

August 2, 2006

H.I.S. Ministries August Newsletter, covering July, 2006

We had an opportunity to take a 10-day rest. We went camping to the Uintah Mountains and it was lovely. We took long walks, talked about the ministry and our future plans and work in it. We studied the Scriptures daily with study-tapes by Chuck Missler, listened to series of David Hocking's, and Dave Hunt's tapes in addition to about 20 hours worth of various prophecy conference talks by 11 different speakers. They all were absolutely wonderful and inspiring. We slept well and ate well. We really needed the rest. It was the best vacation we have had in a long time - and it did not cost us more than gasoline for about a 300 mile round trip and what we ate there. God is good, and we thank Him for allowing us this time.

We came home to a large amount of emails, phone-messages and other mail , and it will take time to get through it all. It will keep us somewhat behind for a while, because we also get new emails and calls every day.

After we got home, our friend (a former LDS) stopped by. She has been a believer almost 5 years now. Discussion turned to her three LDS sons. One of them is a returned LDS missionary, and two others returned to the Mormon church last fall after they had listened to "*Greg and Bob in Conversation*"-program. The older of the two, who went back to Mormonism, is now preparing to go on a mission! This is heart-breaking for their mother. These boys had, about 2-3 years ago, become Christians, at least they said they had, and they were even baptized in a Baptist church. She has had many, many discussions with her sons, trying to reason with them. She said that her son, the one who had served an LDS mission, told her how he had recently "gone forward" in a "Christian rock concert" and "received Jesus into his heart". She asked some pointed questions only to find out that "Jesus" he claimed he received is the still the same "Mormon Jesus", a spirit-brother of mankind, a brother of Lucifer - in other words Jesus he believes in is not Jesus of the Bible, Immanuel, God Himself, but "another Jesus" warned of in 2 Cor. 11:4 and elsewhere. This story about her RM-son committing to a false Jesus again forces me to touch this topic "Jesus WHO?", for there seems to be more confusion on this than perhaps on any other matters between Mormonism and Christianity.

Communication is only meaningful if we understand the words used to have the same meaning to all. Mormons use Christian terms and words, but to Mormons they have a totally different meaning. When a Mormon talks about "Jesus", he is talking about a brother, the one he/she supposedly grew up with in pre-existence, equal to him/her there in all things, only difference being that Jesus was the eldest son, "our elder brother". That is fantasy. There was no pre-existence for mankind. Only God pre-existed. In fact "Jesus of Mormonism" is not real, he does not exist, and thus he cannot save anyone, no matter how sincerely one "accepts" him or believes in him. LDS church prophet (Gordon B. Hinckley) has made it clear that the "Jesus" they believe in is a totally different person than Jesus of Christianity! Somehow it does not seem to sink in to a Mormon mind, and if they know that there is a big difference, they tend to assume that they are correct and that Christianity and the Bible are wrong about who Jesus is. Many Christians do not understand that there cannot be any salvation in falsehoods, even though the Bible says so.

The Bible teaches who Jesus is, what He did for us. He is God Almighty who became a man to die in

our place, to pay our sin-penalty, not just earn us resurrection, as Mormonism teaches. Isaiah 7:14 prophesied that when God becomes a man, He will be born of a Virgin and be called “Immanuel, God with us”. Fulfillment of this prophecy, one of over 300 Old Testament prophecies concerning Him, is found in Matthew 1:23 and in John 1:1, 14. In contrast to the Bible, “Jesus of Mormonism” is “naturally conceived“, and thus not born of a Virgin. Using an LDS apostle’s words, “*he was begotten in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers*”. (Mormon Doctrine, p. 547.) That is “another Jesus”, who cannot save. Only God can save sinners. Jesus warned that there will be those who present false Christs. He said that even if they do “*wonderful works*” in His name, on Judgment Day He will say to them, “*I never knew you, depart from Me*”. (Matt. 7:22-23). Jesus said that it is a prerequisite to eternal life to *know Him* (John 17:3), not just His name, but Him, Who He is. He said, (John 8:24) “*...if ye believe not that I AM He [God], ye shall die in your sins.*” We must not allow Mormons to assume that they are saved by just using His name, while not knowing Who He is. Our Christian responsibility is to explain the differences between Jesus of the Bible and “Jesus” of Mormonism, so that they can call on the right one and be saved. Paul warned about those who preach “*another Jesus*”, and “*another gospel*” and said that they who preach it and/or follow it, will receive God’s *curse* (anathema). (Gal. 1:8-9; 2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15.) If we do not warn, we are responsible for their souls, as Ezekiel 33:7-9 says. This cannot be taken lightly. Let us all commit our lives on being loving, but truthful witnesses and helpers to those who have in the past accepted false gospels and false Jesus, and bring them “*out from among them*” (2 Cor.6:17).

