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Dear Associates and Friends,

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The ASK article this month is by independent author Marilyn Sams and the full title of her article is "[How the Siege of Titus Locates the Temple Mount in the City of David.](#)" (The title is shorter in the online icon.)

Ms. Sams' collection and analysis of evidence of the location of Fort Antonia over several years has reinforced her own conclusion that Fort Antonia was and is located on the Haram esh-Sharif, the erroneous traditional site of the temple mount.

Her article is packed with detail, but stay with it and you will be rewarded with even more information about where the Temple and Antonia were truly located. Ms. Sams differs somewhat from the information Dr. Martin developed, so decide if you agree or disagree with her proposed modifications.

It now seems that the scholarship in support of a Gihon location for the location of God's Temples is superior to that promoting the traditional site. This is because it is not "pulled" by the need to fit a traditional model of where "everyone knows" the Temples were located, even though no one knows exactly where on the massive platform they were supposedly built. Such a situation is both strange and awkward for those who advocate it. Even the vaunted "sure findings of archaeology" are questionable when better explanations to those findings are given. Enjoy the article by Marilyn Sams.

Future Article

I anticipate publishing for April the next article in the "Israel and Judah" series. It will be about the Assyrian conquest, destruction, and dismantling of the Kingdom of Israel, and the deportation of the majority of Israelites of the ten tribes that inhabited that land. While the ten tribes were not "lost," what did happen to the people of Israel from that rebellious and idolatrous kingdom? Here are three quick answers.

(1) Most were deported. There is a great amount of data about deportations by Assyrians, even giving the reasons for doing so. It seems the Assyrians wanted to create a pan-Assyrian empire with the captives eventually incorporated into the greater Assyrian Empire.

(2) Some fled the land of Israel, some to Egypt and other countries, some probably escaped across the Mediterranean Sea. This was also dangerous because Israelites were "wanted" people and subject to attack, terror, and enslavement by peoples allied with the Assyrian Empire.

(3) Some fled to the southern Kingdom of Judah, although it is reasonable to suppose their "brother Israelites" from the north were not particularly welcome. Recall that during the reigns of Jotham of Israel and Ahaz of Judah, the Israelite army conquered and attempted to enslave tens of thousands of fellow Israelites, something forbidden by Mosaic Law. A prophet of God severely warned Israel not to do such wickedness, and convinced the leaders of Israel to let the captives from Judah go home. They even helped provide for their journey. They were wise to heed the prophet's "advice" which was a veiled warning from YHWH. That story is told in 2 Chronicles chapters 27 and 28, particularly 28:8–15, and commented on in "[Israel and Judah: 32. Jotham and Ahaz of Judah.](#)"

What Can Individuals Do to Please God?

People often wonder what can we DO to live the way God wants us to live? We ask such questions to ourselves yet throughout Scripture God often gives us suggestions that we are always able to do in every

circumstance and situation, whether dealing with problems or good things happening in our lives. We are able to do them, especially if we have the power of God's Holy Spirit to do them. We will never do such things perfectly, but we will trend toward building the character God wants us to have. For example, the apostle Paul gives us important suggestions that are simple and written for us as we approach the last days:

"Be rejoicing always.

Be praying unintermittingly.

**In everything be giving thanks,
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**

Quench not the spirit.

Scorn not prophecies. Yet be testing all, retaining the ideal."

**• 1 Thessalonians 5:16–21
Concordant New Testament**

I know you are aware of these simple and remarkable "suggestions" given to us from God through the mind and writing of the apostle Paul. Yet they are difficult to accomplish because they require constant vigilance and self-awareness, as well as being patient with ourselves.

Note also that each of these actions require no physical effort; all are acts of thought that can be done without anyone knowing we are doing them. Yet these actions communicate to God **"in Christ Jesus."** Prayer is only one of the five emotional and mental actions listed here. None requires a physical action.

- **"Rejoicing."** We can always find something to rejoice about, even if it is God's creation.
- **"Praying."** It can be done anywhere, especially at times when our souls are under great stress.
- **"Giving thanks."** Similar but not identical to rejoicing, giving thanks was something Jesus did often.
- **"Quench not the spirit."** This likely refers to the Spirit of God within you. Don't act contrary to its leading.
- **"Scorn not prophecies. Yet be testing all ..."** This one is interesting. I believe the **"testing"** refers to whether the prophecies conform to the Word of God. We should begin to learn this skill now before prophecies begin coming from all directions. We are, after all, in training to distinguish scriptural from unscriptural prophecies. But, we are free to make our own decisions about such matters as the apostle Paul did in Acts 21:1–14. He chose to go to Jerusalem where chains waited for him.

There is one other thing Paul says we should do. It is in verse 22: **"From everything wicked to the perception, abstain."** This action requires a physical act. We must look away or avoid wickedness. This is the difficult one. Oh, how we love to look upon wickedness. However, if we (you and I) spend time concentrating on the other five things, we just might be too busy to be tempted to look upon wickedness.

Thank You

All who encounter the ASK website have access to the gift of knowledge from God's Word explained to them in a straightforward manner. We know that Christ Jesus is our Savior as intended from the beginning of creation. (God has no plan "B," desperately trying to save a tiny number of the billions born since Adam.)

We know Christ's salvific acts, past, present, and future, that fulfill God's will to save every human being who ever has or ever will live (1 Timothy 2:4–6). We also know that every intelligent being (including all spirit beings) will be reconciled to their Creator (Colossians 1:15–20; Philippians 2:5–11).

And we know we shall see God and Christ face-to-face and we will know love as we have never experienced it before. Thank you all for helping us give this knowledge to others.

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