

Associates for Scriptural Knowledge • P.O. Box 25000, Portland, OR 97298-0990 USA
 © ASK, June 2020 • All rights reserved • Number 6/20

Telephone: 503 292 4352

• Internet: www.askelm.com •

Email: askoffice@askelm.com

The End Time? Not Yet!

by David Sielaff, June 2020

Read the accompanying [Newsletter for June 2020](#)



The term “End Time” indicates a period of unspecified length before a more defined seven-year period prior to the return of Christ back to this earth.¹ Therefore, three time periods will transpire: (1) the End Time, (2) the seven-year period (also called the Tribulation),² and (3) the period of Christ’s return also called “The Day of the Lord” which will be a short but undefined amount of time. We cannot yet know when the End Time begins, but as I will show, we are several decades from the End Time. The signs will be obvious as it approaches.

Dr. Ernest Martin wrote nine books on various biblical and historical issues, but he never wrote a book on Bible prophecy. He had more than enough information to do so. ASK has published over 120 studies on a wide range of topics involving prophecy, over decades of research and teaching, most of it by Dr. Martin.

Why then did he not write books on Bible prophecy? I believe the reason was that too much information was still unknown to him. He did not presume to know the answers to missing pieces of prophetic evidence, most of which are still needed today. Information from history, the hard sciences, and archaeology are still needed to be known before prophecy can be better understood and taught. Dr. Martin taught the truth at the moment. He did not hesitate to change his teaching or remove old articles when more accurate data came to his attention.

Some have thought Dr. Martin set dates. He did not; but he did “play with dates and numbers” and he published those results. Some thought he pinpointed the year 2028, just 8 years away from June 2020 as I publish this article. In the 1990s Dr. Martin felt that time frame was a possibility for Christ’s return.

Before he died in January 2002, Dr. Martin had mostly completed an article “[The 'Great Generation' and Modern Prophecy](#).” I published it in December 2002. In that article Dr. Martin came to understand that Christ’s return would not occur about 26 years, plus or minus a year, from 2002, but later toward the end of

¹ Other phrases speak of the same period as the “End Time.” In Daniel 8:17, 11:35, 40, 12:4, 9 this period is termed “**the time of the end**” in the King James Version and most modern translations. In Daniel 8:19 it is phrased “**the appointed time of the end**,” or something close in phrasing. This is a similar time period to “**the last days**” in Genesis 49:1; Isaiah 2:2; Micah 4:1; Acts 2:17; 2 Timothy 3:1; Hebrews 1:2; and 2 Peter 3:3; and “**the latter days**” in Numbers 24:14; Deuteronomy 4:30, 31:29; Jeremiah 23:20, 30:24, 48:47, 49:39; Ezekiel 38:16; Daniel 2:28, 10:14; and Hosea 3:5.

² The Tribulation occurs within the End Time and mostly concerns the people of Israel. This seven year period will be shortened for the sake of the elect people of God (Matthew 24:22; Mark 13:20).

the 21st century. Here is part of Dr. Martin's conclusion to his "Great Generation" article:

"... we are told [in Scripture], that as the End-Time nears, we will be given more truths as to the fulfillment of the prophecies. The matter simply comes down to this: Can we parallel in outline form our own events that are prophesied to happen in this End-Time generation with the exact events that occurred in the 'Great Generation' from the time of Christ's birth to the death of John the apostle? In showing any relevance to these matters, we must all use the REPETITIOUS or the CIRCULAR manner that the Scripture sanctions in several books of the Old Testament (and vindicated in the New Testament). None of us yet know for sure, but let us keep our eyes on these prophetic 'keys' and others that God will open up to our knowledge."

Dr. Martin came to understand, for reasons presented in the article, that several decades will transpire (perhaps seven or even eight decades) before Christ returns. The End Time will begin sometime before the seven years of the tribulation. Now, 18 years since Dr. Martin's death, I still agree with his understanding. I will present supporting information of events that should occur before Christ returns. These events make it extremely unlikely Christ will return in a "few" years.³ Similar anticipation of the coming of Messiah was widespread in the 1st century BC just as the return of Christ after His ascension was anticipated in the 1st century AD.⁴

If the End Time Is Not Now, Where Are We in Prophecy?

What Jesus told the Pharisees and Sadducees in His day, applies to our day also:

"The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them,

'When it is evening, you say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering. O you hypocrites, you can discern the face of the sky; but can you not discern the signs of the times?'"

• *Matthew 16:1–3 (also Luke 12:56)*

We must observe current events to understand trends as they move the world toward fulfilling prophecies God has given. This is difficult because there has been a long span of time without any fulfillments other than the Israelite people returning to the land God promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Political powers, even world powers of darkness, attempt to distract our attention and thwart God's purposes. They will fail. We need to avoid being caught up in their machinations as they oppose God. Here is an excerpt from Dr. Martin's 1995 article "[China in Prophecy](#)."

"God has designed the historical circumstances in His plan for mankind so that Israel should be the nation to present to China and other Gentiles the teachings of God. That is what God called Israel to do as the priestly nation to the world.

However, the people of Israel are not YET doing their prophesied role of taking the message of salvation to the world. They began to do it in the time of the apostles, but because they, as a nation and as a people, failed to accept the teachings of their Messiah (Jesus Christ). Christ

³ God can change His mind at any time, of course. See "[The Repentance of God in the Bible](#)."

⁴ Read "[The Expectation of Christ's Second Coming in Apostolic Times](#)" for reasons why Israel expected the Messiah to come in their generation, and Christians thought their Messiah/Savior would return. An interesting set of prophetic cycles ended just before the year 63 AD. This understanding helped contribute to the Jewish rebellion that began three years later in 66 AD with surprising success at the beginning. Many Jews thought the Messiah would rescue them. Jerusalem was conquered by Rome in 70 AD, seven years after 63 AD, thought by some to be the 7 years period of tribulation.

