

Subtlety, Conspiracy, and War

Commentary for March 1, 2015 — Mistakes Are Made, Yet God Saves Israel

California longshoreman, agricultural field worker, and philosopher Eric Hoffer once said, **"It is always safe to assume that people are more subtle and less sensitive than they seem"** (*The Passionate State of Mind*, 1954). I have presented this quote before.¹

Read the "[March 2015 Newsletter](#)" which introduces this month's article "Israel and Judah: 7. Conspiracy and War." This observation by Hoffer fits two situations in the article. **The first** segment of the article has to do with how King David deals with a potential rival to his throne, the son of a former friend. All participants seem to be sensitive to the actions and words of other people while actually they are being subtle. **The second** tells of an insult to King David's power and royal dignity that led to war. We then learn that this insult was part of a subtle conspiracy against Israel, YHWH, and against God's anointed, King David.

Psalm 83, a psalm of Asaph in the time of David, gives a "behind the scenes" look at much of this month's narrative of David's foreign wars. David thought the wars were finished and peace was at hand, but a large-scale conspiracy had been forming, armies gathered, and a trap sprung on Israel's army putting the very existence of the united kingdom in danger. The conspiracy was well conceived, planned, and executed. Success seemed assured — until God intervened. **"Man proposes, God disposes"** goes the old saying. The attitude of the nations at that instance was similar to the situation told to us by David in Psalm 2:

"Why are the nations perturbed [raging], And the folk, they mumble empty phrases? Standing by [ready] are the kings of the earth, And the chancellors, they are gathered together Against Yahweh and against His Anointed One [messiah²], saying, 'Do let us pull away their bonds, And do let us fling off their ropes from us.' The One sitting in the heavens, He shall ridicule; Yahweh, He shall deride them."

• *Psalm 2:1–4, Concordant Literal Version*

The **"bonds"** and **"ropes"** refer to servitude and tribute which conquered nations were required to pay to Israel, their overlord. They felt strangled by the tribute and other terms of peace. They conspired to break their bonds and ropes. Yet God knows the affairs and plans of men; they are as nothing to him. **"Yahweh, He annuls the counsel of the nations; He repudiates the devices of the peoples"** (Psalm 33:10). The complaint of the nations was toward God and against David, "His Anointed One" (later to refer to Christ). Israel was to lead and have supremacy above the nations. Under David, Israel was a supreme nation.

"As for Yahweh, He affirms today that you are to be for Him a special people, just as He promised to you, and that you are to observe all His instructions; then He promises to give you supremacy over all the nations which He has made, for

¹ Eric Hoffer was the author of ten books on history and political philosophy.

² David was the "anointed" king of Israel to rule God's chosen people (1 Samuel 16:13).

praise, for a name and for beauty, and for you to be a people holy to Yahweh your Elohim just as He has promised."

• *Deuteronomy 26:18–19*

When David placed the Ark in a new tent, this act was proclaimed to all the earth, among the nations, among all peoples. A theocracy under YHWH ruled in Israel. YHWH was the true God, the Creator, King over Israel. David was YHWH's vassal, bound by his covenant with YHWH.

"Sing to Yahweh, all the earth! Bear the tidings of His salvation, day after day! Recount His glory among the nations, Among all the peoples, His marvelous works. For great is Yahweh and praised exceedingly; Fear inspiring is He over all elohim. For all the elohim of the peoples are useless idols; As for Yahweh, He has made the heavens."

• *1 Chronicles 16:23–26, CLV*

Did Israel have a "right" to lord it over those nations? No, and yes. No, according to our modern sensitivities. Yes, Israel under King David expanded control outward in order to protect Israel's trade, farms, people, cities, religion, and their way of life from attack. This had God's sanction, otherwise God would not have helped David subdue all his enemies (1 Chronicles 17:10).

This grand conspiracy came from the nations. Later conspiracies during the reign of King David come from within David's own household.

Update on GeorgeAnn Hughes

I spoke with GeorgeAnn on Thursday, February 19, 2015. She told me her condition in detail. Four days later GeorgeAnn had her son put a notice on *The Byte Show* website dated February 23rd (<http://www.thebyteshow.com/Guests.html>):

"Hello everybody. I know it has been a long time. I have been very ill. I do have cancer, it is serious and very painful. I appreciate all of the prayers and the financial help, which is seriously needed. I have suffered a stroke while in the hospital and another when I fell at my home, my short term memory has been affected to the point I can remember some things and not others.

My son John has been helping me at the house and with *The Byte Show*. Please be patient with him on updating the web site and the YouTube channel. He is new to this and his top priority and focus is to my health. God bless each and every one of you."

John told me he intended to continue *The Byte Show* whatever the outcome of GeorgeAnn's condition. His continuing the show would be to honor her legacy. He is learning her system of doing things, and she was very competent on the computer. John has a great deal of learning to do on the technical aspects of recording the show and working with the extensive website. I was very pleased to meet him by phone. John has a rich deep voice, excellent for radio.

I look forward to completing *The Essentials of New Testament Doctrine* with GeorgeAnn, or if that is not possible, with her son. Pray for GeorgeAnn. Please be patient.

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