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Dear Associates and Friends,

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“The King is dead; long live the King!” is a traditional European response to news of the death of one ruler and the ascension to the throne of another. This month’s article deals with the same subject, the transition of rulers “[Israel and Judah 16: David Dies, Solomon Reigns](#).” Every kingdom goes through the transitions, and one goal of the old ruler usually is to have the transition go as smoothly as possible so the kingdom will not be disrupted. In the United States, one of the hallmarks of our representative government is the smooth transition from one administration to another on all levels of government. Countries with other forms of government have different kinds of problems.

As we will read about later, after the reign of Solomon the united kingdom splits into a northern Israel kingdom and a southern Judean kingdom. The transitions from there are often bloody with entire families killed off. This happened with the God-graced transition from King Saul’s family to David’s ascension to the throne of both Israel and Judah.

David’s reign of 33 years (with major rebellions) and Solomon’s reign of 40 years (without major rebellions) is a relatively long time for general peace and prosperity to occur, natural disasters aside.

Whenever there is a transition it is important to secure the government and place loyal people in places of power and importance. This occurs under Solomon’s leadership.

### ***Things to Know About Kings***

Kings (and other rulers and leaders) do not have it easy. The flesh constantly fights their consciences and they often make choices in life that benefit themselves rather than the greater good. God chooses kings and rulers on the earth. In fact, the authorities that exist have risen and fall due to God causing it to be so:

**“He is altering the eras and the stated times, causing kings to pass away and causing kings to rise, granting wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those knowing understanding.”**

• *Daniel 2:21*

YHWH certainly chose David and Solomon. Here David is speaking:

**“Yahweh Elohim of Israel chose me out of all my father's house to be king over Israel for the eon; for it was Judah that He chose as governor, and in the house of Judah my father's house, and among my father's sons it pleased Him to make me king over all Israel.**

**Out of all my sons, (for many are the sons whom Yahweh has given me), He chose Solomon my son to sit on the throne of the kingdom of Yahweh over Israel.**

**Further, He said to me, “Solomon your son, he shall build My House and My courts; for I have chosen him to be for Me like a son, and I Myself shall become for him like a father. I will establish his kingdom for the eon if he holds fast to the observance of My instructions and My ordinances, as at this day.”**

• *1 Chronicles 28:4–7*

YHWH warned Solomon that judgment for Israel was to occur because of his sins against God:

**“Hence Yahweh said to Solomon, Because this has occurred with you, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes that I enjoined on you, I shall tear, yea tear the kingdom away**

**from your hand and will give it to your servant. However, I shall not do it in your days on account of your father David. I shall tear it away from the hand of your son.**

• 1 Kings 11:11–12

God chooses not only rulers, but also the boundaries of territories where groups of people live:

**“Besides, He makes out of one every nation of mankind, to be dwelling on all the surface of the earth, specifying the setting of the seasons and the bounds of their dwelling.”**

• Acts 17:26

God, personified as Wisdom, gives correct judgments and righteous statutes. The gift of wisdom is the means by which God helps us understand His Word and for those who seek Him, find Him. Wisdom is the fountain of what verse 18 declares:

**“By me [Wisdom] kings reign, And chancellors make statutes of righteousness.  
By me chief men control affairs, And patrons, all who are judging on the earth.  
 I love those who love me, And those who seek me early, they find me.  
 Riches and glory are with me, Boundless wealth and righteousness.”**

• Proverbs 8:15–18

So take note in future articles the acts of God as to who truly controls the affairs of any kingdom.

### ***Great Byte Show News!***

As I said, transitions can be difficult. The transition for John Evans, the son of GeorgeAnn Hughes, to learn the details of his mother’s computer systems has been largely successful. After almost a year, John and I **re-recorded** Chapter 20, “**Remember the Sabbath Day.**” of *Essentials of New Testament Doctrine*. **The new recording is without a buzz! And it is complete!** We will continue with the remaining chapters until we are done.

A prior recording we made in December had a loud buzz throughout and only half of it was recorded. So, now that John has worked out all the technical details of recording (jury-rig his mother’s equipment), we can now do more shows on a regular basis, probably one a week.

At my **Byte Show webpage** are the Preface/Introduction and the first **four** chapters of my reading Dr. Martin’s book, *Restoring the Original Bible*. GeorgeAnn Hughes and I recorded them years ago and John found the recordings of all the shows on one of her computers. They will go online one chapter at a time (there are the Introduction, 29 chapters and 2 appendices). We also have them online on the ASK website, at **<http://www.askelm.com/restoring/index.asp>**. My reading of *Restoring* is to supplement the excellent reading by Charlie Corder. Listening to both will reveal more information from the text than if one read alone.

Even more. John and I will begin doing shows of my reading commentaries and articles, which stopped when GeorgeAnn could not continue. So, there will be a lot happening as time goes on. I will try to inform you whenever new shows are put online.

### ***Thank You***

Transitions can be difficult, whether transitions in our personal lives, nationally or internationally. We all strive for regularity in the outcomes we feel we have control of in our lives. One regular feature for us at ASK is the support we receive from many of you on a monthly basis. Like clockwork you support ASK and let us know if we are doing a good job, letting us know your wishes and prayer requests, and letting us know you are praying for us. We thank you for all of this support and expressions of love for the work we do. It is possible through your support as God motivates each of you to help. God bless you for that.

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