

ISSUE 11

HOPE Gazette

April-May 2022



Enjoy Your Complementary Copy



Verse of the Month

*Therefore there is now no condemnation
at all for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

Romans 8:1



Director

Kasey Parrott

Editor

Michele Fry

Pastor Jeannette Parrott

Contributing Authors

Pastor Larry Mitchell

Mark Pitman

Kasey Parrott

House of Prayer Ellettsville

4100 N Hartstrait Rd

Bloomington IN 47404

812-876-9002

www.thehop-e.com

Classifieds

 **stuff**

 **services**

 **jobs**

 **homes galore**




**FREE
NOTARY
SERVICES**

Contact Kasey Parrott



**Farm Fresh
EGGS**

For Sale

Laid Fresh Daily!

Farm Fresh Eggs For Sale
\$2 a carton
See Jeannette Parrott



DYCHE INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

200 N SALE ST., ELLETTSVILLE, IN 47429

AMY KELLEY BURKHART
BUCKLERAKB@GMAIL.COM

PH 812.606.7796
OFFICE 812.935.5433



phat Daddy's BBQ



Bruce Parrott
President

Catering and Events
phatdaddysbbqspot@gmail.com
812-327-6151

If you have something to celebrate, a job to offer, a service you provide, then please contact the church office.

812-876-9002

Contents



This Gazette is intended to share ideas, discuss theology, and to inform. This is a volunteer-based publication. It is through the hard work of many people that we can produce and share this.

If you have any questions please reach out to us!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KAP'.

Kasey Parrott

House of Prayer Ellettsville
4100 N Hartstrait Rd
Bloomington IN 47404
812-876-9002



Asian Christianity: A Brief History and Contemporary Understanding

Kasey Parrott



Resurrection of Christ

Mark Pitman

Are We Living
In the Last
Days?

Part THREE

6



Are We Living in the Last Days	6
Women of Release Conference	11
Asian Christianity	12
Circle J Teen Ranch	16
Resurrection of Christ	17
Classifieds	21
Church Information	22-23

Prayer Line Requests - prayer.request@thehop-e.com
Need counseling? Counselingathope@gmail.com

The Last Days



Pastor Larry Mitchell presents part two of his series the “Last Days”. He will answer some of the burning questions we all have about the “Last Days”, what that term means biblically, and how it applies to us as Christians.

Make sure to check back in the next Hope Gazette for Part FOUR!



Pastor Larry Mitchell

"The RAPTURE"

> **THIS PAST YEAR, . . . Has Been Quite the YEAR, . . . AMEN ? BUT Just Like So Many Years Before;** - We've Celebrated Graduations; . . . We've Celebrated NEW Found JOBS, and CALLINGS, . . . We've Celebrated Marriages; . . . We've Celebrated NEW Babies;

WE'VE Planted Gardens, And We've Harvested the Fruit of Our Labor; We've Sown the SEED of GOD'S WORD, And We've SEEN MANY SOULS . . . BORN Into the Kingdom of GOD, THIS YEAR !

. . . BUT THEN, ON the FLIPSIDE; We've Also Been SADDENED, and We've Mourned the LOSS of FRIENDS And FAMILY Members; . . . We've Been Discouraged By the LOSS of Jobs, and the BREAKING UP of Marriages; And the UNBELIEVABLE LOSS of Those WHO Once WORSHIPPED WITH US !

> **The Book of ECC. 3:1-2 Tells US; "There is a TIME for everything, And a Season for every activity under heaven. a TIME to Be Born, and a TIME to Die; A TIME to Plant, and a TIME to REAP That which has Been planted."**

Vs. 7-8 says; "There's a TIME to Tear, and a TIME to Mend; A TIME To be Silent, and a TIME to Speak Up; A TIME to Love, and a TIME to Hate. A TIME to make War, and a TIME for PEACE !"

> SO, I BELIEVE IT To BE TRUE, That the HUMAN RACE, . . . Of EVERY Tribe, Tongue, And Nation, . . . That Has EVER LIVED ON THIS PLANET, . . . Has SEEN, or EXPERIENCED Just About EVERY TIME and SEASON That the Writer of the BOOK of Ecclesiastes Has EXPRESSED HERE in Chapter THREE, . . . ALL . . . BUT ONE !

> JESUS TELLS US IN MATT. 24:37-39 " BUT just as it was in the days of Noah, So shall it also be, in the days of the COMING of the SON of MAN." "For as in the days that were before the flood, . . . They were Eating and they were Drinking; Marrying and Giving in Marriage; . . . [Going About and Taking Care of the Usual Business of LIFE] UNTIL the DAY that Noah entered into the ark," AND They Knew NOTHING About WHAT Was To Happen, UNTIL the Floods Came, and Took them all away; . . . SO, Shall it also be, in the DAY, of the "COMING of the SON of MAN."

WE ARE NOW LIVING IN SUCH A DAY, As Was Described 2,000 YEARS AGO !

I Believe That MOST Would AGREE, That MOST Households, [Here in AMERICA] Contain a BIBLE !! MANY Families Have SEVERAL BIBLES ! We Look Around And SEE CHURCHES Scattered Around the COUNTRY Side and Throughout our Cities

And Towns !

WE Take For Granted the FREEDOMS That We Have to Hear the GOSPEL Being Preached On Our RADIO and TV Networks !

. . . BUT YET, . . . SO MANY PEOPLE Scurry About Taking Care of Business As Usual, So UN CONCERNED About the IMPENDING EVENTS That Are About To HAPPEN !

