

# NEWSBYTES

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"Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him." Tozer

## China: The Massive Threat

by Judith Bergman  
September 27

"The most game-changing challenge we face comes from the Chinese Communist Party." – Ken McCullum, MI5 Director General, Joint Address by the heads MI5 and FBI, July 6, 2022.

Both directors emphasized that one of the greatest challenges to Western economies is China's theft of Western technology through a variety of means....

China's Ministry of State Security (MSS) uses its regional bureaus to "key in specifically on the innovation of certain Western companies it wants to ransack.... companies everywhere from big cities to small towns -- from Fortune 100s to start-ups.... We've even caught people affiliated with Chinese companies out in the U.S. heartland, sneaking into fields to dig up proprietary, genetically modified seeds, which would have cost them nearly a decade and billions in research to develop themselves." — Christopher Wray, FBI Director, address to London business leaders on National Security Threats Posed by the People's Republic of China, MI5 HQ, July 6, 2022.

Wray emphasized that effectively all Chinese companies are in the pockets of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)... those [companies] that aren't owned outright are effectively beholden to the government all the same, as Chinese companies of any size are required to host a Communist Party cell to keep them in line.... almost like silent partners."

Wray unconditionally warned businesses against partnering with Chinese companies. "Maintaining a technological edge may do more to increase a company's value than would partnering with a Chinese company to sell into that huge Chinese market, only to find the Chinese government, and your 'partner,' stealing and copying your innovation, setting up a Chinese competitor, backed by its government, that is soon undercutting you -- not just in China, but everywhere." — Christopher Wray, July 6, 2022.

The deal [to purchase farmland near a military base in North Dakota] has caused concerns that the purchased land could be used to spy on the base, as China most likely has done on other bases.

Additionally, there is widespread Chinese theft and spying in academia.... European scientists have been empowering China's military by sharing "militarily sensitive knowledge with the Chinese army on a large scale." Out of an astounding 353,000 scientific collaborations between Europe and China around 3,000 had taken place with the Chinese military, defined as "studies where scientists from

Western European universities collaborated with Chinese colleagues directly linked to an institute that is part of the Chinese army."

Despite the massive threat that China poses, the Biden administration nevertheless ended the Department of Justice's "China Initiative" in February 2022. That same month, the head of the FBI said in an interview that Chinese spying had become so prevalent in the US that on average, the FBI was opening on average two counterintelligence investigations a day, with more than 2,000 such cases already underway.

Instead of the China Initiative, "the administration would be using a "broader approach one that looks across all of these threats [from China, Russia, and Iran; ed.] and uses all of our authorities to combat them." — Assistant Attorney General for National Security Matthew Olsen, Politico, February 23, 2022.

All right. Where is it? No need to shut down the China Initiative; just increase investigations of other threats, which the US should presumably be doing anyway.

The unmistakable signal that the Biden administration sent to China by closing down the China Initiative was one of weakness -- again -- this time, underscoring that the US does not consider countering China a priority at a time when China, according to two international prominent intelligence directors -- is unquestionably the greatest threat to US interests.

Could there be a signal to an intransigent adversary more dangerous than that?

In an unprecedented move, the head of the FBI, Christopher Wray, and the head of Britain's domestic intelligence agency, the MI5, Ken McCallum, came together in July to warn against the "massive" threat that both intelligence services consider China presents. Both men emphasized that one of the greatest challenges to Western economies is China's theft of Western technology. (Image source: iStock)

In an unprecedented move, the head of the FBI, Christopher Wray, and the head of Britain's domestic intelligence agency, the MI5, Ken McCallum, came together in July to warn against the "massive" threat that both intelligence services consider China presents.

"We consistently see that it's the Chinese government that poses the biggest long-term threat to our economic and national security, and by 'our', I mean both of our nations, along with our allies in Europe and elsewhere," Wray said in a joint address by the two directors at the London headquarters of MI5.

"Today is the first time the heads of the FBI and MI5 have shared a public platform," McCallum said. "We're doing so to send the clearest signal we can on a massive shared challenge: China."

"The most game-changing challenge we face comes from the Chinese Communist Party," McCallum said. "It's covertly applying pressure across the globe."

The two intelligence directors listed a number of threats that they consider the greatest currently emanating from China. Both directors emphasized that one of the greatest challenges to Western economies is China's theft of Western technology through a variety of means.

Wray made it clear that China uses "intelligence officers to target valuable private sector information -- multiplying their efforts by working extensively through scores of 'co-optees,' people who aren't technically Chinese government officials but assist in intelligence operations, spotting and assessing sources to recruit, providing cover and communications, and helping steal secrets in other ways."

Wray also mentioned how China's Ministry of State Security (MSS) uses its regional bureaus to "key in specifically on the innovation of certain Western companies it wants to ransack. And I'm talking about

companies everywhere from big cities to small towns -- from Fortune 100s to start-ups, folks that focus on everything from aviation, to AI, to pharma. We've even caught people affiliated with Chinese companies out in the U.S. heartland, sneaking into fields to dig up proprietary, genetically modified seeds, which would have cost them nearly a decade and billions in research to develop themselves."

