

The Importance of the United States for the Lord's Ultimate Move

I. The United States is the last power God will use for His final move:

- A. Today the world is under the leadership of the United States; God has preserved this country and blessed her with riches; He has sovereignly prepared her for the carrying out of the final stage of His recovery.
- B. Since World War II, the United States has been the heart of the populated world; its climate is temperate; it lies between two great oceans, which are like the wings of an eagle.
- C. Whatever the United States does, the entire world follows; this is true financially, industrially, scientifically, politically, militarily, religiously, scripturally, and spiritually.
- D. Because there is freedom of speech, we are free to spread the light we have seen in the Word.
- E. The situation of this country is also good for the practice of the church life; it is peaceful, comfortable, and prosperous.
- F. The United States is the center when it comes to travel; from any part of the world one can reach this country by plane within eighteen hours; the skies are full of planes transporting people to and from the United States.
- G. American English is known by educated peoples worldwide; college graduates in any country can read publications that come from the United States.
- H. Through all of human history there has never been such a country as the United States; this is a country where there is freedom of speech, a democratic, constitutional government, all the modern conveniences, and an abundance of resources.
- I. Today God has prepared the United States, not just for the preaching of the gospel, nor just for the teaching of the truth, nor just for scriptural meetings, but for the preparation of the bride—Rev. 19:7:
 - 1. God's desire is for us to live Christ, to have Christ as our living, to have Christ as the reality, the real contents of the church life, making every local church a golden lampstand; the Body life will reach the reality of Romans 12 and this will be the spontaneous preparation of the bride for His coming back.
 - 2. The world situation under the leadership of the United States is fully for this purpose.

II. The Lord has chosen the United States to be the base for the spreading of His recovery:

- A. Revelation 12 tells us that there is a wilderness into which the woman, signifying the remaining and living majority of the believers, can flee for refuge during the great tribulation (v. 6); the United States is the spacious wilderness where the Lord's people can cooperate with Him that He may have a base for His recovery.
- B. The Lord will use the United States to take Europe, the Middle East, and the rest of the earth for His recovery.

III. The United States was raised up for the perfection of the new man—Col. 3:10-11:

- A. Today this country is at the geographical center, the crossroads, of the whole earth, and is like a giant eagle with the two biggest oceans as its two wings.
- B. The United States was raised up as the center of the inhabited earth for the purpose of the new man:

1. This new man is not of any one race; it is of all the races—v. 11.
 2. The United States is not composed with a single race; it is a nation composed with many peoples, a “melting pot.”
 3. This is a country that conducts much cultural exchange; there are many exchange students in the United States for the blending of the human races.
 4. The American dollar is the standard among the world’s currencies; this is the sovereignty of the Father for the purpose of the new man.
 5. As an American citizen holding an American passport, you may travel throughout the whole world, in the same way that Paul, as a Jew with Roman citizenship, could travel throughout the Roman Empire—cf. Acts 22:25-29.
- C. God has done everything to bring all the peoples together, especially in the United States; everything is for the new man.

IV. There are three layers of obstacles to the Lord’s recovery in the United States—worldliness, the opposition, and the denominations:

- A. We may think that it will be easy to gain people for the Lord’s recovery, but it is not easy; we need to overcome the worldliness in the United States; worldliness, the opposition, and the denominations are the three blockades to gaining the proper increase in the Lord’s recovery.
- B. “I have studied our situation thoroughly and I feel that nothing can attract and move the present middle-aged American Caucasians unless they see the vitality among us”—*Fellowship Concerning the Urgent Need of the Vital Groups*, p. 238:
1. If we are vital and some seeking ones come in among us, they will be caught by the Lord; vitality is the most convincing factor.
 2. The truth has an amount of influence with people, but it depends upon who passes on the truth; if you are a vital person, the truth will be effective; if you are not a vital person, others will not be convinced; they will think that you have some good talk but are really no different than they are.