MANY Have taken the OSTRICH Approach and Have Buried Their Heads in the Sand, PRETENDING and SO UNAWARE, and SO UNCONCERNED About the SIGNS That POINT To the ONE . . . MOST IMPORTANT World-Wide "GLOBAL EVENT,"

That's Just About To TAKE PLACE !

. . . BUT To the CHURCH of the LORD JESUS CHRIST, . . . [THOSE Who Are NOT ASLEEP] . . . THERE'S Probably NOT A MORE PRESSING QUESTION,, . . . MORE THOUGHT About, And MORE ASKED ABOUT, . . . (Concerning These "LAST DAYS") . . . THAN, "WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN NEXT ?"

AND I BELIEVE, There Couldn't BE ANYTHING MORE IMPORTANT, Or MORE EXCITING . . . to THIS GENERATION of Born-Again, BELIEVERS, Than the ANSWER to THIS QUESTION, . . . (Which is Found IN **TITUS 2:13**) Where YOU Can Almost HEAR the EXCITEMENT, and the ANTICIPATION, as PAUL WRITES to TITUS, . . . (WHO Was ONE of HIS CONVERTS) . . .

"LOOKING Forward to that BLISSFUL, or BLESSED HOPE, and the Glorious Appearing of Our GREAT GOD, and SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST."

> AND "YES," OF Course, We're EXCITED About Our SALVATION, . . . And We're THANKFUL For THIS WONDERFUL BORN-AGAIN Experience, That Was Purchased BY the BLOOD of JESUS CHRIST, . . . AND Of Course, We're EXCITED About Being BAPTIZED, And BEING Filled with the POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT, . . . Overcoming Power, SO That WE Can Live VICTORIOUS LIVES, . . . RIGHT NOW, and Have LIFE More ABUNDANT !!

. . . BUT, . . . EVEN MORE EXCITING, . . . is to KNOW That the CLIMAX, or the CULMINATION of ALL THAT WE Have BELIEVED, . . . And the Wonderful FULFILLMENT, of Everything That We've Been Taught, . . . FINALLY . . . DROWNS OUT, and TOTALLY STILLS, . . . ALL the VOICES of DOUBT and UNBELIEF, . . . WHEN WE FINALLY MEET JESUS FACE to FACE !!

AND THAT TIME, . . . is Just About to HAPPEN !
“ARE YOU PICKIN’ UP – WHAT I’M LAYIN’
DOWN ??”

WHAT Are WE Talking About ??

We’re Talking About the “CATCHING AWAY of GOD’S
PEOPLE !” WE’RE Talking About WHAT is Commonly
Referred to AS . . . “THE RAPTURE of the CHURCH !”

Where Once Again, . . AS PAUL RELATES In His Letter
To TITUS . . “the GLORIOUS Appearing of Our GREAT
GOD and SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST.”

. . . . NOW, I KNOW . . That SOME People DON’T
BELIEVE in the RAPTURE of the Church, . . Simply
Because the Word, “RAPTURE,” ISN’T FOUND . . in the
BIBLE !

. . AND THEY’RE Absolutely RIGHT, . . The WORD,
“RAPTURE,” DOES NOT APPEAR in the BIBLE ! . .
BUT the BIBLE Explicitly Talks About a ,”Catching
away,” . . and Being, “Caught Up,” . . . Or “Gathered
Together to Be With the Lord in the Air.”

> JESUS Talks About a “COMING AGAIN,” IN JOHN
14:1-3 . . . “Let Not Your Hearts be Troubled, If You
Believe in GOD, Then you can also Believe in Me;” In My
Father’s House are many mansions, If it were Not so, I
would have Told You;

“I Go to Prepare a Place for You, so that When I
“COME AGAIN” I will Receive You unto Myself, that
Where I am, YOU, May be also.”

I’M NOT SURE WHEN the Word, “RAPTURE,” Was
FIRST USED, in Referring to the “Second COMING of
CHRIST,” or “WHEN HE WILL “COME BACK” . . and
“CATCH AWAY” HIS CHURCH; . . BUT The Word,
“RAPTURE,” Itself, (According to Webster), . . Means;

1. the State of Being RAPT, or TRANSPORTED (But
NOT . . JUST Transported,) . . BUT TRANSPORTED
With Ecstatic JOY;

2. The Act of Transferring a Person From One Place
to Another;

3. An ACT, or An Expression of Excessive Delight;

4. A Snatching Away; A Violent Seizure; To Seize;

> . . . SO, I WOULD SAY; “E - 5” . . “ALL of the
ABOVE !” AMEN ? The GREEK Word For “CATCH” .
. As Used in the Scripture, . . is “HARPAZO,” . .
Which Means, “to SNATCH” or “to CATCH AWAY By
FORCE, . . SUDDENLY.”

AND EVEN Though WE Might NOT SEE the Word
“RAPTURE,” in the SCRIPTURES,

. . . I DO Believe WE Can SEE, WHY . . the WORD,
“RAPTURE” . . Was USED . .
in Describing the “CATCHING AWAY” of the LORD’S
CHURCH !

> Today, WE Find That a Lot of Pastors and Church
Leaders, DON’T TEACH the “RAPTURE” Anymore, . .
Because They SAY That the Scriptures Aren’t Suppose to
Be Interpreted LITERALLY !! REALLY ??

. . BUT IF WE LOOK in the Word of GOD, . . I Think
WE Can Very Plainly SEE That the First THREE
RAPTURES . . WERE LITERAL ! THAT’S RIGHT !

