

Exploring World Geography Part 2



*To Our Grandchildren:
May you live in a better world, and may you help it be so,
until we all live together in the better place God has in store for us.*

Exploring World Geography Part 2
Ray Notgrass

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Mo Chu River, Punakha, Bhutan

Part 2

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Floating Village on Tonle Sap Lake, Cambodia

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Southeast Asia

In this unit on Southeast Asia, we begin by examining the South China Sea, a place of troubled waters because of competing claims regarding it. The country of the Philippines confronts several issues because of its geography. For many Americans, Vietnam is much more than just a geographic location. Indonesia, a country made up entirely of islands, is defined in great measure by water. The worldview lesson looks at how Jesus sees the world—in other words, Jesus' worldview.

Lesson 96 - Troubled Waters: The South China Sea

Lesson 97 - In the Middle: The Philippines

Lesson 98 - More Than Just a Place: Vietnam

Lesson 99 - A Nation Defined by Water: Indonesia

Lesson 100 - The Testimony of Scripture: The Worldview of Jesus

Memory Verse

Memorize John 1:1-5 by the end of the unit.

Books Used

The Bible

Exploring World Geography Gazetteer

Ann Judson: A Missionary Life for Burma

Project (Choose One)

- 1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:
 - In your own words, summarize the geopolitical issues surrounding the South China Sea and propose a solution to the situation. (See Lesson 96.)
 - Write a report on a city or geographic feature of Indonesia. (See Lesson 99.)
- 2) Interview a veteran who served in Vietnam. Prepare a list of questions to ask, including some about the geography he or she encountered and what it was like to be there. Be prompt in meeting him or her, respect his time, and express gratitude when you leave. (See Lesson 98.)
- 3) Prepare a presentation on the Philippines, including its history and current status. Make or reproduce a map and include pictures. (See Lesson 97.)

Literature

Ann Judson and her husband Adoniram Judson were among the first missionaries to leave the shores of the newly established United States of America in 1813. Setting out directly after their marriage, they served the people of Burma on the other side of the globe. Their years together were fraught with hardship and sacrifice. Their story has become a hallmark of Christian mission history.

In *Ann Judson: A Missionary Life for Burma*, author Sharon James quotes extensively from Ann Judson's own letters and writings as well as those of her contemporaries. These primary sources make for a vivid biography, capturing the genuine flavor of the subjects and their times.

Sharon James grew up in England where her parents had moved from South Africa to study at London Bible College. She grew up as a pastor's daughter and became a pastor's wife. Sharon studied at Cambridge University, Toronto Baptist Seminary, and the University of Wales. She has spoken widely at conferences and authored several books.

Plan to finish *Ann Judson: A Missionary Life for Burma* by the end of Unit 21.



Oil Drilling Rig, South China Sea

96

Troubled Waters: The South China Sea

Japanese troops storm the beach of the Pacific island. The troops carry out the assault in concert with soldiers from its two allied nations.

This scene took place not in 1942 but in 2018. Japan's allies in this military exercise were none other than the United States and the Philippines.

The joint maneuver involving the military of these three nations occurred about seventy-five years after Japan captured the Philippines and savagely fought the United States along the Pacific Rim of Asia during World War II.

The alliance of these three countries working together is not the only surprising strategic international move in the region. Vietnam and China are rivals. Their enmity goes back for centuries. Vietnam seeks an ally to counter China's growing economic and military power. To whom does Vietnam turn?

The United States.

Forty years after the Communist government of North Vietnam ended a long and bloody war against America, the U.S. and a now-unified Vietnam are drawing closer to each other out of a common concern about what China is doing and might do.

The focal point for these surprising cooperative efforts is the South China Sea. The geography of the region that includes this relatively small but

strategically located body of water is largely the same as it always has been (with a significant exception we'll discuss later in this lesson). What is different are the actions of the nations that surround it, primarily China.

The South China Sea

The South China Sea is a western arm of the Pacific Ocean that lies against the Southeast Asian mainland. Its border consists of the Taiwan Strait to the north, Taiwan and the Philippines to the east, Borneo to the south, the Gulf of Thailand and the Malay Peninsula to the southwest, and Vietnam and China to the west. The sea encompasses about 1.4 million square miles.

The South China Sea is significant in today's world because of what happens on it and below it. The first issue is business. The Sea is part of the busiest and most important shipping lane in the world, primarily because of China's economic production. Ninety percent of all commercial goods that traders move between continents moves by sea (the other options are by air or, between Asia and Europe, by land). We know the trillions of dollars worth of goods that China produces. The seaborne goods that China ships out, as well as the raw

materials and trading goods that come into China, arrive mostly through the South China Sea. At some point in these journeys, over half of the world's merchant fleet tonnage and a third of all the world's ocean traffic travels through the South China Sea.

The second issue is energy. China needs energy to produce the goods that it trades with other countries. China only has about one percent of the known world oil reserves, but it consumes ten percent of the world's oil and twenty percent of the world's energy. All that fuel for the Chinese economy has to come from somewhere, and much of it comes by tankers from the Middle East, through the Strait of Malacca by Singapore, and into (you guessed it) the South China Sea. Japan has a similar dependence on imported oil. Eighty percent of China's crude oil imports and sixty percent of Japan's energy come through the South China Sea.

But imports are not all of the energy story connected to the Sea. Exploratory drilling indicates that the South China Sea itself might hold significant oil and natural gas reserves that are as yet undiscovered. China would like to get its hands on as much of that as it can—but then, the other countries that border the Sea would like access to it also. On this issue conflict begins to emerge between China and the other countries that border the Sea.

During a 2014 dispute between Vietnam and China, these Vietnamese protesters gathered outside the Chinese embassy in London, England.



Which leads to the third issue, military security. China is involved in a huge military buildup. China has the world's largest army and the second-largest submarine fleet. It also has the world's second-largest military budget. This buildup includes the deployment of naval and air forces in the South China Sea. Part of this buildup involves China's activity in changing the geography of the South China Sea. By moving dirt and rocks around, China has transformed some of the tiny islands in the Sea into homes for airplane landing strips, docks for ships, and military outposts. This military presence protects Chinese shipping and the Chinese coastline, and it sends a message to other nations to stay away or tread lightly. Other nations see these moves as aggressive; China says it is merely defensive. The difference is how you understand the sovereignty of the South China Sea.

Background Perspective: The Law of the Sea

We can understand borders, treaties, and sovereignty issues involving the land areas of different countries, and even the rivers and lakes between countries; but what do we do with the wide open seas where no one lives but where ships from many nations travel?