V. “I believe that local churches will be established in the leading cities of all fifty states. These genuine local churches will direct God’s people back to His economy”—*Life-study of Revelation*, p. 558:

- A. We need to migrate to strategic cities in the United States for the spread of the Lord’s testimony:
1. The saints should not stay in a certain place for too long; on the contrary, we all should be migrants, following in the footsteps of our father Abraham, who was a river-crosser.
 2. If the saints in a certain locality do not migrate, eventually that locality will become a “Dead Sea.”
 3. If the church in a particular locality is to avoid becoming such a Dead Sea, a “canal” must be dug to allow the “water” to flow out; in principle, we should be willing to migrate.
- B. First, we must build up a strong testimony of the local church in a metropolitan center; then we must spread the church life to the strategic cities throughout the country—cf. Acts 1:8.
- C. “I feel we need to raise up a strong testimony of the Lord’s recovery in the southeastern and south-central regions of the United States, which compose the Bible Belt...I believe that the Bible Belt may be the most crucial region in the United States”—*CWWL*, 1981, vol. 1, “Carrying Out the New Testament Ministry,” p. 37.

Excerpts from the Ministry:

THE UNITED STATES AS A WORLD POWER

The United States followed Britain as a world power. Before the discovery of America, the connecting center for the whole world was the Holy Land. Though it is located in the western part of Asia, it joins Asia, Europe, and Africa. God sovereignly made the Holy Land the focus of the ancient populated world so that the gospel could be formed and spread from there.

Since World War II, the United States has been the heart of the populated world. Its climate is temperate. It lies between two great oceans, which are like the wings of an eagle.

Whatever the United States does, the entire world follows. This is true financially, industrially, scientifically, politically, militarily, religiously, scripturally, and spiritually. Even in language, it is American English, not British, which prevails.

Why has God ordained this? It is for His move on earth to carry out His recovery. The Roman Empire was for the gospel. Germany was for the Reformation. Britain was for the spreading of the gospel and of the truth. Now the United States has become the center for the recovery. From here it can spread to all the continents in a worldwide language. Wherever we are from, we must appreciate America. God will use America to spread His recovery so that the Lord may return. (*CWWL, 1981*, vol. 1, "The World Situation and God's Move," p. 296)

Today the world is under the leadership of the United States. God has preserved this country and blessed her with riches. He has sovereignly prepared her for the carrying out of the final stage of His recovery. Because there is freedom of speech, we are free to spread the light we have seen in the Word.

The situation of this country is also good for the practice of the church life. It is peaceful, comfortable, and prosperous. Unfortunately, this very situation also makes it easy for evil to flourish. American society can ruin the young people if they are not in the church life. To find a good job with good pay is fairly easy. After the eight hours of work a day, however, there is time, money, and opportunity to engage in many evil things. Not all Americans are bad, of course. Many are good; this can be seen when it is time to vote. But still the evil influence is there. In any case, the United States is the best place for us to meet together to have the church life.

The United States is also the center when it comes to travel. From any part of the world one can reach this country by plane within eighteen hours. Even far-off Australia and New Zealand are no farther away than this. The international airports like those in New York, Los Angeles, and Dallas are busy. The skies are full of planes transporting people to and from the United States.

American English is known by educated peoples worldwide. College graduates in any country can read the publications that come from the United States. Do not think that all these things happened accidentally. Do not forget Acts 17:26, which says that the times have been appointed by our God; the boundaries have been drawn by Him. He prepared the Roman Empire; He prepared Germany five hundred years ago; He prepared Great Britain. And today He has prepared the U.S.A., not just for the preaching of the gospel, nor just for the teaching of the truth, nor just for scriptural meetings, but for the preparation of the bride.

We must realize our tremendous responsibility with these four things. First, we must preach the gospel properly, adequately, and genuinely. Second, we must teach people the Bible, bringing them to the full knowledge of the truth. We must be a people who really respect and know God's divine Word. Third, we must drop all kinds of religion and practices and come together according to the Bible. We have to be genuine, biblical,

bonafide, regenerated, saved, blood-washed Christians coming together to meet in the name of the Lord Jesus according to the Bible, with no organization.

