

# The Chinese Calendar.

by D.H.Van den Berghe

The Chinese calendar is one of the oldest known calendar systems in the world . It is still widely used for Feng Shui , 4 Pillar astrology and Zi Wei Dou Shu . In this article I'll show the astronomical foundation of the Chinese solar calendar.

The solar calendar is constructed as follows :

1 Cycle = 20 years

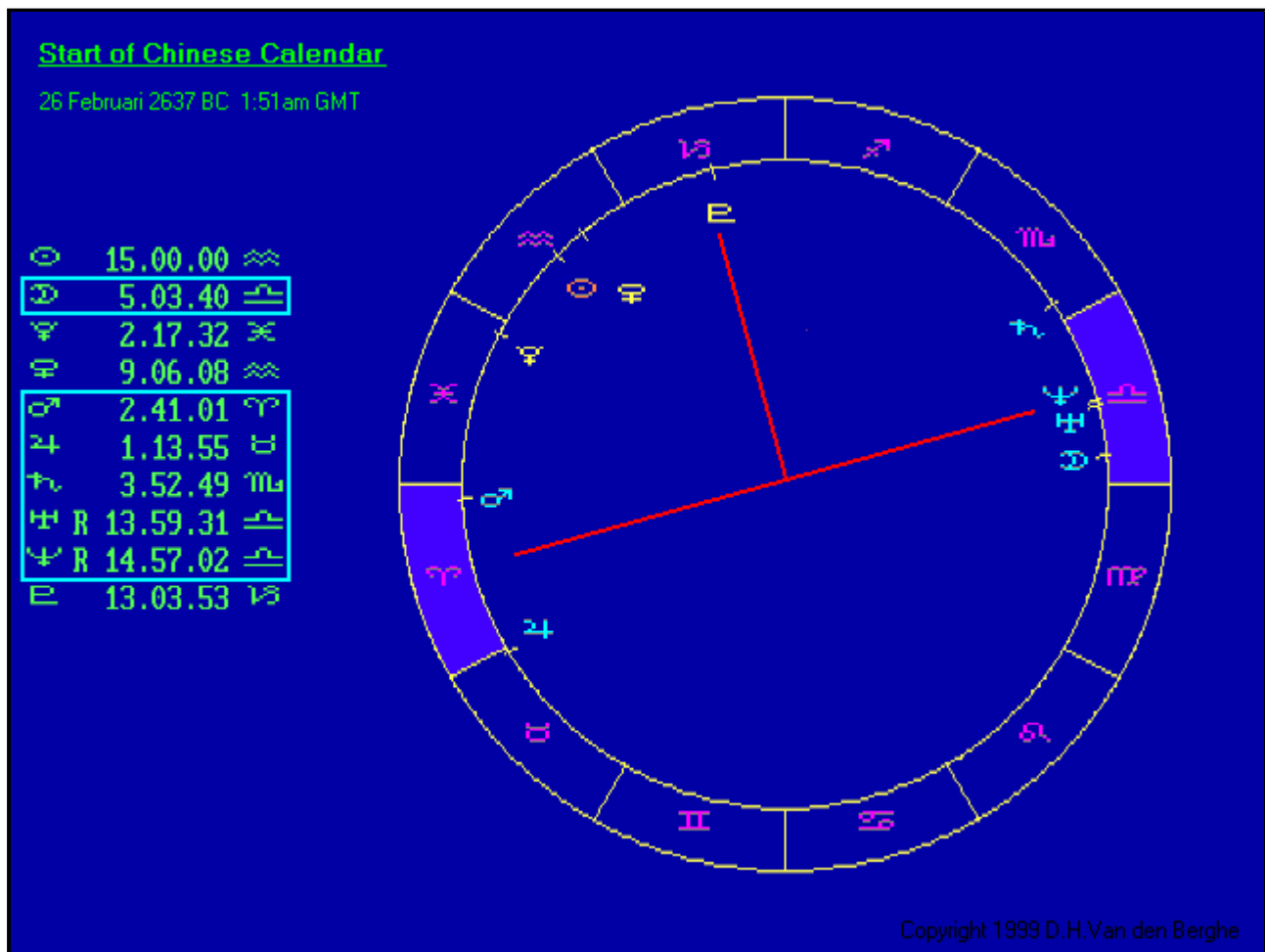
1 Era = 3 Cycles = 60 years

1 Great Cycle = 3 Eras = 9 Cycles = 180 years

1 Epoch = 20 Great Cycles = 60 Eras = 180 Cycles = 3600 years

A new year starts when the Sun passes 15° Aquarius on the zodiac, this is on 4th or 5th of Februari every year(in the current Western calendar system).

