

KINGS OF THE EAST

THE KOREAN PENINSULA CONFLICT

Prelude to the Battle of Armageddon

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'And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way [the road] of the Kings of the East might be prepared.'

-Revelation 16:12

The purpose of this study is to highlight several key and unique time and date properties related to the coming of the Kings of the East as portrayed in the book of Revelation. According to Biblical prophecy of the *End of Days*, a 200 million man army is to march across the span of Eurasia to reach the shore of the *Euphrates River* in Iraq. The end goal is not clear but that this army will decimate the world's population in the process that GOD is using this army for a spiritual purpose and judgment against the nations. An emphasis will be made on North Korea as it pertains to the history of the *Korean Conflict* and the current ramblings of a possible nuclear confrontation in the Korean Peninsula and with the USA. Geo-politically, perhaps these *Kings of the East* seek a foothold in the oil, mineral and natural gas rich Middle East, primarily Israel at that time and place.

It is not clear when this will occur if before the *Gog-Magog* invasion of Israel in Ezekiel 38 and 39 or just before the *Battle of Armageddon* as portrayed in the later part of the book of Revelation. Or it could be in conjunction with the *Battle of Armageddon* that is but a prelude to it. Most would agree in the later scenario as the LORD is seen gathering the nations to the *Valley of Megiddo* for a last and final showdown at His 2nd coming, that is the return of the King, Jesus Christ. The Bible states that this vast army will kill one-third of the world's population. If this calculation is figured based on the 7 billion people now in the world, then this would be a figure of 2.5 billion people that will face eventual death.

However, by this time, at least one-fourth of the world's population is already dead from the Seal Judgments of the of the book of Revelation. Thus, before this army marches towards Jerusalem, approximately 1 billion, 500 million people may have already died, leaving a world population of no more than 4.5 billion. Perhaps approximately 2 billion people will be killed by this army of the *Kings of the East*. In terms of the countries through which this army will pass from Asia, it might be interesting to note that such nations as India perhaps, with a population of slightly more than 1 billion will be one of those countries to suffer much devastation as it is in the path of the invasion from the *Land of the Rising Sun*. This is assuming India is not part of the make-up of the *Kings of the East* confederation. The trigger that might allure the *Kings of the East* may have to do with the true prophetic significance between the current disputes over Kashmir region.

The Preparations

This ancient funnel or path leads to the Middle East as it was part of the ancient *Silk Trade* routes to Jerusalem. What will be the precious commodity as silk was in ancient times will likewise in the *End of Days* be the natural resources that Israel will possess such as natural gas reserves and precious metals and minerals. If India begins to move her forces to meet the Chinese army in a military confrontation, then it is highly likely that China might retaliate with all the weapons of mass destruction at her disposal. India could be annihilated in such a preemptive strike by China that will most likely lead the Asian Princes of such nations as North Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, perhaps even Japan. Due to India's high concentration of people, it is not that far-fetched to conceive that up to a billion people could very well lose their lives in this apocalyptic scenario.

As it is, China and India are not at good terms due to border disputes. India in the past has sided and asked for Soviet and Russian help to counter-weight the balance of power in the region. A second variable is that the *New World Order* plans envision the complete annihilation of the world's religious people. In particular, altogether, about 3.5 billion people on Earth believe in one God, mainly the Christians, Jews and Muslims. Such stand in the way of ever accepting the claims of the 'New Age Christ' or AntiChrist as the Christians see it that will proclaim himself to be 'god' and demand worship as he initiates a 'cult of personality' and direct and undivided loyalty and obedience. But what is also interesting to note is that the distinction of who the AntiChrist will be differs between the Muslims and Christians; they are the mirror image of what is expected and who it is expected to be.

Many Biblical scholars allude to the scenario that the Muslim depiction of who the Messiah or *Mahdi*, the *12th Imam* is, is in actuality the AntiChrist of the Christians. Thus it will be critical to 'believe' and worship the true 'Messiah' as one's life will depend on it. If what the Bible depicts is true, then the Christian and Jewish Messiah, that is Jesus Christ will not be the chosen one during the *Tribulation Period*, otherwise Christian for one would not lose their heads for putting their faith in Christ Jesus during that time. Another obstacle for the Kings of the East might be Russia, especially the southern and central Asian republics. It is interesting to note that the majority of the population in Southern Russia is Muslim.

