

HORDE FROM HELL, CHINA, TURKEY AND KINGS OF THE EAST : PT 1

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In March of 2010 I read a news article in the New York Times entitled "Army Ebbs, and Power Realigns in Turkey". In a nutshell, the news article described how, at the time, the Islamist-backed government of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan was continuing to grow in power, while at the same time, the power and influence of the Turkish military was continuing to decline. This reality was highlighted by the fact that at that time, Mr. Erdogan's government detained almost two dozen military officers -- including two retired generals -- in connection with what was believed to be a possible planned coup attempt dating back several years prior to that time. While a lot of people probably dismissed the news article as being boring, uninteresting and unimportant, and probably didn't even bother to read it, those of us who are students of God's Word should take note of its potential importance from the perspective of Endtime prophecy.

Those of you who are long-time readers of my articles will know that I discuss Turkey's potential involvement in the Endtime scenario in a number of my articles, such as in the six-part series "The Seven Heads". In reality, what the New York Times article describes is a rather profound change in the constitution of Turkey's leadership, as well as in its long-time power structure. It also highlights the change in direction that Turkey is taking in the modern world, as it strives to become more accepted by the European Union. It may very well be that P.M. Erdogan's actions against the military are an attempt to impress the Europeans with the fact that Turkey is trying to forsake its old ways; or it may simply be a very sly ruse. Time will certainly tell.

As you may possibly know, ever since General Mustafa Kemal Ataturk founded Turkey as a modern nation in 1923 -- the

country is in fact named after this man -- Turkey has been ruled by a very strong, secular military establishment which has viewed itself as Turkey's guardian. In fact, the Turkish military has not hesitated to take over the country on four occasions when the government in power has not been to its liking. However, during the past decade or so, the Islamists in Turkey have slowly gained ground. This ultimately resulted in the election of Islamist Recep Tayyip Erdogan as Turkey's new Prime Minister in 2002. He took office in March of 2003.

"So, exactly how do these political events possibly fit into the Endtime scenario?", you may be asking yourself. Allow me to explain. Contrary to what is taught by some modern Bible scholars and preachers, personally, I am not fully convinced that when the Book of Revelation mentions the Euphrates River drying up in order to make a way for the "kings of the east", that it is necessarily referring to the nations of the Orient, such as communist China, Japan, Korea, etc. These events are described for us in the following verse that is found in the Book of Revelation:

"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."
Revelation 16:12, KJV

Now, the common interpretation of the previous verse that has been promoted by a number of Bible teachers is that of the Euphrates River drying up in the country of Iraq, thus allowing the armies of the Orient to easily cross over it, as they march on their way to invade Israel. Now, let me be very clear about this. There is no doubt in my mind that the Euphrates River will eventually dry up, because God's Word says it, and I most certainly believe it. In fact, as I have discussed before, it has already come close to drying up on a number of occasions; not only because of the arid climate and the extended droughts which have plagued that region of the world, but also because the nations of Turkey and Syria to the north purposely control the flow of water into Iraq by building massive dams. Water is an extremely important commodity in the lands of the Middle East, and the lack of it has resulted in serious friction between the nations of that region.

But the key point I wish to make is this: In the Scriptures, where the Book of Revelation uses the phrase "kings of the east", the Greek word from which our English word "east" is derived, is "anatolia". If you take the time to carefully read the New York Times article, you will discover that it refers to the Anatolian news agency. It may interest you to know that prior to being known as Turkey, that country was referred to as Anatolia, and long before that, it was ruled by the Hittites -- that is, the descendants of Heth -- way back in the days of the Patriarch Abraham. The Bible informs us that Heth was one of the twelve sons of Canaan, and one of the twelve Canaanite nations was named after him, just as the twelve tribes of Israel received their names from the twelve sons of Jacob several hundred years later. Consider the following verses that are found in the Book of Genesis:

