

December 1, 2005

## **H.I.S. Ministries December Newsletter, covering November, 2005**

The Birth of Jesus Christ was a great prophetic event, *“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”* (Matt. 1:23.) It is the fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14, *“Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, shall call his name Immanuel”*.

As it was during the time of Christ’s birth, so is it also today. *“...seeing they see not...hearing they hear not.”* People reject God’s Word today as they did then. They may even quote the scriptures, but it does not do any good, if the words do not become alive in their hearts.

Is Christ your life, a living reality in your life? If He is not, then His birth in Bethlehem is to you a totally insignificant event. Eternity in heaven or in hell depends on your answer to this question: **IS HE IN YOUR LIFE?**

Jesus said, *“Verily, verily I say unto you, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* (John 3:7.) What this new birth is, is explained in Romans 10:9-11: *“That if thou shalt confess with thou mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”* When we confess Him, and believe in our heart, at that very moment, we are born again and added to the Body of Christ, making our eternal destiny secure. Even though our salvation is the gift of God, we cannot hide the evidence of our new birth, which is that we are *“created unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”* (Eph. 2:8-10.) Our actions will shine as witness for Him.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, certain wise men from the East came to Jerusalem asking *“Where is he that is born King of the Jews?”* (Matt. 2:2.) This caused a great stir for they already had a king, king Herod, who was not about to give up his throne. *“When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.”* (Matt. 2:3.) He gathered the chief priests and scribes together and demanded to know if this was a prophecy and if it was, where this would take place. They told him, *“In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet, and thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.”* (Matt. 2:5-6.)

It is interesting that these chief priests and scribes knew what was written in Micah 5, but there is no report saying that they did anything about it - they did not go looking for Messiah-King as did the wise men from the East. It does not do any good to know the scriptures, unless we believe them, act on them, and apply them to our lives.

It is very much the same today. We must remember that the entire Bible is God’s Word to us! But today we can hardly find churches or ministries that pay any attention to the Bible prophecies yet to be fulfilled.

When Israel became a nation, May 14, 1948, that should have made Bible-reading people

take note, for the prophecies of the end times are connected to this event. During over the 1900 years that Israel was scattered among all nations of the world, even Bible believing people had given up the hope that God will bring them back to their land. Many had started to spiritualize the prophetic word found throughout the Bible, reasoning that perhaps God did not mean that they will literally gather in their own land, but maybe their gathering will be only “in spirit”. However, countless scriptures had promised that the Jews will ultimately return to their own land, and that when they return, they will speak pure Hebrew. It seemed impossible indeed. But our God is God, and it happened. The scriptures also said that their return will be opposed by the entire world. Our generation has seen this happen. We see Israel and Jerusalem portrayed negatively on our daily news. The world opposes Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East!! Amazing, is it not?

Let’s look at a couple of scriptures that are very specific. Ezekiel wrote why God scattered the Jews among the nations. He also wrote that God will do what He has said He will do. *“Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; I do not do this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name’s sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen...For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.”* (Ezekiel 36:22-24 - please read from verse 17-24.) The Bible tells us that after they are back in their own land, the entire world will be against them. The world is indeed against Israel. (The only allied country to Israel is USA, and even she has lately turned against her.) God has said, *“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about...”* (Zechariah 12:2-3.)

We learn from history that all nations were established by wars; they conquered territory, settled it, and after that it was

not disputed by others. But with Israel, it is a different story. As all know, Israel is a very small country, surrounded by enormous Arab nations that again and again have attacked her. She has won each time - but the world is demanding that she gives the land she won back. That has never been a case with any other nation. Even a huge country like Russia, that attacked tiny Finland in the 1940’s, has been allowed to keep the land she, by force, took away from Finland, land crucially important to Finland.

Why is the Israel’s case different than all other nations? Because that land is God’s land - and this war against Israel is a spiritual war, whether people know it or not. This again is a fulfillment of God’s Word. In Joel (3:1-2) God addresses all nations and gives them a warning for what they are doing. *“For behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted My land.”* Notice: It is God’s land!

All other countries were established by wars, but God GAVE this land to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and it was God who established her borders. It is a dangerous thing to oppose God, who gave this land to Israel. God will call all to judgment who have *“parted My land.”* Prophecy is not a popular subject today, but it will all happen just as God has said it will happen. He will come again, and that maybe soon, very soon. *“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”* (Hebr. 10:31.)

