



October 28, 2011

H.I.S. Ministries November Newsletter, covering October 2011

Winter is on its way, but yet no snow. There are many who love the snow, winter and cold – but the older we get, the less we like the cold part, but in many ways this season is beautiful, and even restful.

October is a “*dark month*” in more ways than one—it is dark because the days are shorter, flowers are gone, and no snow yet in the valleys to brighten and lighten the days, but it is also gloomy because, at least here in Utah, dark powers seem to take over the lives and activities of people in preparation for ***Halloween, which is the devil’s holiday, and evil in all imaginable forms is boldly displayed.*** Houses are decorated with skulls and bones, witches and warlocks, demons and ghosts—some even add tombstones to their front lawns with screaming recordings as coming from the tombs to frighten the passer-by’s. **Utah, of all the 50 states, is the leading state with its focus on scary images and the dead!** This must be because Utah is “*the Mormon State*” and the Mormon Church and its “*sacred*” (secret) doctrines are focused on the dead. Their most holy places are their temples, and **they are specifically built “so that the living may communicate with the dead”**, as LDS apostle Parley P. Pratt preached. The temple-going Mormons are said to be “*acting as mediums through which the living can hear from the dead.*” (Journal of Discourses, vol. 2:44-46.) The Bible calls that “*necromancy*”, and **God sternly forbids that, and calls it an abomination in His sight.** [Deut. 18:10-12 lists *necromancy* and occult practices **that must not have a part in any of His people’s lives.**] Every year Christians, especially children, are put under “social pressure” to participate in the celebration of Halloween. Many Christian churches try to arrange something that will, in some sense, “compete” with this day by having “*harvest festivals*” or something similar so that Christian children do not feel “*left out of all the fun*” other children may seem to be having. Children are exposed to Halloween at schools and they are urged to participate and dress up in various costumes, most of them depicting something evil or frightening. Many Christians even see this as “*harmless fun*” and do not oppose it. **However, participating in activities of the devil’s holiday is not harmless for it can be an entry into the occult. Halloween puts a focus on the enemy of our souls and he loves it.** Let’s not forget that this is a pagan holiday, having its beginnings with *the Druids’ day of the dead* when Celtic priests made their appearances as wizards or magicians. To some adult participants this holiday has become a masquerade, a party similar to Marti Gras. **Believers in the Lord Jesus, who is the God of the living, should have nothing to do with the celebration of Halloween, the Druids’ day of the dead—for it is thoroughly pagan and its emphasis is glorification of Satan, demons and death. It is deception all the way through.** **Conclusion:** Believers ought not to have anything to do with the celebration of Halloween - it is pagan and its emphasis and glorification of Satan, demons, and death, is a far cry from what true believers should celebrate!

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We have been asked to explain “*lost ten tribes of Israel*” Mormons talk about. **Who are they? And where are they?** When we were Mormons, we were taught that there are “*10 lost tribes of Israel*” and that they have gone to the North countries, *by the North Pole*, but no one knows exactly where. **They say** and believe that **these ten tribes will return** and “*come to the children of Ephraim [Mormons] to receive their blessings*”. The LDS Church teaches that “*This great gathering [of the tribes of Israel] will take place under the direction of the President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, for he holds the keys of ‘gathering of Israel from four parts of the earth, and the leading of the ten[lost] tribes from the land of the north’.*” (D&C 110:11; Mormon Doctrine, p. 458.)

[However, the TRUTH is: There are no “lost tribes of Israel”.]

