

TAKING ASIA FOR JESUS



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R U S S I A

KAZAKHSTAN

MONGOLIA

C H I N A

T U R K Y

I R A N

SAUDI
A R A B I A

P A K I S T A N

I N D I A

N E P A L

B U R M A

L A O S

T H A I L A N D

C A M B O D I A

V I E T N A M

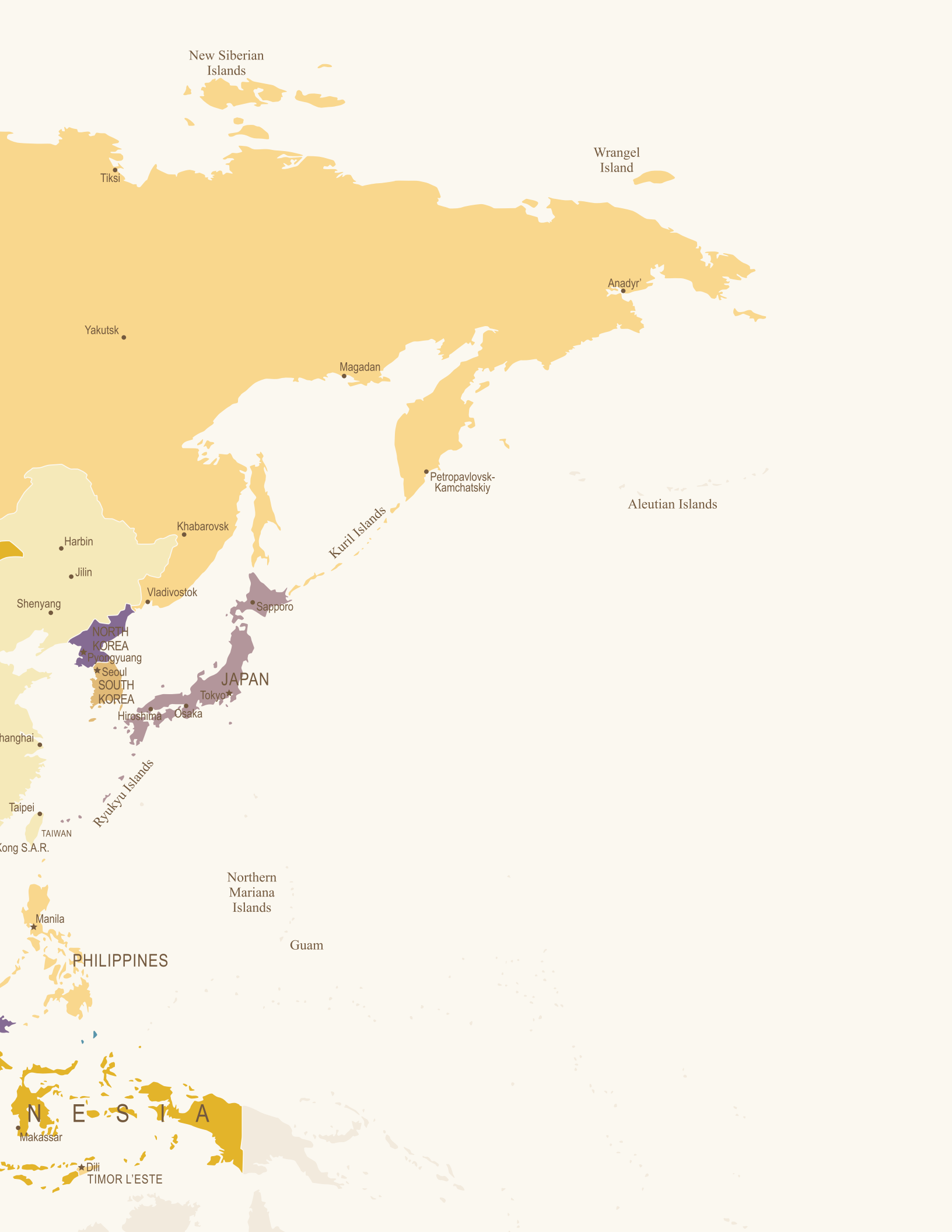
I N D O N E S I A

Maldives

Andaman
Islands

Nicobar
Islands

Bandar Seri
Begawan



New Siberian
Islands

Wrangel
Island

Tiksi

Anadyr'

Yakutsk

Magadan

Petropavlovsk-
Kamchatskiy

Aleutian Islands

Kuril Islands

Khabarovsk

Harbin

Jilin

Vladivostok

Shenyang

Sapporo

NORTH
KOREA

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KOREA

JAPAN

Tokyo★

Hiroshima

Osaka

hanghai

Ryukyu Islands

Taipei

TAIWAN

Kong S.A.R.

