



April 1, 2008

H.I.S. Ministries Newsletter, covering March 2008

We hope that you had a wonderful celebration of our Lord's Resurrection Day, commonly called Easter celebration. It fell this year unusually early, March 23.

To all genuine believers in Christ the issue is not as much of the date as it is of the fact that HE IS ALIVE AND COMING AGAIN, SOON.

However, we should know the facts about Easter if we are ever asked about it.

(Following is an excerpt from Chuck Missler's Newsletter of March 18, 2008.)

"This year we celebrate Easter on March 23rd, almost a month before Passover. Yet Christ was crucified on Passover, so why are they an entire month apart?"

Passover is observed on the 14th day of the month of Nisan, the first month of the religious year. **Jesus was crucified on Passover** and rose on the 3rd day, appropriately on the Feast of Firstfruits (the morning after the Sabbath after Passover). This was always on a Sunday, irrespective of the day of the week of Passover. Thus, Christians have traditionally celebrated His resurrection on Sunday.

*In the West, most of our major holidays occur conveniently on fixed dates. However unless you are an astronomer, the date of Easter can be much more difficult to determine. That's because its date is set by the lunar calendar. The rules for determining the date of Easter were imposed by Constantine and the Council of Nicaea in AD 325, long before the advent of the Gregorian calendar that is most widely used in the world today. **Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday, after the first full moon, after the spring equinox.** Therefore, it is held on a Sunday on varying dates between March 22 and April 25.*

This year Passover begins at sunset on April 19th, almost a month after Easter, in part because it is a Jewish leap year. During leap years, an entire month is added to the Hebrew calendar. Furthermore, this year Easter comes early, very early. In fact, the next time Easter will fall this early will be in the year 2228 – not for another 220 years. The last time it fell on March 23rd was the year 1913. Easter sometimes falls on March 22nd, a day earlier, however that hasn't happened since 1818 and won't happen again until the year 2285 – in another 277 years. What does that mean? No one alive today has or will ever celebrate it any earlier.

*You may have noticed that many aspects of **our holidays are more tradition than truth**. For example, the word "**Easter**" appears in the King James Version in the Book of Acts (Acts 12:4), but the Greek word **pascha**, **actually refers to Passover**, and is so corrected in most modern renderings. The name "Easter" has its roots in earlier pagan practices, as do many of our more peculiar Easter traditions (like rabbits that lay eggs)."*

Marking of 23rd of March as a Day to celebrate Resurrection of Jesus can be confusing when we look at the Bible and what it has to say about this important celebration.

Preaching of the true Gospel means teaching that Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again on the third day. Biblically the Feast of Firstfruits, celebration of resurrection of our Lord (1 Cor. 15), is always on Sunday after the celebration of Passover. (See: Ex. 12:3-8, 18-20; Matt. 26:17-18; Mark 14:12; Luke 22:7)

We learn from Exodus 12 that **Passover lamb was selected 4 days before Passover**, when it was killed.

You recall that people many times had wanted to declare Jesus as their Messiah-King, but He always said, "**my time has not yet come**" – then the day we call Palm Sunday, **He arranged it** (that day was **4 days before the Passover, the day of selecting the Passover Lamb**) (Matt. 26:17-18), and **allowed Himself to be presented as King, fulfilling Ps. 118:26 and Daniel 9**, and when Pharisees rebuked Him, He said, "**if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out**" (Luke 19:28-44). **This was the Day prophesied in Dan. 9:24-26. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.** (John 1:29) **Jesus wept over Jerusalem** because they, as a nation, did not recognize **the time of His visitation** (Luke 19:42-44). Luke's report has many treasures for us to see. Jesus presented Himself as **the Passover Lamb**, fulfilling Daniel's prophecy (Daniel 9:24-26) that the Messiah will be put to death for His people, and also Zech.9:9 that says, "**...thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly and riding upon an ass, upon a colt of the foal of an ass.**" (It happened **exactly on the day predicted by Daniel**, which was **173,880 days after commandment was given on 14th of March 445 B.C. by Artaxerxes Longimanus - to rebuild Jerusalem**. The date when Jesus rode to Jerusalem was 6th of April 32 A.D.)

