

America, China and The Tribulation Pt 2

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Bible Text: Revelation 16:12-14; Revelation 9:13-21

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Take your Bibles and turn to Revelation chapter 16 and we are going to continue from the sermon that we started last week, America, China and the Tribulation. Today is part two. And so let's get right there. Good to see you.

The Burnetts went with us to Israel there a couple of years ago. They are down here with us. And then the [?] they get the prize for traveling the furthest to come to church. They came from Africa just to get here in time for church today. So that is great.

All right. Revelation chapter 16 and verse 12.

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.¹

Now go to Revelation chapter nine and verses 13 through 21.

And 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 which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand [again, that is 200 million]: and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their

¹ Revelation 16:12-14.

mouths. For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt. And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.²

Now shall we pray?

Father, I pray that you would make this message clear and understandable to each one that is in this auditorium this morning. If there are any there that does not know that if they died today that heaven is their home, I pray that today be the day that they receive Christ as their Lord, as their God, as their Savior. I ask you to do a very special work at this time in Jesus' name. Amen.

Last time we were looking at America's. We told you that there are only possibilities, but Scripture really is not clear on American in the tribulation or further on into prophecy. And, of course, as we said last week, just like this passage in Revelation chapter 16, if you would like to get more detail with it, we have it on our website. And we have these little blue cards, these invitation to listen cards. And it has the SermonAudio.com/centralbaptist and go on there. Click on to sermons by Bible and get to Revelation and you can listen to every sermon that we have done, over 300 sermons, over 350 sermons on the book of Revelation on that one website. So let me encourage you to go there if you want to learn more on that.

So that is the way we looked last week. Now this week we want to look at China. And the Bible speaks more clearly of the involvement. I say China, but really it is a coalition as we have read here of the Kings of the East.

Now, by way of review, let me say this. The next thing to happen on God's calendar is the Rapture. That is when every saved person is caught up to be with the Lord that are the saved that are in the grave. The Bible says, "The dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."³

Now understand. That is not the Second Coming because Christ does not touch earth at that time. So we don't call that the Second Coming. It is the Rapture. That is when we meet Christ in the clouds, but he is not going to touch earth at that time.

Following the Rapture there is going to be a period of seven years called the Tribulation. The Tribulation does not start automatically with the Rapture. It will be after the Rapture. When? We are not sure, but we do know that it starts when a world leader confirms a covenant with Israel, that covenant for seven years.

² Revelation 9:13-21.

³ 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

Now that could be the day of the Rapture. It could be several years after the Rapture, but whenever that happens, that begins the seven year Tribulation. The Tribulation is divided into two parts, three and a half years of Tribulation, then three and a half years of Great Tribulation. This Tribulation ends while there is a battle going on among the armies of the earth. That battle campaign is called Armageddon. Christ comes back and that is the Second Coming that ends all of that. Blood will flow to the horse's bridle we are told. And then he will set up a kingdom for 1000 years that we call the Millennium or the millennial reign of Christ. One more uprising at the end of that period and that is put down and then the eternal reign of Christ sets in.

So that is just a general, very general overview.

Now today we look at China and Armageddon. Armageddon is not a battle for a day. Armageddon describes the place where this battle is taking place in Israel. You will notice in chapter nine and verse 15 of our text it said that they "were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men."⁴ And so actually this campaign of Armageddon is at least a year and a month ahead of when they actually get to Israel and they are fighting in this battle.

Again, the battle ends by the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now why would this coalition of the kings of the East want to come to that area of the Middle East? Well, in the first three and a half years of the Tribulation period there have been plagues on the earth. Revelation chapter eight verse seven states it this way.

"The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up."⁵

One third of food bearing, fruit bearing trees and green grass which speaks of food from the agricultural kingdom, all of that is destroyed, at least to one third of the world's food.

I have an article here from [?] which is Israel National News from February the fourth of 2011.

"During the current disorders in the Middle East the emphasis has been on political repression, corruption and a desire for freedom. However, escalating food prices have been a contributing factor to the disturbances that have filled popular discontent. Now food price levels threaten to exceed the record 2007-2008 levels that also triggered violence and demonstrations."

It is not for an example in Egypt that they were upset with Mubarak as a leader. It comes down to food on my plate and food in my belly and money to live.

⁴ Revelation 9:15.

⁵ Revelation 8:7.

“As food represents three-quarters of the family budget for the poor, a sharp increase is immediately felt. The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) employs a basket that tracks the wholesale cost of 55 commodities including grains, vegetables, dairy and meat. This basket rose by 3.4 percent in January as compared to December.