In addition, seven supernatural events occurred around Jerusalem (and even at the Temple) that further heightened expectations of the public, the Jewish leaders, and the priesthood. "[Signs of the Times in the First Century](#)" tells of those signs. Dr. Martin's article "[The History of the Revelation of the Mystery](#)" tells how the *ekklesia* of God dealt with a new revelation that signaled a delay of Christ's return. Many disappointed believers fell away from the faith. Additional information is presented in "[Chapter 16: The Jewish/Roman War and Canonization](#)," and in two later chapters in Dr. Martin's [Restoring the Original Bible](#).

prophesied that the responsibility for teaching the Gospel would be given to another nation to do the job (Matthew 21:43).

‘Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation [ethnei, nation] bringing forth the fruits thereof.’ (Matthew 21:43)

This was not another ‘race,’ but another ‘nation’ of people (Romans 10:19):

‘But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses said, ‘I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people [ethnei, nation], and by a foolish nation [same Greek word, ethnei, nation] I will anger you.’ (Romans 10:19)

Some in that nation would bring forth the fruits of the Gospel. So, Paul said the responsibility for getting out the Gospel then fell to the Gentiles, particularly to the people of the Roman nation and its empire (Romans 11:11–17). The Gentiles of the Roman Empire (and their descendants) would take over Israel’s place until what Christ called the end of ‘the times of the Gentiles’ (Luke 21:24) would occur.”⁵

The Gentiles in turn were corrupted just as Paul told his young associate Timothy. We are approaching “**the last days**” in a passage you probably know well:

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, ... traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

• **2 Timothy 3:1–5**

Let us examine what has not been happening up to the present day:

Has the Gospel Been Preached TO All the World?

First let me state — the Gospel of the Kingdom of God has been “... **preached IN all the world ...**” but it has not been preached “**for a witness unto all nations**” (Matthew 24:14). **A witness to what?** What will the world witness? It will witness God working through Israel to fulfill the calling for which God set apart from the nations (the Gentiles). This preaching of the Gospel will be aided by “**Prosperity Before the End Times.**”

God set Israel apart to perform a task. They were to be a select people that God gave special attention to, beginning at Sinai. Their purpose was to be a light to the world and a holy nation. YHWH told Moses:

“And you [Israel] shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak unto the children of Israel.”

• **Exodus 19:6**

What are a priest’s main functions? Priests (1) mediate between God and men, and (2) priests teach men about God. The apostle Peter, speaking to those Jews in the dispersion scattered abroad (1 Peter 1:1) wrote:

“You also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

... But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

• **1 Peter 2:5, 9**

The apostle Paul anguished over Israel’s failure in his lifetime to fulfill that purpose. He wrote of it in Romans 9:30, and continued his explanation through all of chapters 10 and 11. The apostle Paul said the word of God went “**unto the ends of the world**” (Romans 10:18), meaning the inhabited world. He did not say it fulfilled Christ’s commission. The Gospel has not been preached to all the world. It was one of the things to

⁵ Note also what it is that shall “**end.**” It is “**the times [plural] of the Gentiles**” that end. Several prophetic trends involving the Gentiles shall be completed when those “times” end. These need to be better understood.

be done before He would return:

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world [Why?] for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”

• *Matthew 24:14, KJV*⁶

This must be completed before Christ returns. It will not happen within a few months or in 2 or 3 years. It will happen over several decades. It will begin slowly and expand. It takes time to absorb God’s truths.

Just as God has done with you and me, He will open the eyes and ears of the people of the world to receive the Gospel. They will receive the message that everyone is “already saved” and there is nothing they can “do” to “get saved.” God gives them the ability to receive the information, He gives the faith to believe. All is from God. That is truly “good news.” When God begins to call Israel to belief, it will begin in Jerusalem. It was not fulfilled in the 1st century AD. It will be fulfilled in the future:

“Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! when YHWH brings back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.”

• *Psalm 14:7 and 53:6*

God’s people were brought back from Babylon, returned to the land of Judea, were dispersed again by the Romans. In the late 1940s God caused some to return from around the world to their own land. For 50+ years, the nation of Israel has existed and now a good percentage have returned.

The prophets Isaiah and Micah say that the Law will go forth from Zion to the nations. It began with Christ teaching the Law of love toward God and man, yet Christ’s commission was fulfilled only in part by His apostles and disciples, which is what God allowed to happen at that time. It will be completed in the future. Hopefully, we will see the beginning of this word of YHWH going forth from Jerusalem:

“The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of YHWH’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

And many people shall go and say, ‘Come you, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths’: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem.”

• *Isaiah 2:1–3 (and Micah 4:1–2)*

In the days of Isaiah and Micah, Zion was centered at the Temple, in the middle of ancient Jerusalem. Some may say, that will occur after Christ returns. Really? If true, then do the last days begin after Christ returns to earth? Are the last days the beginning of the 1,000-year reign of Christ? No. In these verses **“the last days”** encompass a period both before and after Christ returns to set His feet on the Mount of Olives, in the name of YHWH (Zechariah 14:3–4). God today is still setting the stage for the End Time. Christ, acting on behalf of YHWH, will judge the nations who will already know the law and the Word of YHWH:

“And he [YHWH] shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

• *Isaiah 2:4 (Micah 4:3, a variant)*

God’s command for Israel to be a light of the nations was to **“the house of the God of Jacob”** (Isaiah 2:3 above) meaning all Israelites, called the Jews in the New Testament. Yet we find that the twelve apostles (Matthias replaced Judas, Acts 1:26) went only to the House of Israel. They went throughout the Roman

⁶ Concordant Literal Version gives a useful perspective of Matthew 24:14:

“And heralded shall be this evangel of the kingdom in the whole inhabited earth [Why?] for a testimony to all the nations, and then the consummation shall be arriving.”