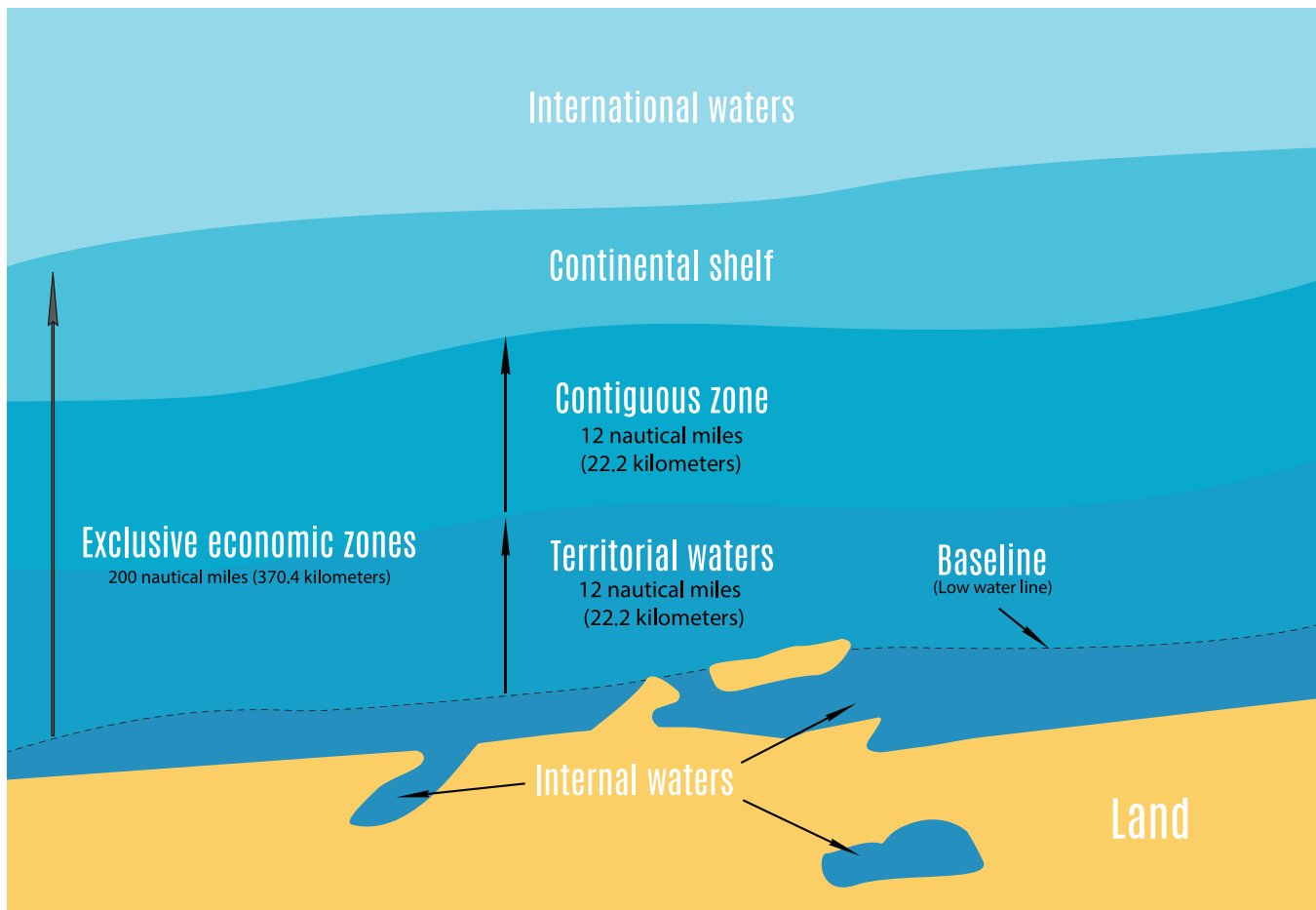
The United Nations finalized its Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in 1982. As of October 2018, the United States had not ratified the UNCLOS but recognized it as codifying accepted international law.

Traditions from centuries ago created a generally accepted standard of maritime sovereignty. Nations agreed that a country could control the sea off its coast for as far as it could defend from shore. A cannon shot traveled about three miles, so most nations of the world accepted a three-mile sovereignty limit for each country (the “cannon shot rule”). As secretary of state, Thomas Jefferson wrote a letter to other foreign ministers in 1793 asserting this territorial limit and recognizing it for other countries.



The baseline for a country is the low-water (low-tide) line along its coast. The UNCLOS has determined how countries deal with bays, mouths of rivers, reefs, and other unusual coastal features. Each country has complete sovereignty over internal waters. Ships from one country cannot claim the right of innocent passage through another country's internal waters.

The standard modern territorial limit that countries claim is now twelve nautical miles out from the baseline. A nautical mile equals one minute of latitude, or about 1.15 statute miles. This territorial sea includes the airspace above it and the seabed and minerals below it. Foreign ships passing through this territorial sea must obey the laws of the country that has sovereignty over it.



Countries may also claim a contiguous zone of up to 24 nautical miles from the baseline. A country may patrol this zone to oversee immigration, sanitation issues, and customs regulations that affect that country.

In addition, a country may claim an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of up to 200 nautical miles from the baseline (or to the maritime boundary of another country), in which the country can exploit (including drill for) or protect natural resources, use the waters and winds for energy production, and establish artificial islands and have other activity within it. Each country also has sovereignty over the continental shelf that is within the EEZ below the sea.

The UNCLOS establishes rules for straits between countries that are more narrow than these maximum limits and for states that could make conflicting claims about sovereignty at sea (for instance, two countries that overlook the same bay).

This all sounds good sitting around a conference table, but at least two questions arise: (1) What

happens when two or more countries claim sovereignty over the same area and don't want to play nice? and (2) What happens when the crews of ships from rival nations are staring at each other while sitting on disputed waters?

What Belongs to Whom?

The two most significant land formations within the South China Sea are the Spratly Islands and the Paracel Islands. The Spratlys are about one hundred tiny islands, reefs, atolls, and large rocks that lie mostly off the Philippines. British whaling captain Richard Spratly reported seeing what became known as Spratly Island in 1843, and the name eventually became associated with the entire archipelago. China, Taiwan, and Vietnam each claim the entire island chain, while Malaysia and the Philippines each claim some. About forty-five of the otherwise unoccupied islands have various small military outposts from China, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Vietnam. Brunei (a small country on the island

of Borneo) claims a continental shelf and an EEZ in the area.

The Paracels are a similar island group that lies generally off of the coast of Vietnam. The name comes from a Portuguese word. French Indochina annexed the islands in 1932, and the successor state, Vietnam, claimed them also. Chinese forces expelled a South Vietnamese force in 1974 to lay claim to the islands. Vietnam and Taiwan also claim the islands.

The island groups offer excellent fishing, which provides food and jobs for many people. Control of the islands also enables access to any oil and gas that might be found near them.

In addition, China and the Philippines both claim the Scarborough Shoal (known as Huangyan Island in China), which lies about one hundred miles from the Philippines and five hundred miles from China.

So how should the six nations—China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Brunei—divide up the Sea, the islands, and their resources?

China has a solution. It pretty much wants it all.

China has issued a map that shows a broken line, which is also called the nine-dash line or the cow's tongue line, which takes in 80-90% of the Sea (see the green line on the map on page 539). China says that the Spratly and Paracel Island groups have been considered part of China for centuries. Other countries dispute the claim, and many observers are unsure whether China claims just the islands or the entire water area. Vietnam claims that it has ruled over both island groups since the 1600s. The Philippines claim that their proximity to the Spratly Islands gives them a rightful claim to those islands.

China likes to negotiate with one country at a time. Critics charge that this gives China an unfair advantage in negotiations and want to see talks between China and ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which consists of Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Brunei, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar (Burma), and Cambodia. So far, China has refused.

Vietnamese Soldiers on Đảo An Bang (Amboyna Cay), One of the Spratly Islands (2009)





Malaysian Fishing Boat in the South China Sea (2020)

In 2013, the Philippines took China to a tribunal under the UNCLOS over the sovereignty conflict. In 2016 the tribunal decided in favor of the Philippines. China boycotted the proceedings and says it will not abide by it.

China compares the role it wants in the South China Sea to the role that the United States played in the Caribbean Sea around 1900. The U.S. did not claim all of the Caribbean, but it exerted significant influence in what happened there. The Monroe Doctrine of 1823 and the Roosevelt Corollary of 1904 pretty much said that the United States would take care of things in the Western Hemisphere without any involvement from countries outside of the region. This is what China says now: “We’ll take care of things in this region.”