The Mormon Church teaches that **they (the Mormons) are of the tribe of Ephraim** and that the rest of the tribes of Israel will receive their “*blessings*” **from and through the president of the Mormon Church!** They likewise teach that those who accept the [LDS] “*gospel become part of the house of Israel regardless of what their literal blood ancestry may have been...if someone whose blood was wholly of Gentile lineage were converted [to Mormonism], he would be adopted into the lineage of Abraham and Jacob and become of the house of Israel. (Abra. 2:9-11.) That this adoption involves a literal change of the convert’s blood was plainly taught by the Prophet [Joseph Smith]...*

[When a Gentile is converted, they say] *the effect of the Holy Ghost upon a Gentile is to purge out the old blood, and make him actually of the seed of Abraham...* (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 149-150).” (Mormon Doctrine, p. 389-390. Emphasis added.) This is why converted Mormons, as Glenn Beck, boldly say that they are “*Jews*” or “*Israelites*” without having any real Hebrew ancestry!

There also seems to be a lot of misunderstanding about **why Jews were, and still are, God’s chosen nation** and **why the Gospel was to them first?** It was because they had received the Word of God, and they had the knowledge of God; **they were to be the guardians and deliverers of the truth of God to all nations.** Paul said that the message of the Gospel was “*to the Jew first*” (Romans 1:16). This is because Israel had been, throughout Old Testament times, and **still was during the time of Christ, the vehicle to make God known to all the world.** This is what Paul meant when he said that **the Gospel, Good News of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, was to be offered to the Jew first,** and afterwards, through them, to the Gentiles (non-Jews). While Jesus was on earth, **He focused His ministry on the Jews.** After the Jews, as a nation, rejected Him, after His death, burial and resurrection, He **commanded His disciples to take the Good News to all the world.** (Mk 16:15.) But before this, Jesus sent His disciples to “*the lost sheep of the house of Israel*”. Some, reading this from Matthew’s gospel, have misunderstood that “*lost sheep of Israel*” **were tribes of Israel nowhere to be found.** He had said, “*...Go not into the way of Gentiles, and into any city of Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*” (Matt. 10:5-6.) This misunderstanding started a myth that there were “*ten lost tribes*”. Of course the Lord expected the tribes to be reachable, otherwise He would not have sent them to speak to them! [These “*lost sheep*” were not physically but **only spiritually lost and they needed to hear that Messiah had come.**]

Another time when a Gentile woman called after Jesus to heal her daughter, Jesus told His disciples to send her away, saying, “***I AM not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.***” (Matt. 15:23-24.)

Jesus’ words, without knowing the reason why “He was sent to the Jews only” may seem cruel. This demonstrated Jesus commitment to Israel, for Jews were to have the **first opportunity to accept Him** as their Messiah, and then **they were to preach that message to the world.** When Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman, **He acknowledged that they (Samaritans) did not know God,** for the truth had not been brought to them yet. The knowledge that the Messiah had come, had to be offered **to the Jew first.** Jesus said to her that because Jews knew God, “*the salvation is of the Jews.*” (John 4:22.) It was not until Israel, as a nation, had rejected Jesus as their Messiah, that He gave a command to His disciples to take the gospel to all nations. (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15.)

Misunderstandings more often than not come from not knowing or not paying attention to all the Word of God. Paul wrote that **all of it was written for our learning** (Rom. 15:4) and that he has **always declared the whole counsel of God** (Acts 20:27), meaning **the entire Word.**

Israel’s (Jacob’s) 12 sons were: **Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulon, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Joseph and Benjamin.** The tribes were named after these 12 sons of Israel/Jacob. **Judah’s** leadership among the tribes was prophesied by Jacob (Gen. 49:10) and his tribe was positioned first in their marching orders (Num. 2:3;10:14). Tribe of **Levi** was set apart for service to the LORD God and sons of Aaron from that tribe to serve as priests. (Lev. 4:20, 26, 31.) [Their tribal lands and where they were placed in the Promised Land is an interesting study, worth of your time.]

The New Testament mentions several persons from **four different tribes**. [Other 8 tribes could have been there as well.] **Barnabas was from the tribe of Levi** (Acts 4:36) as was **Matthew**, and of course **all who were priests had to be from the tribe of Levi**. **Jesus was from the tribe of Judah** (Matt. 1:2; Hebr. 7:14). **Paul was from the tribe of Benjamin** (Romans 11:1). **Anna, the prophetess, was from the tribe of Asher** (Luke 2:36).

