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Dear Associates and Friends,

May 2023

The May 2023 article is "[Christ and Messiah](#)." As you read this article remember that the Hebrew word "Messiah" has the same meaning as the Greek word "Christ." The meaning of "Christ" has been diminished because of our familiarity with the term. It is used casually by Christians everywhere, and there is nothing wrong with using it so. Therefore, "Christ" and "Messiah" are equivalent terms and represent the same concept. Both are derived from the general idea that a "Messiah" or the "Christ" is an individual who has received an anointing, usually with olive oil.

When "Christ" and "Messiah" are used to describe what Jesus has done and is doing for you, me, all humanity, and all intelligent created beings, the meaning of those synonymous titles is expanded. "Christ" is **not** the surname, the last name, of Jesus. "Christ" and "Messiah" are titles for one concept. Did you know the word "Christ" occurs 530 times in the New Testament? When such words are used so many times it indicates the importance of what the word signifies and what it conveys.

Do not ignore biblical words that are used so often. The hundreds of uses of "Christ" makes us think it is a common word, but it has uncommon and extraordinary meaning. And yes, "Christ" in the New Testament is totally associated with Jesus. Remember its importance whenever you read it. It will build your faith.

True, faith does not require evidence (it is a gift of God), but it is comforting to know that after you believe, the evidence of our faith is found in God's Word. That is why God's Scriptures were given to us:

"Now all these things

[1] **happened unto them** [Israel] **for examples: and**

[2] **they are written for our admonition,**

upon whom the ends of the world [eons] **are come.**"

• 1 Corinthians 10:11

The Scriptures are for our encouragement and for us to study. So ... what do **YOU** believe? Can you prove your beliefs from Scripture? I hope this article will deepen your understanding of the terms "Christ" and "Messiah," and you will be able to explain their importance to others when opportunities arise. The Gospel of Messiah is more profound than simply saying words like "Jesus saved me." The full nature of the process of our salvation is fully explained in the Scriptures. Enjoy the article.

Ramona Martin Update

I am happy to report that after some details are worked out, Ramona will have email communications soon. After a long stay in the hospital, she is more active, but please continue to pray that her strength continues to increase. In the meantime, email Ramona **at my email**, david@askelm.com. If the email is addressed to her, she will read it. Please, be patient with this situation.

Another New Audio Reading: "[The Temples That Jerusalem Forgot](#)"

A new professional reading of Dr. Ernest Martin's book *The Temples That Jerusalem Forgot*, read by Tom Parks, is now online. You can download the MP3 audio chapters to your computer, laptop, I-pad, or your smartphone for free. Tom's measured reading wonderfully enhances Dr. Martin's words.

A new physical Temple will be built before Christ returns. It will be a Temple that will have "living water"

for ritually cleansing of the surfaces and implements of the altars to remove the blood from the many thousands of animals sacrificed (and eaten), particularly during the spring and fall feasts in Israel. Yes, the Temple will be rebuilt, and sacrifices will be initiated.

The construction of a new Temple is just one of the many processes and events prophesied to occur before the return of Jesus Christ to step on the Mount of Olives. Every one of them will take time to plan, prepare, construct, and operate for the prophecies to be fulfilled. See my July 2016 Commentary "[Prosperity Before the End Times](#)." I outline several of those processes and events in my June 2020 article "[The End Time? Not Yet!](#)"

You will learn more about the Temples in Jerusalem than you ever dreamed possible. (Yes, I do say that about most of Dr. Martin's books.) You will learn new insights about the Temples. It is another way ASK educates people to learn more about God's work (through Christ) for you and all God's children. The Temple is a representation of God's plan in a static form. See Dr. Martin's article, "[Temple Symbolism in Genesis](#)" and my article, "[A Short History of God's Temples](#)."

The other updated online books so far are: [ABCs of the Gospel](#) (an excellent and short introduction to *Essentials*), [The Tithing Dilemma](#), [Restoring the Original Bible](#), [The Star That Astonished the World](#), [The Secrets of Golgotha](#), and [Essentials of New Testament Doctrine](#) are now online. Enjoy them all, whether you listen in your car or at home. The remaining two books will go online (God willing) in the next few months.

Communicating Information: From the Mouths Of Few To The Ears Of Many

In ancient times, most information was delivered orally, from a person's voice to the ears of the listeners. This is why in ancient Greece and Rome, the ability to use rhetoric was very important. See the webpage, "[What Is Rhetoric, and Why Is It Important?](#)" They give an operational definition of what rhetoric is and why it is useful.

In fact, the Holy Scriptures have a unique capability to communicate with people. The apostle Paul correctly wrote, "**faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God**" (Romans 10:17). The good words of Scripture will strengthen your faith, and lead you to more study, and to recognize the truths of Scripture. All the teachings of Jesus were spoken by Him (the Living Word of God) to people.

In ancient times, voices reached more minds from speakers to listeners than any copied book could reach when read alone. Books, written on clay tablets and later scrolls, were written by hand and slow to produce. Books were read at small gatherings limited by hearing distance and the strength of the speaker's voice.

This is why listening to the Scriptures read aloud is a wonderful way to learn while relaxing, or doing chores, whether you listen to Psalms, historical books, prophetic books, or the Old Testament writings, or the New Testament Gospels, epistles, or Revelations. Each writing in Scripture has a unique way to convey the quick, powerful, and sharp Word of God (Hebrews 4:12). Remember also the words of the Psalmist: "**How precious also are your thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!**" (Psalm 139:17).

Thank You

We all like to think of ourselves as independent operators in life, and all too often even independent from God. Most of us like to think of ourselves as independent mature adults. This too is vanity. As the apostle John wrote (in 1 John 2:1, 12–13, 18, 28, 3:8, 18, 4:4, and 5:21), in God's eyes all believers are "**little children**." I am, we all are. We do spiritually what little children do: bump into walls and fall on their butts. The 3-year-old does it a bit less than a 2-year-old, but both are helpless to provide for themselves. We, all believers, are dependent on God the Father, Christ, and the *ekklesia* (the body of Christ), to nurture us more than we realize.

So too, we at ASK are dependent on your prayers, encouragement, and financial support. Lacking any of these three things we could not put forth the spiritual nourishment we can provide to you. We greatly appreciate your financial support. We thank God for you, and we thank you.

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