However, the United States has been a major player in Asia, Southeast Asia, and the South China Sea region for decades and does not want to give up its role. China wants to be the major player in that region. Other nations, such as Taiwan, Vietnam, and the Philippines, look to the United States for support and do not want China to have that primary

role. This is why Vietnam is looking to the United States to balance the growing power of China.

The comparison does not do the situation justice. In 1900 the Caribbean was far from the world’s main transportation routes; today the South China Sea is one of the most vital of such routes. In 1900 the United States wanted the nations to its south to be free, democratic, and engaged with the world economy and the family of nations. Today China has pretty much told other nations to stay out of their way except on China’s terms.

What Happens Now?

The situation is at a diplomatic standoff. China’s increasing military presence in the Sea and its economic presence throughout the region and the world put pressure on other nations to acquiesce to their claim of sovereignty. The United States and other nations occasionally send warships through the Sea or planes overhead to remind the Chinese that the Sea is not their lake. From time to time two ships from opposing countries get very close to each other, which makes for some tense moments. When Chinese warships warned two U.S. Navy ships away

from the Paracel Islands in 2018, the Navy described the action as “safe but unprofessional.”

Japan and Vietnam agreed to work together on security in the South China Sea. This agreement was the follow-up to the war exercises mentioned at the first of this lesson. Japan has no claim there, but it wanted to send its own message to Beijing. Chinese submarines occasionally shadow American Navy vessels as they go through the South China Sea. China has installed hi-tech undersea listening devices in the Pacific that can track submarine activity and perhaps even pick up transmissions between U.S. subs and their command bases. Neither side appears to be backing down.

China wants to control as much of the South China Sea as it can. The other nations with interests in the region want to have as large a presence as they can while minimizing China's. China hasn't stopped its buildup or abandoned its claims. We live in a world of virtual reality, where most “armies” and “naval vessels” do battle only in pixels; but the tension and uneasiness over this actual geographic region where much is at stake is real.

Psalm 107 speaks of those who do business on the sea in ships and who see the works of the Lord in the deep:

*Those who go down to the sea in ships,
Who do business on great waters;
They have seen the works of the Lord,
And His wonders in the deep.
Psalm 107:23-24*

Assignments for Lesson 96

Gazetteer Study the map of Southeast Asia and read the entry for the Paracel Islands (pages 165 and 163).

Worldview Copy this question in your notebook and write your answer: What do you think it means to have the mind of Christ? (See Philippians 2:5 and 1 Corinthians 2:16.)

Project Choose your project for this unit and start working on it. Plan to finish it by the end of this unit.

Literature Begin reading *Ann Judson: A Missionary Life for Burma*. Plan to finish it by the end of Unit 21.

Student Review Answer the questions for Lesson 96.



Palawan Island, Philippines

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In the Middle: The Philippines

Homeschooling is a growing movement in the Philippines, just like it is in the United States. The Philippine government supports the right of parents who choose this route of educating their children, and many families have decided to take this approach. Active, dynamic leaders in the homeschool movement in the Philippines provide encouragement and suggest resources for families who have already begun a homeschooling journey; and they also provide information and guidance for the many families who are considering the possibility.

Being in the middle of a homeschool journey, and being in the middle of a growing movement are an appropriate place to be for homeschoolers who live in the Philippines. After all, the Republic of the Philippines is now and has been in the middle of many issues.

In the Middle of Southeast Asia

The Republic of the Philippines is strategically located, east of Vietnam and the South China Sea, near China, and on the western edge of the Pacific Ocean. Over seven thousand islands make up the Philippines archipelago, although the largest

eleven islands account for 95% of its land area. The Philippine Trench, which runs north and south on the floor of the Pacific Ocean just to the east of the islands, extends to a depth of 34,578 feet, the second deepest spot in the world.

The Philippine Islands are in the middle of volcanoes and earthquakes. The mostly mountainous islands are located on the Ring of Fire, the rim of the Pacific where about 90% of the world's earthquakes and 75% of the world's volcanic eruptions occur.

Volcanoes erupt fairly often in the Philippines. The eruption of Mount Pinatubo in 1991 was the most severe eruption in the world in the twentieth century. It caused widespread damage and claimed over seven hundred lives during and after the eruption. This followed a magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck in 1990.

In the Middle of Troublesome Weather

The islands are subject to severe weather. In a typical year about nine typhoons affect the islands and five or six cause damage. Because of the country's 22,000 miles of shoreline, tsunamis are also a threat.

In the Middle of Exploration and Trade

The Philippine Islands played a key role in the era of exploration. Ferdinand Magellan and his fleet, sailing on behalf of Spain, reached the Philippines in 1521. Magellan inserted himself into a conflict between indigenous groups and was killed. Spain continued to send conquistadors to the islands and claimed the archipelago as a colony in the mid-1500s. The Spanish named the islands for Prince (soon to be King) Philip II of Spain.

The Philippine Islands were an important port in early global trade. From 1565 until 1815, the Manila Galleon Trade Route was the route whereby one ship annually left Manila loaded with porcelain, spices, and silk from Asia, and followed the eastern tradewinds to the Spanish colony of Acapulco in Mexico. The Spanish then oversaw the transport of these goods overland to the east coast of Mexico,

where another ship carried them to Spain. Another galleon sailed west from Acapulco to Manila each year, following the western tradewinds route, carrying silver and other cargo as well as government and Catholic Church officials. These ships often made calls at Guam and the Mariana Islands, which at the time were other Spanish possessions. Each trip across the Pacific took months to complete, and the ships docked at other ports in Asia and North America as well.

In the Middle of Colonial Empires

The Philippine Islands were part of two colonial empires. Spain ruled the islands as part of their world empire until the United States defeated Spain in the Spanish American War in 1898. At that time, Spain ceded the islands to the U.S. With the acquisition of the Philippines and Cuba as a result of that war, the United States suddenly became a colonial power.

Mayon Volcano, Luzon Island, Philippines



Almost immediately after the United States assumed oversight of the islands, Philippine rebels who wanted to be independent began fighting the Americans. This war continued until 1902, when the United States declared the conflict over.

The U.S. adopted a policy of easing out of colonial oversight of the islands. The United States granted the Philippines the status of self-governing commonwealth in 1935 with plans for independence in 1945. However, the islands were soon in the middle of the fighting in World War II. Japan seized the islands in 1942, and American forces and governing personnel left. U.S. and Filipino forces regained control in 1945. The U.S. finally granted independence to the Republic of the Philippines on July 4, 1946.

In the Middle of Ethnicity and Religion

The islands include dozens of people groups and language or dialect groups. The Tagalog people and language group is the largest single ethnic group in the islands. Several dialects of Tagalog exist, but a standard version of the language known as Filipino is one of the country's two official languages; English is the other. A dialect of Tagalog is the first or second language for more than half of the Philippine

The Roman Catholic Church of San Agustin in Manila was completed in 1607. The bell tower on the left was damaged in an earthquake in 1880 and subsequently removed.



population. Despite centuries of Spanish rule, for the most part the people did not adopt the Spanish language. It remained primarily only the language of the government and the ruling class.

The presence of these various ethnic and linguistic groups meant that the islands actually did not constitute one entity in anyone's mind until the Spanish brought them under a single government. But even unified Spanish rule did not really make them a single people. The country is still fairly fragmented in terms of ethnicity, language, and religion.

About 80-85% of the people are Roman Catholic. In some northern provinces, Catholics make up over 90% of the population. The strength of the Catholic faith in the Philippines stems from their Spanish heritage, but for them it is not just a cultural religion. Generally the Philippine people hold their faith deeply and sincerely, although some people do hold to folk religion beliefs as well as their Catholic faith. The ninety percent of Filipinos who are Christian (Catholic, Protestant, and evangelical) make up the largest percentage of Christians of any country in Asia. This is in a part of the world that is predominantly Muslim, Buddhist, and (as in China) atheist.

