



GOD IN ANCIENT CHINA - Part 2

Many Chinese believers suffer accusation from friends and family that they are forsaking their heritage, which comes from an underlying belief system that if you're Chinese then you're a follower of Buddhism, Taoism or Confucianism and that Christianity is a western religion. However for the first 2000 years of their history Chinese people worshipped a singular supreme God – not a multitude of deities.

This is reflected in the Chinese characters or pictographs, and also in historical records of astronomy that parallel to Biblical events such as Christ's birth and death.

This table shows a few examples of ancient Chinese words and the story that is represented by their character or pictograph.

 boat 舟 八 口 vessel eight people	 to covet, desire 林 + 女 = 婪 two women to covet, trees desire	 to create 告 土 丩 之 speak dust, life walk mud	 forbidden, to warn 林 示 two trees God (abbreviated form)
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- Creation* – spoken words and movement Bless – God, with a mouth, in a garden
- Garden* – clay, breath of the mouth on two people (the woman from the man's side)
- Forbid* – God gave a revelation about two trees
- Tempter* – a devil (one who comes secretly to man in a garden) amongst the trees
- Greed/lust* – two trees over a woman
- Worry* – don't touch this tree
- Naked* – the clothing is gone because of the fruit in the garden
- Hide* – a man behind a tree

- Big boat* – a boat with 8 people
 - Tower* – people with one mouth building with grass and clay
 - Confusion* – tongue and right leg (i.e. the languages caused people to scatter)
 - Righteousness* – lamb over me, with a spear
 - Eternal life* – lamb and water (the lamb will wash your sins away)
- Not only did the ancient characters record the story of creation, sin, flood, separation of nations, and sacrifice, but they also prophesied of a lamb who would come and bring eternal life.

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God in Ancient China - Part 2...

At the Tower of Babel, 70 nations were separated by their “clans, nations and languages” (Genesis 10). This occurred around 2200BC which was around 350 years after the flood. Given that the Chinese written language would have been created very soon after this event it’s not surprising that the early pictographs recorded these elements of the history of the world up to that point. Remember Adam lived the same time as Methuselah for 240 years, Methuselah would have spent time with Noah over their 600 common years, and Noah died around about the time of Babel. So Noah’s sons and their offspring would have taken the oral history of the world as they spread out and populated the world.

These discoveries were made by an Italian Jesuit priest, Matteo Ricci, in 1583. He mastered the language and read the ancient writings, becoming a scholar equal to the Chinese scholars. What the Chinese had unknowingly been recording for centuries he was able to explain to them from the Bible and this ultimately led to thousands becoming followers of Jesus Christ. After studying their history records and their written characters he wrote “He who is called Lord of Heaven in my humble country is He who is called Shang Di in Chinese.”

Like the Hebrews often did, the ancestors of today’s Chinese wandered off after false gods and the memory of who their original God was became dimmed with time. For Chinese to truly go back to their roots, and to honour their ancient culture, the only way is to recognise that the one true God has always been with them and has left a clear witness of Himself in their language and historical records.

Adapted and condensed from spoken messages by Pstr K Hee, CHC, Singapore 2009

Picture: Scroll depicting a Christian baptism in ancient China.



An interesting note from ancient Chinese records:

When the magi came from the east looking for the new king of the Jews, having seen his star in the sky, scholars date this as happening around 4-5BC. According to the astronomy records of the Han Dynasty there is a record of a comet of 70 days duration with reference to “the beginning of a new epoch...with great importance.” The date given is the second month of the second year of Emperor Jian Ping. That’s 9 March to 6 April 5BC. The place of the comet in the sky was the constellation whose name meant “the Perfect Sacrifice” (Historical Records Vol 27 Book of Astronomy).

Luke records that darkness came over the land for three hours when Jesus was on the cross. “In the day of Gui Hai, the last day of the month, there was a solar eclipse” (History of Latter Han Dynasty, Vol 1, Chronicles of

Emperor Guang Wu, 7th year).

This event can be dated to AD31. These records go on to say “Yin and Yang (ie darkness and light) have mistakenly switched and the sun and moon were eclipsed. The sins of all the people are now on one man⁽¹⁾. Pardon is proclaimed to all under heaven.”

Also recorded was “Eclipse on the day of Gui Hai, Man from Heaven died” (History of Latter Han, Annals no. 18, Gui Hai.) Those records also record “a halo/rainbow circled the sun” three days after the eclipse.

When Jesus was born there was a sign in heaven and the Chinese recorded it. When He died on the cross there was a sign in heaven and the Chinese recorded it. When He rose from the dead there was a sign in heaven and the Chinese recorded it. His birth, death and resurrection are all recorded in Chinese documents. Unfortunately, the emperor mistakenly thought it was his own sin., which has led the Chinese to deify their leaders and not the Creator God.

