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Dear Associates and Friends,

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In March 1975 — 45 years ago — Dr. Ernest L. Martin recorded a lecture on cassette tape and sent it to Bible students around the world. At that time Dr. Martin was the Director of the Foundation for Biblical Research. In 1985 he separated to found the Associates for Scriptural Knowledge.¹ The audiotope recording provides most all the information in this month's article, "[The Prophetic Birth of Our Civilization](#)."

That information is still relevant and useful today as it was in 1975 to help us understand the world. There are powers (human and spiritual) actively trying to form a one-world thought, civilization, and government. Pressure at all areas of life is greatly increasing.

The Sequence of Dr. Martin's Message

Dr. Martin began by introducing the unique and surprising worldwide, 50+ year prophetic ministry of Jeremiah. He prophesied during the reigns of the last five Kings of Judah: Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah.

Jeremiah both warned and preached to the people of Judah. God also gave him other prophecies that were for all kingdoms and peoples in the world. God's judgment of Judah began a radical change from old ways, old kingdoms, and old civilizations, to new ways of thinking toward individualism, with new kingdoms, new forms of civilization, and new religions arising.²

Beside warning and preaching to Judah (and the remnants of Israel both in Judah and in exile), another of Jeremiah's prophetic tasks was to go to the old kingdoms and announce they would be swept away and replaced. I do not think Jeremiah was welcome, but the listeners had no choice. God told Jeremiah he would be protected so he could perform the tasks God wanted done. God told Jeremiah how he was to perform his tasks, and not be afraid to do so:

"You shall go to all that I shall send you, and whatsoever I command you, you shall speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with you to deliver you, says YHWH. ..."

Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms ..."

• *Jeremiah 1:7-10*

Jeremiah's prophecies from God were fulfilled. An old world was dismantled, a new world arose.

Karl Jaspers, Historical Philosopher

On page 8 of the article, Dr. Martin presents impressive quotes from a book by German-Swiss psychiatrist and philosopher, Professor Karl Jaspers. Click the link to access his book [The Origin and Goal of History](#).³ Quoting portions of Jaspers' book, Dr. Martin identified how Jeremiah's prophecies were fulfilled and how they relate to Jaspers analysis of the history of the "Axial Period." The historical fulfillments of Jeremiah's

¹ Read the ASK page, "[ASK Biographies / Who Are We?](#)"

² The new ways were not necessarily better than the old ways, although there were changes in technology, culture, and religion for all children of Adam. God wanted things to change.

³ The linked PDF of the book is from a 1985 Yale University facsimile reprint of the 1953 original English edition. This PDF is not searchable, but I give the page numbers so the reader can verify Jaspers' words.

prophecies will surprise you because they correspond closely with Jaspers' analysis. Professor Jaspers was not a Christian or a believer in God, but he was an honest reporter of facts.

This prophecy/fulfillment identifications can provide us with models to recognize prophetic fulfillments in the future. Such analysis will be controversial even within the *ekklesia* of Christ, but secular historians and scientists cannot and will not do the work for us. We must work, study, and discuss such findings.

Dr. Martin pointed out in the follow-up article, "[The Origin and Goal of Western Civilization, Part 1](#)"⁴ three points regarding the post-Axial Period of a Babylonian system of civilization:

- **"The origin of Western civilization came in the 6th century BC with the head of gold, Nebuchadnezzar.**
- **The goal of Western civilization from that time forward was to have one-worldism, meaning one world government and one world religion.**
- **The one true God will be the head of the one-world government and religion"** [when Christ returns to begin His 1,000-year reign].

Jaspers thought the coincidences of the rapid change were so remarkable that they seemed miraculous, as if Deity were involved in the events that changed from the old to the new civilization in a short time. But Jaspers then denies that to be true, even though he knew unusual things cause a change in the course of history. Jaspers has been criticized that he spent too much time discussing the mechanics of what happened over the 600-year period. Reading Jaspers' book, I agree with that criticism. I prefer Dr. Martin's focus on the shorter period of destruction of the old civilizations to the "tipped over" newer Babylonian system and civilization.

Dr. Martin shows the wonderful correspondence of cause and effect, prophecy and historical fulfillment, beyond what Jaspers realized or was willing to admit. There was indeed divine causality in "The Prophetic Birth of Our Civilization."

The Babylonian system and civilization we live in today (as God has chosen for us to live in) is not good for us, but it is a tool God is using at this time in history. When Babylon's destruction is at hand, believers are instructed to **"come out of her"** (Revelation 18:1–4). Dr. Martin's book [The People That History Forgot](#) explains how Christianity was corrupted and polluted with paganism that **is** a major part of the Babylonian system. In the last chapter in the book, "[Islam and the People that History Forgot](#)," Dr. Martin interacts with Jaspers' book in relation to Islam and with Jasper's idea of the Axial Age.

Thank You

The Holy Scriptures contain marvelous information of how God works in history for the benefit and ultimate salvation of all mankind. Yes, it takes faith (also a gift from God, feel free to ask Him for more), and our purpose in life is to gain an education. Our education is guided by God our Father, and our Elder Brother and Captain of our salvation, Christ Jesus. They are subtly motivating us all to build character so we can deal properly with the tremendous responsibility and power of becoming a mature child of God, to be like Christ (1 John 3:2).

We thank each of you for your encouragement and support for the activities of ASK. We are humbled by your concern during times of riot and fire in the Portland area of Oregon. God has provided us safe places so we are not close to either fire or riot — although we understand things could change. We pray God will keep us safe. We do seek your continued prayers that our work will be useful to more people, for their sakes. It also shows a respect for God's teachings. When we show concern with each other, we also bless ourselves. Despite any problems we may have (and we all have plenty) remember we are God's own children. He will not fail us. May God bless each of you abundantly for helping us. Thanks for your support.

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⁴ "[Origin and Goal of Western Civilization, Part 2](#)" gives even more information.