

Associates for Scriptural Knowledge • P.O. Box 25000, Portland, OR 97298-0990, USA  
© ASK, November 2024 • Telephone: 503 292 4352  
Webpage on the Internet: <https://www.askelm.com> • E-Mail address: [askoffice@askelm.com](mailto:askoffice@askelm.com)

---

Dear Associates and Friends,

November 2024

“[A Covenant of Death](#)” is the prophecy article for November 2024. It is about the Covenant that the “**man of sin**” (2 Thessalonians 2:3–4) or the “**antichrist**” (1 John 2:18) makes with Israel. Of course, he betrays the covenant agreement, attacks, and conquers Israel, and walks into the Holy of Holies of the Temple and proclaims himself not to be merely God’s Son, but to be God (YHWH) Himself. He likely will be possessed. The November article is part one of two articles by the same name.

The article is transcribed from a 1976 lecture by Dr. Ernest Martin. It goes into great detail, and for the biblical texts I use the Concordant Literal Version (CLV). Read the biblical quotes in your favorite translation, even the King James Version if you wish. After all, many of the KJV verses are familiar, we grew up with them, but we sometimes give it too much credit for reliability.

In fact, some people think the King James version is “inspired” just like the original Hebrew or Greek texts. (Search the internet for the words “[King James Version inspiration](#).”)

You will find it useful and even enlightening to read other translations for a biblical “second opinion,” even if you disagree with the CLV or find its wording to be awkward at times. It is a literal translation from Hebrew and Greek texts. In the books of Daniel and Isaiah the prophecies regarding the “**covenant of death**,” the words used are at times figures of speech or abstract terms about events that have not yet happened. So, they are somewhat difficult to translate. The King James Version is also difficult at times because the English of today is different from the English of year 1611 when the first edition of the KJV was published. That is one reason there are so many English translations.

### **What Is a “Covenant”?**

The word comes from Latin meaning “a coming together in agreement.” It is an attempt to fulfill obligations on both sides of a dispute — in theory. Note the first two definitions from *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*, for the word “[Covenant](#)”:

- “1. A mutual consent or agreement of two or more persons, to do or to forbear some act or thing; a contract; stipulation. A covenant is created by deed in writing, sealed and executed; or it may be implied in the contract.**
- 2. A writing containing the terms of agreement or contract between parties; or the clause of agreement in a deed containing the covenant.”**

So, why would anyone make an agreement that many will know that God’s Word predicts disastrous consequences for the people of Israel? I can think of three reasons; perhaps you can think of others.

- (1)** Israel will have no choice. The land of Israel will be a battlefield between two powerful armies. Negotiation and a covenant will stop further fighting.
- (2)** It is Covenant intended to give peace to Israel for seven years, and renegotiated at the end of the Covenant period. It is a risk worth taking in Israel’s view.
- (3)** Israel’s leaders will not believe God’s prophecies, just like Israel in biblical times.

However, everyone will be able to read the relevant passages in Daniel, Isaiah, and 2 Thessalonians and be warned. But leaders must make decisions — and they sometimes do so with a gun pointed at them and their

people. Postponed destruction is better than immediate destruction. The leaders of the opposing armies (the King of the North and the King of the South) will both be killers in the worst sense.

Obviously, Israel will not be as powerful as it is now as I write this Newsletter. It also seems that the Temple will either be in construction, completed, or even operational when the Covenant of Death is negotiated and finalized. That means it will be several years from now before the Covenant is negotiated, signed, and then broken.

As Dr. Martin points out, when the “Covenant of Death” is broken, death will be the result. As presented in this article, the breaking of that Covenant will mark the beginning of the Tribulation:

**“... for in those days will be affliction [“tribulation,” KJV] such as has NOT OCCURRED from the beginning of the creation which God creates till now, and under no circumstances may be occurring [after this affliction]. And, except the Lord discounts [“shortens” KJV] the days, no flesh AT ALL would be saved. But because of the chosen, whom He chooses, He discounts [“shortens”] the days.”**

• *Matthew 24:21–22 and Mark 13:19–20 CLV*

Many believers will have prior warning of this threat because they know the Scriptures, and the prophecies in particular, and they will follow the news of the wars and battles that take place on earth. We know the knowledge will be worldwide because the Tribulation threatens the extinction of all flesh — not just the people of Israel. [See my January 2004 Commentary: “[A Future Nuclear War?](#)”] A large nuclear war is what all evil beings in the heavens and on earth truly want. The horrors of the Tribulation will be the most intense against God’s people Israel, who live in the land He chose for them. Note these articles ...

[“Increased Knowledge at the Time of the End”](#)

[“Personal Safety During End-Time Prophecy”](#)

[“The Place of Safety”](#)

It is very difficult to be patient when evil seems to triumph, even temporarily. It is hard to be a patient child, even mature believers like many of you. Evil will triumph for a period of time before and during the Tribulation of Israel, and it is unclear how world events proceed from today to that evil situation ahead of us. We will learn more about this portion of Daniel as the time approaches for Christ’s return. Only then will the earth be saved, after God’s judgment upon the nations for the evils they commit against Israel.

The Tribulation must occur before Christ returns. It is possible that we can shorten the time through our prayers to “encourage” our father to minimize the evil.

## **Thank You**

God is truly blessing us all with wonderful knowledge of His divine plan for the redemption of the human race to Himself. Every individual has a great future and salvation in Christ. Let us be about our Father’s business in giving the Gospel of Christ to the world as best we can.

These are grim times, with many saying that a world economic collapse will occur. Many of those who predict such things will benefit if that should happen. Others predict them to help and save people. It is sometimes difficult to tell the difference.

Your desire to support ASK comes from God: **“... each according as he has proposed in his heart, not sorrowfully, nor of compulsion, for the gleeful giver is loved by God”** (2 Corinthians 9:7 CLV).

ASK is a deep well of mature spiritual teaching that can be found in only a few places. Our outreach tries to be humble in our presentation, and we do not take risks to gain a large following. Our goal is to teach the Gospel of Christ to as many as God brings to ASK to study what can be found in very few places. We thank you for helping provide for others to learn truths about God.

David Sielaff  
[david@askelm.com](mailto:david@askelm.com)