“The Lord foils the plans of the nations; He thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He chose for his inheritance.” Psalm 33:10-12 (NIV)

CURRENT PROJECTS

Printing Press for Nepal - COMPLETED!

We are delighted to report that this project has been completed thanks to your abundant generosity, love and support.

Thank you for listening to the Lord's call to give to this very worthwhile project.

Total commitment: COMPLETED!

Chinese Full Bibles

We are so blessed to be able to report that our current project for Chinese Full bibles is also complete. We could not have done this without you so our heartfelt thanks to you all for your love, support and generosity, on behalf of our Chinese brethren.

May the Lord richly bless you for your obedience to His call to give.

Total Commitment: COMPLETED!

CMTC Bible College

Monthly commitment \$1600

Nepal Radio Ministry

Monthly commitment \$850



NEW PROJECTS

Audio Bibles for North Korea

We have a unique opportunity through VOM to help with the provision of Audio Bibles to our brothers and sisters in Christ in North Korea. Here is a recent testimony, "I received hope of living while I was praying, the virus situation in Pyongyang and Sinuiju is more serious than the border area. I think we will all die from starvation or being infected. Both are deadly and cause despair, but after knowing Him, my fear has vanished. We truly thank you again."



Total commitment: \$5000

Balance owing: \$4000

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Urdu Bibles for Pakistan

The Word of God is foundational to the Christian faith and we are thankful for the opportunity to help VOM with the supply of Urdu Bibles to believers in Pakistan. The cost of these is \$12 each which includes distribution. MO's goal is 500 Urdu bibles.

Total commitment: \$6,000

Balance owing: \$5,000

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Nepal Update

Since 2014 Nepal has carried much suffering due to many events such as earthquakes and flooding, recently COVID-19 lockdown, and now further flooding and plagues of locusts. There are many painful stories. So many people are in desperate need and there are many challenges that Nepal is facing nationally, such as political and religious issues, tensions with neighbouring countries, the effect of COVID 19 and lockdown, and natural disasters.

In addition, political unrest and religious interference is creating disharmony, hatred, persecution, and killing among the religious majority and minority groups in and surrounding nations. It is becoming chaotic, as common people are getting more fanatic and blindly follow the communal hype of various problems which is creating tension all over Nepal.

Along with this internal tension and disharmony, Nepal is facing conflict over long standing border issues with neighbouring nations such as India and China. For example, there were 20 Indian soldiers killed & many injured in a fight between India and China in Ladak last June.

The COVID 19 pandemic has also been a huge challenge for Nepal. The past 4 months have created great turmoil. The virus and subsequent lockdown destroyed the economy of the families, resulting in a huge increase of crime and suicide cases. The education system has also suffered a severe blow.

From these bigger issues, a flow on effect has been the persecuting Christian organizations, churches & individuals. The persecution of churches in Nepal is growing very strongly at the hands of Hindus and Buddhists who are uniting against Christians. Christians are now banned from openly preaching and distributing booklets in Nepal. A fanatic Hindu group has formed a militant group against the Christians - They have one Hindu family, one young man and one Khukuri, which is a Gorkha Knife (machete) to be used for beheading the Christians. There are also several pastors in jail due to sharing their faith during the lockdown time. Since I, Samuel, am aggressively involved in church planting, discipleship trainings, radio and TV programs, I am also under threat.

To make matters worse, as Nepal now enters into its monsoon season, with the far reaching effects of flooding and landslides where hundreds of properties are now damaged and 59 people are dead, it is also now facing a plague of locusts that has also swept through Kenya, Pakistan, India and Yemen, stripping trees and hundreds of hectares of crops.

Despite these things, we were able to reach out and feed 800 families by the end of last June. The plan is to reach 1050 families by the end of July. The believers in the mountains are surviving merely on mountain grass, roots and crabs for meat. Sometimes there is no grain to eat. Starvation is a very real threat to many people in these remote areas.

Training is quietly continuing in CMTC and Deborah School and we are planning to introduce the gospel to the children when Emmanuel School recommences.

We look to the Lord for His wisdom and guidance in ministry to the people of Nepal during COVID-19, the monsoon season and beyond. Please pray for us.

Samuel Sangram Rai



Ministering to Access
Restricted Nations
since 1975

2020 TEAMS & EVENTS

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING

We are delighted to report we will be meeting at our usual venue at 7:30pm on Monday nights again. These are a powerful time of prayer and supplication to the Lord on behalf of our suffering brethren and for NZ and other nations. If you wish to join us at the venue, please email us at: info@nzmo.org for the venue address.



We will also have ZOOM available and will send invites to those on our list. You will need to install the ZOOM App to your device of choice to join us.

TEAMS & EVENTS

Due to the global impact of Coronavirus, all travel plans for 2020 have been postponed until further notice.

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