"And Canaan begat Sidon his firstborn, and Heth,"
Genesis 10:15, KJV

"And Sarah was an hundred and seven and twenty years old: these were the years of the life of Sarah. And Sarah died in Kirjatharba; the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan: and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her. And Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spake unto the sons of Heth, saying, I am a stranger and a sojourner with you: give me a possession of a buryingplace with you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight. And the children of Heth answered Abraham, saying unto him, Hear us, my lord: thou art a mighty prince among us: in the choice of our sepulchres bury thy dead; none of us shall withhold from thee his sepulchre, but that thou mayest bury thy dead. And Abraham stood up, and bowed himself to the people of the land, even to the children of Heth. And he communed with them, saying, If it be your mind that I should bury my dead out of my sight; hear me, and intreat for me to Ephron the son of Zohar, That he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which he hath, which is in the end of his field; for as much money as it is worth he shall give it me for a possession of a buryingplace amongst you. And Ephron dwelt among the children of Heth: and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the audience of the children of Heth, even of all that went in at the gate of his city, saying, Nay, my lord, hear me: the field give I thee, and the cave that is therein, I give it thee; in the presence of the sons of my people give I it thee: bury thy dead. And Abraham bowed down himself before the people of the land. And he spake unto Ephron in the audience of the people of the land, saying, But if thou wilt give it, I pray thee, hear me: I will give thee money for the field; take it of me, and I will bury my dead there. And Ephron answered Abraham, saying unto him, My lord, hearken unto me: the land is worth four hundred shekels of silver; what is that betwixt me and thee? bury therefore thy dead. And Abraham hearkened unto Ephron; and Abraham weighed to Ephron the silver, which he had named in the audience of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant. And the field of Ephron, which was in Machpelah, which was before Mamre, the field, and the cave which was therein, and all the trees that were in the field, that were in all the borders round about, were made sure unto Abraham for a possession in the presence of the children of Heth, before all that went in at the gate of his city. And after this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah before Mamre: the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan. And the field, and the cave that is therein, were made sure unto Abraham for a possession of a buryingplace by the sons of Heth." Genesis 23:1-20, KJV

If you are not yet convinced that Turkey and Anatolia are synonymous terms, and that the phrase "kings of the east" could be referring to the leaders of Turkey, and not to the leaders of the oriental nations, then permit me to provide you with another important piece of information which is taken directly from the pages of the Bible. Allow me to ask you a simple question: At the time that John the Revelator received the Book of Revelation, or the Apocalypse as it is also known, do you know where was he located? Verse nine in chapter one of the Book of Revelation tells us quite clearly:

"I John, who also am your brother, and companion in

tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ."
Revelation 1:9, KJV

So dear John found himself on a small island called Patmos. It is believed by some people that Patmos was a Roman penal colony at the time, and that perhaps this is why John was sent there. Of course, we Christians know that John was sent there by God in order to receive his greatest revelation yet from the Lord. Two thousand years later, millions of us are still trying to understand the Apocalypse, or Revelation of Jesus Christ.

As you can discover for yourself, the Isle of Patmos happens to be located in the Aegean Sea, which itself is a region of the Mediterranean Sea that is located between Western Turkey and Greece. In ancient times, this part of Turkey was known as Asia Minor, and it was there, during the First Century, that the Apostle Paul established most of his churches. In fact, in the opening chapter of the Book of Revelation, we are clearly told that the Seven Churches "are in Asia", as we see by the following verses:

"John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne . . . Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea."
Revelation 1:4, 11, KJV

According to Thayer's Greek English Lexicon, the "Asia" that is mentioned in the previous verses corresponds to ancient Mysia, Lydia, Phrygia, and Caria; which themselves correspond closely to modern Turkey, or Anatolia, if you prefer. As you may know, in His messages to the Seven Churches in Asia, the Lord had some serious complaints regarding some of them. What I discovered upon conducting a bit more Biblical research is that one of the reasons why some of the Seven Churches were in such dismal spiritual condition appears to be because they had forsaken some of the Christian doctrines which they had been taught by their spiritual father, the Apostle Paul. This seems to be rather evident in the following verses:

"Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us. This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes."
2 Timothy 1:13-15, KJV

As you can see, the Apostle Paul -- who at that time was in prison in Rome -- admonished Timothy to "Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me". That seems to be what some of the Churches in Asia did not do; and that may be why the Lord instructed the Apostle John to send His messages of rebuke to those Churches. One very clear example of the backslidden condition of some of the Churches that

were in Asia Minor -- or Anatolia/Turkey -- can be found in the Apostle Paul's Epistle to the Galatians. Galatia was located in the highlands of central Anatolia. Its capital was Ancyra, which today is known as Ankara, the capital of Turkey. It was a very strong ally of Rome. In his Epistle to the Galatians, Paul does not mince his words in his strong rebuke to them:

"O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain."

Galatians 3:1-4, KJV

What I also discovered while conducting my research regarding the Galatians is that similar to the Phrygians who dwelt just to the west of them in Anatolia, the Galatians probably also worshiped the false god Men. What is interesting about this is the fact that a lot of the symbolism that is associated with this false god is related to the Moon. In particular, Men is usually depicted with crescent-like open horns on his shoulders. Now, can you think of any modern religion that is also associated with a crescent Moon? Should we also view it as a coincidence that modern Turkey is currently governed by a very Islamist-leaning administration, and that the flag of Turkey is a white crescent Moon and star against a red background?

Returning to our discussion concerning Turkey and Anatolia, it is interesting to note that in describing the Aegean Sea, even the Wikipedia web site refers to Turkey as Anatolia -- meaning "east" in Greek -- as we see by this excerpt:

----- Begin Quote -----

The Aegean Sea is an elongated embayment of the Mediterranean Sea located between the southern Balkan and Anatolian peninsulas, i.e., between the mainlands of Greece and Turkey respectively."