Northern
Mariana
Islands

Guam

PHILIPPINES

★ Manila

N E S I A

Makassar

★ Dili
TIMOR L'ESTE

RICE FIELDS IN CHINA



ASIA: THE BIGGEST CONTINENT IN THE WORLD

1

In this book you will learn about God's mighty works in Asia. This massive landmass is the largest continent in the world. The continent of Asia is 17 billion square miles! More people live here than on any other continent in the world. There are around four and a half billion people living in Asia today.

Jesus Christ is the Ruler of the kings of the earth. As Ruler, He has sent many of His servants to the lands of Asia. Countless people have learned about Christ. But there are still many people in this part of the world who do not know the one true God. They have never heard the name of Jesus. As followers of Christ, we have a job to do. We must pray for the peoples of Asia. We can also support mission work in Asia. Perhaps God may even call you to go to Asia someday.

Before we learn about the history of Asia, let's take a quick look at this part of God's world.

SIX REGIONS OF ASIA

And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings. (Acts 17:26)

Because Asia is so big, we'll divide it into several regions. This will help us study it better. On the following page is a list of the major regions of Asia. This list includes some of the largest or most well known nations in each region.

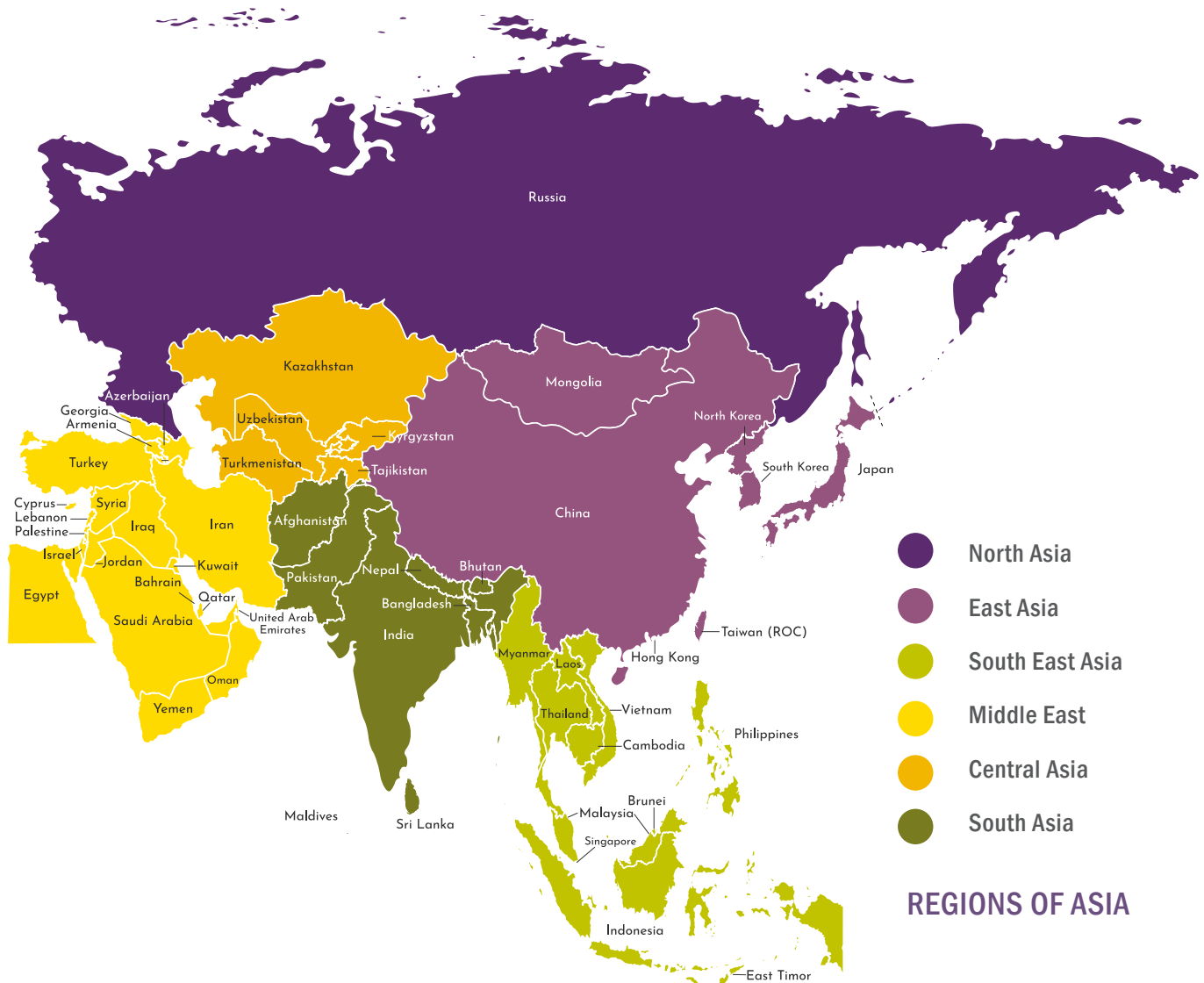
MOUNTAINS

By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us,
O God of our salvation,
You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth,
And of the far-off seas;
Who established the mountains by His strength,
Being clothed with power. (Ps. 65:5-6)

Asia contains many mountain ranges. The tallest mountains in the world are part of the Tibetan Plateau. A **plateau** is a piece of land

Six Regions of Asia

Region	Countries in Region
North Asia	Russia
East Asia	China, Japan, Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea
Southeast Asia	Indonesia, Vietnam, Singapore, Philippines
Western Asia/Middle East	Saudi Arabia, Israel, Iraq, Jordan, Syria
Central Asia	Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
South Asia	India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka





MOUNT FUJI IN JAPAN

that is very high but mostly flat on top. You can think of a plateau as the flat top of a kitchen table. The lowlands around it would be the kitchen floor. The Tibetan Plateau is found in Central Asia. It forms part of China

and Tibet. On this great plateau are the Himalayas. These are the tallest mountains in the world. Formed by the hand of God, the tallest of these great mountains is Mt. Everest. It stands 29,029 feet high (8,848m). It

Select Mountains in Asia

Mountain	Elevation	Location
Mt. Everest	29,029 ft. (8,848m)	Nepal
Mt. Fuji	12,389 ft. (3,776m)	Japan
Mt. Hermon	9,232 ft. (2,814m)	Syria, Lebanon
Peak Pobeda	9,852 ft. (3,003m)	Russia
Mt. Tirich Mir	25,289 ft. (7,708m)	Pakistan

wasn't until 1953 that humans were able to successfully reach the summit of Mt. Everest. This mountain is a picture of God's beauty and power.

