

LELENA

PROPHECY



— by —
Ray Brubaker

CHINA IN PROPHECY

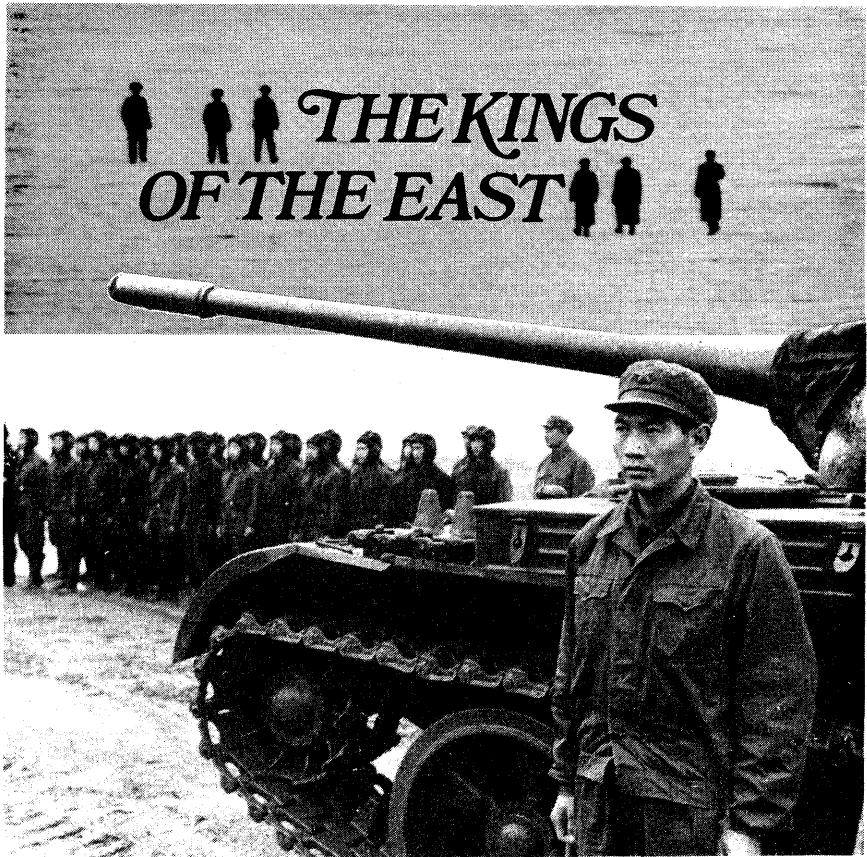
Ray Brubaker

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Victor Petrov, author of the book, CHINA, EMERGING WORLD POWER, has declared: "That day apparently is approaching when China will definitely become a member of that small but exclusive group commonly known as the Great World Powers."

In 1903, Henry Adams wrote: "The only country now on the spot is Russia, and if Russia organizes China as an economical power, the little drama of history will end in the overthrow of our clumsy Western civilization . . ."

At one time there was great concern when Russia and China declared, "All communists are brothers." But petty jealousies arose, and between China and Russia there came the great separation.

According to one news publication, it was stated, "The Soviets are stock-piling chemical-warfare weapons to knock out and starve out Red China if the Chinese Communists ever should become a serious threat to the U.S.S.R. Gases would be used against the Chinese people, germ bombs to kill off rice and other food crops," according to this report.

The "dog-eat-dog" philosophy of the communists has us wondering if the Soviet Union will continue to seek to prevent China from becoming the master of Asia and the world.

Concerning China, in the book of the Revelation, chapter 16, you have a reference to the Kings of the East in the endtime.

As Dr. R. W. Neighbour points out, the original text does not say, "kings of the east," but rather, "kings of the rising sun," in referring to what, no doubt, is China and Japan.

Mao Tse Tung once declared, "Capitalism has reached a stage of decay and death while Communism is like a rising sun."

Dr. Wilbur M. Smith, editor of Pelubot's notes and well-known author, called attention to five movements which have appeared simultaneously, and which point to the soon return of our Lord.

First, there is the movement toward world government. Second, there is the nation of Israel reestablished which is a most significant prophetic event. In the third place, there is the development and growth of the nation of Russia. Fourth, there is the apostasy that has gripped the church. And fifth, there is the awakening of the Far East.

In Revelation 16:12-16 there is a reference to what is believed to be China and nations linked with her.

Here is what we read:

"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.

"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

"Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

"And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

F. M. Riley writes, "This is one of the most timely texts in the prophetic Word of God."

Now some believe China is mentioned in Isaiah 49:12 where a reference is made to "Sinim" . . . We read: "Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim."

Is China in prophecy?

Some say, "Yes," based on this reference to Jews leaving to return to their own land from Sinim. We read of a Sino-Russian treaty which is a treaty between China and the Soviet Union.

But the major reference to China and other Far East nations that may one day unite to form the "Kings of the East," is referred to here in Rev. 16.

On the basis of this Scripture some would say, "Beware of China!"

Alexander Solzhenitsyn is one who has warned of the danger of becoming too involved with China, especially if wanting to oppose the Soviet Union. He spoke of such an arrangement as "a doomed alliance with evil."

He notes, a link with China may give our nation more breathing time but in the end it could be disastrous. "When at a later date China with its billion people would turn around armed with American weapons, America itself would fall prey to a genocide similar to the one perpetrated in Cambodia in our day."

Solzhenitsyn predicted a slaughter will come to America like it came

to the citizens of Cambodia if we allow ourselves to be drawn into Chinese pressure to be linked with her.

The population of Cambodia was about eight million before the Communists took over. There is evidence that 2-3 million were killed by the Communist regime since it came to power, using execution and starvation.

China, Japan, and perhaps other nations in the Far East, including India, are believed by prophecy scholars to be included in the army of 200 million identified as the "Kings of the East."



In the ENCLYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA (Vol. IV, p. 294) China's military reserve strength is said to be 200 million, of which 75 million are women.

Edgar C. James, faculty member at Moody Bible Institute, writing in the MOODY MONTHLY, asks, "Will we see a political union of nations in Asia as we do in Europe?"

In Europe there is the forecast of a revived Roman Empire with at least ten nations aligned with one we call the Antichrist. Says James, "Scripture points out that the Western Confederacy will be a federation of states, completely united . . . On the other hand, the Eastern Confederacy is made up of independent nations."

In his book, THE LATE GREAT PLANET EARTH, Hal Lindsey writes, "We believe that China is the beginning of the formation of this great power called the 'Kings of the East,' by the Apostle John."

Now reference is made to the Euphrates River.

Tradition says the Garden of Eden was located somewhere in the fertile valley watered by the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

The Euphrates River has been regarded as a boundary between East and West. This river, running a distance of 1800 miles, is hardly ever crossable on foot, since it is from ten to thirty feet in depth.

But in this coming day God sees to it that the Euphrates is dried up so that the way is paved for the Kings of the East and their armies.

