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Dear Associates and Friends,

December 2022

“[Antecedents to Bible Prophecies](#)” is the ASK article for December 2022. Before Christ returns every prophecy that will be fulfilled has events, conditions, and situations that should occur before the prophecy is fulfilled. We will be able to consider a prophetic event completed as prophesied if certain conditions are met.

Of course, it is the opinions of God and Christ that matter in determining completion of a prophecy, but if a prophecy is not widely acknowledged as being fulfilled, then its impact is diminished. I am not imposing any criteria on God’s fulfillment of prophecy; I am merely pointing out that every prophecy has obvious conditions and events that will lead up to its fulfillment.

For example, consider the prophecy of Zechariah chapter 14 about YHWH returning to earth and setting foot on the Mount of Olives. If the Mount of Olives is not divided into two parts with a noticeable earthquake and a large valley created by the earth movement, then no matter who (or what) sets foot on the Mount of Olives, I do not think the prophecy can be determined to be fulfilled.

I understand there are many problems with my statement, of course. Who am I to put criteria on God’s prophecies. Well, some things are obvious and are expressed in prophecies in plain words that are difficult to dispute. If the prophecy says a ridge will be split in two and that does not happen, is that a fulfillment? Why should we accept anyone else’s “opinion” that the prophecy was fulfilled?

This situation is not ridiculous. There are some prophecy students, called preterists, who believe that every prophecy about Christ’s return was fulfilled during the crisis of 70 AD. Christ did return, the earthquake did occur, the Mount of Olives did split in two, and — apparently — the world has not recognized the “spiritual” kingdom of Christ and His 1,000 years reign has already occurred. Has the world been enjoying the Kingdom of God?

I do not think so, but this is what some people believe.

Tax Receipts

This is your first notice to tell us that you wish ASK to send you a receipt for your contributions to ASK during 2022. Your year-end receipt will be sent to you in January 2023 and after, if you request it. So let us know. Receipts will be sent only to those who request them.

Kind Words from ASK Readers

A contributor recently wrote us expressing what many have communicated to us over the years, that the positive work of ASK is meaningful for spiritual growth:

“Dear David,

I am personally grateful for the precious explanation of the scriptures and the insight that you have provided to me. The analysis and patient teaching you give are beyond value. You are truly gifted by God to be of great service to me and all the other readers and listeners of the ASK website. Thank you. It is a blessing to be able to have the comfort and resources of ASK in my quest for spiritual growth. I feel this strongly and wanted you to know how much you are appreciated. Sincerely ...”

Another person wrote:

“Hello, I am so gratefull I found (more like God dropped you in my lap) your site. I have enjoyed every book I have listened to. One day I am going to find a way to purchase the book *The People That History Forgot*. Sincerely ...”

She sent this note before we put any of the new readings on line as I mentioned in my November 15, 2022 Commentary, “[New Audios of Dr. Martin's Books](#)..” I am sure she will like the “new” reading of *ABCs*.

We are humbled by such sentiments. We appreciate that your contributions to ASK are acts of faith that aid us to present insightful and useful biblical teaching. We do not take contributions for granted. We labor **“in the word and doctrine”** so that we, like the ox, might be counted worthy of the gifts you give to our work (1 Timothy 5:17–18). We thank you for your continuing contributions. We strive to the purpose the apostle Paul told to the *ekklesia* at Colosse:

“That you might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and INCREASING in the knowledge of God.”

• *Colossians 1:10*

Thank You

I want to repeat what I published in the “[March 2010 Newsletter](#).” God knows us; He understands us; and God wisely guides us through our lives so we learn what He wants us to learn. As King David writes:

“O YHWH, You have investigated me and are knowing me; You Yourself know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought from afar; My path and my pallet You have measured off, And for all my ways You have made provision.

For though there be no declaration on my tongue, Behold, O YHWH, You know it all. Back and front, You have besieged me, And You set Your palm upon me. Such marvelous knowledge is beyond me; It is impregnable; I cannot reach to it. ...

... I shall acclaim You, for You are fearfully distinguished; Marvelous are Your works. You have known my soul very thoroughly; ...

... How precious are Your thoughts to me, O El, ...

... Search me out, O El, and know my heart; Test me, and know my disquieting thoughts. See if a grievous way is in me, And guide me in the way eonian.”

• *Psalm 139:1–6, 14, 17, 23–24, Concordant Version*

God knows you intimately as David says. Your story will be as interesting as Eve’s life story, David’s story, Isaiah’s story, or the story of each person who heard Jesus teach during His ministry. God is in the creation “business.” He does not make dull children. We will discover that truth when God raises the last human being to glory **“at the conclusion of the eons”** (Hebrews 9:26, *eons* mistranslated as “world” in the KJV).

Now think about how much time you have spent in your life thinking about your children or the children of close relatives, or thinking about friends. Those people probably never realized you did so, how often, or how much you worried about and thought about them, their lives, and about their futures. You and I are being observed, watched over, thought about, and studied individually by God the Father Himself. That is what David says above in Psalm 139. Small details that seem insignificant to us are very important for our development of character for us to be like Christ. This does not apply just to “special” people like King David. Each of us is God’s child. He knows our conscience.

We at ASK present the teachings of the Word of God with clarity and consistency, primarily by presenting Dr. Martin’s studies and research. We thank you all for your various contributions. I know that each of you gives what he or she can as God leads you to do during these times. These are difficult times for us at ASK also, and so we are honored and grateful for what you are able to give to ASK over the months and years. May God bless you all for helping others through the work that we do at ASK.

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