Empire and to the ends of the earth wherever there were Israelites.

God says Israel will be responsible for teaching the ways of God to the whole of the human race.⁷ Israel has a priestly mission to relate the messages of God to the rest of the world (Exodus 19:6; Isaiah 61:6; Deuteronomy 7:6). The nation of Israel was called and created to perform an important service as God's agent to the nations. God speaks through the prophet Isaiah:

“And now, says YHWH that formed me from the womb [1] to be his servant, [2] to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered [Israel's exile was still future], yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of YHWH, and my God shall be my strength. And he said,

‘It is a light thing that you should be my servant to

[1] raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to [2] restore the preserved [margin: desolate lands]⁸ of Israel; I will also [3] give you a light to the Gentiles,

[Why?] that you may be my salvation⁹ unto the end of the earth.”

• *Isaiah 49:5–6*

The word “tribes” of Jacob is plural, referring to all the people of Israel. They were to be, or bring, the salvation of YHWH to the Gentiles even to **“the end of the earth.”**

This has not happened in history. It did not occur when the apostles preached the Gospel to the circumcised in the world (meaning Israelites), nor was it completed by the apostle Paul and his associates. That ministry was to benefit the Gentiles, teaching them about the coming Kingdom of God, their individual salvation, and their destiny, and that of all mankind, to become like Christ is now (1 John 3:2). The recognition by the Gentiles taught them about [1] YHWH being the Creator and God of all; [2] the Gentiles being converted and having equality with Israel; and [3] the world changing their ways.

It was not, and is not now, for the Gentiles to teach the Gospel that will change the world. It has not been done by any Christian denomination, sect, organization, or group. The Roman Catholic Church has not been successful in taking the gospel to the world, nor have the orthodox Christian churches been successful, nor have the evangelical churches, the Mormon churches, the Adventist groups, the Witness groups, nor have various “worldwide” churches been successful. All have tried. All have had increases and decreases of growth. In the end, all have failed. But they have tried. They may have planted but God has not given the increase as He said He would do because it has not pleased Him to do so up to this moment.¹⁰

The process begins with the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and those who believe and follow Him:

“And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, says YHWH. As for me, this is my covenant with them, says YHWH;

My spirit that is upon you, and my words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart [1] out of your mouth, nor [2] out of the mouth of your seed, nor [3] out of the mouth of your seed's seed, says YHWH, from henceforth and for ever [for the age and beyond].

Arise, shine; for your light is come, and the glory of YHWH is risen upon you. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness [shall cover] the people: but YHWH shall arise upon you, and his glory shall be seen upon you. And the Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”

• *Isaiah 59:20–60:3*

⁷ God enlisted Paul, Barnabas, Timothy, and others to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles, not to convert the world. At first, all the apostles, the disciples, and others who taught the Gospel to Israel, as well as Paul and his associates who taught the Gentiles, all believed that Christ would return in a few decades. That idea was held until God gave the revelation of the Mystery in 63 AD.

⁸ The Greek Old Testament has the word “dispersed,” as in **“to raise up the dispersed of Israel; I will also give you for a light to the Gentiles, that you may be [or bring] my salvation unto the end of the earth.”**

⁹ That could also be read **“to bring My salvation”** or **“become My salvation.”**

¹⁰ God has allowed these organizations to survive as corporate groups.

Did Christ Fail?

The coming of the Messiah and the Kingdom of God was preached by John the Baptist (Mark 1:14), whose purpose was to prepare the way of the Lord. He preached, **“Repent you: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”** (Matthew 3:2; Mark 1:15). John performed no miracles, yet Jesus said John was the greatest of men, **“Among them that are born of women there has not risen a greater than John the Baptist”** (Matthew 11:11). It was a call for the people to turn to righteousness and to God.

Jesus had a ministry of 2½ years, during that time the people of Judea and Samaria saw Him perform many miracles, feed people, and preach in ways more powerful than John the Baptist’s preaching. Jesus was also **“preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God”** (Mark 1:14).

His supporters praised Him. Some even proclaimed Him as King, as they **“... took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, ‘Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that comes in the name of the Lord’”** (John 12:13). They no doubt meant what they said at that moment. They honored Him on what two or three days before the Passover. He went to the Temple, cast out the moneychangers (for a second time), **“And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them”** (Matthew 21:1–16). It was an amazing ending to His ministry.

What was the result of the ministries of John and Jesus? Did the people repent? Did they turn toward God and begin to do righteousness? No, they were too much enslaved by sin.¹¹ Most who supported Jesus turned against Him days later after His arrest, and demanded He be killed. Most of His close followers deserted Him. It was as if no one learned anything and they had not changed at all. His disciples, apostles, and His family cowered in fear. None helped prepare His body, only His mother Mary and other women who followed Him, and two of the Sanhedrin council, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus (Mark 15:37–47 and John 19:31–42).

So then, did Jesus fail? No, everything went according to the plan of God, not the plan or expectation of men. In fact, everything happened precisely on time. Jesus was the Passover (1 Corinthians 5:7), sacrificing Himself and God arranging His death at the precise moment when the Passover lamb was killed by the people throughout Jerusalem on the Preparation Day before Passover.¹²

Did the Apostles Fail?

After His resurrection, Jesus showed Himself to His apostles for forty days with **“many infallible proofs”** (Acts 1:3).