. . And There is Absolutely NO Scripture That Indicates
That the “RAPTURE of the CHURCH,” Will BE ANY
DIFFERENT !!

GOD says in MAL. 3:6 . . . “I am GOD and I Change
NOT.”

> NUMBERS 23:19 says; “GOD is not a man that he
should Lie;

neither the Son of Man that he should Repent.”

> HEB. 13:8 says; “Jesus Christ is the Same yesterday,
today, and forever.”



> NOW, Some of YOU, . . ARE Wondering “WHAT First
THREE RAPTURES Is HE Talking About ?” Have I
Missed Something ?

WELL, Let’s EXPLORE THIS a Little BIT !

The FIRST Mention of Any Type of a RAPTURE, or a
“Catching Away,” in the Scriptures, is Found in the 5th
Chapter of the Book of Beginnings. (That’s the Book of
GENESIS 5:21-24)

>> AND IT INVOLVED A MAN, BY THE NAME OF
“ENOCH.”

It Tells US Here; “And Enoch lived sixty and five years,
and He begat Methuselah; And Enoch walked with GOD
after he begat Methuselah, three hundred years, and he
begat sons and Daughters.”

“And all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-
five years; And Enoch walked with GOD; And was NOT,
for GOD “TOOK HIM.”” WHOA !!!

SO, This Passage of Scripture Tells US That ENOCH was 365 Years Old, . . UNTIL One Day, as ENOCH was Walkin' Towards GOD'S HOUSE, . . That GOD Must Have Said, "HEY ENOCH, Its Getting Late, . . And So, Since You're Closer to MY House, Than You Are to Yours, . . It says, . . "GOD TOOK HIM !"

NOW, I Don't Know If It Happened That WAY, . . BUT It Plainly Says That, "HE Walked With GOD, . . and GOD TOOK HIM !

Somebody said," Well, That Means HE Probably Just DIED !"

NO . . IF WE Look in the 11th chapter of the Book of HEB. 5-6 it says; "By Faith, ENOCH was Translated that He should NOT SEE DEATH; And was NOT found, because God had Translated HIM; For before his Translation, He had the testimony that "HE PLEASED GOD!"

> SO We KNOW That According to Scripture, That ENOCH DIDN'T DIE ! IT says, That GOD TRANSLATED HIM ! (What Does This Word "TRANSLATE," Mean ?) WELL, IT Very Simply Means, , That GOD Picked HIM UP From ONE PLACE, And Then, SET HIM Down IN ANOTHER !! (HEY, . . "STAR TREK DON'T HAVE NUTHIN' ON GOD !")
> I'd Definitely CALL This a RAPTURE, . . Wouldn't You ? I Mean, There's No Other Way to Interpret This Scripture Without Calling the Word of GOD a LIAR, And That Ain't You and Me Babe !!

Believe a SIMILAR Experience Had Happened to Phillip, Here in the Book of ACTS 8:39-40 . . . (After Phillip Had Baptized the Ethiopian EUNUCH) It says; "And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord, "Caught Away" Phillip, and the Eunuch Saw Him NO More; So He went on his way, rejoicing." . . (BUT Then, ALL of a Sudden) "BUT PHILLIP was Found at Azotus,"

> OF COURSE, Phillip Wasn't "Caught Away," or "Caught Up," to BE With the LORD, . . [LIKE ENOCH WAS] . . BUT . . HE WAS TRANSLATED !

ENOCH Experienced THIS Same TYPE of TRANSLATION, or "Catching Away," Or . . a "RAPTURE," . . Being Picked Up From One Place . . and SET DOWN in Another ! "PRETTY COOL, I'D SAY !"

> The SECOND "RAPTURE" in the BIBLE, Was That of "ELIJAH."

ELIJAH was a Great Prophet of GOD, . . And WHEN it Came Time For Elijah to PASS ON HIS MANTLE, . . [HIS ANOINTING,] . .

In II KINGS 2:1-8 & 11 it says; "And it came to pass, when the Lord would "Take Up" Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha to Gilgal. And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided so that they went over on dry ground."

"And so it happened, after they had gone over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what you want me to do for you, before I'm taken away from you !" . . And Elisha said," I pray that a Double- Portion of your Spirit would be upon Me !"

" And He said, "You have asked a hard thing, but never the less, If you see me, when I'm taken from thee, it shall be done."

"And so it happened, as they went on and talked, that all of a Sudden, a Chariot of Fire, and Horses of Fire, Appeared and Carried Elijah UP By a Whirlwind Into Heaven."

SO, The FACT is; That Both ENOCH and ELIJAH Were "CAUGHT AWAY" . . or "TAKEN UP," . . BODILY and "ALIVE !" " RAPTURED !" . . AND WE Need To Take NOTE HERE, . . That Neither ENOCH OR ELIJAH EXPERIENCED DEATH, BEFORE THEY WERE TAKEN ! WE Will Talk More, About the Importance of THIS, LATER !!

> The THIRD Rapture is Found in the Book of ACTS Ch. 1 ON the LORD'S DAY, . . the FIRST DAY of the Week, . . AFTER the Resurrection, . . JESUS and His Disciples Walked Outside the Gates of Jerusalem and Went to the Mount of Olives; . . AND PAUL Tells US in I COR. 15:6 . . That There Was a Company of MORE Than 500, . . WHO Went Out With HIM. [MANY WITNESSES !]

