

The Truth About Who We Are



Part 2: Jesus & the Chinese Experience

Next Week: *Part 3: Jesus & the Filipino Experience*

Goals for This LG Series

1. See the evidence of Jesus transforming humanity
2. Help us better understand one another

Strange Coincidences?

God Created



*IN THE BEGINNING GOD AND
MAN HAD CLOSE FELLOWSHIP.
THIS LEADS TO TRUE HAPPINESS!*

禘 + 一 + 口 + 田 = 福

God One Man Garden Happiness, Blessing

In the beginning, God placed man in a beautiful garden, or paradise.
In the garden, God blessed man.
In the garden, God and man enjoyed close fellowship.
But something happened to destroy man's happiness and his close relationship with God. (Genesis 1:26 - 3:9)



Strange Coincidences?

Fellowship is Lost



And the Lord God gave the man orders, saying, "You may freely take of the fruit of every tree of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you may not take; for on the day when you take of it, death will certainly come to you."
(Genesis 2:16-17)

MAN WAS FORBIDDEN TO EAT ONE OF THE TWO TREES -- IF HE ATE THE FORBIDDEN TREE THE OTHER WOULD BE TAKEN FROM HIM ALSO.

木木 + 示 = 禁
Two Trees Command Forbidden



Strange Coincidences?

Fellowship is Lost

Man's guilt of sin separated him from fellowship with God.

But God provided a way for man's relationship with Him to be restored through sacrifice.

Just as in the story from the Bible, the ancient Chinese people knew that the sacrifice of a lamb brought righteousness and God's favor. (Genesis 4:4)

Coincidence or by Design?



手 + 戈 = 我

Hand

Lance (Spear)

Me

我 + 羊 = 義

Me

Sheep

Righteousness



on
mute





Christian Faith in China



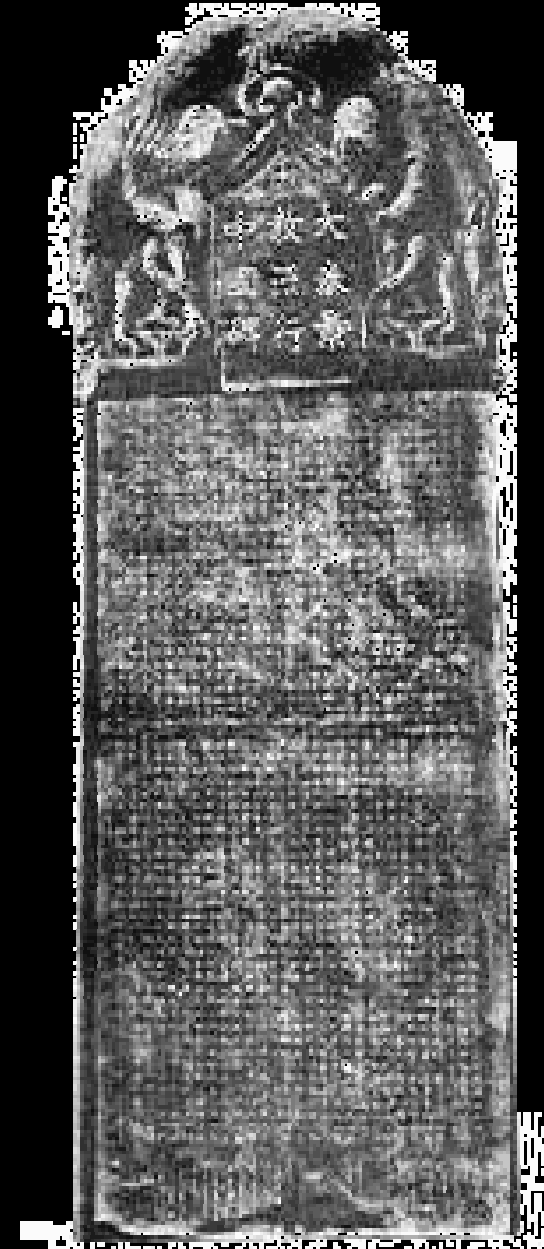
64 AD. Christian tradition says the faith arrived in China.

Wang Weifan, Professor of Theology at Jinling Theological Seminary in Nanjing, suggests that this is early Christian stonework, dating back to the Han Dynasty (25 AD – 220 AD). The wise men bearing gifts are on the left, the manger scene is in the center, and assassins are on the right (from Matthew 2).

Christian Faith in China



638 AD. A stone inscription is carved testifying to an already large, established church in the ancient Chinese capital of Xian and influential in the upper levels of the Tang Dynasty.



Christian Faith in China

- **1215 AD.** Genghis Khan's son Tolui married a Christian woman named Sorkaktani.
 - Kublai Khan, her son became Emperor of China
 - Her sons were also emperors of Mongolia and Persia
 - Tamerlane (1500 AD.) – Muslims persecute Christians
- **1275 – 1295 AD.** Marco Polo found large numbers of Christians in China.

Christian Faith in China

- **1582 AD.** Jesuits led by Matteo Ricci once again initiate mission work in China, introducing Western science, mathematics, and astronomy.
 - Missionary work was met by resistance by the emperor
- **1637 AD.** Jesuit missionaries rediscover the Christian stone dating back to 638 AD.



Christian Faith in China

- **1884.** Dr. Sun Yat-Sen organizes resistance to the corrupt Qing Dynasty.
 - In 1911, He was elected the Provisional President of the Republic of China.
- **1925.** At the end of his life, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen said:
 - ‘As a Christian I have wrestled with the devil for forty years. You should do likewise and believe in God.’
 - ‘Even when I die I want people to know that I am a Christian.’
- **1949 – present.** Christian faith grows despite persecution: from 40 million to 130 million total Christians.

Coming to America

- Population: ~3.5 million Chinese Americans
 - Chinese: 3rd most common language in the US
- Three waves of Chinese immigration
 - 1820-1882 – less than 20% Christian
 - 1949-1977 – changes in U.S. legislation
 - 1980-present - 66 churches to 800 churches
- Chinese Social Societies
 - Clan or Company, “Kongsi”
 - Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association
 - Tongs

Chinese American Christianity

1. Dissolving of the Tongs
 - Your Chinese is funny
2. Cultural and Language Centers
 - What ? No Chicken Chow-Mein?
3. Preservation of Spiritual Norms
 - “I don’t know.” or “Don’t shoot me!”
4. Social Services
 - If you give them badminton, they will come
5. Political Advocates
 - Getting rid of the “combat zone”

Discussion Questions

1. What can you say to a person who says, 'Christianity is a white man's religion'?
2. What if you think Jesus is foreign because you're just forgetful?
3. Today, when there are fewer social justice needs for 'my community', what happens? How do/can Christians engage social justice issues today more broadly?
4. What commonalities and differences do you see here at BC between Chinese and Korean Christians? What impact does that have here?



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Strange Coincidences?

來

Strange Coincidences?

舟八
舟口

Strange Coincidences?

義我