It will be Israel (called “Jews” by Paul in the New Testament¹³), who in the future will be converted to recognize Jesus as their Messiah (“Christ,” to us Gentiles). It perhaps will begin soon after God rescues the people of Israel from an external attack by foreign nations (Zechariah chapter 10).

- Even with miracles, that conversion will take time to sink in, just as yours took time. God will open their minds, just as He opened your mind to accept the truth. ***This will take time to have an effect.*** How long did it take you to accept and understand that you were already saved by Christ?
- After their conversion they will have to unlearn erroneous Jewish teaching about their Messiah, and others will have to unlearn erroneous Christian teaching. ***This will happen over time.*** How long did

¹¹ See [“The Ten Commandments”](#) and [“The Laws of God.”](#)

¹² [“The Passover Contradiction”](#) deals with the symbolism of Passover in the Gospel of John. Dr. Martin’s book, [The Secrets of Golgotha: the Lost History of Jesus’ Crucifixion](#), free online, goes into great detail about the reality of Christ’s crucifixion.

¹³ The term “Jews,” plural, is generally used to designate all Israelites by the 1st centuries BC and AD. See the article [“Jew”](#) in *McClintock and Strong Biblical Cyclopedia*. Many times, the term “Jews” cannot mean only those of the tribe of Judah but includes the other tribes of Israel together. The apostle Paul himself was of the tribe of Benjamin and he considered himself to be of the “Jews” (2 Corinthians 11:22–24). As apostle to the Gentiles, Paul wrote **“... unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews”** (1 Corinthians 9:20). Paul uses the phrase **“the Jews”** as opposed to Gentiles or the non-Israelite nations in Romans 2:9–10 and Galatians 2:14. Jews are compared with Gentiles in 2 Maccabees 11:2, 24, 14:38. The term Jews is used in contrast to Greeks in Act 14:1, 18:4; 19:10; and 1 Corinthians 1:23–24. In John’s Gospel the phrase **“the Jews”** is used by John (who was of the tribe of Judah) to indicate Jewish leaders.

it take you to unlearn the errors of religion you were taught?

- After their education, they will reach out and convert their fellow Israelites (Jews) in Israel and around the world. ***This will also take time.*** Did you try to teach your relatives and friends? Few have had success. They will have better success.
- Then God will give them a spirit to take the message of the Gospel of the Kingdom and the salvation of the world to the nations. God will give them an energized spirit of evangelism never seen since the 1st century AD. ***This will take time.***

This responsibility of Israel to bring the teaching of salvation to the ends of the earth will include nations that now regard the biblical message of God and Christ in a dismissive way. Did the apostles fail? No, everything went according to the plan of God, not the plan or expectation of men.

Has Christianity Failed?

What do most Christians believe? Even though they may not hold strongly to their beliefs, let us examine what most Christians believe, which is:

- [1] an exclusionary, unscriptural, and unholy “trinity” is God;
- [2] each human being possesses an “immortal” soul;
- [3] every person must “accept” Christ or be damned, even though this is salvation by works;
- [4] an agony of fire and separation from God in an “eternal hell” for unbelievers.

Most people live as though they do not care about these beliefs, yet these concepts are taught by most every Christian denomination and most every individual church within those denominations.

They deny what Scripture teaches, that:

- [1] there is ONE God the Father and ONE Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 8:6), God’s Spirit is His power that connects God with Christ, believers, and all God’s creation;
- [2] the soul that sins will die (not live in a disembodied condition, Ezekiel 18:4, 20), then the soul will be judged (Hebrews 9:27);
- [3] salvation is by grace, not works, and that you (and everyone else) is already saved by Christ;
- [4] God wills for all to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4–6) and He will fulfill His will (Ephesians 1:11). **“We trust in the living God, who IS the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe”** (1 Timothy 4:10). **“The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death”** (1 Corinthians 15:26).

The Jews (Israelites) will preach the Gospel to the world (with the help of us Gentiles, I am sure). They will do so with energy and conviction. If they do not teach these truths, they will not be teaching the Gospel.

At the present time most Messianic Christians, and Messianic Christian groups that I am aware of, believe in the trinity, immortal soul,¹⁴ salvation by works, and eternal hell. Those that believe such teachings will have to unlearn those errors, just as most of you reading this have “unlearned” those teachings over time. Orthodox Jewish groups often teach there is one God, but no Messiah yet; he is still expected. Belief in various forms of transmigration of souls (as did the Pharisees in Christ’s day) is still being taught. See the 1905 *Jewish Encyclopedia* article “[Transmigration of Souls \(termed also Metempsychosis\)](#).”

So, did Christianity since the time of the apostles fail? No, everything went and is going according to the plan of God, not the plan or expectation of men. God is responsible to open the minds of men to receive His truths, both about the Living Word of God, and about the written Word of God.

¹⁴ See “[The Pagan Immortal Soul and 'Double Doctrine'](#)” compiled from Dr. Martin’s early writings.

Now I want to examine prophecy beliefs I have noted over the years, but I focus on my observations from a 2016 prophecy conference I attended.