Revelation 7:5-8 lists **12 thousand from each of the 12 tribes** who will be called to minister during the Tribulation period that may not be far away. Interesting fact about listing of the 12 tribes in the Old Testament is that **Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh** are listed **instead of Joseph**, and **Levi was not included** because that tribe served as the priestly tribe. (They always numbered twelve tribes, regardless which tribe was *in or out!*) **But in Revelation 7, Levi is included as is Joseph and Manasseh, but Ephraim and Dan are eliminated**. Why, we may ask? **Levi is perhaps included because the priesthood was abolished, when Jesus paid our sin debt, and they no longer serve as priests. Ephraim and Dan are not included because these two tribes introduced idolatry to Israel.**

Fact: There are no lost tribes of Israel and they are not somewhere in the North Pole as we were taught!

Note that in **Mormonism Ephraim has a high place** (most of the Mormons are said to be from the tribe of Ephraim). **Dan is likewise honored** ("*Danites*")... (Something to think about!)

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From our mailbox:

Last month we answered **point #1**, out of 8 doctrinal points from LDS missionaries' letter we had received. [You may recall from our last month's newsletter that they were critiquing our booklet, "*The Truth About Mormonism*", and *doctrinal contradictions* we listed on pages 37- 40.] We now continue answering their letter, points 2 & 3.

They wrote, **point # 2, "Eternal progression"**:

"Eternal progression – main principles of this are taught in the Bible, especially of man becoming gods eventually. But just like in family when one become father he does not replace his own father but builds his posterity. Man will not ever replace God but only build and add to His glory. – John 10:28-35; Psalm 82:1, 6-7; Romans 8:14-18. I could go on but I would challenge you to read it yourself." (Quoted as written.)

My answer:

2. You say that *Eternal progression* is taught in the Bible! **Absolutely NOT is it taught in the Bible!** John 10:28-35 and Ps. 82:1, 6-7 you refer to mentions "gods", with small "g". [Do you not know that "**God**" written in the Bible with capital "**G**" refers to the one true God – but "*god or gods*" with a small "**g**" refers to idols or "*so-called gods*", that are not God.] In John 10:35 Jesus said that they were "*called gods*" (ref. to Ps. 82), but in actuality they were *unjust (and wicked) judges* (PS. 82:2). This Hebrew word translated "*gods*" in Ps. 82 **is the very same Hebrew word used in Exodus 22:8-9, where it is correctly translated "judges" rather than gods.** The reason why judges could be "*called gods*" was because they had the life of people in their hands –i.e. they could condemn people even to death. However, you can **call** anything "*god or gods*" but they are not God nor will they ever become a God. There is only one God – anywhere, even the devils (demons) know that and tremble. (James 2:19). (See also 1 John 5:7.) In John 10:35-36, Jesus was referring to the wicked judges that were "*called gods*", but His accusers said that Jesus was a blasphemer because He said that **He is the Son of God!!! Jesus is God.** (John 1:1, 14; 8:24; 20:28; Rev. 1:8; 1John 5:7.) In England, by the way, they still call their judges "*Lords*" (i.e. "*gods*"), for the very same reason that their judges or "*Lords*" can determine the destiny of people they are judging.

By your reference to Romans 8:14-18 (that says that **through adoption we become "heirs of God"**) you show that you have not understood it at all! First, to be "*led by the Spirit of God*" means that *that this person* has been **born again of the Spirit of God and has BECOME a son of God.** (John 1:12-13; 3:7.) **When we receive Jesus, we BECOME sons of God and are ADOPTED into the family of God. God then becomes our Father. We are NOT children of God before our new birth, but after that we are adopted by the Father God .** Romans 9:8 says that before our new birth we are just "*children of the flesh*" (Adam's posterity), and **NOT children of God.** Through our new birth and adoption **we become God's children, and heirs of God.**