We are often accused of taking the Bible too literally. I don’t think we can be too literal - only not literal enough!

If we ignore Him, that does not change the eternal fact spoken of in John 3:36, *“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”* He paid for my sins and your sins when He died on the cross of Calvary - *“He was buried, and He rose again on the third day, according to the scriptures“*, and ascended to heaven. This same Jesus will return just as it is written. (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Acts 1:11.) When He does come, this Bible prophecy will be fulfilled, *“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”* ( 1 Thess. 4:16-18.)

We cannot be saved until we recognize that we are lost. Are you His? Is He coming for you? We cannot put off asking Him into our lives till a later time, *“for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come...”* When He comes, and is here, it is too late!

If you do not know Him personally, talk to Him today. He will make Himself known to you.

**Have a Joyous Christmas enjoying His presence!**

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**From our mailbox:**

**An LDS husband wrote:**

*“I have a very simple question for you. I am now in serious doubt about the validity of the Mormon church, but how do I convince my wife that we need to find a different religion? Her argument is: what does it matter what church I belong to as long as I am doing good. We are both afraid of the repercussions from our families if we leave...”*

**My reply:**

Thank you for writing. You asked how do you convince your wife? I would suggest that you'd start studying the Bible with your wife, reading a book at a time, in context. And talking about it together and what it really says and how that truth will affect your life!

When we were in the place you are now, we started with the **Gospel of John** and next we studied all of Paul's letters, very slowly and carefully, making sure we understood it all. You may want to get some additional help. Perhaps Nelson's Study Bible would be good for you. Check with a Christian bookstore. (I would not use the LDS Bible, for it has been tampered with.) We found that the most important of Paul's letters to us were his letters to Galatians and Romans.

Rather than looking for a "religion", focus on knowing Jesus of the Bible. **He is the only way to God**. In John 14:6, He says, *“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father but by Me.”* Acts 4:12 says, *“Neither is there salvation in any other: there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”*

Jesus prayed for us that we'd **KNOW God**, and Jesus, who was sent to save us. (John 17:3.) **Without knowing who God is, we will not have eternal life with Him.** False gods or false Jesus cannot save anyone!

**You mentioned that your wife said that it does not matter what church you belong, as long as you are doing good. The Bible says that our good works do not earn salvation or heaven. The biblical teaching is that no one is going to heaven because of their good works. *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”* (Eph. 2:8-9,10.) Good works are a result of our saving faith. We do good works **because we are saved** - not to become saved! The true **gospel is a message of what Jesus did for us.** (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Gal. 1:8-9.) The Bible clearly warns us about those who teach**

"another gospel, another Jesus" and do that through "another spirit". (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15.)

We are commanded to "*STUDY to be approved to God*" (2 Tim 2:15.) We must test ALL THINGS (1 Thess 5:21), even the spirits that "give testimonies". "**Believe NOT every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God, because many false prophets are gone out into the world.**" (1 John 4:1. See also 1 Tim. 4:1.) If spirits give us "feelings", testify of doctrines that are un-biblical, we KNOW that it is not the Holy Spirit, but "another spirit", a demonic spirit. The Bible came to us through the Holy Spirit, and He would not testify against what He has said. (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21.)

**We go to heaven only if we know Jesus and belong to Him through our new birth.** He said (John 3:7) that **we must be born again.** Our physical birth is just that, physical. **In order to be saved, we must acknowledge that we are lost sinners in need of Jesus!** We become born again, saved, when we invite Jesus into our hearts and lives, as Romans 10:9-10 says. "*If thou shalt confess with thou mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto righteousness.*" God promises that when we receive Jesus into our hearts and lives, we **become** children of God. (That shows that we are not God's children UNTIL we are born of the Spirit.) "*As many as have received Him, to them gave He power to BECOME the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.*" (John 1:12; Romans 9:8.)

The best thing for you is to learn as much as you can about the Bible, that **is the proven Word of God.** It is historically accurate and prophetically infallible Word of God. We have now studied the Bible intensively for 24 years and I can say that it is absolutely correct and wonderful record of God to all who seek to know Him. (Jer. 29:13.)

