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Dear Associates and Friends,

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When I was a history student at university I was told by several professors that ancient and medieval people rarely traveled more than 5 mile from their homes, if ever. I found this difficult to believe then, and now I know it was not true. People then, like today, could walk all day at an easy pace of 3 miles per hour, and they could easily travel 30 miles in a day without difficulty with frequent rests. People were not bound to their local areas as much as historians once believed. Merchants, travelers, soldiers (along with camp followers and provisioners) and even farmers, all traveled widely within their society and domain.

With this in mind, consider this month's article: "[Geography in Scripture](#)" by Dr. Ernest L. Martin. Beginning in the Book of Genesis you find a large number of geographic locations indicated by Moses. Some names were updated by later editors who had full authority to emend the text (men such as Samuel, Isaiah, or even later, Ezra the priest). For example, note the name of the place where Jacob had his dream of the angels coming and going to heaven: "**And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first**" (Genesis 28:19). Moses wrote that Jacob changed the name from Luz to Bethel.

Events in the Bible occurred in real physical settings and involved people who walked in places that are known and accessible today. In Scripture the location of an event is often as important as the details of the event, and spiritual teaching can be communicated by where an event happens.<sup>1</sup> In both the Old and New Testaments much space is given to the description of geographical details, far beyond what would be required to point out symbolism.<sup>2</sup>

The Book of Joshua in the Old Testament is one indicator how well people knew geography. According to C.R. Conder, Joshua alone identifies some 600 geographic locations that the original audience presumably knew.<sup>3</sup> As Dr. Martin notes in "Geography in Scripture," many points of interpretation can be clarified through a proper knowledge of biblical geography. Geographic details are intended to be verified. History comes alive when events occur in real places.

Hebrews chapters 9 and 10 tell about the symbolism of the sacrifices (which actually occurred) that took place in the tabernacle (a real place) yet they are a picture of what happens in God's tabernacle in heaven — the ultimate reality. Another example: Christ's crucifixion and resurrection were not merely a pantomime, but they occurred at a real time and place. The events at Golgotha saved every human being.<sup>4</sup> Events that occur at a real place and time denote historical events that are real, not just symbolism.

Go through the list of titles under the ASK "Articles" tab on the ASK homepage and notice how many articles deal with geography or location or place just in their titles. There are many. In fact, every article on the "[Temples Article Index](#)" page deals with some type of geographic or locative aspect relating to the Temple. The location of the Israelite Temple(s) in Jerusalem is of unique importance in history.

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<sup>1</sup> An excellent example of this is Dr. Martin's article "[Temple Symbolism in Genesis](#)" which shows the great spiritual teaching by the location of Eden, the Garden, and its relationship to the Tabernacle and Temple(s) on earth as well as in heaven. The spiritual teaching is symbolic, but it is also a reality — those events truly happened. They were experienced by real human beings.

<sup>2</sup> Paul S. Karleen, *The Handbook to Bible Study* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1987), pp 168–69.

<sup>3</sup> See the article "Palestine" by C.R. Conder in *ISBE (The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, 1914, 1st unabridged edition. James Orr, General Editor).*

<sup>4</sup> See Dr. Martin's book *Secrets of Golgotha: The Lost History of Jesus Crucifixion* (Portland, OR: ASK Publications, 1994). Purchase this book at <http://askelm.com/books/book001.htm>.

## ***Time and Place***

Geography also has a spatial component. That is, events occur at locations in space through time. Together, “space” and “time” are used by God, continually moving to fulfill God’s purpose in creation through Christ toward the ultimate goal of the consummation when **“God may be all in all”** (1 Corinthians 15:28):

**“Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he has purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his own will. ...**

**... According to the eternal [eonian] purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

**• Ephesians 1:9–11, 3:11**

**“Who has saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and [according to his own] grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.”**

**• 2 Timothy 1:9**

These two aspects of “time and place” in the Bible could also be considered “when and where.” The location of the Temple in Jerusalem is also of great importance, particularly now that Drs. Ernest Martin and George Wesley Buchanan have challenged the traditional site of the Temples on the Haram esh-Sharif, locating the Temple(s) correctly above and west of the Gihon Springs. Also, proper location of the Temple is crucial to the historical information necessary to locate the Tomb of David.<sup>5</sup>

## ***April 2011 Speaking Event in Richmond, Virginia***

I have been invited to speak again at the Richmond Bible Conference on April 1–3, 2011. The participants are believers from the Richmond and surrounding area that have been meeting annually for several years. Most all believe in universal salvation. I am honored to be invited to speak again this year. Last year I spoke twice, and I anticipate I will do so again this year.

The Conference will take place at the Days Inn West Broad, 2100 Dickens Rd, Richmond, VA 23230, phone: 804-282-3300. This is located in northwest Richmond, Virginia. Precise details about the conference will follow in the coming weeks, so look at the [“ASK Events”](#) webpage again before April.

## ***Thank You***

ASK continues to exist by the grace of God and through your freely-given contributions. ASK is supported solely by individuals who are gracious in their gifts for us to carry out our operations responsibly. No denomination, or institution, or corporate sponsor has ever contributed anything to ASK — just you few who support the continued publication and production of the research of Dr. Ernest L. Martin, and my own occasional writing. I work to improve what is offered on the ASK website and produce more quality biblical studies that you will not find anywhere else. We greatly appreciate your help. Thank you, again and again. God bless you all.

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<sup>5</sup> See Dr. Martin’s book *The Temples That Jerusalem Forgot* and the articles on the [“Temples Update Index”](#) page where Martin’s and Buchanan’s works are listed. See also my articles [“The Location and Future Discovery of King David’s Tomb”](#) and [“The Tomb of David and Psalm 30.”](#)