



March 2008

In the News

China Arms Buildup "Alarming"

China is using billions of American trade dollars to modernize its military force - from purchasing foreign weapons systems and technologies to building its own ships, planes and missiles - a top lawmaker told his colleagues.

As top US military officials questioned China's intentions in expanding its military last week, ranking House Armed Services Committee member Rep. Duncan Hunter, California Republican, said the reality is that "China is stepping into the superpower shoes left behind by the former Soviet Union."

"China is increasing its production and acquisition of military technology at an alarming rate, and they are doing it with American trade dollars," he added.

Hezbollah Chief: We are preparing for war with Israel in the coming months

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said Friday that operatives within Lebanon were preparing for a new war with Israel in the coming months.

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Joel 2:1



The Midnight Hour

The prophetic end-time scenario continues to develop. The fanatical determination to destroy Israel has reached a fever pitch. The EU is developing along the lines predicted in the prophetic Scriptures. World government is looming larger and larger on the horizon. America's power is receding in accord with the last days' scenario. Moral decline has reached free-fall status. Persecution of Christians is unprecedented, even by first century standards. Apostasy in the church has now arrived at the proportions Paul warned about for the last days. The last days' scene Jesus painted, earthquakes, pandemic diseases, warnings of insufficient food production which could bring wide-scale famine along with wars and rumours of wars are now present with us.

I know I sound like a broken record, or more currently a scratched CD, but my friends, the message is that the signs of our Lord's soon coming are overwhelming us. Paul, in speaking about the Day of the Lord, taught that there would come a generation who would see the signs of the approaching Day of the Lord. "But ye brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief." 1 Thess. 5:4. **We are that generation!**

As I understand the way the Day of the Lord scenario will unfold, the church must first be raptured (2 Thess. 2:1-3). The peace treaty will be signed under the sponsorship of antichrist, the head of the RRE (the EU). Very early in the tribulation period the war of Ezekiel 38 & 39 will take place. During that war Russia and Islam will be very near

annihilation. That will leave only antichrist standing. He will have the only army, west of China, and he will have the mid-east oil.

The Scripture does not reveal clearly what will happen prior to the tribulation period. We have some clues from Scripture and we have some scenarios unfolding today.

It seems almost inevitable that there will be a nuclear exchange of some kind.

Iran is very near to obtaining nuclear weapons. If poor countries like Pakistan and North Korea could do it, it seems unreasonable to believe that a rich country like Iran can not do it.

A news item on February 21, 2008 said that the US was alarmed by mounting evidence that North Korea gave nuclear assistance to Syria. Iran and Syria could develop nuclear weapons or buy them from rogue states like Pakistan or North Korea, or obtain them from Russia.

The level of hatred by Iran and Syria toward Israel is beyond comprehension, it reflects the hatred of Satan toward Israel.

Listen to Ahmadinejad in recent remarks about Israel. "World powers have created a black and dirty microbe named Israel." He has repeatedly declared that Israel is doomed and soon to disappear. Syrian hatred for Israel is just as intense, though less verbal.

Israel, on the other hand, has a policy called the "Samson Option". It is named after Samson who sacrificed himself to destroy his enemies. In the event of Israel's imminent destruction, it would launch its nuclear weapons to destroy its enemies.

It is now obvious that Syria is totally committed to utterly destroy Israel. The capital of Syria is Damascus; the Bible has some ominous words for Damascus.

Isaiah says, "The burden of Damascus. Behold Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap." Isaiah 17:1

Damascus is the oldest city on earth, though it has been conquered many times, it has never been destroyed, but has remained in tact until this day.

The timing of the destruction of Damascus is revealed in verse 4, at a time when Israel is greatly threatened and is reduced to a state of peril and fear. That could be the scenario of Hamas, Hezbollah and Syria attacking Israel with thousands of missiles.

Another indication of the timing of this attack is implied in Ezekiel 38 &

39. The fact is that although Syria is now closely allied with Russia and Iran, yet Syria is not mentioned as being a part of that war, implying that the destruction of Damascus may well be imminent.