From our mailbox:

A Christian man wrote:

“I just wanted to drop you a line to tell you how appreciative I am of your writings and your site. You have truly inspired me and empowered me in the right direction. I am 25-year old Christian who has a friend who has recently chosen to be baptized a Mormon. After reading this you have given me the spiritual arm I needed to begin my case against Mormonism to her. ...I realize how much a blessing it is to share with someone like the two of you. Be blessed in all you do. I know that when your body ceases here on earth Jesus will be waiting for you in His blessed eternity. Thank you... you are a living saint.

M.S.

My brief answer:

Thank you. It is encouraging to hear that our site has helped you to become a witness to your LDS friend. If we can answer any questions that may come up as you start talking with her, we will be happy to help. May God bless you and help your friend to see the real Jesus and be saved.

Rauni Higley

A Christian young man asked:

“I have a Mormon friend who testifies of the Book of Mormon and assures me that it is a true history of Jews who traveled to Americas about 600 B.C. and that Christ came to visit them after His resurrection establishing His church in America. I know that there are no archeological evidences that match the Book of Mormon period (from 600 B.C. to 421 A.D.) and I also have found out that through DNA research it has been established that American Indians, who Mormons call “Lamanites” from the Book of Mormon, are not Hebrews. He has ignored that as evidence against the Book of Mormon. Is there anything in the text itself that I can use to show him that the Book of Mormon is fiction and at the best simply a poor copy of some biblical stories ? How can I begin to show him that, and that Christ did not come to America in 34 A.D.? Can you give me a couple of points so that I can start? Thank you. T.C.”

My reply:

Dear T.C., I assume that you have a copy of the Book of Mormon? Go to the very first page, and see the year noted at the bottom of the page - “*About 600 B.C.*” - and then read verse 4, that says, “*For it came to pass in the commencement of the first year of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah...*” In the BoM (page

5, Chapter 3) we read how Lehi sent his sons back to Jerusalem (year is now between 600 and 592 B.C.) to obtain the records of the Jews (v. 3) “engraven upon *plates of brass*“. Considering that these records had to have been made a long time prior to 600 B.C. - for engraving is a lengthy process - let’s look at what they say were on those records (BoM, page 10, Chapter 5:10-13). It says they included the “*five books of Moses*“, and “*a record of the Jews from the beginning, even down to commencement of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah*” - and “*also prophecies of the holy prophets, from the beginning, even down to commencement of the reign of Zedekiah; and also many prophecies which have been spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah...*” (By the way, Jews wrote their records on scrolls, made of papyrus, parchment or leather.) Let’s look at this in a light of the known historical facts : Mattaniah became a last king of Judah in 597 B.C. - 3 years after Lehi and his family had left Jerusalem. King Nebuchadnezzar renamed Mattaniah Zedekiah after the Jews were taken into Babylonian captivity, which begun 586 B.C., 14 years AFTER Lehi and his family had left Jerusalem. (See 2 Kings 24:16-17.) Mattaniah would not have been known as Zedekiah to any of the Jews until after 586 B.C. and even then, more than likely, only to those who were in Babylonia.

The Book of Mormon reports that Lehi and his family had sailed from the Middle East (591-590 - see BoM, pages 38-40, Chapter 18) and were already in the Americas years before Babylonian captivity and long before Mattaniah was renamed Zedekiah.

Question to ask your friend: How did they know Mattaniah as Zedekiah and how did the name Zedekiah get on to the brass plates, engraven long before 600 B.C.? And what about other prophets and their records engraven on “brass plates“? Jeremiah is mentioned by name - but Jeremiah’s writings did not begin until about the time of the Babylonian captivity in 586 B.C. and they were not completed for many years after that?

