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Dear Associates and Friends,

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Powerful families are one of the interesting features of history. One theory of history is the “great man theory.” Developed by Thomas Carlyle (1795–1881), two assumptions were made: (1) great leaders are born, not made, and (2) great leaders appear when needed. Research was done by reviewing great leaders of history and noting how much farther than ordinary leaders the “great men” seemed to go in making substantive changes in their societies, for good or evil. All too often focus is on military leaders and conquerors, individuals like Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, or Napoleon. This is not a biblical model of leadership.

Only one great man is significant as far as God was and is concerned — **“the man Christ Jesus”** in His role as Mediator between God and man. His act of mediation provides **“a ransom for all”** human beings.

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”

• *1 Timothy 2:5–6*

As you will read, families are the centerpiece of this month’s article by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, [“Who’s Who in the New Testament.”](#) Great leaders, at least great spiritual leaders within the biblical environment, develop from families, **“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”** (Proverbs 22:6). The cornerstone of that training is understanding and wisdom passed from one generation to another, led by (ideally) two parents working together. Of course, I have not lived up to that ideal (and I know few who have). Each of us strive for the ideal, and often learn too late what we should have done.

Great Family Dynasties

Besides great men, great families can be another way to study leadership. For example, David and Solomon ruled successively for 80 years over a united Kingdom of Israel. Although the united kingdom split in two after Solomon’s death, David’s descendants continued to reign until the 580s BC — a 400+ year period.

For interesting information on this topic, see [“Top 10 Most Powerful Families In History.”](#) Top of the list on this website of powerful families is the Rothschild family.¹ This extended family is still one of the most successful family business enterprises covering many generations. The Trump family is a business dynasty where Donald Trump’s two sons, his daughter, and son-in-law are all involved in the business enterprises of the family business. It also just became a potential political dynasty.

In America we talk about the Kennedy dynasty, which was both a business and political dynasty. Joseph P. Kennedy, the father, was a leading member of the Democratic Party and former Ambassador to the United Kingdom from 1938 to November 1940, through the first year of World War II. His oldest son Joseph Kennedy, died in 1944 flying over Germany. John (“Jack”) Kennedy served in the House of Representative for six years, then became a one-term Senator from Massachusetts and went on to be elected President in 1960. He was assassinated in November 1963. His brother Robert Kennedy was Attorney General of the United States while his brother John was President, was elected Senator from New York, and then ran for president. He was assassinated in June 1968. Edward Kennedy became a Senator from Massachusetts and served from 1962 until 2009. He was unsuccessful in all his presidential bids.

¹ The data on lists such as this can only be verified over decades. With the Rothschild family, their books are still largely closed for their non-public family corporations.

Then we have the Bush political dynasty where George H.W. Bush was president for one term (January 1989–January 1993) followed later by his son (separated by the two 4-year terms of Bill Clinton) George W. Bush (January 2001–January 2009).

The only political dynasty on the horizon is the Trump business/political dynasty which may be just beginning. A further Bush political dynastic member being elected to power is unlikely at this time. So too the Clinton political dynasty seems to be ended. Senator and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton failed in her election to follow Progressive political leader Barak Obama (President January 2009–January 2017) and her husband Bill Clinton (President January 1993 to January 2001). Due to age, it is unlikely she will be President.

Our Participation in God's Family

Whether you have a long family history or a cut-off one, your future and that of all your ancestors and descendants is bright. It seems specious to say it, but we as believers will rule creation up to the end of the eons and beyond the consummation, when God the Father **“may be all in all”** (1 Corinthians 15:26–28). This will occur because it is God's will. His “extended family” will comprise multiple billions of family members. At that time, we all will likely begin a new adventure, with power and glory, and God's own character in every individual Child of God.

“But as it is written, Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love him.”

• **1 Corinthians 2:9**

In other words, we cannot begin to imagine the good things God has in store for His children, yet that legacy will be ours in the future.

Thank You

Some people are uncomfortable learning about our destiny with God and Christ. They somehow think it is New Age-like or reads (supposedly) too much like Mormon doctrine. Let me assure you it is not either. It is a thoroughly biblical teaching. It is the essence of the meaning of Sons of God, Daughters of God, and Children of God. In fact, there is a long Eastern Orthodox tradition of very conservative biblical scholarship called “Deification.” It is defined as the understanding that the Bible teaches that all believers will become as Christ is at present. This is exactly what the New Testament clearly teaches in 1 Corinthians chapter 15 and what the apostle John teaches in 1 John 2:2–3 and following. ASK has an article by Dr. Martin specific to this subject, [“Salvation and the Biblical Doctrine of Deification.”](#)

Most churches cannot tell you what the ultimate purpose of God's plan for humanity entails. To Dr. Martin it was obvious. To me it is obvious, and for most of you over the years, you “get” what the Bible plainly tells us, unhampered by religious, denominational, or groupthink dogma. No works are taught on the ASK website, except Christ's works of salvation on your and my behalf as our Mediator between God and Man.

We need to continue to reach more people, not with large campaigns, but through word of mouth, one telling another. We rely on you to help us with that. Remember, the Gospel is not about “how” to get saved, it is about “how” you are already saved — through Christ. You are saved and so are all your relatives (past and present), your friends, your neighbors, and billions of others you have not met. That is truly “good news.”

Thank you for the support you are able to supply us. We know it is increasingly difficult for many of you to do so. We appreciate what you are able to give, even if it is just prayers and encouragement. Thank you for those! We are thankful for what we are able to give to you, as we hope you are thankful to God for what you receive from us. God provides for us all, and in the future God and Christ will personally show us the affection we crave so much. Be patient, God will not fail to fulfill His promises, although that fulfillment will occur in His own good time frame. Until next time, God bless you all.

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