Such republics will most likely join the march against Jerusalem as this invasion of the 200 million man army from the "East", China in particular that will result in the deaths of one-third of all the people of the Earth that are alive at that time and place. The Bible foretells a time when this 200 million mass army will reach the banks of the *Euphrates River* in Iraq. The *Euphrates River* will be made to be dry up so that the army can cross over and advance toward Jerusalem. Prophetically, the Bible states that there are 4 demons stationed for this particular day and hour to do just that. Geo-politically, China may be acting to ensure that her access to the *Karahoram Pass* remains firmly in either her hands or in control of Pakistan's, India's natural enemy. China is the most likely candidate to be the leader or spearhead of such a conglomeration of the *Kings of the East* would most certainly enter the war with all weapons at her disposal.

The Trigger Points

The 'march' from the East is not to be confused with the invasion of *Gog-Magog* or the *Battle of Armageddon*. Perhaps this 'march' from the *Kings of the East* might be in conjunction to the *Battle of Armageddon* to some degree or fashion. The *Kings of the East* reference can be literally translated as those from where the rising of the Sun come from. To those discerning of times, the current rhetoric and the news of the day as it pertains to China and North Korea is molding exactly as foretold in Biblical prophecy. The current militarization of China and North Korea, coupled with the completion of nuclear testing and threats to use nuclear weapons against the United States is to be taken seriously by the West. The following is the North Korean rockets that can carry a nuclear device.

1. *Taepodong 2* 6,000 km Range
2. *Taepodong 1* 4,000 km Range
3. *Rodong 1* 1,300 km Range

With the untested new leadership and generation of Kim Jong il, the military of North Korea is probing for vulnerabilities in the US-South Korean alliance specifically. Neighboring states, aside from South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan are on edge due to the North Korean nuclear programs that threaten the peace in the region. Such are powerless to stop the inevitable as they rely on the mutual military cooperation with the USA. This treaty with the USA has not been put to the test since the *Armistice* in 1953. A nuclear North Korea has now changed geo-politically the landscape of the region and has off-set the balance of power between the super giant China and Japan.

China has a unilateral pack with North Korea as does the US with Japan, Taiwan and South Korea. Currently due to its successful missile launches or North Korea's nuclear program, missiles can now deliver a nuclear warhead as far as Alaska and perhaps the West Coast of the USA. North Korea might be the 'trigger point' that could involve a serious situation in which nuclear war might be unavoidable for the North Koreans to use against the USA. Many Bible scholars attribute to the build-up of China economically and militarily as a designed preparing for her part in the coming Tribulation Period. Over the years, many have had dreams and vision of the USA being invaded by China and Russia. According to the book of Revelation, the *Kings of the East* are summoned by the demonic host to march along that all-weather road to Israel's border, preparing for attack. This study suggests that a key player or nation that will make up the 'Kings of the East' will be North Korea.

The year 2013 marked the 60th-year anniversary of the end of the *Korean War* which at the beginning was called a 'Police Action' by the UN led by a coalition of 21 UN –US member courtiers. Over 36,000 US soldiers died in the war, making it the most in losses of any one singular country and out of the total 2 million lives lost from 1950-1953. The US made up about 88% of the over 300,000 combined force that attempted to repel the North Korean invasion of the South. The *Defense Readiness Condition* DEFCON was set up as an alert system used to describe the degree of nuclear war and state or readiness by the U.S. Armed Forces. During the missile test launches and threats to 'nuke' the US West Coast, by North Korea the US went to DEFCON 2 in Spring of 2013.