The southern islands are another story. Arab and Malay traders came to that region in the 1300s and brought the Sunni Muslim religion. Today Muslims (called Moros, from the term Moors) make up a large part of the population in the south; in some provinces they are a majority. The people in the southern islands actually have more in common religiously and culturally with the people of Malaysia and Indonesia than with the Tagalogs to their north. The Moros never recognized the authority of the Catholic Spanish over them. The Catholic presence is much smaller in the southern islands. About 5-6 percent of the total Philippine population is Muslim. Islamic terrorist groups have operated out of the southern region for many years.

The Moros have tried to gain independence from the Philippines for years. This conflict has



People on the island of Panay have been celebrating the Festival of Ati-Atihan for hundreds of years. After the Spanish arrived, the festival acquired Catholic religious connections and the tradition spread to other parts of the Philippines.

caused over 120,000 deaths and two million displaced persons. In 2018 the Philippine Congress approved limited autonomy for the southern island of Mindanao. In addition to this Muslim agitation, a Maoist Communist terror group operates in other parts of the country and has caused considerable damage and loss of life.

Despite the religious and political differences, the country is not in constant turmoil. However, incidents of violence do occur from time to time. For instance, in January 2019 ISIS claimed responsibility for a double bombing at a Roman Catholic church in the southern Philippines that killed twenty and injured over one hundred others.

In the Middle of Economic Trial

The Philippines suffered economically under centuries of Spanish colonial rule. The Spanish were only interested in the wealth they could extract from the country and not in bringing about economic development there. After the United States took

over the Philippines, the U.S. improved government operations and economic activity, but the islands were still a colony and depended to a great extent on the level of investment that the U.S. made in the country.

The Philippine economy has been growing in recent years, but it has a long way to go. It is one of the poorest national economies in Asia. The country has over 109 million people, the thirteenth largest national population in the world, but its gross domestic product in terms of purchasing power parity (how the average citizen compares to people in other countries in terms of real buying power) is 29th in the world. In terms of per capita GDP, it is 148th. By contrast the United States has the world's third largest population, the second highest purchasing power parity, and the 29th highest per capita GDP. Exports account for only one-fourth of Philippine economic activity, whereas for most Asian nations exports make up seventy-five percent of the economy.

One problem in the Philippines has been the extreme difference between rich and poor. Three-fourths of recent economic growth has gone to only forty families in the country. Corruption is widespread throughout the government.

Another problem has been the instability caused by Muslim and Maoist rebels. These conflicts prevent economic growth because people have to be concerned with self-preservation instead of being able to pursue productive economic activity. In addition, the conflict discourages foreign investment. Investors do not want to put their money where there is a strong possibility that it will be lost due to civil unrest.

In the Middle of International Conflict

Because of its strategic geographic location, the Republic of the Philippines has been caught in the middle of the tensions between China and the United States as it has dealt with its own internal problems. Even after independence, the country still greatly depended on the United States for military security and economic growth.

Ferdinand Marcos was president for twenty-one years (1965-1986), and ruled as dictator from 1972 to 1981 under martial law that he proclaimed. Marcos was an anti-Communist ally for the United States, but he was a corrupt ally. He and his wife Imelda, who also held several positions in the government, stole billions of dollars from the country. Marcos' rule kept the country from growing as it could have. After several years of unrest, Marcos resigned in 1986 (under pressure from the U.S. to do so) and he and his wife fled the country. The islands have seen repeated periods of political and economic instability since the last years of Marcos' tenure.

In a move that was intended to help the Philippines become less dependent on the United States, the U.S. closed Subic Bay Naval Base and Clark Air Base in the Philippines in the early 1990s. However, that was before China began developing



People at this vegetable market in La Trinidad on the island of Luzon wear face masks and use their cell phones in April of 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

its military strength and began reaching into the South China Sea and claiming ownership of almost all of the sea and its mineral resources. These claims infringed on what the Republic of the Philippines understood to be its territorial waters. The Chinese claims have threatened the Philippines' security and economy.

Access to the South China Sea is an important part of the Philippines' possibilities for economic growth. The Philippines, as well as other countries in the region, send over one million fishing vessels into the South China Sea each year. In addition, the country imports all of its petroleum needs and obtains its natural gas from an offshore drilling field near Manila Bay. Filipinos have wanted to be able to engage in exploratory drilling in the South China Sea, but Chinese claims have thwarted this. On the other hand, China is the Philippines' third largest trading partner. China has also promised to put \$24 billion in assistance and investment into the Philippines. This financial involvement can draw the two countries closer, but it can also make the Filipinos dependent on and indebted to China, which can be unhealthy. China's offer also potentially buys Philippine acquiescence to Chinese policies, such as its desire to take over Taiwan.

As you can see, the Republic of the Philippines has a complicated relationship with China. The Philippines do not want to be under the threat of Chinese military force, but the republic's own

military is small and would be no match for the Chinese. Thus, the Republic of the Philippines has once again sought better military relations with the United States. China could easily control the Philippines with military force, but any move to do so would be a direct challenge to the United States' interests in the region.

In 2018 China eased tensions over issues in the South China Sea by signing agreements with the Philippines on fishing rights and on joint mineral exploration of part of the South China Sea. China

appeared to be pursuing a cooperative and not confrontational relationship with the Philippines.

The Republic of the Philippines and its families are in the middle of longstanding historic trends and significant current issues. Homeschooling families in the Philippines, just like homeschooling families everywhere, want to find the best way through all of this for the future of their children.

Psalm 97 calls on the many islands of the world to be glad in the Lord:

*The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice;
Let the many islands be glad.
Psalm 97:1*

Assignments for Lesson 97

Gazetteer Read the entry for the Philippines (page 172).

Worldview Copy this question in your notebook and write your answer: What do you think having the mind of Christ means concerning how you think about other people?

Project Continue working on your project.

Literature Continue reading *Ann Judson: A Missionary Life for Burma*.

Student Review Answer the questions for Lesson 97.



Dragon Bridge Over the Hàn River, Da Nang, Vietnam

98

More Than Just a Place: Vietnam

Vietnam.

For many Americans, it's more than a place. This simple geographic term carries great emotional weight. For your grandparents' generation, just saying the word conjures up thoughts of friends in the military who came home physically or emotionally scarred or who didn't come home at all. The word reminds that generation of angry protest marches and a long struggle to define our national purpose. Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Normandy, Korea, and Ground Zero of 9/11 are other geographic locations that have had this kind of deep impact.

Vietnam defined an era in our nation's history. It was the scene of a large and expensive American military involvement that cost the lives of over 58,000 Americans and perhaps three million Vietnamese but in which the United States did not achieve its military and political objectives. It was also the cause of bitter conflict among our citizens.

Before our military involvement there, most Americans knew little about Vietnam; it was just a name on a map. Since the war, America's relations with Vietnam have been transformed. The country has become a source for many consumer products that Americans buy and use. Vietnam still has

geographic significance for the world, but in a way that is different from what it meant in the 1960s.

Geographic Background

Vietnam is located in Southeast Asia on the peninsula of Indochina. The term Indochina reflects the influence of India and China on the region. In the 1800s, as part of the race for colonies in which several European countries competed, France colonized the eastern part of the peninsula, which now includes Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. The region became known as French Indochina.

Japan seized part of French Indochina during World War II. The end of the war saw considerable turmoil as France tried to regain control while national groups arose and sought to assert their independence. One of these groups was the Communist Viet Minh led by Ho Chi Minh, who declared a Communist state with the capital in Hanoi. French forces and Ho's armies fought until 1954, when the Communists defeated the French at Dien Bien Phu.