[Let me explain: I have a parrot, and if I so wish, I can make her my heir, but she would not become a human even she'd be my heir – **she would still be a parrot.**] **We are made, through Jesus' work in our behalf, heirs of God,**

but we will not become Gods. Note: We were not born to God and His wives in preexistence as Mormonism teaches! We are created/ made by God (Gen.1:26-27), but we are not born to God until we are born again! [God is not a man who progressed into godhood with his many wives, as Joseph Smith taught! See Numb. 23:19; Hosea 11:9; Job 9:32. **Even the BoM says that He is eternal God just as the Bible also says, “from everlasting to everlasting He is God”**, Ps. 90:2.] **Isa. 43:10 says clearly that there was no God before God, nor shall there be any Gods after Him. Isa. 44:6 assures that there is no other God but Him – Isa. 44:8 says that God does not even know the existence of any other Gods! If He had a father, as Mormonism teaches that he did, he surely would know that, would he not?!** Read through the chapters in Isaiah and other prophets and learn that **there is only one God – no other Gods – anywhere – only “so-called gods” or idol-gods.**

Joseph Smith, after he had obtained a substantial following, led his followers after *other gods*, warned against in Deut. 13:1-5. **In 1844, fourteen years after Joseph Smith had started his religion, he changed his doctrine of God, going against his Book of Mormon (Moroni 8:18 etc.) and his other teachings prior to that.** He said, **“God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man...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...you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves...the same as all Gods have done before you...”** (Teachings of Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 345-346.) Paul also, in Romans 1:18-23, warns about **God’s wrath that will be revealed against those who reject God and turn to idols. “Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man...”** (Rom. 1:22-23. See: John 4:24; Luke 24:39.) Joseph Smith made his god to be his image – just like Joseph Smith, a man.

Point # 3. Missionaries wrote about “Secret Combinations” [spoken against in the Book of Mormon Alma 37:31; Mormon 8:27, that call “secret combinations” “works of darkness”...] They said: **“Those oaths within the temple are not secret but sacred. As you have been through the temple this is judgment that God will hold against you. All are able to enter the temple and partake of covenants but from Is. 28:10 we know man who has not a little [bit] of knowledge cannot accept or understand greater things. Example: Algebra, before calculus, addition before multiplication. Also you should know the temple is in no way dark but it is light.**

My answer:

3. You refer to “Secret Combinations” and say that **“oaths within the temple are not secret, but sacred”**. The wording in the temple ceremony prior to 1990 included “*secrecy*”, and secrecy was connected to all oaths when we were temple-Mormons. Temple rituals, as many other things in Mormonism, have received sort of a *facelift* – and they were changed (many of them in 1990) based on objections people had presented to the Church - especially concerning *death-penalties* that we had to demonstrate showing **“how the life can be taken”** during our 20 years of doing temple-work. [And by the way, I do know the ceremony well – actually in two languages, since I spent many months in the SL temple translating it into my native language. **Translation work requires that meanings must be understood.**]

I learned that the temple ceremony was much the same as Masonic rituals Joseph Smith was taught about when he became a Master Mason in 1842, just about six weeks before he introduced Mormons to these similar ceremonies. LDS Historian and Institute Director, Dr. Reed Durham, gave a lecture on this matter in 1974 [I have a copy of his 30-page lecture], where **he revealed the origins of the LDS ceremony as coming from Masonry.** [Just in case you do not know, Masonry is an Occult practice. We have about 6 feet of bookshelves full of old authentic Masonic books and literature stating what Masonry is – and is not. I also have hundreds of LDS books and writings **proving these facts.**] [Next month I will continue answering the next doctrinal points of these missionaries’ letter.]

