



February 1, 2011

## H.I.S. Ministries February Newsletter, covering January 2011

February is a good month to remember the ones we love with a special ***Happy Valentine's Day*** greeting. **We are sending it to you, with love!**

God is so good – we have received many letters letting us know that He is answering prayers and many are released from the bondage of Mormonism and to freedom in Christ Jesus. During the past years January has been sort of a “let down”-month after the celebration of Christmas and New Year, but not this year, regardless of gloomy economy and concerns that come with that. There is a better hope for all who trust in Christ and refuse to worry about life, for He truly is in control of the lives of His own – and we rejoice in that, and in the fact that we see the same joy in the lives of our Christian friends.

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Just as it was Paul's desire to bring his Jewish brethren to salvation in Jesus, **the very reason we are in this ministry is to bring Mormons to the knowledge of truth.** We identify with Paul when he wrote, “...***my hearts desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.***” (Romans 10:1-2.)

We were very disturbed by an article that we received, written by a man who said **he is a *Christian*** who, after befriending many Mormons and studying Mormonism with them for several years, now believes that Mormons are his brothers and sisters in Christ. He came to that conclusion through attending their religion classes, going with them to their church meetings and participating in their social activities! **He concluded that doctrinal issues are irrelevant to practicing Mormons and that proper understanding\_of God or doctrine is not a precondition to anyone's salvation.** This got me concerned that there might be many others like him among those considering themselves Christians – who do not understand what Mormons are really believing, and who is the God and Jesus they believe in, and just assuming that these familiar words, “*God, Jesus, atonement, salvation* etc.” mean the same to Mormons as they should mean to biblical Christians. He was satisfied that since Mormons **say** that they believe in **Christ's atonement**, it qualifies them as Christians. He had not asked: ***Christ who?*** Or what they mean by “***atonement***”. Had he done that, he might have found out that *Jesus of Mormonism* is a spirit brother of all, including Lucifer, and that “***atonement***”, according to Mormonism, was accomplished in the Garden of Gethsemane.

To help everyone to have answers handy I am prompted to do some explaining here so that none of you would make that same erroneous assumption that just any "Jesus" will do without taking an opportunity to lead a Mormon to the true God and Jesus and be saved by receiving God's gift of grace. (Romans 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-9.)

Mormonism believes that their God was once a mortal man, and that they too can become gods by living in obedience to "*laws and ordinances of the Gospel* (i.e. laws of the LDS Church)". **There are no "laws and ordinances" in the true Gospel!** (1Cor. 15:1-4.) **God of the Bible is Eternal God, "from everlasting to everlasting"**. (Ps. 90:2.) **"God is not a man."** (Numb. 23:19.) He says, **"...before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me."** (Isa. 43:10.) **Jesus of the Bible is God who became a man** to die for us and pay our sin-debt. He is not a created being and a brother of mankind and angels. (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14.) He said, **"...if ye believe not that I AM He (God) ye shall die in your sins."** (John 8:24.) Belief in a "Jesus" who is not HE, the I AM, will not save anyone! The Bible warns about those who bring **"another Jesus", "another gospel" and "another spirit"** – (2 Cor. 11:4). **"Another"** means same name, but different identity, in other words, a counterfeit Jesus! Jesus warned about false prophets who will bring false Christs (Matt. 24:24). **They say** he is **"Jesus"**, they use stories of Him from the Bible, **but say** that *he not eternal God, but our elder brother, who became a god* as men can also become. We must inform Mormons that **"Jesus"** who is not eternal God, cannot forgive sins, nor "atone" for them. (John 8:23-24.)

**Most Mormons do not seem to know that Mormonism has, from its beginning, gone through very radical doctrinal changes.**

We receive letters from Mormons arguing that Mormon doctrines have not changed, and that the **doctrine of God being a former mortal man, not Spirit, has been the doctrine of the Church from the start, and that it is based on Joseph Smith's First Vision he received and revealed to all in 1820.**

We know this is what they think and believe, for this is what we too were taught as Mormons. However, our studies have proven that **it is not true** and definitely not biblical doctrine of God. Even though many may think that salvation is not conditional to knowing God, it absolutely is. Jesus compared **knowing God to having eternal life. That is salvation!** He said, **"This is eternal life, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent."** (John 17:3.) Since our eternal life and salvation depends on **knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ** (John 17:3), the issue of who God is, is the most important doctrine to know and believe. **False God(s) and "another Jesus" will not do!** To have our sins forgiven, **we must know that Jesus is God, for only God can forgive sins.** (John 1:1, 14; 8:24; Mark 2:7.)