The Demilitarized Zone

When the UN led 21 force nation pushed the North Korean beyond the 38th Parallel near the Chinese border, over 2 million Chinese along with the USSR helped the North Koreans push back the UN Coalition to the current *38th Parallel*. To this day, there are continued skirmishes and penetration by North Korean commandos or fire exchanges at sea. North Korea has the 4th largest army in the world. For its size of only 25 million, it is staggering. China has currently a *1 Million Man Army* ready to mobilize at a given notice. The following is the list that specifies the level of nuclear threat to the USA.

<i>DEFCON 1</i>	<i>Nuclear War is imminent</i>	<i>White</i>
<i>DEFCON 2</i>	<i>Prepare for Nuclear War</i>	<i>Red</i>
<i>DEFCON 3</i>	<i>Force readiness above normal</i>	<i>Yellow</i>
<i>DEFCON 4</i>	<i>strengthened security measures</i>	<i>Green</i>
<i>DEFCON 5</i>	<i>Lowest state of readiness</i>	<i>Blue</i>

The North Koreans have officially withdrawn from the 'Cease Fire' agreement with the Republic of South Korea and the USA of 1953 as the nations involved are technically still at war with each other. North Korea is one of the most isolated countries in the world and for that very reason it is often referred to as the 'Hermit Kingdom'. It is an example of what communism leads to; a total repressive Totalitarian State controlling every aspect of life for individuals.

The *Demilitarized Zone DMZ* (한반도 비무장지대) is a 2.5 mile wide buffer between the 2 nations of North and South Korea. It is 148 miles long running on the *38th Parallel*. It has over 1 million land mines and fenced with high voltage lines. Within this area there are roughly 2 million military personnel stationed here. This makes for the most militarized and guarded border in the world. Currently the joint security Force of US-North Korea has 25,374 US troops deployed in the Zone. The following is a statistical comparison of the 2 Koreas. For example, the average North Korean earns the rough estimate equivalent of \$900 per year.

	North Korea	South Korea
<i>Population</i>	<i>25 mil</i>	<i>50 mil</i>
<i>GDP (purchasing power parity), \$bn</i>	<i>1,622</i>	<i>4,032</i>
<i>GDP - per capita (PPP),</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>1,800</i>
<i>Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 births</i>	<i>26.21</i>	<i>4.08</i>
<i>Life expectancy at birth</i>	<i>69.2</i>	<i>79.3</i>
<i>Area</i>	<i>122,762 sq km</i>	<i>99,313 sq km</i>
<i>Corruption Index ranking 2012</i>	<i>174</i>	<i>45</i>
<i>Total executed, 2007-2011</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Internet users per 100 people</i>	<i>< 0.1</i>	<i>81.5</i>
<i>Intentional homicide, rate per 100,000</i>	<i>15.2</i>	<i>2.6</i>
<i>Exports, \$ billion</i>	<i>4.71</i>	<i>552.6</i>
<i>Imports \$ billion</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>514.2</i>
<i>Manpower fit for military (16-49)</i>	<i>4,836,567</i>	<i>10,864,566</i>
<i>Military percentage of GDP</i>	<i>22.3</i>	<i>2.8</i>
<i>Military spending, \$ billion</i>	<i>8.21</i>	<i>26.1</i>

Religious Persecution

The North Korean *Cult of Personality* ideology came out of the social scientific revolution of 19th Europe. It utilizes humanistic *Social Darwinism* as its core values and foundation. In essence, it is a scientific theory stipulating that the political state is the highest entity for mankind in terms of laws, order and all that is good and for the 'good' of Humanity. Having this as a framework, humanity is reduced to the lowest common denominator in terms of worth and value; human life is expendable as the state deems what is valuable and permissible in life and liberty. The path to eventual Communism is paved through Socialism. It espouses collectivism in which the good for the STATE supersedes the rights, power and liberties of the single individual. People are valued for their work and seen as units of energy. What matters is the present and all things material.