----- End Quote -----

In other words, at the time that John received his amazing revelations from the Lord, if he were to face east towards the rising sun, he would not see China or Korea or Japan -- the modern kings of the east -- rather, he would in fact see the distant shoreline of Asia Minor; that is, Anatolia; or as it is known today, Turkey.

Taking this information into consideration, and the fact that Turkey is also known as Anatolia, and that "anatolia" actually means "east", it is logical to conclude that what the beloved King James Bible interprets as "the kings of the east" could also correctly be interpreted as "the kings of Anatolia". In other words, Revelation 16:12 could very well be referring to the modern leaders of Turkey, and not to the leaders of the Orient. Furthermore, it is also interesting to note that the word "kings" is derived from the Greek word "basileus", which

also means "commander". In short, the Book of Revelation may be describing a future invasion of Israel from the north -- as in the King of the North? -- by an Islamic leader and his military forces from Turkey. In short, the modern descendants of the ancient Hittites may once again become the enemies of the Israelites.

If you are not familiar with the phrase "king of the north", I encourage you to read my series "The King of the North and the King of the South". As you will come to understand, this is a very important phrase insofar as Bible prophecy is concerned.

"But wait!", you may be saying to yourself. "How in the world can the Turkish armies cross the Euphrates River when it runs through the length of Iraq?". There are actually two possible ways that this could happen. First of all, allow me to inform you that the headwaters of the Euphrates River actually begin in eastern Turkey. From there, the river flows down through eastern Syria, and then into Iraq. Eventually, it joins with the Tigris River in the southern region of Iraq to form the extremely important Shatt al-Arab waterway, which flows into the Persian Gulf. The Wikipedia web site states the following in regards to the origin of the Euphrates River:

----- Begin Quote -----

The Euphrates emerges from the confluence of the Murat Su and the Kara Su. The Murat Su rises 70 km northeast of Lake Van, about midway between Lake Van and Mount Ararat, whereas the Kara Su rises about 30 km northeast of Erzurum, in the Kargapazari Mountains. The courses of the Kara Su and the Murat Nehri run fairly parallel in a westerly direction until they unite near the city of Keban. From this point on, the combined streams form the Euphrates proper.

The length of the Euphrates from the confluence of the Marat Su and the Kara Su to its mouth in the Shatt al-Arab is estimated at 2289 km. The river flows through three countries; Turkey, Syria and Iraq. The length of the Turkish Euphrates is approximately 526 km, whereas the Syrian and Iraqi parts of the river are estimated at 604 and 1159 km, respectively."

----- End Quote -----

So, depending on the route they choose to take, the Turkish military forces may possibly cross the Euphrates River in order to pass through the nation of Syria. As you may know, Syria also hates Israel; so it may very well agree to allow this vast army to pass through its territory, in order to invade Israel from the north. While I have highlighted the Turkish military, let us not forget that the Beast won't be alone. We are told that "kings" -- plural -- will be with him as they proceed to the northern plains of Israel, and to Har Megiddo, or Armageddon. Going by past wars of the Middle East, it seems quite likely that Syria will be one of these "kings".

A second plausible route is to go through northwestern Iraq. In other words, as the Turks have done several times already in their pursuit of Kurdish separatists, they could possibly

cross into northern Iraq first by passing through Turkey's southeastern corner. They could then cross over the Euphrates River -- which will be dried up at that time -- on their way to Israel. While Turkey, Syria and Iraq have not always had cordial relations, if they were to arrive at an agreement regarding the destruction of Israel, the Iraqis might very well permit the Turkish troops to pass through their nation. Let us not so easily forget the wars of 1948, 1967 and 1973. While the Muslim and Arab nations of the Middle East may be divided over other issues, they would love nothing more than to utterly destroy Israel, and push the Jews into the sea. As such, it is quite plausible that Iraq could also be one of the other "kings" which follows the Beast into battle.

As I studied a map of the region, it did not make sense to me why the Turks would purposely choose to take such a long, unnecessary route through their own country, then through most of the length of Syria, and then either through the Golan Heights in southwestern Syria, or possibly through an area of Jordan. After all, Ankara, the capital, is located in north central Turkey, while Syria's capital, Damascus, is located in southwestern Syria. Both are quite distant from the Euphrates River. So why would Turkish forces take such a huge detour through eastern Turkey and eastern Syria?

What occurred to me is that if at some time in the future the Islamic Beast were to assemble his forces in Ankara, it would be too obvious. On the other hand, if he wanted to spring his trap at the last moment through a possible sneak attack, then assembling his armies in the extreme eastern region of Syria, behind the Euphrates River, in the lowlands of the al-Jazira region, and then proceeding from there, might be one possible strategy. If you examine the map below, you can see that the area behind the Euphrates is shaped kind of like a distorted triangle. The Euphrates River forms the western border of the triangle, with the lowlands of al-Jazira behind it.