However, although all these help, they still cannot satisfy God's desire. What is His desire? It is for us to live Christ, to have Christ as our living, to have Christ as the reality, the real contents of the church life, making every local church a golden lampstand. The Body life will reach the reality of Romans 12, and this will be the spontaneous preparation of the bride for His coming back. From the very beginning, even from eternity, this is what the Lord has desired. This is the goal of the Lord's recovery. This has been missed and neglected today, so it is toward this that the Lord is working.

The world situation has been prepared for this very purpose. The world situation under the leadership of the United States is fully for this purpose. America has been preserved for this. This is why God has blessed the United States with riches and influence. This is why so many people can easily come here.

There is one thing left for God to do. Many Christians have never seen the central vision of the apostle Paul's completing ministry. Their Bible seemingly omits this part. In the Far East the Chinese Christians like Proverbs; they are Proverbs people, not Christ people. The Western Christians like Psalms; they are Psalms people. Instead of singing the Psalms, why would they not rather sing Ephesians 3: "That He would grant you...to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man, that Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith...that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God" (vv. 16-17, 19)? They prefer Psalm 23, about goodness and mercy following us. What is goodness? What is mercy? The real mercy is Christ's getting into us. The real goodness is Christ's having a home in us. We need to sing about Christ's making His home in us so that eventually we may be filled unto all the fullness of God.

The situation among Christians has been built up for nearly two thousand years until it has become like a pyramid full of garlic. So many are still living in this pyramid, so drugged that they do not recognize the garlic smell. They need to get out and into the fresh air. The fresh air is the Spirit, the Spirit who gives life, the life-giving Spirit. It is the indwelling Spirit, who is really the resurrected Christ, the One who died on the cross for us. This is the air we need to breathe. This is the Lord's recovery today.

The Lord is preparing the world situation. How grateful I am to the Lord that I am here! When I first came twenty-two years ago, I felt grieved to have lost my country. China was the great field of my work. There were hundreds of millions of people with one language. I could travel all over the country and speak to everyone. We had hundreds of churches. While Brother Nee was training people, I was the one who actually had charge of the entire work throughout the country. Then the political situation changed, and it was lost. Brother Nee told me and all the other co-workers that, no matter how I felt, I must leave the mainland. When I asked why, he said I must go out, that one day the work there would be wiped out. If I went out, there would still be something left on the earth. At that time I was most sorrowful about our situation. Today I am grateful.

The whole world situation is under the Lord's sovereign maneuvering. Maneuvering is sometimes not a positive word, but it fits here. The Lord rules the world. He removes kings; He sets up kings (Dan. 2:21). He has restricted Russia. Even today He is restricting her, in spite of all her efforts to be the leading nation on earth. This is the age when the Lord will use the United States. If all these messages were given in the Chinese language, they would lie buried in that hard-to-understand language. As it is, they can be sent out all over the world as Life-studies, audiotapes and videotapes, and books. With the word sent out in spoken and written form, I believe it will not be in vain. The Lord will follow His word to accomplish His purpose.

Brothers and sisters, open your eyes. Look at the entire globe, and get into the world situation. Look at the situation among Christians. Now you can understand the world

situation in relation to His move. We should not be satisfied with only gospel preaching, Bible teaching, and scriptural meetings. We must be for the apostle Paul's completing ministry, the central vision of God's economy. We must take Christ as our living. He must be the contents of the church life. Then He will gain His purpose. The churches will be golden lampstands, and the bride will be prepared.

It surely does not seem that there is time for God to raise up another country and take another step after this. I believe this is the last opportunity for God to prepare the bride. May we all see the seriousness of this time and realize our responsibility. (pp. 307-311)

THE FOURTH STEP

There must be a good number, not just a few, who truly know how wonderful a person Christ is. He must be our life, and we must live Him. We must be filled and permeated and saturated with Him. Our entire being must be infused with His feelings, His thoughts, and whatever He is. We must grow in life by being transformed little by little by His flowing life within us. Then we can be built up with our fellow believers. In our locality there will be a lampstand. The bride will be prepared for Him to come back. It is this that the Lord is after today. I call it the fourth step.