Now hop a flight over to Japan. We'll take a look at one of the best-known landmarks of Japan. This is Mt. Fuji. Many postcards from Japan contain this beautiful snow-capped mountain. It can be seen easily from the capital city of Tokyo. Mt. Fuji is the highest mountain in Japan. Its summit is 12,389 feet tall (3,776m).

Over in West Asia we find another mountain. This one stands in modern-day Syria and Lebanon. This

is Mt. Hermon. This mountain is important in biblical history. Some believe this was the site where Jesus was transfigured (Matt. 17:1-13). He took three of His disciples up a mountain, and they saw Him in His heavenly glory. This event is called the Transfiguration. We don't know for sure where this event took place. But it was described as taking place on a *high mountain*. Mt. Hermon is 9,232 feet tall (2,814m).

In the far north of Asia is one of Russia's tallest mountains. This is Peak Pobeda. It's located in Siberia. It lies in a very cold, desolate region. Russia



MOUNT EVEREST IN NEPAL



MOUNT HERMON

has many mountain ranges, but most of the mountains are not very tall. Not many people climb them, either. This is because Siberia is very cold. It has fierce snowstorms and freezing temperatures. Climbing mountains in the Siberian winter is dangerous. Two people reached the top of this mountain in the winter of 2018. The two climbers reported that the temperature was -40° Fahrenheit.

On the border of northern Pakistan is one of the tallest mountains in Asia. It's located in Central Asia. Mt. Tirich Mir sits at 25,289 feet (7,708m). The people of Chitral can look at the snowy peak of this mountain every day.

The many mountains in Asia are a testimony to God's majesty and power. What incredible power must it take to make mountains like these? What an awesome God we serve!

RIVERS

Let the sea roar, and all its fullness,
The world and those who dwell in it;
Let the rivers clap their hands;
Let the hills be joyful together before the Lord,
For He is coming to judge the earth.
With righteousness He shall judge
the world,
And the peoples with equity. (Ps. 98:7-9)

Major Rivers in Asia

River	Length	Location
Ganges River	1,600 miles (2,704km)	India, Bangladesh
Yangtze River	3,900 miles (6,300km)	China
Mekong River	2,700 miles (4,350km)	Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, etc.
Euphrates River	1,700 miles (2,800km)	Turkey, Iraq, Syria



SELLING FLOWER
CANDLES ON THE
GANGES RIVER

Without water, we could never survive. The Lord in His grace has provided many water sources in Asia. This is a sign of His mercy to the nations. As you learn more about history and geography, you will often find that nations were built on or near rivers. For example, Egypt was built on the Nile River. This ancient nation depended on this key water source. That's because the Nile runs through a



LOCATION OF YANGTZE RIVER



LOCATION OF MEKONG RIVER

wide desert. Without the Nile, Egypt would never have existed. You'll find many countries like this. Other ancient nations in West Asia were built on the

Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

There are a few very large rivers in Asia. These have all been important for the nations living there. Such rivers provide a place for countries to grow and develop.