**We'd like to present here a brief summary of the evolution of the Godhead in the Mormon Church,** as taught in their own scriptures when they were first published, but what seems to be unknown to most of them.

[Note: When the Mormon Church was organized in 1830, it was named **"The Church of Christ."**] There were four major stages in development of Joseph Smith's doctrine of Deity. The earliest stage is presented in **the Book of Mormon** (1830), in **the Book of Moses** (1830-31) (included in the Pearl of Great price) and in Joseph Smith's "*translation of the Bible*" he said he had finished in 1833. (See Hist. of the Church, vol. 1:324, 369.)

During this time (1830-1833) he taught that **the Father and the Son are the same person.** Theologians call this "modalism", two modes of God. Examples of this can be read from *the Book of Mormon*, as in Mosiah 16:15, **"...redemption cometh through Christ the Lord, who is the very Eternal Father."** (See also Mosiah 15:1-3; Ether 4:7, 12; Helaman 14:12.) His second stage started in 1834-35, when he departed from the Book of Mormon teaching that God the

Father and the Son are the same person, but still maintained that there is only one God, but added that **there are two personages in the Godhead, the Father and the Son**. Theologians call this “*binitarianism*”. This is taught in the 5<sup>th</sup> Lecture in the Lectures of Faith (1833-1835).

**These seven lectures were included in the *Doctrine and Covenants* (1835) as “Part I, *Theology on the Doctrine of the Church of Latter Day Saints*”.** (Note: Name of the Church was changed from “*The Church of Christ*” to “*the Church of Latter Day Saints*”.)

**“Part Second” in the D&C was titled “*Covenants and Commandments of the Church of Latter Day Saints*”.** This Fifth Lecture declares that there are “**two** [not three] **personages in the Godhead**”. It says, “***They are the Father and the Son: The Father being a personage of spirit...The son... a personage of tabernacle, made, or fashioned like unto man, or being in the form and likeness of man...***”

[Most of today’s Mormons have no idea that **this was the doctrine of the Church**, and that **it was included in their scriptures**. Many even argue that these Lectures were never approved as doctrine. That is not true. These seven lectures were the Part I of the D&C from 1835 till 1921.

**They were approved by a Conference vote of the Church in August 17, 1835, and included in all English editions of the D&C until 1921, when they were, without explanation or vote, removed.**

The obvious reason for the removal of these lectures was to eliminate the noticed contradiction in the D&C: Lecture 5 teaches that **Father is spirit and only the Son has a body of flesh and bones**. The Church had (nearly 50 years before the removal of the lectures in 1921) added **Section 130** to D&C; **verse 22** says, “***The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s, the Son also; but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones.***”]

[Name of the Church was again changed (1838). The new name was “***The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints***.” It took three tries to get the name “right”!]

**In 1838-39, Joseph Smith began to develop his doctrine of the plurality of Gods.** He also started to formulate his story of having seen God the Father and Jesus Christ as two separate Gods in 1820. [Hints to the existence of more than one God are in D&C 121: 28, written in March of 1839.]

Joseph Smith’s First Vision was published in 1842, revealing to “*the saints*”, **the very first time**, that he had, back in 1820, as he now claimed, seen two physical Gods!

[This an amazing declaration after having taught since 1830 that there is only one God and that God the Father is Spirit!]

This same year, 1842, Joseph Smith finished ***The Book of Abraham*** that teaches that there are many gods (chapters 4 and 5). He declared that it was “***A translation of some ancient Records...The writings of Abraham while he was in Egypt, called the Book of Abraham, written by his own hand, upon papyrus***”. (Preface to the Book of Abraham.)

[**This book is a fake**. Smith had received some Egyptian papyrus that he pretended to “translate”. The Papyrus has been found to be part of the *Egyptian Book of Breathings* that had absolutely nothing to do with Abraham, nor the God of Abraham.]

When comparing ***the Book of Moses*** in PoGP, where Joseph Smith gave a creation story of one God creating the heavens and the earth by His Word from nothing, to the ***Book of Abraham*** in the same book, where he wrote that plurality of Gods “*organized*” the heavens and the earth from existing matter, we see two totally different and contradictive stories of creation and of Deity. (Comp. *The Pearl of Great Price, the Book of Moses*, Chapters 2 and 3, to *Book of Abraham*, Chapters 4 and 5.)

[Doctrines of the LDS Church kept on changing even more from there on.]

About six weeks after Joseph Smith had become a Master Mason (in early 1842), he introduced a select group of Mormons to a very similar ceremony he had learned from Masons, and claimed that he had received it as a *revelation from God*.