It is obvious that Syria, with the help of Iran, Russia and North Korea, is preparing an arsenal of biological and possibly nuclear weapons to destroy Israel. I believe the moment Israeli Intelligence is alerted to such an imminent attack they will exercise the "Samson Option".

Israel has low yield weapons which give a minimum of radio active fallout. These weapons could be used with pinpoint accuracy.

The whole scenario is falling into place. It is amazing how after 2,800 years Isaiah's prophecy seems about to be fulfilled.

Israel may use nuclear weapons to destroy Iran's nuclear potential but a full scale nuclear war by Iran does not fit into the end time Biblical scenario, nevertheless the whole Mid-east crisis is rushing toward some kind of cataclysmic event which would finally set up the world for a peace treaty, even though it will be a false peace, by a false Messiah.

We do not know all of the details for the events which lie ahead, but these are awesome, momentous days in which we live.



Separation from Apostasy

When our Lord returned to heaven He instituted the church on earth. The church is comprised of "called out ones", those who are called out of the world to be Heaven's representatives on earth. The church, corporately, and through each individual believer, is to reflect the holy character of Christ the head of the church and to declare the truth of God's Word.

The Prince of Darkness has other plans. He sought from the beginning to hinder the church by contaminating it with unholy people and unholy doctrine.

Very early, even in the first century, the Devil was successful in his attacks on the church. His goal was, and still is, to cause the believer and the church to become apostate. Apostasy is a falling away, a departure from the truth of God's Word. It involves wrong beliefs (doctrine) and as a result wrong practices.

Five of the first century churches of Asia Minor fell away, became apostate (Rev 2 & 3). As a result of that apostasy, those churches lost their testimonies and were terminated from the earth by our Lord. Apostasy ultimately brings about the termination of a church.

Apostasy was the primary issue of the first century church, apostasy has always been the primary issue of the church. Apostasy is the primary issue of the church today.

Theoretically, if the churches of the first four or five centuries had not become apostate, the world may well have been evangelized 1,500 years ago.

If a church does not become apostate, it will be blessed of God. It will grow strong and souls will be saved. Its love for Christ will grow (John 14:21), and God will be glorified in the church.

The **mission** of the church is evangelism, to bring the gospel to a lost world. However, the **priority** of the church is not evangelism. The priority of the church is the Apostles Doctrine, to know it, to believe it to practice it.

Out of obedience to the priority of sound doctrine, the mission of the church (and the individual) will be accomplished, souls will be saved and effective evangelism will take place.

New Evangelicals have seriously erred here. The issue is not Evangelism, not church growth, not methods and programs, not nickels and noses. The issue is sound doctrine. Out of sound doctrine will come an understanding of what the church is to be, what it is to be doing and how it is to be done.

In the environment of sound doctrine, God will move by His Spirit, souls will be saved, the church will be blessed and Christ will be glorified.

There has always been a remnant of believers who have sought to maintain purity of doctrine, purity of life and separation from Apostasy.

In the first 50 years of the 20th century the lines were clearly drawn. There were two sides, Liberals and Fundamentalists. There was no deception and no compromise and the true church was never stronger.

The Liberals denied the fundamentals of the faith. The Fundamentalists held firmly to them. In the 1950's something happened which totally changed the whole situation. Ecumenical Evangelism began and turned black and white into gray. As the two sides rubbed shoulders, the clear lines of distinction were smudged.

Out of that situation there arose New Evangelicalism. This group wished to disassociate themselves from the Fundamentalists. They ceased to contend for, to battle for, sound doctrine. The earnest contending for sound doctrine by the Fundamentalists was an embarrassment to the New Evangelicals.

Instead of confronting Liberals, they began to dialogue with them. From that point forward, the Evangelical church compromised an inch at a time. Today, the Evangelical church is a mile from where it ought to be. Almost everyone decries the mile but few are willing to contend for the inch. We have had 50 years of small compromises, each one seemingly too small to contend.

Jude said we are to "earnestly contend for the faith" (sound doctrine). We have failed to do this and sadly

many who call themselves Fundamentalists have also compromised.