For the first step, the spread of the gospel, God prepared the Roman Empire. For the second step, the return to the Bible, God prepared Germany. For the third step, the recovery of the gospel, the teaching of the Bible, and the proper meetings—God in the last two centuries used Great Britain. Finally, for the fourth step God has prepared the United States. All the big points of human history match God's move on the earth. Actually, all the major events of human history were prepared by God for His move on this earth.

THE PRESERVATION OF AMERICA

The continent of North America was created by God along with all the other continents. Yet it was concealed from the majority of mankind for thousands of years. God preserved it until His time was ripe. Then it was found by a new people, many of whom were God-loving and Bible-loving. These new, freethinking people founded a new nation. Surely these were not accidental events. Surely they did not happen without any meaning. The times have been appointed by God; the boundaries have been drawn by Him. The location of the United States, between two large oceans and in the temperate zone, is ideal. It is rich in natural resources.

We are here not by accident. Whether we were born here or came here because of circumstances, our being here is by God's sovereign arrangement. When I was young, my family had considerable contact with American missionaries. We were quite Westernized. From my youth I loved America. But I had no thought of ever coming to this country. Nor did Brother Watchman Nee. Before 1950 none of us thought that our work would be in the Western world. We thought that China was the field God had appointed to us. But God thought differently. He sovereignly brought the recovery to this country. (pp. 317-318)

THE WORLD'S ULTIMATE SITUATION

The Lord raised up Great Britain and used her for more than two centuries to spread the gospel and the spiritual teachings. Now, however, America has come into the lead.

Until five hundred years ago, this continent lay hidden, a virgin land. Why did God preserve this continent for so long? No historian has said this, but my answer is that God arranged this so that America would be preserved for His ultimate recovery. About 1500 the Lord exposed this new continent to the people of Europe, who were the most advanced. At that very time, there were many thoughtful persons who loved the Lord. They wanted to be free in their thinking about spiritual things. The Catholic Church and the state churches, however, were persecuting them. Even in England some thoughtful persons who loved the Bible were burned at the stake by the Church of England. Thus,

many lovers of the Lord aspired to come to the new land. As time went on, many came, and eventually, a new country was founded.

The United States is different from any other country. It is constitutional and democratic. It offers freedom of speech and of religion. This is why we can speak so freely here. Because of its good foundation, Americans are generally frank and open to new things. It does not matter to them who offers them something; he may be Chinese or Indian or Black. As long as what he offers is better, they will take it. This is not so with Britain, France, or any other leading countries. America is different. It is a melting pot, melting not only different peoples but different cultures as well. America takes the best things of different cultures. If I were in other countries, I might not be received so well. But here, even though I am opposed, close to ten thousand have accepted the Lord's recovery. The way I speak English does not bother them. Americans care for the facts. Is any other country like this? The United States is extraordinary.

Through two world wars God put down Britain and raised up the United States. If the United States had not intervened in World War I, it is doubtful that Britain and France could have won. After that war, Britain and France formed the League of Nations in order to restrict Germany. The United States was not a member. In World War II the United States was mainly responsible for the defeat of Germany in Europe and of Japan in the Pacific. Roosevelt proposed that all the different peoples, even though small in number, be given their freedom. There would be no more colonies. Britain had to agree. Then the United Nations was formed in San Francisco. Its headquarters were set up in the United Nations Building in New York with the help of the United States. (pp. 332-334)

For the Lord to achieve His ultimate move He also needs the proper situation. If you consider the entire world today, you would have to say that the best place for the spreading of His recovery is the United States of America. We labored on the mainland of China from 1922 to 1949. Many were gained; many churches were raised up. Then from 1949 the whole of China began to be closed to us. I was sent out, and many of my co-workers were put into prison. It was a grief and disappointment to me. Now, however, I am no longer disappointed. In fact, I am greatly encouraged.

I can see that if all the items of the recovery were only in the Chinese language, they would lie buried, unavailable to those who did not know Chinese. What is printed in Chinese is preserved, but it does not spread. The best language for the spreading of the truth is American English. Within two weeks after a message is given, it can be sent to all the six major continents in a universally understood language by printed page, by audiotapes, and by videotapes.