Then mention is made of three unclean spirits like frogs which are

seen going forth to the kings of the earth, and of the whole world, to gather them to this battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Reference to frogs is a reminder of several stories we have heard of how these little creatures actually declare war on one another. Ponds where frogs live have often become the scene of battle. Brown frogs, for instance, have engaged in bloody conflict with green frogs in a contest that has lasted for days until many frogs have been destroyed. These frogs were seen biting, kicking and pulling at each other in cruel combat in a war that was just as real as ever man has fought.

Thus, we can't help but wonder whether the nations are even now preparing for the day when they will be drawn into this affray described so vividly in the book of the Revelation.

Notice, too, Armageddon is mentioned as the location to which these armies are drawn.



It was Pres. Reagan who declared, "The world is moving toward Armageddon." And he has been greatly criticized by the media for what they call his "Armageddon theology."

Some are asking, Does President Reagan's belief in Scripture and, in particular, "Armageddon," influence his political decisions especially as it relates to such issues as the arms race?

People for the American Way, a group formed to do battle with the Religious Right, believes there is a correlation between the President's biblical beliefs and his actions.

David Anderson, UPI writer, reports a new study which proposed the idea of an impending Armageddon could have international and domestic political consequences.

In the study, James Castelli, syndicated religion writer, argues that the influence of Armageddon theology may have its effect on administration domestic policies on such issues as the budget deficit, the environment, and other issues that stretch over the long term.

That the Bible mentions Armageddon, there is no question. And others, like General Douglas MacArthur, chose to use the term to refer to the nuclear age to indicate we are living at a time when Armageddon could become a reality.

However, when the President was confronted with his use of the term, he replied, "No one knows whether these prophecies mean that

Armageddon is a thousand years away or the day after tomorrow.”

The President has made references to Armageddon about a dozen times, and he has surrounded himself with men who have encouraged his belief in Biblical-based themes.

For instance, when James Watt appeared before a congressional committee, he stated, “I do not know how many future generations we can count on before the Lord returns.”

There are those who are shocked to hear of any government official testifying of Christ’s coming and the end of the world.

Says Castelli, the belief that the end is near may explain why leaders of the Religious Right—and some within the administration—do not seem to worry about the budget deficit, the environment, education, and other programs that affect future generations.

Castelli goes on to argue, “If only those who accept Christ will be saved, and if the end is near, the top priority—even for government—becomes saving souls.”

Billy Graham’s book, *TILL ARMAGEDDON*, might identify him as one of the supporters of Armageddon theology.

Appearing on the 700 Club, during an interview with Pat Robertson, Graham said, “I’m for evangelicals running for public office—and winning, if possible, and getting control of the Congress, getting control of the bureaucracy, getting control of the executive branch of government.” Graham continued, “I think if we leave it to the other side, we’re going to be lost and I would like to see every true believer involved in politics in some way, shape or form . . .” Graham concluded by stating, “Today is the day of the evangelical and the day of revival. This is, by far, the most spiritual and the most evangelical period (in national history), including the founding of America.”

Naturally, the President’s support of the Bible and of prayers in public schools and his mentioning such themes as Armageddon have greatly influenced the opinions and beliefs of those in our country and abroad.

For example, in China, the President was not hesitant to share his faith on a broadcast made to the people of China. However, censored out was his remark where he said, “We have drawn tremendous power from two great forces—faith and freedom.America,” said the President, “was founded by people who sought freedom to worship God, and to trust Him to guide them in their daily lives with wisdom, strength, goodness and compassion.”

While we applaud the President’s willingness to defend his faith and to speak out on subjects such as Armageddon that may fill some with alarm, it is true that there will always be those who will criticize his utterances on any position he might take.

In his support for the Administration’s proposal to increase the military budget, the President did not mention Armageddon, but he did refer to a passage in Luke’s Gospel where our Lord spoke of a king who finds himself with 10,000 soldiers encountering an enemy with forces of 20,000. In the face of such odds, the king sues for peace.

Reagan drew this lesson from the passage, saying, “Well, I don’t think we ever want to be in a position of only being half as strong and having to send a delegation to negotiate, under those circumstances, peace terms with the Soviet Union.”

Almost without exception, most reactions of noted clergymen to the President's remarks were critical. Instead of complimenting him for such usage, there was mainly castigation and accusation.

Dr. David Adams, professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary, said: "When the President cites this verse as a prop for Administration policy, he misuses the Bible. It is not an answer book but a record of faith."

The Rev. Arie Brouwer, general secretary of the National Council of Churches, accused the President of taking the passage "completely out of context." He added, "Read in its context, it is not at all a statement that would be used to confirm an emphasis on military might. That would be completely in conflict with the whole tenor of Jesus' teaching to suggest relying on military might." Commented Brouwer, "It was a call to prudence rather than to power."

Also critical was the Rev. Richard John Neuhaus, director of the Center of Religion and Society in New York, who said, "I think the President would be well-advised to make the argument for his military budget and strategies on the basis of public reasoning rather than invoking dubious biblical authority."

Reading the passage in Luke 14:31-32 . . . "Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace."

During President Nixon's visit to China, we commented on this same passage of Scripture in referring to the desire of this nation to work for peace instead of planning for war.

After all, in the book of the Revelation mention is made of an army of 200 million horsemen in the vicinity of the Euphrates River. If most of this army comes from China, should there not be an attempt to reconcile those who have been our enemies?

In Proverbs 25:21 we read, "If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the Lord shall reward thee."

President Reagan, in one of the most controversial acts of his presidency, visited a military cemetery in Bitburg, West Germany. He addressed the concerns he aroused, saying: "Some old wounds have been reopened, and this I regret very much, because this should be a time of healing." He added that God—not he—had judged the deeds of the men buried there.

A philosophy that is foreign to most of us was taught by Jesus when He said, "Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them which curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you." (Lu., 6:27-28)

West German leader Kohl praised the President, saying, "History will prove that he and I were right because he has touched the hearts of the Germans, and there comes a man extending his hand to us, and he lived up and withstood all the criticism."

Today the world faces Armageddon. Without question, we know the Bible predicts a day when "the kings of the earth and of the whole world . . . will be gathered together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."



What is the alternative to Armageddon?

It is to discover the peace and love of Christ in salvation.

D. L. Moody, the evangelist, preached on the text in 1 John 4:8, "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

Said Moody, "I believe there are no three words in the Bible that Satan is more apt to blot out than that one sentence . . . "God is love."

If only we could discover there is a love so pure, so perfect—a divine love that forgives and forgets. It is the love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, resulting from the death of Christ on the cross for all of us.

Have you received of that love?

Marriages would last, neighbors would be friendly, churches would not suffer from divisions, if this love were manifest in our lives.

It is in view of the Kings of the East and of the whole world making preparation for Armageddon that we suddenly hear a voice saying, "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."

Again referring to F. M. Riley, who writes, "When we see the 'Kings of the East' begin to rise in prominence among the nations, we should realize that the coming of Christ is very near." Then he adds, "Since the culmination of this prophecy will be during the time of great tribulation we should certainly accept the message of warning to be fully prepared for His return."

Indeed, witnessing activity in recent years in Vietnam, Korea and elsewhere in the Far East, more than ever we need to cry aloud our message—"Be ready, Jesus is coming soon!"