> ACTS 1:9-11 says; "And when He (JESUS) had finished speaking, as they looked upon him, HE was "Taken Up" and a cloud Received him out of their Sight." (500 People SAW THIS !)

"And while they were still looking intently towards the Heaven, as he "WENT UP," All of a Sudden, two men stood by them in white apparel; Who said; "You men of Galilee, why do you stand here gazing up into the Heavens? This same Jesus which has been taken up from you, will also COME BACK in the Same Manner as You Have SEEN HIM GO !"

> ONCE AGAIN, Here's Another Passage of Scripture That PROVES the REALITY of a LITERAL "RAPTURE !"

JESUS was ALSO TAKEN UP, . . BODILY . . and ALIVE, BUT Of Course, JESUS Was IN HIS GLORIFIED, CELESTIAL, INCORRUPTIBLE BODY, of Which WE, . . Will ALSO RECIEVE . . at the MOMENT of “LIFT OFF !”

> I JOHN 3:2 says;” Beloved, we are right now, Sons of God, God’s Children, and its not yet clear what we shall be hereafter, BUT we know, when HE COMES and is manifested, WE shall be like him, for WE Shall SEE HIM as HE REALLY IS;”

> The INSTANT That JESUS APPEARS, . . With a “SHOUT,” . . WE, . . (By the POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN US,] . . WE Will DEFY And OVERCOME the NATURAL LAW of GRAVITY, . . AND in That Same INSTANT, WE SHALL be CHANGED, . . IN a MOMENT, . . IN a FLASH, . . in the Twinkling of an Eye !

> PAUL Tells US in I COR. 15:50-53 ; “ Now this I say brethern, that Flesh and Blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; . . . Neither does corruption inherit incorruption; ”Behold I show you a mystery; WE shall not all sleep, BUT WE Will ALL BE CHANGED, in a moment, in the Twinkling of an Eye, at the Last Trumpet ! “For the Trumpet shall sound, and the dead in Christ shall be Raised incorruptible, and we shall be Changed !” “For this corruptible, must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality!”

> CORRUPTION or CORRUPTIBLE, . . In the Sense That PAUL is Talking About Here, . . Means “DECAY” – “RUST”. . “GROWING OLD” – “Susceptible to Sickness and Disease,” “WEARING OUT”. . . “Ultimately DYING !”

RIGHT NOW, Our “SPIRIT,” and Our “SOUL,” IS Enjoying OUR SALVATION, . . MORE Than Our “BODIES“ ARE, . . Because FULL Salvation For Our BODIES Won’t Be Realized UNTIL WE “PUT ON,” “INCORRUPTION,” and “IMMORTALITY !”

> . . BECAUSE On the Other Hand; “INCORRUPTION or IMMORTALITY” Means; “NO More Sickness & Disease” – NO More Cancer” – “NO More Heart Attacks” – NO MORE GROWING OLD” . . . “NO MORE SORROW !” “Living Forever !”

> NOW, Some People Want To Believe That the “RAPTURE,” Will BE Done More In SECRET, . . BUT PAUL Seems To Describe Something That’s Going To HAPPEN in the OPEN, and More PUBLIC, . . With a LOUD VOICE, A SHOUT, . . And a TRUMPET BLAST !

> I THESS. 4:16-18 says; ”For the Lord himself, shall descend from heaven, with a Shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the Trumpet of God; And the Dead in Christ shall Rise First, Then, WE, . . which are Alive and Remain, shall be “Caught Up” together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.”

“And so shall we Ever Be with the Lord.”

VS. 18 - Wherefore, comfort one another with these words.”

In Our NEXT ISSUE, . . WE Will TALK ABOUT TWO MORE LITERAL “*RAPTURES of the TRIBULATION !*” . . ~



Asian Christianity: A Brief History and Contemporary Understanding

Kasey Parrott

Christianity in Asia has a complex history. Asia is a large and diverse area with numerous cultural aspects that have influenced both the growth and declines of Christianity. Being such a large continent, it encompasses vast ideologies, political realms, and realities that are unfamiliar to their neighboring countries. Energized by fear, colonization, war, and competing religions, Asia's growth shows a continued work of the Holy Spirit as it battles against these elements to open the door to biblical interpretation.

The Beginning (33AD – 1800AD)

Christianity began in Asia. Jesus was Asian and so were his followers. It is not surprising that in was in Asia that Christianity became the first official faith of an entire nation. Along the way to a now flourishing of Christianity in the continent we begin with the movements into the Persian Empire. This proved to be quite difficult as it was a Zoroastrian community which believed that humanity was involved in a great spiritual battle between good and evil. They believed the Christians were aiding the forces of evil in this battle. As such, more Christians were killed in Persia than the Roman Empire.

Another growth spurt came after the Great Division. During this time Christianity was carried further east along the Silk Road all the way to China. One man, Alopen was the first recorded Christian missionary to enter the Chinese empire, reaching the T'ang Dynasty capital, Changan (Xian) in 635 AD. He was welcomed by the second T'ang emperor, the great T'ai-Tsun (626-649) who had adopted a policy of religious toleration. The emperor was a zealous man of learning and brought Alopen into the imperial library and ordered him to begin translation of his sacred book, the Bible.



To communicate he decided to adopt a strategy of blending with the local culture. Using Buddhism's success of building monasteries and publishing sutras, Alopen was able to keep a harmony with the culture and Christianity. This method was successful and as such Christianity gained a foothold in other Asian communities as well. During this time of success in centra Asia, there was a recession in the Middle East. The rise of Islam affected the region greatly. This was seen in Africa as well as Asia.