He made Masonic rituals into the temple ceremony that refutes biblical teaching of one God creating the heavens and the earth from nothing (that also refutes his own earlier teachings, found in the BoM and in his "Book of Moses"). In this temple ceremony he introduced three gods, **Elohim, Jehovah and Michael**. Elohim is commanding Jehovah and Michael to go down and "organize" the world from existing, eternal matter. After they have "organized" (not created) the world, Michael is made into Adam. (There is no Holy Ghost in the temple ceremony.) Teaching that Michael the Archangel is one of the gods who organized the world we live in, who then became Adam, seems to be where Brigham Young developed his Adam-god doctrine, even though he had claimed that he had received it directly from Joseph Smith. (Today the LDS Church denies the Adam-god doctrine, but still teaches it in their secret temple rituals.) D&C 27:11 and Section 116 teach that **Adam is Michael, the Ancient of Days**. (In D&C 27:11 it is referenced to Daniel 7:9, 22.) The Bible clearly teaches that **the Ancient of Days is God**, and since Mormonism continues to teach that **Adam is the Ancient of Days**, then we must conclude that the Mormon Church, in their Standard Works, teaches that Adam is God.

[The Mormon Church promises that all who are married in their temples will likewise become gods and goddesses, and after they have progressed into godhood, they will organize their own worlds and populate them with their spirit children who will worship them as their heavenly father and mother(s).]

On April 7<sup>th</sup> of 1844, Joseph Smith "came out of his doctrinal closet", so to speak, and finally announced to his people his new doctrine of God(s). (This is recorded in **The Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith**, pp. 344-347, and in many other LDS records.)

But before he revealed how "**God came to be God**", he first said, "**Every man has a natural, and, in our country, a constitutional right to be a false prophet, as well as a true prophet.**" Then he continued, "...God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man...for I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see...he was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did; and I will show it from the Bible... you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves... the same as all Gods have done before you...going from one degree to another... until you attain the resurrection of the dead, and are able to dwell in everlasting burnings...at the station of a God, and ascend the throne of eternal power, the same as those who have gone before." (Question: **Who lives in the lake of fire, in everlasting burnings?** –See Rev. 20:10,15.) Joseph Smith, in the sermon that he preached on June 16, 1844 (only 11 days before his death), affirmed that there are many Gods, that Heavenly Father is an offspring of another Deity, who in turn is an offspring of a more ancient Deity. He said that he received this information from the Egyptian papyrus, his claimed source for the Book of Abraham. Joseph further claimed that he has "**always and in all congregations when [he] preached on the subject of Deity, it has been the plurality of Gods.**" (See *History of the Church*, vol. 6:473-474; *Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 576-577.)

As we have already presented and documented above, **this was not true. He had not always preached the plurality of Gods!!** His doctrine of God had evolved from "modalism" (1830) to "binitarianism" (1835), finally to "plurality of Gods"(1838-1844).

His polytheism led him to invent *pre-existence of men*, elevating mankind to "*Gods in embryo*", teaching that we all are *literal spirit children* born to God and his many wives on another planet, "near the planet Kolob". (Abraham 3:2-3.) From that blossomed an idea that men can become gods, that we even "**have got to learn how to be Gods**" and goddesses and organize our own worlds and populate them with our own spirit children, who will then worship us. (See **Mormon**

Doctrine, p. 751, 1966 ed.; *Seer*, pp. 37, 43, 172. See also *Gospel Principles*, pp. 302-305, 1997 ed.)

The LDS Church's Melchizedek Priesthood Manual, *Gospel Through Ages*, pp. 15-17, teaches, that there was a "**great council in heaven**" and God "**appointed the noble and great ones**" from among his spirit children to the leadership positions when they will become mortals. Among these "**noble ones**" were **Abraham, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Joseph Smith!** Jesus and Lucifer were among them too. This manual continues to teach that, "**The appointment of Jesus to be the Savior of the world was contested by one of the other sons of God. He was called Lucifer, son of the morning. Haughty, ambitious and covetous of power and glory, this spirit-brother of Jesus desperately tried to become the Savior of mankind**". They teach that because Jesus was chosen as Savior, Lucifer got angry and convinced 1/3 of spirit children of God to join him in the "*War in Heaven*" and they were cast out of heaven. (They refer to Revelation 12:7-9 as "proof" of this war and what took place after it.)