If you've never received Christ as your Saviour and Lord, join me in praying this prayer: "Lord Jesus, I believe you're coming soon and I want to be ready for your coming. I here and now receive you as my Saviour and Lord, to live for you and serve you 'til you come. I ask you to forgive me of my sins, believing you died on the cross and rose again that I may be cleansed by your blood and totally forgiven. Thank you for saving me and giving me eternal life. Amen."

Pray that prayer and mean it. And, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

THE NEW CHINA



It was Arnold Toynbee, noted British historian, who once commented: "The 21st Century will belong to China. They will be about two-fifths of the human race by then. They are a very hard working and extremely intelligent people. The Great World is Asia."

Edgar C. James, Professor of Theology at Moody Bible Institute, says of China, "It is a land of contrasts, a land that defies imagination. Here one-fourth of the world's population inhabits a mere 7 percent of the land."

In an article in MOODY MONTHLY magazine (Dec. 1980), he notes: "It has thirteen of the fifty largest cities in the world, one larger than Tokyo. Its legends boast gun powder, hundred-year-old eggs, opium dens, and Buddhist pagodas."

One of the cities, China's largest is Shanghai — the city once known as the Paris of the East.

Shanghai was the birthplace of Chinese Communism.

Under Chairman Mao, capitalism, with its material incentives and elite classes, was regarded as an enemy and therefore outlawed.

Now, private enterprise, or a form of it, is being allowed to return.

Peking has relinquished most of its control over this. It's being allowed to set its own path in determining whether the experiment with capitalism will be a success. Its port handles a third of China's exports, and the city is considered vital in China's drive for change.

Managers and entrepreneurs, who were banished from the city under Mao, are being welcomed back. Their factories and fortunes are being restored to them. There is an incentive for all this: China's population is soaring. By the year 2000 there'll be 50 million more people looking for work.

Mao's ideals did not encourage expansion. But now Chinese ideals include the providing of jobs and improving the standard of living.

And there are signs in Shanghai that new wealth is being created. Shops that were once empty are now filled with a wide variety of goods.

Successful business management is no longer considered to be a sin against society. Nor is it a criminal act. In fact, it is now encouraged.

Similar profits are also being made in the so-called free-markets, which are being established around Shanghai. Farmers who have met their government quotas are allowed to sell, at the markets, the extra items they produce. They pay 40 percent of their profits in a so-called private enterprise tax. But they can keep the rest, something unheard of in China even five years ago.

Farmers around Shanghai are now able to buy their own houses. Mao's communal units are now being disbanded.

The enterprises also mean that the food in Shanghai is of a better variety and quality.

There are limits though. The government says the growers can only sell as much as they can carry to market on their bicycles.



In a speech publicized on New Year's Day, Deng declared that a little capitalism cannot do China any harm. However, behind the placid scenes trouble is brewing for both the Chinese Government and the Chinese Church.

In China there's officially no such thing as unemployment. People are merely "waiting for work."

Hundreds of modern buildings — mainly blocks of flats and offices — are springing up all over Peking. But traditional Chinese architecture has not been abandoned altogether.

Similarly, the Chinese leadership guided by Deng Xiaoping is not about to abandon the basic communist principles that have held sway in China since the 1949 revolution.

China's experiment with capitalism began in Shenzhen several years ago. This tiny town is more than just an economic success. It was planned to be a propaganda exercise. They wanted to show the wary Hong Kong population and the Nationalist Chinese Government in Taiwan that they would be willing to allow capitalistic principles to operate within their communist framework.

Taiwan celebrates its anniversary at about the same time as China. The remnants of China's nationalists set up a government on this tiny island when the communist republic was established. With its successful negotiations over Hong Kong, Peking is encouraged about making reunification with Taiwan, offering even more favorable terms

than it gave Hong Kong.

But Taipei has firmly resisted such moves. They call the treaty on Hong Kong a sellout. The Nationalist Government has vowed NEVER to compromise with Chinese communists.

Taiwan may have shown a distaste for Peking, but it is clear that Western interests have been enthusiastic about the new opportunities in China. Here is a lucrative market in its drive for modernization.

Deng has made it clear he wants the West to make the most of it. He has made a commitment to make a liberal and stable climate for foreign investments.

And the tourists are coming from the West. They are bringing with them some of the valuable foreign exchange that will help pay for Deng's modernization program.

Western entertainment has also been brought in to tempt the foreigners visiting Shanghai. But this can't help but have its effect upon the Chinese people.

However, with the Western cultural changes there have come changes in the behavior patterns of those easily affected by what they see.



Chinese dress designers are now allowed to incorporate fashions that were once regarded as destructive decadence. Gone is the baggy uniform jacket and pants of Mao's day. The new China is no longer afraid of the color or experimenting with Western influence.

However, an American designer recently shocked his Shanghai audience with plunging necklines and transparent fashions. Witnessing a model thus dressed, one young man remarked, "That is not necessary . . . that is not nice."

Dr. Paul Kauffman, noted evangelical authority on China and president of the Asian Outreach International, stated that he was not at all encouraged about the trend toward capitalism in China with concern for the church there. He feels that the materialistic attitudes that accompany economic prosperity will be detrimental to the 50-million-member church in China.

While the new prosperity has brought comfort to some families, others aren't so well off. The beginnings of a Chinese middle class has begun to emerge. Others seeking to attain the same benefits have turned to crime — petty theft, mugging and black marketeering.



The Chinese Government boasts of the lowest crime rate since the 1950's, but it must be remembered that "serious" crimes like murder, rape, robbery, arson, theft, kidnapping and prostitution are all punishable by death. Western diplomats and human rights organizations outside the country claim that at least ten thousand people have been put to death in recent months.

The Apostle James comments on the necessity of being ever-watchful so as not to succumb to temptations that are all around us.

Writes James: "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren." (James 1:14-16)

Apart from coming to know Jesus Christ, what resistance is there to these temptations?

Notice Romans 6:6 where we read, "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

The Apostle Paul continues, "Likewise, reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body. That ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." (Romans 6:11-12)

Now, the problem with some of us is that we expect that we can be victorious over sin without a fight or a struggle. A man can say of alcohol, "I can take it or leave it." But, he finds himself helpless in that moment of irresistible thirst, and he takes it and gets drunk.

In Galatians 5:24 we read, "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."

While Christ has forgiven us, and cleansed us from our sin, and given to us of His Holy Spirit, there must be cooperation. The hand that reaches out for that cigarette must be placed on His cross so that it can't pick up and light up that cigarette. That is what we just read.

Look yet at verses 7-8 of 1 Thessalonians 4: "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his Holy Spirit."

Beloved, apart from the Holy Spirit it is nigh to impossible to resist all of the temptations that surround us today.

All have a battle with the flesh, whether in overeating or in some other dissipation.

Jesus said of the Holy Spirit, "He dwelleth with you, and shall be in

you." (John 14:17b)

The word used here for the Holy Spirit is the word "comforter," or the Greek word, Parakletos, meaning "one called alongside to help." This is the main duty of the Holy Spirit. He is beside each believer, pointing the way, giving comfort and direction to our lives.