Current “Trends” in Evangelical Prophecy

In 2016 I was invited to speak at a large prophecy conference. I attended as many of the other prophecy sessions as I was able. Judging from those presentations and books offered for sale by presenters, I noticed certain trends of prophetic thinking from the conference:

First, as far as I could tell, all presenters believed we are “in the End Time” now. *(They are wrong.)*

Second, I was surprised there was **NO** mention that a united Europe would be the revived Roman Empire that was the beast power ruled by the antichrist. *(That was surprising and it pleased me.)*

Third, several authors acknowledged the reality of the prophecy of Psalm 83, identifying the peoples as the 10 nations of Daniel and Revelation at the End Time. However, because they believe we are “in” the End Time, they think the attack against Israel of the Psalm 83 nations would happen soon. *(They are wrong.)*

Fourth, no one mentioned that Israel will become more prosperous than at present, particularly after the conversion to Christianity of many, perhaps most, within the land of Israel (Zechariah chapters 11–12), nor is there an understanding that civil war will break out in Israel between factions over recognition of Christ as Messiah (Zechariah 11:14, 12:10, 13:7–9). *(I cannot fault them for not knowing this.)*

Fifth, all presenters seemed to believe that the population of the world will be implanted with chips to control their buying and selling as in Revelation 13:15–17. *(This is unlikely, in my opinion.)*

Sixth, a pretribulation rapture is still expected by most evangelical speakers at the conference. They and their followers will wait in vain. *(This will not happen because it is not biblical.)*

Seventh, a belief remains that the next Temple to be built in Jerusalem is prefabricated so it can be constructed and operate quickly. This is impossible. Only Levites and Aaronic priests can work on parts of the stonework. However, many of the implements that have been made (shovels, rakes, candlesticks, firepans, basins, etc.) can be used at the discretion of whatever Sanhedrin is making those decisions. Such a religious body would “**sit in Moses’ seat**” (Matthew 23:2). *(They are wrong about prefabricated materials.)*

Eighth, presentations on single prophecies did not take note of connected prophecies. This was not evident in their presentation.¹⁵ *(I find no fault in this. Prophecy is a vast and complex subject.)*

Kingdoms and Countries Will Rise

Old nations in the Middle East will dissolve. Other nations will arise. The geographic focus of Scripture and prophecy is the land of Israel. When Christ returns Israel’s boundaries will expand to the greater area encompassing God’s promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. That land extends from the Euphrates River in the north, west to an eastern branch of the Nile River delta, then south and east to include the entire Saudi Arabian Peninsula. This area will be considered a kind of “greater Israel.” People and nations still alive after God’s judgments (based on how they treated Israel, with good or evil), after Christ’s return to Israel, will be allowed to live within those boundaries, because many are also descendants of Abraham. They will prosper. For this perspective read Dr. Martin’s “[Prophetic Geography and the Time of the End](#).”

Israel will begin to realize her place in God’s plan, as part of their conversion to acknowledge Jesus as

¹⁵ For example, one cannot study prophecy in Daniel without considering the Book of Revelation. Likewise, you cannot study the Book of Revelation without understanding its many references and allusions to other prophecies in the Old and New Testament. Such references and allusions are there for a reason. Biblical prophecy on a single topic is part of a complex mosaic that forms a picture of the future. The prophetic mosaic has the additional chronological factor adding to its complexity. All such factors are under God’s control. It is up to Him to make things clear to us in His own good time.

their Messiah. When that process begins, two branches of the people will self-identify into “two Israels.” One will be people of Judah and the other people of Israel, corresponding to the division of the southern and northern kingdoms after Solomon’s death. (This has nothing to do with the erroneous theory of British-Israelism.) At present the two branches cooperate, but there will be conflict between them. Dr. Martin believed identification of the branches are that of the Sephardic (Judahite) and Ashkenazi (Israelite) segments of the Jewish people. This is described in “[The Land of Israel in Prophecy](#)” which will explain important prophecies in the Book of Zechariah. As with all the other things, this too will sort out over time.

Babylon and its surrounding territory will be a country, perhaps Assyria will revive. The antichrist is called “**the Assyrian.**” See below under the subhead *Cities Will Be Rebuilt (and Some Destroyed)*.

The Palestinian State has a prophetic role to play before and during the End Time period. See Dr. Martin’s 2001 article “[The Prophesied State of Palestine](#).” Not only will the Palestinian state make peace with Israel, they will become prosperous trading partners to the mutual benefit of both nations. The Palestinians will give up the West Bank, but the land of Palestine will be expanded to include important Mediterranean coastal cities to increase trade with the world. Those Palestinians who wish to remain under Israeli government will likely be given citizenship. These negotiations will take time, then more time for prosperity to grow. Palestine will be one of the Ten Nations.

The Ten Nations of Psalm 83 are discussed in Dr. Martin’s Palestine article. These nations around Israel will cooperate with God’s chosen people to form an extremely prosperous regional common market with very free travel across borders. These ten nations cooperating with Israel are likely the same kingdoms mentioned in Daniel and Revelation.¹⁶ Dr. Martin wrote in his “Prophesied State of Palestine” article:

“Besides Psalm 83, there are only two other sections of scripture, which speak of a ten-nation confederacy of peoples that will be evident at the End of the Age just before the second advent of Christ. This confederacy is mentioned in the Books of Daniel and Revelation. As I have stated for the past 27 years, it is entirely possible that the ten nations of Psalm 83 are the same as those referred to in Daniel and Revelation. If so, we have some essential information about the precise peoples who will comprise that End-Time confederacy. And one of those ten nations is the nation of the Philistines (Psalm 83:7). ...”

In recent years, several prophetic teachers have “discovered” the prophetic nature of Psalm 83. Of course, they put their unique spin on the prophecy and connect it with Palestine. Where did they get that idea?

Kingdom of the South is not one of the Ten Nations of Psalm 83. Discussion of the leaders of the Kingdom of the South is below under the subhead “*Significant People ...*” It is important to understand that this kingdom is not historical but prophetic only.

Kingdom of the North also is to be distinguished from being one of the Ten Nations of Psalm 83. Discussion of the leaders of the Kingdom of the North is also under the subhead “*Significant People ...*” This kingdom is also not historical, but will happen only in the future. See Dr. Martin’s article “[Matters of Prophecy in Daniel](#).”

China is an example of what will happen in a large Gentile nation. It will experience a large-scale conversion to Christianity. This may occur after the collapse of the communist regime and after China is divided into two or more nations. Here is more from Dr. Martin’s article “[China in Prophecy](#).”