It teaches that God is not a former mortal man, as Mormonism teaches. (Numbers 23:19; Hosea 11:9; Job 9:32; Ezekiel 28:2) It teaches that there are no Gods before God of the Bible and that men will not become Gods! (Isaiah 43:10; 44:6 etc.) It teaches that there is only one God, Trinity - Three Eternal Persons in the essence or nature of One God, who is Spirit. (John 4:24.) (James 2:19; 1 John 5:7; Deut. 6:4.) One of those Persons, whom we know as the Son, became a man to save us. (John 1:1, 14; Matt. 1:23.) The Bible is a wonderful story of God's love for us. We do not need "religion", but **we do need Him. However**, it might be a good thing for you to start looking for a Bible-teaching church where you can meet like-believers. We are commanded to fellowship with others who also belong to Jesus. Let me know where you live and perhaps I can suggest some churches for you where you are.

It is not an easy thing to leave Mormonism - we know that very personally. That is why it would be good for you to start making friends with biblical Christians. They will help you through the hard times. And they become your new family, the family of God.

May God of the Bible bless you. If you want to talk more, please write again.

Have you checked our website? It is [www.hismin.com](http://www.hismin.com) There are many stories written by former Mormons we personally know and some we have even helped out of this "maze of Mormonism". They might give you encouragement too.

**There is a life, a very spiritually rewarding life, after Mormonism.**

In Christ of the Bible, Rauni Higley

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**A young Mormon man wrote to Dennis and he answered [spelling as in his original letter]:**

*"Dennis, If you served a mission so faithful and provent, then why do you now question every thought and feeling you have ever had about the church of Jesus Christ of Latter day saints. Have you ever heard the saying "women may be the only reason you dont go on your misson". Well this is because lucifer's way to many mens hearts is through their love, and in your case this is a fact. Oh and the preisthood, ie. keys of the presithood, ok well you need to read the doctrine and covenants again... The LDS faith doesnt not beleive that all other religions are wrong, but rather the have good and pertant points, but they do not have the whole truth. Many other religions have great people, doing great things, these people are not condemned because they have not given the chance to see what LDS actully believes and does. And we dont not hear about our heavenly mother because of one and simple reason, what do we hear everyday, and it is socaily exepatble? "Oh my GOD", yes think about it, we dont not hear about about our heavenly mother because god doesnt not want u taking hear name in vein! I honestly learnt this in my deacons quarm class, where were you?? Oh and the Nephi and the Metals?? ...you may have degresses but what good can degress do you in this world? they can take you many places, but if you have a BS and an MS in heaven, you are no more important then the person when gives 1 penny for tithing, you lack faith. Nephi is one of the greast leaders and examples of faith i have ever read, how did noah know to build an arch? God gave him the knowledge and resources, how did noah get 2 of every kind of animals in a BOAT?? well you figure that out, MR. BS and MS, If you went on a misson as you say you did, you need to certainly re-think you life, and stop "worldly" analyzing every situtation in the Bible vs Book of Mormon. I may sound like a hippo-crit hear, but i guess you have not heard of the quote," let him cast the first stone, who is blamesless, and let him cast out the beam from thine own eye, before ye judge me" You must be perfect! Every person who has walked this earth, besides christ have sinned and will sin, so a mistake is something you grow and learn from,the chruch fastly holds to this principle. Repentance?? but you know all of this, you went a mission, you are one of many people in the chruch who seemly advance through out the chruch callings and the take the knowledge you have and turn it around and constru everthing you have ever learnt. If you actully have any real concerns about the church you need to read the testimony of the prophet Joseph Smith, and then might all of your might pray, and if you truly thirst for knowledge you will recive the answer in time, and it will come at a point when you will relize it most. You need to re-evaluate you life, and your life partner, i beleive she lead you from what you knew to be true and honest. Andrew."*

**Since this was written to Dennis, he answered:**

Andrew,

Thanks for your very interesting letter. You seemed to be a little warm around your neck. What upset you so much? Did something strike a chord in your mind that perhaps what you are now believing might not be true? We get a few letters like yours from time to time and the real person seems to come out railing and accusing.

I suppose that is the Mormon version of being a Christian, isn't it? Attack the person rather than address the real issues. Which just happens to be the truth or error of Mormonism.

Why don't you address the issues / doctrines that you think we have wrong and show us where we have made a mistake?

