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Dear Associates and Friends,

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“[The Real Meaning of Biblical Words](#)” is the July 2021 Doctrinal article. This information originated as a 1993 audiotope lecture by Dr. Ernest Martin. I put it on the ASK website in 2004, but now the article is reformatted, with additional material and links.

The article addresses the issue of how we know what we know. We are told by the world that we learn through our senses and relate them to other past sensations by experiencing positive and negative events in our short or long lives. We have shared experiences of birth, growth, pain, joy, and death (read the Book of Ecclesiastes).¹ We compare good and bad events in our lives, process that information with others and we “learn” about life. Since Adam, every person has died up to today, including Jesus Christ. He alone has been resurrected to glory as the firstfruits (1 Corinthians 15:20–24 until He returns to earth).²

When we read novels or non-fiction writing we are reading the thoughts of the authors, even over years or multiple centuries. The same situation occurs in the Holy Scriptures. We ultimately are reading God’s words with which He will instruct us:

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, has in these last [recent] days spoken UNTO US by his Son, [1] whom he has appointed heir of all things, [2] by whom also he made the worlds [aeons, “ages” in Greek].

• **Hebrews 1:1–2**

When you read the words of the prophet Moses (Deuteronomy 34:10; Acts 3:22, 7:37) in the first five books of the Bible, you are reading God’s thoughts presented through and by Moses. In the Book of Isaiah, you read God’s thoughts through words of the prophet Isaiah. The poetic writings like Psalms and Lamentations are God’s thoughts through the words of the authors. Likewise, the histories also tell of significant events that God thought were important for future readers/listeners to know. The Word of God is beyond amazing (Hebrews 4:12; 11:3). Note this verse that the apostle Paul wrote to the *ekklesia* in Thessalonica in Greece:

“For this cause also we thank God without ceasing, because, when you received the word of God which you heard of us, you received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which **EFFECTUALLY WORKS also in you that believe.”**

• **1 Thessalonians 2:13**

I love the expression Paul used: **“the word of God ... works also in you that believe.”** The Word of God changes lives of those God calls to believe, whenever that may occur during their sojourn on earth.

It is fun for me to think that some day we will know every detail of how God operates toward us to believe His written word and accept His living Word, His Son Christ Jesus. As it says in Hebrews 1:2, God has

¹ See two relevant commentaries: “[Learning Is Hard](#)” and “[The Travail of Everyday Life](#)” that detail the issues of learning and experience and their purpose for our future lives as Children of God.

² True, a tiny number of believers will receive glorious immortal bodies without dying when Christ returns to earth. Those few will transition from physical life to receive from God a glorified body. Dead saints will exist again and be raised to glory (1 Thessalonians 4:15–17). Everyone alive now will die before Christ returns. We will be glorified moments before those still living.

There are too many prophecies that must occur for Christ to return within the lifetimes of those living now. Many of those prophecies will take many decades to be fulfilled. Many have not yet begun any visible progress toward prophetic fulfillment. Yes, the days can be shortened (Matthew 24:22; Mark 13:20), but read my article, “[The End Time? Not Yet!](#)”

“spoken unto us by his Son” and His message and words during His ministry were spread by His apostles and disciples around the world. At that time, information was shared verbally. Individuals spoke to other people, or spoke to small groups, or large groups as at the first Christian Pentecost 10 days after Jesus’ ascension into heaven, and days later in the Temple. At that time, as today, “**faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God**” (Romans 10:17). Indeed, it did and continues to do so this day.

And yet, all of Scripture is a communication from God to His children, even the unpleasant and unsavory parts of the historical narratives. We need to concentrate on the power of the Word of God. Here is an example of the power of God’s Word:

“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, BY THE WORD OF GOD, which lives and abides for ever [Greek, “permanently”]. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower thereof falls away:

But the word of the Lord endures for ever [Greek, “remains”]. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”

• 1 Peter 1:23–25

People quickly forget the power of the Word of God. God’s spoken expression of His will causes wondrous things to happen:

“For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by THE WORD OF GOD the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

... But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by THE SAME WORD [of God] are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”

• 2 Peter 3:5, 7

I repeat, the Scriptures are a window into the thoughts of God. That is why He had the Scriptures to be written, preserved, and taught around the world after the risen Christ returned to heaven, as Paul says,

“For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we HAVE the mind of Christ.”

• 2 Corinthians 2:16

Someday soon, within our lifetimes we will see the Word of God be accomplished in ways obvious to all.

“For MY THOUGHTS are not your thoughts, neither are your ways MY WAYS, says YHWH. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are MY WAYS higher than your ways, and MY THOUGHTS [higher] than your thoughts.

For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and returns not thither, but waters the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

So shall MY WORD be that goes forth OUT OF MY MOUTH: it shall not return unto me void, but it [God’s word] shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

• Isaiah 55:8–11

Thank You

We have the privilege of teaching about God, based on understanding the plain words of Scripture (and researching those statements that are not so plain). We at ASK have the tremendous benefit of having the valuable resource of Dr. Ernest Martin’s study, research findings, books, and other teachings. We are thankful to have your financial support. Some began contributing recently realizing the spiritual meat we provide rather than the usual milk. Thank you for your valuable help. We need more who benefit from ASK to contribute and give to those that serve you. We thank you in advance.

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