“The times of the Gentiles for teaching the Gospel to the world are about to end. Israel shall be sent a spirit of grace and supplication and they will then begin to take over their prophesied role in bringing the messages of God to the nations of the world. This was prophesied to occur once Israel would return to the Holyland and to Jerusalem. With their return, we are told that

¹⁶ The Ten Nations are not a united Europe, nor a revived Roman Empire. See my 2004 Commentary, “[The Ten Nations and the Roman Empire](#).”

God would cause a miracle to occur in Israel and to the Israelites (and this miracle is prophesied to emerge before the Second Advent of Christ). What is this miracle? It is the fact that many of the people of Israel (including some of its top leaders) are destined to accept Christ Jesus as their own Messiah. This is shown in Zechariah 12:10–14 through 13:16.”

God will send the people of Israel a miraculous spirit of grace and supplication in the not too distant future. When this develops, Israel will then begin to perform their role that God prophesied for them in bringing the message of the Gospel to the ends of the earth (Isaiah 49:6). One of the first things that Israel will do according to the prophecies is to overthrow the idolatry and idolatrous customs in the Holyland that Gentile Christians of Roman Empire origin have placed in their churches and shrines. At that time, Israel will not countenance such rampant idolatry (Zechariah 13:1–6). When a great number of Israelites in the Holyland are thus converted to Christ, we shall soon see China begin to look to Israel and the Middle East (as will all nations on earth) for the teaching of the Gospel of Christ. The Chinese will not accede to the Roman Empire form of idolatrous ‘Christendom’ as their example.”

Persia or Iran today will undergo a major change of heart toward Israel and will help Israel to resist its enemies. After Christ returns, Persia will assist the people of Israel to turn back to the land God promised them. See my April 2006 Commentary, “[Iran in Focus](#)” for background on Iran’s status. Then read Dr. Martin’s 1995 article, “[Iran in Prophecy](#).”

Mystery Babylon will develop within Israel and even within Jerusalem alongside the good that occurs when the people of Israel begin their conversion and recognize Jesus Christ as their Messiah. “[Mystery Babylon the Great](#)” explains the complex nature of this secret Babylon and how it differs from the physical Babylon during the End Time.

Significant People Who Will Make Their Appearance

The Elijah to come will be a major public figure before Christ returns. He will preach openly as did John the Baptist. Luke 1:17 says John fulfilled the prophesied Elijah’s prophetic calling of Malachi 4: Jesus said John was the prophesied Elijah to come¹⁷ (Matthew 11:14), but there would be another Elijah after John. (Read “[The Elijah to Come](#)”). Remember what the prophecy in Malachi says:

“Remember you the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet **before the coming of the great and dreadful day of YHWH**: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”

• *Malachi 4:4–6*

YHWH will send an Elijah. He will change the hearts of the children and the fathers to remember the Law of Moses, given by YHWH. This teaching of the Elijah that YHWH will send will be effective. It was not effective during the time of John the Baptist.

A Second Cyrus of Persia is prophesied to emerge to rule Iran (ancient Persia). He will be a secondary fulfillment of the Cyrus in the Books of Isaiah, Daniel, and Ezra. He allowed the Jews to rebuild their Temple after their 70 years exile from Judea. The first Cyrus did not fulfill all the prophecies. Another Cyrus will help build another Temple in Jerusalem. As above under *Persia*, see “[Iran in Prophecy](#).”

The King of the South will be a public leader of a powerful kingdom before Christ returns. The kingdom is south of Israel. He will fight several wars with his neighbors, particularly with the King of the North. What Israel’s role will be in these wars is unclear, although Israel will be geographically between two large military

¹⁷ Matthew 11:13–15:

“For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if you will receive it, **this is Elias** [Elijah], **which was for to come**. He that has ears to hear, let him hear.”

powers. This kingdom and others have not yet appeared for us to further identify them in Scripture. I personally believe the King of the South will rule a combined kingdom of Egypt, Libya, Sudan, and Saudi Arabia, along with (perhaps) other political states such as the current United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Yemen, Oman. Note that Egypt by itself is not south of Israel, nor does it have any wealth for the King of the North to desire or capture.¹⁸ The population of Egypt combined with the resources and wealth of Saudi Arabia (and Libya) would create a rich and powerful kingdom.

Such a confederation of states under a single king truly would be south of the land of Israel, hence the title or name **“kingdom of the south.”** In addition, almost all the people of such a kingdom would be Sunni Muslims. See [“Matters of Prophecy in Daniel”](#) for details regarding the Kings of the South and North and their kingdoms. In that article Dr. Martin links the relevant sections of the Books of Daniel and Revelation.

The First King of the North will apparently rule for an unspecified period that will see several wars, some he will fight against the King of the South. From Daniel 11:6 to Daniel 11:19, **only the First** King of the North is being discussed. Learn more about him by studying his successor:

The Second King of the North; and The Antichrist will be the same individual. The second King of the North, inherited his father’s throne. He will be killed, and then re-animated by a powerful spirit entity. Daniel then calls him the third King of the North. Another name of his is **“the Assyrian”** and his actions attacking Jerusalem as Christ returns are described in Isaiah 10:5–34.¹⁹ It is possible that Satan himself will inhabit the reanimated dead body of the 2nd King of the North. See the two related articles that go into detail about this individual: [“The Life and Times of the Antichrist Part 1”](#) and [“The Life and Times of the Antichrist Part 2,”](#) as well as [“Discovering the Mark of the Beast.”](#)

This king (in [“Matters of Prophecy in Daniel”](#)) does the following ...