One of the most important rivers in India is the Ganges River. This river is so important that there is a god in the Hindu religion named Ganga. Hindus worshiped the river. According to the Bible, this is idolatry (Rom. 1:25). We should never worship creation. Instead, the peoples of India should give thanks and praise to God. He is the Creator of all things. He made it all, even the Ganges River. He was the



MEKONG RIVER IN VIETNAM



YANGTZE RIVER IN CHINA





BOY IN MONGOLIA SHEPHERDING SHEEP AND GOATS

One who gave this water to India. The Ganges River flows through India and Bangladesh. It is around 1,600 miles long. The water empties into the Indian Ocean at the Bay of Bengal.

In China is the Yangtze River. This river flows through much of central China. It is around 3,900 miles long. It begins in a high mountain range and makes its way east through the country. Then it descends until it reaches the Pacific Ocean. At this point the ocean is called the East China Sea. Because of the Yangtze River's great length, many major Chinese cities are built along it. These cities include Shanghai and Wuhan.

In Southeast Asia, the Mekong River flows through many countries. Its waters pass through the nations of Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Like the Yangtze River, it begins in the mountains and then flows into the ocean at the tip of Vietnam. There are many waterfalls and rapids along the Mekong. This makes travel difficult. It is not a very useful river for transportation. However, it still provides an important water source for people living along its banks.

The Euphrates River is one of the most famous rivers in history. It is mentioned in the second chapter of the Bible (Gen. 2:14). Along the

Euphrates many nations lived. These included the Sumerians, the Akkadians, and the Babylonians.

CLIMATE REGIONS IN ASIA

Praise the LORD from the earth,
You great sea creatures and all the depths;
Fire and hail, snow and clouds;
Stormy wind, fulfilling His word.
(Ps. 148:7-8)

Because Asia is a vast continent, it contains every kind of climate in

the world. Its land stretches from the hot, scorching deserts of Saudi Arabia to the freezing tundra of northern Siberia. It is truly diverse in its landscape. Here are just a few of the fascinating places you will find in Asia.

When people think of deserts, they often think of hot, dry parts of the world. They think of places like the Sahara Desert in Africa. But not all deserts are hot. There are also cold deserts. One is the Gobi Desert. It is found in Mongolia and China. About 1,000 miles long and 500 miles wide,



BAN GIOC WATERFALL IN VIETNAM



LAKE BAIKAL IN SIBERIA, RUSSIA

the Gobi Desert is one of the largest deserts in the world. In some parts of the Gobi, temperatures as low as -27° Fahrenheit have been recorded. Because the climate conditions are so harsh, only a few animals live in this desert wilderness. These animals include gazelles, camels, Mongolian donkeys, and various lizards.

The climate of Southeast Asia is tropical. This is where countries like Vietnam and Laos are found. In Vietnam's largest city, Ho Chi Minh City, the average high in January is 89° Fahrenheit. In July, it's about

the same. The temperature doesn't change much. But the amount of rain does. This is because tropical regions have what is called a **rainy season**. In some months, no rain will fall at all. In others, it will rain every single day. The rainy season lasts from May to November. About 150 days out of the year, some rain will fall on Ho Chi Minh City.

In contrast with the humid, hot climate of Southeast Asia, the northern edges of Asia are some of the coldest places in the world. Siberia makes up a vast portion of the Asian part of Russia.