Have you ever asked the Holy Spirit to come in and take control of your life? Have you ever surrendered your life to Him?

In Luke 11:13 we read, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

Dr. R.A. Torrey, associate of D.L. Moody, the evangelist, tells how he went to speak at a convention in Boston on the Holy Spirit. One of the brethren came to him to say, "Be sure to tell them not to pray for the Holy Spirit."

Replied Torrey, "My brother, I will tell them to do the very thing that you tell me to tell them not to do; for God has said, 'How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?'"

This does not mean that there must not be some preparation for the Holy Spirit.

In Proverbs 1:23 we read: "Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you. I will make known my words unto you."

We're reminded that the Holy Spirit is given in response to our obedience.

Acts 5:32 states, "And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him."

David Wilkerson, founder of Teen Challenge, says, "We are saved and secured by grace alone. It is not to be entered into to earn benefits from God." But he notes, "We are not bringing our bodies under control; our passions and appetites are not under subjection. Sensuous television programs now whet the fleshly appetites among Christians for pornography. Lust is nearly out of control, even in the ministry. Almost daily I hear of ministers who spend hours viewing X-rated movies and cassettes. Multitudes of God's people, including preachers of the Gospel, waste precious hours lounging before the TV idol."

Wilkerson asks, "Why is it that Christians who are about to die become so detached from the world and material and physical things?" He answers, "Because eternity is in view. It all pales in comparison to the joy ahead. Why can't we live like that all the time? Why not keep our minds fixed on Christ at all times?"

This is the challenge we leave with you today. Pray this prayer, "Lord Jesus, I invite you to come into my heart and life. I ask your Holy Spirit to fill me with His Holy presence, to occupy the throne of my life. Whatever hinders, may it be removed. Whatever sin is there, may it be forgiven. Whatever disobedience, may it be removed and in its place may there be implicit obedience to your will. Amen."

Pray that prayer and mean it. You may not say those very words, but if that is the desire of your heart, God will know it and He will meet your need.

Then live for Jesus every day, relying upon the indwelling presence of His Spirit.

And "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

FAR EAST ARISING

A Major Sign of Christ's Return



A mass student uprising marked the anniversary of the rise of the Communist Party in China.

The anniversary came after the collapse of a Peking protest by hundreds of people who had been sent to impoverished Shanxi province and were demanding permission to resettle in the capital where life is more comfortable.

It was as though officials were saying out loud to the protesters, "You ought to be ashamed of yourselves," calling them selfish and ordering them back to the countryside.

A United Press International article entitled "Peking Faces Youth Problem" reports, "China's leaders from Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping on down are deeply concerned over the country's 600 million people under age 30, and have launched a massive effort to redirect them. They are worried about the 'lost generation' who were sent to the countryside during the Cultural Revolution — now in their late 20's or early 30's — disaffected and largely unskilled blocs of youths. But the leaders are even more alarmed over the ideological drift of the nation's 200 million teenagers who grew up during the turbulent decade and who today lack both discipline and faith in the Communist Party. They are taking part in gang fights, breaking into homes to steal, and are no strangers to sex, and openly scorn their parents . . ."

We might add — what a fulfillment of Scripture which reminds us in the last days perilous times would come and that conditions just reported would be worldwide!



The PEKING DAILY, in its front-page editorial, made this observation: "Young people yearn for and pursue happiness and well-being; this is very good." It went on to note, "At the same time we should understand that happiness and well-being do not fall from the heavens." Rather, the editorial stated, "We must depend on arduous struggle with our own two hands."

Naturally, we would disagree. Happiness does come from Heaven where our Lord is exalted at the right hand of the Father, having accomplished for us a finished work of redemption.

Thus it is written, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." (James 1:17)

How many are struggling to find peace and rest of soul. In Psalms 16:11 we have the secret of true happiness. Writes the Psalmist, "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy, at thy right hand are pleasures for evermore."

Peter, too, writes, "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory." (1 Pet. 1:18)

Think of it — "joy unspeakable and full of glory!"

We have a message, not only for China's youth but for the youth of the world, that Jesus Christ satisfies fully with "joy unspeakable and full of glory."

The tragedy, however, is that these millions of Chinese youth will no doubt be a part of that vast army described in Scripture as heading toward Armageddon on a future day.

General Douglas MacArthur, some years ago, dramatically introduced into men's thinking the possibility that the atom bomb has virtually brought us to the brink of Armageddon.

MacArthur was a master orator, anyway. Perhaps he was America's Churchill, and his pronouncements were always dramatic and daring. In fact, at times he gave evidence to having prophetic knowledge as it is related to end-time events. For example . . .

In reference to the dawn of atomic conflict, MacArthur stated: "We

have had our last chance; Armageddon is at hand."

As late as October 8, 1955, MacArthur concluded that our chief worry was not a third World War, for said MacArthur: "That would be double suicide." However, our present knowledge of what we commonly refer to as "flying saucers" concerned MacArthur who felt that eventually all the nations of the earth will have to unite to prevent an attack by people from other planets as he surmised them to be.

Now, I realize this sounds strange for an Army General of such high caliber to express fear of invasion from the skies, but when we consider that Armageddon is going to be a literal invasion from the skies, certainly I say again that General MacArthur sounds more like a prophet than a general.

We have discussed flying saucers on this program, and should the Lord so lead, we may discuss them again. For there is much evidence to prove that this strange phenomena — these unidentified supersonic objects — are related to events covering the period from the rapture of the Church through the tribulation period, climaxed with the Battle of Armageddon.

Now, the only mention of the name Armageddon in the whole Bible is found in Rev. 16:16. However, the Bible speaks of Armageddon under such other names as . . . the Supper of the Great God, and the Winepress of the Fierceness and wrath of Almighty God, in events to take place during the DAY OF THE LORD'S WRATH.

Armageddon is the gathering of the kings of the earth and of the whole world together. The field of battle will be the "valley of Megiddo," located in the heart of Palestine, and the scene of many Old Testament conflicts.

In this battle the allied armies of Antichrist will be so vast, so huge, so immense, and so terrible . . . that the slaughter will find the whole of Palestine soaked with human blood. In fact, for a distance of 1600 furlongs (or 200 miles) the blood will come up to the horse bridles.

The destruction of this army of Antichrist will come from Him who heads the armies from Heaven. This is the Lord Jesus Christ appearing on a white horse. And following Him will be the saints who were raptured prior to this awful Tribulation period — all on white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

Concerning the Lord Jesus, the rider of the White Horse, we read that a sword went forth from his mouth, that with it He should smite the nations.

Now, our conviction of all the present strife in the Middle East is this — that this is the purpose of Satan to gather together the nations against Jerusalem, as the prophet Zechariah has predicted.

In today's broadcast we specifically want to call to your attention that end-time events, as they are forecast in the Word of God, predict a revival of interest in the nations of the East.

When we speak of the East, we speak Biblically — or refer to countries East of Palestine.