The rise of Islam was not the only factor in a decline. In the mid-800s resistance to Christianity emerged in other areas of Asia. The T'ang dynasty became suspicious of everything that was not traditionally Chinese, and Buddhism and Christianity were both banned. By the end of the century there were almost no Christians in the Chinese territory.

This pattern of recession and success continued for many years. Many came, such as the Jesuits and Protestant missionaries, with varied success. The Asian communities were particularly afraid of colonization, foreign Gods, and genocide by ruthless tyrants such as Timur Leng (1370-1405). History had proved that Christianity was intertwined with these fears and Asian communities were quick to remember the harshness.

Moving Forward (1700-present)

During the ensuing years the same pattern of rising and falling of Christianity could be seen across the continent. In the late 1700s many European Protestant missionaries arrived in Asia. One, William Carey, was a Baptist missionary from England. He was not overly successful in mission work, however, in his pamphlet, *An Enquiry into the Obligation of Christians to Use Means for Conversion of the Heathens*, he was able to change perceptions of missions forever.

In this pamphlet he argues that commandment of Christ as presented to the Apostles to share the gospel to the ends of the earth is a requirement of all. Here he argues that Paul and Silas, who were forbidden from Bithynia (Acts 6) by the Holy Spirit from preaching would not have been safe or welcomed. "It was not the duty of Paul to preach Christ to the inhabitants of Otaheite, because no such place was then discovered, nor had he any means of coming to them. But none of the things can be alleged by us on behalf of the neglect of the commission given by Christ."

Carey had a new idea. He knew forcing Christianity wouldn't work. "It has been said that we ought not to force our way, but to wait for the openings, and leading of Providence..." He wanted to preach the gospel and began translating the Bible into more than thirty local languages. His success led others to come and follow his lead.

This has led to a pattern that has been applied throughout the years leading up to today. As Catholics and Protestants missionaries came throughout the years they were met with local opposition. Asian nations did not want foreign preachers roaming their lands. This was due to fear of colonization and as such Asians saw Christianity and colonial subjugation as the same thing. Despite these legitimate fears, Christianity was not wholly rejected. Many embraced the gospel and became Christian evangelists themselves. Pentecostal missionaries came later, and as seen in Africa and Latin America, became a predominate part of Christianity on the continent. This type of Christianity made room for syncretism.

Contemporary Asian Christianity

Narrowing down Asian theology into a concise idea is an impossible undertaking. The continent is massive, and each country is vastly different with its own set of challenges, history, and cultural standards. Many parts of Asia are Islamic and Buddhist today. The Southeast is a mix of several religions; however, Christianity is generally thriving in the area. The Philippines is now home to more than 90 million Christians. Like other Christians around the world, Asians are beginning to find their own theological ideas. Instead of seeing things as individual, complete in themselves, the Asian sees things as they relate to others.

How we relate to scripture is essential to our personal and corporate theology. People from different cultures and background bring different experiences to the Bible and ask different questions of it and so see different things in the text. The Asian perspective is quite different than our Western approach. Asian reading of the scriptures does not adhere to a strict academic perspective or the traditional Eurocentric approach. Asian interpretation is influenced by numerous other factors. Translations of the Bible into the languages of the various groups were influenced as they made the Bible in their own languages, out of their own contexts, as they were making sense of God's word for their specific life situations. This lends itself to a unique and individualized approach to biblical interpretation and prophecy. Along with a harmonizing theology, civil loyalty plays a large role to the nations and cultures they live in.

In Asian Christianity we find key theological ideas which have helped shaped various areas of the continent in contemporary Christianity. While numerous examples abound, two theologies stand out in current interpretation of Asian Christianity: The Minjung Theology and the Water Buffalo Theology. Both theologies accentuate culture, identity, and social justice as they challenge a misology of substitution. This is done with an alert to the challenges of syncretism. These theologies could fall under the broader category of liberation theology as they directly address the marginalized in society because of economic, cultural, social, and gender discrimination.

Minjung theology recognizes the current context of the marginalized and identifies Biblical texts that resonate with the experiences and issues of the marginalized. A contextual theology, minjung theology was born in response to

the suffering the of the minjung under Park Chung Hee's regime in the 1960s. At its inception it focused on the deplorable economic and cultural conditions of minjung. Later minjung theology expanded to address political and social concerns that emerged from the minjung movement for democracy in the early 1980s. During that time, minjung theology addressed political issues that concern democracy, using a material and social revolutionary approach in the construction of minjung theology for the new millennium.

Minjung theology seeks not just to justify its own perspective from Biblical 'proof texts', but to read the whole Bible recognizing that both oppressors and oppressed are present in the Biblical stories and recognizing that "the biblical liberating events are clear paradigms for God's intervention in history, and such intervention takes place in the socioeconomic arena today. The minjung theology is an interpretation of scripture that point to Jesus siding with marginal groups and is related to the impoverished and oppressed.

No discussion of modern theology in Asia is complete without consideration of the Water Buffalo Theology. In Asia, local metaphors are used to describe biblical interpretation. This adaptation is a key concept as Asian interpretation of life is in always in relation to others. Theologies such as the "water-buffalo" theology or the "mangoes or bananas" metaphor, offer a practical way of application of biblical readings for the nitty-gritty parts of life. These perspectives relate to the population on a local level, one that is understandable and adaptable to daily life.