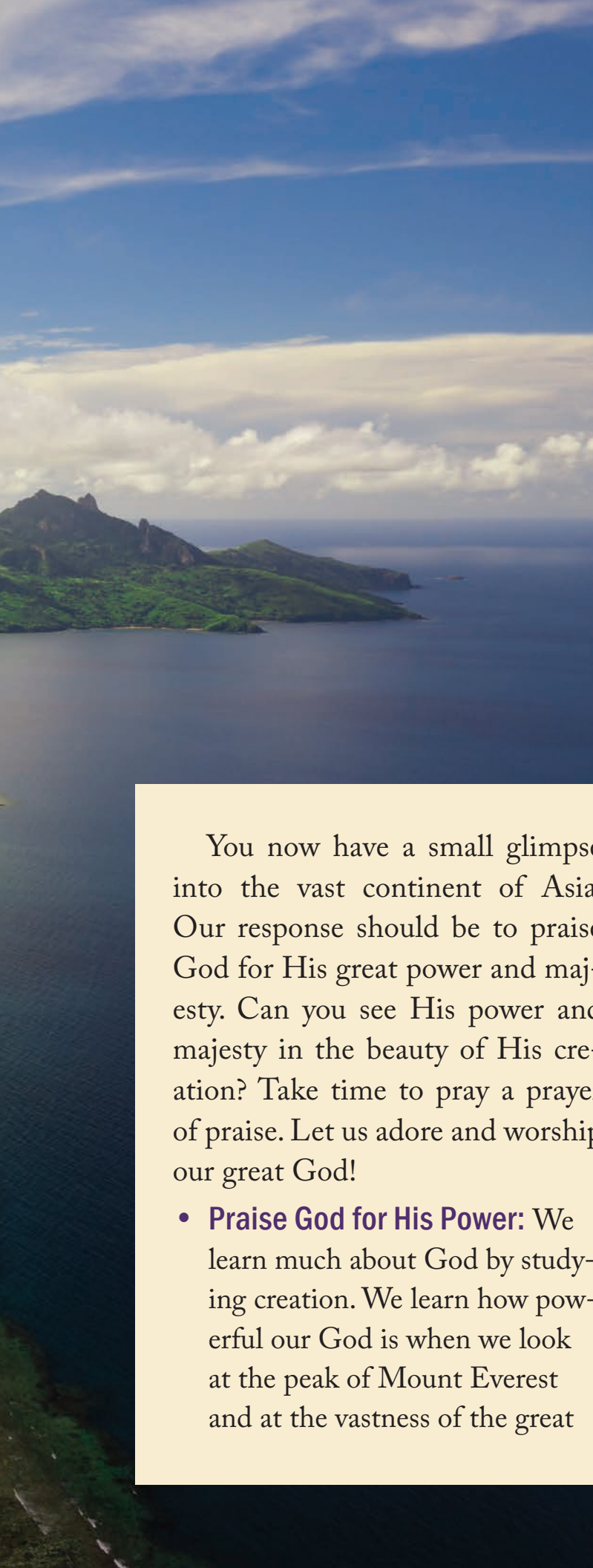
But even though it is so big, very few people live there. This is because it has such a harsh winter. The small town of Tiksi, Russia sits on the coast of the Arctic Ocean. It's located at almost the top of the world. The average high in January is -16° Fahrenheit. The high increases to 45° Fahrenheit in the hottest month (July). That is still quite cold. About 5,000 Russians in Tiksi brave these cold temperatures every year.

Another fascinating part of Asia is the Tibetan Plateau. This region of Asia is around 1,600 miles in length. It covers portions of China, India, Tibet,

Nepal, Bhutan, and other nations. The Tibetan Plateau is the world's highest and largest plateau. It contains the world's two tallest mountains. Mount Everest is one of them, and K2 is the other. Because of its elevation, most of the Plateau is cold and dry. The Tibetan city of Lhasa is found here. This city is almost 12,000 feet in elevation. As you would expect, this makes for very cold winters and very mild summers.

One of the most stunning regions of the world is the South Pacific. Much of this region is considered





part of Oceania. In this book, you will also read some stories from Oceania. This region includes Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific. The South Pacific is filled with many lovely islands. Even the best photography cannot do justice to the natural beauty of this part of the world. Lush tropical green colors mix with the deep blue of the Pacific Ocean to create a dazzling sight. Our Lord paints delightful pictures in nature. These islands are one example of His creativity. ■

PRAYER POINTS: ASIA

You now have a small glimpse into the vast continent of Asia. Our response should be to praise God for His great power and majesty. Can you see His power and majesty in the beauty of His creation? Take time to pray a prayer of praise. Let us adore and worship our great God!

- **Praise God for His Power:** We learn much about God by studying creation. We learn how powerful our God is when we look at the peak of Mount Everest and at the vastness of the great

Pacific Ocean. The God who made the great mountains and stretched out the oceans is worthy of our worship.

- **Praise God for His Goodness:** Though we live in a fallen world, wounded by the fall into sin, God is still good to His creation. He continues to provide the sun to give us warmth. He sends rain to the peoples of Asia so that they can eat. He gives them rivers to water their crops. Behold the goodness of God. Praise Him for this goodness!



Afghan

HINDU TEMPLE IN GOA, INDIA