In contrast to these evolved non-biblical doctrines of Mormonism, the Bible clearly states from the beginning, from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21, that **there is but One God anywhere, and that He is a Triune God.** (1 John 5:7 KJV.) **One God manifested in three Eternal Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.**

**"The LORD He is God; there is none else beside Him."** (Deut. 4:35) **"LORD He is God in Heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else."** See: Deut. 4:39; 6:4; Isa. 43:10-11; 44:6, 8; 45:5, 6:46:9; Jer. 10:11; Hosea 13:4; Zech. 14:9; Mark 12:29; 1 Cor. 8:4; 1 Tim. 1:17; 2:5; James 2:19.

**"God is Spirit."** (John 4:24; Mark 14:32-36; Prov. 15:3.) **"...before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me."** (Isa. 43:10. **God of the Bible is the only God. Men will not become Gods!** **"God is not a man"**, is declared over and over again the Bible. (Num. 23:19; Hosea 11:9; Isa. 31:3-4; Job 9:32; 1 Sam 15:29.)

**That the Father is God, is agreed. That Jesus is God is conclusively demonstrated throughout the scriptures.** (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14; 8:23-24, 56-59; 20:28; 1 Pet. 1:1; Rom. 9:5; Col. 2:9; 1 John 5:8; Ps. 118:27; Hebr. 1:3, 6-8.)

**That the Holy Ghost is a Person and God, is shown in Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19.**

There is no salvation in any other but Jesus, who is God Almighty. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Rev. 1:8.) It is the grace of God that saves those who come to the Cross of Jesus, having faith in His finished redemption work, and receive salvation as the Gift of God. (Eph. 2:8-10.)

We must in love and boldness present the truth of God and expose the false doctrines of Mormonism so that they too can be saved. (Romans 10:1-4.) It is our love for them that gives us courage and determination to stand in defense of the Truth without compromise! Jesus, who is God is the Truth, the Way and the Life, and we stand for Him and in Him. In order to be able to do that, we must do as 2 Tim. 2:15 instructs: **"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."** (Without a diligent study we would not be able to "**rightly divide the word of truth**". A correct understanding of God's Word comes through the study of the context where each teaching was given.) **"All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."** (2 Tim. 3:16.)

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**From our mailbox:** [This letter is from a Mormon who has written to me many, many times. He is an active, *temple-endowed* believer in all of Mormonism. We had had earlier a discussion about pre-existence and Lucifer and Jesus. He believes all Joseph Smith's false doctrines and

even tries to reason with them. This letter came some time ago, but I thought that you might find it interesting in connection with what we talked about above, about Lucifer and doctrinal development of Joseph Smith.]



**He wrote:** *“Dear Rauni, It really puzzles me why some Evangelicals (like you) make such a big deal about the Mormon belief that Jesus is Satan's brother. I would rather they be brothers, since no one is responsible for the acts of another. Is it not far worse for Jesus to have created Satan (as you say), knowing full well what Satan would do? If Jesus is Satan's brother, then according to God's law, he is not responsible for Satan's choices. However, if Jesus created Satan, then Jesus is responsible for bringing evil into the world, having created Satan with the knowledge of what he would do.... If Jesus is omniscient and omnipotent, then in Satan he got exactly what he created, knowing exactly what he was doing, and being perfectly able to create a different type of being. Satan exists because God wanted someone to punish. If for endless eons of time, God existed by himself, he became bored and created conflict to entertain himself, knowing exactly what he was doing. R. G.”*

I answered him, but he refuses biblical teachings, saying that *“the Bible is a corrupt and mistranslated book, and that is why Joseph Smith and the scriptures that he produced are much better and more important”*.

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**A former Mormon lady asked:**

*“Can you lose salvation once you have it? I have been told that you can and it is easy to do. What is your take?”*

**Answer:**

Jesus said. *“I give them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.”* (John 10:28.) *“Any man”* means that not even you, yourself, could pluck you out of God's hand **if** you have given yourself to Him and **received eternal life**.

It would not be **eternal life**, if we could loose it, would it? Since our works have nothing to do with meriting God's grace (read: Eph. 2:8-9), then obviously there is nothing we can do that would cause us no longer to merit it. However, we need to examine ourselves to see if we were truly born again and in faith (2 Cor. 13:5), and if our conversion to Jesus Christ was genuine, not just words or emotions, but from our heart's belief and confession, as Romans 10:9-10 says, we are saved forever!!

If we have any doubt, then we ought to go to the Lord and confess our sins, and make sure He has received us! It is taking God by His Word and promise and not doubting any longer, and asking Him to *“help our unbelief”* (Mark 9:24.) His Word is Truth, regardless of how we might feel at times.