[place images of maps here]

Admittedly, I do have some doubts about this theory. For one thing, if the Beast were to assemble his forces in this area, it would mean that they would have to pass through the Syrian Desert, as well as cross over some mountains. Not only that, but given all of the surveillance technology that is in use today, such as satellites, drones, etc., I really don't see how any nation could really engage in a sneak attack of any kind. Assuming that the United States of America and Israel are still close allies at the time when the great Battle of Armageddon finally occurs, you can be sure that the US would advise Israel of an impending attack.

However, there is a very interesting factor which might make such a sneak attack possible, and that is this. What if the Battle of Armageddon is still quite some time ahead in the future? What if by that time, the world's major suppliers of oil have run out of that "black gold"? "Wow! Really? Is that even possible?" you may be wondering. Well, yes, of course it is. At the rate that the world is using oil today, it cannot last forever. I'll be discussing this point more in a moment.

Now just imagine what a tremendous effect such a development would have on modern technology, so much of which now depends

very heavily on petroleum and petroleum by-products such as gasoline, lubricants, plastics, diesel fuel, etc. Without oil and other lubricants, machines would cease to function; which means of course that weapons of war could not be produced. So many products today contain some amount of plastic, and there are many different kinds of plastics. Such items could no longer be produced either. And of course, there would be no fuel for tanks and other weapons of war.

"Well, wait a minute! How could the Battle of Armageddon even occur then?" you may be asking yourself. It would still occur, but it would not happen in the way in which so many Christians have been led to believe. In other words, what if the Battle of Armageddon isn't fought with modern weapons of war? What if what the Apostle John was shown in the Book of Revelation is meant to be understood in a very literal sense? I mention in a few articles how it is very easy to envision a vast army of angry, fanatical Muslims riding on horseback, and brandishing their swords wildly in the air as they march to the Battle of Armageddon. Let's not forget that John tells us that many people will be beheaded for Jesus. Consider the following verse:

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."
Revelation 20:4, KJV

If you honestly don't believe that a literal interpretation of that verse is possible, then allow me to remind you of some of the extremely ghastly videos that were circulated on the Internet in recent years while fanatical elements in the nation of Iraq were fighting against the American occupation. I watched a number of them, and they were definitely modern barbarity at its finest. I have long believed that the above verse is meant to be understood in a very literal sense, and not just in a symbolic or figurative sense, and these ungodly acts which were committed by these Iraqi extremists is clear proof of it. It can happen again, and on a much larger scale.

In recent years, there has been a lot of chatter on the web regarding Christians being beheaded with guillotines. To be quite honest, I really have to shake my head in amazement when I come across this kind of misguided material. Some of these money-making Bible hucksters -- that is, commercial Christian writers who profit from God's Word -- write their Christian fiction novels in which they apply their particular interpretation to the Scriptures. The next thing you know, a movie is made that is based on the misguided contents of the novel.

The end result of this process is that a lot of Christians -- particularly American Christians -- start believing that the US Government has secretly been manufacturing guillotines, in preparation for the day when it will arrest Christians, throw them into concentration camps, and eventually send them to the guillotine if they refuse to recant their faith. I even recall seeing a movie trailer, or perhaps it was a book ad,

where these Christians are being restrained to the ground with metal bands, and then beheaded. It was quite some time ago, so I honestly can't remember the details now.

Lord help us all, and deliver us all, from such nonsense! Let me remind you again that Endtime prophecy center on the Middle East, and more specifically on Israel. In the Middle East, it is common practice for capital punishment to be carried out by beheading, using a real sword. Sorry folks, but this idea of guillotines is a fabrication of greedy Christian authors, and nothing less. So again, if the Battle of Armageddon occurs as I suspect, then we can expect to see hordes of wild Muslims brandishing real swords. Forget the guillotine nonsense!

At this point in our discussion, we are going to return our attention to the identity of the kings of the east and China. While some Bible teachers, televangelists and preachers have convinced their flocks that Revelation 16:12 is describing a massive invasion of Israel by communist China, along with a number of other nations, I am convinced by the aforementioned evidence that there is a plausible alternative scenario. I do not claim to be infallible, and I readily acknowledge that my understanding of God's Word is not perfect. However, if we honestly examine the Biblical record, the historical record, the linguistic record, and even modern news reports, it is difficult in my mind to not conclude that "the kings of the east" may be referring to the military forces of Anatolia, or Turkey, and not to communist China and other nations of the East.

