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Dear Associates and Friends,

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The article this month is “[Israel and Judah: 34. Death of the Kingdom of Israel.](#)” It details the destruction of the Kingdom of Israel. The kings and people of Israel disobeyed God’s instructions and Covenant, which had severe consequences for their disobedience beginning when ten tribes broke away from the three southern tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi that remained, with Jerusalem as their capital.

Cast of Characters (Not Necessarily in Order of Appearance):

This episode of “Israel and Judah” has a smaller cast of people, but it goes into detail on various topics.

Hoshea. The last King of Israel. He had the distinction of Scripture saying of him that he was evil, but “**not as the kings of Israel who were before him**” (2 Kings 17:2). This is not a good endorsement of his character.

The People of Israel. The people of the northern kingdom of Israel were as disobedient to YHWH as their king and their leaders. YHWH constantly called on them to change their ways through His prophets, but they only accepted miracles and only for a short time, then they went back to their sinful idolatry. Most were killed by the Assyrians, some 27,000+ were deported to the Kingdom of Assyria.

Shalmaneser V. This king of Assyria ruled 5 years during which time he invaded the kingdom of Israel and besieged its capital of Samaria. He apparently died just before the city was captured.

Sargon II. This Assyrian king ascended the throne during the siege of Samaria, the capital city of Israel. He reigned 17 years. He deported the remaining “useful” Israelite people to Assyria to benefit Assyria.

Samaritans. The collective name of various people from Babylon and other areas of Mesopotamia who were sent to the former land of the kingdom of Israel to repopulate it. They had problems with lions. Later they collectively became known as Samaritans.

YHWH. The Creator and ruler of all. He manipulates individuals, kingdoms, countries, and peoples. He is “**the One Who is operating all in accord with the counsel of His will**” (Ephesians 1:11) through His Son, Jesus Christ. He determines the boundaries of the nations — even today:

“The God Who makes the world and all that is in it, He, the Lord inherent of heaven and earth, is not dwelling in temples made by hands, neither is He attended by human hands, as if requiring anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all. Besides, He makes out of one every nation of mankind, to be dwelling on all the surface of the earth, specifying the setting of the seasons and the bounds of their dwelling.”

• Acts 17:24–26

God certainly did that for the underlined words at the end of that verse. He placed the Israelites in the land He promised to them in the time of Joshua. Because of Solomon’s disobedience, YHWH split the unified kingdom of David and Solomon into two parts, 10 tribes gathering to the north tribes, three tribes remaining in the south. Later, because of gross disobedience by rulers and people of Israel against YHWH, His covenant, and His laws, He arranged for the Assyrians to conquer, kill, and then relocate the surviving people of the kingdom

of Israel from the promised land to the center of Assyria.

God does as He pleases toward His creatures in His creation. He alone has free will. He told Israel through Moses what would happen if they repeatedly disobeyed and their ultimate punishment as a people was to be removed from the land God gave to them. He warned them time and again through His prophets. He helped the kings and people through miraculous acts of physical salvation, told and promised to them beforehand, yet they refused to change their ways.

Things Are Different for Us

We should and must be thankful for the grace and mercy we have received from God and His Son, Christ Jesus, as we approach the time of His return. We have been given the marvelous gift of His Holy Spirit — which now is within you (however so minutely) so you are sealed to be resurrected to glory to be like Christ:

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that has this hope in him purifies himself, even as he is pure. “

• 1 John 3:2–3

At birth we were “**sown a natural body**” that we possess now, but when He returns we shall be given and will be “**raised a spiritual body**” (1 Corinthians 1:44). “**And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly**” (1 Corinthians 15:49). As believers in Christ’s death and resurrection, and without seeing Him like the apostles, we have been granted to know from His Word the following:

“... we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal put on immortality.

**So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption,
and this mortal shall have put on immortality,**

then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written,

‘Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is your sting?

O grave, where is your victory?’”

• 1 Corinthians 15:51–55

This information alone is invaluable and should comfort us as we “mature.” We today have knowledge of His original plan from the beginning to its end, through the Mystery revealed to Paul and others. The Israelites of ancient times had only a small part of what we can know now, even though they were God’s chosen people. We are blessed that He has opened our minds to receive His knowledge in a world of 7 billion people, with more and better information than mankind has ever been given. And, we have the gift of hindsight of 1,900 years of history that has passed since apostolic times. We know things that even Paul, Peter, and John did not know before they died. Finally, we live when we can learn more about God’s creation than ever in history.

Thank You

I hope you agree with me that Dr. Ernest Martin’s work has helped you learn these marvelous truths of God through the Scriptures. His work has continued and has flourished. This month’s article is part of that legacy. We are very thankful to all of you for the financial support, the encouragements, and your prayers that you give to us to continue the work that we do.

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