Thus any aspect of there being a spiritual being, a soul, a "GOD" is counterproductive and threatens the state to the point that attempts will be made to stamped out this spiritual and/or religious believe in a *Creator*. North Korea has sunk into the 'Dark Ages' but with nuclear weapons. Satellite images at night, from the edge of space, show North Korea virtually 'blacked out' due to shortages in energy. It is a befitting metaphor of also the spiritual darkness condition the communist ideology has produced. A report by the *Korean Bar Association* has details the daily life of religious and political prisoners based on the testimonies of survivors of the camps and former guards in North Korea's concentration camps. For more than 50 years, North Korea has been operating prison camps that are actually forced labor concentration camps.

Religious and political opponents are incarcerated and are forced into slave labor. These camps are estimated to be holding more than 200,000 political and religious prisoners. According to the communist rationale, these camps provide 'an opportunity for redemption.' North Korea's government denies the existence of prison camps but satellite imaging reveal the truth that persecuted North Korean Christians as well as political prisoners are being force to work, starved, tortured and killed in these camps. Several escapees have testified of the brutality that is going on. In an effort to reach out, South Korean Christians and other world ministries for decades have been launching tens of thousands of 'Scripture Balloons'. These are balloons filled with helium that carry New Testaments, Scripture verses and other gospel messages into North Korea.

As a closed materialistic and *Marxist State*, anyone discovered to be a Christian in North Korea is usually executed or sent to prison camp or concentration camps. The mere possession of a Bible can result in being jailed or death. Any North Korean attending an *Underground Christian Church* is considered treason. According to the *Voice of the Martyrs* (VOM), somewhere between 50,000 to 70,000 North Korean Christians are currently in these forced labor camps. Why? Christianity is seen as a direct threat to the communist state. It is so ironic, given that the up-bringing of Kim il Sung's was Christian and the fight for Korea's liberation since 1910 was started by and supported by Christian churches. It is a testament that what makes a follower of Christ Jesus is not where one was born or what 'Christian' family a person grew up in or how much church one had.

A Cult of Personality

This *Cult of Personality* phenomenon occurs when an individual uses mass media and propaganda to project his or her image as larger than life to the point of a god-like idolization. Such attributes may be imposed by the masses due to the popularity as would a rock star or celebrity, other on the other hand are self imposed worship that is demanded of the masses. Most noticeably, dictators have been notorious for demanding unconditional worship of their personality to the point that it becomes a religion in most cases. This occurred in ancient civilization from Babylon down to the Greeks and Romans. For example, Cesar worship was required by the citizens of Rome as the Emperor was deemed a living god, etc.

In the case of North Korea, this cult of personality is the religion that is only allowed and expected to be practiced. This 'religion' of North Korea is called *Juche*. It is the literal worship of the family dynasty of Kim Sung as a 'god' and his son, Kim Jong as the 'son of god'. Finally what is to be expected at some point in time is that Kim Jong Un will be worshipped as a type of the Holy Spirit. This is obviously in reference to the Christian Trinity concept of a triune GOD. *Juche* is the only religion the North Koreans are allowed to practice. Although it is argued that North Korea does not repress religious beliefs, it is intolerant of any competition for worship. Thus belief systems like Christianity in particular are seen as unacceptable competitors and thus treasonous to the State.

There is actually a written article in the *Party Covenant* that states that all North Koreans are required to worship their *Supreme Leader*. To help remind the masses of this on a daily bases, portraits are required to be hung on the walls of every home in North Korea. Household members are to bow down to it as an 'idol' of worship. Kim Jong-Il honored as a deity, has more than 1,200 titles to include... '*Sun of the 21st Century, the Eternal Sun, the Guardian Deity of the Planet, the Sun of Socialism, and the Ever-Victorious General.*' The references include *Lone Star of the 21st Century, Beloved Leader, Great Leader, Dear Leader, Great Suryong, the Sun of Revolution, the Sun of Life, the Sun of Juche and the Fatherly Leader of all Koreans*, etc.

