





Year of the Wood Dragon

Suppose to bring prosperity authority & good fortune

REALLY? WHAT WILL THE YEAR 2024 BE LIKE FOR US?











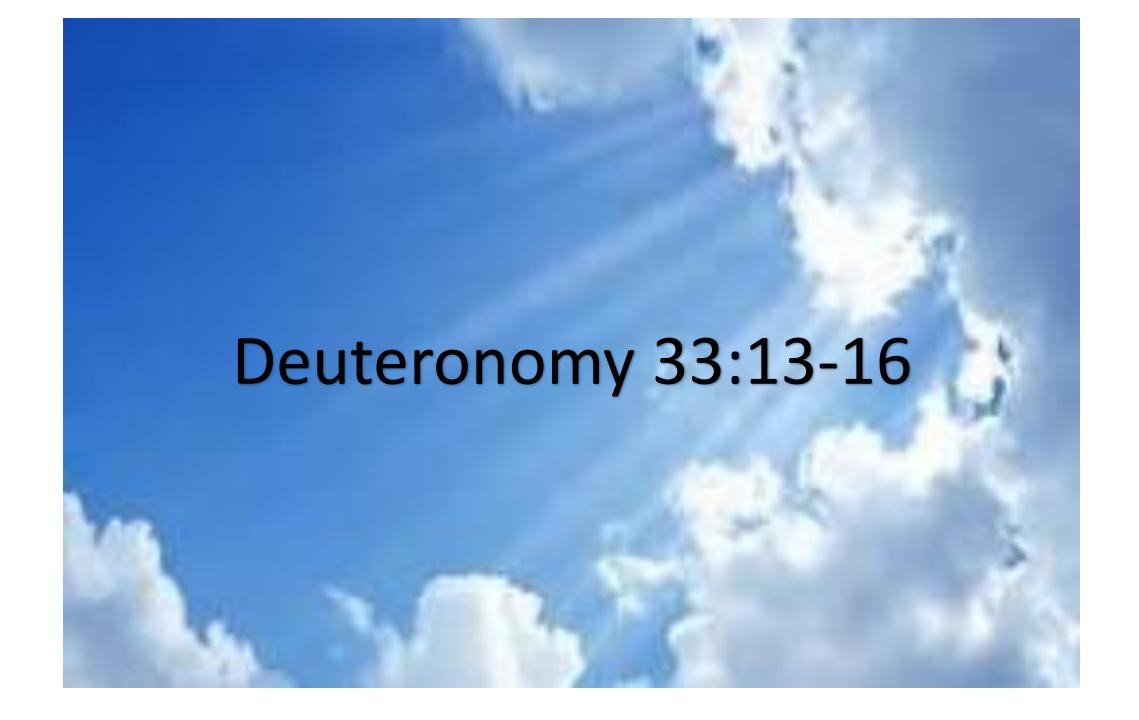
2024

- 1st January 2024. Earthquake in Japan magnitude 7.6 (Strongest earthquake in 40 years)
- Ukraine Russian war continues
- Israel Hamas war ongoing
- Civil unrest in Myanmar, Sudan
- Ongoing US China tension
- Nuclear threats
- Global warming leading to drastic climate change









How should we live our lives?

Ephesians 5:15

Be very careful, then, how you live —not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:15-20

... because the days are evil

- Making the most of every opportunity / Redeeming the time (KJV)
- Prioritise our activities with care
- Decides which deserves more of our time & which deserves less
- Not to waste precious time
- Therefore do not be foolish but understand the will of the LORD. v17
- Live as children of light. Eph 5:8
- Find out what pleases the LORD. Eph 5:10

EPHESIANS 5:8-10

• For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and <u>find out what</u> <u>pleases the LORD</u>

Find out what pleases the LORD

EPHESIANS 5:10

What do you think pleases the LORD?

- Obey His commandments (Matt 19:19 the rich young man)
- Do God's will. 1Thess 4:3, 1Thess 5:18, John 6:40
- Do not sin, lead holy lives. 1Thess 4:7
- Read the Bible more. Psalms 119:11
- Pray more, be more thankful. 1Thess 5:17, Eph 5:20
- Prioritise going to church every week. Heb 10:25
- Go on missions, do more good works, fasting, tithing etc.

The one person the Bible mentioned pleased God



Hall of Faith – Hebrews 11

- Enoch included in the Hall of Faith, though there was nothing extraordinary about him. Unlike...
-Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. 11:32-34

Enoch

When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away. Genesis 5:21-24

Enoch

- Enoch, the seventh from Adam*, prophesied about them: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him." These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage. Jude 1:14-16.
- *Lamech, also seventh son of Adam from the line of Cain.

Enoch

 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: "He could not be found, because God had taken him away." For before he was taken, he was commended as <u>one who pleased God.</u> Hebrews 11:5

And without faith it is impossible to please God

Hebrews 11:6

Faith ...

- is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (This is what the ancients were commended for).ESV Hebrews 11:1-2
- is being sure of what we hoped for and certain of what we do not see. NIV
- is the substance of things hoped for, evidence of things not seen. KJV

Faith sees the invisible, believes in the impossible and receives the incredible

Author unknown

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed....

Romans 4:18

Abraham in Romans 4:19-21

- Without weakening in his faith
- Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God
- Strengthened in his faith
- Gave glory to God
- Fully persuaded that God had the power to do what He has promised

Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God

Romans 10:17 KJV

Faith comes by hearing the message and the message is heard through the word of Christ

Romans 10:17(NIV)