Of course, to add a degree of balance to my position, there is another very important fact that we need to consider; and that is that as China and other eastern nations continue to develop their economies and industries, their need to obtain more and more oil will obviously continue to grow. Thus, in the not-too-distant future, it is possible that China may very well become involved in a military struggle to control the oil fields of the Middle East. This view is shared by other people as well. However, there is another important reason why I personally am not convinced that the "kings of the east" -- who are mentioned in Revelation 16:12 -- are a reference to China, and other nations of the Orient. Allow me to share it with you.

If China were to make an attempt to control the Middle East oil fields, why in the world would they go to Israel to wage war? Obviously, they would not. In order to control the oil flow in the Middle East, they would have to go where the oil fields are actually located; that is, to Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the Gulf Cooperation Council states, etc. Isn't that exactly what the American Government has done through its illegal invasion of Iraq, as well as by establishing American bases in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the small Gulf Cooperation Council states? And, of course, for its part, Russia has close ties with Syria and Iran as well for similar reasons. Everyone wants to influence the politics of the Middle East, because they all depend on its oil.

Furthermore, the Scriptures seem to indicate that the Battle of Armageddon -- which will be fought in northern Israel -- will not be about oil. If anything, the Battle of Armageddon will be a war that will more than likely be centered around

diminishing water resources. Water is an extremely important commodity in the nations of the Middle East, and the lack of it has already resulted in serious friction between some of the nations of that region. If you pay particular attention to Middle East news concerning Israel, Syria, Jordan, Iraq and possibly Saudi Arabia, you will see that there have been heated discussions concerning this very issue.

As I mentioned earlier, the volume of the Euphrates River has already been seriously reduced in recent years, and has come close to drying up on a number of occasions; not only because of the arid climate and the extended droughts which have plagued that region of the world, but also because by building massive dams, Turkey and Syria purposely control the flow of water into Iraq. Furthermore, diminishing water resources is in fact one reason why the Israelis adamantly refuse to return the Golan Heights to Syria. Another is due to the fact that the Golan Heights are a strategic military vantage point which overlooks northern Israel.

But more importantly, as I explain in such articles as "From Armageddon to the New Earth", the Battle of Armageddon will be a war which the foolish and rebellious inhabitants of the Earth will wage against Jesus Christ and the Heavenly Host; and I am sure that they -- Christ and His Heavenly Armies -- have absolutely no interest in or concern for the diminishing oil reserves of the Middle East.

Please go to part two for the conclusion of this article.

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HORDE FROM HELL, CHINA, TURKEY AND KINGS OF THE EAST : PT 2

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China Kings Of The East And The Army Of Two Hundred Million, First And Second Woes: Bottomless Pit Abaddon / Apollyon The Destroyer, Horde Of Stinging Locusts, Why It Is Not An Army From China, Scriptural Comparisons, The Possible Betrayal Of Israel By Turkey Mentioned In 2003 Series "Capture Of Saddam Hussein And The New Babylon", Potential Betrayal Of Israel By Turkey Was First Suggested In 1997 Series "The Seven Heads", Take Your Leading From The Lord, Promise Of The Holy Spirit, I Can't Remember Everything, Turkish Aspirations For Joining European Union Are Fading, My EPN Blog Post, Israeli-Egyptian Blockade, Gaza Flotilla Raid, Israel Accused Of Excessive And Unreasonable Force, Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Aftermath Of Gaza Flotilla Raid: Turkey Expels Israeli Ambassador And Freezes Military Ties, Israel Refuses To Apologize, Shifts In Turkey Since 2010, Turks Ancient Hittites And The Israelites,

God Knows The End From The Beginning, Additional Resources

There is another erroneous doctrine that is directly related to the belief that Revelation's "kings of the east" represent communist China and other nations of the Orient. I believe it too is a result of poor exegesis -- or interpretation of the Scriptures -- by certain preachers and Bible teachers. Quite simply, this doctrine promotes the belief that this supposed great invasion from China represents the army of two hundred million that is mentioned in the Book of Revelation. Now, if we rely upon our human wisdom and reason, we naturally think "Where else could such a huge army possibly come from if not from China? After all, China currently has a population of about 1.5 billion citizens, and the Chinese could easily create an army of such tremendous proportions."

Sad to say, that is exactly what some of these preachers have done. In other words, they have erroneously put these two ideas together -- the "kings of the east" and the army of two hundred million -- and they have taught their flocks that Bible prophecy states that communist China will invade Israel with a massive army comprised of two hundred million soldiers. We have already seen what happens when we choose to carefully examine the Scriptures for ourselves, instead of just relying upon the words of some of these preachers. If the "kings of the east" might not be who these preachers say they are, is it possible that they are likewise in error regarding their understanding of the army of two hundred million?