Wray was most likely referring to the FBI's case against Mo Hailong, a Chinese national who was sent to the US by China's Dabeinong Technology Group, a company that makes feed products and is closely connected to the Chinese government. In the US, he collected thousands of inbred corn seeds from fields in Iowa and elsewhere owned by the Monsanto and DuPont Pioneer companies and then shipped the seeds back to China. As part of his operations, Hailong had also purchased two farms in Iowa and Illinois. He was sentenced to three years in prison and a fine.

China also steals from the West through cyber hacking. Wray described China as operating a "lavishly resourced hacking program that's bigger than that of every other major country combined. The Chinese Government sees cyber as the pathway to cheat and steal on a massive scale."

Wray emphasized that effectively all Chinese companies are in the pockets of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP):

"To start with, a whole lot of Chinese companies are owned by the Chinese government -- effectively the Chinese Communist Party. And often that ownership is indirect and not advertised. And those that aren't owned outright are effectively beholden to the government all the same, as Chinese companies of any size are required to host a Communist Party cell to keep them in line. So, when you deal with a Chinese company, know you're also dealing with the Chinese government -- that is, the MSS and the PLA [People's Liberation Army] -- too, almost like silent partners."

Wray unconditionally warned businesses against partnering with Chinese companies:

"Maintaining a technological edge may do more to increase a company's value than would partnering with a Chinese company to sell into that huge Chinese market, only to find the Chinese government, and your 'partner,' stealing and copying your innovation, setting up a Chinese competitor, backed by its government, that is soon undercutting you -- not just in China, but everywhere."

Such straight talk from the head of the FBI should be enough to put a stop to any doubts about the security risks that Chinese companies pose to US national security. Under debate, nevertheless, is the purchase by China's Fufeng Group of agricultural land in North Dakota, just 12 miles from the vital Grand Forks Air Force Base. The deal has caused concerns that the purchased land could be used to spy on the base, as China most likely has done on other bases.

Since December 2021, when the city of Grand Forks announced that the Chinese company would be buying the land, such national security concerns, however, have still not been enough for the deal to be cancelled.

Additionally, there is widespread Chinese theft and spying in academia, which Wray and McCallum mention only briefly. In Europe, for instance, European scientists have been empowering China's military by sharing "militarily sensitive knowledge with the Chinese army on a large scale." Out of an astounding 353,000 scientific collaborations between Europe and China around 3,000 had taken place with the Chinese military, defined as "studies where scientists from Western European universities collaborated with Chinese colleagues directly linked to an institute that is part of the Chinese army."

Despite the massive threat that China poses, the Biden administration nevertheless ended the Department of Justice's "China Initiative" in February 2022. That same month, the head of the FBI said

in an interview that Chinese spying had become so prevalent in the US that on average, the FBI was opening on average two counterintelligence investigations a day, with more than 2,000 such cases already underway.

The China Initiative -- introduced by the Trump administration in 2018 -- was focused on countering a wide array of Chinese threats to the United States:

China's theft of sensitive information and technology, economic espionage and other forms of trade secret theft; working against China's malicious cyber activity and its malign foreign influence operations and China's foreign intelligence operations in the United States, to name just a few.

Speaking in November 2020, then Attorney General William P. Barr said:

"In the last year, the Department has made incredible strides in countering the systemic efforts by the PRC to enhance its economic and military strength at America's expense. While much work remains to be done, the Department is committed to holding to account those who would steal, or otherwise illicitly obtain, the U.S. intellectual capital that will propel the future."

The Biden administration, however, claimed that the China Initiative gave rise to the wrong "perceptions" and therefore ended it. According to Assistant Attorney General for National Security Matthew Olsen:

"By grouping cases under the China Initiative rubric, we helped give rise to a harmful perception that the department applies a lower standard to investigate and prosecute criminal conduct related to that country or that we in some way view people with racial, ethnic or familial ties to China differently."

Instead, Olsen said, the administration would be using a "broader approach one that looks across all of these threats [from China, Russia, and Iran; ed.] and uses all of our authorities to combat them."

All right. Where is it? No need to shut down the China Initiative; just increase investigations of other threats, which the US should presumably be doing anyway.

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## **God Always Warns Before Judgment**

9.24.22 *Grant Phillips*

When I was growing up, I always received warnings from my parents about various issues. I'm sure you did too. "Don't touch that; you'll cut yourself. Don't touch that; you'll burn yourself. Be very careful using these tools. They're not toys. Don't play in the road." I'll never forget my mother warning us not

to leave our drink unattended because someone could put something in it. I didn't understand until years later what she was referring to.