A multinational conference in Geneva, Switzerland, declared a cease-fire line at the 17th parallel of latitude. This divided Vietnam into the Communist North led by Ho and an independent

South that was supported by the United States. Ho quickly declared his intention to unify all of Vietnam under his Communist regime. Communist rebels in South Vietnam who were dedicated to achieving an overthrow of the government of South Vietnam were called the Viet Cong.

American Involvement

The United States supported the government of South Vietnam, but that government was weak and corrupt. As a result, the U.S. faced a difficult geopolitical situation. Vietnam became an important proxy battlefield in the Cold War between the U.S. on one side and the Soviet Union and Communist China on the other (China was a lesser factor because the Vietnamese and the Chinese have not gotten along for centuries).

A stated goal of Communism was the domination of the world. The Soviet Union had taken over East Germany and the countries of Eastern Europe. Communists controlled China and North Korea. The stated intention of Communists in Vietnam was to take over all of that country. Part of the worldview of the American government and other world democracies at the time was the domino

Richard Springman, serving in the U.S. Army, was captured in Cambodia in 1970. This photo shows him with a North Vietnamese officer before his release in 1973. He received the Bronze Star for attempting to escape during his time as a POW.



theory. This was the belief that if Vietnam fell to the Communists, other countries in Indochina and Southeast Asia would then be more likely to fall like dominoes to the emboldened Communists. Communist forces might take over that part of the world entirely like they did Eastern Europe and then keep going, perhaps even to Australia.

As a result of this geopolitical concern, the United States provided economic aid and military equipment and advisers to South Vietnam. Even though the government there was unstable, it was our best hope in the situation. Eventually the U.S. became directly involved militarily by sending fighting forces to South Vietnam and conducting extensive bombing campaigns against the North. As many as a half million American troops served in Vietnam at one time at the height of our involvement.

However, the United States and South Vietnam were never able to bring North Vietnam's army or the Viet Cong to their knees. American military and political leaders did not devise an effective strategy for the conduct of the war. U.S. and South Vietnamese forces never tried to invade the North; their goal was simply to defend the South. Meanwhile, the Communists executed quick attacks in the South and then disappeared into the jungle in a guerrilla ("little war") approach. Communist forces were fighting for the cause of uniting their country, whereas the American purpose was not so clear-cut or urgent to many Americans. Protests against American involvement in Vietnam weakened our effort and emboldened the enemy. Many Americans questioned why our military was helping to prop up a corrupt government in a location that did not seem to them to be vital to our national self-interest.

One geographic factor in the war were the heavy jungles that are common in Vietnam. The United States military attempted to clear out Communist hideouts in the jungles with a defoliant known as Agent Orange. It eventually became known that Agent Orange was a serious health hazard that affected many military personnel as well as Vietnamese civilians.

In the early 1970s, President Richard Nixon began withdrawing American troops and turning over more of the fighting to the South Vietnamese army. He also pursued negotiations with North Vietnam to end the fighting. In 1973 the Paris Peace Accords officially ended American involvement, but fighting between the North and South continued. The government and military of South Vietnam collapsed, and on April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese troops entered the South Vietnamese capital of Saigon and declared victory. Vietnam was once again united, but now it was under a Communist government. The Communist rulers renamed Saigon as Ho Chi Minh City. The Communist government killed thousands of those who had opposed it, and Communism did spread to other countries in Southeast Asia.

Since the War

The United States and Vietnam officially avoided each other until 1994, when President Bill Clinton ended the trade embargo that the U.S. had imposed on Vietnam. The restoration of diplomatic relations

followed the next year, and trade relations grew from that point.

The Communist government of Vietnam pursued a course similar to that of China in opening the country to capitalist development. Vietnamese factory workers were willing to work for even less than Chinese workers were, so some companies shifted production from China to Vietnam. Vietnam went from being one of the poorest countries in the world to having a strong, growing economy. The percentage of people living in poverty in Vietnam decreased from 70% to 6%. The population there, 70% of whom are under 40, holds great potential for continued economic growth. In a recent survey, 95% of Vietnamese polled expressed support for market capitalism. They have seen it work in lifting their country out of poverty. With this rapid industrialization, however, have come the typical problems of pollution and unwise exploitation of such natural resources as sand, fish, and timber.

Communist Vietnam has developed closer economic and military ties with the United States, primarily because of Vietnam's uneasy relationship with China. China and Vietnam fought a serious month-long war in 1979 over Vietnam's involvement

Residents of Quang Phu Cau, Vietnam, make incense sticks for use in the celebration of Tet (Vietnamese New Year) and for export to other nearby countries.



Hang Son Doong Cave

In 1990 a Vietnamese farmer, Ho Khanh, was seeking shelter from a jungle storm when he entered a huge cave. He became disoriented and got lost leaving the cave area and so could not report its location. In 2008 Ho was hunting for food in the area when he found the cave again. This time he reported his discovery to British cave experts who were working nearby.

Hang Son Doong (Mountain River Cave) is the largest cave in the world. The main cavern is three miles long and reaches as much as 650 feet high. It could hold a block in New York City—skyscrapers and all—and a Boeing 747 jet could fly in it. Its largest stalagmite is 262 feet high. Cave-ins or dolines have allowed sunlight to enter through depressions in the ceiling, and this in turn has led to jungle growth inside the cave. Explorers have since discovered 57 other caves in the same region of what used to be southern North Vietnam, near the border with Laos. Three of the world's four largest caves have been found there.

In 2013 the government opened the cave to limited public excursions. The number of cavers and explorers coming to the area has increased significantly in the last few years, but that number is still relatively small because the area is so difficult to reach and tours are expensive. In the photo below, you can see tents in the entrance to the cave.

The area received heavy bombing during the Vietnam War. Unexploded shells remain in the jungle, and these shells have cost the lives of several people who have set them off when they were looking for metal they could sell. The increase in tourism has brought a financial windfall for the villages in the cave area, but this has brought the usual tradeoff of potential damage to the local ecosystem.



in Cambodia, an ally of China. As China has expanded its sphere of influence in Southeast Asia and the South China Sea, Vietnam has turned to the United States for military support to protect its interests. Once enemies, Vietnam and the U.S. have become allies against China. Few Vietnamese people carry any bitterness about American involvement there. In fact, if you ask most Vietnamese about “the war,” they are more likely to think of the conflict with China than the one involving the United States.

Direct U.S. military involvement in Vietnam ended decades ago. American military personnel and millions of Vietnamese veterans and civilians still carry physical and emotional scars from that

conflict. As time has moved on, however, the emotional toll in both countries has eased. The Vietnamese are growing in their economic well-being. Perhaps, if a trend develops toward political and religious freedom there, the people of Vietnam will have what the American troops fought and died for them to have; and the world will continue to turn from the failing practices of classic, hardline Communism.

The Lord can bring an end to war. It is by ceasing human striving that we really come to know God. In this way He is exalted among the nations.

*Come, behold the works of the Lord,
Who has wrought desolations in the earth.
He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth;
He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two;
He burns the chariots with fire.
“Cease striving and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”
Psalm 46:8-10*

Assignments for Lesson 98

Gazetteer Read the entries for Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam (pages 167, 169, 171, 175, and 177).
Read “My Duty to Serve” (pages 311-312) and watch the video interview using the link provided there.

Worldview Copy this question in your notebook and write your answer: How does the video “My Duty to Serve” affect your worldview?

Project Continue working on your project.

Literature Continue reading *Ann Judson: A Missionary Life for Burma*.

Student Review Answer the questions for Lesson 98.