I will write about your other question next time. I hope this is a start. God bless. Rauni

A Mormon woman wrote (I answered her, inserting my answers into her letter to make it more like a one-on-one discussion - her words are in *italics*): _

“S___: *I just wanted to know why you feel that it is your duty to help Mormons with there religion?*”

We are former Mormons and we know what Mormonism is, and is not. God commands those who know the truth, and have been warned, to warn others. (Ezekiel 33:7-9) What you do with this information is up to you. We have put information on our website so that those seeking to know can read and find out. We are not forcing anyone to go to it, it is an voluntary act - as it was for you too, right?

S___ Asking if we are christian or not, how dare you! What does it matter what we believe as long as we believe in Christ and try to live a good and caring life. if your so worried about if people are christian or not, why don't you start pointing out all the other religions problems. there are so many different denominations of Christianity and many focus on slightly different aspects of the bible.

Mormons are not Christians simply because they do not believe what Christians believe. You would not say that someone who does not believe what Mormons believe is a Mormon, right? Since you (and the LDS church) do not believe what Christians believe, why do you want to be identified as a Christian, rather than as a Mormon?

Historic Christianity believes in Trinity - which means: God the Father, who is Spirit (John 4:24), and the Son of God, Second Person of Trinity, known to us as Jesus, Eternal God (Psalms 90:2; John1:1, 14) who became a man to pay the sin-penalty of men (Romans 6:23; 3:21-26) and God the Holy Spirit, who testifies of Jesus. (John 16:13-14.)

- Jesus of Christianity is not a spirit brother of Lucifer and all mankind as Mormonism teaches. He the Creator, God who created all angels, including Lucifer. (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16.) - Christians believe what the Bible teaches about salvation, namely that it is God's gift to all who believe in the biblical Jesus, who is uncreated, Eternal God. Salvation is not of works, so that no one can boast. (Eph. 2:8-9; Romans 3:28.)

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In contrast to what the Bible teaches, Mormons believe they must work for their salvation, they believe that God the Father is a former mortal man, who progressed into a God, and that he also had a God before him, and that men can likewise become gods. The Bible refutes all that. (Isa. 43:10; 44:6;8.) - Mormons are free to believe what they want to believe, but they should not be allowed to fool people into thinking that what they teach and believe is biblical or Christian. All Christian denominations believe in the Trinity. They may vary in some of their practices, but their belief in who God is, who Jesus is and how we are saved do agree. Mormons do not believe in Trinity, and that is why they are not considered Christians. It does not mean that we think of Mormons as not "good people", humanly speaking, but they are not saved people, for a false Jesus cannot save anyone. I want to remind you that the Mormon church admits that the "Jesus" they believe in is not the same Jesus as is worshipped by Christians. (See Hinckley's statement in Church News, June 20, 1998, p. 7, and Ensign May 1977, p. 26. There are more statements like that, declared by the LDS church.)

S___: why not look at other groups that are considered cults like Opus dai. is it a problem if there is a holy mother [as in Mormonism] ? why can't women be as important as men? the holy trinity, father, son and holy ghost all are worshiped? sounds like polytheism to me.

We are not dealing with other false religions for the simple reason that we did not come from them. We were Mormons and we know what it is. We will let those who come from other cults, deal with them. I repeat: Christians believe in the Trinity. Trinity is ONE GOD, Three Persons. Christians worship ONE GOD. (James 2:19; 1 Tim. 2:5.) Mormons worship and believe in many gods - that is polytheism. They believe there are 3 gods for this earth, and countless number of gods elsewhere, and that they too will become gods some day. The Bible says that *there are no Gods before God* [of the Bible], and *there will not be any Gods after Him*. (Isa. 43:10.) The First Commandment (Exodus 20:3) forbids a worship or acknowledgement of any other gods. We must worship the God, who is "*from everlasting to everlasting*" (Ps. 90:2), who did not evolve from a man to a god. In other words: God is not a former mortal man. (Numbers 23:19; Hosea 11:9; Job 9:32.)

S___: heaven forbid we use symbols mimicking celestial bodies (sun, moon, stars), the "heavens", the sky, what have you, which is supposedly where god resides.