Through all human history there has never been such a country as the United States. How I thank the Lord for such a country where there is freedom of speech, a democratic, constitutional government, all the modern conveniences, and an abundance of resources! Forty-five years ago I was in the interior of China, traveling, preaching, and teaching the Bible. I traveled by mule wagon over poor roads. From early morning until late in the evening we were on the road, yet we covered at most thirty miles. There is no comparison between that and the way the word can be spread today throughout the whole world from the United States. Planes fly from here to any part of the globe in less than twenty-four hours. Telephone connects us with Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australasia. Publications and cassette tapes are easily sent abroad. The recovery will spread. Sooner or later, these truths will be adopted. Just as justification by faith spread, so the truth of the tree of life will spread.

TRENDS IN HISTORY

When I came to this country in 1958, there were some who were predicting the downfall of the United States. They said that the United States was following the pattern of the Roman Empire, becoming corrupt and bankrupt. I argued against them. The United

States was established on a different foundation. It is the only great power in history that has not robbed other countries. It is built upon its own resources and its own people. Because of its vast riches, it has no need to rob others. After my visit here in 1958, I went on to Europe. I found that in England, Denmark, and the other northern European countries there was the expectation that communism would take over. Again I boldly argued that this would not be the case.

The oil crisis did not occur until 1973, but in 1962 I told the brothers that in the Middle East the problem would be oil. I told them that the nations would not be able to resolve this problem and that God would do something about it. This was not a prophecy; it was just a talk I had with the brothers over twenty years ago.

THE LAST COUNTRY FOR THE LAST MOVE

Almost every part of the globe is being used, and natural resources are close to an end. Can humankind last another few centuries? Is there time for the Lord to raise up another world power after the United States? I do not believe so. It seems that the United States is the last power raised up by the Lord to match His recovery.

As this ultimate move of the Lord goes forward from here, there is the need for such a powerful country to keep the world at peace and to keep the way open. Now that we have planes like the 747s, we no longer need the Roman roads that were used in the early centuries for the spread of the gospel. But these 747s need a peaceful situation for the word of the Lord's recovery to go out. If the peace is broken, the spread will be stopped. The Lord needs a country for this. The United States, instead of robbing other countries, has been a giver. Since the end of the war in 1945, the United States has given away billions of dollars to other countries. You may be concerned that the deficit is getting bigger; however, the money that the government owes is mostly to its own people. This is like a father owing money to his sons. The account shows red, but the money being spent is in the family.

If your eyes are open, you will realize what an age and what a country you live in, what the Lord's recovery is, and how the world situation is going on. The state of things today is for one thing—the Lord's recovery. The world is going on for the spreading of the recovery, for the preparing of the bride, and for the lampstands to be raised up and shining in many countries. In this ultimate recovery what the Lord is regaining is not small teachings but big items, especially from the viewpoint of the central vision. This is the Lord's ultimate recovery, and He has such a country to maintain the world situation so that His recovery may be spread. (pp. 344-346)

[THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES AT THE END OF THE AGE]

It is not easy to understand the Bible. Do you believe that the whole earth, including Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Australasia, and Europe, will be under the rule of Antichrist? No, that certainly will not be the situation. Antichrist will be the Caesar of the Roman Empire, and the Roman Empire does not encompass the whole earth. It will probably include the greater part of western Europe and possibly a part of North Africa and eastern Asia. Surely Russia will not be under the rule of the Roman Empire; neither will Australasia, China, India, or the United States.

I am burdened to share with you some matters for which, strictly speaking, I can find no ground in the Bible. Although I do not like to say anything without having biblical ground, there are some things in my heart which I truly believe are of God, yet which are not mentioned in the Bible. According to biblical prophecy, Antichrist will have dominion over only the territories of Europe, Asia Minor, Palestine, and North Africa. Furthermore, Antichrist will not be a communist. One proof of this is in Revelation 18, which shows that Antichrist's capital, Rome, will be a center of capitalism. The record of that chapter, which even speaks of selling souls, or people, is a record not of communism, but of capitalism. The whole earth is under God's sovereign control. I believe that the United States will be

fully preserved by God until the Lord comes back. As I have already mentioned, I believe that the United States will be the wilderness spoken of in Revelation 12. It will be a place of safety and shelter for so many refugees. Out of the tens of millions of Christians in the United States, not many will be overcomers. Certainly they will not be killed by Antichrist, because the United States will not be in Antichrist's territory. Since the United States will be a place of safety and refuge, the Christians in this country will not become the quick overcomers. Instead, they will be in the harvest.

