



## Year of the Rooster

The heading of the newspaper article reads: “Monkey Swings Out, Chanticleer Wings In.” January 28, 2017 marks the beginning of the Chinese Lunar Year

4714, the Year of the Rooster, and ending the “Year of the Monkey.”

The Rooster is the tenth symbolic animal of the Chinese Terrestrial branches, and is one of the twelve symbolic animals. He will rule the roost, astrologically speaking, until the “Year of the Dog” begins. The order of the Twelve Terrestrial Branches is as follows: rat, ox, tiger, hare, dragon, serpent, horse, ram, monkey, ROOSTER, dog, and boar. These twelve animals comprise the symbolic cycle of the lunar calendar and are used by the Chinese to designate hours, days, months, and years. This cycle had its beginning back in 2637 B.C.

The Chinese believe that the animal under which one is born will influence him or her to be like the animal represented. It is said that the ancients characterized the rooster as courageous, commanding and warlike. The feisty barnyard fowl was credited with

driving away demons. According to the lunar fortune calendar, persons born under the sign of the rooster calendar (1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005) are deep thinkers, industrious, ambitious and aggressive.

During the Han Dynasty (206 B.C. – 220 A.D.), a rooster was hung from the palace gate on New Year’s Day for good luck. Later the common people adopted the custom of placing a live rooster or a wooden one over their doors or atop their roofs as protection against death and misfortune.

Down through history, people have always been fearful of death. But to believe that placing a live rooster or a wooden one over their doors or atop their roofs can protect them against death and misfortune is indeed absurd. How can a rooster, in any form, be a protection against death?

We know death is inescapable. God’s Word, the Bible confirms this fact: “It is appointed for man once to die, and after that comes judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). It was said of Alfred Krupp, the Prussian manufacturer, that he was so in dread of death himself that he never forgave anyone who brought up the subject in his presence. All of his employees were strictly forbidden under fear of firing, to speak of death when he was around. Later when he sensed age taking its toll, he offered his physician a million dollars if he would

prolong his life ten years. Of course no doctor can guarantee life to anyone, and Krupp died. He who was so afraid of death could not escape the inevitable.

The Bible tells us that death is inescapable because of sin. God’s Word plainly declares, *“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned” (Romans 5:12)*. Sin separates us from God, in this life, and in the life to come.

God’s Word further reveals, *“There is none righteous, no not one...For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:10, 23)*. This is God’s verdict for our sins; we deserve death, which is eternal separation from God in hell.

Dear friend, believe God’s Word concerning your condition before Him. Acknowledge the fact that you are a sinner and that you have sinned against a holy God. Admit that you have left Him out of your life and have gone your own way. The prophet Isaiah verifies this, *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way” (Isaiah 53:6)*.

Consider for just a moment, won't you, of God's great love toward you? John puts it this way, "For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). In His love for us God gave His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for our sins. He, the sinless One, died as our substitute and effectively paid the penalty fully for all our sins. But that doesn't mean He is a dead Savior. No! A thousand times no! Jesus Christ is the risen Savior! "He died for our sins according to the Scriptures: and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). God raised the Lord Jesus from the dead, signifying His acceptance of the death of Christ as a perfect and complete sacrifice for our sins.

Now that is good news! As the living Savior, He now offers you Eternal Life as a free gift. It is definitely true that we deserve death on account of our sins. To be assured of deliverance from the consequences of our sins, we must accept God's gift of salvation. The Lord Jesus Christ said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man comes to the Father but by me" (John 14:6).

Will you now make Christ your Savior? How? By simply believing in your heart that He died for you and receiving him as your Savior. "But to all who did receive Him (Christ), who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12-13).

With a sincere heart pray the following prayer as your very own:

*"Dear Lord, I do acknowledge that I am a sinner and I do believe you died on the cross for my sins. I do now receive you as my Savior. Thank you for saving me and making me your child as you have promised."*

The Lord God is a promise keeper. He will hear your prayer and respond. It is not the volume, or repetition that matters, but the sincerity of our hearts. Let your prayer be simple and sincere. God give you peace and fulfill your hopes in Christ!

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