In Rev. 16, where reference is made to Armageddon, the subject is introduced by specific mention to the drying up of the great river Euphrates . . . "that the way of the Kings of the East might be prepared!"

In recent years we have seen a resurgence of interest in the East,

perhaps beginning at Pearl Harbor, and the war with Japan, and likewise the conflict in Korea and Vietnam.

Then, too, we have seen the fall of China to the Communists. Communist China, with an army of over 12,000,000 men, no doubt will be a part of this vast army that one day will march toward Armageddon, an army that even today is a threat to the peace and security of the Far East.

To point out other indications of the sudden awakening of the East, let us point to India, the world's second most populous nation (357 million). Who can forget the visit of Bulganin and Khrushchev to India and their slogan, "Indians and Russians are Brothers"? India, a land of economic barrenness, has suddenly been jolted to life as Russians have offered assistance in building factories and power stations. In fact, said Khrushchev, "We will share our last piece of bread with you," as the Russians seek every political advantage to win allies to Communism.

Perhaps, we should ask the question, Why this sudden awakening in the East?

Of course, in the first place we must acknowledge that the Word of God predicts this trend.

In the second place, we are beholding the struggle of the common man to be free. Suppressed peoples are seeking freedom from the yoke of tyranny. Just as America sought to be free from the yoke of Britain, today we are seeing this same trend exhibited in other lands which have been for centuries under the yoke of France and Britain.

The Protestant Episcopal Church, meeting in convention in Honolulu (Sept. 15, 1955), issued a statement concerning these countries:

"These people are in full revolt against foreign political and economic control; against colonialism and imperialism. They are in revolt against age-old poverty and misery. They are in revolt against the Western white man's assumption of his permanent superiority."

Perhaps it would be well, here, to consider the prophecy of the famous historian, Arnold J. Toynbee.

Toynbee, in his book, *CIVILIZATION ON TRIAL*, refers to this same Revival of Eastern Nations. We quote: "Though today there are still some fifteen hundred million 'not yet awakened peasants' (or about 3/4th of mankind) in India, China, Indo-China, Indonesia, Daral-Islam and Eastern Europe, their awakening is now only a matter of time; and when it has been accomplished, numbers will begin to tell. Their gravitational pull may then draw the center-point of human affairs to a site in the neighborhood of Babylon, on the ancient portage across the isthmus between the continent and its peninsulas of Arabia and Africa."

Dr. Wilbur Smith, commenting on this in *MOODY MONTHLY MAGAZINE*, says: "To begin with, we recall that in the Revelation (book), more extended consideration is given to Babylon than to any other one subject in the book. (55 verses, incidentally) And, whatever our interpretations of the word Babylon, it originally pointed to the Mesopotamian Valley and to eastern powers."

Then Dr. Smith concludes: "It seems to me, here is a very specific prediction that the kingdoms of the East, dormant, asleep, as Toynbee says, for hundreds of years, will, at the end of the age — (it is the end of

the age that these passages in Revelation point) — come up out of their slumber into power. That is exactly what they are doing now!"

Many students of prophecy saw this phenomenon coming long before there was any sign of its approach. "The prophetic Scriptures ever prove themselves to be ahead of the statesmen of the world . . ." says Smith.

One of the early church fathers, Lactantius, writing in 310 AD, predicted for the endtime "that the East will again bear rule, and the West be reduced to servitude!"

Now, what does this all mean to you and me?

Turn again in your Bible to the 16th chapter of Revelation.

For after we have the description given concerning these Kings of the East, along with the kings of the nations, gathering for the Battle of Armageddon, the Spirit of God suddenly ejects a warning into this passage. Here it is, verse 15: "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."

If you are a student of the Bible, you know already that the Lord Jesus is coming back. And every born-again believer will be raptured, meeting the Lord in the air at His coming.

Now notice, in the parable of the Ten Virgins, we read again this reminder: "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

From this parable it is apparent that the five foolish virgins thought they were Christians. For they said, "Lord, Lord, open to us." But the reply came back to them, "Verily I say unto you, I know you not."

My friends, we do not question the preparedness of the born-again, Spirit-filled believer to be ready for Christ's return.

Rather, we do question whether many who profess to be saved, who speak of believing in Jesus, are really born again.

Concerning this born-again experience, for example, the Apostle John gives some evidences whereby we can know we are born again. (Read them in 1 John.) Here they are briefly:

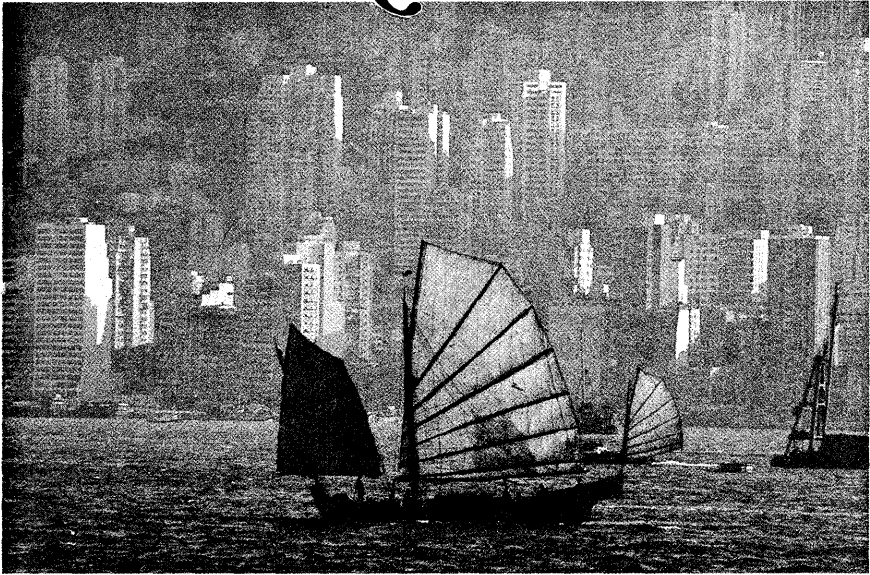
- (1) "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin."
- (2) "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God."
- (3) "Everyone that doeth righteousness is born of Him."
- (4) "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren."
- (5) "Whosoever is born of God overcometh the world."
- (6) "He that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not."

My friends, the Bible tells us to "examine ourselves whether we be in the faith." By our fruits the Lord knows us; our works attest to our faith.

In view of Christ's return with its impending judgment upon the wicked, as well as upon lukewarm, Laodicean church professors, we urge you today to surrender your life wholly to Christ. If you are living a defeated life, there is victory through Christ and yieldedness to the work of the Holy Spirit in your life.

As wise virgins, let us watch and be ready, for our Lord hath said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

HONG KONG - 1997?



The beautiful city of Hong Kong is considered the crossroads of the Orient.

Hong Kong has one of the largest and most beautiful natural harbors in the world. The skyline is a monument dedicated to capitalism as it sits on the southeastern border of Communist Red China.

Under a 19th century treaty, Great Britain has owned both Hong Kong island and a sliver of the Chinese mainland called Kowloon. But the bulk of Hong Kong will revert back to Communist China following a century of British rule.