Children don't usually appreciate the many warnings they receive from their parents until they have children of their own. Why do we receive warnings from those who are wiser? Could it be because they love us and don't wish to see us suffer? Could it be that they know what is ahead if we ignore their warnings? Well, God loves us, and He knows what is ahead.

God warned Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:16). He warned the people of Noah's day that a worldwide flood was coming, and 120 years later, the flood came. All were drowned except eight, Noah and his family. God warned Nineveh through Jonah of judgment if they did not repent. God warned Judah for 345 years to repent or face judgment, and also Israel for 210 years. Neither listened, and both were carried off into slavery.

There is another judgment coming upon the whole world that will be even worse than the flood of Noah's day. Jesus said of this judgment, "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened" (Matthew 24:21-22).

The book of Revelation, which details the coming seven-year Tribulation, was written in 95 A.D. It has been warning us since that time that Jesus is coming back, and everything in this book will be fulfilled.

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Matthew 24:35).

The purpose of the Tribulation is for God to bring the Jewish nation back to Himself through repentance and to know their Messiah, and also to judge the world. Many will come to Christ during that time but will be martyred for doing so.

Twenty-one judgments will come upon the world; seven seal judgments, seven trumpet judgments, and seven bowl judgments.

At this point, I would like to show a very brief preview of what these judgments will be, as shown in the book of Revelation.

### **Seven Seal Judgments**

- First Seal (white horse): Antichrist appears (6:1-2)
- Second Seal (red horse): World will be at war (6:3-4)
- Third Seal (black horse): Worldwide famine (6:5-6)
- Fourth Seal (pale horse): ¼ of mankind will die (6:7-8)
- Fifth Seal: Martyrs are in Heaven (6:9-11)
- Sixth Seal: World devastated and in ruin. (6:12-17)
- Seventh Seal: Seven trumpets will be introduced. (8:1-2)

### **Seven Trumpet Judgments**

- First Trumpet: 1/3 of earth's vegetation destroyed by hail, fire and blood. (8:7)
- Second Trumpet: 1/3 of the oceans polluted by a fireball from heaven. (8:8-9)
- Third Trumpet: 1/3 of fresh water polluted. (8:10-11)
- Fourth Trumpet: 1/3 of sun, moon, stars darkened (8:12)
- Fifth Trumpet: Agonizing torment by demons (9:1-12)

Sixth Trumpet: 1/3 of mankind slaughtered by demons (9:13-21)

Seventh Trumpet: Announcement of Christ's Kingdom reign (11:15-19)

## **Seven Bowl Judgments**

First Bowl: Sores upon followers of Antichrist (16:2)

Second Bowl: Seas turned to blood; all marine life dies (16:3)

Third Bowl: All fresh water turned to blood (16:4-7)

Fourth Bowl: Scorching heat from sun (16:8-9)

Fifth Bowl: Darkness and pain upon Antichrist's kingdom (16:10-11)

Sixth Bowl: Euphrates River dried up; Armageddon (16:12-16)

Seventh Bowl: Earthquakes and hail (16:17-21)

Please turn in your Bibles to the Scripture references and read each of the judgments. I have only provided a skeleton of an explanation for each one. Over one-half of the world's population will die, and the suffering during that time will be off the charts! You do not want to be here when the Tribulation begins.

Some may say, "I'll just turn to Christ and get saved." Actually, if you are in the Tribulation, there is a good chance you will not turn to Christ (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12), and even if you do, you will probably suffer martyrdom.

"And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12).

Our world right now is turned on its head and begging for the judgment of God. Most folks are saying that nothing has happened in two thousand years, so there is no God. The Lord says through Peter:

"Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. They will say, 'What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created.'

"They deliberately forget that God made the heavens by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water. Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood. And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed.

"But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent" (2 Peter 3:3-9 NLT).

Folks, we are right on the brink of Christ's return. Yes, He has been warning us for a long time. It seems to those who do not know Him that it will never happen, but remember this: every last prophecy of His first coming was fulfilled to the letter. There is no reason to think it will be otherwise for His return.

There is nothing more important than the eternal destination of our souls. Think about this: Do you have regrets in your life? I'm sure you do. Everyone probably has something in their life where they wish they had made a better decision. Now is the time to get it right about where you will spend eternity.

I'm sure the people in Noah's day thought there would never be a worldwide flood since it had never rained at that time, but the flood came.

Jesus said there has never been anything like the Tribulation and never will be again, but it is coming (Matthew 24:21-22). The world is ripe for judgment, and any day now, that judgment will come.

Remember those regrets in your life? Well, once the Church is removed, you will be in the Tribulation, and there is no turning back. Then you will be forced to serve the Antichrist or be a martyr for Jesus Christ. If you choose the Antichrist, and you very well may, you will suffer hell on earth and then hell in the lake of fire for eternity.

Jesus, the true Christ, loves you very much. Now is the time to face Him as your Savior and Lord rather than your Judge later on.

Grant Phillips