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Dear Associates and Friends,

December 2021

“[The Two Apostle Johns](#)” by Dr. Ernest L. Martin is the article for December 2021. It details the relations between Jews and Gentiles from Pentecost in 30 AD after Christ’s resurrection to the revelation of the Mystery to the apostle Paul and others in 63 AD. Then Dr. Martin shows how knowledge of the Mystery of God changed the relationship of Jews and Gentiles. It is a fascinating historical account.

The writings of the apostles John, Paul, James, and others during that 33-year period give examples of the tensions between Jews and Gentiles, who were all believers in Christ’s resurrection. Despite this friction, witnesses of the risen Christ were still alive and continued to speak, announce, teach, and preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to the world. (See Dr. Ernest Martin’s article “[Salvation and the Kingdom of God](#).”)

Christ’s commission was for the Jews to the world, which included Gentiles, but what did Gentiles do after they believed? What was their status? What were they expected to do to show their faith? What was their relationship with Jewish believers? These are the issues dealt with in this 1979 lecture by Dr. Martin that I published 14 years ago in 2007. This article will clear up some aspects of New Testament history.

There were serious difficulties between Jewish and Gentile believers, as there are in most human relationships. Yet God was (and is) in control and He had miraculous “encounters” occur that nudged the Jews step-by-step to accept Gentiles into the company of believers, as part of the Great Commission Jesus gave them.

The original believers at Pentecost were all Jews. Later, an angel from God told Philip (an evangelist and deacon of the Jerusalem *ekklesia*) to meet an Ethiopian eunuch traveling from Jerusalem. Philip baptized this Gentile who accepted Christ’s resurrection (Acts 8:26–40).

God next gave the apostle Peter visions that led him to the household of a Gentile Roman centurion named Cornelius (all of Acts chapter 10 through Acts 11:18). Cornelius and his family spoke in tongues just as Peter, the other apostles and disciples of Jesus experienced at Pentecost. This irrefutable evidence of God’s acceptance of an entire Gentile family caused them to immediately be baptized. A council was held in Jerusalem to discuss this miracle from God.

God then caused the mind of a man named Saul, an oppressor of believers, to believe that Jesus was resurrected from the dead. Saul became the apostle Paul. God gave him the commission to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. God blessed Paul and associates with success, further increasing the tension between Jews and Gentiles on how to live as believers. You will find this information interesting, and obvious once it is explained.

Tax Receipts

Let me give another reminder to all ASK contributors. To receive a tax receipt for your contributions to ASK for the year 2021, you must request that you want one to be sent to you. We do not automatically send year-end receipts to everyone.

Thank You

We greatly appreciate your support of ASK. As I wrote last month, thank you for your prayers to God on our behalf, your encouraging notes to us, and for your contributions. We know you do what you can for ASK, as God allows you to do.

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