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#25: Army from the East

The SEVEN Trumpets Sound: #6--Army from the East

“Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, ‘Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.’ And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind. The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: the riders had breastplates the color of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone. A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which proceeded out of their mouths. For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm. The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts” (Rev. 9:13-21).

After five months of torment and torture, there are new developments on the horizon. As we look to the East, we find 200,000,000 soldiers mounted for battle. Yes, that is 200 million. What are they about to do? Who are their enemies? Let us first look at the angels who have been posted at the great river Euphrates (in Iraq), since God closed the gate behind Adam and Eve after they were chased out of the Garden.

“So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life” (Gen. 3:24).

We need to review some Hebrew facts. In the tabernacle of old, there were two altars. The *brazen* (bronze) *altar* (mentioned six times in the book of Revelation) stood in the courtyard outside of the tabernacle. Blood was regularly shed on the brazen altar--pointing to the Cross and the shed blood of Jesus.

Referred to twice in the book of Revelation, the *golden altar* (or altar of incense) stood inside of the Holy of Holies (place of God), directly in front of the veil separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place (the Holy of Holies). Each day, morning, and evening (except on the Day of Atonement), incense was burned before the Holy of Holies on the golden altar. But on the Day of Atonement, the blood of the sin offering was sprinkled on the four golden horns of the golden altar—pointing to Jesus’ one-time sacrifice, once and for all.

In verse 13 of our passage, we learn, *“I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God.”* In keeping with comparing spiritual things with spiritual things, we know that the blood poured over the four horns is the symbol of the sacrificial blood of Jesus. Thus, we know the voice is none other than the voice of our Savior. The incense burning before the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle of old is the holy symbol of prayers of the Saints. Anytime we read about incense, know that it can safely be translated to meaning prayers. Now we can visually see in our minds’ eye that Jesus surrounds us with His voice before the throne of the Father.

In verse 14, we learn that this voice (the voice of Christ) releases the four angels who have been bound at the river Euphrates. Keep in mind that these angels have been posted and waiting new orders since the days of Adam and Eve. They had been ordained and prepared for the very hour, day, month, and year. These angels are ordered to release the human and satanic instruments of destruction and judgment. Talk about sovereignty! (**Note:** these are *not* the same four angels stated in Revelation 7:1-3, which stand on the four corners of the earth-- North, South, East, and West.)

The river Euphrates is mentioned only twice in Revelation (9:14 and 16:12). The river is about 1,780 miles long. The Nile River and the river Euphrates form the borders of the Promised Land--the holy land God gave to Abraham (Gen. 15:18). I, as well as many others, believe these boundaries are the original boundaries of the Garden of Eden, giving sound reason why angels were posted at the four ends of both rivers.

These angels are prepared to carry out their new orders: *“they would kill a third of mankind.”* How might you ask? They make practical use of an army from the East (three views), which happen to house 200 million soldiers readied for battle.

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

This obviously is the largest number of battle-ready soldiers in the history of war to this very day, and most likely will be to that appointed day, as well.

View One:

These warriors come from the bottomless pit. This particular view is adopted by some theologians because of the nature of their description-- *“the riders had breastplates the color of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone.”* I certainly am not going to say this isn’t the proper view of this passage, but I will say it is doubtful. Out of the hundreds of hours I have spent pouring over the book of Revelation, I have found that John attempts to describe things, futuristic things, in a vocabulary only known to the dating of his writings. Can you imagine attempting to describe something you see in AD 4,000? Hmm...it might be a little challenging. Therefore, there is a possibility that *“breastplates the color of fire...”* could be anything from demonic breastplates, to a tank that has not even been designed yet. The *“heads of the horses are like the heads of lions”* could be demonic beings, or a simple description of the rotating head of a sophisticated tank. *“Out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and*

brimstone” might be a demon expressing itself, or a tank’s rotating head (called the “*head of a lion*”) attached to a cannon. The possibilities certainly create curiosity.

View Two:

View number two is very popular with the early theologians, particularly of the East. This view strongly supports the continuous history of the lineage of the descendants of Ishmael--the Muslims (Islamic Nation). Most world historians, including myself, believe the Muslims will have a handle on “world power” in the end-times. It is believed that in the final battle, there will be two final players (three if include God Himself is included)--descendants of Ishmael (Muslims), descendants of Isaac (Hebrew/Jews), and the powers of heaven. There is strong biblical, cultural, and historical evidence to this view. The only confusion appears to be that when the “people of the Far East” have been traced, what has been discovered is a group of people called “Sinim” (Isaiah 49:12). The Hebrew word “Sinim” translates as Ch(s)ina” from pictorial Hebrew and pictorial Chinese. BUT, theologians of this mindset believe that “Sinim” are the people of Phoenicia (Gen. 10:17) or modern day Syria and Turkey (land of the battle of Armageddon, the SEVEN Churches, and the headquarters to the Muslim people). Therefore, this view maintains a great deal of biblical, historical, and eschatological evidence.

