

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

© ASK, January 2023 • Telephone: 503 292 4352

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

Dear Associates and Friends,

January 2023

“[Disease Epidemics and Bible Prophecy](#)” is this month’s article. It is transcribed from a lecture Dr. Martin recorded in 1994. I updated it in 2005, and reformatted and brought up to date for January 2023.¹ Disease epidemics, plagues, and pestilences are all the same phenomena: wide ranging illnesses that lead to large-scale deaths of populations. Such occurrences will occur in the present and future until Christ returns, will involve billions of people, and millions (perhaps billions) of deaths. God’s protection and healing will be necessary in many cases. Below are three readable online books about the effects of disease in world history:

Hanz Zinsser. [Rats, Lice and History: A Chronicle of Disease, Plagues, and Pestilence](#) (Black Dog and Levanthal, 1934, 1996). This book is available at many public libraries. It is a readable classic work on the subject, still in print and relevant today. It is about the role of disease, particularly plagues, in world history.

William McNiell. [Plagues and Peoples](#) (Doubleday, 1977, Anchor, 2010 reprint).

John Aberth, [Plagues in World History](#) (Rowman & Littlefield, 2011).

Events in Israel

First, another governmental change has taken place in Israel. Benjamin Netanyahu has again (for the third time) become the Prime Minister of Israel.

Second: there is good news regarding Jewish-Christians in Israel. Also called Messianic Jews, these are individuals who were descended from Jews and raised Jewish, but were converted to Christianity outside of Israel. These Jewish-Christians will now be allowed to move to and live in Israel as Jews, while maintaining their Christian beliefs.

I recently received a newsletter from an acquaintance in Israel that Jewish-born converts to Christianity will be allowed to move to and live in Israel, and become Israeli citizens. Up until this change in policy, Christians of Jewish descent were not allowed to become citizens. This was a strange rule because Jews who were born, grew up, live in Israel, and converted to Christianity in adulthood were always allowed to stay in Israel with full citizenship. However, Jews born overseas who as adults converted to Christianity, were not allowed to move to, or have permanent residence or citizenship in Israel.

See the article, “[Messianics Next? Supreme Court Ruling Could Open Door to Aliyah](#)” in *Israel Today*, a Christian-friendly news service in Israel. In modern times “*aliyah*” has “**been used to designate the ‘going up’ to Israel of immigrants from other lands, just as in former times it meant going up to the Holy Land.**” See also the article, “[Israeli Supreme Court rules state must grant citizenship to non-Orthodox Jewish converts in Israel](#)” in *Crescent City Jewish News*, New Orleans.

Tax Receipts — Second Notice

This is a second reminder that you **must** request tax receipts for United States contributions to ASK. We do not automatically send year end receipts. We greatly appreciate your contributions, and hope the receipt

¹ Read the “[November 2005 Newsletter](#)” that introduces the 2005 article. Read also my November 2005 Commentary, “[Plagues and Prophecy](#).” It will comfort you about your future.

we send is useful for you.

New Reading of Restoring the Original Bible Is Online

A new and professional reading Dr. Ernest Martin's book [*Restoring the Original Bible: The Design and Development of the Holy Scriptures*](#) will go online on **January 1, 2023**. It was read by a different reader than Dr. Martin's other 8 books. You will enjoy it and learn more about the Bible than you ever thought possible.

Speaking of ASK Audios ...

Besides new professional readings of each of Dr. Martin's printed books. ASK also has an extensive audio page of recordings. On the "[Ask Audio Presentations](#)" are several lectures by Dr. Martin that were transcribed and turned into articles. In some you can read the article while you listen to the audio of Dr. Martin's voice, or my readings.

In the transcribed written articles, I edit and change wording for reasons of space, to reduce *occasional* repetition, but also for clarity. I often fully quote verses and other information for context when it is appropriate. This is what an editor does.

What many of you might not know, on the "[Ask Audio Presentations](#)" under the listing of "[The Byte Show Presentations](#)" are **342 audios!** I counted them. Most are around 1 hour or longer. I recorded them on *The Byte Show* with [GeorgeAnn Hughes](#) who died in April 2015. It was a multi-year collaboration as I read Dr. Martin's books, but I mostly read Articles and Commentaries both by Dr. Martin and my own writings. Enjoy them all!

A few days ago (as I write this) we received this note from a listener: **"I would like to Thank David Sielaff for *The Byte Show* messages that have helped on my journey here on this earth [and] age. Wow, thank you. It also helped map in my mind an image of the Holy Land!"**

Kind Words From ASK Readers

A contributor and long-time friend of Dr. Martin and ASK responded to my notice about the first two NEW audiobook readings of [ABCs of the Gospel](#) and [The Tithing Dilemma](#) that are now free online on the ASK website:

I have been going through the two audios you mentioned and everything you said about them I have found so correct and right.

May our Heavenly Father continue to bless you all at ASK in the work you are doing, rest assured you are always in my prayers. [signature], England

Thank You

Let me repeat what I wrote in the "[November 2005 Newsletter](#)":

"The knowledge and understanding YOU have been given about YOUR salvation is a tremendous and precious gift that comes directly from God the Father and Jesus Christ, through the Holy Scriptures to YOU. The role of ASK is to make the gift of God's written Word as easy as possible for YOU to know and understand."

Dr. Martin's writing and speaking, my writing and speaking, and Ramona's notes and speaking to those who call the office, are all done with the intent to make the teaching of Scripture clear to every reader and listener. Thank you for giving ASK the means and resources to continue our efforts. May God bless you, and keep you (protect you), and give you peace, as the times we live in become increasingly more complicated.

Yes, you are loved, and God our Father is in control. Christ will return at the proper time. While we believers are God's children, it is still difficult as children to be patient.

David W. Sielaff
david@askelm.com