We need to understand that what we believe determines how we act and live and how we serve the Lord. Out of the loss of a clear understanding of what the Scriptures teach regarding what the church is to be and what the church is to do, has arisen the apostasy of the Church Growth Movement, the Seeker Friendly Church, The Purpose Driven Church and the Emergent Church.

These churches have turned away from what the Lord of the church has clearly taught regarding what the church is to be, to do and how it is to be done. These movements are the natural product of New Evangelicalism.

This turning away is absolute apostasy and God's people need to recognize and reject this apostasy for the error it is and separate from it.

The issue is not whether those involved in apostasy are actually brothers and sisters in Christ. The Scripture teaches we are to separate from disobedient believers.

What is Fundamentalism?

Fundamentalism is the militant belief and the proclamation of the basic doctrines of Christianity leading to scriptural separation from those who reject them.

1. Militant Belief – the teachings of God's Word are vitally important and we must hold them with conviction.
2. Proclamation – the doctrines are not only to be believed but to be preached to the church and to the lost.
3. Separation – to fail to separate from apostasy is to deny the authority and the importance of God's Word, truth is not optional.

What is New Evangelicalism?

The man who first used the term and founded New Evangelicalism defines it for us. Dr. Harold Ocenga said

"New evangelicalism was born in 1948 in connection with a convocation address which I gave in the Civic Auditorium in Pasadena. While reaffirming the theological view of fundamentalism, this address repudiated its ecclesiology and its social theory. The ringing call for a repudiation of separatism and the summons to social involvement received a hearty response from many evangelicals ... It differed from fundamentalism in its repudiation of separation and its determination to engage itself in the theological dialogue of the day."

New Evangelicalism declares itself to be different in three basic ways.

1. It repudiates separatism. This contradicts the clear teaching of God's Word.
2. It is committed to the social gospel. This is a serious difference with the Apostles doctrine.
3. It is committed to dialoguing with liberals. This now includes both Catholics and Muslims.

The Contrast

The Fundamentalists say, "I believe in and will practice separation from apostasy". The New Evangelicals say "I do not believe in and will not practice separation from apostasy". They say "we will not come out; we will sit down and talk".

The watchwords of the Fundamentalists are "Be not unequally yoked", "come out from among them", "be ye separate", "touch not the unclean thing", "have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness".

The watchwords of the New Evangelicals are "stay in", "associate", "infiltrate", "dialogue".

Only the first set of watchwords is scriptural.

In the last 50 years New Evangelicalism has swept over the church. The church has never been weaker than it is today, regardless of any great crowds or great programs.

The following chart by Thom S Rainer demonstrates the decline associated with New Evangelicalism.

The following texts show this principle. Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 5:11. The issues may vary but the principle of separation is clearly set forth in these and other Scriptures.

One of the reasons for separation from brothers or sisters in Christ is their failure to hold to sound doctrine. 2 Thess. 3:6, Rom. 16:17. False doctrine and wrong practice will destroy the church and must be isolated in order to preserve the church. "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" Galatians 5:9. "Beware of the leaven (false doctrine) of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees" Matthew 16:6.

In order to preserve the church it is necessary to separate from those who are involved in apostasy even if they are our brothers and sisters in Christ. When we get to heaven, if those we separate from are truly believers, wrongs will be made right and we will be restored to fellowship with them. Nevertheless, in order to be obedient to the Lord and His Word, we need to separate from apostasy now.

Estimated Proportion of Each Generation Professing Faith in Christ		
Generation Name	Birth Years	Percent
Builders	1910-1945	65%
Boomers	1946-1964	35%
Busters	1965-1976	15%
Bridgers	1977-1994	4%
Post Modern	1995-????	?

The apostasy of New Evangelicals has brought the world into the church and it has literally destroyed the church.

To a world bent on social unity and moral laxity, the cross stands as a divisive and humiliating obstacle. Attempts to minimize its offense through laws and intimidation have bullied both secular and church leaders into continual compromise. Public crosses are demolished or hidden; Bibles are forbidden in schools, the traditional days for celebrating the resurrection have been renamed "spring break" and countless corporations and government agencies ban cross-shaped pins or jewelry. Even Jesus Himself has become a popular target for media mockery and ridicule!

