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Dear Associates and Friends,

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“[Israel and Judah: 28. The Reign of King Jehu of Israel](#)” is this month’s article. When I wrote this latest episode of the Israel and Judah series I was struck at similarities to a bestselling of modern fiction series. For example, the fictional *Godfather* saga in books and movies has at the end of each episode several story arcs that end with extremely violent conclusions. The protagonists (not heroes by any means) destroy their enemies completely so no one left alive dare to oppose them. A “clean sweep” of opponents is made. That is what God does in this month’s episode.

Mario Puso, author of the original three *Godfather* books made into movies, likely took his inspiration from fellow Italians. The ancient Romans also employed intrigue, backstabbing (literally), and eliminating rivals (all rivals) from ever being a threat in the future. However, the actions of Jehu could have been an example for Puso and for the Romans on how to eliminate enemies in clever and creative ways.

As in “[Israel and Judah: 27 ...](#)” there are no heroes in this episode, only killers and victims, with the people of the kingdom of Israel observing. Yet all events fulfill God’s purpose. It is He who orchestrates all the schemes, lies, and outcomes.<sup>1</sup> God Almighty fulfills His punishment upon the people and leaders of Israel. YHWH masterminds the complete termination of the house of Ahab, the former king of Israel, all his male descendants, and other select evil family members.

### ***Cast of Characters (In Order of Appearance):***

At the end of last episode, Elisha the prophet anointed Jehu as the next King of Israel. Joram, the current King of Israel was in the city of Jezreel recovering from a war wound received in battle with the Syrian army. King Ahaziah of Judah is with Joram during his recovery, along with Joram’s mother, the lovely Jezebel. This episode opens with Jehu leaving the fortress of Ramoth-gilead and traveling to Jezreel to confront Joram.

**Jehu**, commander of Israel’s army, given a great gift from YHWH. He knows how to follow instructions, especially if they come from the Creator Himself. He follows instructions to the letter.

**An Unnamed Watchman**, in a tower faithfully doing his duty reporting what happens. He has a bird’s eye view of events that will happen at Jezreel.

**Joram** (means “exalted by YHWH”), the King of Israel, goes to fight Syria. Things do not go well.

**Ahaziah**, young son of King Jehoram and Athaliah of Judah, began his reign at 22 years of age, but will rule only one year.

**Jezebel**, the doom of this queen was pronounced by YHWH through Elijah the prophet. A murderous, but lovely woman, makeup and hairstyle can only take you so far when confronting God’s avenger.

**Ahab’s sons (Joram’s brothers)**, seventy in number, seem to have been innocent victims, although they likely participated in Baal worship.

**Naboth (and sons)**, not in this episode, but the injustice done to them is one reason why God wreaks horrible justice on the House of Ahab, his son King Joram, and all Ahab’s descendants.

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<sup>1</sup> See my Commentary, “[It’s a Mystery.](#)”

**Relatives of Ahaziah**, travelers going to visit Ahaziah in Jezreel, met Jehu at the wrong place and time.

**Jehonadab** is a mysterious ally to Jehu. He appears and disappears, obviously known to ancient readers.

**Priests of Baal** will be victims of God's vengeance carried out by Jehu.

**Prophets Elijah and Elisha** are not in this episode, but loom large in the background. They proclaimed YHWH's prophecies several years, even decades, before their fulfillment. Some prophetic fulfillments occur in this episode.

**Hazael**, anointed to be king of Syria by the prophet Elijah. His attacks to expand his own kingdom by seizing Israel's territory are a constant background threat during Jehu's reign. Hazael is known to secular history through his being mentioned in Assyrian records.

### ***Online: The Temples That Jerusalem Forgot***

We are happy to announce that Dr. Martin's book published in 2000 is now in PDF format online. The text is searchable within each chapter, and can be printed by those who cannot receive the printed book due to unreliable mail delivery in certain countries. Now they also can read this very important book.

This book has been gaining more and more notice worldwide and now it is accessible for everyone on the internet. The costs of mailing books outside the United States make it almost prohibitive for us to ship books. Therefore, we are making it possible for you to read *Temples* online.

God willing we will have *Secrets of Golgotha* online in the near future.

### ***A Future Speaking Event***

I will be the second of three speakers at the "Israel: The Prophetic Unfolding" Conference that will take place at the **Yorba Linda Community Center, 4501 Casa Loma, Yorba Linda, California** on Sunday, March 4, 2018, The event lasts from 3:00 pm to 7:15 pm and is sponsored by [Song for Israel](#).

I will speak from 4:00 to 4:50 pm on "The True Temple Mount Location and How It Affects Our Future." The per-person cost is \$20.00 (+ \$12 per person for an optional Mediterranean dinner at 5:20 pm). A third lecture will be at 6:20 and the conference will end at 7:15 pm. For more information see the event sign up page at: <http://songforisrael.org/conference-israel-the-prophetic-unfolding/> or phone 714-488-8168.

### ***Thank You***

We have received wonderful heartfelt notes from readers who appreciate the work that ASK does and continues to have available on the ASK website. Several have said and written that it would be a great loss in their lives if ASK was not available as a constant resource since its founding in 1985. Of course, Dr. Martin was able to bring forward into ASK his previous work from other organizations. We do our research, publishing, and speaking when and where possible but we are a small organization.

We work to bring all Bible believers to know and understand the importance of self-reliance and personal responsibility when approaching Bible studies. While it is the sole responsibility of the believer to become educated and to realize precisely what he or she believes, we at ASK encourage people to examine the biblical texts for themselves. We help create a greater comprehension of the source material itself. By having a biblical and historical understanding of the Bible, we can all know and trust God better. I think we have gone far to accomplish that goal.

You help us continue this work. We continue telling and publishing about how God's grace will lead to universal salvation, the true history of Christ's birth, as well as the true locations of the crucifixion and Temples in Jerusalem. Your contributions help us give the glorious message that they are already saved to whatever minds God sees fit to open to receive His grace.

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