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Dear Associates and Friends,

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I wrote this month's article in 2006, titled "[The Pagan Immortal Soul and Double Doctrine](#)." It is based on a short 1963 article by Ernest L. Martin. It was published in *The Good News* magazine titled "[Pagan Doctrine of the Soul — Deliberate Deception!](#)" beginning on page 6. Ernest Martin was an instructor at one of the colleges of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) when he wrote the article.

I requested permission to reprint the article from the copyright holder, an organization that had legal copyrights for Radio Church of God and the later Worldwide Church of God materials. My request was refused. The leaders changed their beliefs to accept the immortal soul doctrine and rejected the original biblical teaching that the dead are dead and not alive in some disembodied state.

After a few months I decided to write my own article using the biblical and historical sources Dr. Martin used in his *Good News* article. I expanded the quotations of some sources and added new information. I wondered if Dr. Martin's original article was shortened for some reason, perhaps because of space limitations. There was much more to be presented as I continued to research, particularly the work of William Warburton, a resource in Dr. Martin's library. Warburton's work on "double doctrine" or "double teaching" was very informative. For this month's article I added information by ancient authors, and told more about the lying by the elites of ancient society. Today we call it "disinformation." At that time the WCG taught the biblical truth of "resurrection" rather than an "immortal soul" for God's created mankind.

Professor Oscar Cullmann

In 1958 an internationally-known Lutheran scholar wrote a 60-page book: [Immortality of the Soul or Resurrection of the Dead?](#) (Click the link for the complete book.) He was Oscar Cullmann. Dr. Martin had the book in his Portland office library. I applaud Cullmann because he wrote against his own Lutheran beliefs and tradition in his rejection of the "immortal soul" teaching. Also, he often referred to "universalism."

Cullmann gives a strong biblical exegesis supporting "resurrection" and refuting an immortal soul teaching in Scripture, and then he quotes pagan philosophers and political leaders who told "common people" that human beings each had an immortal soul. These pagan authors admitted to lying in their correspondence. Cullmann and Martin both quote pagan sources, but even Christian leaders admit to deliberately lying about an "immortal soul," often adding dire threats of torment in *hades* if the people were disobedient.

The "wise" and powerful in ancient societies linked the immortal soul teaching to threats of punishment after death to control people. It was a useful and effective lie "for the good of society." They praised themselves and called it "leadership."

Today the lie is still believed. Oscar Cullmann's first words of his "Introduction" tell the story:

"If we were to ask an ordinary Christian today (whether well-read Protestant or Catholic, or not), what he conceived to be the New Testament teaching concerning the fate of man after death, with few exceptions we should get the answer: 'The immortality of the soul.' Yet this widely-accepted idea is one of the greatest misunderstandings of Christianity."

- **Oscar Cullmann, [Immortality of the Soul or Resurrection from the Dead?](#)**

Professor Cullmann was widely criticized for expressing and defending the true biblical teaching that sinning souls will die (and not remain alive in some disembodied state) as it says in Ezekiel 18:4, 20; Romans 6:23;

Galatians 3:10–13, 22). Every human soul is the property of God. He owns your soul (Ezekiel 18:4).

By The Time You Read This ...

... my wife Robin and I will have returned from Israel. I hope to have details about new findings in Israel and particularly in Jerusalem. There is always something new being opened to the public. Some changes are significant and others ... not so much.

Let me give one general impression I gained in the last five years or so. It comes from speaking with others about the Temples in Jerusalem, when I was last in Israel in 2019, in discussions at conferences (before the Corona virus), in correspondence, and from reading comments on websites both for and against the Gihon location of the Temples. More and more people are showing interest in the topic both inside and outside of Israel. Several tour guides I have spoken to (even when not on their tour) are aware of the Gihon Temple proposition, but they are required to present the traditional narrative of the “Temple Mount.” Perhaps God will allow future evidence to be discovered to convince even the most negative sceptics.

Widespread acceptance of the Gihon location would greatly benefit the Jewish people. Why? Well, the construction of the Temples could begin very soon, with very little opposition from Muslim, Arab, or Palestinian authorities. After all, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, and Solomon are “prophets” of Islam. God had Solomon build the Temple.

In my opinion, Dr. Martin’s original research and evidence — that all the Temples were built at the same location, above and west of the Gihon Spring in the City of David — is progressively gaining support.

Increased PRICING for the ASK Books – The Last Notice

I am mentioning one last time that prices of all but one of the ASK books by Dr. Martin will increase by \$2.00 per book. We pay for shipping within the continental United States. Some exceptions:

- The sole exception is Dr. Martin’s book [Secrets of Golgotha](#). The price of this book remains at \$27.95. We have a quantity still in stock. Buy more than one, they make excellent gifts.
- Dr. Martin’s short book [ABCs of the Gospel](#) is only available FREE online.
- The DVD video “[Jerusalem and the Lost Temple of the Jews](#)” also remains at \$24.95.
- The DVD video “[Elohim and the Son of God](#)” remains priced \$10.00.

We are forced to raise prices (they have been unchanged for 12+ years) because production and shipping costs have increased over the years. Years ago, small publishers would print 5,000 copies of one book or 3,000 of another. Then there was the cost of storing the books. You can help us by buying more than one product. Our printer produces one book at a time. However, now the cost of printing and shipping one book at a time is a very small profit margin. We stopped shipping books outside the continental United States due to unreliable parcel mail. We lost money and lost friends when books went missing overseas. There is little or no remedy. Other ministries report the same difficulties.

Thank You

God has blessed us to continue ASK with minimal disruption even while we miss Ramona Martin’s laughter, input, and her patience in listening. She loved the work she did, despite her declining capacity due to age. We worked together for 21+ years since Ernest Martin died. God willing, we intend to work as God brings people to the ASK website as He sees fit to do so, for them to learn what He wants them to know, both basic and advanced biblical knowledge. Dr. Martin worked to discover the truths of God. We try to honor God by presenting some of the best biblical teaching available. There is more to be done. Thank you for helping us to continue that legacy. We are grateful to God and to you.

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