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Dear Associates and Friends,

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This month's article is "[Who Was Melchizedek?](#)" This article is in response to questions about Dr. Martin's views on this subject, which he developed over time. In fact, Dr. Martin wrote a number of articles that are on the ASK website that mention Melchizedek. Most have only a brief mention. These articles are:

"[The Time Periods for Salvation, Part 1](#)," from 1975 (2004).

"[Development of New Doctrine](#)" from 1975 (2010).

"[Discovering the Mark of the Beast](#)," from 1990 (This article contains Dr. Martin's concept that Melchizedek was a Son of God but was not Jesus.)

"[How to Identify False Prophets](#)," from 1997.

"[Israel's Population at the Exodus](#)," Bible Secret #95 from his book *101 Bible Secrets* (1998/2005).

"[A History of Tithing](#)," chapter 5 from his book *The Tithing Dilemma* (1998).

"[The Antichrist Will Establish the Mosaic Law](#)," chapter 21 from his book *The Essentials of New Testament Doctrine*. The portion mentioning Melchizedek has awkward phrasing making it difficult to understand what Dr. Martin meant (2001/2004).

"[Chaos in the Churches](#)," chapter 23 from *Essentials* (2001/2004).

"[God's Divine Headquarters](#)," chapter 31 from *Essentials*. This has Dr. Martin's latest statement on the subject. (It is the 2nd paragraph in the printed book, the 3rd paragraph online, 2001/2004).

This list only covers the articles that Dr. Martin, and now I, chose to be on the ASK website. Everything prior to ASK should be considered obsolete and irrelevant.

Here is a list of pieces that I wrote containing information on Melchizedek:

"[About Melchizedek](#)," my Commentary from March 14, 2005.

"[Changing When Necessary](#)," Commentary from February 1, 2009 (where I correct my March 14, 2005 Commentary).

"[Christ as High Priest](#)," Article from February 2009.

"[Christian in Name Only](#)," Article from July 2010.

"[Melchizedek Background](#)," Commentary from November 2010.

The identity of Melchizedek is not easy to determine. Most scholars deal with non-biblical material when it is not necessary, although the material is useful for historical background. This unnecessarily complicates and sometimes obscures the evidence.

Thank You

ASK was founded on January 1985. Since then ASK has been supported by the contributions from you who find the biblical teaching of ASK to have great value in your lives. Many of you continued your support of Dr. Martin's research and work from before the beginning of ASK. Thank you, and thank you again. Please continue your contributions on a regular basis.

Our purpose is for you to increasingly grow in grace and in knowledge (2 Peter 3:18). That means God's grace and knowledge of Him through His Word. Although ASK provides massive amounts of useful information, unless you interact with God through His Word (and to Him through prayer), you deprive

yourself of tremendous benefits. In effect, you are starving yourself spiritually. God desires for you to know and learn about Him, and He is willing to direct you in that learning if you let him. If you merely read ASK material (or anyone else's material) without reading the Holy Scriptures — you are depriving yourself. God says He will direct your knowledge of Him:

“Whom will He direct in knowledge? And to whom will He explain a report? Those weaned from milk. Those pulled away from breasts. For instruction is added to instruction, instruction to instruction, expectation to expectation, expectation to expectation, a bit there, a bit there.”

• *Isaiah 28:9–10, Concordant Version*

Most of you reading this already have a great deal of knowledge about God, about Christ, about the Bible, about grace, about salvation, etc.; certainly more than people you are acquainted with every day. Reading ASK material alone is not enough. It is designed to be a starting point for your own reading and study of the Scriptures. The apostle Paul talks about a negative side of being a babe in Christ in 1 Corinthians 3:1–3 and in Hebrews 5:11–14. Yet there is a positive side of being a babe as well:

“Whereby laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere [unadulterated] milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.”

• *1 Peter 2:1–2*

It is a very good thing to **“desire [this verb is an imperative!] the sincere milk of the word.”** You should have such a desire. And, as Isaiah said, you should desire to go beyond even that good thing. How do you do that after you have been weaned from the **“milk of the word”**? You go deeper into God's Word, as Isaiah said, so that **“instruction is added to instruction.”** He will direct you in knowledge (Isaiah 28:9).

God will not give you some “special revelation” or mystical vision or words spoken in your head, purporting to be from God. Such things are outside of the Bible and must be tested with the Bible. Not to test such things merely shows that you do not know even the basics, and that you still need milk. God will direct your knowledge by opening your mind to what the Bible says.

Trouble always manifests itself when the Word of God is neglected in our lives. As the apostle Paul told the readers and listeners of the Book of Hebrews, some of them should have been teachers already (Hebrews 5:12). In the epistle of Ephesians the Apostle Paul discusses the problem of ignorance:

“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.”

• *Ephesians 4:14–15*

Paul's warning had a purpose. The purpose was for their growth — and for your growth as well.

“For whatever was written before, was written for this teaching of ours, that through the endurance and the consolation of the scriptures we may have expectation.”

• *Romans 15:4, Concordant Version*

The apostle Paul said his conscience was clear: **“For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God”** (Acts 20:27). Dr. Martin lived his life with that desire. I strive to do so also. It is the desire of ASK to continue to provide the best biblical information we have available. You have helped us to do so in the past. We are grateful for your support, and ask that you continue to provide that help in the future.

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