Asian interpretation of the biblical texts must appeal to the relationships found in the "gray areas" of life. As theologians in the area approach biblical interpretation using the concept and balance found in the "ying-yang" mindset, using local metaphors speak to the marginality and in-betweenness of their theological methods. These methods allow for parallel concepts and ideas to translate throughout the Bible and relate to a vast number of the population on a local level that is understandable and adaptable to daily life.

Lastly, other influences are impactful for the Asian perspective on scripture including worldviews that are like biblical worldviews. "Asian Christians see spirits, witches, and magic at work in numerous dimensions of life: morality, health, natural disaster, and so forth". This stems from a syncretistic mindset and places emphasis on the more spiritual aspects of the unknown.

Interpreting Scripture: Asian Perspective

Revelation 7:9-17

*⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all the tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; ¹⁰ and they *cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." ¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, "Amen, blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might belong to our God forever and ever. Amen." ¹³ Then one of the elders responded, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God, and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. ¹⁶ They will no longer hunger nor thirst, nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷ for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."*

The Asian reader would likely look at this passage with great hope. In verse 9 the inclusive nature of the texts shows that all peoples will be in the throne room before God, there is no partiality based on nation or language. All are equally standing before the throne, before the Lamb, and clothed the same (verse 10) which reiterates the lack of favoritism in God's sight.

We also read in verse 14 that these people were the ones who came out of the great tribulation. Many in the Asian community are faced with third-world conditions and are dehumanized often in their daily life. Reading this text would resonate with someone in those conditions as they most likely see their life a tribulation in progress. The Asian

group might see this consideration as part of the minjung theology: that Christ has come to offer salvation to those who are marginalized and oppressed.

In verse 15 we see that it because of Christ, and salvation which belongs to God (verse 10) that this group is before the throne of God to serve Him day and night in His temple. At first glance this might seem oppressive in nature, but when we go into verse 16, we see that God is promised that no longer will people be hungry or thirst, no longer will the sun beat down on them. This promise follows along with the minjung theology we see in previous verses.

In verse 12 we find that the worship practices of those in the throne room are said with an emphasis on God alone. This might be interpreted practically by the Asian interpreter and understood to imply a daily thanksgiving and spirit of worship.

Interpretation And Application from an Asian Perspective

This passage in Revelation 7 is hopeful to those who read it with understanding. We see different aspects in the passage's content: worship, equality, and the promise of rest with God. Interpretation and application from the Asian perspective could stem from several influences, most notably though we would have to focus on the minjung theology. This would have an Asian reader seeing how God is not partial to anyone. This concept incorporates a lack of partialism on behalf of God with His creation, it also emphasis the restoration context which the Asian reader would relate under this theology.

As Asian readers are known to view scripture with the additional emphasis on the spiritual things such as magic, witches, spirits, and other dimensions, they might read this scripture as part of the longer story of God's warfare against evil. The immediate context tells us chapter seven of Revelations is an interlude between the sixth and seventh seals with the remnant of Israel being sealed; the segment 7:9-17 is about the redemption of the multitude of Gentiles. This feeds into the longer "cosmic warfare between God and Satan, whose sole purpose is to vindicate Christians and to avenge their enemies and persecutors".

Conclusion

The gospel began in Asia and announced from there to the world. It is on this continent that the history of Christianity has been a roller-coaster of up and downs, without holding any majority in the population. Christ referred to this in Luke 4:24, "Truly, I tell you no prophet is accepted in hometown." It seems to remain true in Asia. The struggle for Christians has been felt over the years. Persecution, genocide, and general obliteration has constituted the religion and the people as foreign.

However, the Holy Spirit cannot be stopped. Despite almost a complete eradication of Christianity in the 1300s and 1400s, Asian Christians are still going strong. Blending their notions of harmony and civic duty, they try to find a sense of balance and peace. Reconciliation becomes a part of the Christian life for the Asian as they must contend with the other people and religious beliefs around them. This balance helps to make sense of a fallen world and the love of God for them.

Bibliography

- Anderson, Gerald H. "第七世紀", Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Christianity
- Arthur, Eddie. "Reading the Bible with the Global Church." *Encounters Mission Journal* 14
- Carey, William. *An Enquiry Into the Obligation of Christians, to Use Means for the Conversation of the Heathens*. (1891)
- Lee, Yeong Mee. "A Political Reception of the Bible: Koren Minjung Theological Interpretation of the Bible."
- Jacobsen, Douglas. *Global Gospel: An Introduction to Christianity on Five Continents*.
- Song, Choan-Seng. "Revelation 21: An Asian Perspective." In *Return to Babel: Global Perspectives on the Bible*
- Yeo, K.K. "Asian and Asian American Biblical Interpretation." In *Scripture and Its Interpretation: A Global, Ecumenical Introduction to the Bible*, edited by Michael J. Gorman



June 3-5, 2022

House of Prayer Ellettsville
4100 N Hartstrait Rd
Bloomington IN 47404

812-876-9002



Cost is \$75

CIRCLE J TEEN CAMP



Overnight Camping



Canoeing



Fun and Games



Campfire Cooking



Devotions and
Worship



Relaxed Atmosphere

Get more information by calling the church at 812-876-9002 or visiting our website www.thehop-e.com



Resurrection of Christ

Mark Pitman

The following is a historical account of an event that forever changed the hearts of men and women alike. If it had happened in today's world it would probably go unnoticed. It is not a fairy tale as some may believe. There have many theories as to what actually happened but none have disproved it. Today is the day we celebrate this historical event just like we do other historical events throughout the year. Except in that time in history there was no fanfare, no marching band, fireworks or parade to highlight the event. It went unannounced except for the ones who were close to the event that occurred. This is the account that happened on that time in history.

