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Dear Associates and Friends,

October 2015

This month's article presents to us heroes and also King David as evildoer. It is titled, "[Israel and Judah: 13. Mighty Men and the Census.](#)" Each of us can be a hero, but a heroism not recognized by the world.

Are You a Hero?

As much as some may not like to consider it, each of us is at war, but a different kind of war:

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armor of God,

[why?] **that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God,

[why?] **that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."**

• *Ephesians 6:10–13*

Paul talks about our "wrestling" against enemies, but they are **"not against flesh and blood."** His statement about our enemies (those **"we wrestle"** against) is bracketed before and after by mention of armor, which is military equipment. We are at war, in combat with armor. In fact, we have **"the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"** (Ephesians 6:17).

Our enemies are cosmic in scope as Paul describes them in verse 12. Allusions to military equipment continue for four more verses, which you all know well. The apostle Paul also talks about "the evil day." Well, no matter how evil you think these days are, we have not seen anything yet, unless you are Christians under persecution overseas in the Middle East or parts of Asia today. That evil can be deadly and permitted by governments. In Western and Christian nations, the evils we encounter are most likely interpersonal.

The military "mighty men" of King David, the heroes of Israel's army are examples to us how we, as Paul says, **"having done all, [are] to stand"** (Ephesians 6:13). Writing about David's mighty men of Israel,

"In them is mirrored the splendor of the royal power and glory of the Anointed of the Lord, to whom, as the visible representative of God among His people, they are devoted body and soul, and in whose person they serve the invisible Lord and King of His people with inviolate fidelity even unto death.

• *John Peter Lange, A Commentary: 1 & 2 Samuel, 600*¹

The World, the Flesh, and the Devil

"And you ~~has he quickened,~~² who were dead in trespasses and sins;

¹ John Peter Lange et al., *A Commentary on the Holy Scriptures: 1 & 2 Samuel* (Bellingham, WA: Logos Software, 2008), 600.

² The words crossed out are not in the Greek.

- [1] **Wherein in time past you walked according to the course [eon] of THIS WORLD [cosmos],**
 [2] **according to THE PRINCE of the power of the air [Satan], the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience:**
 [3] **Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of OUR FLESH, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.**

• *Ephesians 2:1–3 KJV*

The world, Satan, and our flesh are a potent combination working against us. Then, when the apostle Paul learned about and began to teach the Mystery to the *ekklesias*, he found himself suddenly opposed by another group of entities: principalities and powers, etc.³ These powerful creatures, along with Satan, were able to cause all the *ekklesias* of Asia to abandon the teaching of the Mystery taught by Paul in Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians and in his pastoral epistles. Whereas in his first epistle to the Corinthians Paul writes, **“The churches [ekklesias] of Asia salute you”** (1 Corinthians 16:19), near the end of his life:

“Have a pattern of sound words,⁴ which you hear from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. The ideal thing committed to you, guard through the holy spirit which is making its home in us. Of this you are aware, that all those in the province of Asia were turned from me.”

• *2 Timothy 1:13–15, Concordant Literal Version*

Paul tells Timothy to **“guard [again, a military term] through the Holy Spirit”** the teachings he gave to him, specifically the Mystery, because Paul would soon be dead. God’s Holy Spirit, perhaps through the work of Timothy after Paul’s death, did indeed “guard” what outsiders would want to steal or destroy. God’s Word has been preserved and protected. Scripture truths even shine through the worst translations.

David as Villain

In this month’s article, after presenting the list of heroes, the narratives present David as a villain, whose actions resulted in the death by plague of many in Jerusalem. It was due to David’s hubris. “Hubris” is: **“excessive pride or self-confidence; arrogance,”** according to Dictionary.com. David went far beyond God’s role for David as King. He knew better, he acknowledged his sin, and he repented.

In the end, blessing comes through David’s action when God gives the location of the Temple to David. It was at the top of Mount Zion above and west of the Gihon Spring.

Thank You

Each of you who pray for, contribute, and “spread the word” about ASK are our heroes. Our continuation as an organization is dependent upon your support sustained over time. ASK is the only ministry I know that teaches the unique nature of the Mystery. It is our desire to, Colossians 1:25–27:

“to fulfil the word of God; Even the mystery which has been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: ... what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Under no covenant, your only obligation is to love God and man. You are a child of God now, legally seated with Christ at the right hand of God the Father. Thank you all who help teach this message.

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³ During the 1,000 year reign of Christ, Satan will be imprisoned, and those of us who choose to live according to the Mystery will participate with Christ to reconcile those principalities and powers and rulers. They no longer will be influencing human beings. Their current role of deception is as evil as is Satan’s role of deception. They do so, of course, with God’s permission.

⁴ My Commentary for September 15, 2015, [“Eschew Obfuscation”](#) has more information about “sound words.”