When you hear this, you may wonder how the believers in America will ripen. You may think that because America is a safe place, the Christians here will continue to be loose and sloppy. Suppose you are a Christian living in the United States during the time of the great tribulation. If you are witnessing the fulfillment of the prophecies we have considered in these messages, will you still stubbornly and foolishly refuse to love the Lord? The firstfruit will have been raptured, and the report of this will make headline news. Antichrist will be persecuting the Jews and Christians in Europe. In the light of all this, will you still continue to take the United States as your merry land? Moreover, many European Christians will flee to the United States to escape the persecution of Antichrist. The wings of the great eagle will fly them into the wilderness. Those who do not escape will be martyred and thereby become the quick overcomers. Certainly by that time every Christian on earth will be sobered and stirred to love the Lord. Many who are criticizing us today may then receive the help of our present testimony.

At the end of this age a war will be fought at Armageddon. According to the prophecies relating to this war at Armageddon and according to the present world situation, there will be four sources of military might on earth: one from the north, Russia; another from the east, the land of the rising sun; still another from Europe, the territory of Antichrist; and the last from the United States. Armies from three sources of military power will gather at Armageddon, but the American forces may not be included. The tendency of today's world situation is preparing the way for the war at Armageddon. But America will be a safe place, a wilderness, for God's people.

During the great tribulation Christians will be persecuted, and many will be martyred. But a good number of God's people will flee to the United States and thus will be included in the harvest. The knowledge of fulfilled prophecies and the report of current events will motivate them all to seek the Lord and to love Him intensely. They will all realize that the Lord Jesus will come back in not less than three and a half years. Hence, everyone will grow in life and mature.

Revelation 16:15 says, "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he who watches and keeps his garments, that he may not walk naked and they see his shame." This word will be spoken close to the pouring out of the seventh bowl. Even at this late date, the Lord will issue a warning that He is coming as a thief. This proves that, even after the rapture of the harvest, which will be before the first six bowls, there will still be some believers on earth. These will be the gleanings (Lev. 23:22). According to the type in Leviticus, there are the firstfruit, the harvest, and a small quantity of the crop left in the field called the gleanings. The events in chapter sixteen take place after the harvest, which is in chapter fourteen. Chapter sixteen tells us that seven bowls will be poured out, mainly upon the kingdom of Antichrist. After the sixth bowl, the Lord will give a warning to the believers still on earth after the harvest to be watchful and to keep their garments. These will be that part of the crop which will still be left on earth after the harvest. Therefore, some Christians will be the firstfruit, the majority will be the harvest, and a small number will be the gleanings.

In order to know the Bible, we must put various portions of the Word together like the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. When we do this, we see a clear and complete picture. The Bible uses certain symbols to represent nations. For example, Persia is represented by a ram

and ancient Greece by a goat. Even the meaning of the Aegean Sea is the sea of goats. Ancient Babylon was symbolized by a lion. Recent archeological discoveries in Babylon have included ancient relics with figures of lions on them. Revelation 12 speaks of a great eagle. Based upon the fact that in the Bible animals are used to symbolize nations, we may ask what nation is symbolized by an eagle. The answer, of course, is the United States. This is no accident. Rather, it surely is God's sovereign wisdom. In God's sovereignty the forefathers of this country chose an eagle as the national symbol. Although there is not a verse in the Bible saying that the eagle symbolizes the United States, I believe that, in God's sovereignty, the eagle in that chapter does refer to this country. This is the reason I believe that the United States will be the wilderness in Revelation 12 and serve as a refuge for God's escapees.