The Second commandment God gave to His people (Exodus 20:4) forbids making images of anything in heaven above, and that means, of course, sun, moon, stars and angels.

S___: how many stories that are shared in the bible have parallels to other religions that were established hundreds of years earlier?

Earlier than what? The Bible covers from creation of man (about 6 thousand years ago) to redemption of mankind about 2000 years ago. I agree that men have, from the beginning, erred and worshiped "what-ers", but it is not to be used as an excuse; it only proves the sinful nature of mankind. Stories of other religions may parallel with the stories found in the Bible for the simple reason that all mankind came from the same first parents and had same basic information past on from generation to generation.

S___: you compare Mormonism with paganism [pictures on your website], which you go on to say is more or less the same as satanism. did you actually read the satanic bible that you scanned yourself? They [Satanists] don't worship Satan, he is a symbol that they use to represent human desire and sin. that is right to our free will that god so nicely gave us. They [Satanists] don't believe in harming people and doing evil, they believe in doing what they want to do and acting in their best interests instead of the interests of others. if anything, they're just selfish, which is how a lot of people, satanic or not, are.

Pictures on our website of symbols of sun, moon, stars etc. taken from the Salt Lake Mormon temple

were taken by Dennis. Mormonism has borrowed these symbols from Masonry and uses them as a representation of what Mormonism teaches. About 1500 LDS men in Nauvoo, Illinois, were Masons. Joseph Smith was a Mason, as was Brigham Young, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff and others. Symbols represent what people using them believe, or are supposed to believe. Webster's Dictionary (1998 ed.) explains what a symbol is: "[symbol is] *authoritative summary of faith or doctrine - it stands for or suggests something else by reason of relationship... it is an object or act representing something in the unconscious mind that has been repressed ...*" Webster explains "symbolism" as "art of practice of using symbols... expressing the invisible by means of visible representations..." Masonry explains that the image of the sun is a representation of the sun-god, also called Baal. In some cultures he is called by other names, but regardless of the name, it is the same "sun-god". (See what the Bible says about Baal in 1 Kings 18:18-40, and what Elijah, the prophet of God, did about it.) Image of moon represents a female-goddess. This all started way back in the Tower of Babel, when men desired to reach to the heavens and wanted to become like God, which has been the devil's doctrine from Genesis 3:5 on. Paul calls these ideas "doctrines of devils" (1 Tim. 4:1.)

S___: and paganism is also not as evil as you make it seem. they believe in nature and that everything has a soul, you know, the immortality of souls that you mention in your statement of faith. and yes, they perform rituals, put so does every religion, including yours.

We do not belong to any "religion". We are born-again believers in Jesus of the Bible. We fellowship in Christian churches, currently at Calvary Chapel. There are absolutely no rituals involved, just book-by-book, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse teaching from the Bible.

There may be many things that seem innocent, even in paganism. Many false religions do good deeds. Satan cannot entice all people into doing evil - some he fools by "goodness", but he adds false doctrine, or false understanding of God, which will eventually lead the followers, regardless of their good deeds, to hell.

S____: having [eating] the blood and flesh of Christ. offering sacrifices [to God] in the bible. sound familiar?

We as Christians participate in a "communion". It consists of bread and wine (or red grape juice), in remembrance of what Jesus did for us, when He paid the penalty of sin by offering Himself as a perfect Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. He shed His blood on the Cross of Calvary on our behalf. We do not "eat" the flesh and blood of Christ, we partake by taking unleavened bread and wine that *symbolize* His sacrifice, what He did for us, when His body was broken for us and His blood shed for us. He asked us to do it *in remembrance of Him*. (Luke 22:19.)

S___: and if Israel is God's chosen people, and the Jews should be restored in their own land, then shouldn't that make Judaism the right religion, not Christianity? especially since the Jews didn't believe that Jesus was the messiah that was in the prophecies?

All followers of Christ during the first century in Israel were Jews. They believed in Him as their long-awaited Messiah. Jesus Himself was a Jew. It was *the leadership of Israel* that did not accept Jesus, because they were looking for an earthly King-Messiah to free them from the dominance of Rome. They had overlooked Isaiah's prophecy (Isa. 53) and teachings in the book of Daniel (9:26), prophesying that He comes first as sacrifice for our sins, saying that "Messiah [will] be cut off (be put to death), but not for Himself", but for His people - and after that, in His Second Coming, He will come as their King - and the Judge to all nations.