Some information about the Final Week:

Friday – 6 days before Passover – Jesus came to Bethany (John 12: 1)

Saturday - Triumphal Entry, [distance from Mt. Olives is "a sabbath day's journey" Acts 1:12] (Matt. 21:5-7, 12, 17; Mark 11:7-11; Luke 19:28-44.)

Sunday – fig tree cursed (Matt. 21:18-20; Mark 11:12-14)

Monday – Conspirators counsel (Matt. 26:2-5; Mark 14:1-2; Luke 22:1-6.)

Tuesday – Last Supper (after 6:00 pm). Passover, "**between the evenings**" (Matt. 26:17-20; Mark 14:12-17; Luke 22:7-20.)

Wednesday – Crucifixion (John 19:14-42; Mark 15:8-25; Luke 23:20-46.)

Thursday – Beginning of Feast of Unleavened Bread (Lev. 23:4-8); lasts 7 days, 1st and last days are sabbaths (Matt. 27:62; Lev. 23:6-7. [Note: **Jewish year includes seven high sabbaths in addition to the Saturday sabbaths.**]

Friday – Women prepare spices,

Saturday – "and rested" (Luke 23:56), "**end of the Sabbath...**" (Matt. 28:1 - i.e. after 6:00 pm)

Sunday – **He is risen. Our new beginning.** (Matt. 28:11; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:6-8; John 20:1-18.)

He is risen indeed! Praise be to God for our salvation in Jesus.

[The current system of dating Easter is a pagan practice dealing with **dating of the beginning of Spring**. If you want more historical information on the pagan roots of Easter and why it is practiced, "google" the word "Easter" or "Ishtar" and read what the website that contains that information says.]

From our mailbox:

An LDS man, who attended 2-3 of our 10 classes at a Baptist church, wrote: (his words are in *italics*, my answers to him, below his statements, are in regular text)

My name is _____

...I attended several of your presentations at the Baptist Church. I have also been in your home and appreciated your hospitality. You didn't seem to be afraid of me when I was in your home, but you seemed to be afraid of me at the Baptist Church.

I have no fear of you. Nor do I really care if you want to remain a Mormon and believe its false doctrines, **for I think you have heard enough to make your choices.** According to God's Word, it takes **the love for the truth to be saved.** (2 Thess. 2:10-12.) You have your freedom to remain a Mormon, as we have our freedom to test Mormonism by the Bible. (1 Thess. 5:21; 1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1.) [Mormons say that their source of truth is Joseph Smith and the church he founded. Is that source for truth trustworthy? We tested it and found it not to be. The only trustworthy source is **Jesus Christ who is the Word and the Truth.** (John 14:6; 17:17; Ps.100:5)]

We were asked by South Valley Baptist Church to come and help their members, and possibly other Christians in the neighborhood too (that was the reason they had put up a sign for the class), **to learn how Mormonism differs from biblical Christianity.** This class was **not** intended for Mormons, even though we have never forbid them to attend, if they come to listen, respectfully. We are happy to answer any points concerning Mormon doctrines that we quote **from writings of the LDS leaders and their historians' writings.**

Our classes are about Mormonism and its errors. Simply stated: **Doctrines that are not biblical, are in error.** We, as biblical Christians, believe the Bible without reservation. **The Bible is not on trial in our classes – it is complete and infallible revelation of God. It is Mormonism that is on trial.** You did not come to learn why we see Mormonism as a false religion. **You came to argue against the Bible, while hypocritically stating that you love the Bible! Your obvious motive was to create doubts on the Holy Word of God in the minds of Christians. We will not participate on that.**