Well, it may surprise some of you to learn that the "kings of the east" and the army of two hundred million are not even found in the same chapter in the Book of Revelation. The "kings of the east" are mentioned in chapter sixteen, while the army of two hundred million is mentioned in the ninth chapter; and I suspect that they may be two separate and unrelated events. Allow me to explain to you exactly how I arrived at this conclusion. First of all, there isn't any mystery concerning where this massive army of two hundred million comes from; because the Bible tells us plainly; and as you'll see by the following verses, it is most certainly not from China. These verses are taken from chapter nine of the Book of Revelation, and they describe for us an event which the Angel of the Lord refers to as the "first woe":

"And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find

it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon. One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter."
Revelation 9:1-12, KJV

Please notice exactly where this great army comes from: the Bottomless Pit. Now, unless you believe that China is the Bottomless Pit, then this great army of two hundred million cannot possibly originate from China. Furthermore, these horrendous creatures are led by a spiritual entity known as Abaddon, or Apollyon, which -- as I have explained before -- means "destroyer" in both the Hebrew and Greek languages. Now, some of you might argue that the previous verses don't say anything about this horde from hell being comprised of two hundred million. You are absolutely right; they don't. However, the Apostle John then continues his narrative by telling us about the "second woe". Let's continue reading:

"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: 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 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."
Revelation 9:13-19, KJV

Please notice what John is doing in those verses. He is in fact referring back to the terrible army that ascends out of the Bottomless Pit. Carefully compare the descriptive terms that John uses in both sets of verses, and you will see that he is talking about the very same horde from hell and their demonic leader Abaddon, or Apollyon.

For example, in the first set of verses, John tells us "and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power . . . and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man . . . And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months". In the second group of verses he basically says the very same thing with

"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." So in both groups of verses, we see that John describes these hellish creatures as having tails that hurt men.

But the similarities do not end there. In the first set of verses John states "And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions"; while in the second set of verses he states "and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions". So putting both descriptions together, John is saying that these creatures had heads of lions, and teeth like lions. It is also possible that the reference to women's hair may just be another way that John chose to describe a male lion's mane.

John also compares the locusts in the first set of verses to horses and horsemen, and he does the very same thing in the second set of verses as well. In the first set he says "And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men . . . and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. In the second set of verses, John describes the very same horde from hell for us using slightly different terminology with "And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them . . ."

Both sets of verses also discuss breastplates, fire, smoke and brimstone, because these vile creatures ascend out of the Bottomless Pit, which -- as I describe in other articles -- is a region of the place we refer to as Hell. Again, unless you are of the belief that China is Hell, there's no possible way that this demonic army of two hundred million can be from China. There should be no doubt then that the second group of verses is actually a continuation of the first set of verses.

Furthermore, by putting all of these verses together, we can gather two key pieces of information. In the "first woe", we are informed that these demonic creatures ascend out of the Bottomless Pit; and in the "second woe" we are told that they number two hundred million. So to reiterate my point, there's no way on Earth that these verses can be describing an army of two hundred million arising out of communist China. They are a demonic horde ascending out of the very bowels of Hell itself, and they are led, not by human military leaders, but by the demonic Destroyer known as Abaddon or Apollyon.

Now that we have cleared up this confusion regarding China and the army of two hundred million that ascends out of the Bottom Pit, I would like to share with you some additional information that relates directly to our primary discussion concerning Turkey and the "kings of the east". Thanks to a Facebook friend who offered me some feedback regarding this article, I discovered something interesting while searching through some of my older articles. Nine years ago, in part four of my 2003 series called "Capture of Saddam Hussein and the New Babylon", I mention a possible betrayal of Israel by Turkey. Following is a direct quote from that series:

----- Begin Quote -----

As an additional note, it might interest you to know that even though Turkey has a military alliance with the nation of Israel, in recent months, Syria and Turkey have begun to warm up to each other again, following a cold spell which resulted from their differences of opinion over the war in Iraq, as well as other issues, such as water supplies. Let us also not forget the fact that in the elections which were held in Turkey last year, Islamic fundamentalists made some important gains in certain key provinces. While the military still remains in control of Turkey, you just never know what the future might hold. The tide of Islam might some day take hold of that country again. If that were to occur, and if Turkey and Syria continue to patch up old wounds, you just never know. Under the influence of the Islamists, Turkey may in the end betray Israel, as I have long suspected that she might do; but this is just a personal speculation on my part. Time will certainly tell what road she will eventually take.

----- End Quote -----

It encourages me to know that nine years ago God impressed upon me the possibility that the day might arrive when the at-that-time cordial relations between Israel and Turkey would sour. Please notice that in the above quote I state "I have long suspected that she might do". This indicated to me that even before the year 2003, I was already anticipating a betrayal of Israel by Turkey. I immediately suspected that it was in my April 1997 six-part series entitled "The Seven Heads". To my delight, upon conducting a global search with my text editor, I discovered that I had written these words in the final part of the series:

----- Begin Quote -----

As I have made clear in the previous parts of this series, as well as in other of my Endtime articles, it is my current belief that the coming Kingdom of Darkness of the Beast may be an Islamic Empire comprised of Muslim states currently in existence in the Middle East. Based on my understanding of the prophecies of such Books as Daniel and Revelation, I have proposed that the political/military figurehead of this Empire may quite possibly arise out of Syria; and if not there, then possibly out of Iraq.