Christianity in reality is "Judeo-Christian" faith, founded on what the Hebrew scriptures, the Old Testament, teach about Messiah. There are even now thousands upon thousands of "Messianic Jews" in Israel, Jews, who believe that Jesus is their Messiah. There are thousands and thousands of Jews who are

believers in Jesus, i.e. are "Christians", in America and around the world. (There is also an organization called "Jews for Jesus". You can find them on the Internet if you'd go to google, and type "Jews for Jesus".)

Note that America is said to be a "Christian nation", but vast majority of Americans are not true believers in Christ either. However, the Bible says that ALL ISRAEL will be eventually saved. (Romans 11:25-29.) They are in their own land now, as a fulfillment of biblical prophesy. When Jesus comes again, He will rule and reign from Jerusalem. He will be "*the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords*" for the whole world, not just Israel. (Rev. 19:11-16.)

S___: in short, the world is messed up, and so are a lot of religions. but that does not make you your job to single out one other religious denomination and slam it as being satanic!!! i think that you are being absolutely ridiculous and i don't appreciate you. [signed S___]

I agree as you say that the entire "world is messed up", but even that is according to what was foretold by Jesus. (Luke 18:8.) As I already said, we concentrate on Mormonism, because we came from it. We let others concentrate on other false religions they have expertise in.

Sincerely, Rauni Higley - www.hismin.com

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Just a few days ago we got a very good news from a lady in Nevada who has been writing to us (Dennis) for only about a month. Her friend there had given her our little booklet, *The Truth About Mormonism*. She contacted Dennis after reading it and they have talked, both by phone and via email. Dennis has also mailed her other information to help her to know the whole truth about Mormonism and *come away from it*. Dennis has asked our friends in Vernal, Utah, who have a tape-ministry, to send her some Bible study tapes, and this lady has been really studying. She was an active "temple-Mormon", but she has already stopped wearing her garments, and has gone to her bishop and asked that her and her children's names (ages 2, 8 and 12) be removed from the records of the Mormon church. Fortunately she has support from her husband who is not LDS. We are so encouraged by her stand she has taken so soon among her LDS family and friends. Dennis called her this last Sunday (30th of July). She said that she is under a lot of pressure, but now that she has received the true Jesus of the Bible into her heart and life and understands who He is, she will not allow any intimidation to get to her. Her bishop was giving her a hard time and was not willing to let her take her children's names off the records, but he will have to relent. Dennis bought her a study Bible from Calvary Chapel's Bookstore this Sunday so that she will not have to use her LDS Bible any longer. We are mailing it to her now.

I have been reporting to you about Edward in Uganda for last several months. He received the funds we wired to him so that he can, this coming weekend, start his 2-month, 1-hr. weekly radio call-in show on Mormonism. He is asking prayer so that he will be clear and informative and that he is able to lead callers to Jesus Christ, the True One.

Much is going on here and around the world. We have been asked to travel to Finland in September for the Mormon temple open-house. We are still waiting for funding for that trip, and if it comes, we will go. I have translated four pamphlets on various Mormon topics for that purpose. They were written by *the Institute For Religious Research* (they are available at www.irr.org/mit/Finnish-page.html). We will be taking them with us to distribute there. (These same pamphlets can be read in English by going to www.irr.org/MIT.)

Please start praying now and continue to pray that it all will go well and that we both will stay healthy enough to take on this task in addition to many other matters we are working on. We took the summer off of teaching our Mormonism class at Calvary Chapel, but we have been asked to start it again in September. This will start our third year of teaching there. If we start it before we

go to Finland, we have to stop it for those 2 weeks that we are gone.

We thank you all for your prayers, your sacrificial help in ministry finances and many other ways you have shown your support and encouragement to us. We absolutely could not do this work without your help. We pray daily that God will reward your faithfulness and bless you abundantly, over and above all you can ask or even think. (Eph. 3:14-21.)

In Christ and in His service,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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