“Food prices have been driven up by unfavorable weather conditions in food producing areas ranging from Russia to Australia. The ice storm that hit the Midwestern United States with damage to winter grains will only compound the damage.

“According to the Food and Agricultural Organization, the high prices are going to be with us for months to come. Another serious disruption in the weather and crops could trigger even higher prices. The fear of rising prices can set off a vicious circle as both countries and corporations hoard commodities, thus further depressing the supply and triggering further increases in prices of food.

“The only consolation is the price of rice has remained relatively stable and is, therefore, about half the catastrophic level of 2008.

“While the poor countries are the major sufferers, the increase in food prices complicates matters for advanced economies as well. In the United States and in the United Kingdom the central banks have deliberately kept interest rates low in hope of stimulating business. If inflation rears its head the usual economic antidote has been to raise interest rates. Therefore, a spike in wheat or soybean prices can eventually create an adverse condition. An example, automobile sales.”

And so that is how it affects us. And I am saying that even now you are beginning to see the foods worldwide affecting our nations, that we don't see it as much in our country. But it affects many nations around the world. And this is not the Tribulation period. We are not in it.

In the last three and a half years of the Tribulation it will expand. In Revelation 16 verses four through six:

And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.⁶

Now not only is this destroying your plant life and fruit bearing trees. Now you are destroying all the seafood. And so it just continues to get worse. And this heat—now this heat will not be global warming. It will be the result of God's judgment that comes upon them. People are starving. It has a world wide effect. And remember, during the seven year Tribulation period over half of the world's population, well over half of the

⁶ Revelation 16:4-6.

world's population dies. Up to three billion people in seven years die in this tribulation. They die in very violent ways: pestilence, hunger, war, wild animals, national disaster.

Revelation chapter 16 verse eight states it this way.

And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.⁷

The drying up of the Euphrates in our text also affects the food chain. Now get the setting. The Rapture has taken place and then sometime after the Rapture a man the Bible refers to as the beast, a world leader in the European sector under the old Roman Empire—now there are 27 nations in that sector today, we call it the European Common Market—10 out of those 27 nations are going to form an alliance that will gain power during this period. Now which 10 nations are they? We don't know, but we do know this, that there is going to be a leader that rises up. I believe that this leader will be a Jewish man in a European nation and it will be someone that will cause the Jews to be able to trust him. This leader will make a covenant with Israel. That covenant is for seven years. A temple is built and regular worship on the temple mount is practiced without any fear. There is not even a temple there now, but that is going to come.

How long of a time is there between this covenant after the rapture? I don't know. The Bible is not specific. All we know is that by the Word of God the Rapture is before the Tribulation. We do know that. But it doesn't necessarily start the Tribulation.

Now here is a possibility. Now let me say this at the outset. This is a possibility. I am not saying this is set in stone, solid doctrine, but this is a possibility built on the Word of God. So listen up.

You remember the story of Pharaoh and his dream. Only Joseph could interpret that dream. Joseph was a child of Israel. He was a Jew. We call him a Jew in our way of thinking. Israel is brought into Egypt during that seven years, because the dream says there is going to be seven good years and seven bad years of famine, pestilence. Boy, it will be bad.

So Joseph says, "During the seven good years, let's keep back about 20 percent of all crops. Let's build it up. Let's tax the people 20 percent and we will build up and make barns and all kind of things to take us through the seven bad years."

He does that. The seven bad years come and sure enough people are coming in from other countries because of the world wide famine and Egypt rose in power and might.

Joseph is able also at that time to deliver his family, his father and all his brothers and they come into Egypt and they are delivered.

⁷ Revelation 16:8-9.

And so we look at that and there are many theologians that liken this to the seven years of Tribulation when they read Genesis chapter 40. The Jews are delivered. They had seven years of plenty, but now in this famine they are delivered and they are all rejoicing that they are delivered.

Now listen to this. Daniel chapter eight verse 25.

“And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.”⁸

Now God works in sevens in judgment. You read through the book of Revelation and you see seven this, seven that, seven this, seven that throughout the Revelation. God works in sevens. So here they are. Seven good years. Can you see this possibility, that a world leader that the Bible calls him the antichrist, calls him the beast? And, as I said last week, about 20 to 30 other names the Bible refers to him.

What the world will call him I do not know. That is not revealed. But we do know this. He rises up on the white horse that he rides in Revelation chapter six. He has a bow with no arrows which is a symbol of going out and establishing peace around the world without war.

This guy grows to power. He causes craft to prosper. It is such that Israel takes down their walls.

I believe it is during that time, that seven year time that that is the case, that a temple is built on the mount.

