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*This map shows the climate regions of China. The subtropical moist climate is sometimes called Rice China. The continental moist climate region is Wheat China. The desert and steppe climate is Dry China. The polar and subarctic climate is in High China.*

## 16. God's Gifts to China

### God Gives China Good Climates.

China is a huge country. You would expect many different climates in a country so large. China is about as far north of the equator as the United States and southern Canada are. It is not surprising that China has some of the same climates we have.

One way to describe the climates of China is to divide the country into

four parts: High China, Dry China, Wheat China, and Rice China. We call these parts the climate regions of China. The map above shows where these four regions are found.

**High China.** High China is the western part of the country. This is a mountainous land with deep valleys between the mountains. It would be correct to say that High China has many different climates. The higher





*This flat field is in Wheat China. In fall and winter the land in Wheat china is often dry and brown. The people can grow wheat and soybeans in summer if there is plenty of rain.*

into the mountains one travels, the cooler the climate. The highest mountains are covered with snow all year. The high plateau or flatland of Tibet in the west has cool summers and very cold winters. This plateau is a very windy land. The valleys in High China are often much warmer

*This is High China. Notice the snowcovered mountains in the distance. Why do you think not many people live in this part of China?*



than the nearby mountains. Mountains all around protect the valleys from the cold winds that blow from the north.

**Dry China.** North of High China is Dry China. Some of the driest deserts in the world are found here. Two of the most famous deserts of Dry China are the Gobi (gō' bē) Desert and the Takla Makan (tā' klə mə kăn') Desert.

Rain clouds sometimes sweep over the deserts. People can see the rain falling, but the rain usually does not reach the ground. It **evaporates** or dries up in the warm, dry air.

In some parts of Dry China nothing grows. The land is covered with bare sand and rocks. In other parts with more rainfall, some grass and scrubby bushes grow.

*This picture is from Dry China. How can you tell that the climate here is very dry?*





In most of Dry China, winter winds bring very cold weather from Siberia. There are few mountains between Dry China and Siberia to keep the cold from pouring in. But in summer, Dry China is one of the hottest places on earth. The temperature rises well above 100° F (37° C) almost every day.

**Wheat China.** East of Dry China is a land watered by great rivers and more rainfall. This northeastern part of China is sometimes called Wheat China. What does this tell you about the crops raised there? Wheat China is a land with cold winters and warm summers. Wheat grows well, and it is the most important crop in this part of China.

In the winter, Wheat China is dry and cold. The land looks much like Dry China. But spring brings more rain, and the land becomes green. Warm summers ripen many crops such as soybeans, corn, and vegetables in addition to wheat.

Wheat China is not always green in summer, however. Every few years too little rain falls. The land remains dry and brown. People may go hungry. But in other years Wheat China has too much rainfall. The rivers swell and flood the fields. Many crops are ruined and many people drown in the floods.

The mighty Yellow River, called the Huang He, does the most damage in years of flooding. The Huang He brings fine yellow soil from parts of Dry China. This fine soil piles up in



*These steep hills and rice fields or paddies are found in Rice China. What is the weather like there for most of the year?*

the riverbed as it flows through the flatlands of Wheat China. The river slowly rises. The people build up the banks of the river to hold back the floods. In places the Huang He is higher than the nearby countryside. When floodwaters break through the man-made banks, they flood the land for miles around.

The Huang He is sometimes called **China's Sorrow**. Many have been the sorrows of those who live along its banks, especially when floods take thousands of lives.

**Rice China.** Rice China lies south of Wheat China and east of High China. Can you guess why this southeastern part of China is called Rice China? Yes, rice is the main crop there.

The fact that rice is grown in most of southeastern China says

much about its climate. Rice China is the wettest part of China. Rice needs much more water than wheat. The greatest river in all China waters the northern part of Rice China. This is the Yangtze (yang' tsē') River, the third longest river in the world. In the southern part of Rice China flows the shorter Xi Jiang (shē' jyāng') River. This river drains the mountains of the far south. It has been said that Rice China is one of the most well-watered lands on earth.