In such a controlled and repressive society, all is subject to be suspected to include even the suspicion that one is believed to be disloyal in any form. The Bible is banned which is called *Kiddokyo Chaek*. Many have been falsely incarcerated due to either having a Bible, meeting in the underground Church or just being falsely reported to the authorities. Such an infraction is a capital offense. The victims are often judged without due process and it becomes an occasion for a show trial that ends in a public execution. In most cases, teachers, students and locals are forced to witness the executions. The military police unit, *Bowisaryungbu Gigwanwon* is often the judge, jury and executioners of such through crime. Many Pastors, Assistant Pastors and parishioners are executed at will for their religious beliefs. There have been escapees from the concentration camps that tell of horrific brutality occurring in such Satanic conditions. The word for the crime of being a Protestant Christian is called *Kiddokyo*. This association comes with an automatic death sentence of 'conspiring to engage in subversive activities against the State and the Supreme Leaders.

At such executions, the victims are at times given the opportunity to recant their belief in Jesus Christ with a promise to be spared execution. In some cases the Christians are crushed alive by steamrollers as they are bound and forced to lie on the roads. Any that are found to be of use are forced into labor camps. It is estimated that the largest concentration camp, number 22 has around 50,000 prisoners to include entire family units where pregnancy is forbidden and births are forcibly aborted. Although the ruling family had ironically their roots in Christian education, the great grandfather was a son of a Pastor, the current Kim grew up with no real knowledge of religion, and had not even heard about Christianity even though he studied in the boarding schools of Switzerland. In their communist indoctrination, the North Koreans are taught that religion is the opium of the people as Lenin stated.

Moreover, that missionaries and pastors were spies of the West and South Korea, trying to bring 'imperialism' to North Korea. From an early age, children are taught that religion is bad and that the only reason Christians from other countries built the hospitals, schools for North Korea is to spy. Thus children from an early age are taught that Christianity is subversive and treasonous. In an association to Christianity, North Koreans are also taught to hate Americans because of the war. Many South Koreans and Chinese are nevertheless risking their own lives to liberate as many as they can from the camps. Many arrange for Christians to escape through China. Many are caught by the military. In many places there has been an 'underground railroad' of sorts like the type in the USA prior to the *Civil War* that funneled African Slaves to freedom in the North.

There were safe houses along certain routes where food, water and comfort was provided to such seeking liberty. Many North Koreans see those that believe in the Christian GOD as crazy for giving up their very lives for this 'religion'. Ironically the state has copied the types and shadows of the Bible and has ascribed them to what is said about Kim Sung for example. They have replace GOD the Father, GOD the SON and the Holy Spirit with the cult of personality that all dictators have past, present and future. The ultimate example of the cult of personality is Lucifer's AntiChrist that will likewise demand absolute worship without any competition, especially from Christians. Any found not adhering to this decree will also suffer capital punishment during the coming *Tribulation Period*.

Since the end of the *Korean War* in the early 1950s, the Koreas have been in a state of war. North Korea frequently threatens to invade the South in an attempt to unify the Korean peninsula. Currently, if any North Korean invasion were to occur, both China and the USA are pledged to support and intervene. Most notably, such a military confrontation would go 'nuclear'. China itself, like North Korea has often times threatened to 'nuke' the USA due to the Taiwan issue. Perhaps a 'Red Dawn' scenario could occur in the USA mainland and perhaps are in the plans. Prophetically speaking, North Korea is helping to set the stage for a countdown militarily to *Armageddon*. The Bible does speak of the 'Kings of the East' marching with a 200 million man army across the *Euphrates River* to attack Israel at some future point in time per Revelation 9:14-16. North Korea has had a direct link to helping Iran also develop its nuclear capability.

The *Euphrates River* is in the midst of Iraq, a country that the USA invaded in 2002. It was part of the nations that made up the 'Evil Axis' alongside Iran and North Korea. Currently the US has the largest Embassy in the world there and several military bases in Iraq. The point is that it would be hard to tread over the *Euphrates River* without the U.S.'s direct intervention. Perhaps that that time, the U.S. would have either been invaded by the Chinese or so repressed due to its economic and social meltdown that no resistance would ensue. There would be no attempt by the USA at stopping the 'Kings from the East' from crossing the *Euphrates River* bent on world conquest and Israel's destruction.

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