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Another LDS man wrote:

“I am a mormon struggling with my faith and have some questions for you. I have read your story, and notice you are still a Christian so my experience may differ from you because not only do I no longer believe mormonism is true, I doubt the existence of God. My main struggle is for the past year I have gone to church, and pretend to everyone in my ward and family that I am a faithful mormon. The struggles come in that I have a hard time living this lie, it eats me up in side and has caused some feelings of depression. It is also a struggle because it will be hard for my family, and wife’s family to comprehend. We had a cousin who left the church recently, and hearing

my family talk about him devastated me and gave me no hope of ever doing the same thing. They talked about how foolish he was, and that his eternal soul was now at stake and he was putting his family at risk of damnation. It was sad to say the least. I am not interested in joining any other church, because as I see it every church on the face of this earth has just as many inconsistencies, mistruths, miss-information, and contradictions as the mormon church. I also feel the same way about the bible, and I do not say that to be offensive of your faith and beliefs. I am interested in some support groups or if there are people that meet together. I have no friends who feel the same way as I do, and I have not told another soul about this besides my wife, so it would be nice to talk with someone who understands my situation. Any information you have, or words of comfort would be greatly appreciated. I have never reached out to anyone before, and am hoping this can help."

My reply:

Thank you for writing and asking. I hope I can help - for I/we have been through it all and understand your feelings. The hardest part is when you feel alone and have come to realize that the entire LDS system is not true and is based on deception from the "get-go". What makes this so hard is that you cannot share what you already know with the people that matter the most to you in your life. That was my case too. I struggled for years and actually kept on being "**active**" in the Mormon Church because I did not know then what would be the direction to point to our children and my husband, since I was the first one to discover all this awful "**game**" that had been played for our souls. My silent thinking and reasoning over the years lead me to have a desire to thoroughly inspect "**what is the truth about God**", and investigate if there is something that can be called **an absolute truth about God, and who He is**. (I hope you don't mind me relating to you briefly here what led me from where I was to where I am now!) We go to school to learn the facts about other important matters pertaining to our life and our future and how to live and function in our society and culture. In school we learn about world history, archeology, literature, etc. etc. We study about various cultures – and **we rely on written information if that matches with tangible facts, and thus we can put together what we can trust to be the truth about we have studied.** I reasoned that **for thousands of years the Bible has been the guide to people around the world – even if not for all in religious reasons. Basic laws of Western civilized world and human behaviors are based on what the Bible has taught from the beginning - even among people who are not religious, neither Jews or Christians, who are often are called "people of the Book". I finally decided to put away Mormonism and start over –** so to speak. I had been a convert to Mormonism, so I knew that there are other lifestyles and beliefs **based on actual studies and not on superficial feelings I was taught to rely on as a Mormon.** I had worked as a translator and interpreter for the Mormon Church many years, so I was not afraid to challenge the "**translation of The Bible**" – and inspect what the facts indeed are concerning its translation. (Challenge to me was in LDS Article of Faith # 8, "**We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly**".) I bought the Hebrew text for the Old Testament (Tanach, that includes Torah, Prophets and Writings) and dictionaries to verify translations. I also obtained **Interlineal Hebrew-Greek-English Bible**. I bought several English translations of the Bible, including 2 of my own language (Finnish) Bibles and also many of the best biblical commentaries that were put together by hundreds of **scholars who had spent their lifetime studying the original tongues of the Bible and who only had the correctness of the text in mind to share with those who wanted to learn and know.** These scholars were not representing or leaning towards any denomination or a group, but were interpreting the words and messages written down in Hebrew and Greek, in the Old and New Testament, by about 40 authors over about 1500 year period. I was determined to find out – **to know if there is TRUTH to be found about God and how can it be proven as such!** I am still, after about 30 years, continuing my studies, but I am not questioning truthfulness of the original text of the Bible any longer, but I still want to learn more and more. After all, my examples in this are those scholars who have spent their lives in studying and **proving that the Bible indeed is the Word of the Living God.**