The rice growing in southeastern China tells us still more about the climate. The climate is

warmer than in the rest of China. Rice needs about six months of warm growing weather. Rice China has a long growing season much like the southeastern United States. Wheat China is brown for many months out of the year. But green is the color of Rice China. Grasses and other plants stay green most of the year.

The southernmost part of Rice China stays green all year. Oranges, sugarcane, and many vegetables grow, even in winter. In this part of China, two crops of rice are grown each year on the same land.

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## Gifts of Food From China

China is a land of farmers. About eight out of ten people in China work on farms.



**Peaches**



**Apricots**



**Nectarines**



**Oranges**

Many of the fruits and vegetables we enjoy were raised first in China. When you eat peaches, thank the Chinese! Peaches and their cousins, apricots and nectarines, were developed in China. Oranges

and tangerines also spread from China around the world. In what part of China do you think they were first raised?

Another fruit first raised in China is the Chinese gooseberry. We know this vine fruit as kiwi (kē' wē). This fruit has been raised in New Zealand and in the United States in recent

years. It tastes something like a strawberry and has far more vitamin C than oranges have.



**Tangerines.**



**Kiwi Fruit**

Some useful and delicious vegetables have come to us from China. Chinese cabbage is a lettuce-like plant. Mung beans are a Chinese bean we use to make bean sprouts. Onions and rhubarb both came from Mongolia, on the border of Dry China.



**Chinese Cabbage**



**Mung Beans**

Probably the most valuable vegetable from China is the soybean. Most North Americans probably do not think of soybeans as a vegetable. Most of our soybeans go for cattle feed. But many northern Chinese eat soybean curds almost every day. To make curds, they cook the dried beans to a mush. Then



**Onions**



**Rhubarb**

they skim off the thick cheeselike curds. This can be made into cakes and even dried for later use.

The ancient Chinese considered soybeans a sacred grain, along with rice and wheat. But it is actually a bean, not a grain. And the bean inside the fuzzy pods is probably the world's most valuable bean. Soybeans are higher in protein than almost any other vegetable. One hundred acres of soybeans provide ten times more protein than the beef cattle that could be fed on the same amount of land.

In North America many people are discovering that soybeans make a delicious and healthful garden vegetable.



**Soybeans**



**Rice**

We eat soybeans in ways we may not know about. A large portion of the vegetable oil, margarine,



mayonnaise, and salad dressing we use are made with soybean oil. Soybean meal is used in cereals, mixed with meats, and sometimes used in the place of meat.

The next time you eat any of these delicious fruits and vegetables that first came from China, thank God “who giveth us richly all things to enjoy.”

**Unusual Foods of China.** We have borrowed many delicious foods from the Chinese. But the Chinese also eat other foods that have never become popular in other parts of the world.

One unusual Chinese food is Ming eggs. Ming eggs are duck eggs. These eggs are hard-boiled, then soaked in limewater for 40 days. The eggs turn black inside. People who are used to Ming eggs say they are delicious!

Bird’s nest soup is another unusual Chinese food. This food is very expensive. One kind of swift, a bird common in China, makes its nest of its own saliva, or spit. When the saliva hardens, the nests look like white saucers. The whiter the nest, the more delicious the soup made from it.



### What Do You Say?

1. Name the four main regions of China. What is the climate like in each?
2. a. Name the three greatest rivers of eastern China. b. Which is named after its muddy water? c. Which is the longest? d. Which is the farthest south?
3. a. Make a list of the fruits and vegetables that have come to us from China. b. Which of these have you never eaten?

4. Name two interesting foods used in China that we do not eat.
5. Find an article on soybeans in an encyclopedia. Name several products made from soybeans or soybean oil which are not used for food.



### What Does the Bible Say?

1. God made many different kinds of climates even within one country like China. He created the

earth and all that is in it, including the climates. What is the purpose of this creation? (See Isaiah 45:18.)

2. In this section you studied about many delicious foods. Read Psalm 104:14-16.
  - a. Name the different foods mentioned.
  - b. Why were they created?
  - c. What do they do for people?

