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Dear Associates and Friends,

July 2023

There are two articles this month. Both have to do with interpreting Scripture. The articles approach biblical texts in different ways. You may learn about biblical text in ways you may not have understood before. Both are articles by Dr. Ernest Martin, and both are from the 1970s. Both are new to the ASK website.

The First Article, Who Is Called To The Great Commission?

The first article is "[Misuse of Scriptural Interpretation](#)" written in 1978. The instructions the risen Christ gave to the 12 apostles (with Matthias replacing Judas) was to preach the Gospel to the world. Often called "The Great Commission," these instructions given by Christ were intended only for a few people, the apostles. They were not given to every preacher, every missionary, or to every Christian to work hard and receive rewards for teaching the truths of "The Gospel of Messiah"¹ and Savior to the world. Those instructions and orders were given only to those twelve individuals. Dr. Martin explains why every Christian is not called to perform the Great Commission to teach the Gospel. (See Dr. Martin's "[Use and Abuse of the Holy Scriptures](#).")

However, should you choose to do so, God will reward you, whatever your level of ability or skill, not because you are obeying God's orders, but because you want to do so to help others. I would hope this would be the motivation of every preacher or teacher, with whatever resources God has given you, and will develop within you. Please, do not think God has commanded you and every Christian to preach or teach the Gospel to the world. It is not your mission. Peter tells us our appropriate approach to interacting with others about our faith in God and Christ:

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you [and answer] with meekness and fear."

• **1 Peter 3:15**

Peter was writing those words in the context of his readers suffering, for doing good works. You will, however, receive a great reward because you volunteer to do so.

The Second Article, Did He Or Didn't He?

Did he or did he not kill his daughter? It is a mystery — perhaps a murder mystery. The means and method are clearly stated in the biblical text. The second article this month is a study of scriptural textual analysis. The title of Dr. Martin's article, written 48 years ago(!) in 1975 is: "[Did Jephthah Sacrifice His Daughter?](#)" You will learn information about this question from seven different perspectives of scriptural analysis of Judges 10:6 to 12:7. Then Dr. Martin will give you his conclusions. I think you will be surprised in several different ways about the factors that inform the readers of the Book of Judges.

I think you will enjoy reading both these articles.

Israel Trip, September 2023

There are still openings for the trip to Israel between September 18–29. You need to sign up and make

¹ See my article "[The Gospel of Messiah](#)" and a related article by Dr. Martin, "[The Elijah to Come](#)." Both have to do with the Gospel of the Kingdom of God being preached before Christ returns to this earth.

arrangements quickly.

Should you choose to spend days before or after the organized tour, I have a list of “sites” to see in secure areas that will be worth your while to visit in Tel Aviv, along the coast, or in the Jerusalem area that are not usually visited by formal tours. However, time is running out.

Robin and I will join Bob Cornuke and the people of Koinonia House on a trip to Israel. Other researchers into the Gihon Temple evidence also hope to “connect” with the tour. This will allow Bob, myself, and others to have iron sharpening iron regarding the Temple, Golgotha, and Fort Antonia sites. Some ASK people will join us, including one lady that Robin and I traveled to Israel in 1983 with Dr. Martin. I know she will be surprised how much has changed (and how much has remained the same). As I wrote before, I will give lectures in the evenings to whoever will listen and join us. Click the PDF for the “[Israel Tour Announcement](#)” or <https://www.askelm.com/news/n230505.pdf>. Join us if you can.

As I mentioned before, the tour leaders say an individual should be able to walk 2 miles per day with frequent stops to rest. And ... time to rest on the bus.

Such trips are necessary to learn first-hand about the new discoveries that archaeologists have made since my last trip in 2019 and their creative explanations.

Ramona Martin’s Situation

I must report that Ramona’s spirits are high but she is increasingly tired and her mobility has decreased. When she moves around the home she resides in, she must use a wheelchair, as a walker no longer serves her decreasing strength.

She eats well, stays hydrated, goes outside when possible. She and one of her friends like to go on the patio “swing” and swap experiences and stories. Select friends have been visiting or calling her. Every time Robin and I visit, Ramona is in good humor. Ramona reports that the staff is attentive to her and the others in their care.

The Last ASK Audiobook: [101 Bible Secrets That Christians Do Not Know, Is Now Online](#)

A new professional reading of Dr. Martin’s audio (the last of his nine books to go online) has finally been uploaded to the ASK website. This book is also read by Tom Parks. You can access the audio MP3 files of the book chapters for free and download them to your computer, laptop, I-pad, or smartphone. The narrative is smooth for easy listening. Tom Park’s reading of Dr. Martin’s words gives the right emphasis on the message. Listen to one “Secret,” and you will listen to all the other 100 secrets.

Thank You

Your prayers and encouragement mean much to us. I need to publish more of the joyful communications from those who found ASK (through a multitude of ways) and they cannot believe the “quality” of the information about the Bible. They are surprised that they learn so much so quickly because the information of the Scriptures “come alive” as if they are reading old texts for the first time.

Keep your encouraging words coming. They sustain us and we wish we could fully acknowledge the expressions of love, affection and support that so many of you give. They brighten Ramona’s days.

Thank you also for your continued financial support during these difficult economic times. We know you understand the quality of Dr. Martin’s writings and work. We depend on God to encourage you to purchase our books and videos for yourself and others. Thank you for your continued financial support for the work of A.S.K., that continues the legacy of Dr. Martin’s wide-ranging research so the truths of God may spread widely. “Knowledgeable” brothers and sisters in the Family of God understand that no one is superior to any other person, yet you are able to give and continue to support ASK. Thank you.

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