

THE BRIDGE In October the BBC reported, “Chinese President Xi Jinping has officially opened the world's longest sea crossing bridge, nine years after construction first began. Including its access roads, the bridge spans 55km (34 miles) and connects Hong Kong to Macau and the mainland Chinese city of Zhuhai. The bridge cost about \$20bn (£15.3bn) and should have opened in 2016. Construction has been dogged by safety issues - at least 18 workers have died on the project, officials say”.

NASA's space scientists were ecstatic at the safe landing on Mars of the InSight probe. After a journey of more than 6 months at 12,000 miles an hour, it had to decelerate to 5 miles an hour in 8 minutes to effect a safe landing. Very quickly images of Mars were captured by the InSight probe and transmitted to the NASA Mission Control Centre. The distance between Mars and Earth has been bridged.

These two projects illustrate the rapid advance in technology and the successful missions accomplished.

Parallel to modern technological achievements is the plummeting of social behaviour; the world is degenerating at a rapid pace.

A BRIDGE TO FAR this unconfirmed comment was made by Lieutenant General Frederick Browning to Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery in September 1944 concerning the proposed seizing of the Arnhem bridgehead over the Rhine river. Before the operation the comment was made “I think we may be going a bridge too far”. 35,000 troops were used in the operation many of them air lifted from the UK. The object of the operation was to push the German forces from the Netherlands back into Germany for the final push against the SS to defeat the third Reich and end the war by Christmas 1944. Major General Robert Urquhart was in charge of the 1st Airborne Division that fought in the Battle of Arnhem during Operation Market Garden and he led 10,000 men to take and occupy a position outside Arnhem. Bad intelligence informed them that they would receive little opposition but were confronted by a SS Panzer division and battled for 9 days losing four fifths of the men. Only 2,000 men returned to the UK and saw no further action in the Second World War. A friend of mine, the late Mr Chris Peters of North Cornwall was a Transport Driver and was deployed in an airdrop of equipment over Arnhem. His son informed me that after they had dropped all the equipment over the dropping zone the pilot took evasive action to avoid the flak to the extent that it caused the crew to be violently sick. Operation Market Garden failed and truly it was a bridge too far.

When visiting Israel in 2008 the guide of our tour told us that the locals refer to the Land of Israel as “the Bridge”. This is an apt description of the location and function of Israel between Africa and Europe/Asia serving as a land bridge between these continents. The Tigris and The Euphrates rivers in Mesopotamia attracted many people to build cities there. Similarly Egypt with its River Nile supported other people and cultures. The Bible records movement of Nationals from North to South through the land to make war against Egypt. Assyria did this in the days of King Hezekiah and on their return from Egypt stopped outside Jerusalem threatening King Hezekiah to submit and become a tributary to Assyria. King Hezekiah presented this matter to the Lord and that night one angel destroyed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. This happening is a picture of a future event when the King of the North will be defeated along with others at the Battle of Armageddon.

We read in *1 Timothy ch2 v 5-6* ***For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*** Christ himself is that mediator. He is “the Bridge” between God and Man, the only way for sinners to come to God. Earlier we were thinking of the bridge built in China and that a number of lives were lost in building that road from Hong Kong to Mainland China. Jesus sacrificed His life to provide a bridge for sinners to get to Heaven. There is no other way; He only can be that bridge for all who will come to God.

In the future the Marriage of the Lamb will take place in Heaven when Christ will be united with His Bride, the Church (Revelation ch 19 v 1-6) and I believe that the Marriage Supper of the Lamb will take place on Earth in Israel. Jesus taught concerning his coming Millennial Kingdom that people would come from the East and the West to sit down with Father Abraham in the Kingdom. I believe that infers the Marriage Supper.

An interesting thought about that time is that of the millions of people living on Earth they will all be born again, for Jesus said to Nicodemus ***“Expect a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God” John ch 3 v 3.***

Many people believe that concerning the future, their way of getting to Heaven is their self made “bridge” of good works. They think that their good deeds will outweigh their bad deeds and that God will smile favourably upon them and accept them into Heaven. That “way” will fail. *Proverbs ch 14 v 12* ***“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death”.***

The only certain way of a home in Heaven is to know the Lord Jesus Christ, as your personal Saviour. He only can reconcile a sinner and bring them to God. Are you saved?

God bless, Stan Burditt