I don't know you nor would I make accusatory statements against your person like you have done to me. But let me address some of your accusations:

Since I have become a Christian and have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, I don't base what I know on how I feel. God's Word says what I should do: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

*But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness."* (That is from 2

Timothy 2:15-16.) But I'm sure you knew that. I no longer rely on some "warm feelings" to determine what the truth is. I know it is a big thing in Mormonism to say..."I know in my heart that such and such is true, or such and such a person is a prophet..." God's Words says, "*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*" (Jeremiah 17:9)

I now put my trust in the Word of God rather than in my heart or feelings.

I have read the D&C and writings of Joseph Smith. I no longer need to read any of his false prophecies.

Can you show me where even one came true that is in the D&C?

As to you statement that "*the LDS faith doesn't believe that all other religions are wrong,*" I think you need to read your PoGP again. Need I quote to you from Joseph Smith's own writings what he said? This is what he said: "...*I asked the Personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right--and which I should join. I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the Personages who address me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors (believers) were **all corrupt**...*"

That is an attack on Biblical Christianity. It was Joseph Smith who made the first attack against us. As Christians we are to defend biblical doctrine. We, as Bible believing Christians, have a mandate from Jude 3 that says "*ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*"

I am using quotes from the Bible to reproof you in your attack against my faith and my person. "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*" That is from 2 Timothy 3:16

You have a mistaken idea that Christianity is a religion like Mormonism. It is not. Each born again Christian is a member of the body of Christ. One can only be that by being born again as Christ told Nicodemus in John 3:7. I'm sure you know that scripture, don't you?

People will not be condemned for their sins. They will be condemned for NOT accepting the provision God made for their sins. As human beings we are not able to do anything that will even help us to get to heaven. And if we could, we would all brag about it. God does not allow braggarts in heaven. The Apostle Paul taught in his letter to Ephesians that our salvation comes to us as a gift through our faith in the completed work of Jesus Christ ON the cross. "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*" Eph. 2:8-9

I'm sure you have an understanding that Mormonism teaches that **your salvation is based on what you do to help your Jesus save you and give you salvation**. The verse I quoted above is the same verse that Joseph Smith plagiarized from the Bible, in 2 Nephi 25:23, but he added words to it. He wrote: "*For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethern, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; **for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.***" This gives you something to think about. If you were to die this instant, **have you done ALL that you could have done** in your life, or even in this day? Not likely. Your salvation hangs on what you have done, or not done, right? Tough place to be, not knowing where you go when you die. Thinking: Did I do enough to earn my place in [Mormon] heaven?

God's Word, the Bible, does not teach that there is a mother in heaven. No need to go there. That's another figment of Joseph's imagination.

It does not bother me when someone says, "Oh my God!" How do I know what god he believes in? Maybe he is calling on his god, who knows? Do you assume that every time someone says "Oh my God", they are referring to the God of the Bible or the god of Mormonism or the god of JW's or the Moonies or Hinduism or Islam?...

It sounds that you have mistaken me for Eric Kettunen who wrote that article about metallurgy found on our site. He too is a return missionary from Finland, and knowing what he knows about this subject is what started his exit from Mormonism. Obviously your faith is based on fiction and not facts. Have you, as a believing Mormon, ever researched into what it would take to mine the ore and make the plates, swords, helmets and other things the Book of Mormon talks about. Have you ever considered the weight of the gold plates, considering measurements Joseph Smith gave for them? I doubt it. Don't allow them to lead you around by the nose and lie to you. You have an obligation to yourself to KNOW the TRUTH. (Isa. 9:16.)

I don't have to be perfect. The One I believe in already is! Jesus is perfect and so is the salvation He offers to everyone that believes on Him. But it has to be the right Jesus. Jesus said that there will be many false Jesus' that will claim to be the real one. But we have to check them out against the scriptures to see if they meet the criteria that Jesus set....

And you, being the student of Mormonism, that you say you are, I assume you have read what the Mormon General Authorities have said about Jesus. I will quote what Bernard P. Brockbank said in the April 1977 General Conference about Jesus that the Mormons believe in.