It is much easier to understand biblical prophecy today than it was fifty years ago. Many years ago I studied the predicted re-formation of the nation of Israel. In 1948 I saw this take place with my own eyes. As we all know, in 1967 the city of Jerusalem was returned to the Jews. Today the world situation is focused on the Middle East. Now I am living in the country of the great eagle. Although there are many sinful things in the United States, nevertheless, with the exception of the nation of Israel, there is no other country that has been formed according to God's Word. I have a copy of the first Constitution of the United States. It is composed of verses from the book of Exodus. Furthermore, each session of Congress opens with a prayer. I was present for such an opening prayer in 1958. Although that prayer was formal, it was still quite good. Moreover, the words, In God we trust, are engraved upon our coins. In the Bible, all the other nations are symbolized by beasts. But there is one country, the United States, that is symbolized by an eagle, not by a beast.

When we were on chapter eight, we saw that the third part of the earth will be damaged by a series of supernatural calamities (8:7-12). I do not believe that these calamities will affect the United States. The third part of the earth is that region wherein people blaspheme God and oppose Him the most. I mention this because I believe that God will use the United States to preserve His weaker people. How merciful He is!

How happy I am that the Lord has sent His recovery to this country! I believe that local churches will be established in the leading cities of all fifty states. These genuine churches will direct God's people back to His economy. Firstly, the churches will produce the living firstfruit. Secondly, they will be used to care for the Christians during the great tribulation. Many refugees will flee to the United States. At that time, no one will oppose or criticize the local churches. Rather, many may come to the local churches.

Two matters are sovereign of the Lord. The first is that He has prepared the United States to be a great eagle, and the second is that He has sent His recovery to this country. During the great tribulation Christians certainly will no longer pay attention to the Catholic Church, to the denominations, or to the free groups. Rather, they will say, "There is no time to waste. Let us take God's way." God's way is the local churches. Hallelujah, we are in the local churches! Hallelujah, we are in the United States! We are in the genuine church life and we are in the country of the great eagle. I was deeply saddened by the loss of mainland China. I truly loved the work there. But how I praise the Lord that He has brought me to the country of the great eagle and that I am in the genuine church life here. Praise Him for sending His recovery to this country! (*Life-study of Revelation*, pp. 554-559)

THE RAISING UP OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE ONE NEW MAN

By the beginning of this century the gospel had been spread to every corner of the earth. However, God's purpose was not only gospel preaching but the perfection of the one new man. Britain was not so useful for this end, so through the two world wars, God somewhat put Britain down and raised up the United States. It was through the United

States that these two wars were ended. The First World War was ended through the intervention of the United States, and in the Second World War the United States was crucial in defeating the axis powers both in Europe and in Asia. All this happened under God's sovereignty. Through these two wars the United States was raised up for the perfection of the new man. Today this country is at the geographic center, the crossroads, of the whole earth and is like a giant eagle with the two biggest oceans as its two wings.

The Roman Empire was raised up for the formation and propagation of the gospel. Then Spain was raised up temporarily for the spreading of Western culture, even though it was under the influence of Catholicism, which was unsuitable for God's economy. Britain defeated Spain and became the leading power of the world for the spreading of the gospel to every corner of this earth. Fourth and last, the United States was raised up as the center of the inhabited earth for the purpose of the new man. This new man is not of any one race; it is of all the races. Because of this, one country had to be raised up by God in the very center of the populated earth.

The United States is not composed with a single race. It is a nation composed with many peoples, a "melting pot." According to recent immigration laws, this country may receive 300,000 immigrants yearly—130,000 from the Western Hemisphere and another 170,000 from outside this hemisphere. Regardless of race or country of origin, anyone may apply for entry. Since the new immigration law, many thousands have come from China, Italy, Greece, the Philippines, India, and other nations.

Second, this country conducts much cultural exchange. The United States does not like to remain private; it shares many of its good things with other peoples. There are many exchange students in the United States for the blending of the human races. In this way the United States is working for God, and this country is being used by God. Also, in all of history there has never been such a country that helped other nations as this one does. Billions of dollars in American economic and military aid go out to many countries. Fourth, the American dollar is the standard among the world's currencies. Neither German marks nor Japanese yen are the standard today. Even in Japan, wealth is counted by the accumulation of American dollars. The whole world spends American money. By this we may realize the sovereignty of our Father for the purpose of the new man. All these things indicate that we are surely near the end of this age. If God perfects the new man at this time, there will be nothing more for Him to do in this age.

