

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.***

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

#05-1117

Kings from the East on the March

January 17, 2011

Is there any doubt that we are living in the last hour of the last days? Only God knows how much time we have left before the final hammer comes down on this wicked and adulterous generation to bring our present evil age [eon] to its rightful and deserved end.

I know when some read things like this, they immediately cry: "Doomsayer!" However, nothing could be further from the truth. The end of this age means the beginning of a new age in which true righteousness, justice, and peace will prevail, **for when the earth experiences Your judgments the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness** (Isaiah 26:9 NASB).

God's judgment is to lead people to righteousness. Today, the nations want nothing to do with God and His righteousness. Look at where this ungodly attitude has led the world! The world needs **the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, the kingdom of the Son of His love**, in order to know and experience the love of God manifested through righteous and just government.

Surely, the knowledge and glory of God coming to the nations is something to rejoice over. It is truly the good news of the kingdom, **for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea** (Isaiah 11:9 NASB) and **will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea** (Habakkuk 2:14 NASB).

Well, this is not what this issue is about; nevertheless, as we consider the shaking and uncertainty of our day, we need to keep the kingdom in view. Do not be persuaded otherwise; **the King of kings and Lord of lords** is coming soon.

Now, speaking of kings, in his Patmos vision, John the apostle heard the loud voice from the temple command the seven angels to pour out the seven bowls of the wrath of God on the earth (Revelation 16:1). When the sixth angel poured out the sixth bowl of wrath, we read that it involved the Euphrates River and the kings from the east.

The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east. (Revelation 16:12 NASB)

I realize that many have been writing and continue to write on this particular verse as a literal event that will take place in the future with the sounding of the sixth trumpet. As the thinking goes, at this time, China and other Asian nations will come against the state of Israel with a million-man army that will lead to a third of mankind being killed by three plagues.

The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. (Revelation 9:16 NASB)

Whether this or some variation of it will occur in the near future, I leave for the speculation of others.

Of interest to me is what Revelation 16:12 might signify. Is it being manifested in some manner in our day, not in the literal sense but in the figurative? I submit that it could be.

First, the **Euphrates River** signifies **fruitfulness**. *The Book of Bible Proper Names* by C.A. Potts (Bible Truth Publishers, 1981) defines the name *Euphrates* as "flowing of waters; the good and abounding river; fruitfulness; inexhaustible."

This abounding river being **dried up** could signify a drying up of fruitfulness or a state of **fruitlessness**. **Kings** signify **leaders of nations**. Since the kings come from the east, the river could also signify the nations that lie beyond to the **west**, which in turn could signify **the kings or leaders of the west**. The west could signify more than just the nations to the immediate west of the Euphrates but, in a much

more general sense, the nations of the west or the **western nations**, as they are called, which include Europe, the UK, Canada, and the US, as well as other developed nations that are aligned with them economically, militarily, culturally, and historically.

All together these things could signify leaders of nations residing to the east of the Euphrates coming against leaders of the nations of the west when the western nations have lost or are losing their fruitfulness, that is, are less productive than they once were. It could even mean that their economies are in shambles or on the brink of bankruptcy and collapse. Does this have a familiar ring to it?

What nations of the east, especially those with nuclear weaponry, might have their sights set on the west? They include China, North Korea, Pakistan, and Iran, which is trying to develop nuclear capability or perhaps acquire it. There are others in the east like India, Japan, and South Korea, but, at this point in time, it appears that they are aligned with the west.

Of the four nations, the most formidable one, economically, financially, and militarily is, without any doubt, China. What should catch our attention is how aggressive China has been and is growingly so on the world front, and they are doing this at a time when the west has been and continues to be struggling economically with huge mounds of debt. It is fair to say that the west is not the driving engine of the world economy as it once was. The fruitfulness of the western nations is drying up.

But consider China of late. As I scan the news, I find it quite amazing how much news is coming out of China. On the financial front, we know that they are the largest creditor of America's debt. In fact, the US has become a debtor to China. We have failed to heed Solomon's wisdom and are now in grave danger of becoming a slave to China: **The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender's slave** (Proverbs 22:7 NASB). The fact of the matter is that we have lost much of our bargaining power with China due to our indebtedness to them. They are striving, along with Russia and others, to replace the US dollar as the **world reserve currency**. Just this last week the Bank of China began allowing US customers to trade the Chinese yuan (renminbi). On January 3, 2011, it was reported that China is going to buy Spanish public debt to help them out of their recession. On January 5, 2011, it was reported that the World Bank issued its first yuan bonds in Hong Kong. The World Bank, which provides low-interest loans and assistance to developing countries, has given voting power to China, making it the third-biggest voting power of the World Bank, behind the US and Japan.

On the military front, on January 5, 2011, it was reported that China has developed a prototype stealth fighter jet. Supposedly, they are also working on high-tech spy technology and weaponry to take out any surface war vessels in the Pacific region. China's Defense Minister stated: "In the coming five years, our military will push forward preparations for military conflict in every strategic direction." News captions stated: **"China prepares for war 'in all directions.'" Why? Why are they doing this when they are such an economic powerhouse? There is only one explanation. The kings of the east are on the march; they have crossed the dried up, fruitless Euphrates, and are seeking to overtake the west on all fronts.** If this trend continues, they will be the world superpower holding many of the cards.

We need to keep in mind the word of the Lord about what will take place at the end of the age. God will send a strong delusion, a working of evil on the lawless, that is, those who reject God's law. They will be deceived into taking a course of action that will ultimately lead to their end.

(8) Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; (9) that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, (10) and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. (11) For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, (12) in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. (2 Thessalonians 2:8-12 NASB)

I believe that this day has begun. China and other eastern nations, including Russia, will be deceived into thinking they can rule the world. But be assured; the **Kingdom of our Lord** is right on their heels. **Jesus, the Son of God and the King of kings and Lord of lords, wins!** God declares to the nations: **"I have installed My King, My Son, upon Zion, My holy mountain** (i.e., His throne and kingdom)."