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Dear Associates and Friends,

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“[Ezekiel, Part 2](#)” is this month’s article, continuing from the first part, “[Introduction to Ezekiel](#).” Refer to that article for outlines of Ezekiel and other background information of this important prophetic book. Dr. Ernest L. Martin’s presentation continues to use Ezekiel as a basis for an extended discussion about the presence of God in the tabernacle and temple of Israel, how God’s glory departed from the Temple, and how it came to reside in each believer by virtue of God’s Holy Spirit. It is God’s Spirit being resident within each one of us that makes each of us a Temple of God, just as the apostle Paul states:

**“Know you not that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man DEFILE the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.”**

• **1 Corinthians 3:16–17**

Your body and spirit are God’s, just as His Holy Spirit is His. Because His physical Temples were defiled, God saw to the destruction of the Solomonic Temple by Nebuchadnezzar and then later He saw to the destruction of the Herodian Temple.<sup>1</sup> How can we defile the Temple of our bodies with God’s Spirit?

**“What? know you not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [Spirit] which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own? For you are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”**

• **1 Corinthians 6:19–20**

God has the power to resurrect sinners from the dead. But He is willing to destroy us, if we “**defile the temple of God.**” Those defiling God’s Temple of their body will miss out on the resurrection to participate and lead in the Kingdom of God. God will decide if that will occur. Those people will be saved, eventually, with the mass of mankind. Regarding the resurrection, my view is this, the sooner the better. To be in the spiritual resurrection “**at His coming**” (1 Corinthians 15:22–24), “**the first resurrection**” (Revelation 20:4–6), will be an unbelievably terrific experience.<sup>2</sup> Remember Isaiah 64:4 and 1 Corinthians 2:9.

### **Housekeeping**

Let me remind you all that ASK has business hours on the West Coast, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Pacific time, Monday through Friday. We are very pleased to speak with you during those hours. Our office phone number is above the black line of this page and on every Newsletter, and on every article (but not on the Commentaries), along with our mailing address and email address. Contact us and let us know how we are doing as we serve you and the *ekklesia*, the body of Christ, with important biblical studies and a unique historical perspective that you will not find in scholarly works. ASK is not a pastoral ministry. We do not provide ministerial advice or counseling. ASK is a biblical and historical educational *ekklesia*, which does not support or recommend any religious groups. Look at the ASK “[Mission Statement](#)”:

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<sup>1</sup> Except for the 70+ years interregnum (after the destruction of the Solomonic Temple), a Tabernacle or Temple of God was extant from the time of Moses, about 1450 BC until 70 AD. This is remarkably long time in history.

<sup>2</sup> See Dr. Martin’s article “[Chapter 16: Resurrections from the Dead](#)” from his book *Essentials of New Testament Doctrine*, and my article “[Your Resurrection](#).”

### **“The Mission of A.S.K.:**

**It is our goal to bring to the attention of all Bible believers the importance of self reliance and personal responsibility when approaching Bible themes. It is the sole responsibility of the believer to become educated and to realize precisely what he or she believes. We promote the fact that those beliefs should be able to be communicated to any person asking a question. By encouraging people to examine the original documents for themselves, we help to create a greater comprehension of the source material itself. By having a biblical and historical understanding of the Bible, we can all know and trust God better.”**

Again, ASK does not promote or advocate any church, organization, or group. You are entirely free to do as you wish in that regard. Know that if you join a corporate religious entity (usually called a “church”) and you challenge the group’s basic beliefs, or the leader of that religious group with information from your own Bible, you may soon find yourself unwelcome in that group. See my article [“Are You a Misfit?”](#)

### **Group Interaction**

Some day we shall know God’s reason that His children are so scattered and so many are away from each other at this time. Look at the problems that the small (indeed tiny!) *ekklesias* had in New Testament times. Considering their experience, perhaps it is no wonder that God has spared us from many interpersonal problems by having us be separated by geography and circumstance from like-minded people.

People today in the Western world strive to be incredibly independent. I am. Most of you I have spoken with are also. Just as the Old Testament experiences were examples for those during the time of the apostles (and examples for us, 1 Corinthians 10:11; 2 Peter 2:6), how the apostles dealt with their problems are for our example in the New Testament. By spreading us around, God has allowed us to avoid many of those same problems. That being said, nevertheless God says in Hebrews:

**“And let us consider one another to provoke [motivate] unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as you see the day [of salvation] approaching.”**

• **Hebrews 10:24–25**

Paul did not mean gathering in a local megachurch, engaging in social activities with other believers, listening to mind-numbing 20 minute sermons and “directed” Bible studies that allow only one opinion. By **“not forsaking the assembling of ourselves,”** Paul meant interacting with people in the manner that Aquila and Priscilla helped Apollos, by teaching him what he lacked regarding Christ and the Gospel. Apollos, a fervent evangelist of eloquence, diligence, boldness, and **“mighty in the Scriptures”** (Acts 18:24–26) allowed himself to be taught by people who were not “in the business” of religion. **“Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend”** (Proverbs 27:17). Consider Jesus’ admonitions of Matthew 5:13–16, although directed specifically to the Jews of His day, to have a general application for all people.

### **Thank You**

Do you truly want to interact with a group of people who love the Bible? Then start a group yourself. Call it a book discussion group, a Bible study group, or whatever you wish. Anyone can do it. You do not need anyone’s approval. **NO** “permission” from a religious authority is necessary. All that is needed is a love for the Bible, and a basic understanding of its teachings. The ASK website can help you with general and specific topics when considering important Bible verses. You are entirely free, as a child of God, to form associations with anyone you wish, within the guideline of not offending a brother or sister in Christ.

We at ASK are grateful for the opportunity to interact with you by providing a valuable service of instruction in God’s Word. Thank you for your faithful continued contributions.

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