Communist China has only reluctantly accepted the treaty which gave the island of Hong Kong to the British in 1842. Then in 1896, England received a 99-year lease from China for the mainland and island regions it has since called the New Territories. Hong Kong is on a lease that will expire in 1997.

As 1997 approaches, Peking is impatient to regain these valuable pieces of real estate. But that need not mean the end of capitalist Hong Kong. The two diverse ideologies have so far lived side by side. Will they be able to continue to do so?

Warns a Western diplomat: "I wonder if an economically and militarily powerful China by the year 2000 will be an unmitigated blessing for American interests."

China is Hong Kong's biggest supplier of food. Several freight trains help carry the 14 million tons of freight that China exports to Hong Kong every week.

Two and a half million head of livestock were exported from China to the colony last year, along with thousands of tons of rice, fruit and vegetables.

Chinese pigs provide 80% of all the pork consumed in Hong Kong. These animals are unwilling participants in the law of supply and

demand that keep Hong Kong fed, while earning China the vital foreign revenue it needs.

China also sells textiles to Hong Kong—an important feature of trade with the mainland, because the clothing industry employs nearly half the colony's workforce.

Hong Kong has no natural resources of its own. Its fuel comes from China, too. This makes China the colony's biggest supplier of goods. And from the colony, China earns over 10 million U.S. dollars a day.

But it is not all a one-way street. Much of China's steel imports come in via Hong Kong, including reinforcing rods which help support China's massive modernization program.

These billboards are "signs of the times"—evidences of Western culture that have become evident in recent years. The big question remains, Will Hong Kong reflect this same culture after 1997 when Britain relinquishes control and China dominates its future?

Despite the uncertainty of the future, Hong Kong is doing a roaring business.

The big jets carry in new traders and new capital. But the colony knows its boom days may be over. A twilight is approaching. Whether or not a new day will break after 1997 is a question uppermost in almost everyone's mind.

That the Chinese will take Hong Kong back is now a certainty. It remains to be seen if the city will thrive as a financial capital under Chinese control and be a safe place for investors to put their money. Unless Hong Kong remains with relative freedom and independence, then the province will be of little value to anybody . . . even the Chinese.

In September, 1982, Britain's Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, came to China to discuss Hong Kong's fate.

The timing of her visit could have hardly been worse. Britain had just won a full-scale war in defense of another of its far-flung outposts, the Falkland Islands.

Still flushed with her success at beating Argentina, Mrs. Thatcher met with Chinese leader, Deng Xioping, and was reveling in her role of the "Iron Lady." It was clear she wasn't going to send a fleet of gunboats to defend Hong Kong. But she told Deng, in blunt terms, that Hong Kong was British until the lease runs out. Deng resented the British leader's stand over colonial treaties signed a hundred years ago. The talks turned sour.

The Chinese were not pleased to be told they needed a British-style Hong Kong.

The negotiations became precarious, with Peking standing firm in its right to Hong Kong. It wasn't until December, 1984, that Prime Minister Thatcher exchanged the final documents with the Chinese Prime Minister, Zhao Ziyang. Britain therefore acknowledges that when the lease runs out in 1997 on most of the territory, Hong Kong will revert to China.

China has put out an informational film about Hong Kong, emphasizing the overcrowding and the hectic pace of life there. But China has agreed that the Western style of Hong Kong will remain unchanged for 50 years after its return to the mainland. Here is a tacit acceptance that even a Chinese capitalist is still, basically, Chinese.

In Hong Kong itself, Mrs. Thatcher was given a mixed reception after

signing the agreement. Most people gave her a warm welcome.

But there were demonstrations, too, from those among Hong Kong's overwhelming Chinese population who feel that they are victims of a "sell-out" that they will be eventually forced to accept an ideology they have rejected.

She could only assure the residents that their future could have been much less secure.

The vast majority of Hong Kong's population lead a very different life from what the casual tourist sees. On one hand, you find the very wealthy British and Chinese businessmen at the exclusive clubs. The rich people of the province are said to be the world's greatest gamblers.

Yet most of the populous have no say at all in the future and have no means to escape if they wanted to. Their plight in Hong Kong's crisis is very real. They are mostly refugees, many who swam from the mainland, or crowded into unseaworthy boats to escape what seems to be unavoidably closing in on them again—a communist regime.

Twenty-five percent of all Hong Kong Chinese in their twenties arrived in the last few years. The communist welcome worries both rich and poor. The difference is that the rich can probably leave if they feel like it.

Hong Kong's future is not totally guaranteed. A legally binding agreement has been reached which could change the course of history in the Far East. Whatever changes the Chinese make in its governmental leaders, it is certainly the end of the trappings of British rule. In 1997 Britain will lose the colony, bringing an end to more than a hundred years of history and beginning the emergence of a new Hong Kong.

On a lighter note, one of the best-selling board games in Hong Kong speculates about the future of the British Colony.

Tension increases toward the end of the game. Will Hong Kong retain its freedom, or will the year 2000 see the territory firmly in the hands of the Chinese commissars?

It was Napoleon Bonaparte who said, "Let China sleep. When she awakens, the world will be sorry."

Red China has awakened. Gone is the drab militarism which has been the hallmark of Chinese celebrations in the past. Gone, too, are some of the visions Chairman Mao Tse-tung had when he set up the People's Republic of China in 1949.

The Rev. R. E. Neighbor, writing in the GOSPEL HERALD, has noted: "The rise of China . . . is prophetically phenomenal."

The display of China's military might is a reflection of the role that China will play in the endtime. In Revelation 16, mention is made of the "Kings of the East" as they prepare their march to Armageddon.

China's 4.2-million-strong is the largest military force in the world. Declared a Washington analyst: "The Chinese don't think they're going to be invaded." He added, "The Soviet Union would be hard-pressed to wipe out China's elusive nuclear deterrent in one strike." Said he, "The Chinese hide many of their missiles. Some of them are in caves. They invented the missile shuttle game. They move them around all the time." (TIME, Oct. 15, '84)

There have been extensive questions as to whether or not we will reach the year 1997! A group of scientists met in Great Britain to discuss the question on a TV forum: What sort of world will we have at

the turn of the century? Without a single exception, all answered, "The world won't be here then."

What sort of world will we have in the decades ahead as we approach the year 2000? Many outstanding men of the world seem to feel that time is running out.

For example, Sean O'Casey, Irish playwright, says: "By 2000, either our lovely earth will be a charred lump of rubble circling the sun, or we shall all be on the way to universal peace."

Quite a forecast, isn't it?

Erich Fromm, psychoanalyst, similarly expresses his concern for the future as we approach the turn of the century. He writes: "I foresee two possibilities: The survivors of a thermonuclear war will have organized a world dictatorship, or a renaissance of united humanity will have begun."

"Again, this is somewhat in keeping with the Scriptural forecast of a super dictator called the Antichrist who is seen rising in the awful period known as the Great Tribulation which our Lord described as an era "such as never has been or ever shall be again." Only by Jesus Christ's return to this earth will there be ushered in a golden renaissance of global peace.

