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Dear Associates and Friends,

December 2015

This month's article is "[Israel and Judah: 14. David's Life Nears its End.](#)" It proceeds with the saga of the two portions of Israel which will eventually split into two kingdoms. The article tells about King David's last days.

In this Newsletter I want to talk about a mysterious object called "the tabernacle of David." It is first mentioned in 2 Samuel chapter 6:

"And they brought in the ark of YHWH, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before YHWH. And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of YHWH of hosts."

• 2 Samuel 6:17-18

The word translated "tabernacle" simply means "tent" in this instance, even though "tabernacle" is its most common translation in the King James Version.¹ **"They set it in its place."** That "place" was above the Gihon Springs at the future site of the Temple.

Amos and the Tabernacle of David

Much later toward the end of the prophecies in the Book of Amos another mention is made of a tabernacle, the same as that indicated in 2 Samuel 6:17:

"In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: [Why?] That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, says YHWH that does this."

• Amos 9:11-12

Amos was contemporary to Isaiah the prophet. In this passage the word "tabernacle" is "sukkot" not "ohel." This passage is enigmatic, and its complete fulfillment is still future to us today. Notice the four points made in this passage. YHWH says He will perform four separate actions:

- [1] **"raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen,"**
- [2] **"close up the breaches thereof,"**
- [3] **"will raise up his ruins,"**
- [4] **"will build it as in the days of old."**

Since the time of Amos, the tabernacle **"that is fallen"** has disappeared, so far as we know. No one knows what is meant by **"the breaches."** The **"ruins"** will be raised up and restored to a condition **"as in the days of old."** Those days probably refer to the days of David. I doubt the people in the days of Amos knew what this prophecy meant, yet they knew what the reference to the **"tabernacle of David"** meant. The primary

¹ Its first use is in Genesis 4:20: **"Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock."** The Hebrew word is "ohel" and it is translated "tabernacle" 198 times, and "tent" 141 times in the King James Version.

function of that tent or tabernacle (by definition a movable and temporary object) was to house the Ark of the Covenant, which was still in the Temple when Amos wrote his prophecy. This “tabernacle” or “tent” of David replaced the one that was from the time of Moses.

James and the Tabernacle of David

Still another mention of the Tabernacle of David is made in the New Testament. At a conference in Jerusalem among the leaders of the *ekklesia*, James, the half-brother of Jesus, stood up and made this summary statement:

“Simeon [Peter] has declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,

‘After this I [YHWH] will return,

[1] and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and

[3] I will build again the ruins thereof, and

[4] I will set it up:

[Why?] That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, says the Lord, who does all these things.’

Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.”

• **Act 15:14–18**

Notice that James leaves out [2] listed above from Amos 9:11. James does another interesting thing with the Hebrew text. He changes the words **“the remnant of Edom”** in Amos 9:12 to **“the residue of men.”** Why did James do that? What James did was to read “Edom” (עֲדוֹם) as “Adam” (אָדָם). Did he have the authority to change the meaning of the text? Yes he did, because he had a good reason to do so.

The Greek Old Testament translation from the Hebrew, the LXX, produced around 280 BC, more than 300 years before James spoke, has an interesting translation of this passage. While the Hebrew has: **“the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen,”** James, and the Greek LXX have this translation for Amos 9:12: **“the remnant of men, and all the Gentiles.”** James took this meaning and applied it to the situation at his time to mean that the Gentiles were being brought by God to worship and honor Him.

The prophecy of Amos 9:11–12 has not yet been fulfilled completely. The process of the prophecy began in the time of the apostles. That process is still ongoing, and in fact more Gentiles honor God today by revering their Savior than Jews do, who reject their Messiah. Originally all believers were Jews, then a few Gentiles were brought in. Jewish Christians or Messianic Jews today are a fast-growing population of believers, but most Jews reject Christ. The situation today is as the apostle Paul stated:

“Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they [the people of Israel] have a zeal of God, but

- **not according to knowledge. For they**
- **being ignorant of God's righteousness, and**
- **going about to establish their own righteousness,**
- **have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.**

• **Romans 10:1–3**

Jews today greatly resent this statement of Paul. Of course, Paul states later that God’s righteousness was (and is) by Jesus Christ and not through any righteous action of believers themselves:

“Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God”

• **Philippians 1:11**

What Does Amos 9:11–12 Mean?

I do not know how this prophecy ultimately will be fulfilled. We are at the guessing stage of inquiry. We know some things for certain. One thing we know is that the Tabernacle or Tent has something to do with David. This was not brought out in the explanation by James. In fact, there is no mention of David beyond the use of his name to identify the passage.

James indicates that the Gentiles have a relationship to something God will rebuild. It will have to do with a Tabernacle or a Tent of David. The ultimate fulfillment will occur in a time future to us. Yes, there is something having to do with King David that will bring about the ultimate fulfillment of the prophecy of Amos 9:11-12. As I said, I do not know what that ultimate fulfillment will be.

The Tabernacle of David clearly has something to do with Gentiles gaining a relationship to God beginning in the time of the apostles. But in our present day, the knowledge of God, Christ, and the Scriptures by most Gentiles today is woefully ignorant, in spite of almost 1900 years of Christian teaching. There must be a return to the Word of God and a rejection to the theologies of pagan Christianity.² God will also act and cause that to happen by bringing about a “restitution of all things.” Peter stated this fact after Pentecost as he neared the entrance to the Temple:

“And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.”

• **Act 3:20–21**

The “**restitution of all things**” refers to the basics of Old Testament teaching being properly understood around the world before Christ returns. This restitution will begin with reference to King David.

Thank You

We do not know everything about the future. No one does. Neither do the angels, so don’t feel bad. But we trust God to make His prophecies clear to all the children of God who seek that knowledge, before significant prophetic events occur involving God’s judgment and Christ’s return.

“Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and that hour knows no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take you heed, watch and pray: for you know not when the time is.”

• **Mark 13:31–33**

Christ now knows the hour and the day when all prophetic events will happen.

Of course, ASK does not have all the information about the future contained in God’s Word. But we are doing our part to learn and to publish all that we know and can demonstrate from Scripture. We use history to inform us about the past in order to give us context for the present and future. The Bible, the Holy Scriptures, are our primary source of information in all things. The next valuable source of the past and present are eyewitness reports, such as those of the Jewish historian Josephus regarding the Temple. Only then do other sources of information come into play, such as archaeology and other sciences.

We desire to “mine” the depths of Scripture. To continue to do so we require your consistent support. We thank God and each of you for your assistance in the past. We thank God for what you will do. Your help means we can continue to sustain the ASK website, do research, and publish.

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² See the many articles by Dr. Ernest L. Martin about this subject on the ASK Website in the “[Doctrinal Articles Archive](#).” For other information on this subject, see the book by Frank Viola and George Barna, *Pagan Christianity?: Exploring the Roots of Our Church Practices* (2008). Dr. Martin taught the same information decades before Viola and Barna published their book.