



## **January Newsletter, covering December 2007**

### **Happy New Year, 2008!**

Beginning of every New Year starts with a hope and a wish for something good and even better than the last year. We all can say that there are many things that we did not accomplish as we had hoped, but there is a new year coming... God is in the business of bringing together the old and the new for His glory and to reveal what His purposes for this year are.

The New Year brings a wondrous sense of hope that can motivate us to obey and serve God more than ever. We can look at every new day with excitement as to what the Lord has in store for us for this day.

We need to remain passionate and not lose sight of our long-term commitments but combine them with our new commitments, for God will bring our old and new commitments together.

2007 has been a very good year. More precious souls have been rescued from false beliefs and brought to the foot of the Cross of Christ. Many more are currently being taught and little by little they are learning how to separate the True Jesus from a false "Jesus" they have leaned on in the past. There is such a joy in their hearts, and in our hearts, when the Truth sets them free. False gospels put people into bondage and fear – but the true gospel frees and casts away all fears. The difference is like night and day. God has called His own to shine the light of truth on them.

There are many who say that truth is too harsh for them to bear, and the better way is not to talk about "truth" but just "be nice" and "loving". There is an old saying that *you can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar*. A friend brought up that it might be good advice if you want to accumulate flies, but it will not have a lasting effect on the lost. Who Jesus is has to be shown from the scriptures, and a true nature of mankind has to be exposed in order for people to see the need of the Savior who is our only remedy for sin. He is the only one who can give us everlasting life, and everlasting happiness in spite of our earthly trials. We must lift Jesus up so that all can see Him and consider Calvary's Cross that brings salvation to all who believe on Him. We have just celebrated Christmas, the birth of a baby Jesus – but let's move on and see Him as God who became a man to give His life and blood as the ultimate payment of our sin.

It breaks my heart to see Mormons working so hard to serve an illusion, a false Christ and a false religion – and insist that they are correct because they have this

“testimony” that it is true, and that they do not need proof for they have faith in it. They have not tested the spirits that give these feelings, as 1 John 4:1 commands, *“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”*

It has been said that *“belief without proof is faith, but belief in spite of proof is folly”*. If we see the evidence opposing what we have believed, then we become fools if we continue in that erroneous belief. How far in error are the Mormon people? *Too far to be saved in Mormonism.*

We must listen to what Jesus said about knowing Him and what effect our knowledge of Him has to our eternal life.

*“I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I AM HE, ye shall die in your sins.”* (John 8:24 – see also John 17:3; Matthew 7:22-23.)

Is Jesus God, *Creator of all things* (John 1:1-3, 14; Col. 1:16), as the Word of God says, *or is he a created being, only one of the billions of spirit sons of former mortals* Mormons call their *“heavenly father and mother(s)”*? Is Jesus a brother of all angels and men? The answer to this question means the difference between heaven and hell.

Lately a question, *do Mormons teach and believe that Jesus and Lucifer are spirit brothers*, has been in print more than once, but it has been brushed aside by the spokespersons for the LDS Church, who do not answer this question, but instead accuse those asking this question as being “anti-Mormon”, when it is one of their core teachings about Jesus.

*Gospel Principles*, published by *the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, is a current official teaching manual, meant for all LDS adults.

In Chapter 3, *“Jesus Christ, Our Chosen Leader And Savior”*, we read,

*“We needed a Savior to pay for our sins and teach us how to return to our Heavenly Father. Our Father said, “Whom shall I send?” (Abraham 3:27). Two of our brothers offered to help. Our oldest brother, Jesus Christ, who was then called Jehovah, said, “Here am I, send me” (Abraham 3:27)... Satan, who was called Lucifer, also came, saying, “Behold, here am I, send me, I will be thy son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; wherefore give me thine honor” (Moses 4:1).”* –(*Gospel Principles*, pp. 17-18, emphasis added).

From an official LDS Church magazine, *Ensign*, question and answer section, *“I Have a Question,”* we read,

**Question:** *“How can Jesus and Lucifer be spirit brothers when their characters and purposes are so utterly opposed?”*

**Answer:** *“On first hearing, the doctrine that Lucifer and our Lord, Jesus Christ, are brothers may seem surprising to some—especially to those unacquainted with latter-day revelations. But both the scriptures and the prophets affirm that Jesus Christ and Lucifer are indeed offspring of our Heavenly Father and, therefore, spirit brothers. Jesus Christ was with the Father from the beginning. Lucifer, too, was an angel ‘who was in authority in the presence of God,’ a ‘son of the morning’. (See [Isa. 14:12](#); [D&C 76:25–27](#).) Both Jesus and Lucifer were strong leaders with great knowledge and influence. But as the Firstborn of the Father, Jesus was Lucifer’s older brother. (See [Col. 1:15](#); [D&C 93:21](#).)”* (Emphasis added.)