Marquis Childs, noted Washington columnist, said: "I hope that in a system of controlled disarmament with widespread inspection, the terrible threat of nuclear annihilation will have been removed . . ."

Indeed, this again expresses the hope of mankind that a way out will be found to prevent atomic holocaust. But, disregard for God leaves man without hope and at the mercy of his own violence and recklessness.

Clare Boothe Luce, author, former ambassador to Italy, and special assistant to the President, sees a choice between either the "systematic liquidation" of the weaker, more defenseless peoples of the earth, or the "virtual annihilation of mankind by nuclear war."

She notes: "The demographers say that if long-range preventive measures are not taken soon to deal with the population explosion, by the end of this century men will literally be squashing one another to death in the fearsome scramble for land, shelter, water and food. Legalized birth control, abortion, euthanasia, sterilization, must then become part of every nation's domestic policy."

Here again we find the humanistic hypothesis which leaves man to his own destiny. But the Bible reveals that God has a plan for this age and a purpose for every life.

Clare Boothe Luce continues her evaluation of the future, stating, "Pessimists say that mankind itself could perish in a nuclear war. Optimists limit the losses to about a billion people unless 100 megaton bombs are used. Everyone agrees that of the few who survive the subsequent fallout, some would be sterile, and the rest might give birth to misshapen monsters." She adds, "No gift of prophecy permits me to see which of these two horrendous threats is the more real. But I venture to predict one thing: The men who pray as though everything depended on God, while they work as though everything depended on themselves, will have the best chance to master both threats."

Evangelist Billy Graham, when asked about future events, replied: "The Bible indicates there will be a period of history when Satanic

forces will be unleashed upon the world on a scale without parallel in human history." Graham goes on to say, "I cannot accurately predict what the world will be like, but this I confidently know: Whatever grief we may be called upon to endure, God is working out His purpose."

What wondrous hope there is for the Christian. Without God, man is left without hope and faces only despair. With Christ there is the promise, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." In Matthew 28:20 He also said, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Hallelujah!

The late David Ben Gurion, Prime Minister of Israel, had the most optimistic forecast of the future. By 2000 A.D. he said, "All armies will be abolished, and there will be no more wars." Ben Gurion saw in Jerusalem, the Supreme Court of Mankind, to settle all controversies among her federated continents, as prophesied by Isaiah. And, (he notes) by 2000, the average life-span of man will reach one hundred years."

Reading from Isaiah of a time just ahead during the coming Millennial reign of Christ the Messiah, we read such prophecies as these:

Isaiah 2:3-4: "Out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations . . . and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Isaiah 11:4-9: "But with righteousness shall he (the King) judge the poor, and reprove with equity . . . The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard with the kid, and the calf and the young lion . . . and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the suckling child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. **THEY SHALL NOT HURT NOR DESTROY** in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

Isaiah 35: "The desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose . . . The eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing . . . And an highway shall be there . . . the way of holiness . . . the redeemed shall walk there . . . and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." (Isaiah 35:1,5,8-10)

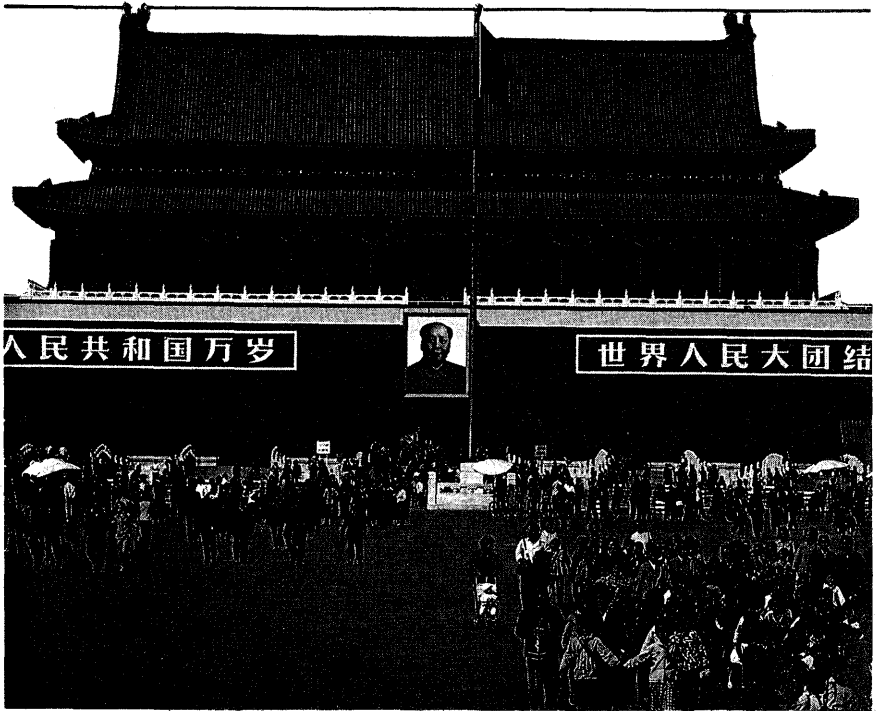
What a wonderful description of what's ahead! Don't miss this exciting and wonderful day when Christ will return to reign upon the earth as King of kings and Lord of lords.

And we have the promise—if we are truly His obedient followers, doing His bidding, loving His Word, and observing His will—that we shall reign with him.

Today surrender your life to Christ as your Saviour and Lord. Life may hold its trials and its sorrows. But as we read, "The sufferings of this life are not worthy to be compared to the glory that shall be revealed in us at Christ's appearing."

So give Him your heart, your life, your all. Live for Him daily, and, "Be ye ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

CHURCH IN CHINA TODAY



The American Bible Society recently announced that agreement has been reached for the printing of Bibles in mainland China.

The statement declared that a new organization was being formed at the initiative of Chinese Christians and that it was hoped this would lead to the establishment of a modern printing facility in the People's Republic of China.

China is a country in transition.

There has been a lot of publicity in recent months about major shifts in economic policies—changes that have moved China much closer to the West.

The Chinese leadership has made it clear that they want the best we have to offer, but they've also made it known they have no intention of abandoning basic Communist principles.

The first major shift we have seen behind the Bamboo Curtain, away from the economics of Mao Tse-tung, is in agriculture.

At the end of 1978, the Communist Party Central Committee decreed that farmers could sell in the markets any produce they grow themselves—once they filled the quotas they are still required to produce under the collective farm system.

The results have been dramatic. Over the past six years, agriculture production has risen annually by 8 percent. Farmers have a greater say in deciding what they grow, and they now offer the public a much wider range of foodstuffs, at prices based on the market forces of supply and demand, rather than at prices fixed by the central government.

With more money in their pockets because of market sales, people from the countryside—who make up four-fifths of China's one billion population—have brought a huge increase in shop sales.

In the news, we have seen both China and Japan clamoring for increased trade with the West.

There has even been the appearance of the first credit cards issued recently by the state-run Bank of China. While there are only about 20 stores and restaurants in a free-enterprise zone accepting them, hundreds of Chinese have started using them.