Geographically speaking, the Lord has raised up a country for His purpose in the very center of the inhabited earth. As an American citizen holding an American passport, you may travel throughout the whole world, in the same way that Paul, as a Jew with Roman citizenship, could travel throughout the Roman Empire (cf. Acts 22:25-29). When mainland China was lost to the Communists in 1949, I could not sleep or eat well. I was very sorrowful over the loss of that country and hundreds of churches. But now, since I have realized the situation today, I am happy that I am here in the United States. To be here is much better than to be in my hometown in mainland China. We all have to give thanks to the Lord that we are in the United States, in the center of the inhabited earth for the perfection of the new man that God intends to have in His economy.

Throughout all the centuries the Lord has blockaded Russia and confined it to the cold region. The Russian czars tried their best to get out of the Black Sea and into the Mediterranean, but God used Britain to close the outlet from the Mediterranean Sea to the Atlantic. Russia tried as well to use the Suez Canal to get into the Indian Ocean, but God again used Britain and Egypt to close the way. Later, the czars attempted to build the Siberian railway to provide access to the Pacific Ocean, but they were not able to. Instead, they invaded Manchuria, the territory of China, to get the right to build the Manchurian Railroad. The czars were happy because they had gained access to the Pacific, but they were later driven out of Manchuria in the Russo-Japanese War. Although

today the Russian fleet is in the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean, they still do not have convenient access to the Suez Canal due to the relationship between Egypt and Israel. Our God has blockaded and confined Russia to the “refrigerator” in the north. He would not tolerate Russia gaining any part of the two major oceans, the Atlantic and the Pacific. God is sovereign in keeping the world really free for the new man.

Now we are right in the center of the world. We must grasp the opportunity. Within a short time the new man will be perfected. To be a Christian in the Lord's recovery for the new man is marvelous! We all have to forget about today's religion and see the vision of the new man. God has done everything to bring all the peoples together, especially in the United States. Everything is for the new man. (*CWWL, 1977*, vol. 3, “The One New Man,” pp. 487-489)

Ministry Quotes Concerning the Bible Belt

“I feel that we need to raise up a strong testimony of the Lord's recovery in the southeastern and south-central regions of the United States, which compose the Bible Belt. In particular, we should spread the recovery in the following states: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. If a thousand saints are gained by the Lord for His testimony in those states, it will be a significant advance of His move in this country. I believe that the Bible Belt may be the most crucial region in the United States. Certain regions in the United States in which the liberal culture is very prevailing may not be as strategic as the Bible Belt...I hope that a good number of saints in California will be led by the Lord to migrate to the Bible Belt in order to bring in a great blessing. The Bible Belt may have many proper and promising people that we can gain for His recovery” — *CWWL, 1981*, vol. 1, p. 37.

“I feel that some saints need to migrate to strategic cities in the southeastern and south-central region in the United States known as the ‘Bible Belt.’ In particular, we should spread the Lord’s recovery in the following states: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. I believe that there area good number of seeking believers in these states. If a group of saints migrate to cities in these states, as they work at a job or study at a university, they can contact the Lord's seekers and gain them for His testimony” — *CWWL, 1981*, vol. 1, pp. 384-385.

“South Carolina and North Carolina have many godly Christians. The people there love the Lord very much, seek the truth, and are of good character” — *CWWL, 1981*, vol. 2, p. 476.

“Many saints are burdened to migrate to the southeastern and south-central regions of the United States that compose the Bible Belt. In particular, these saints desire to spread the Lord's recovery in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Alabama. In the Bible Belt there are many proper and promising people whom we can gain for the Lord's recovery. Hence, I believe that much increase will be gained in this crucial region of the United States” — *CWWL, 1984*, vol. 1, p. 90.

“[A group of] brothers reminded me that I had challenged them twice in the past one or two years concerning migration. There were many openings in the Southeast, in the so-called bible belt from North Carolina to Arizona. The Lord has opened many places for us, but not many would migrate to fill the openings” — *CWWL, 1985*, vol. 5, pp. 458-459.

