Seven Trumpets: Prophecy from the Cross to Armageddon*".

*"And he said unto me: It is done.
I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.*

China, Revelation's Beast (ARC)

“And he said unto me: It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” (Revelation 21)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ken Worthy is a Bible Prophecy analyst whose calling is to increase understanding of God's prophetic Word in the Holy Bible.

Bible Prophecies Fulfilled Today centers on ancient Bible Prophecy as it applies to our modern day.

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