Results-driven churches and Christian colleges are marketing a new, more inclusive form of Christianity. Afraid to offend unbelievers, they present a watered-down version of the gospel that veils the significance of the cross. Trained to pursue self-esteem rather than self-surrender, few share Paul's delight in the source of our salvation.

A & B Kjos

THE TRIUMPH OF TRUTH

"If you believe Him for forgiveness, you must believe Him for deliverance. He who saves us from the guilt of sin can deliver us from the power of sin... He can cut the chains that bind him to his former master... He purchases us that He might possess us..."

If we want deliverance from the power of indwelling sin, we must rely in simplicity upon His Word, accepting without question what God says to us about it. We must still move in faith ...

The aim of the Lord involves two things: the praise of God and the perfecting of the believer, that is to say His glory and our glorification ...

He is prepared, for His glory and our good, to go all lengths with us. In occupying our vision with Christ, He seeks to show us what He desires our likeness to become. In this way, the more we behold Him the more we are prepared to endure that we might be conformed to His beauty...

When a person who believes God is put through harrowing experiences, God waits, as it were, to see whether that person will consider Him worthy of his trust to the bitter end. His glory in that circumstance is linked up with that man's faith. When faith triumphs in the sufficiency of God's grace, then God is glorified in the world ...

The entrustment (by God) of trial and discipline is one therefore of highest honour (to us). He dares to expose Himself, to see whether in the darkest hour we will really respond to Him who is invisible, more than to all the visible terror about us; to see whether we will love Him more than life and count His joy more to be grasped at than the moment's excitement of an apparent security."

In the News (cont...)

Netanyahu: Olmert planning to divide Jerusalem - Ynetnews 20Feb08

Aviram Zino - Opposition chairman says Olmert's government intends to divide capital, warns Jerusalem will become "Mecca of global terror" if Israel withdraws from eastern neighbourhoods.

State Official: Act against Iran before its too late - Ynetnews 22Feb08

Ynet learns Israel intends to demand UN Security Council assemble to debate third round of sanctions against Islamic Republic after release of IAEA report. "We hope IAEA (International Atomic Agency) is aware of the price the entire world may end up paying for its lenient approach towards Iran," says top Jerusalem official.

The New Plagues - Super bugs, TB, Leprosy and other pestilences are invading the US - WND 04Feb08

Americans have long taken the wonders of medical science for granted, watching as disease after disease has been conquered with antibiotics, vaccines, better nutrition and pharmaceutical "miracle drugs". But today, the magic isn't working and something scary is happening.

Thanks the overuse of antibiotics, IV drug use, self-destructive "immoral lifestyles", inadequate screening in immigration and other causes, long-"vanquished" illnesses are once again ravaging the US, puzzling scientists and terrifying millions of victims and their loved ones.



"The danger lies, at this time, in setting up theatricals, semi-theatricals, concerts, and so forth. Until I see that the Lord Jesus Christ has set up a theatre, or planned a miracle-play, I shall not think of emulating the stage or competing with the music-hall. If I mind my own business, by preaching the gospel, I shall have enough to do."

C.H Spurgeon

Striving for Numbers

"Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest ... think on these things."

Philippians 4:8

In Christian circles today, the church that can show an impressive quantitative growth is frankly envied and imitated by other ambitious churches.

Numbers, size and amounts seem to be very nearly all that matters - with a corresponding lack of emphasis on quality!

This is the age of the Laodicians. The great goddess, Numbers, is worshipped with fervent devotion and all things religious are brought before her for examination. Her Old Testament is the financial report and her New Testament is the membership roll. To these she appeals as the test of spiritual growth and the proof of success or failure in most Christian endeavors.

A little acquaintance with the Bible should show this up for the heresy it is. To judge anything spiritual by statistics is to judge by another then scriptural judgment. Yet this is being done every day by ministers, church boards and denominational leaders. And hardly anyone seems to notice the deep and dangerous error!

-A W Tozer - written over 50 years ago