As you say, there are indeed many inconsistencies in various churches and I agree with you that **joining them in hopes of gaining salvation through any of them is total futility.** What I have learned through my years of Bible studies is that **no church or organized religion has power to save anyone – or provide eternal life and forgiveness of wrong doings - only God can do that – and He does not need any church to act in His behalf.** John 14:6 is one of the many scriptures that tells us that. However, **why we go to a church** (not necessarily to join a church) **is to have fellowship/friendship with like believers who also know Jesus personally, and have a desire to learn of Him and serve Him. I hope you see what I mean.** We are attending Calvary Chapel in Salt Lake City, a **non-denominational church** that teaches the Bible verse-by-verse, book-by-book. We teach at Calvary Chapel now our **Understanding Mormonism course lasting 10-12 weeks, but we have taught the same classes in other churches also ...** Many Mormons who have attended these classes in the past have been where you are now, and where we also once were. We understand and we hope to provide support for all attending who have a desire to know more about what we were supposed to believe while we were active LDS! To many Mormons truth about all that has been almost a shocking revelation. **Doctrines are not clearly taught in LDS wards, even though they are to be believed,** as you might well know! In our home-library we have hundreds of LDS books – and we base what we teach on Mormonism solely on Mormon leaders' teachings – and contrast that with what the biblical truth is. To many finally knowing what Mormonism really is has been an

emotional relief and it has given them courage to leave it and be free from spiritual bondage. Please feel free to contact me by letter or phone (801.943-5011). Sincerely, Rauni



A.W. Pink wrote about prayer and said:

“The prevailing idea seems to be, that I come to God and ask Him for something that I want, and that I expect Him to give me that which I have asked. But this is a most dishonoring and degrading conception. The popular belief reduces God to a servant, our servant: doing our bidding, performing our pleasure, granting our desires. No, prayer is a coming to God, telling Him my need, committing my way unto the Lord, and leaving Him to deal with it as seemeth Him best.”

This is a sobering thought! Let us reconsider and change our prayer life to be honoring God, being thankful of what He has blessed us with and leave our problems in His hands with our promise to serve Him, worship Him and love Him no matter what He allows into our life. He knows what is best for us, even if it is pain and suffering.

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We are blessed for we know that the Lord is with us – we see it in many tangible ways that He answers our prayers and gives us friends like you are to us. We feel His presence and have joy and peace in our hearts! We want to say to you what Paul wrote to his friends, “We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringing forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth...For this cause we also, since the day we heard of it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding...”(Col. 1:3-15.)

We have many friends needing physical healing and encouragement in their struggles. Please keep Merridy, Heber, Claudia, Bruce, Jack, Dale and Sharon, Pastor Henchie and Dave and Rose Harvey in Australia, Phil and Lois, and Dick and Patty in your prayers. **Our Lord knows their needs and trials** – all you need to do is to mention their names in your prayers and He will take care of the rest. Please pray also for our ministry’s needs and continuing work for Dennis, as well as for his health and strength so that he can do his physically demanding work.

Our *Understanding Mormonism* class is a great blessing to us. We have over 50 faithful students, who are willing to spend 2-3 hours every Sunday evening in learning how to become good and caring witnesses to their Mormon friends and neighbors, and even to strangers. **That is loving your neighbor!** We have four more weeks before we take a break from teaching a class, but that does not mean that we stop or even slow down our ministry’s work. We receive emails, letters, phone-calls all the time from LDS people – and they all are welcome, for we understand their heartaches. We have been where many of these callers now are. We want to ease their pain and give them hope in the Lord Jesus of the Bible who loves them more than they can imagine.

May the Lord bless you and give you His joy.
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Thought for the month:

There are three reasons for obedience. A slave obeys because he has to. An employee obeys because he needs to. But a loving son obeys because he wants to. (Eph. 2:8-10.)

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(We operate on belief that God will provide as we seek to serve Him. Knowing this we do not make appeals for financial help. However, we operate on donations, but these are freewill and not solicited. Our God is able to “do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.” (Eph. 3:20.)