- places the abomination of desolation in the holy place of the Temple at Jerusalem (Daniel 11:31),
- proclaims himself as a “god” above every “god” (even YHWH in heaven, Daniel 11:36),
- is invincible in war (verse 11:44),
- finally establishes his governmental seat at Jerusalem (verse 11:45), and then
- stands up against Michael the archangel at the time of the great tribulation (verse 12:1).

The False Prophet (Revelation 16:13, 19:20, 20:10) will work to promote the Antichrist as a type of “Elijah of evil.” He will do miracles (Revelation 19:20) that will astound many people and give him credibility. It is likely he will serve his masters (physical and spiritual) for decades.

The Two Witnesses will apparently assist in building the Temple in Jerusalem (see below, ***“A New Temple Will Be Built”***). These men are probably the candlesticks referred to in Zechariah 4:2–3, which is about rebuilding the Temple after Jewish exiles returned from Babylon. Those verses are referenced in Revelation 11:1–14, which tell of measuring a Temple. The two witnesses may not be alive yet.

“And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, ‘Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.’

[The angel speaks as God’s agent] **And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore [1,260] days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.”**

• **Revelation 11:1–4**

Let us work these numbers. The vision was in heaven, but John saw a completed Temple to be on earth before

¹⁸ Except for a great deal of desert sand, Egypt has no natural resources (there is some oil).

¹⁹ See [“New Prophetic Discoveries Concerning the End Time.”](#)

Christ's return. (No such Temple existed in history.) The next Temple will have a unique feature; Gentiles can enter the court of Israel where animal offerings were killed, cooked, and presented to God by the Levitical priests. The Temple will be **"... tread under foot forty and two months"** which equals 1260 days (42 months x 30 days/month = 1,260 days).

The two witnesses will be given power to prophesy the same amount of time, expressed as 1,260 days, or 3½ years with a completed Temple. I believe the two witnesses will likely be involved in the decision-making process and possibly be involved in construction of the next Temple.

It is also possible that one of the two witnesses will be the Elijah to come.²⁰ The other will be a Moses-like law-giving individual. Remember, when Jesus was on a high mountain²¹ with Peter, James, and his brother John. Jesus was suddenly transfigured to glory in vision and the figures of Elijah and Moses appeared before the three apostles (Matthew 17:1–14; Mark 9:1–8). A voice spoke with a message from God the Father, **"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear you him"** (Matthew 17:5).

Cities Will Be Rebuilt (and Some Destroyed)

Damascus, a great city with a rich past, endured much damage in the recent and ongoing Syrian civil war. Damascus will be rebuilt. There is little time for peace to begin, then reconstruction so YHWH can "dwell" for a time in Damascus, for it will be called "Zion," a place of God's presence.²² Jewish sages understood the prophecy was to be fulfilled, as shows in an excerpt from Dr. Martin's article, "[The Damascus Phase of End-Time Prophecy](#)":

"Damascus and its environment will play an important part in commencing the End-Time events of the Bible. The Jewish authorities in the 11th century AD moved to Damascus to await the beginning of this 'Damascus Phase' which they could easily read in the Scriptures. They did this because that period of time was precisely 1000 years away from the generation that saw the destruction of the City of Jerusalem and the Temple of Herod in 70 AD. Though the Jewish authorities at the time believed that they could then begin the countdown to the arrival of the Messiah (whom they then expected), they were much too early in their prophetic calculations. This was because they failed to take into account the chronology that God the Father centered on His Son, Jesus Christ."

Ancient Babylon will also be rebuilt. Several prophecies tell of the rebuilding of the ancient city of Babylon. Author F.E. Marsh wrote about Babylon's revival in his 1925 article (95 years ago!) "[Will Babylon Be Rebuilt?](#)" Using a different line of biblical evidence, Dr. Ernest Martin wrote his 1975 article (45 years ago) titled "[The Rebirth of Babylon](#)." The restoration of peace in Iraq and the rebuilding of Babylon was prevented by the 2nd Gulf War as I point out in my February 21, 2006 Commentary "[More on Rebuilding Babylon](#)." As Scripture tells us, the future Babylon will be one of the major depositories for the wealth of the world (Revelation chapter 18).²³

Mystery Babylon is Jerusalem (Revelation chapter 17). Mystery Babylon will be a hidden construction of opposition to God. Idolatry and witchcraft will be involved. It will rise while the conversion of the Jewish people will occur. It will form the religious infrastructure in Jerusalem of the Antichrist and the False Prophet. Many converted Jews will fall away from the truth. The process described in the book [The People That History Forgot](#) will be repeated. Supernatural manifestations will increasingly be a part of life. Just as before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, there will be signs in the sky, not from God.

²⁰ The original Elijah is dead and not alive in heaven. This was a vision (Matthew 17:9).

²¹ This was likely Mount Hermon, the tallest mountain of Israel just inside the northern border of Israel today.

²² The article "[The Expansion and Portability of Zion](#)" tells why and when Zion moved from place to place.

²³ Babylon's prophesied destruction is told in Jeremiah 25:12–13, 50:3, 9, 38. The land surrounding Babylon will suffer great desolation. The judgment, punishment, and destruction of Babylon will be done by God (Revelation 18:8, 18:17–21). The kings (rulers) of the earth who have dealings with Babylon will bemoan its destruction (Revelation 18:9).

Time will be short for principalities and power, spirits, demons, and Satan, who will act hatefully toward Christian and Jewish believers, being more visible and active than ever in history.²⁴ It is possible spirit entities will be seen openly. They will be desperate to maintain their power and kingdoms. They know we shall judge angels (1 Corinthians 6:3). See my “[Magic in the Bible](#)” article. Conspiracies will be widespread, even more so than at present. Note my November 2016 Commentary, “[Illuminati in the Bible](#)” and my November 2016 article, “[Conspiracy in Scripture](#).”

