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Dear Associates and Friends,

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This month's article is part 10 of the series, titled "[Israel and Judah: 10. The End of Absalom](#)." The rebellion of Absalom comes to a crisis. In Jerusalem, Absalom convenes his advisory council with two particularly wise advisors on how to best defeat King David's small military force. The deposed King David is a very dangerous and resourceful man who escaped across the Jordan River with his army. Intrigue by everyone concerned comes forth, culminating — as usual — in a climactic battle.

David is at the center of the maelstrom. On one hand he is God's anointed king and political representative to God's people, Israel. He is also the object of God's public punishments for his grievous sins, presented for all Israel to learn about and witness as those punishments play out. Tens of thousands have died because of David's sins, all for YHWH's purpose of teaching David, Israel, and all nations the lesson (among others): that YHWH, the Elohim of Israel, is in control of events within all His creation whether that involves lowly individuals, mighty kings, or nations great and small.

### *While All This Is Going On ...*

Think about the nations subject to Israel, or nations paying tribute to Israel, how are they receiving the news about the rebellion and deposing of the great and powerful King David from the throne of Israel, the chosen man of Israel's God? Will they continue to subject themselves to an overthrown king? Will they continue to pay tribute to him? What will the neighboring people around Israel think about the new status of power in Jerusalem? Is Absalom a strong or a weak king? What about great nations farther from Israel such as Egypt, the Hittites, the Assyrians, or Babylon? Will they continue to trade with the new monarch of united Israel? Or, will those nations see a potential victim to attack or even conquer a now-rich Israel? Events do not happen in a vacuum or without repercussions, particularly the overthrow of a powerful leader.

It is time for friends to declare and give their support, and for enemies to watch and build up their armies perhaps to carve out territory from an Israel weakened by civil war. The nations see institutional weakness in the administration of power in David's kingdom.<sup>1</sup> Consider an outsider's point of view, the view of the Gentile nations. The third heir to the throne (Absalom) murders the first-born heir (Amnon). The murderer is forgiven and brought back to the embrace of the king. The murderer deposes the king, a renowned leader, warrior, conqueror, politician, who retreats from his great fortress capital without a fight. They wait and watch events. God watches David. All Israel and Judah watch to see what David will do.

All nations are watching because Israel is the most powerful nation in the world at this time. David's enemies know they must be cautious. His supporters see him not fighting hard to win back his throne (which God gave to David). Should they continue to back and support David? As you will read in the article (2 Samuel 17:27–29) some non-Israelite vassals did support David, as did contingents of non-Israelite fighters (2 Samuel 15:17–22, 18:2).

### *David's Situation, Versus Our Situation*

One thing is clear when I read the history of King David in the books of Samuel and Kings, particularly

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<sup>1</sup> It is also a weakness of all ancient kingdoms. Transitions of power and leaders inherently breeds instability.

when David was under severe stress, under threat of death, under God’s punishment (a fearful thing, Hebrews 10:31). David knew he was never alone, not for a second. God was always with him. He tried hard to be God’s servant, but failed and was punished.

With us it is different. Our relationship with God is even more intimate than David’s was. We do not have God “with” us. We have God’s Spirit within us, always. That is far more significant than being “watched” by God, having Him nearby, and serving him as best we can. God’s Spirit, His very essence, is in our hearts now.

**“And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, ‘Abba, Father.’ Wherefore you are no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”**

• *Galatians 4:6–7*

YHWH, God the Father, has given a part of Himself to us — His Holy Spirit, which is the same Spirit filling Christ at this moment. Within us there is an infinitesimal, seed-amount of that Spirit. Biblically it is termed “the earnest” of the Spirit of God the Father. It is a deposit or down payment, of the amount we shall receive at our resurrection. Read what the apostle Paul says about this, after discussing the flesh and the carnal mind. He speaks to believers in Christ:

**“But you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.**

**But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwells in you.**

• *Romans 8:9–11*

David never conceived of such a gift. It was impossible at that time.<sup>2</sup> The gift of God’s Spirit actually changes our hearts.

**“Who has also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”**

• *2 Corinthians 1:22*

**“Now he that has wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also has given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.”**

• *2 Corinthians 5:5*

Our closeness to God comes from God through Christ. It is His gift to us, a gift of far greater importance than David’s anointing as king of Israel. We are “anointed” with God’s Holy Spirit.

## **Thank You**

Someday soon God’s Spirit will begin to pour out upon all flesh. This will happen “**in the last days**” (Acts 2:17). When that occurs we will begin to see good information driving out bad information. That prophecy has not yet been fulfilled in its totality. It is future to us, as are the last days —soon, but not yet.

Your support of the work of ASK helps make available and get out good information, biblical information, to those God elects to receive it, chew on it, and digest it. We are thankful that you are willing and able to provide funds for ASK. We appreciate your regular contributions. Many of you have told us you pray for ASK. Thank you especially for your prayers. God bless you all.

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<sup>2</sup> David will receive that gift fully when he is resurrected to glory with Christ. David will again receive a throne.