Let me know if this helped you. - God bless, Rauni

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**An LDS man asked:**

- 1. Do you mind telling me where you worked when you worked for the church for 14 years.*
- 2. I'd be interested to know if you just left the church or were you excommunicated.*
- 3. Also, where did you serve your mission?*
- 4. One more question: Do you believe that the Mormon apostles are liars and are knowingly deceiving the people?”*

## **Response:**

1. I don't mind answering. My office was in the Church Headquarters in SLC, 21<sup>st</sup> floor.
2. After we "*studied ourselves out of the church*", we sent a letter to the Church asking that our names be removed from the records, also requesting that their letter back to us acknowledges that our names were removed because we asked for it and not for any other reason. They did so. We have that letter framed, for we are often asked if we had been excommunicated for some serious sins...We are glad to show it to all who ask.
3. We both served our missions in Finland.
4. I do not know why you are asking this question if we believe that apostles are liars, for I doubt that you will accept my answer, but here it is anyway: Yes, I am sure that they I know that they are not telling the truth about many things. Concealing the truth, or not telling the truth makes people liars, right? In the Church offices I learned a phrase, "*Lying for the Lord*". They say that not telling the truth at times *accomplishes a greater good* – and the Church gains more members, for most people would not join the Church if they knew the real truth before joining. I surely can say that I would not have joined had I known even a fraction of what I learned while working for the Church those many years. How do they justify that? Perhaps their "justification" early on was learned from Masonry? You might be aware that Joseph Smith and about 1300 other LDS men in Nauvoo period were Masons. I would venture to say that they learned a lot from Masons on how to keep secrets from outsiders and even from their own members they considered unworthy to know them. There is a big "gap" between common members and the elite leadership. That is true both in Masonry and in Mormonism. I will quote directly from the "*top horse's mouth*": Scottish Rite Freemasonry's Grand Commander, Albert Pike (1809-1891), in his book, *Morals and Dogma*, (pp. 104-5) says, "*Masonry, like all Religions, all Mysteries, Hermeticism and Alchemy, conceals its secrets from all except the Adepts and Sages, or the Elect (leaders of Masonry), and uses false explanations and misinterpretations 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...*" On the same subject of deceiving their own members, Albert Pike wrote about "*Initiates*" or newer members, saying, "*...he (initiate) is intentionally misled by false interpretations. It is not intended that he shall understand them; but it is intended that he shall imagine he understands them. Their true explication is reserved for the Adepts, Princes (leaders) of Masonry.*" – (Ibid, p. 819.)

Joseph Smith early on taught his leaders to lie about many things, even before he became a Mason (in early 1842). One widely known example of their lying is that Joseph swore that he or other LDS men were not practicing polygamy. But they were!!! (At that time of his death, he had dozens of wives. 11 of them were married women, with living husbands!) In June 1844, the same month when he was killed, he still lied about having more than one wife. (You can check that from the History of the Church, under the date of June 1844.)

The Mormon Church gives "*false explanations*" to its own members of many things, including occult symbols on and around the SL Temple, etc.

I personally know a man who worked in the Church Education System (CES) for nearly 30 years. He kept a file on issues that he was asked to lie about to his Seminary and Institute students. The Church did not think that most of the young students could or would accept the plain truth – thus he was told not to tell them, i.e. to lie.

You can make your own decision if they are liars or not. I think they are.

Rauni

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We are thankful for you all who have sent letters and promises for prayers in our behalf and for this ministry that the Lord has called us to do. Without your encouragement it would be a lot harder to work on it for there is so much anger and opposition directed at us from those who do not want the truth to be told, after all, we are in the “World Capital of Mormonism”. Perhaps those who hate us so would not pay as much attention to us if we lived in another state than Utah, but here we stand.

We thank all of you who so faithfully have stood by us, partnered with us and made it possible for us to work in the Lord’s field. As Paul wrote in Philippians (4:17), the fruit of this ministry “*abounds to your account*”, because you are our partners in spirit and in deed.

Please pray for Dale and his wife, Sharon. They need strength and encouragement.

Grace needs the Lord’s direction in her financial problems that resulted from her accident (she was hit by a car when crossing a street a few months ago). She has healed quite well, though she has not yet been able to go back to work.

There are others who have asked for prayer for various illnesses, struggles and trials – pray for Bruce, Heber, Dick, Max and Dwayne.

There are several LDS people with whom have been communicating – please pray that they would keep on searching for the truth and getting into the Bible for the Lord’s counsel.

May the Lord strengthen each one of us so that we will indeed make a difference in this fallen world till He comes. (Rev. 22:20.)

God bless,

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**Thought of the Month: “One’s unbelief does not change the truth.”**

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