In fact, due to new information I have discovered, I will take this a step further and suggest that Turkey also offers some possibilities. While Turkey is currently warming up to Israel, we must remember that the Middle East is a very volatile area of the world. Conditions are always changing; loyalties are always changing. While we are presently witnessing a military alliance between the U.S.A., Turkey and Israel, things could change dramatically overnight. For example, if the Muslims were somehow able to gain control of the secular government, it is obvious that Israel would lose her ally and gain a very powerful enemy. Therefore, Turkey is a key player in the Endtime scenario.

As I stated previously, in a geographical sense, Syria and Iraq are both potential "kings of the north" because they are

situated north and northeast of Israel. This also applies to Turkey. Additionally, all three of these countries occupy territory which was formerly the northern and eastern regions of the divided Grecian Empire as I partially explained in the article "The Kings of the North and the South". This makes them the perfect candidates for the home of the Beast.

----- End Quote -----

In short, fifteen years ago, when Israel and Turkey were just beginning to warm up to each other, even then the Lord laid it upon my heart that their alliance might not endure. One of the reasons why I suspected this coming betrayal, was precisely because of my understanding of who the "kings of the east" might really be, which, as you have now seen, is quite contrary to what a lot of other preachers and Bible teachers have been promoting. Thankfully, I take my leading from the Lord -- as we should all do -- and not from other preachers and teachers. I prefer to wait on God's Spirit to reveal things to me from His Word. I don't like to have my understanding influenced by other writers. As we are told concerning the Holy Spirit:

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."
John 14:26, KJV

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."
John 16:13, KJV

That is the wonderful promise of God's Spirit, which I also discuss in such articles as "A Treasure in Earthen Vessels: God's Promise of the Spirit". So if you really want to learn and understand God's Word the proper way, then take time to let His Holy Spirit guide you. He will amaze you by the new discoveries that you will make in the bounties of His Word.

In case you are wondering why I was surprised to make these discoveries in my 1997 and 2003 series, it is because, quite frankly, I honestly do not remember everything that I have ever written. You need to understand that I have written a considerable volume of material over the past eighteen years, and I cannot possibly remember it all. In fact, quite often, when one of my readers sends me feedback and makes mention of a particular article or series, I usually have to go back and re-read what I have written just so I can offer them a proper answer. This is precisely what happened with this particular friend from Facebook. The result has been a major expansion of this current article. Thank the Lord!

But there is more. On December 5, 2011 I made an entry on my Endtime Prophecy Net Blog which is directed related to our current discussion. Let me share some excerpts from it with you:

----- Begin Quote -----

I was just reading an interesting article in the New York Times entitled "For Turkey, Lure of Tie to Europe Is Fading".

This news article describes how Turkish interest in becoming a member of the European Union has been fading in recent years, particularly due to the financial difficulties that Europe has been facing in recent years, as well as due to the fact that the Europeans have been giving a cold, indifferent shoulder to Turkish aspirations in recent years.

While many people will probably overlook this news article, due to my knowledge of the Bible, it immediately caught my attention.

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While Israel and Turkey previously enjoyed warm relations -- for political, economic and military advantages -- as this news article briefly mentions, relations have been cooling off ever since Israel attacked the flotilla that was headed for the Gaza Strip, which set sail from Turkey.

I have long expected Turkey to double-cross Israel, and it now appears to be happening.

So again, keep your eyes on Turkey, because it is important in God's Plans.

----- End Quote -----

For those of you who are not familiar with what is now being called the "Gaza Flotilla Raid", on May 31, 2010, a serious and deadly confrontation occurred in the international waters of the Mediterranean Sea, between Israeli military forces and a flotilla of six ships called the Gaza Freedom Flotilla. This flotilla had been organized by the Free Gaza Movement, along with the Turkish Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief. Its objective was to carry humanitarian aid and construction materials to the Gaza Strip, which has been subject to an Israeli-Egyptian blockade which was first put into effect in June of 2007.

While the Israelis eased the naval blockade for non-military goods in June of 2010, and while Egypt likewise reopened the Rafah border crossing for persons in 2011 as a result of the fall of Egyptian dictator Hosni Mubarak, and the influence of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egyptian politics, for all intents and purposes, the blockade continues to be enforced at this current time, April, 2012. The flotilla's intention was to defy and break through the blockade, which was a sure recipe for trouble from the start.

