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Dear Associates and Friends,

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Part 11 is this month's article, "[Israel and Judah: 11. David's Restoration as King](#)." Absalom's rebellion has been crushed (with very little help from the people of Israel or Judah). With God's blessing and help, David's own resources and assistance from friends and allies saw David through to victory ... again. All through the process there is pain for David. There are times when he can barely function. There are times when others have to figuratively "kick him in the butt."

As you will read, David's restoration is fraught with obstacles as he and his entourage travel back to Jerusalem. He must judge the motives of enemies and supporters, those who fear him and those who love him, those who wish to be under his rule and those who wish to rebel. I'll give you a hint. Things do not go well for those who struggle against God's anointed king.

And under it all are the seeds of future conflicts after David dies.

As we open the story in this article, David does not know that Absalom is dead. He hopes for the best, but it is in God's hands. He fears that even in victory there will be sorrow. He is correct.

### *Sorrows*

Just like King David, many of our lives are filled with work and distress, just as the psalmist wrote:

**"The days of our years, in them are seventy years, And if by mastery there are eighty years, Yet even in their heyday is toil and sorrow, For it is sheared off hurriedly, and we fly away."**

• *Psalm 90:10, Concordant Version*

David himself died at 70 years old. We have an advantage that the psalmist did not have. We have a tremendous hope of victory in our future, a personal victory greater than any David could ever imagine (a victory David also will share when Christ returns). Yes, as we age, we lose more and more friends, interesting acquaintances, relatives (young and old) and we lose various degrees of our physical capacity. We have aches and pains that come with injury and age. Our senses dim. Yet we can look forward to a blessed hope when pain ends, sorrow ends, aging ends, death ends.

But ... even then ... after our spiritual resurrection, while sorrow has ended for us personally, we will still experience sorrow from others, sorrow in empathy for others, as we observe them hurting themselves and others. Only when God and Christ complete their creative work of reconciling all creation to our Father in heaven, then that sorrow will also end.

David had great sorrows as he lived life fully and sinfully, as we all do (in spite of our high opinions of ourselves). Close to God, he tried his best, yet he did so without God's Holy Spirit resident within him as we are blessed to have.

We all need to increasingly "bother" God by asking for more of His Spirit continually. Yes, He has time to listen to our requests. No, He's not too busy. His gifts of love and His gift of His Spirit are two things He wants to give us more of, He wants us to receive more of, and He likes to be asked for them, as do most parents. Believe it or not, most parents — and God — like to be asked for things that are good for us and that they are able to give us.

Jesus told His disciples, "**For every one that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened**" (Matthew 7:8, KJV). Love and God's spirit go together. Similar expressions are

found in Matthew 21:22; Luke 11:10; John 16:24. James 4:3: **“You ask, and receive not, [why?] because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your lusts.”**

**“Beloved, if our heart should not be censuring us, we have boldness toward God, and whatsoever we may be requesting, we are obtaining from Him, for we are keeping His precepts and are doing what is pleasing in His sight. And this is His precept, that**

**[1] we should be believing in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and**

**[2] may be loving one another according as He gives us a precept.**

**And he who is keeping His precepts is remaining in Him, and He in him. And in this we know that He is remaining in us, by the spirit which He gives us.”**

• **1 John 3:21–24, Concordant Version**

Ask away ...

### **David’s Advantages, Our Advantages**

In King David’s life, God helped him greatly and God punished David severely. David is somewhat a special case. God often punished David by causing the suffering of others. His infant son died because of David’s sin. Absalom died because of his own sins but others were killed because of his hubris.<sup>1</sup> Thousands died because of David’s sin of seeking to have a census of all Israel and Judah, probably for conquest. At the same time thousands were also blessed because of David’s seeking after God. Like David, our physical experience will end in death.

( In my humble opinion, we are too far away from Christ’s return to hope for his soon-coming within any of our adult lifetimes. Disagree with me if you wish, but there are way too many prophesied events that must happen before Christ could return soon. On the other hand, as far as I am concerned, the sooner the better! If God wants to cancel or shorten prophecies for Christ to return sooner, that is fine with me! But you would have to show me how that works out. )

Only faith, hope, love will remain from our physical experience of life now, through to our spiritual resurrection when Christ returns, as the apostle Paul tells us:

**“now we see through a glass, darkly;  
but then face to face:**

**now I know in part;**

**but then shall I know even as also I am known. And**

**now abides faith, hope, charity [agape, love], these three;**

**but the greatest of these is charity [agape, love].”**

• **1 Corinthians 13:12–13**

### **Thank You**

God has been gracious to us. We always seem to have enough. We thank you for your continuing financial support, your purchases of books and DVDs, your prayers for us (as we pray for you individually and collectively), and we thank you for your various forms of encouragement. This allows us to maintain ASK and the ASK website, and to continue to provide quality biblical teaching to others. It is truly information that teaches you about God and Christ.

Thank you and God bless you all, and I pray He will give you peace.

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<sup>1</sup> He seized his father’s throne and likely would have put David to death