By the way, **your 8th article of faith** says that you **can only question the Bible in parts where you have found mistranslations – “we believe the Bible as far as translated correctly”.** Show me those parts that you have found that **are not translated correctly**, and I will be happy to check them out from the Hebrew or Greek texts I have here. Other than that **your article of faith demands that you believe it all.** You said that you were presenting “contradictions” found in the Bible. **Your article # 8 says nothing about “contradictions”,** for most people claiming “contradictions” or searching for them, have never understood the whole counsel of God. **The problem is in their lack of knowledge and comprehension, not the Bible.**

The most important issue in any religion is **WHO IS GOD? WHO IS JESUS?** If you have a wrong God, you have no salvation, no matter how much “good” in your religion you can present!!! Since Mormonism does not teach what the Bible teaches about God and Jesus, let me point out to you that the Bible teaches that **God is Spirit , meaning that He does not have a body of flesh and bones** (John 4:24; Luke 24:39) as Mormonism teaches. **He is not a man** (Numb. 23:19; Hosea 11:9 etc). **He has never been less than God** (He did not “progress” from a mere man to a God, as Mormons say He did), **nor does He have a God before Him, and men will not become Gods** after Him.(Isa. 43:10; 44:6, 8; Ps. 90:2.)

You are welcome to continue believing doctrine presented in the Garden of Eden **by Lucifer** (Gen 3:1-5), who also tried to cause doubt in what God had said, and who wanted to be like the most High God (Isa. 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:13-19). Mormons obviously accept the devil's teaching of godhood. However, we will continue to warn everyone we can of these false doctrines, and that they will lead to eternal damnation in the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:12-15.)

*Sorry if I came across as argumentative. But I think it would look much better to the public if you show everyone you are willing for your opinions to stand up to **scrutiny**, like Pastor Jason Wallace whom I debated at the University of Utah. We each had equal time, we got along fine, as you can see on youtube. We shook hands afterward and are still on speaking terms.*

Again: **you came to scrutinize the Bible. It is not the Bible that is on trial – Mormonism is! You were way out of line!**

And by the way, I want to remind you that when you came to our home, you came uninvited, armed with your list of “contradictions” you claimed you have found in the Bible. You came to present them **intending to shake a young man’s faith** (in the Bible), **who had come to talk with us about Mormonism**. You came to South Valley Baptist Church with the same purpose, to question the factualness of the Bible. If Jason Wallace agreed to debate with you, that is his decision. We had no agreement with you.

Since I do not see you requesting an end to my e-mails, I will continue.

Don't take my reply as invitation to continue in this kind of nonsense.

You may have obtained all your sources from BYU, but the BYU does not claim that everything they collect is true.

I read a pamphlet of which BYU has a copy of a lady who swears that she was kept in a cage in the Salt Lake Temple with many other women. When one of the men chose her to have sex with, she ran to the window and leaped into the Great Salt Lake to make her escape. When you folks went to the temple, did you see the cages? I didn't when I went.

You are being ridiculous. If BYU has this type of stories in their archives, they, for sure, are not presenting them as truth! **And you know that! We have not quoted anything that they have not presented as facts.**

Are you going to present that kind of information? Some of which you have presented is almost as preposterous.

What we have presented is taught as truth by all whom we quoted. Please show me what is not so.

You quoted Michael Quinn. He shows "evidence" that Joseph Smith was gay, by showing how many times he told men he loved them. Do you honestly believe Joseph Smith was gay, based on saying he looked forward to embracing his father immediately after the resurrection? Quinn does. And by the way, Quinn overwhelms his readers with great amounts of just such documentation.

Dr. D. Michal Quinn was an honorable BYU history professor, who had about 35 years of LDS history research behind him when he wrote his books on history of the LDS Church. (In 1986, to honor Dr. D. Michael Quinn, BYU elected him as the “*Professor of the Year*”.)

