

Associates for Scriptural Knowledge • P.O. Box 25000, Portland, OR 97298-0990, USA

© ASK, February 2016 • Telephone: 503 292 4352

Webpage on the Internet: <http://www.askelm.com> • E-Mail address: [askoffice@askelm.com](mailto:askoffice@askelm.com)

---

Dear Associates and Friends,

February 2016

“[Sudden Mass Murder](#)” is the title and subject of this month’s article. It discusses a terrible act in history that was very likely copied from an earlier event in the Bible. This terrible action, carried out and causing the death of thousands, was committed by seemingly normal people who were suddenly commanded to viciously commit murder in the name of “liberty” against the hated Romans (who were truly oppressive, by the way), and this happened during the days of the Roman republic, before the even more oppressive Roman Empire.

Human nature has not changed. Ancient people were no better or worse than people today, not more immoral or moral. Only the circumstances, stresses, and technology are different. People are people, as God made us all with varying potential for good or evil.<sup>1</sup>

What happened in ancient times to cause a “sudden mass murder” could recur again. In the past so-called leaders have sought to foment revolutions by causing an event so outrageous that it would trigger a mass reaction by the public and propel society in a new direction. Communist theory of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century taught that events could be arranged to cause an uprising of the proletariat (the oppressed masses of workers) against their capitalist masters or aristocracy (the oppressors). Still others tried to create conditions for a race war. Those uprisings never happened.

What has happened is that revolutions have occurred because people of all social strata are fed up with the status quo and have no hope for the future. Therefore, by trying to change the status quo, they think they have nothing to lose except their wretched lives. In such situations, otherwise law-abiding people turn into animals who can kill. All they need to be told is that there will be no retribution, and even better, they will benefit from murder. If that is the case, then there is an increasing potential for sudden mass murder.

### *The Future Upside*

As you will also read in this month’s article, a short article by Dr. Ernest L. Martin makes clear that every possible element of salvation has already been provided for you and accomplished for you by God and Christ. To a certain extent, “all you have to do is *show up*.” But, of course, life is not as *easy* as that (although it is that *simple*).

Once you are given the understanding that you are already saved, then you should desire to do “works” — good works for others — as is expected of any mature individual. Those works contribute 0% to your salvation, but they do contribute to your reward mightily. Love is expressing, showing, and acting out of concern for others, to help others be as independent as possible so they, in turn, can perform good works for others. This is how God has set up the “system” of His salvation process since before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:3–6). This is what God and Christ have done (at great personal cost, by the way), and this is what we shall begin to do when God causes the eons to conclude at the consummation of all things (1 Corinthians 15:24–28).

---

<sup>1</sup> Evil is not the same as sin, and good is not the same as righteousness. People can be evil or good without knowing God. They have their conscience to guide them, as the apostle Paul makes clear in Romans 2:14–15.

## **John Evans and GeorgeAnn Hughes' Byte Show**

**Great news!** John Evans has discovered the ways to operate his mother's jury-rigged computer system. He has done the herculean task of learning from scratch how to record and enter the program links on my [David Sielaff Byte Show](#) webpage. There were multiple problems that GeorgeAnn was not able to teach him due to her illness, when he came to care for her in her last months. We will begin taping new shows in early February 2016, starting with Chapter 20 of *Essentials of New Testament Doctrine*, "Remember the Sabbath." We are re-doing it because of background noise.

**More good news!** About 3 or 4 years ago GeorgeAnn and I recorded 32 long shows on Dr. Martin's book, *Restoring the Original Bible*, which deals with the design and development of the Holy Scriptures. GeorgeAnn wanted to produce CDs for people to purchase, but there were problems with that process. Her son John found those shows and will put one per week on my Byte Show page. Then ASK will have an ideal situation of having two complete readings of *Restoring* — Charlie Corder's excellent reading, and mine. Listen to both to gain different voices and insights from different readers.

Here is an email John sent to GeorgeAnn's mail list. Some of you may have received this short note:

**"Hello Everyone, As many of you already know my mom passed away last year. I promised to keep her website up for all who wanted to keep listening to the recordings, and to keep doing recordings for as many guests that wish to be on her site. I have been learning her site and her files, and had some conversations with a Mr. David Sielaff and he has informed me that there are files that my mom recorded with him that she never put up, so I looked and found them! I will attempt to upload one a week or so. It's called [Restoring the Original Bible](#) or (RTOB), 'Preface and Introduction.' So please go and listen and enjoy. Thank you all again for all that you have done for my mom and continued support of The Byte Show. Sincerely, John Evans"**

Later, John and I will record new shows from various newsletters, articles, and commentaries produced since GeorgeAnn became seriously ill. On my part, I need to think of a way to orally present my "Israel and Judah" series of articles so they will be interesting to listeners. (Reading side-by-side biblical texts aloud is not very interesting.) As John puts these shows "online," I will also put them on the [ASK Byte Show page](#), along with hundreds of past shows there already. Scroll down to see them all, along with brief descriptions. I am very happy that GeorgeAnn's legacy will be enthusiastically continued by her son.

## **Tax Receipts**

Because I forgot to mention this in December, I am mentioning it once more for February. If you wish to receive a year-end tax receipt for your 2015 contributions, you must request one. They will not be sent to you automatically. We do this as a service for Associates in the United States. Your receipt will not be for book purchases, but only for charitable contributions you made in 2015. We have already sent out many.

## **Thank You**

With 7 billion children of Adam living at the present time, it is stunning to think that each one of them will someday realize they are destined to be children of God. You have already been given **"the spirit of grace and of supplication** [petition]" (Zechariah 12:10) that millions of Israelites will receive in the near future, beginning in Jerusalem. Such things you know and understand at this moment, perhaps because of the work of Ernest L. Martin as well as other teachers. And not only will they know it, but they will experience it. And those are just the people alive today. There were billions who died since Adam, and many more billions will live and die during the 1,000 year reign of Christ. The scale of God's work through Christ is incomprehensible. Thank you for helping others learn the true reason they exist. Thank you for all your prayers and kind words.

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