A Time of Great Deception Must Occur

To be deceived, one must have some measure of truth. Great deception counters great truths, otherwise there is no deception, just outright lies. The truth in modern Christianity is minimal. In the future there will be a great amount of truth presented to the people of the world. God will allow people to absorb the truth, yet He will allow “**many**” to be deceived (Matthew 24:4–5, 11 and Mark 13:6):

“Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That you be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin [the Antichrist] be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”

• **2 Thessalonians 2:1–4**

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:7–10 which will occur before the Antichrist is revealed and Christ returns. Then,

“And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

• **2 Thessalonians 2:11–12**

Part of the true knowledge is in “[The Coming Collapse of Traditional Religious Foundations](#).” As truth is learned, lies must be unlearned.

A New Temple Will Be Built

The Temple in Jerusalem must be rebuilt. We cannot know where it will be located, except it should be where there is a natural source of water.²⁵ Stories of a prefabricated, “shovel ready” Temple have never been confirmed. Timber and stone should be used for the major superstructure of the Temple (1 Kings 5:17–18). Tools will be limited if the construction rule in 1 Kings 6:7 for Solomon’s Temple is followed: “**neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building.**” We do not know why that rule was in force in Solomon’s day but if it is applied today it will take much longer than a few months or years to construct the Temple prior to Christ’s return.

A Sanhedrin will likely exist to make decisions regarding construction and operation of the Temple. They will have wide authority to change the construction rules from Solomon’s time. This would decrease the

²⁴ Spirit entities called “**the Prince of Persia**” and “**the Prince of Grecia**” tried to prevent the angel Gabriel from going to Daniel to answer his prayers, and to give him the “Scripture of Truth” variously translated as “Writing of Truth” or “Book of Truth.” It was (and likely still exists) a writing telling of sequential events to occur in the future End Time. These events are still future!

²⁵ The current so-called “Temple Mount” lacks a source of free-flowing water called “living water” in Scripture. See my January 2020 article “[A Fountain in the Temple, 10 Historical Proofs](#).” Water brought by pipes would not fulfil the biblical requirement of “living water. I doubt God would allow the Temple to be built there, reinforcing a 1400+ year historical error.

One alternative future Temple site is on the Mount of Olives, within a 2000-cubit radius of the original site of the Temple(s). Read “[The Original Temple Over the Gihon Spring](#)” where the 2,000 cubit radius is explained. This site also lacks living water, so God would have to miraculously open a powerful flowing source of water. Wherever that happens, it might indicate where the Temple should be built. The original site at the Gihon Spring, the true site of the former Temples, currently lacks water volume and pressure to pump the water to the top of the hill. God would need to increase the flow of water to the Gihon.

construction time. One of the factors that may take the most time will be to construct a proper foundation to support a massive stone structure. While the foundation is being planned, and prepared, the stones can be cut and ready to lay “one upon another,” reversing the prophecy of Jesus in Matthew 24:2; Mark 13:2; and Luke 19:44, 21:6. See the ASK articles: “[A Short History of God's Temples](#),” “[The Rebuilding of the Temple](#),” “[Site of the Next Temple](#),” and “[God's Temples, Present and Future](#).” Perhaps this also will be found: “[The Location and Future Discovery of King David's Tomb](#).”

“Now therefore, if you will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then you shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And you shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.”

• *Exodus 19:5–6*

Conclusion

When the Pharisees and Sadducees challenged Jesus, asking Him to give them a sign from heaven, Jesus told the Pharisees and Sadducees, “**O you hypocrites, you can discern the face of the sky; but can you not discern the signs of the times?**” (Matthew 16: 3). Apparently they could not. One sign of the approaching End Time will be world-wide changes in knowledge and understanding about God, His plan for creation, and for Israel. Look at three articles, the first two by Dr. Martin:

[The Coming Revolution in Knowledge](#) (1990)

[Greatest Revolution in Human History](#) (1999)

[Changes and the Knowledge Revolution](#) (2006)

I want to live to see that revolution in knowledge begin. God speed that day! I do not desire to see the tribulation of Israel, or God’s judgment on the world when Christ returns with horrific destruction on those who harm His people Israel. Remember what Jesus said to His disciples (70 of them, Luke 10:1, 17):

“But of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe [Noah] were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood ... until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”

• *Matthew 24:36–39*

Jesus said later: “**Watch therefore: for you know not what hour your Lord does come. ... Therefore be you also ready: for in such an hour as you think not, the Son of man comes**” (Matthew 24:42–44). Daily events will still be important. Then God will intervene in the world. Here is the second-to-last paragraph of Dr. Martin’s Commentary for January 3, 2002, “[What Is Ahead for 2002](#),” written just before he died:

“God is about ready (I firmly believe) to give this world a big dosage of the truth — His real truth. And all of us at A.S.K. (you and ourselves) are at the forefront of this endeavor. But sadly, it seems that it is the churches who are the main opponents to any new truths being given to people in the world. This is because many ministers and priests do not want the ordinary people to know what the truths of the Holy Scriptures really state so that they can keep on controlling the lives of their members and exacting the tithes and offerings from them in an erroneous manner. This is plain speaking, but it is the truth. It seems that church organizations run by men are the last to want any change whatever. But they are soon going to get a big shovel-full of change. A revolution in biblical and historical knowledge is underway.”

Christ will probably not return before you or I die. God is in control of your life, your salvation, even the moment you die — and the moment you will be resurrected to glory. Because of that knowledge, I can tell you the exact moment when Christ will return to earth as far as you are concerned. It is in my article, “[The Exact Time of Christ's Return](#).” Read, understand, be at peace, and rejoice.

David Sielaff, June 2020