He got in trouble with the church’s leadership a year later for telling the truth! Truth is still truth, even if they excommunicated him for telling it. Historical truth is not valued by the Mormon Hierarchy. I have not seen Quinn’s statement about Joseph Smith being a gay man, but regardless of what you say, we have not presented Joseph Smith as gay, and you are out of line, again, for even saying that. Joseph Smith was quite the opposite: **he was an adulterer and womanizer.** He had dozens of “wives”, and in addition to that, **he married 11 women who had living husbands** – as did Brigham Young. Yet, even near to Smith’s time of death, he still lied that *he only had one wife, Emma.* (See History of the Church, vol. 6, p. 411, under date *May 1844*, which was just about one month before his death.) We can know by words of Jesus where Joseph Smith was going... (Rev. 21:8.) Quinn and other LDS professors have stated that Joseph Smith and his parents, and even grandparents, were occultists. **Joseph Smith was necromancer and sorcerer, and he practiced witchcraft – all forbidden by God of the Bible.** (Deut. 18:9-14; 20-22.) Joseph Smith was a false prophet and he was put to death. Men of Illinois went after him because of his illegal practices (polygamy etc.), but God had spoken to Israel, giving a warning *that prophet who is leading people after other gods, will be put to death.* (See: Deut. 13:1-5.)

Mormonism promotes and teaches communication with the dead, which is also forbidden by God of the Bible. Mormon temples are built so “**that the living may hear from the dead**”. (Parley P. Pratt’s speech in temple-cornerstone dedication service, found in Journal of Discourses, vol. 2:45-46.)

Not all the founding fathers were Masons. And there were good Masons and bad Masons.

I believe George Washington was a good Mason. I read something about bad Masons written by Albert Pike, about their Luciferian doctrines.

I believe all of them were Masons. I cannot recall anyone of them that was not.

Masonry is Luciferian doctrine. Could you say that there are “good Luciferians” and “bad Luciferians”? Could there be “good Satanist” and “bad Satanists”?

False doctrines are presented as “good” only to fool the ignorant. They call evil “good” and what is good, “evil”. Masonry calls Adonai (the Lord of the Bible) evil, and **they say that Lucifer is the God of Light and God of Good.** **“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light and light for darkness...”**(Isa. 5:20.)

All that is based on lies and falsehoods is bad, regardless of a “good image” that they present in order to deceive.

I will quote from a book intended for **Highest Masons of 33 degrees:**

“Masonry, like all the Religions, all the Mysteries, Hermeticism and Alchemy, conceals its secrets from all except the Adept and Sages, or the Elect, and uses false explanations and misinterpretation of its symbols to mislead those who deserve only to be misled; to conceal the truth, which it calls Light, from them, and to draw them away from it. Truth is not for those who are unworthy or unable to receive it, or would pervert it”. (Morals and Dogma, pp. 104-105.) (Interesting statement, for Mormonism does the very same, and by so doing proves their connection to Masonry...)

We have studied Masonry over 20 years (I had already started in 1974) and we have many of their works in our library. By the way, Albert Pike (1809-1891), **Supreme Commander of Scottish Rite Freemasonry**, his influence is “all over Washington D.C.” In Masonic-buildings you find his busts or statues and praises of his greatness. There has not been a more authoritative leader of Masonry in America as he was.

*By the way, you say you do not believe Joseph Smith was a true prophet because you think he did bad things and taught bad things. Since the Bible is our standard and guide and contains all answers to all questions, and the common denominator between Mormons and our critics, **what about the Bible prophets who did bad things and taught bad things?***

There have been false prophets throughout the history, but **we can know them by their fruits.**

God of the Bible gave instructions how to test a prophet: **If what he says, even one thing, does not happen, then he is a false prophet that deserves to die. (See: Deut. 18:20-22.)**

“If they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them.” (Isa. 8:20)

“...the prophet that teacheth lies, he is the tail. For leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed.” (Isa. 9:15b-16.) **Joseph Smith lied and taught false doctrine, and he made false prophecies.** There is no safety in following false prophets!

All prophets of the Bible were humans, and as we all are, they too were sinners, but they taught correctly and they accurately prophesied of future events – they were 100% of the time 100 % correct. -

You and I believe the Bible prophets were sent by God.