Padar Island, Indonesia

99

A Nation Defined by Water: Indonesia

On the morning of December 26, 2004, residents and vacationers in the Indonesian city of Banda Aceh on the western coast of the island of Sumatra arose to enjoy the day after Christmas. About 8 a.m. local time, a strong 9.1 earthquake shook the bed of the Indian Ocean about one hundred miles to the west. Shortly thereafter and without warning, a huge wall of water estimated to be sixty to one hundred feet high struck the city beach area and swept inland.

Devastating waves moved in other directions away from the earthquake epicenter as well. The water struck Thailand, Sri Lanka, and other countries as far west as coastal areas of East Africa over 5,000 miles away. The death toll from this destruction reached over 167,000 in Indonesia alone, perhaps a quarter of a million total lives lost in all affected areas. Property damage was estimated at fifteen billion dollars. This wall of water is known as a tsunami. The 2004 event in Indonesia is considered the most costly tsunami in world history.

The Power of Water

Water gives life. People, animals, and plants need water. Water can also destroy. Storms and tsunamis can devastate property and take lives.

Water can separate. Especially in the past, it often left people on opposite sides of a river or sea with little or no contact. Water can also bring together. Travel in some cases is easier on water than on land; so water enables trade, travel, and exploration for those who are willing to embark.

A Nation Defined by Water

The country of Indonesia is defined to a great degree by water. Its name comes from the Greek words *Indos* (India) and *nesos* (island). Indonesia is the largest country in the world made up entirely of islands. It is the seventh largest country when combining land and sea area and the fourteenth largest land area of the countries of the world.

The official counts of the islands that make up Indonesia vary depending on how one defines an island, but the largest number is over 17,000, with more than 900 of them inhabited. The islands of Indonesia cover an area over 3,200 miles wide—one-eighth of the world's circumference—and over 1,100 miles from north to south. The three largest islands are Sumatra, Java, and Borneo.

The land area of Indonesia is about three times the size of Texas, but it is spread over a total area about the size of the continental United States. The

country straddles the equator in Southeast Asia at the junction of the Indian and Pacific Oceans along some of the world's busiest and most strategic shipping routes. In this sense, the waters of Indonesia are a great benefit.

The People and the Land

The people of Indonesia are a fascinating mixture of local tribesmen who never leave their home area and urban dwellers who are connected to the world. Indonesia has the fourth largest population of the countries of the world, over 271 million, following only China, India, and the United States. The island of Java is one of the most densely populated areas on earth.

The people groups of Indonesia use over seven hundred languages. They are 87% Muslim. In fact, Indonesia has more Muslims than any other country in the world. This is true even though Islam did not come to the country in a significant way until the late 1200s and did not grow in significant numbers until even later than that. Hinduism and Buddhism predated Islam in Indonesia. As a result, the practice of Islam there has a different flavor than it does in the Middle East.

Despite its large population, Indonesia is the second most heavily forested country in the world, following only Brazil. The country has over 3,000



Great Mosque of Central Java, Semarang, Indonesia

species of trees. Indonesia also has over 40,000 species of flowering plants, including 5,000 species of orchids. The country is home to two of the world's largest flowers, the *Rafflesia arnoldii* and the *Titan arum*. These flowers give off a terrible smell, which attracts flies, which help in pollination. Indonesia is also home to the Komodo dragon, the largest and heaviest lizard in the world.

The Making of a Tsunami

The surface of the earth rests on a layer of tectonic plates. Beneath these plates lies hot, molten (semi-liquid) rock, which moves and flows. This motion causes tectonic plates to shift and sometimes to collide. This action results in earthquakes and, when the molten rock breaks through the earth's surface, volcanoes.

Scientists believe that most of the Pacific Ocean rests on one large tectonic plate. The edges of this plate collide with other plates. The result of this activity is called the Ring of Fire. Like the Philippines, Indonesia is within the Ring of Fire. With over 70 active volcanoes, it has more than any other country.

When tectonic activity occurs beneath an ocean or extends into an ocean, it displaces a huge amount of water. This water forms a rise in sea level which moves in huge waves that hit coastal areas usually

Cikaso Waterfall, Java, Indonesia



with little or no warning. The common term for this wave is tsunami, which is Japanese for harbor wave.

A tsunami can travel up to 450 miles per hour. At sea, the wave is a smaller tide that moves fast. When it gets closer to shore, where the seabed is more shallow, the tide slows down and increases in height, sometimes to as much as 100 feet. As the tide approaches land, it can briefly pull water away from the shore. When the tsunami strikes land, up to one thousand tons of water can hit a yard of coastline.

Tsunamis occur most often in the Pacific, and about 80% are the result of earthquakes. Volcanoes and landslides can also cause tsunamis, and they have been known to occur even on the usually calm Mediterranean Sea. The eruption of Mount St. Helens in Washington State caused a tsunami on nearby Spirit Lake. Earthquakes on land can sometimes cause tsunamis in the ocean. A tsunami can strike land thousands of miles from the event that caused it.

Damage from a tsunami can be extensive. It can destroy coral reefs and affect the flow of rivers. Destroyed buildings, trees, and other refuse can clog bays and harbors. The force of the water can alter coastlines. Pollution from damaged industrial sites can contaminate land and water. Even more significant is the loss of human life and the damage to human society. Homes, schools, hospitals, and businesses can be wiped out. Sanitation systems can become unusable. Roads can become cluttered or washed out, resulting in a delay in relief efforts and in the resumption of normal activity. With tens of thousands of people becoming victims within a matter of minutes in sometimes hard to reach places, sanitation issues that result from the bodies not being buried can be enormous. Effects from a tsunami can last years or even decades, although Indonesia has done a remarkable job in recovering from the 2004 disaster.

View of Banda Aceh, Indonesia, After the 2004 Tsunami



Tsunamis in History

A few tsunamis in history merit mention here. In 1883 on the Indonesian island of Krakatoa (modern spelling: Krakatau), a fissure in a volcano allowed seawater to come into contact with molten lava, causing the island to explode. The eruption changed the geographic makeup of the island and created a tsunami. Tsunami waves went around the earth four times. Significant weather and atmospheric changes also occurred around the world as a result of the huge amount of ash and dirt thrown into the atmosphere. Some 36,000 people died in the event.

In 1958 an earthquake in Alaska caused a landslide into the Gulf of Alaska, which caused the tallest tsunami on record to strike a thinly populated section of the Alaskan coast. Judging from the height of the vegetation damage, the wall of water is thought to have been about 1,700 feet tall.

A 1964 earthquake off the coast of Alaska caused a tsunami to strike Hawaii, 2,400 miles distant, about five hours later.

In British culture, Boxing Day is the day after Christmas. Traditionally, wealthy families made up gift boxes and presented them to people who served them throughout the year. The 2004 Boxing Day tsunami in Indonesia is thought to have had the energy of 23,000 atomic bombs. Over one million people became homeless. Scientists detected waves from it in Antarctica and South America. The tsunami was the first to be detected by a satellite that was monitoring tectonic plate and volcanic activity, but the data was not immediately available to scientists and relief workers. People around the world donated over seven billion dollars for relief in the first month following the tsunami.

An earthquake off the coast of Japan in 2011 caused tsunami waves around the Pacific and took almost 20,000 lives in Japan. In addition to the usual damage that a tsunami causes, one significant result was damage to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear reactor in Japan.

People have offered various suggestions to try to limit the damage from tsunamis. Some have

proposed building seawalls, but the tradeoff of a wall tall enough to provide significant protection would be the loss of coastal scenery. Remote warning systems such as wave gauges and seafloor pressure gauges are helpful but can provide false readings. A seafloor gauge has to transmit data to a buoy on the surface, which then transmits to a satellite, which then communicates the information to human technicians, who then have to get the warnings out to the population, all this when minutes can make the difference between life and death.

