

Associates for Scriptural Knowledge • P.O. Box 25000, Portland, OR 97298-0990, USA  
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 Webpage on the Internet: <https://www.askelm.com> • E-Mail address: [askoffice@askelm.com](mailto:askoffice@askelm.com)

Dear Associates and Friends,

January 2024

There are two articles this first month of 2024. Both articles answer serious questions that people think about. In each article Dr. Ernest Martin chooses his words carefully to answer these two interesting and important questions. The first article is "Where Is God?" The second is "Reincarnation, Fiction or Fact?"

### ***"Where IS God?"***

The first article is "[Where Is God?](#)" Is God our Father an absentee father? This article is from a 1978 taped lecture by Dr. Ernest Martin. Is God truly distant from us? Yes. At this time in God's "**purpose of the eons**" (Ephesians 3:11, Greek) we cannot see God's hand in our lives. This is what God wants for us at this time. After all, God our Father "**works all things after the counsel of His own will**" (Ephesians 1:11) and not according to what we wish He would do.

Every action done by God in regard to you as a believer, is done to benefit you and your spiritual growth. God seems to be absent, but He through Christ and angelic caretakers are "nurturing" us in ways we cannot imagine at this time. We will realize and understand this truth only after our resurrection to glory at Christ's return (Isaiah 64:4; 1 Corinthians 2:9). At this moment, we who are alive are "babes" in Christ who want our desires fulfilled **NOW**, barely realizing that "**As newborn babes, [we believers] desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby**" (1 Peter 2:2).

As believers, we strive to obey God's law of love (Romans 13:8–10; Galatians 5:13–14). We are not yet able to discern how and when They care for us. We are mostly blind to the spiritual reality around us.

We will learn more about how we are cared for when we consult our entry in the "**book of life**" (Psalm 69:28; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 3:5, 13:8, 17:8, 20:12, 15, 21:27). For we believers in God and Christ's resurrection, our next moment after death will be filled with God's presence as we are filled with God's own Holy Spirit, just as Christ is now. (Those who do not believe must wait to "see" God face to face. All will do so according to God's will, Ephesians 1:11, 1 Timothy 1:3–6, 4:9–11; 1 John 3:2).

### ***Reincarnation?***

The second article is new to the ASK website. It is titled "[Reincarnation, Fiction or Fact?](#)" Dr. Martin wrote it in 1980. In this article he carefully examines the kinds of "proofs" for reincarnation and compares them with the biblical statements and evidence.

Many in the world today believe reincarnation is true, some even say they believe the Bible has evidence for reincarnation. Dr. Martin also deals with that issue.

A key verse in this examination is the last three verses of Hebrews chapter 9:

**"For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world [the eons, plural] has He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.**

**And as it is appointed unto men ONCE to die, but after this the judgment:**

**So Christ was ONCE offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."**

• **Hebrews 9:26–28**

The word "**judgment**" in verse 27 above does not only involve punishment, for we are saved by grace (Acts

15:11, Ephesians 2:5, 8; 2 Timothy 1:9). As believers, our “**judgment**” by God brings rewards.

“**Judgment**” will cause people to acknowledge the evils they committed. That will involve punishment, sometimes very severe: “**It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God**” (Hebrews 10:31).

“**Judgment**” focuses the attention of those who are yet to be called, or those who have fallen away from the faith. They will be educated and taught that they are already saved through the risen Christ, the captain of our salvation, to save every human being. “**Judgment**” will also bring reconciliation with those who have harmed us and reconcile us to those we have harmed. All this is part of “judgment” by God our Father, and Christ our elder brother.

“**Righteous are you, O YHWH, and upright [honorable] are your judgments.**”

• *Psalm 119:137*

“**YHWH executes [finishes] righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.**”

• *Psalm 103:6*

“**With my soul have I desired you in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek you early: for when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.**”

• *Isaiah 26:9*

“**For as you in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: Even so have these also now not believed, [why?] that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. For God has concluded them ALL in unbelief, [why?] that He might have mercy upon all.**”

• *Romans 11:30–32*

## *Remembering Ramona Martin*

Some of you have written memories to the ASK webpage with your memories of Ramona Martin. I have not yet contributed because I wanted others to give their comments first. See “[Remembering Ramona Martin](#).” For those who are not internet and receive the ASK material by snail mail, please send us your remembrances of Ramona in a letter, or when you contribute. Soon, we will put online another remembrance webpage: “Remembering Dr. Ernest Martin.” We will let you know when that will occur.

## *ASK Receipts for 2023 Contributions*

ASK receipts will be sent in the middle of January 2024 for those of you who contributed to ASK during the calendar year of 2023. You must request a receipt; we do not automatically send them. You can request a receipt at any time, and we will send it in a timely manner.

## *Thank You*

We thank God for you who provide regular financial support for ASK. God directs new people to the ASK website from around the world as He sees fit to do so. Those new to ASK say they feel privileged to finally study and learn interesting and surprising truths from God’s Word for the first time in their lives.

All should strive to become “independent learners” from the Scriptures. Many of you do just that, teaching yourselves from the Bible beyond what you learn from ASK. People new to ASK are glad they do not have to “join” a group, a movement, or a leader to learn those truths. “**For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ**” (2 Corinthians 2:17).

People around the world receive ASK material free through the internet. You help us continue that service, and we require contributions to continue publishing the Commentaries, Newsletters and Articles that you read and listen to. There may be many who do not communicate with us, yet God reaches them through ASK. We produce material for grownups, in-depth yet directly explained, about what the Bible teaches. Thank you for your financial support, prayers, and encouragements.

David Sielaff  
[david@askelm.com](mailto:david@askelm.com)