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Dear Associates and Friends,

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This month's article is the fourth installment of the biblical history of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah.<sup>1</sup> Read "[Israel and Judah: 4. The Ark Arrives in Jerusalem](#)." King David fulfills his desire to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. Generally things go according to plan, but there is one problem at the end that David deals with, and I think he was wrong in the way he handled the situation. However, I am not a king involved with power politics among and between family members. Remember that even though David was a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22), his heart was still deceitful above all things, as is everyone else's heart (Jeremiah 17:9). He did not have God's Holy Spirit resident within him as you can have today.

That ability to have a changed heart would not come until long after David, and long after Jeremiah. It would not begin to be realized until the time of Christ. It will not be fully realized until after Christ's return.

**"For this is the covenant which I shall contract with the house of Israel after those days, averring is Yahweh: I will put My law within them, And I shall write it on their heart; I will become their Elohim, And they shall become My people."**

• *Jeremiah 31:33, CLV*

These narratives of David follow the basic sequence according to the book of Samuel-Kings. The events do not always follow strict chronological order. Events are presented according to what the author thinks is important for the reader and the audience to know, and in what order. We can be sure that many events occur outside the scope of the biblical narrative. For example, events regarding transport of the Ark to different places and its eventual stop in Jerusalem in the time of David. But this was not the end of the Ark's travels. The Ark continued to "travel" from Jerusalem as an inspiration for the army when battles were fought. Uriah the Hittite (husband of Bathsheba) told David that the Ark was with the army:

**"Uriah replied to David, 'The coffer [Ark] and Israel and Judah are dwelling in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping on the face of the field. Then how can I enter my house to eat and to drink and to lie down with my wife? By your life and by the life of your soul, I shall assuredly not behave in this manner!'"**

• *2 Samuel 11:11, CLV*

In 2 Samuel chapter 15 David took the Ark from Jerusalem when David escaped from Absalom. There were probably other battles and instances when the Ark moved from the tent David prepared for it.

### ***Know Your Place***

It is helpful to know our place in God's plan of redemption in the eons. David actually knew very little of God's plan of salvation for all mankind, yet he knew and understood that all creation and history up to his time was a demonstration to Israel of God's mastery and glory as creator and ruler in the affairs of men. It was (and still is!) offensive to the nations to say that YHWH reigns (1 Chronicles 16:31). David also knew that he was anointed to lead Israel (2 Samuel 6:21). That also offended people, even Israelites.

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<sup>1</sup> All the articles in the series have a major title, and a minor title. Search for the major title: "Israel and Judah:" Unless specified, all biblical quotations are from the Concordant Version of the Old Testament (Concordant Publishing Concern, Almont, MI 48003), used with permission.

We today have the advantage of looking forward: from David's time, from the divided kingdom after Solomon's death, from the destruction of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, from the return from the exile of Israel, from the time of Christ (and His acts of glory), the apostles, and the revelation of the Mystery to Paul and others. We have the gift and luxury of hindsight, and most importantly, the gift of the Holy Scriptures. As a result we know far more than David ever knew about God, Christ, and our inheritance.

### *The Future of David and Israel*

Because we know the good things that God has in store for those of us who love Him. We in our day have an advantage over those in Old Testament times. Indeed, David knew good things would come to those who love and fear God, and that the reward would be marvelous:

**“How great is Your goodness  
Which You have stored up for those fearing You,  
And You have effected for those seeking refuge in You  
In front of the sons of humanity.  
You shall conceal them in the concealment of Your presence  
From the coalitions of man;  
You shall seclude them in a booth  
From the dispute of tongues.”**

• *Psalm 31:19–20, CLV*

Mankind will witness God's love and eventually all mankind will experience that love. David did not know the details of God's “**goodness**” although he knew God concealed that goodness in His presence. We have the entire written Word of God available to us with many, many resources (including A.S.K.).

**“But, according as it is written, ‘That which the eye did not perceive, and the ear did not hear, and to which the heart of man did not ascend — whatever God makes ready for those who are loving Him. Yet to us God reveals them through His spirit, for the spirit is searching all, even the depths of God.’”**

• *1 Corinthians 2:9–10, CLV* [quoting Isaiah 64:4]

Imagine, “**the depths of God**” are available to us. What does that mean? It means that God can be known by us now through His word, the Bible, and His Holy Spirit opening up our understanding. Ask for more continually. Knowing this, we have all wondered, what can we do for God? Well, our Father tells us:

**“Through Him [Jesus], then, we may be offering up the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of lips avowing His name. Now of well doing and contributing, be not forgetful, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”**

• *Hebrews 13:15–16, CLV*

How often? “**Continually.**” To “avow” means “**to declare frankly or openly; own; acknowledge; confess; admit**” about something. In this instance avowing Jesus' name in praise to God is likened to a sacrifice of your time, your thoughts, your mind, being given to God. “**The fruit of lips avowing His name,**” means our words, but not some vain repetition. Your thoughts toward God will lead you to practice “**well doing and contributing**” for others. Such actions are also considered sacrifices by God.

### *Thank You*

We are thankful for the gifts you give to us, the financial contributions, your comments, the laughter you send to us through your notes, and yes, your prayer requests, as well as your prayers on our behalf. God's provision for ASK comes through you. We thank God and you both.

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