Another Kind of Disturbance

A political disturbance came to a head on an island in Indonesia in the last half of the 1900s. Timor is one of the southernmost islands in Indonesia. Portuguese traders came to the island in the early 1500s and established a colony. The Dutch came to Timor as part of their effort to control the entire region and fought with the Portuguese. In 1859 Portugal gave the Dutch the western part of Timor, which became part of the Dutch East Indies.

Japan occupied eastern or Portuguese Timor during World War II. Afterwards the Portuguese reasserted control, but the Timorese resisted this continued foreign domination. In 1975 Portuguese authorities withdrew to a small island. East Timor (Timor-Leste) declared its independence, but then Indonesian forces invaded a few days later to subdue the country and make it a province of Indonesia. Between 100,000 and 250,000 people died because of the Indonesian repression, and the Indonesian policy in the province did not end the people's desire to be independent.

In a 1999 referendum overseen by the United Nations, almost 80% of the people of East Timor voted for independence. However, anti-independence militia, supported by the Indonesian military, went on a campaign to subdue those who desired independence. Later in 1999, an Australian-led peacekeeping force under United Nations oversight ended the violence. Finally in 2002, the



The government of Indonesia gave this statue of Christ to the people of Timor in 1996, while Timor was still a province of Indonesia. It stands outside Dili, now the capital of Timor-Leste.

international community recognized Timor-Leste (East Timor) as an independent country. Instability continued for several years, but the country eventually developed a stable government and society.

Timor-Leste is slightly larger than Connecticut. It consists of the eastern part of the island of Timor, an enclave in the western half of the island, and two other islands. The population is about 1.3 million. The former province was an anomaly in Indonesia in that the population is about 98% Roman Catholic.

A New Capital City

Water and geography have contributed to an unusual policy decision by the government of Indonesia. In 2019 the president of Indonesia announced that the country would spend an amount equalling 33 billion U.S. dollars to move the national government from Jakarta on the island of Java to

a new city to be built on a site in the province of East Kalimantan on the Indonesian portion of the island of Borneo (the country of Brunei and part of Malaysia are also on Borneo).

The main reason given for the move is that Jakarta is sinking at the rate of six or seven inches per year. The massive construction projects in the city, which has a metro population of about 32 million, put great weight on the ground. In addition, only about one-fourth of the residents of the city have access to piped water, which means that the many wells that have been dug have reduced the groundwater level. These factors have contributed to the sinking. Some experts cite rising sea levels as an issue also. About half of the city is below sea level and has been subject to several costly floods. A new location for the capital on Borneo might afford greater security from terrorist attacks as well.

On the other hand, the construction of a new city that might become the home for 1.5 million government workers and others could pose environmental risks to Borneo, such as deforestation. Moving a nation's capital is unusual but not unprecedented. Brazil built the new city of Brasilia to replace Rio de Janeiro. Nigeria moved its capital from Lagos to Abuja. Egypt is building a new city where it will move government operations from Cairo.

We should not think of Indonesia as a natural or political problem waiting to happen. Indonesia is

a significant player on the world stage. It has one of the strongest economies in Asia. Its oil and natural gas reserves assist in the functioning of the world economy. It is located on vital world trade routes. At the same time, its commitment to Islam, which can sometimes take radical form, and its vulnerability to natural disasters are potential problems that Indonesia must confront.

The people of Indonesia, like the people of every nation, need to hear the greatness of God and the saving message of the gospel.

*Sing to the Lord, all the earth;
Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day.
Tell of His glory among the nations,
His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.
1 Chronicles 16:23-24*

Assignments for Lesson 99

Gazetteer Read the entries for Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Timor-Leste (pages 166, 168, 170, 173, and 176).

Geography Complete the map skills assignment for Unit 20 in the *Student Review Book*.

Project Continue working on your project.

Literature Continue reading *Ann Judson: A Missionary Life for Burma*.

Student Review Answer the questions for Lesson 99.



Putao, Myanmar

100

The Worldview of Jesus

Would you like to have the worldview of Jesus, to think the way Jesus thought? You can.

The entire New Testament is really about worldview: changing one's worldview to trust in Jesus as Lord, and what that trust means for all of a person's outlook, mindset, or worldview. For instance:

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

(Romans 12:2)

Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

(Colossians 3:2-3)

This lesson traces themes in Jesus' life and ministry that reveal His worldview: His purpose, priorities, and perspectives. Understanding how He thought while He was on the earth gives us something to aim for as we develop the worldview of Jesus.

1. Jesus' worldview is that God is working.

"My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working." (John 5:17)

Jesus said this on a Sabbath day, when the Jews were not supposed to work, commemorating when God rested from the days of Creation. But if God were not on the job on the Sabbath, sustaining our world, we would be in serious trouble. The commandment to remember the Sabbath and to refrain from work on that day must mean something besides just doing nothing because God is not doing nothing on the Sabbath.

This verse shows that Jesus was not a deist, and it also shows the fallacy of the worldview of Deism (see Lesson 60). Jesus' worldview is that God has the world in His hands and is always on the job.

2. Jesus' understanding about Himself is part of His worldview.

"The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand." (John 3:35)

[Jesus called] "God His own Father, making Himself equal with God." (John 5:18)

"I and the Father are one." (John 10:30)

These and many other verses teach that God exists and that Jesus believes in Him. Jesus understood

Himself to be God's unique, only-begotten Son. Jesus expressed His understanding of His purpose in many different ways. He came to make the Father known (John 1:14). Jesus said, "I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me" (John 6:38). The Christian worldview involves knowing who Jesus is in relation to God and also knowing who we are in relation to God. Coming to believe in the identity of Jesus changes a person's worldview.

3. Sin and Satan are real.

Jesus knew that Satan is real. Jesus confronted Satan in the wilderness during His temptations (Matthew 4:1-11). Satan entered Judas just before Judas began to plot with the Jewish leaders to betray Jesus (Luke 22:3). However, Satan is doomed. Jesus said that He could see Satan "fall from heaven like lightning" when the seventy cast out demons in Jesus' name (Luke 10:13). Satan continues to do evil in a limited way, but his destruction is sure (Revelation 20:10).

Jesus taught the reality of sin. He told the woman who had been caught in adultery to sin no more (John 8:11). Sin ruins the lives of those who commit sin as well as the lives of others who are affected by it.

However, people are not the enemy of God. Paul said, "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the

spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12). Satan is the enemy, and He uses people to further his cause.

Jesus described His generation as "evil and adulterous" (Matthew 12:39), "unbelieving and perverted" (Matthew 17:17), "adulterous and sinful" (Mark 8:38), and "wicked" (Luke 11:29). That was Jesus' worldview about the generation during which He lived on earth. Can you imagine Jesus using those same words to describe the generation of today?

4. Jesus understood and loved people.

Jesus taught a great deal about people. He understood what is inside people.

Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing. But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.

(John 2:23-25)

Jesus understood what made people tick because (1) He created them and set them ticking and because (2) He was a person Himself. Although He was without sin, Jesus understood that "men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil" (John 3:19).

Even with this knowledge, Jesus loved people and died for them. He did this because we needed Him to, but He did it even more because of His love for us, because of who He is.