### Who Are the Chinese?

Have you ever met anyone from China? If you have, at first glance you may have thought his eyes appeared to be slanted. But actually, the eyes of Chinese people are no more slanted than yours. A fold of skin on the upper eyelid causes the slanted appearance. Notice the close-up picture of a Chinese person.

As you remember, most of the Chinese belong to the Asian geographical race. This race is sometimes called the **Mongoloid** (mong' gə loid') race or even the yellow race. People of this race have folds of skin above their eyes. They have light brown or sometimes slightly yellow skin. They have pads of fat over their cheekbones. The Chinese have very dark and usually straight hair. Ninety-four of every one hundred people in China belong to the Asian geographical race. Many other people in eastern Asia are of the same race as the Chinese.

People have lived in China for thousands of years. Since the people

of the Asian race first came to China, few people of other races have moved in. Most Chinese today are descendants of people who lived in China 4,000 or more years ago.

**How Many People?** As you know, China has more people than any other country in the world. Only a few times has anyone ever tried to count them all. A counting of people in a country or part of a country is called a **census**. A census in such a

*This child is from China. Why do her eyes look slanted? She belongs to the Asian geographical race.*



large country as China probably does not count nearly all the people.

Well over one billion people live in China. The population of the whole world is around six billion.

This means that more than one out of every five people on earth lives in China. Four times more people live in China than in the United States.

### How Many Is One Billion?

More than a billion people live in China. One billion is a very hard number to imagine. Most of us can understand a thousand for we can count to a thousand in a few minutes. A million is a thousand thousands. A billion is another way of saying a thousand million.

If you could line up a billion marbles four to an inch, the line of

marbles would stretch almost the length of the border between the United States and Canada. If a billion people could stand in a line, the line would reach around the world fifteen times!

Could you count to a billion? Never! You would need to count over 1,100 every hour, every day, for over 100 years!



*If all the people in China were lined up in a row, they would make a line of people stretching around the world fifteen times!*

### Understanding the Chinese

Many people around the world know very little about China. For many, China is just another land far away. The people look different. They speak a different language. Their way of doing things is often different from ours.

Another reason many know little about China has to do with the history of China. For many years Chinese rulers kept the country closed to outsiders. Few Chinese visited other lands either. Even fewer people visited China. Even in modern times, China was closed to most



outsiders for about twenty years during the 1950s and 1960s.

We are learning more about China in recent years. There is much

to learn about such a vast country. But even if you visit China today, the government does not allow you to go just anywhere you wish.

## The Beautiful Chinese Language

Along the sides of this page are some Bible verses in Chinese. Can you read them? You can see that the Chinese do not use the same alphabet we do. Besides, the spoken language is very different from English.

Chinese is probably the oldest language on earth that is still spoken. Anyone who can read modern Chinese can read Chinese books 2,000 years old.

Nearly everyone in China today speaks Chinese. But there are many ways to speak Chinese, just as there are many ways to speak English. You may find the English spoken in Scotland or in Australia a bit difficult to understand. Different ways of speaking the same language, you remember, are called dialects.

In China, there are many dialects. The people in Beijing (bā zhīng), the capital of China, speak Mandarin Chinese (mān' dā rin). About eight of every ten Chinese speak Mandarin. In the south, around the city of Guangzhou (guāng jō') or Canton (kān' tōn'), the people speak Cantonese (kān tē nēz'). There are many other Chinese dialects in southern China. The Cantonese speakers cannot understand some of the south-

ern dialects around them.

Most Chinese words are only one syllable long. Chinese sounds a bit like singing because of something called **tone**. Tone includes how high or low the voice is when a word is spoken. In Chinese a word may change meaning if spoken with a different tone. The word *lǐ* (lě) spoken in a high tone means "monkey." *Li* spoken in a low tone may mean "plum." In English we could say "plum" in a high or low voice, and it would still mean a kind of fruit.

Chinese writing is even more unusual than the spoken language. Chinese is written with no alphabet. Each beautiful sign you see in the Bible verses here stands for a word or a group of sounds. These Chinese signs began with picture writing. Over the years the pictures slowly changed. Each picture has become a group of beautiful marks made with a tiny brush. The chart on page 264 shows how some pictures slowly changed into the signs used today.