Here is another interesting point: The colors of the Turks are scarlet, blue, and yellow--the colors of fire (*breastplates the color of fire*). The Turkish armies of the Mahomedan (Islamic) empire have always been vast and great, so it is certain they will play a significant part in the end-times. The “horses being fierce like lions” and “eager to rush into the battle” are all adjectives that have been used to describe the historical elements of Muslim warriors. Their artillery (by which they made such a global slaughter) was described as by fire, smoke, and brimstone coming forth out of the mouths of their horses. Many researchers believe these to be an attempt to describe great guns and weapons of a future we have not yet seen.

View Three:

View number three is popular among the Western theologians, particularly in America. This point of view strongly considers China to be the hosting ground to the 200 million warriors. Here’s an interesting piece of trivia that will give us perspective on this many soldiers: It is estimated that if 200 million soldiers lined up with outstretched arms along the western border of China, the stretch would span from the most southern tip to the most northern tip.

Let me explain a little Chinese history. Most Americans view China as the country that produces cheap plastic products for our American children. I can assure you that they are much more than toy makers in the “post-modern” world. It is true that China started out mastering the art of plastic ware, but that was just to get their foot into the global marketplace. It is estimated that China is the sole producer of 70% of the products in the very room you are sitting in while reading this lesson, proving China’s claim of controlling at least 70% of the global marketplace--a spot once held by former superpower, America.

There is more in the Bible about China as a nation and a people than most of us realize. The Sixth Trumpet exposition is a good time to review the details of China’s role in the continuous history of the end-times. We need to look at both biblical and historical evidence to see who the Chinese people are and how important they will soon become in matters dealing with the

prophecies of the end-times. There is one prophetic role for China most people know nothing about. I consider it to be one of the “sleeping prophecies” in the Bible.

Fact One: As of May of 2009, China is the most populated country on the face of the earth, with approximately 1.3 billion people. This means 1 out of 5 people alive today reside in China—that’s 20% of all men, women, and children alive on earth today. To give us perspective: by 2050, China will dominate 59.1% of the world’s population. America, at its present rate, will consume 4.4%. In fact, all countries will be under 14.5%, except China. China also procreates more males than all other countries joined together, unless we count the “Islamic Nation,” which is not far behind. These are not statistics we should take lightly--God doesn’t. We might be wise to keep in mind the old adage that “*figures / numbers never lie.*”

Fact Two: Due to China’s aggressive production plan, within a few years the total gross national product of China shall exceed that of the United States and Europe in everything from fuel to salt shakers. China has a firm belief that *the one who controls the food-line, controls the world.* Go ahead; ask a local educated farmer who is buying up most of their grain, and in many cases, their land. Even our own President (Obama) learned the first week in office, sitting at a G-20 conference table, that America has been reduced to one vote, while China presently carries 6 votes in making decisions in all governing global affairs. I believe the Bible talks about *being in debt to no man*, because the one you are indebted to is the one who becomes your master (see Prov. 22:7). For those of you who are unaware, America is presently in debt to China to the tune of 12 *trillion* dollars. That’s 12 zeroes!! If current trends continue, China will not only be the most economically powerful nation on earth, it will be a major political power. It has been stated by global strategists that this movement will soon drive the Islamic Nation to war.

Fact Three: When we attempt to find the religious, political, and culture bloodline of humans, it is easily determined by Noah’s Table of Nations. All humans come from one of three sons of Noah--Japheth, Shem, or Ham. Let’s take a look at a few simple facts:

Japheth: (Yellow Skin) - “Japheth” means “enlargement” and prophetically signifies that Japheth’s descendants would become an enlarged population on earth. They would become a people who would master the political advantages connected to population growth, much more than the descendants of Ham or Shem. Without doubt, the people of China and their neighbors are parts of what we generally call the “yellow races”--considered to be the most populous of the nations. This meaning of Japheth’s name is the first evidence that the patriarch Japheth and his descendants describe the patriarchal origin of the Chinese people.

Ham: (Dark Skin) -The second and cursed son of Noah is responsible for the Ethiopians (forefathers of the Arabs), Egyptians (forefathers of the Philistines), Libyans, and Palestinians (forefathers of the Muslims). All are considered to be the descendants of Ishmael (illegitimate son of Abraham) by way of his Egyptian mother (Hagar). Ham’s descendants are considered to be the forefathers of the “darker race”--the people who form the Muslim (Islamic) nation we know today.

Shem (Olive and White Skin) – Shem is the third and most blessed of the sons of Noah. From his seed come the descendants of Abraham, by way of Isaac--the Israelites. Also, from his lineage are the Hebrew-believing Arabs, the Mediterraneans (Europeans), and ultimately, the “white and olive colored people” of the new Western worlds.

Originally, there was a mandate from God not to intermarry. But, as usual, mankind didn't listen. Now, our bloodlines are so mixed that we almost have one race--a madness Satan uses to build his case for global sameness. But thanks to Noah's Table of Nations, we can safely track the “yellow race” --the Japhetic camp.

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