He was born of a virgin birth. He was not a good looking man, there was no visible beauty. Women did not desire Him. He was not received by men. He was rejected by many. He had no friends. He was very sorrowful, full of grief. People hid their faces from Him when He walked by as in shame. He was beaten, battered and bruised. He was hardly recognizable after He was beaten. . (Isaiah 53).But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed.

The Garden of Gethsemane Matthew 26: 36-46 / Luke 22; 40-46

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and told His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." 37 And He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee with Him, and began to be grieved and distressed. 38 Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me."

39 And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You *will*." 40 And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and He said to Peter, "So, you *men* could not keep watch with Me for one hour? 41 Keep watching and praying, so that you do not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

42 He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this *cup* cannot pass away unless I drink *from* it, Your will be done." 43 Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. 44 And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more. 45 Then He came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Get up, let's go; behold, the one who is betraying Me is near!"

Before **Christ was** sent to be crucified, the Roman soldiers beat Him with a lead-tipped whip, called a **flagrum** or sometimes a **flagellum**. This whip would actually rip the flesh off the body. This is what is meant by His stripes we are healed. He was made to carry a cross on His back. During this torture He did not open His mouth to say a word or

lift a finger in defense. He even asked God to forgive them, for they knew not what they were doing. Luke 23:34 NIV. He could even have called out for angels to rescue Him from the cross. Matthew 26:53: Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?

Through His blood sacrifice on the Cross of Calvary, Jesus Christ paid the bond price for our sins and thereby saved us from eternal damnation at the hands of our enemy, Satan.

Additionally, by conquering the grave, Jesus not only claimed His authority over death but He also opened the gates of heaven by offering us the gift of salvation, thus enabling us to live in eternal righteousness with God.

“7But each one of us was given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. 8Therefore God says, ‘When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.’ 9But this, ‘He ascended’—didn't he also first descend into the lower parts of the earth? 10He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things” (Ephesians 4:7-10 .

He did this for us. He bore our sins on the cross. 1 Peter 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. He died so we could be set free. He shed His blood for us. On the cross He felt like the Father (God) had forsaken Him. Mark 15- 34. Psalm 22, Matthew 27 -45. Even though He felt that way He told the Father, not my will but your will be done. He knew there would be people who did not care that He died for their sins but He did it anyway. He did this as an act of love. Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8.

I wrote a couple of poems to convey what this means to me in my life:

“What Is the Cost”

What is the price you pay For the sins He bore?
For the evil deeds He remembers no more?
Your price is repentance, to turn from your evil ways,
For your debt has been paid.
It cost Him His life,
for you to live, this love He ask only that to others you will give.
Make them aware of the cost, that the life they lead is but loss,
It will only lead to death, away from the cross.
For only in the cross can we have victory, and from a life of sin be set free.

“New Life”

The past cannot hold me down,
With God I have turned my life around
By His mercy and His grace,
I have found a new place,
To place my trust in His Hands,
and to give Him my life's plans,
To Him I owe a debt of gratitude

It is by faith I now live my life,
No more worry, no more strife
Because of Him I can start anew,
I can see my circumstances from a different view.
I thank God for this precious gift of love from above,
For your Son who gave His all,
His blood, your sacrifice,
His life for mine,
Eternal life I have gained.

When the Roman soldiers striped Him of His clothes they cast lots for them; Matthew 27:35 : And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, Psalm 22:18 “They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots'.

His best friend Peter denied him three times Luke 22:54-62

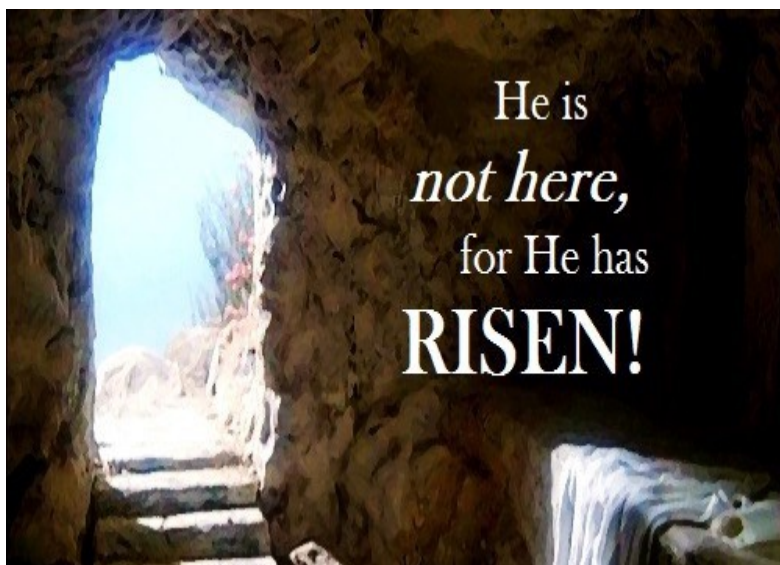
Peter Denies Jesus

54 Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. 55 And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. 56 Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him." 57 But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." 58 And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." 59 And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean." 60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. 61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." 62 And he went out and wept bitterly. Has any of your friends betrayed you? Judas one of the disciples turned Him over to the authorities. Matthew 26:14-16 14 Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests 15 and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. 16 From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over. Any of your friends ever do this to you?

3 When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders

"What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility."