Joseph in type, although a negative type, is a type in that respect of the antichrist when the antichrist is able to get power and get the Jews to trust him. Remember how Joseph had a problem at first getting his family to trust that he was the guy? But they are delivered just like the 144,000 are delivered near the Tribulation.

And so it is possible that there is a group that believes in him so strongly that he sets this covenant up with Israel, the temple is built and they trust him so much that when he comes in to Israel at the mid part of the tribulation an image is set up of him, especially after he has been wounded. The Bible says his head was wounded. And it is as if he was raised from the dead. And the world wonders after him, worships him and he sets himself up to be worshipped in Jerusalem.

Now, I say that because we always use seven years of famine in Egypt as a symbol of the tribulation. But my question always comes back to my mind. If that is the case and if that is symbolic of that, why would only half of the dream be symbolic? Why would not the whole dream be symbolic?

⁸ Daniel 8:25.

And that is only an idea of how these things come together so that the antichrist can get Israel to pull down its walls, its defenses and they get to build their temple on the temple mount.

Now as people from all over came to Egypt for food in the coming Tribulation, they are coming for sustenance of some kind. We look closer at the coalition of the kings of the East, as they come together. Many think that China holds all the cards today against the US and as a result of the loans that we have from them that they hold all the cards. But listen to this that I have also from the news wire.

It says China's amount is less than seven percent of our total national debt. We are China's biggest market. If the Chinese couldn't sell their products here, they would have massive economic problems and civil unrest. It is a two way street and we have more leverage than we believe and realize.

The reality is that it is virtually inevitable that our nations will be at loggerheads. The Chinese are signaling every day that they intend to make the Pacific into a Chinese lake. And they are ramping up military spending on weapons designed solely to challenge the US military superiority in the sea.

We have tremendous interests in many allies in the Pacific, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Australia. And any president who abandons the region to the Chinese would be seriously injuring America's national interest.

But if he does that, then he will have to reach inward with oil drilling which we covered last week in a Monroe Doctrine sort of philosophy.

Now many elites tell us that China's tremendous growth will make it a world super power in the years ahead. However, it is interesting to me that I have been told that when our young men now enroll at West Point that they are not told that you need to really work on learning these languages of the Mideast. Now it is the Far East because for the next 10 years that is where our problems are going to be.

China's Communist part, central committee, in October of 2010 presented a five point plan to boost relations with India, basically dealing with economic and trade cooperation. They have these meetings now. What are they doing? They are building a coalition.

Now, not like what it is going to be in the Tribulation, but we are seeing the baby steps of a coalition among the kings of the East even in this day.

Many of these countries meet together even with Japan, one of China's biggest competitors. Years ago in 1950s—and many of you remember this that were alive back then—we, the big joke was about made in Japan. Nippy little trinkets and things like that and we would say, "Well, that is... you can buy that cheap. It was made in Japan."

And now they are saying that about China. You can buy that cheap because it was made in China. And so you have that going on and now you have these things working against one another.

We have not been strong allies for our friends there whether it is Taiwan or Japan, Korea. We are not as strong allies as we once were. We are still allies, but now Japan sees its need and they are building a great navy as well as now they have satellite communications in the sky with military capabilities.

The USA's navy is superior to China's and it is the greatest navy in the world. And right now it controls the seas around China.

It is interesting. Brother Ron Baker is a retired naval officer here in our church. I one day emailed to him the positions of all of our ships around the world.

He said, "How did you get that? That was top secret when I was an officer."

Well, we have all the satellites and now everybody can see it. And they know where they are.

I believe that as we see inflation coming on—as a matter of fact Stratford reports that as well—that these nations are building a stronger coalition.

As Japan and others found out, we are not always there for them, so a good coalition of the armies would be 200 million.

Now understand. China could field an army of 200 million right now by itself. However, in the Tribulation when they get near to the end, over half the world's population has died. So they are going to need a coalition to be able to field 200 million and as they make their march across the East heading towards the West towards Israel, they will kill many, anything that gets in their way.

Right now China does much espionage in the United States. Most of it is industrial. It wants to be a leader in technology development. It wants to expand its military with hardware of our computers that they are able to retrieve.

As a matter of fact, I just read this week where another Chinese officer has been arrested for espionage and trying to get into our computers.

Since 2008 seven cases each year of espionage against agents for China are prosecuted in the United States. Some believe they want to get our technology for our F-35 joint strike fighter. Many believe that they have already gotten some for their J-20 fifth generation fighter. They don't have near what we have in the development, for an example, of stealth, but they are expanding their technological weaponry.

They are depending less on manpower as they have in the past as they develop these weapons. Their goal would be to have so many fighters that although our navy has superiority there would be so many there that they would be overwhelmed by sheer numbers.

