

Associates for Scriptural Knowledge • P.O. Box 25000, Portland, OR 97298-0990, USA

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Webpage on the Internet: <http://www.askelm.com> • E-Mail address: askoffice@askelm.com

Dear Associates and Friends,

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As you all know by now, the Gaza Strip southwest of Israel is in the news after an attack on October 7, 2023, on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles. The attack by Hamas Islamic militants was made outside the Gaza border into Israel. Some 1,400 Israelis were murdered by Hamas, many more were wounded, and 200 or more were taken hostage. (CNN article: "[Death toll in Israel from Hamas attack now more than 1,400, IDF says](#)") At the same time (and continuing as I write) thousands of rockets have been launched into Israel.

Israel is responding with air strikes against Hamas facilities among buildings of metropolitan northern Gaza. All movement of water, food, power, and medicine was stopped from going into Gaza. Israel demands 1 million people evacuate their homes in northern Gaza because Israeli troops will invade that area to destroy Hamas and rescue the hostages.

North of Israel, Hezbollah, another large militant Islamic group, threatens to invade south from Lebanon and from southwestern Syria into the Israeli-held Golan Heights¹ and advance deeper into Israel. Rockets were fired into Israel. Hezbollah has stockpiled tens of thousands of rockets. Artillery and air strikes from Israel have responded. There is great danger that a wider war involving other nations will develop.

I do not like to "chase the news" but the events happening in Gaza and Israel are extremely important. As I write this Newsletter the situation is still developing as a bloody war seems likely between fighters of Israel and Gaza, and probably between Israel and Hezbollah.

- The United States has pledged military aid to Israel and has troops in Syria and Iraq fighting Islamic extremist groups. Aircraft carriers with support ships are in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea, along with military aid to Israel. More is being sent.
- Egypt, a poor country, condemned the Hamas attack but it refuses to accept Palestinian refugees from Gaza.
- Jordan refuses to accept Palestinian refugees, neither from Gaza nor from the West Bank, if combat breaks out with the Palestinian Authority in control of that area. Refugees could flood into Jordan.
- Lebanon is in chaos and has many foreign fighters in its country.
- Syria is still fighting a multi-year civil war.
- Turkey, north of Lebanon and Syria, may become involved against Israel — a major escalation.
- Other Islamic states such as Pakistan have promised to send aid to those fighting Israel.
- Iran hates Israel and pledges to help Hezbollah and Hamas. Iranian rulers threatened war against Israel for decades. Iran has developed excellent attack drones to destroy armored vehicles.
- Iran's proxies in Yemen fired rockets toward Israel but they were intercepted by a United States warship.
- Iraq would join Iran against Israel, perhaps using U.S. weapons left in Afghanistan.
- Russia has military troops involved in the Syrian civil war and has threatened to intervene along with Lebanon or Syria. Russia claims to have hypersonic missiles that can hit U.S. aircraft carriers.

¹ The tour bus in Israel my wife Robin and I were on in September traveled through the Golan Heights, traveling south on the highway east of the Sea of Galilee. The border with Jordan was close to the north-south road we were on.

- All this is going on while another large war is still being fought between Ukraine and Russia.
- An exchange of nuclear weapons is not out of the question.

Jerusalem will continue to exist until Christ returns. It may suffer damage, but not total destruction, even though some people and perhaps many **“principalities and powers”** in the spirit realm would like to see Jerusalem wiped off the earth to prevent God’s prophecies from happening (Romans 8:38–39; Ephesians 1:11, 3:10–11, 6:12; Colossians 1:16, 2:15; and Titus 3:1). While impossible, the spirits would like to see it happen.

This month’s article is **“[The Prophesied State of Palestine](#)”** published originally by Dr. Ernest L. Martin in April 2001, some 9 months before he died. He himself expanded an earlier 1974 article on the same subject when he was Director of the Foundation for Biblical Research.

Wars and Rumors of War

Israel is besieged. There are wars in Ukraine, in several countries of Africa, in Yemen (southwest Saudi Arabian peninsula). Borders are wide open to the United States and most of Europe. Yet, keep in mind that God determines **“the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation”** of nations (Acts 17:26).

But, in Luke 13:35 and Matthew 23:39 Jesus says Jerusalem will not see Him again until (1) its inhabitants acknowledge Him as their Messiah, and (2) call Him “Blessed.” He will not come, nor will He be seen by the people of Jerusalem until those two things happens. Before they acknowledge and declare for Him, they must seek after Him. The national repentance by Israel has not occurred yet, so we cannot say yet we are in a period of **“wars and rumors of wars”** (Matthew 24:6; Mark 13:7) as a sign of His **“coming and the end of the age”** (Matthew 24:3). The world situation is moving closer toward the end-time **“when all these things shall be fulfilled”** (Mark 13:4). See my short article, **“[Blessed Is He that Comes ...](#)”**

Remembering Ramona Martin

I will start a page on the ASK website called: “Remembering Ramona Martin” where those who interacted with her over years and decades can express their thoughts. She helped over the phone just by listening, as well as through her personal notes to you. So, please gather your thoughts about Ramona.

Your remembrances must come through me at askoffice@askelm.com. I will put them online when the page is established. Only your first name will be indicated, or any other name or title you choose. You may remain anonymous if you so desire.

I also want to put up a similar page: “Remembering Ernest Martin and His Teaching.” I personally began learning from Dr. Martin’s work around 1975, maybe a year earlier. I met him years later at a lecture in Chicago. My wife and I were able to travel to Israel in 1983 with a tour led by Dr. Martin.

I will write more about my own remembrances of Ramona and Ernest at a later time. Both have been a large part of my life, but Ramona and Ernest each impacted my life in diverse ways.

This year has seen many doctrinal articles published on the ASK website. Only two prophecy articles have been published this year, **“[Disease Epidemics and Bible Prophecy](#)”** for January 2023 and **“[The Signs of the Antichrist](#)”** for August 2023. I will also publish a prophecy article for December 2023.

Thank You

Your contributions to support ASK encourages us to do what the apostle Paul says we should do:

“And everything, whatsoever you may be doing, in word or in act, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, GIVING THANKS TO GOD, the Father, through Him.”

• ***Colossians 3:17, CLV***

We thank God and we thank you. May God bless you.

David Sielaff
david@askelm.com