Absolutely I believe that! 2 Peter 1:21 and 2 Tim. 3:16, among other scriptures, assure that their words came from God and are truth. Jesus’ title is The Word of God, His Word is Truth (John 1:1; 17:17). HE IS THE TRUTH personafied. (John 14:6.) In Matt. 24:35 and 5:18, as well as in Luke 24:25-27, 44, Jesus assures that nothing is missing from His Word, and that it is correct. God Himself is in charge of His Word. He is perfectly able to keep it correct. If we have questions, we can check with the original languages – God is keeper of His Word. God holds His Word even higher than His Holy Name (Ps. 138:2.)

But if you reject Joseph Smith, how do you retain your belief in the Bible prophets for doing the same kinds of things? And remain consistent and fair and honest?

All prophets in the Bible prophesied and spoke for God 100% accurately 100 % of the time. Joseph Smith did not. Even “glass lookers” and “Jean Dixons” of the world may get 50% accuracy by simply being “good guessers”, but **the prophets of the Bible did not guess, or assume, they spoke for God and God’s Word is truth (John 17:17).**

One false prophecy makes one a false prophet. (Deut. 18:20-22.) Joseph Smith made many false prophecies. Examples are in abundance. **Since only one false prophecy is needed to prove one a false prophet,** you may check **D&C 84:1-5.** But if you want more, we have Dick Baer’s list of **54 false prophecies of Joseph Smith** on our website (www.hismin.com).

Joseph Smith said, when his prophecy (for going to Toronto selling the copyright to the Book of Mormons) **failed,**” **Some revelation are of God: some revelations are of man: and some revelations are of the devil.**” You Mormons can take your pick where his prophecies came from –i.e. *either from his god(s), form his own mind, or from the devil* – these are suggestions he gave.

I do not intend to continue answering this type of ridiculousness you presented in your letter. I am very busy. – Sincerely, Rauni Higley

Another LDS man wrote: (his comments and spelling are as in original and in *italics*, my answers in regular text)

*You need to stop insinuating that mormons don't worship the *True* Jesus Christ and follow his teachings.*

The leaders of the Mormon Church have admitted that Jesus of Mormonism is not the same Jesus as Jesus of the historic, traditional Christianity. Mormon leaders have said this in their conference sermons, in their Church magazine and the Church News, but obviously many Mormons have not noticed or paid attention to that fact. For example, an LDS General Authority, Bernard P. Brockbank, in April 1977 General Conference, said, ***“It is true that many of the Christian churches worship a different Jesus Christ than is worshipped by the Mormons ...For example, from the Church of England’s Articles of Religion, article one, I quote:‘ There is but one living God, everlasting, without body, parts or passions.’ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints worships a God and a Jesus Christ with bodies, with part, and with passions... These two concepts are ...completely different.”*** (Ensign, May 1977, p. 26-27.)

LDS President Gordon B. Hinckley spoke on June 4th 1998 in Paris, France, and in Frankfurt, Germany on June 5th, and in Geneva, Switzerland, on June 6, 1998. The Church News, June 20th, 1998, on page 7, reports: ***“In bearing testimony of Jesus Christ, President Hinckley spoke of those outside of the Church who say that 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 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 ministers of the gospel of the ages.’”***

During April, 2002, General Conference, President Hinckley said again, ***“As a Church we have critics, many of them. They say we do not believe in the traditional Christ of Christianity. There is some substance to what they say.”*** (Ensign, May, 2002, p. 90.)

We honor our father and mother , keep the sabbath day holy and love our neighbor as ourselves. We obey the law of chastity.

That is all great. Good for you. We as Christians strive to do that too. Christians have practiced keeping **Sunday as a holy day** since Christianity began, almost 2000 years ago. Christians also strive to be good to their neighbors and treat them as they would like to be treated. We also believe that it is for our good to obey the Lord’s commandments, even though the gospel of Christ is not based on laws, but His grace He has freely given to all who believe. (See Gal. 2:16-21; Eph. 2:8-9.) By the way, **Sunday is not Sabbath. Sabbath is Saturday** – the seventh day.

Sunday is the first day of the week – the day when Jesus was resurrected.

We take the sacrament of Bread and water to symbolize his body and blood that was shed for us.