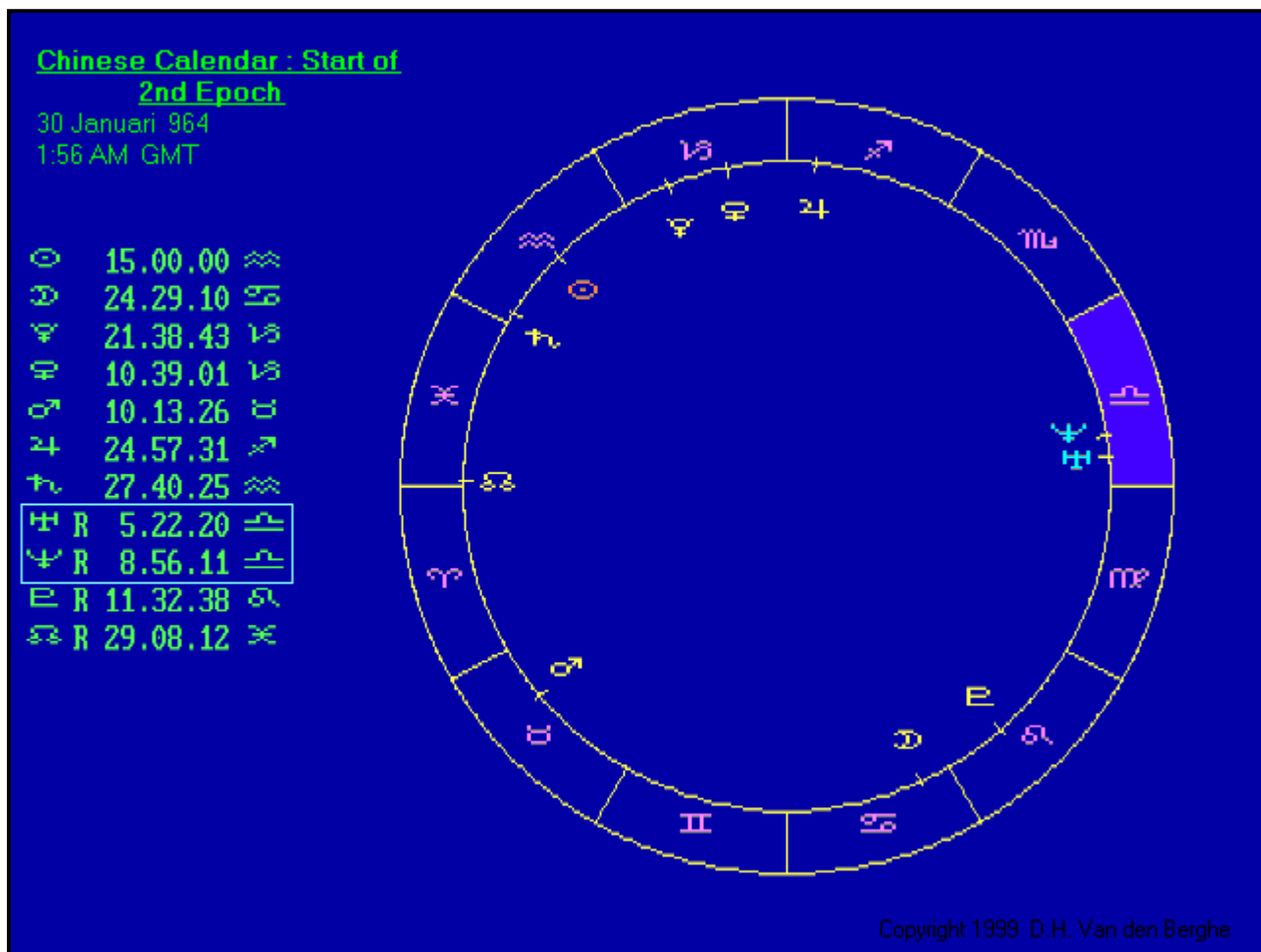
The 1st Epoch in the Chinese calendar has started in 2637 BC , reportedly at the time of a planetary alignment in our solar system. Using a Western astrology program I found the following chart for the New Year of 2637 BC. This chart shows a very rare constellation indeed:



2637 BC is a year when Neptune and Uranus form a conjunction. This happens only once every 172 years. In this case the conjunction is joined by Saturn and opposed by Jupiter. This kind of constellation

can be expected only once in 3440 years. Furthermore Mars and the Moon also join this constellation, while Pluto is exactly square with all these planets. So, except for Pluto, all slow planets are forming one line with the Earth in this chart, a line going from the vernal equinox to the autumnal equinox: this is extremely rare. All the planets involved are highlighted in light blue in the chart, so it is easy to see.

The whole key to the Chinese calendar is in the Neptune-Uranus conjunction, because every 3600 years these planets come back to form a new conjunction almost in the same place as 3600 years before. This is clear from the second chart which shows the start of the 2nd Epoch in 964:



Look at Neptune and Uranus in this chart (again highlighted in light blue) and we see that they are almost exactly in the same place as 2637 BC.

In 4564 Neptune and Uranus will be back in the same spot to form a conjunction and mark the start of the 3rd Epoch.

This is all very remarkable since Uranus was only discovered in 1781 and Neptune in 1846. It looks like the ancient Chinese were not only aware of the existence of these planets, but also got very accurate data about their positions and the length of their cycles.

This clearly shows that the Chinese calendar is not mere superstition, but solidly based on the planetary cycles that unfold in our solar system.

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