This answer is given by Jess L. Christensen, Institute of Religion director at Utah State University, Logan, Utah. (Quoted from the www.LDS.org website, 'I Have a Question,' *Ensign*, June 1986, 25–26.)

Can a “*spirit brother of Lucifer*” save anyone, regardless how sincerely one believes in him? Absolutely not! We must know the true God and Savior. Our Savior, the true Jesus Christ, prayed for all of us (John 17:3), and for all who do not yet know Him: “*And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*” The LDS Church and followers of Joseph Smith *do not know the only true God, nor do they know true Jesus Christ, and thus they cannot have eternal life with Him.*

Our concerted effort and goal this New Year continues to be to inform all who do not know Jesus, God, who became a man to reveal the Father to us. *In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead [Trinity] bodily.* (Col. 2:9.)

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### **From our mailbox:**

An LDS lady wrote:

*“I was very interested in your story. I have recently started actively studying the Bible. I am LDS. Many questions have come up, and I have begun to see the truth. Now I am actively studying religions to find that one that I know to be the most accurate. I wonder what religion you decided upon, if you have yet? I would very much like to look into it since you two obviously take this very seriously, and are looking for the truth. I am taking this completely open minded and I will research any that matches up with the Bible and can show it to me. I am also looking into many different versions and translations of the Bible. I want you to know that I am very serious about the truth and I like to get insight from many different views. Thank you very much for your time.”*

### **My answer:**

You said that you have started to study **religions** in order to find “*that one that is the most accurate*”.

You do not need to look for a “religion”, but we all need to seek God and His truth. All “religions” are at best men’s efforts to please God. God is not interested in our “religions”, but He desires that we seek Him and a relationship with Him.

But how do we do that? - Simply by reading and carefully studying God’s “love letter” to us, which is the Holy Bible.

After our initial shock of seeing that Mormonism is not true, nor could it be, we were at a loss. Now what are we going to do?

A friend, who also had been LDS, suggested that we’d start studying the Bible, for *it is a proven record of God’s dealings with mankind*, and that it is historically and prophetically absolutely true. We took her advice and started with the Gospel of John. We studied and studied, every word of it carefully, pondering what it all meant. We came to see Who Jesus really is! **He is not our “brother”, but our Eternal God.** (Matt.1:23; John 1:1, 14; 20:28; Ps. 90:2.) We asked Him to forgive our sins and come into our hearts and lives. We became “born again” as Jesus had said that we must (John 3:7) – we became children of God by receiving Him into our hearts (John 1:12.)

After the Gospel of John, we carefully studied Paul’s letters to Galatians and Romans and through them learned what being a follower of Christ is all about. We continued from there, a book at a time, till we had gone through the entire Bible. We wanted to fellowship with like believers, but first we wanted to make sure that we would not be misled again by anyone, and that we, through our studies and the Holy Spirit, would be able to discern truth from error.

We have continued studying the Bible all these years, and no matter how many times we go through each book of the Bible, we always see and come to understand something we had not realized before. It is God's Book and it is so rich that we can never say that we are through learning from it.

It is good that you are looking into many translations of the Bible. We also bought several translations to get a more in-depth understanding. We mainly use the KJV and NKJV, but we also read the New American Standard and NIV, and a few other study Bibles.

Hebrew, the original language of the Old Testament, is a much richer language than English, and for that reason it is hard to get all of the meaning in one version. The same is true with Greek, the New Testament language. By reading several translations, we can get a better understanding. To better understand what we were reading, we obtained dictionaries and many commentaries written by notable Bible scholars.

As we studied, we learned that our salvation does not come from any church or from any religion, but **from Lord Jesus of the Bible alone**, as John 14:6 and Acts 4:12 say. **Salvation** cannot be earned by our good works, but it is to be received as **the gift of God** through faith in Jesus. (Eph. 2:8-10; Romans 4:2-9; Gal. 2:16-21.)

Romans 10:9-10 instructs us to confess Jesus by our mouth, and believe in our heart so that we can be saved. He died for us, He was buried and then resurrected the third day - that is the GOSPEL, the Good News declared by Paul in 1 Cor. 15:1-4. We BECOME God's children when we receive Him, as is promised in John 1:12.

