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Dear Associates and Friends,

November 2021

This month's title is a bit unusual: "[JAWS of the Jerusalem Temples](#)." The term *JAWS* is a memory device to aid me, you, and everyone about the solid evidence that the Jerusalem Israelite Temples were located above the Gihon Springs. They were not located on the Haram esh-Sharif, the traditional site of the so-called "Temple Mount." Most of the Haram structure is the remains of Fort Antonia begun by Herod, King of Israel, who doubled the size of the Temple to the south of Antonia.

Snail mail Slowdown

We were recently notified by the United States Postal Service and our bank that all deliveries of mail in the country may be delayed because a lack of funding for the Post Office. Perhaps you have heard the same. The slowdown of mail is nationwide. Therefore, we will try to compensate for the delay by doing our best to send mail material to you as soon as possible. Please be patient because we have no control over delivery delays. This also means that your receipts for contributions (thank you for supporting ASK!) will appear in your mailbox some days later than usual.

Book Availability, and Delivery

All but one of Dr. Ernest Martin's books are available by print-on-demand through Ingram, the largest book distributor in the United States. Ingram drop-ships the books from their print-on-demand facility. Print-on-demand printing allows us to avoid storing large numbers of books for years.

Ingram has notified us that November 5, 2021, is the deadline for any expectation of delivery by late December. Therefore, order books **NOW** to receive the books you want to purchase during the upcoming season. Ingram exclusively uses UPS (United Parcel Service) to ship the books from their print facility. Guess what? UPS has raised their price to Ingram. We may need to raise our prices accordingly.

I am telling you this to warn you — if you intend to purchase books, **ORDER THEM NOW**. We cannot give a reasonable delivery date because Ingram (the largest such printer in the nation) and UPS delivery have both said they will experience delays.

Remember, **ASK no longer ships ANY books outside the United States**, not even to Canada. Good stewardship prohibits us from losing money (sometimes double the cost) to attempt book shipments overseas. It is costly to insure such shipments. Processing a claim for lost books is nearly impossible, working through foreign governments. Canada has occasionally charged extra duty on religious books with Christian teachings.

However, all ASK books are free online at our "Books" tab at the top of the ASK Homepage. Click and hold as a sub-menu ("Books Online") appears with a book list. Print them directly. We understand it is tedious to read online or print chapters of books (a chapter at a time, just like the articles), but that is the only way we can get the information to you who read ASK overseas.

Persecution Trends

ASK and the books will remain online for as long as possible. I do not anticipate internet censorship against the Scriptures — yet — but there may be years before full freedom returns to so-called democracies and republics worldwide from the pandemic situation. Such freedom will return before **"the man of sin be revealed"** (2 Thessalonians 2:3).

Remember, in the 1st century AD most all persecution of the apostles, disciples, and believers in Christ came from family, neighbors, local communities, and local governments. It began with resistance from business and religious leaders, pagan religious leaders, and Jewish leaders. Some persecution even came from misguided believers in Christ's resurrection. The Roman government did not want to persecute Christians any more than Pilate wanted to crucify Christ. Public pressure forced them to persecute Christ and His followers.

Remember, God used Roman authorities to help Paul so he could continue to do the work God wanted him to do, even though he was imprisoned or under house arrest for large periods of time. Paul endured his first imprisonment in Rome, and he was killed in Rome during his second imprisonment.

In fact, it is a blessing that Christians in many parts of the world and in this present era have not often suffered overt persecution. It is unusual in history to be left alone to worship the true God. However, increasing persecution is occurring in the poorer parts of the world. As believers, we may be persecuted for reasons that — at this time — are not because of our faith in Christ's resurrection. Eventually it will come to that, but we can be persecuted for many reasons. Remember what Paul wrote,

“My brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might ... 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.”

• *Ephesians 6:10, 12*

Many of those principalities, powers, and rulers of darkness will be revealed as the End Times approach. Some may even be killed during our times (see my article “[Spirits Can Die](#)”) as they are forced on occasion to make themselves vulnerable. Some of the greatest evils ever will be revealed before the End Times.

These revelations will bring an era of prosperity to the world for several decades before Christ returns. Persecution will diminish. The prosperity will be greater, relative to the general well-being of most people in the world, than the 7 fat years in Egypt under Joseph's administration for Pharaoh. All is under God's control.

Much needs to occur before Christ returns, even if God changes His mind and repents of the evils He has prophesied and causes some prophecies to be shortened, or not happen at all.

In the meantime, we believers are instructed to **“hold fast ...”** to good things God wants us to do.

- **“Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is your life”** (Proverbs 4:13).
- **“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good”** (1 Thessalonians 5:21).
- **“Hold fast the form of sound words, which you have heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”** (2 Timothy 1:13).
- **“... let us hold fast our profession”** [of our faith] (Hebrews 4:14).
- **“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering”** (Hebrews 10:23).

Thank You

We at ASK will **“hold fast”** and continue to teach and explain the Scriptures as plainly as we can. We do not use elegant language or big words because the Scriptures themselves are written in the language of common people. It is intended for you and others to learn more about your God and His plan for mankind, not just for you or me.

Thank you for helping us with the work we do. We appreciate any financial help you can give to help us teach the Gospel of Christ to the world. We at ASK publish material each month so that as the apostle Peter stated in 2 Peter 3:18, you may **“grow in grace and in knowledge.”** We want you to be able to deal with those who try to twist the Scriptures or let the wicked lead you away to error (2 Peter 3:16–17).

Thank you for your contributions, your notes of encouragement to us, and for your prayers.

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