

From Our Pastor

October 21, 2017

Sabbath Greetings to Everyone!

In Beijing this week Chinese President Xi Jinping put the world on notice that the future will be different. He laid out a sweeping vision for the country as he kicked off a pivotal meeting of the ruling elite that's expected to shore up his grip on power.

CNN reported, "China's President called the progress China had made under his watch "truly remarkable" but said more needed to be done as the country moves toward a goal of "national rejuvenation" -- a phrase he used repeatedly during the more than three-hour speech. "Our party, our people, our forces, and our nation have changed in ways without precedent," he said from the Great Hall of the People in the heart of Beijing on the opening day of the weeklong meeting. But Xi made it clear that China's future path wouldn't emulate the West, saying he wouldn't "mechanically copy the political systems of other countries."

Xi Jinping added, "'The banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics is now flying high and proud for all to see.'" Along with listing the economic accomplishments of the recent decade, Xi made note of the "reclaiming" of reefs in the ocean where, in defiance of international law and the UN, China has constructed military bases on artificial islands. Observers noted that the rogue client state of North Korea was not mentioned, but statements in defiance of US President Trump were obvious. The goals of continuing growth in military power, economic power, and expanded influence were repeated for the world to hear.

The impact of the warning was heard in the US--plus Australia, India, Japan, and other nations of the area, but what about the strategic meaning? Could the ascending China have any impact on coming events described in God's word?

The Bible predicts an incredible army of two hundred million soldiers in the future! By far the largest army in history. That army will come from East of the Euphrates river towards Jerusalem and will result in the death of one third of mankind!

"Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them." (Revelation 9:13-16). It is difficult to imagine an army so immense!

"East of the Euphrates" is easy to see on a globe--the oriental nations. These are the largest population nations of the world and are growing fast in economic and military might. Obviously the only ones capable of producing and equipping an army so huge!

This is likely to happen at the same time as other nations are bringing armies to the area of Judah. The prophet Zechariah's writings foretell that other armies will also be on the march.

"For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. " (Zechariah 14:2)

Those coming days will not be good ones to be in Jerusalem. The Golden City will suffer terribly before being rebuilt and becoming the capitol of the world. Later in the message he states, "Jerusalem shall be raised up and inhabited in her place..." and "The people shall dwell in it; And no longer shall there be utter destruction, But Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited." (verses 10-11).

So apparently this coming greatest of armies will not accomplish much except to cause great death and destruction. After it is gone Jerusalem, followed by the rest of the world, will become a place of peace. "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem." Psalm 122:6

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