I would like to talk to you more, and answer your questions. If you are in Utah and in Salt Lake City area, perhaps we could get together and talk about these things? Perhaps I could suggest some churches for you to visit while you continue in your studies of the Bible.

God bless, Rauni Higley

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#### **An LDS woman asked:**

*"Hello,*

*While reading about "**born again Mormon**" on internet, I came across your statement indicating that the Jesus Christ taught by Joseph Smith is not Biblical. Why do you say that? My studies have always shown that Joseph's teachings are more biblical than those of 'traditional Christianity'.*

*It is because all the Christian churches are teaching that 'other gospel' about which Paul warned us, that our Savior called Joseph to restore those lost truths. Why can't you see that? If you don't believe the Bible, why do you pretend to teach it? Can you tell me?*

#### **My reply:**

To understand and define biblical teachings we need to use the words and their definitions found in the Bible and in our standard dictionaries. Let's try to understand what we are saying and mean what we say:

**"Born again" in the Bible** means *born of the Spirit of God* that takes place when we acknowledge ourselves as sinners and ask forgiveness and to receive Jesus, who is Eternal God, Immanuel, who became a man to die for us. (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14; 8:24.) We *become God's children* through our new birth, by our faith in true Jesus Christ. (John 1:12; Gal. 3:26)

**"Born again" in Mormonism** begins with the baptism **into the Mormon Church** and has nothing to do with spiritual regeneration taught in the Bible. (Mormon Doctrine, p. 101 says, "*No one can be born again without baptism [into the LDS Church]*".)

**“Born again Mormon”**, according to teachings of the Mormon Church, *is a baptized Mormon*, and thus **not a Christian!**

**Jesus Christ taught in the Bible is God Himself** – not our brother, nor a brother of Lucifer and angels. **Jesus alone came from heaven – we did not** (John 8:23). He, God, became a *likeness of men* (Phil. 2:6-8) (**God is Spirit** – John 4:24. **God is not a man** – Numbers 23:19; Hosea 11:9). When Jesus *became a man*, “*in Him dwells the fullness of Godhead (Trinity) bodily*”. (*That means, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit dwelled in Him bodily.*) Jesus of the Bible is the Creator of *all things, everything, visible and invisible*, angels included, so **He could not be their or our brother**. (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16.) He is **Alpha and Omega** (Rev. 1:8), He is **the First and the Last** (Isa. 41:4; 44:6, 8), **He is the Only God**, there is no other. He is uncreated God, **from everlasting to everlasting**. (Ps. 90:2.)

**Jesus Christ taught by Joseph Smith is not biblical Jesus**. “**Jesus**” of Joseph Smith is a **created being** – in other words, there was a time that he did not exist. According to Joseph Smith, he is our elder brother – we were growing up in our heavenly family together with him and Lucifer and all other angels. He is not God from everlasting to everlasting, as Ps. 90:2 says. He is not *Alpha and Omega, Beginning and the End* (Rev. 1:11; Isa. 41:4; 44:6)– *the First and the Last*, as the Bible says.

Joseph Smith has taken biblical reports about Jesus and *attached them to his “Jesus”* which is *another Jesus*. Paul warns about this in **2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15**. He says that there will come those who preach “*another Jesus*”, “*another gospel*” under “*another spirit*” (v. 4). Paul explains where these teachings come from – “*from false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.*” (v. 13). Paul continues, “*And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing that his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness...*”(vs. 14-15.)

**Traditional Christianity is nearly 2000 years old**. The same Bible, the same teachings have been taught from generation to generation. What *Traditional Christianity* teaches we learn from the eye-witness accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James and Jude. The prophecies about Jesus, where He was to be born, and how He was to die, and over 300 other details about His life were written in the Old Testament thousands of years ago. This is all in the Bible.

True Christianity, consisting born again believers in Christ, has existed nearly two thousand years. We may call it “**traditional Christianity**” or the only true Christianity. It is not a religion or an organization – it is a relationship with Christ and His own. Mormonism is a relatively new religious invention, or using Paul’s words, it is “*another gospel with another Jesus*”. President Gordon B. Hinckley verified the differences between Mormonism and traditional Christianity when he said that *he does not believe in “traditional Christ”, but instead he believes in “Christ revealed by Joseph Smith”*. (The LDS Church News, June 20, 1998, p. 7.) When comparing the biblical Jesus to Joseph Smith’s “Jesus” it is very easy to see that they are not the same. Jesus warned (Matt. 24:4-5) and said, “*Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.*”. He continued and warned again,

“...believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect...” (Matt. 24:23-25.) Joseph Smith and Pres. Hinckley, et al. are some of these false prophets – **we are not to believe them**, but believe the Christ who is God, and who alone can save us. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12.)

