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Dear Associates and Friends,

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“[Israel and Judah: 7. Conspiracy and War](#)” is the title of this month’s article on biblical history. King David continues to protect the Kingdom of Israel from outside threats. This should not surprise anyone who has been following this series or is familiar with the life of King David as leader of Israel. After all, this is what YHWH promised as part of His covenant with King David. He would cause King David to eventually overcome his enemies:

“And since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel. Moreover I will subdue all your enemies. Furthermore I tell you that YHWH will build you a house.”

• 1 Chronicles 17:10

This promise is conditional upon King David’s obedience to God and His covenant with Israel. We know that at the time of his greatest victories over foreign enemies, David was obedient, otherwise God would not have given Israel (and David) so many triumphs on the battlefield. As you will read, David defeats a great coalition of armies from several countries who conspired against God’s chosen people with the intent to subdue, enslave or kill all in Israel, to make it as if it had never been a nation. The historical nature of Psalm 83 is also presented.

The antagonism of the nations toward Israel began with their entrance and dispossession of Gentile nations from the land God promised to Israel. This was well known to all people throughout the Middle East. Off and on, those nations (and all adversaries of Israel) feared YHWH because of His deeds on behalf of Israel, but soon they forgot and returned to believing YHWH was just another god like their gods. They quickly forgot, almost as quickly as the Israelites themselves forgot God’s deeds on their behalf.

Present Day Problems

I want to encourage you to reread my August 17, 2006 Commentary, “[The Bible and War in Lebanon](#)” where I discuss BASIC aspects of international politics as they relate to the future time of the ten nations around Israel.

I also point out how we can determine when an event is a fulfillment of a biblically prophesied event. See if you agree. In addition, I help you understand what is meant by a “failed state.” A failed state is one where national government does not function and basic services are not provided or even allowed. Identifying failed states is fairly straightforward. When I wrote in August 2006, Lebanon was approaching the definition of a failed state. It has since recovered. As I write now, Libya has many typical identifiers of a failed state. Egypt is currently bombing radical Islamist groups in Libya and there is talk of invading Libya to bring order from chaos. Countries which have failed are extremely chaotic. Such chaos threatens neighboring countries. Some type of Egyptian control over Libya will occur in the future.¹

Much of what I wrote in 2006 is taking place now — disruption and dissolution of international borders in the Middle East in countries around the present state of Israel. New borders, new governments, and new peoples are moved out and in, and put in charge of territories that eventually will have populations with

¹ See Dr. Ernest Martin’s article, “[The Coming Splendor of Egypt](#).”

boundaries similar to how they were in the time of King David.²

Victory in Life

Can we expect God to make us be victorious in all our endeavors of life? ... in any of our endeavors of life? Can we have such an expectation if we are faithful and obedient to God and Christ? Well, how easy is it for a 2 year old or a 3 year old child to be obedient? We are children of God — very young children, babes we are called — just beginning to learn right from wrong with God’s Holy Spirit. Half the time we do not even know whether we are obedient or disobedient, nor do we usually care (just like a 2 year old child). We are flesh,³ which has powerful affects upon us driving us to sin in thought, word, and deed.

We cannot be victorious in life unless God makes us so. God made David to be victorious in all his endeavors as King of Israel (so long as he was obedient) because it suited God’s purpose to do so. One of those purposes was for David’s life to be a teaching tool as an example for us.

It is difficult for some people to accept who they are before God. The responsibility for us to be brought to maturity is entirely under God’s control.

Thank You

I read a statement on the internet which struck me as significant. It was,

- **“The Bible is the only book whose author is always present.”**

Then I encountered a similar aphorism. I am sure there are many more:

- **“The Bible is the only book whose author is in love with its reader.”**

Only God can make you victorious in life as He did for King David. (We often play games so we can strive and occasionally “win” at trivial activities so we can “feel” as if we are winners.) Understand, most of our life is trivial but necessary. What matters is your relationship with God and communicating with Him, and receiving communication from Him through His Word.

This is where ASK comes in. We provide education about God, however imperfect, to those whom God brings to learn from the ASK website, Dr. Martin’s books and articles, and from the Byte Show programs as well. Many learn about us through word of mouth. You help ASK to teach through your contributions (financial support), you encourage us through your communications to us (moral support), and through your prayers on our behalf (spiritual support). We are extremely grateful and we in turn pray that God blesses you both through our work as you learn, but also by making your life a bit less painful, a bit more peaceful (in your soul if not in your daily experience), and that God will let you know He is present in your life.

If you doubt He is present, read His book because, **“faith comes by hearing, and hearing** [comes from what source?] **by the word of God”** (Romans 10:17).⁴ No matter what your situation, as the apostle Paul wrote, **“the word of God is not bound”** (2 Timothy 2:9), even though we may be bound by circumstance (as Paul was, in prison). Our goal is to assist you to perfection, in baby steps by increasing our understanding of God’s Word. Read about moving toward perfection in Ephesians 4:13; Philippians 3:12, 15; Colossians 1:28; 1 Thessalonians 3:10; 2 Timothy 3:16–17. God will see to it that you will be victorious in Christ.

Thank you again and God bless you.

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² Remember the original occupants of many of the lands bordering Israel were dispossessed by God as punishment for their treatment of Israel and Judah.

³ We are not a spirit bound “within” flesh. We are flesh, we are spirit (a spirit of *adam*), inseparably combined, we are a living “soul.” We will not begin to become mature until we are resurrected “in Christ” at His return to earth.

⁴ We are to use our ears as well as our eyes. Read the Bible aloud to yourself or to others.