5 So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. Matthew 27



Mark 16

Jesus Rises From the Dead

16 The Sabbath day ended. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices. They were going to use them for Jesus' body 2 Very early on the first day of the week, they were on their way to the tomb. It was just after sunrise. 3 They asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance to the tomb?"

4 Then they looked up and saw that the stone had been rolled away. The stone was very large. 5 They entered the tomb. As they did, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe. He was sitting on the right side. They were alarmed.

6 "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. But he has

risen! He is not here! See the place where they had put him. 7 Go! Tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him. It will be just as he told you.' "

8 The women were shaking and confused. They went out and ran away from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

9 Jesus rose from the dead early on the first day of the week. He appeared first to Mary Magdalene. He had driven seven demons out of her. 10 She went and told those who had been with him. She found them crying. They were very sad. 11 They heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him. But they did not believe it.

12 After that, Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them. This happened while they were walking out in the country. 13 The two returned and told the others about it. But the others did not believe them either.

14 Later Jesus appeared to the 11 disciples as they were eating. He spoke firmly to them because they had no faith. They would not believe those who had seen him after he rose from the dead.

15 He said to them, "Go into all the world. Preach the good news to everyone. 16 Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who does not believe will be punished. 17 Here are the miraculous signs that those who believe will do. In my name they will drive out demons. They will speak in languages they had not known before. 18

They will pick up snakes with their hands. And when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all. They will place their hands on sick people. And the people will get well.”

19 When the Lord Jesus finished speaking to them, he was taken up into heaven. He sat down at the right hand of God.
20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere. The Lord worked with them. And he backed up his word by the signs that went with it.

After reading the account of Jesus death, burial and resurrection, who would believe this would have happened?

Here are six reasons why the resurrection is vitally important: (1) Jesus kept His promise to rise from the dead, so we can believe He will keep all His other promises. (2) The resurrection ensures us that the ruler of God's eternal kingdom will be the living Christ, not just an idea, hope or dream (3) Christ's resurrection gives us the assurance that we also will be resurrected. (4) The power of God that brought Christ's body back from the dead is available to us to bring our morally and spiritually dead selves back to life so that we can change and grow (1Corinthians 15: 12-19). (5) The resurrection provides the substance of the church's witness to the world. We do not merely tell lessons from the life of a good teacher; we proclaim the reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (6) Because Christ was raised from the dead, we know that the kingdom of heaven has broken into earth's history. Our world is now headed for redemption not disaster. God's mighty power is at work destroying sin, creating lives, and preparing us for Jesus second coming.

Jesus did this because He loves us: John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. He died for you and the whole world. If you can with faith believe that and that He rose from the dead (Matthew 28:7) and that He sits in heaven at the right hand of God, then you will receive forgiveness of your sins be saved and have eternal life. Let today be the most important day of your life and make that choice to believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lord's. Happy Resurrection Day!

In His Service;
Mark Pitman

Definitions :

Transgression : a failing; a mistake.

Iniquity: Immoral or grossly unfair behavior.

Chastisement: To purify; to punish by beatings. To criticize severely.

Oppressed: Down trodden

Afflicted: To assume responsibility for anthers fault .

Travail: Anguish to the point of pain.

Intercession: Praying on anothers behalf.

Esteemed : Precious; held in high regard, respected.

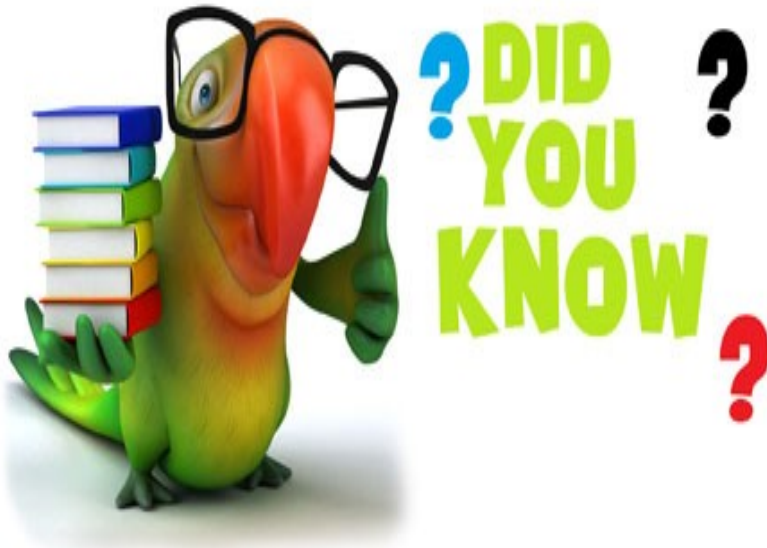
For futher reading and study:

Josh McDowell ; Evidence that Demands a Verdict

Lee Strobel : A Case for Christ

C.S Lewis ; Mere Christianity





Did you know that at the
House of Prayer
Ellettsville
we have tons of
activities for kids?

Wednesday Services 7pm
Sunday Services 10am

Weekly Services for all kids!

Birth– Grade 6

Inside Out Teens

Grade 7– Age 19

Circle J Kids Ranch!

June 13-17, 2022

Learn More about all of our
kids programs, including our
annual Circle J Kids Ranch, at
www.thehop-e.com, or call
the church at 812-876-9002

The goal at Circle J Ranch is to minister the gospel of Jesus Christ to each child in a fun and interactive way! We have horseback riding, paint ball, gold panning, archery, Indian Village, Fort Friendly, Potter's House, and daily chapels.