In China, the government is talking of tripling everyone's standard of living by the year 2000 and quadrupling the gross national product.

We are reminded of the rich man our Lord told about whose farm was prospering, who said: "This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say unto my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry."

We read, "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall these things be, which thou hast provided?"

We know that officially in China, as in other communist states, there is little or no regard for God. However, if we do not take God into consideration and make plans where we will spend eternity, we are no different than the rich farmer, nor are we any different than the Communists.

Mao sought to abolish all religion, saying it was the "opiate of the people." In fact, he set himself up as God. Little children were taught to sing, "Chairman Mao, I love you." They added, "Father's dear, Mother's dear, but not as dear as Chairman Mao."



Dr. Dick Hillis writes, "History teaches us that God does not allow men to play God too long. Scripture records that Herod Agrippa played the dangerous game called 'I am God.'" He adds, "Herod was no doubt the same type of character that Mao was."

With Mao gone, Chinese industry is mixing capitalist principles with their Communist philosophy.

Under the old system, workers were allotted to particular industries by the central authorities. They had to do what the state requested they do, and wages were held at a fixed level. All profits went to the state.



Today, individual enterprises can hire their own staff. They can give better pay, or bonuses, for difficult and responsible work. And they are expected to adjust output to meet the demand of the customer, rather than meeting production quotas determined in advance by the state.

In China there is a tearing down of the old ideas and utilizing new ideas as in the computerized monitoring system acquired from the West.

Also in today's China, enterprises can keep any after-tax profits. These might go in bonus wages or in re-investment and modernization.

At the steelworks, for example, they want to replace the old steam engines with new diesel locomotives, on the grounds of efficiency. This introduction of capitalist ideas is strongly criticized by traditional Communists and Maoists within the Communist Party. The question is asked, Will it lead to economic problems — like unemployment?

Tong Da Lin, the Number Two man in charge of the economic reforms, was asked his views.

Tong Da Lin agreed that increased efficiency created surplus labor in some industries. But no worker will be discarded. He will be found another job within the same enterprise, perhaps in the canteen, or even outside planting trees.

As for prices, some will go up as government subsidies are removed, but others will go down because of greater efficiency. And all the time, wages will be advancing, too. There should be no big problems, they say.

Dr. Erwin Lutzer, Pastor of Moody Memorial Church in Chicago, says in China today every believer is a minister. He recalls how the Revolution found the Chinese Communists seeking to stamp out all evidence of Western culture, even going into cemeteries and removing crosses from tombstones.

When the Red Army of the People's Republic of China received the order, in 1966, to close all religious and church-related institutions, to confiscate and destroy all literature, Chinese Christians experienced utmost suffering.

CHRISTIANITY TODAY magazine reports, "Methods used to humble, discredit, and in many cases wipe out 'reactionary religionists'

were virulent and crude."

Churches were turned into warehouses or factories. A billion people were brainwashed into accepting Marxism and Maoism.

Sometimes the Red Guard went into the homes of Christian believers, and the parents were shot before the eyes of their children. The children were taught to obey the state and not get involved in the worship of any deity.

Twice a day many were forced to march through the streets and kneel before a picture of Chairman Mao. One man who refused had his legs broken at the knees.

This is just some of the tortures believers endured during the days of the revolution under Mao.

A missionary, who was born in China of American missionary parents, went back to visit. She inquired as to the difference between religion and superstition.

She was told, "Superstition is idealism." She was reminded of Chairman Mao's assertion that there are two doctrines. One is idealism. The other is materialism. Religion is based on idealism. Communism is based on materialism.

China has replaced religion with the political philosophies of Lenin, Marx, Mao, Engels and Stalin. In an effort to erase Christianity from their country, they write it off as superstition.

One who came out from China remarked, "Young people, 25 years of age and under, living in the People's Republic of China, have no concept of God or religion."

When talking to Red Guards in Canton at the height of the Cultural Revolution, people were informed, "Some old people over 50 still believe, but most of them have changed their minds. We young people are all Atheists."

Asked whether his university library contained a Bible, a student replied, "What's that?"

However, as a result of changes in the government allowing for new freedom, it is hoped revival will come to the Chinese mainland. As Dr. Richard Chen writes, "The Chinese people need and are ready for the Gospel of Jesus Christ more than ever before. Only Christ Jesus can give them faith, hope and love."

Dr. Carol Hamrin, a political analyst specializing in Chinese affairs for the U.S. State Department, reported her visit to mainland China indicated hope for revival of the Christian faith there.

One reason is that there's a push for the Chinese people to learn English, and they are listening more and more to English-language radio programs.

Another reason for hope of Christian influence is that an increasing number of Chinese are allowed to travel, and some are coming to the United States to increase their studies.

As China opens up to the West, there is more opportunity for evangelism. Even in the business world, Chinese young people are prospects to hear the Gospel in the language they have learned in their own universities.

Dr. Donald McGavern says, "No church in history has grown as rapidly as the church of Jesus Christ in China." In 1949 it was estimated there were 4.5-million Christians in China. Today the

estimate is placed at nearly 50 million.

Born and raised in China, Dr. Paul Kauffman, President of Asian Outreach International, has worked for over 42 years with Chinese nationals. He points to the end of the Cultural Revolution as the starting point of this unprecedented religious upsurge.

Early in the 1950's the heads of the Protestant denominations drew up the "Three Self Manifesto." It was decreed that the church should be self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating. To the Chinese Communists this simply meant the expulsion of all foreign influence such as missionaries or foreign Bibles.

As Dr. Chen points out, "The Chinese philosophy is not as much against religion as against cultural invasion, western control, imperialist conspiracy, and American superiority. The Chinese people are not anti-religious per se," he notes.

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT notes: "Because churches were torn down or converted into government buildings, believers must meet sporadically in each other's homes."

There has not been the erection of church buildings, but it is estimated there are thousands of these home churches where people meet to hear or to study the Word of God. Perhaps as many as 40,000 house churches are in China today. This is not considered the Roman Catholic Church but the Chinese Catholic Church. The Communist authorities do not approve of any reference to the Pope or to Rome, on the grounds that this would undermine the authority of the party.

Many will be saved if the Gospel can continue its penetration into mainland China. Trans-World Radio and the facilities of the Far East Broadcasting Network are already getting into China.

Testifies Dr. Paul Freed, "We believe the Great Commission can be fulfilled using superpower radio . . ."

Our Lord declared one of the signs of the last days is the proclamation of the Gospel worldwide. Jesus testified in Matt. 24:14, saying: "And this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

As we said, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is being preached—that He came, died and rose again so that whosoever believes in Him might be saved.

In closing, we would ask, Are you saved? Have you received this good news of Jesus Christ's death on the cross for your sins? Have you turned from your sin to trust the Saviour?

If not, why not accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord right now?

The Bible says, "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Join me in praying this prayer: "Lord Jesus, I do confess you as my Saviour and Lord. I believe you died and shed your precious blood to save me and cleanse me of all my sins. Help me to live and to be ready for your coming, I pray. Amen."

Pray that prayer and mean it.

And, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."