At any rate, on May 31, 2010 Israeli naval commandos, using both speedboats and helicopters, boarded the six ships in the flotilla in order to force them to the Israeli port of Ashdod where they were to undergo an inspection. While the raid proceeded as planned on five of the ships without any serious violence occurring, such was not the case with the Turkish ship MV Mavi Marmara.

While precise details remain sketchy -- obviously manipulated

by both parties involved -- violence erupted on the MV Mavi Marmara. Dinner plates, iron bars and knives are claimed to have been used by ship occupants, which resulted in the death of eight Turks and one Turkish-American. The majority of the dead were shot multiple times -- some at close range -- and many other of the ship's occupants were also wounded. Ten of the Israeli commandos were likewise wounded as a result of the violent confrontation. Ultimately, the ships were towed to Israel, where all of the passengers on board were detained and deported.

As was to be expected, the incident was quickly condemned around the world. In the end, the members of the flotilla were accused of acting recklessly, while the Israelis were accused of using excessive and unreasonable force. This is no surprise to me, being as the Israelis have repeatedly been accused of using -- and have indeed used -- excessive and unreasonable force over the decades in their dealings with the Palestinians. While American newspapers are quick to report the number of Israeli casualties that result from Palestinian suicide bomber attacks and missile attacks, the fact of the matter is that in recent decades, substantially more Palestinians -- thousands in fact -- have died as a result of Israeli aggression against them.

If you are interested in taking a deeper look at my views regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, please consider reading such articles as "Palestinian Quest For Statehood and UN Resolution 377", "Palestinian Suicide Bombers and Middle East Peace", "United Nations Confrontation: Abbas vs. Obama" and "Yasser Arafat's Ultimatum: Why May 4, 1999?".

In the aftermath of the Gaza Flotilla Raid, Turkey expelled the Israeli ambassador and announced that it was freezing its military ties with Israel, until such time when Israel would apologize for the deaths of the Turkish citizens, and also compensate the victims' families. Additionally, Turkey has demanded that Israel end the blockade. For its part, Israel has been very adamant about refusing to offer an apology.

So basically, two major shifts have occurred with Turkey since I first wrote this article in 2010. First, while she is still a NATO member, her hopes of joining the European Union are now greatly diminished. Second, depending on how you want to look at it, she has betrayed Israel, or at the very least, turned her back on Israel for the time being due to the Gaza Flotilla Raid incident.

While you may not know it, there is historical and Biblical significance to this latter development. As I explain in the series "The Psalm 83 War False Doctrine Exposed", all of the Patriarch Abraham's descendants from Ishmael, his second wife Keturah, and later from Esau, eventually became the enemies of the Israelites. While Heth -- from whom the modern Turks may be partially descended -- was not related to Abraham, his descendants also became the enemies of the Israelites, except for a few people such as Uriah the Hittite, who was a soldier in King David's army. Of course, David basically had Uriah murdered after he -- David -- committed adultery with Uriah's wife. Thus, if the modern Hittites -- the Turks -- once again become the enemies of the Israelis, the historical circle will be complete.

What comes next is anyone's guess. Will Turkey play a vital role, and possibly even be in the forefront when the Beast's military forces invade Israel at some point in the future? Time will certainly tell. All I know is this:

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:"
Isaiah 46:9-10, KJV

So maybe we don't yet know the precise future, but God most certainly does. This fact should be a great motivation for us all to remain close to Him, and immersed in His Word, if we want to understand where the world is headed, and why.

With these thoughts I will now conclude the evidence which I have, which convinces me of the possibility that the "kings of the east" -- and perhaps even the Beast himself -- may arise out of Turkey. I have provided Scriptural evidence, as well as linguistic evidence, historical evidence, and even some evidence from modern news and Internet sources. I leave it up to you to arrive at your own conclusions regarding the true identity of the "kings of the east" and the nature of the army of two hundred million.

I trust that you have found this article informative, and I hope that it has been a blessing in your life. If that be the case, I encourage you to share its URL link with all of your online friends. Also, if you have a user account with Facebook, Twitter or Google+, I would very much appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of resources below, which are likewise located on the Endtime Prophecy Net server. Please note that some of them -- such as "The Seven Heads" and "The Kings of the North and the South" -- have not been updated since they were written fourteen to fifteen years ago. As such, there is some information which is now outdated, being as certain national leaders have died, and political situations in some of the countries which are mentioned have changed. However, there is still an abundance of pertinent information in both of the aforementioned series:

Capture of Saddam Hussein and the New Babylon
The Seven Heads
The Kings of the North and the South
Palestinian Quest For Statehood and UN Resolution 377
Palestinian Suicide Bombers and Middle East Peace
United Nations Confrontation: Abbas vs. Obama
Yasser Arafat's Ultimatum: Why May 4, 1999?

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