

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

© ASK, January 2018 • Telephone: 503 292 4352

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

Dear Associates and Friends,

January 2018

This month's article by Dr. Ernest L. Martin is "[Geography, A Prime Prophetic Truth](#)." It presents important information on a basic principle: where major biblical prophecies will take place in the future. He then identifies a major example of this "prime prophetic truth" to show how the entire Middle East is the focus of prophecy, not just Judea, Israel, Canaan, or Palestine.

Today there is a problem in prophetic understanding in Christian circles. In recent years, I have seen this error promulgated at several conferences where I have spoken about some aspect of the true Temple location at the Gihon Spring (usually assisting another speaker who invited me). Places are often erroneously identified as where prophecies will take place that have no relationship to where the Bible clearly says they will occur.¹ Some prophetic interpreters still think Europe will be the "beast" of ten toes in Daniel, although that idea is dying a slow death as areas in Europe try to break into smaller countries and various peoples seek autonomy.

After the Second World War, Yugoslavia was a country where people wanted independence (eventually gained), but they were held together for decades by oppressive leaders. So too, the artificial borders of countries in the Middle East were created after the First World War. Their borders were not defined by any natural barriers or boundaries determined by geography. In recent years, these nations are collapsing and at present Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq are countries without real borders. As yet, no monarchy in the Middle East has fallen except for the Shah of Iran in 1979.

These false placements of prophetic events happen for two reasons. **First**, some interpreters refuse to read clear biblical prophecies at face value. The text is "fluid," allegorical, symbolic. Geography supposedly uses figurative language. While this sometimes occurs (Peter uses "Babylon" in 1 Peter 5:13), when long prophecies with specific locations are misplaced, the results are absurd. Dr. Martin's article gives some examples.

The **second** reason is more self-serving. Some interpreters need to come up with "new material" for their audiences. This forces them to go beyond what others have already said on a subject. They must present something "new" and exciting. They are speaking to audiences with "itching ears." The apostle Paul wrote about this to his young friend and fellow minister Timothy. Paul's warning applied to all biblical teaching, including prophecy, and not just to theological "doctrine" as the King James Version seems to indicate. Paul wrote after 63 AD and he was soon to die. Paul knew then that Christ would return much later, and he wrote of a future time far beyond his and Timothy's own era. Yet the trend was beginning when Paul wrote:

"For the era will be when they will not tolerate sound teaching [of any kind], but, their hearing being tickled ["itching ears" KJV], they will heap up for themselves teachers in accord with their own desires, and, indeed, they will be turning their hearing away from the truth, yet will be turned aside to myths."

• **2 Timothy 4:3-4, Concordant Version**

Prophetic events are often placed by interpreters of prophecy everywhere except where obvious and plain

¹ Some people still think a battle will occur at Armageddon or Har Megiddo in the valley of Jezreel, but no battle will be fought there. The armies will gather at the location, and then move to their assigned attack vectors. In fact, if you follow Dr. Martin's understanding in this month's article, his earlier 1981 article "[New Prophetic Discoveries Concerning the End Time](#)" will make perfect sense when you read the biblical accounts. It gives a detailed presentation of one of Isaiah's prophecies, with geographic indicators so precise that excellent maps can be provided, illustrating troop movements and the locations of battles at Christ's return. Oh yes, Christ wins, they lose.

geographical indications of Scripture place them. Some of the placements are absurd. Dr. Martin's article (from a September 1990 audiotape) wrecks the basic assumptions of such flawed prophetic interpretations.

President Trump's Announcement about Jerusalem

On Wednesday, December 6, 2017, President Donald Trump announced that the United States would recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and would place the American Embassy at an agreed location in the Israeli capital of Jerusalem. This caused international uproar even though several presidents of the United States said it should be done, but lacked the courage to do it, and in 1995 the United States Congress passed a law requiring the embassy be moved to Jerusalem. Until now, nothing has happened.

For some representatives of countries to the United Nations, you would think the world had ended. They put forth a U.N. Security Council resolution to stop the action by the United States. The U.S. representative to the U.N., Nikki Haley, vetoed the resolution. Next, the General Assembly of the U.N. voted and passed a resolution (without enforcement power) to give a "state of the world" declaration strongly disagreeing with the intent of Israel and the United States to do what most nations normally do, while many nations of the world continue to be upset.² A new embassy will need to be constructed in Jerusalem along with other facilities. It will take years and will be expensive.

Israel and Jerusalem are again the focus of the world's attention. Things should get interesting from here, but God is on His throne, and prayer changes things. God willing, the world will soon begin to accept that one major point of conflict can be resolved once it is recognized that the so-called "temple mount" is really Fort Antonia, and the site of all the Jewish Temples was above the Gihon Spring on the top of Mount Zion in the center of the Old City of David.

Thank You

It looks like events are beginning to move rapidly in the Middle East, in Israel, and in Jerusalem. I cannot say what the trajectory of those events are, but the national boundaries of several countries are dissolving. God is in control of that process (Acts 17:26) and he will determine where populations go, who rules what countries, what the boundaries of nations are, and for how long. Twenty seven years have passed since Dr. Martin recorded the 1990 audio that I transcribed and edited for your study.

Look what has happened in that time. Wars have been fought (there have always been wars), unbelievable amounts of treasure has been spent (wars are no longer profitable), and the web of problems in the Middle East seem as unsolvable as ever. Powerful leaders have fallen with violence and rebellion. Some countries have dissolved. Other countries like Egypt have stabilized at present. Perhaps like me you wish the end time would come quicker, but rest assured things are happening according to God's precise timetable.

I occasionally look on the internet for videos about the location of the Jerusalem Temple. I am encouraged that more and more videos now agree with Dr. Martin's research on the Gihon location of God's Temples. Great research is being done by independent scholars, and I hope soon to mention them by name. May God raise up more researchers to the debate. Only Dr. Martin and Prof. George Buchanan have risked their reputations to support the increasingly powerful biblical and historical evidence of Temples at a non-controversial location of prophetic geography.

One final reminder. If you want a receipt of your contributions for 2017, you must request for us to do so. We will send them soon after the 10th of January 2018. We are thankful we can continue to publish information on this and other topics such as prophecy, doctrine, and chronology. There is yet much more to do. We do what we do because of the financial support from several of you who sustain ASK.

David W. Sielaff
david@askelm.com

² For background on this issue of the history of Jerusalem, see the *New York Times* article, "[The Conflict in Jerusalem Is Distinctly Modern. Here Is the History](#)" with photos from 1917 and later. Apparently, only modern history matters to some.