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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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The study of the creation accounts in the Bible is always worthwhile. This month's article is "<u>The Story of Creation</u>" which was a small 1988 publication by Dr. Ernest L. Martin. This short article presents Dr. Martin's understanding of the Genesis creation accounts, how they differ, and how he understood them to be true. Then I present additional information that gives my perspective from the works of other researchers.

As God's creatures and as His children we can sincerely ask, what did God do when He created the heavens and the earth? While this subject may seem odd to us today, the idea of creation bears on the accuracy and authority of the Bible in today's world. As time passes and we get closer to significant and identifiable prophetic events, we need to remember that Christ used the creation as a basis of comparison regarding the end-time tribulation of Israel:

"For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not <u>from the beginning of the creation which</u> <u>God created</u> unto this time, neither shall be."

• Mark 13:19

The apostle Paul wrote that the creation provides evidence of God's hidden attributes as deity:

"Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God has showed it unto them. For the invisible things of him <u>from the creation of the world</u> are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead ..."

• Romans 1:19-20

Peter prophesied that scoffers, while acknowledging the creation, will declare that nothing has changed since then, and that present conditions will continue as they always have.

"There shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, 'Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.' ...

But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."

• 2 Peter 3:3-4, 7

According to Romans chapter 8, although we are suffering (individually and mankind corporately) and the entire creation is currently bound up in vanity, nevertheless it is waiting for us to take our place as immortal children of God. Somehow this will actually free the creation itself from corruption, to be replaced with a better creation (Romans 8:19–22).

Instead of concentrating on God's Word and His creation, we all too often spend time on dumb things:

The Subject of Christmas

It's pagan, it's stupid. Reread my article "<u>The Stupidity of Christmas</u>" and Dr. Martin's article "<u>The Bridge to the Future – The Saga of Christmas</u>." Less than one month before his death in January 2002, Dr. Martin wrote three short Commentaries about this pagan holiday:

December 20, 2001, "About Christmas Time,"

December 21, 2001, "The Nativity,"

December 24, 2001, "The Errors of Christmas."

Byte Shows Now Online

GeorgeAnn Hughes and I have prepared four Byte Shows, three for recent articles, and one for an older article:

Introduction to Isaiah
Introduction to Jeremiah
Introduction to Ezekiel
Maimonides – Saint and Heretic.

These are also listed on the Ask Audio Presentations webpage.

Contributions Receipts for 2010

For those of you in the United States, if you require or want an annual receipt for 2010 tax purposes, we are happy to send it to you. However, <u>you must request</u> that we send you the receipt. We will send them to you promptly in January. If you do not ask for a receipt, you will not receive one.

Thank You

This present eon, this present creation shall cease. It will be replaced. Every problem we have, every bad experience we suffer in this life <u>will be forgotten</u>. Such things will not trouble us.

"That he who blesses himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; and he that swears in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hid from mine eyes. For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former [troubles] shall not be remembered, nor come into mind [Heb., upon the heart].

• Isaiah 65:16-17

God is not just referring to His forgetting "the former troubles" but we also shall forget them. That is because in our resurrected state our spirit bodies will be not only filled with God's Holy Spirit, its very composition will be made up of God's Holy Spirit. This is quite different from our present circumstance within this current creation.

We all have legitimate concerns and problems in life, but have faith in God and Christ, and trust His word to be true. If you lack faith, if you lack trust, ask for faith and ask for trust (Ephesians 3:20–21). We at ASK seek to do what the apostle Paul admonished all of us to do:

"And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which <u>from the beginning of</u> the world has been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ.

• Ephesians 3:9

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Some things in life we do simply because they are the right thing to do. I pray that God will open your heart to understand that supporting ASK is the right thing to do. We need your continuing and regular support. Thank you all so very much for all you do in helping us provide this valuable material to you and to others.

David W. Sielaff david@askelm.com