We, as Christians, participate in a communion service, remembering His body broken for us, and His blood shed for remission of our sins. We commemorate that by taking **unleavened bread** which is to remind us of **His sinless body, broken for us (unleavened bread is yeast-less bread**, for yeast, throughout the Bible, is presented as a symbol of sin), we also take **red grape juice** as symbol of His blood. We do that according to His instructions He gave during **the Passover He celebrated with His disciples.** (Matt. 26:26-28; 1. Cor. 11:23-26.)

In the LDS wards they offer **bread made with yeast, which cannot symbolize sinless body of Christ**, and they **serve water** instead of **red grape juice** – water cannot symbolize blood of Christ. These can only be symbolic of *“another Jesus”* (2 Cor. 11:4.)

I say that sounds like what Christ taught us in his doctrines. Also you made the comment about The book of Mormon stating that Jesus was born in Jerusalem. Please keep in mind that this ancient record was written by Nephite prophets who were descendants of Lehi who left Jerusalem the city of their former inheritance. When they prophesied of Christ's birth, they wrote Jerusalem because it was all they knew of the land of Israel being handed down by their forefathers therefore they knew not of the city of Bethlehem. (Regards –J.C.)

Bethlehem is an older city than Jerusalem. People in Israel knew Bethlehem. (Joseph Smith did not.) Bethlehem was the birth place of King David – abt. 1000 B.C. **It is known as the City of David.** The Old Testament prophet Micah wrote about 750 B.C. which would be about **150 years before “Lehi” of the Book of Mormon left Jerusalem.** Micah clearly predicted that **Messiah will be born in Bethlehem.** (Micah 5:2)

If you have further questions, please write again.

Sincerely, Rauni Higley - email: hismin@xmission.com

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Evening of April 1st we are going to have visitors, a father and a son, coming from California to speak with us. The son is the only Christian in his family, the rest are LDS. The father is a retired LDS Seminary and Institute teacher. This father is not questioning Mormonism, but his son is praying that God will lead us to say something that might help his father to see that Mormonism is not biblical. In order to have his father agree to meet with us, he had to agree to meet with some LDS leaders during their visit to Utah. We do not know how our meeting is going to go – but we covet your prayers for this meeting.

Please continue to pray for Heidi Albiston. As I have written to you during the last little over a week, she has a malignant brain tumor. Her young children need their mother, and Dave needs his wife to stay with them. Heidi called Friday afternoon to let us, and you all, to know that she is home now and doing well – and that she will start radiation treatments on 3rd of April. Her sister-in-law Carol also called with these news. ***Our God is able to heal her and we will continue praying for her, her husband Dave, and this lovely family.*** They are former LDS and they have, several years ago, made their faith and courage known by leaving Mormonism and following Jesus of the Bible. They have done what the Lord has said that His followers must do. ***We need to stand with them and support them through this testing time.***

Many LDS say that they believe in “Jesus” - and that they have been “born again” (i.e. baptized into the LDS Church). The fact is that **one cannot be in a relationship with the True Jesus within the confines of a false religion!** One must leave his/her false religion to follow Jesus – **not just “add Him on”.** Following Him means separation from all that is false. ***“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate....”*** (2 Cor. 6:17; 1 Cor. 10:20-21). Confessing Jesus and leaving a religion where your friends and relatives still are, takes strength and courage, and love for the Lord. Jesus said, ***“Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.”*** (Matt. 10:32-33.)

Please pray also for Judy, Bruce and Mike who are going through hard times. Pray for our Australian friend, Jennifer, a former Mormon, who is witnessing to Peter there. Chuck Missler will be next week in Perth, Australia and Jennifer is taking her unbelieving parents and friends to listen to him there. This could mean a lot to her and her family – please pray for God's grace on them all.

We thank all of you who have prayed for us and supported our ministry this last month. We rely on our Lord to speak to those whom He has chosen as our partners in this work, and we thank Him for you and your faithfulness. (Herb. 11:6.)

In His Service,
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