

FROM OUR PASTOR

April 15, 2017

Sabbath Greetings to Everyone!

The world should be concerned, perhaps very worried. Here is why:

* Russia is reportedly mobilizing troops and equipment along its 11-mile North Korea border amid fears that US President Donald Trump could launch a strike against North Korea anytime, leading to an all-out war in the region. Russian President Vladimir Putin is believed to have ordered the move keeping in mind a possible mass exodus from the reclusive state if it comes under a US attack. China is also said to have taken a similar measure in the past few days. (IBT.com)

* Schools and factories in Japan have been practicing evacuation exercises, preparing for the scenario of a North Korean missile attack against this country. Japan also has deployed US made missile defense systems and put the navy on a high state of readiness. A fisherman on the beach last week told a CNN reporter, ""You never know what the North Koreans might do next." If a war breaks out with North Korea, Japan will be targeted, and they have their finger on the nuclear button."

* The USA recently sent a carrier task force to South Korean waters. The US and South Korean militaries are teaming up for a massive 11-day exercise featuring a large portion of their fighter aircraft fleet. The event goes until Apr. 28. Business Insider reported: "Although the exercise is regularly scheduled and was planned months ago, North Korea often sees such training events as a prelude to war and responds with threats. A senior North Korean official called military exercises between its southern neighbor and the US an "aggressive war drill." The official also warned that "thermonuclear war may break out at any moment."

* Communist China has its troops on a war footing and has moved large units close to the Korean border. UPI reported: "China has ordered its military to be on nationwide alert, in addition to areas near the North Korea border, as tensions escalate on the peninsula...about 25,000 troops of the Chinese military's 47th army have been instructed to be ready to move close to the North Korea border... according to Taiwan's China Post, the Chinese government may have deployed about 150,000 troops along the North Korea border on Sunday, as U.S. and South Korea militaries conducted joint exercises in and around the peninsula. The country keeps missiles, including 12 Dongfeng-03 ballistic missiles and 24 Dongfeng-21 "Carrier-killer" missiles at the 51st rocket army station in Shenyang, Liaoning Province.

Winston Churchill would likely call this time "The gathering storm." The delusional tyrant that rules North Korea could start Korean War II at any time. The civilized world hopes that he won't, but we should not underestimate his forces. His army is over a million strong and his air forces and tanks number in the thousands. He has 15,000 artillery pieces on the border aimed at South Korea.

North Korea marks the 85th anniversary of the foundation of its Korean People's Army this coming Tuesday, an important anniversary for them. As usual, they plan a demonstration of power, probably another nuclear bomb test. South Korea said on Friday it was on heightened alert, with a large concentration of military hardware amassed on both sides of the border amid concerns about a new nuclear test by Pyongyang.

Will this gathering storm quiet down or explode? No one knows for sure. The decision maker is China, and no one knows what they consider in their best interest. The Chinese have propped up the North Korean dictators since 1953. China provides coal, electricity, food, and other essential items to North Korea to keep that poverty stricken nation going. China alone can apply pressure to reduce tensions and convince North Korea to abide by UN resolutions.

War clouds loom today, but someday will disappear, but only after the return of Jesus Christ to rule this earth. "He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore." (Micah 4:3)

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