**"...and so the Christ followed by the Mormons is not the Christ followed by traditional Christianity. It is true that many of the Christian churches worship a different Jesus than is worshipped by the Mormons..."** This is from the Ensign, May 1977, p. 26. Check it out. - Here's a statement from someone, I'm sure, you know:

*"In bearing testimony of Jesus Christ, President Hinckley spoke of those outside the Church who say **Latter-day Saints do not believe in the traditional Christ. No, I don't. The traditional Christ of whom they speak is not the Christ of whom I speak.** For the Christ of whom I speak has been revealed in this the Dispensation of the Fullness of Times. He together with His Father, appeared to the boy Joseph Smith in the year 1820, and when Joseph left the grove that day, he knew more of the nature of God than all the learned minister of the gospel of the ages."* That is from the Church News, June 20, 1998, p.7.

**I am now a traditional Bible believing Christian.** I believe in the Jesus Christ revealed by Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, Paul, Jude, James. Those men lived with Jesus, they ate with him, they saw him die and come to life again and ascend into heaven. I'll take their words over anything that Joseph Smith said because everything that Joseph said is in contradiction to God's Word, the Bible. A true prophet would not contradict God's Word.

I admit that I am a sinner in need of a savior. And **my savior is Jesus of the Bible, not Jesus of Joseph Smith and Gordon B. Hinckley.**

Now that you know that there is a difference between the Jesus of Mormonism and the Jesus of Christianity, which one are you going to choose? The decision is yours. Jesus of the Bible or of Joseph Smith?

I have a great deal of knowledge about Mormonism. And now I have a great deal of knowledge about the Bible. I will choose the Bible. And, yes, I can credit my wife for showing me the error of Mormonism. After all, she worked with the General Authorities of the church for nearly 15 years. We both have met many of them. Many of them are very different, when they are not in front of a TV camera during conference time. And no, I will not re-evaluate my life and my life partner. **My life is in Jesus Christ, as is my wife's.** We dearly love the Lord and want to serve him the rest of our lives.

Our mission is to warn and expose the un-biblical doctrines of Mormonism and offer the truth of God's Word to those who have been born into Mormonism or seduced into it by Mormon missionaries. (Ezekiel 33:7-9.) I'll be waiting for you reply. - Respectively, Dennis Higley

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We have received many, many letters from active Mormons, who are **not** questioning Mormonism, but actually trying to "convert" us back!! It seems almost strange that in these last 1-2 months we have been bombarded with "testimonies" of the Book of Mormon and Joseph Smith, more than we can recall in the past. Is there a new movement, promoted among faithful Mormons, to try to make us spend more time with them so that we would not have time to deal with people who are really searching, who have seen contradictions, lies and unbiblical doctrines promoted by the LDS church? We do not know, but the amount of that kind of, seemingly friendly and caring, letters from Mormons make us suspect that perhaps there is an organized plan behind all this? We have answered them, as we always do. In the past years, after 2-3 answers from us, those who are not genuinely searching, have stopped writing. Not now. They keep on writing and trying very hard to shake our faith in the Bible, while testifying for the Mormon scriptures. Many of them are local Utah Mormons. Interesting.

We are still teaching at Calvary - next Sunday is our 9<sup>th</sup> class, at this time. We hope to finish this course on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December, giving all attendees time to prepare for Christmas. This has been a very good class, as they all have been. The attendees and their enthusiasm and questions make our class stimulating and interesting. It is not "the same old" stuff, which makes it fun for us too. We have sent out over a hundred "*The Bible vs. the Book of Mormon*" videos, literally all over

the world. We also continue to send our literature to all who ask, and “*DNA vs. the Book of Mormon*” videos to those who have not seen it before, or to those who request additional copies. We send these free of charge, and leave it up to receivers to reimburse. We know that many receivers of these videos use them for ministry service, and spreading the God’s truth does not have a price-tag. **Without your help we could not do it.** We thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and we know that God will reward your efforts and sacrifices. Some day, we pray, we both will be able to do this work without having to also work outside of the ministry. There is so much more that we could do if Dennis too could spent 5-6 days a week with me in this. It is a matter of our prayer and your prayers.

Dennis’ health has improved, and his blood pressure is almost normal now. His cardiologist was very pleased when he went to see him on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. Thank you for your prayers for him. We want you to know that we pray for you also, every night. This is God’s work and we could not do it without your help. *May He give you desires of your hearts.* (Psalm 20:4-5)

**Have a wonderful Christmas.**

**In Christ,**

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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