Jesus looked past the stereotypes that people develop about each other and was able to see the real person who had spiritual needs. Jews had "no dealings with Samaritans" (John 4:9), yet Jesus had a conversation with a Samaritan woman that changed her life. The Pharisees dismissed tax collectors and sinners, but Jesus shared meals with them (Matthew 9:11). Jews kept their distance from Gentiles, but Jesus interacted with a Gentile Syrophenician

Festival of Light Boats, Laos





Fishing on Nong Han Kumphawapi Lake, Thailand

woman (Mark 7:24-30). Bartimaeus was a blind beggar whom nobody wanted, but Jesus took time for him and healed him (Mark 9:46-52). This is Jesus' worldview concerning people.

Jesus understood what is truly important about people. He saw rich people putting their gifts into the temple treasury, but He took special note of the poor widow who put in two small coins, all that she had to live on (Luke 21:1-4).

Jesus described a group of Samaritans coming out to meet Him as fields that were white for harvest (John 4:35). The disciples probably did not share that opinion of Samaritans because of their worldview. Today, our opinion of whether people are hardened soil likely to reject the gospel or a field white for harvest depends on our worldview. We can at the very least sow and water, be salt and light, and let God give the increase. People are worth it; they were for Jesus.

Jesus believed in the potential of people—more accurately, the potential of what God can do in them. He called people to put away sin and to be

different because He believed they could, for God is at work in the heart, mind, and life of the believer (Philippians 2:13). Yet with people who finally reject the gospel, there comes a time to shake the dust off our feet and move on to more fertile soil (Matthew 10:14).

Jesus even believed that those who would be our enemies are worth loving (Matthew 5:43-45) because, as Paul said, they are not really our enemies. We should see such people not as those we should crush and defeat but as people we should love, influence, and teach by word and example. They deserve for us to try to rescue them and not condemn them because that is what Jesus did for us.

5. Jesus opposed empty religious traditions and profiteering in the name of God.

Jesus cleared the temple of those who were making God's temple into a den of robbers (Matthew 21:12-13). He had strong words against the traditions of the Jewish elders which actually prevented people from obeying God (Mark 7:1-23).

On numerous occasions He directly challenged the traditional Jewish views of what was and was not “lawful” on the Sabbath.

Sometimes religion, even religion carried on in the name of God, is ungodly. How can we know? If it demeans people; if it promotes a system instead of the Savior; and if it exalts something or someone other than God and Christ, it is not doing God’s will.

Jesus taught that it is possible to major in the minors, to be more concerned about tithing tiny garden seeds than about being people of justice, mercy, and faithfulness (Matthew 23:23). We must lovingly accept the conscience and scruples of those who honestly feel the need to maintain certain practices that Scripture does not directly command, but on such matters we need to ask, “Did Jesus die for this?” And even if we conclude that He didn’t, we must remember that He died for those with whom we have differences over matters of opinion and faith, and treat them accordingly.

6. The way of Jesus requires a person’s whole heart and life and involves selfless service.

Jesus said, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?” (Luke 9:23-25). Jesus calls on those who would be His followers to do nothing more than what He did Himself.

The way of Christ will not work if a person tries to follow it partially or part-time. We cannot serve two masters. In addition, it would be difficult to know accurately in each situation we face whether to be our Christian self or our worldly self. Instead, following Christ requires a radical, 180-degree change in a person’s worldview.

Jesus said, “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who

hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal” (John 12:24-25). Later that night, Jesus washed the feet of the disciples during the Last Supper to show them the full extent of His love.

Jesus also said that greatness in the kingdom of God comes by serving. He said, “If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all” (Mark 9:35). In Philippians 2 Paul says “Have this mind [We might say, “Have this worldview”] among you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5). He then describes Jesus giving up His exalted status of equality with God to take on the lowly status of a human slave suffering death by means of a cross. This humble, faithful service was why God exalted Him to the highest position and gave Him the name that is above every name. It takes a remarkable, trusting attitude—a remarkable view of the world and other people—to wash feet and give your life in lowly service. Paul also had a high status as a Pharisee among Pharisees, but his worldview became one of counting everything he had as rubbish in order to know Christ (Philippians 3:7-8).

The way of Christ is where giving a cup of cold water to a little one in the name of a disciple does not lose its reward (Matthew 10:42). It is this kind of humble service that changes the world, not power, money, fame, or beauty. Few of us will have any significant quantity of those in our lives, but we can all be servants.

To be a servant requires a worldview of faith or trust that God will take care of you as you serve. Jesus teaches us that life is not to be filled with worrying. Instead, it is to be about trusting, serving, and glorifying God (Matthew 6:25-34). With faith in God, prayer will be an appropriate part of your worldview because you believe that God answers prayer (Philippians 4:6-7).

7. Jesus believed in the sovereignty of God.

God is in charge, He knows what He is doing, and His timing is perfect.

Jesus knew that God had a plan, even a timetable, for bringing about redemption. In a series

of passages (John 2:4, 7:6-8, 7:30, and 8:20), either Jesus or John says that Jesus' time or hour has not yet come. Then in John 12:23-27, Jesus says that His hour has come. This idea is repeated in John 13:1 and 17:1.

The sovereign God can bring good out of what is evil. In Philippians 1, Paul describes how God brought much good out of Paul's imprisonment. The ultimate example of God's ability to bring good out of what is bad is the cross, when God used the unjust execution of the innocent Son of God to bring about redemption for all who would believe in Him.

Political power comes from God. When Jesus stood before Pilate, the Roman governor asked Him in some frustration, "Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?" Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above" (John 19:10-11). Political power comes not from financial clout, or military might, or

bargaining skill, or even the voters. These all might have parts to play, but worldly authority comes from God (see also 2 Chronicles 10:15, Luke 1:52, and Romans 13:1-4).

Christians live and have lived in monarchies, empires, totalitarian regimes, and democracies. They have held positions of great authority, and they have been fed to lions by those in authority. Christians know that their primary citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20). Because of the sovereignty of God, Christians can know that the world is not something they have to fear; instead it is where they can live with confidence, faith, and victory.

8. Resurrection and judgment are coming.

The bodily resurrection of Jesus vindicated His identity, status, and power and provided hope for our own resurrection from the dead. Jesus predicted the coming general resurrection of the dead and the last judgment (John 5:28-29, Matthew 25:31-46). In other words, we have a destiny before us; life has a

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point, a goal. This reality affects what we value in our lives and what we should make our highest priority.

Paul wrote that at the last judgment, “at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:10-11). At that time, everyone’s worldview will involve a recognition of Jesus as Lord. Any other worldview won’t matter. As a matter of fact, in ultimate terms no other worldview matters now, either.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him
nothing came into being that has come into being.
In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.
The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
John 1:1-5*

Assignments for Lesson 100

Worldview Recite or write the memory verse for this unit.

Project Finish your project for this unit.

Literature Continue reading *Ann Judson: A Missionary Life for Burma*.

Student Review Answer the questions for Lesson 100.
Take the quiz for Unit 20.
Take the fourth Geography, English, and Worldview exams.



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Detail from Lonely Fishermen on the River in Autumn by Tang Yin (Chinese, 1523)

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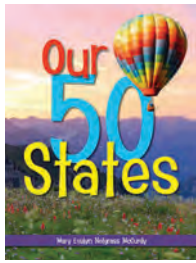
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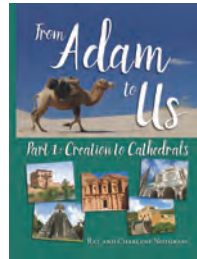
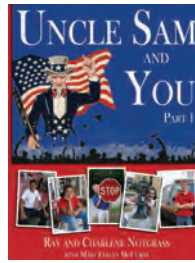
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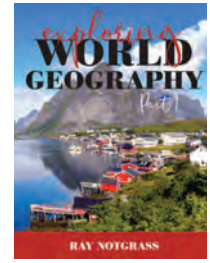
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