So as America develops a libertarian type society we will move our men from those areas and we will drop the death. With our own military equipment and superior weaponry, they don't want to come after us, although we would have oil and resources.

So as you go to the period near the end of the Tribulation why are they on this march? China right now imports half its oil and iron. They import over 70 percent of its copper. There have been discoveries in their country of these things. However, the conception far outpaces what they have.

That is why North Korea tried to build a nuclear plant to help build bombs in Syria here a couple of years ago and Israel blew it up. It is because of that recognition of the need they have.

I preached the sermons, I told you, last year, September fifth, 2010, a 3500 year old prophecy coming true where it saw oil and gas on sea and land that was discovered in Israel to become a supplier. And since that sermon they have also made another discovery as big. And so that is growing.

So antichrist sets up a peace with Israel. He takes credit for the defeat of Russia and all her allies that moved against Israel at the beginning of the Tribulation. And this leader whom, as I said earlier, is a Jew of the tribe of Dan, sets up an image in the temple. He demands worship. And there is no buying, there is no selling, there is no trade without his mark. It will not be a Far Eastern currency. It will be a European currency that will be the currency of the world.

And with all of this oil under his control, he can bring the world under his power. China, the kings of the East, they don't want that, so they are marching. They are marching for over a year towards this Armageddon valley, one of the most fertile lands in the world as far as farming is concerned. It provides for food and oil.

144,000 thousand Jews escape his hand of this antichrist we learn in Revelation seven and Revelation 14. But many of them die. In this war two-thirds of Jerusalem falls. Then Christ returns.

As the world sees Christ returning in the air the earth's armies that are gathered there to fight one another suddenly join forces to fight against the King of kings, but he that spoke the world into existence is also the one that will speak destruction. And the blood will flow to the horse's bridle we are told for a space of 1600 furlongs, up to nearly 200 miles.

Now the point of all this is this. In a prior sermon we looked at the Russian coalition. We saw that the nations that the Bible predicts in Ezekiel 38 all the nations that are lining up

with them are lined up with them. They are lined up now with them. And they come against Israel and they are soundly defeated. The hand of God defeats them, but the antichrist will take credit for it.

Last week we considered the United States and its position. When our politics seem to be leaning more towards lets do our own thing here and let the world alone around there. And now we see developing in our lifetime.

You guys that were involved in World War II, you guys that fought in Korea didn't see this. Even those that fought in my generation in Vietnam, you didn't see this. But the kings of the East are coming together. They are not there now, but the baby steps, the beginnings of it are coming together right now.

Christian, seeing that these things are going to come to pass, the Bible asks you a question in 2 Peter three.

“What manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness?”⁹

What kind of a Christian should you be? Your life should be holy. It should be godly.

So often we have revival meetings and the number one verse, 2 Chronicles 7:14.

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, [what does he say?] and turn from their wicked ways.”¹⁰ Repent.

Do you know what? We always say that, but we never identify wicked ways and sin. And this world today, its idea of turning is that, well you just don't do abortions and you are not a homosexual. And if you turn from that then that is good.

Some people can't turn from them because they haven't been there. There is far more in this world today has a church that is so ungodly, that is so worldly with its rocking and rolling, its undress and its lack of standards, its hatred of holiness, its attack on those that would preach the Word. And, my friend, let me tell you something. You stand true. Paul told the people even back in Acts chapter 15 he says, “those that stand” and I am paraphrasing. “Those that stand find that the kingdom of God comes with tribulation, with trials, with problems.

See, our reward is not here. Our reward is to come. It is coming.

Let me also say this. Be sure you are saved. The Bible is accurate and true. Prophecies made 2000 years ago are coming to pass. Think of those prophecies when Jesus Christ walked on the earth. Prophecies had been made of him as much as 2000 years earlier, coming true all of the sudden, all of them happening.

⁹ 2 Peter 3:11.

¹⁰ 2 Chronicles 7:14.

My friend, we are seeing it come true today. If the Rapture takes place today—and there is nothing to keep the Rapture from happening today—you are left behind and being left behind, not saved, you won't have a chance to get saved, because you had a chance in this life and you wouldn't do it.

My friend, before you walk out of this auditorium today make sure you know that you are saved.

Let's bow our heads please.

Father, I pray for those who have raised their hand to say, "I am not saved." I pray that they might come and receive Christ as their Savior today. I pray for Christians, Lord, that their life is not holy and acceptable unto Christ. If he came today they would be ashamed. And, Lord, I pray that they would come to this altar and repent of their sin and give their all to Christ as a Christian and live their remaining days for his glory. And we would ask this in Jesus Christ's precious and holy name. Amen.