The same picture writing is used all over China. The picture sign for *river* stands for "river" all over China. In different parts of China people say "river" differently, but the written

來，叫一切信他的，都得永生。  
獨生子賜給他們，叫一切信他的，不至滅亡，反得永生。因為上帝愛世人，甚至將他的獨生子，若說天上的事，如何能信。

降世，不是要定世人的罪，乃是要叫人信他。信他的人，不被定罪。不信的人，罪已經定了，因為他不信上帝獨生子的名。光來到世間，世人舊在天的人子，沒有人升過。

以色列人的先生，還不明白這事麼？我實在實在的告訴你們，我們所見過的，是我們見過過的，你們卻不領受我們的見

sign is the same everywhere. Having the same written language helps to keep the Chinese people united even when they speak differently.







Chinese picture writing works a bit like the numerals or number pictures we use. when you see "3" what do you think about? You think the English word *three*. A French Canadian thinks the French word *trois* (trä). A German thinks *drei* (drī). A Mexican thinks *tres* (trās). When someone from the Chinese city of Guangzhou sees the word for *mother*, 母親, he says *mochun* (mō' chēn). But someone from Beijing who sees the same word says *mu-ch'in* (mü' chēn).

The written Chinese language is very difficult, even for the Chinese. The Chinese use thousands of pictures in writing. A person needs to

memorize at least 4,000 picture signs just to read a newspaper. To read some books, a student has to learn 20,000 or more pictures. Learning to read Chinese takes years of hard work. The Chinese cannot use small typewriters as we do. They must use huge machines with thousands of symbols.

The communist rulers of today's China have tried to make their language easier to learn and use. They have tried to make some of the picture signs simpler. They have also been teaching the use of an alphabet. They use the same alphabet we use for English. Their reason was partly so they could spread their communistic ideas better. In spite of this, most newspapers and books are still printed in the beautiful Chinese writing that has been used for thousands of years.

要以為希奇風，隨着意恩吹，你聽見風的響聲，卻不曉得從那裏來，凡從聖靈生的，也是如此。尼哥底母問他說，怎能有了這事呢？耶穌回

Word	Early Chinese Picture Writing	Present-Day Character	Word	Early Chinese Picture Writing	Present-Day Character
Bright		明	Moon		月
Mountain		山	God		天
Horse		馬	Fish		魚

The chart above shows you how the Chinese once drew pictures to stand for words or ideas. Slowly the pictures changed to the writing characters the Chinese use today. Can you tell that the new characters look something like the old ones?



### What Do You Say?

1. a. To what race of people do most Chinese belong? b. What do people of this race look like?
2. a. How many people live in China? b. How many people live in the whole world? c. How could you explain one billion to someone?
3. Name two reasons why many people do not understand the Chinese.
4. a. How is Chinese writing different from our writing? b. Why is it hard to learn to read the old way of writing Chinese?
5. a. How are the communists trying to make Chinese easier to read? b. Why?



### What Does the Bible Say?

1. The one billion Chinese are a very large and very important part of the world's people. What

is God's will for all these people according to I Kings 8:43?

2. Chinese is one of thousands of languages spoken around the world. Read Psalm 19:1-3.
  - a. What is it that speaks to people of all languages on earth?
  - b. What does it tell about?

### Long Ago in China

China is an old, old country. The ancient Chinese believed that the first people lived in China. Indeed, they thought China was in the middle of the earth. For that reason they called their land *Zhongguo* (jüng gŭÖJ) which means "Middle Coun-try." This name is still used by the Chinese for their country. To the ancient Chinese, other lands beyond the great deserts and high moun-tains seemed far away.

The ancient Chinese believed they were the most civilized people on earth. A people who are **civilized** have progressed in science, art, and inventions. The Chinese had built large cities and good roads long before people in Europe did. The Chinese learned to make paper and to burn coal for fuel long before people in the rest of the world knew of such things.

Before the time of Christ, the wealthy in China were using beautiful plates, cups, and saucers. Many hundreds of years passed before the rest of the world used such fine tableware. Today we still call our best