

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

Originally published on May 18, 1979, the following paper mentions Israel's 30 year war. It seems hard to believe that, today, the unrest in the Middle East is still going on...one generation after another killing and being killed. The Egyptian/Israeli conflict has become the Palestinian/Israeli conflict...and instead of 2 or 3 countries involved, there are many other countries tied to this conflict, but...the paper's final analysis remains the same. I would add one additional thought, however: You can't move closer to God by killing, for any reason... including personal gain, national pride, revenge, or even--as some claim--in God's name. God's name, I AM ^[Exodus 3:14,15], is a verification of existence, not death, which is, perhaps, why there is still one commandment that we haven't talked ourselves out of...or legally reversed: "Thou shalt not kill." June 12, 2003.

It's All in Your Point of View

When a fight between two countries breaks out over some seemingly trivial thing, how often have you heard someone say, "They're acting like a bunch of children!"? Unfortunately, unlike children, they don't "make up" so quickly...or do they?

I expect it depends on how you look at it.

Suppose we consider the whole of humanity as having a "lifetime" of its own. Not

"...three score and ten, or even by reason of strength fourscore" ^[Ps. 90:10]

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but, rather, from the beginning of an age" till the "end of time." And if "Man's" lifetime should last a million years...or a billion...or whatever...then those warring countries (those "children") do make up pretty quickly.

But who, in his right mind, would look at life this way?

Well, (According to Moses and Peter) to the Lord

"...one day is a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." [Ps. 90:4;
II Peter 3:8]

So, let's take a look at life from this point of view, for a change.

Like most fathers, God probably has quite a lot to keep him busy throughout a "day." And some days, it must seem like you're standing outside shouting forever in order to get His attention. (After all, He has all of Creation to manage.) But, eventually He'll get you out of Egypt...in spite of the fact that you probably got into the "pickle" on your own...And, you can bet that almost immediately you're going to get a lecture on "right and wrong," as well. [See Exodus 20:1-Exodus 24:8.]

Far fetched? Well, if you believe Peter...or Moses...you will find that Israel's 400 year bondage in Egypt lasted 9.6 hours on God's clock, (which means it took awhile for your Father to "hear about" the new bully on the block)...and even Israel's latest 30 year war

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with Egypt lasted about 44 minutes, (which makes Egypt and Israel like two neighborhood children having another minor "spat"...though the situation between them is improving...with Israel being the Lord's

"...first born son." [Exodus 4:22]

But, of course, back in our own reference frame (where time drags on forever), the ultimate question becomes: "Of what earthly good is it to try and get God's attention, if it takes Him 400 years of "our" time to respond?"

Well, the answer is really quite simple.

You have to move closer to God if you want instantaneous results. (Shouting from "outside" wastes a lot of time.) And when you look at things "from where God stands," your individual lifetime will stretch to eternity...and you will find that

"...blessed are your eyes, for they see." [Matthew 13:16]

It all depends on how you look at it.

(Written, May 18, 1979. Edited, November 4, 2012.)