What about “another gospel”? What is the gospel Paul and others in the New Testament preached? In 1 Cor. 15:1-4, Paul **declares what the gospel is: it is a message** that “Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was buried and that He rose again the third day, according to the scriptures.” **It is the Good News!**

**There are no laws or ordinances in the gospel of Christ. If there were, that would make the gospel the “bad news”, for men are not able to live by the law 100%. (James 2:10.)**

Paul says, in Gal. 1:8, “But though we, or an angel from heaven (Moroni?), preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, **let him be accursed**”.

**If anything is added, or taken away from the gospel declared in 1 Cor. 15:1-4, it makes it “another gospel”.**

**Laws or ordinances that the LDS church preaches as their “gospel”, bring only curse, not salvation. (Read Gal. 2:16-21; 3:10-13.)** Salvation is “*the Gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast.*” (Eph. 2:8-9; Romans 4:2-5.)

**The truth of Jesus Christ and His gospel were never lost!** No restoration was needed. The same Bible we read and learn the gospel from today, has been there for thousands of years. Jude (3) writes that the “**faith** (gospel) **was once delivered**” – **it does not need redelivery!!!!** We only need to study it, learn it, accept it and live it.

That is the Bible doctrine. That is what we teach! I hope this clears it up.

Sincerely, Rauni Higley – [email: [hismin@xmission.com](mailto:hismin@xmission.com) Website: [www.hismin.com](http://www.hismin.com)]

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We are so thankful for being blessed to teach and study the Word of God. It delights us and uplifts us daily.

We are starting a new class “***Understanding Mormonism***” at **South Valley Baptist Church** (SBC church) **Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008**. It will be an evening class – starting at **6:00 PM**, and lasting about 1.5 – 2 hours. We will teach every Sunday night, 10 Sundays, till Palm Sunday, **March 16<sup>th</sup>**. The address of the church is: **3443 West 12600 South**. **We welcome all who would like to come, even if you have taken our classes before. There is always something new.**

We have revised our booklet, “***The Truth About Mormonism***”, and added some new information to it. It will be reprinted very soon, as before, by **The Berean Call, Dave Hunt’s Ministry**, in **Bend, Oregon**. We praise God for their assistance and help they have been to us and to our ministry.

Please pray for our new brothers and sisters in Christ. Leaving Mormonism is a very difficult thing to do. It means to most of them loss of family and friends, and to some even loss of job, if their employer happens to be LDS. Please pray also for those who are studying now and trying to gain strength to take that step.

We have assisted many LDS persons and couples during this last year, and several even this last week, to get their names removed from the records of the LDS Church so that they can start their New Year free from Mormonism. ☺

Please pray for our dear friend Judy, who is having a very difficult time with her job and meeting her financial needs. Please pray for Bruce who is still waiting for Insurance Settlement for serious injuries he received several years ago in a car accident.

Please pray for Eric and Nicole for their marriage this month and Lord's partnership in it. We have dear friends who need physical healing – Max, Pat and Preston.

Please continue to pray for Edward in Uganda and for his former LDS friends, Joseph and Mande, now Christians, who work together with Edward to bring others to Christ. They are making a huge difference there!

We want to thank you for your prayers and financial support, for without it we could not be able to provide Bibles and other materials to truth-seeking people, and help that we have been able to give this past year to others, as Edward in Uganda.

We are on our 24<sup>th</sup> year in the ministry and we are so blessed by our Lord. He has provided miraculously for us. We are totally depending on Him. We thank Him for you and we thank you for your devotion and partnership with us to this cause.

We will be shortly sending your year-end receipt for your tax purposes for the gifts you have given to this ministry. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We want you also to know that we have been able to pay all our ministry expenses for 2007, with about one thousand dollars left over for the new year. That is pretty good for this little ministry!

As you know, we do not receive a salary from the ministry, but Dennis has been able to keep our bills paid through his carpentry work – even if just barely!

Our God is good! We know whom we serve, and He is able to provide. As long as He wants us to do His work, we will keep working - till He comes. Maybe soon.

In His service,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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