



*HE IS SAVIOR, Acts 4:12

1 February, 2013

H.I.S. Ministries February 2014 Newsletter, covering January 2013

This has been the coldest winter in Utah we can recall. (What happened to “global warming”?) Temperatures, measured on our patio fence, have been below freezing for 24 days in January. We registered several days between 0 and 8 degrees... But Spring is on its way... After February comes Spring... some say, “not so fast”, we still have March and April to live through before we can expect flowers... But enough “small talk” – now let’s get down to business.

First we’d like to announce that **Calvary Chapel** is preparing to host another **Capstone Conference** that represents our love for the Mormons. **This conference will be held on April 12th and 13th.** It was at first planned for March, but it had to be moved to April for several reasons – conflict in timing with several invited speakers was one reason, and our pastor Terry Long and many from Calvary Chapel are in Israel for most of February - so having this conference so soon after their return was problematic. **Admission to this conference is FREE.** We hope that there will be at least as many attending as there were a couple of years ago – which was about 700. Please pass the word. **We will give more detailed information in our March and April Newsletters about topics and who will be speaking, etc.**

The Truth of God has not changed since time began. ***God is the same yesterday, today and forever*** regardless of how people change and how hard they try to make God into their own image. When Joseph Smith started his religion in 1830 he was teaching of a God who is Spirit and of Jesus who is God who became a man...and that there is only one God - anywhere. We can still find this teaching in the Book of Mormon (Alma 11:26-40; 18:24-28), and in his Doctrine and Covenants of **five years later** (1835 ed.), but as his following grew, he started to change his doctrine of who God is, inventing a god who is like himself. The Word of God had warned about coming prophets like Joseph Smith. *“If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, and the sign or a wonder come to pass, therefore he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear Him, and keep His commandments, and obey His voice, and ye shall serve Him, and cleave unto Him. And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God...So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.”* (Deut. 13:1-5.) It was in 1839 that Joseph Smith started to speculate and lead people into different ideas about God. This could be what Paul was referring to when he wrote in Romans 1:21-23, *“...when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man...”*

Joseph Smith indeed changed his God to be like him, a “*corruptible man*”. It took a few more years before he, in 1844, publicly declared his new doctrine of God, but just before he revealed it, he said, ***“Every man has a natural,***

and in our country, a constitutional right to be a false prophet, as well as a true prophet..., he continued, saying, **“God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man... 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... same as all Gods have done before you...”** (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 344-346; emphasis added.) We can observe him developing this doctrine at least from the Spring of 1839 on, as is recorded in the D&C 121:28-29, 32, when he wrote about the time when a revelation **“whether there be one God or many gods, they shall be manifest... all thrones and dominions, principalities and powers shall be revealed....”** Did he know what or who are these *“thrones, dominions, principalities and powers”*? From John 1:3 and Colossians 1:16 we learn that it was Jesus Christ who **created all things, “visible and invisible”**, i.e. material and spiritual – **all things were created by Him and for Him**. Invisible beings are angels. Many of His creation, both angels and men, have rebelled against Him. **“Thrones, dominions, principalities and powers”** refer to fallen angels, Lucifer being the highest of them. Paul wrote in Ephesians 6, starting from verse 10-18, **“Finally, my brethern, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. FOR WE WRESTLE NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST PRICIPALITIES, AGAINST POWERS, AGAINST THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD, AGAINST SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with TRUTH, and having the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparations of the gospel of peace; above all taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God: praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...”** We are involved in the war against Satan and his forces, and we can only hope to win if we are “dressed” for it properly as Paul wrote here. **Our sword in this war is the Word of God, His Truth.**

[When we were “coming out of Mormonism” and learning the Word of God, we were struggling to understand the differences between Mormonism and biblical teachings, and when we came to these very scriptures from Colossians and Ephesians, they reminded us of our wedding ceremony in the Salt Lake Mormon Temple nearly 20 years before. **The Temple Officiator (Sealer) had “pronounced upon us a blessing of thrones, principalities, powers, dominions, and exaltations”**. We understood *“exaltations”* for we had been taught that it meant godhood, and we had supposed that *thrones, principalities, powers and dominions* were something great and wonderful also – indeed a blessing! In our biblical illiteracy we did not know that according to God’s Word **this sealing was a curse, not a blessing**. This realization brought us to the point that we officially denounced **“before God and men”** our temple ordinances, including our temple-marriage, and we got *“remarried”* in our friends’, Max and Pat Stewarts’, backyard in Vernal. **The real marriage ceremony** was performed by our Christian pastor, Herb Stoneman. **That was a real blessing and a relief.** ☺]

This world is under the rule of Satan. He is (temporarily) the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4), and he is fighting against all who have separated themselves from his power by receiving Jesus and becoming God’s children. (John1:12-13.) **We are in this world, but no longer of it.** We learn from the history of Israel that when they worshipped the true God and obeyed Him, they received victory over their enemies and prospered, but when they forsook God they were again brought into captivity. America is in a place now where even some of those who call themselves followers of the true God are not really trusting in Him. Many are after materialism and financial success. This was evidenced by many evangelical leaders who *led the way* during this last election. They wanted the one who promised prosperity. Many were not willing to see that **both of our choices** were bad – just in different ways. America has, as a nation, forsaken God, and we are being led into “captivity”. Many have become “fatalists” and surrender and say that *this must be the will of God*. **However, God wants us to resist evil, not surrender under it.** (James 4:7.) Even though we are commanded to stand firm for the Gospel of Christ, we should not be surprised when the world rejects our message of Truth. BUT **“...greater is He that is in you, than he who is in the world.** *They are of the world: therefore they speak of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not of us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.”* (1 John 4:4-6.) We praise and thank God that He stands with us in this war against the evil one. In His Word He has given us every tool and weapon we need to bring people, one by one, to the knowledge of Him and His Word. His Word shows us that we are indeed in the last days. We are experiencing the *birth pangs* Jesus told us

about – the closer we get to **the time**, the more severe they become. There is an urgency to share the Word of God and make sure that more people will go to heaven. What is taking place in our country and in the world is not just a “dress rehearsal”, this could be the real thing – the end is near. We must “occupy” – i.e. boldly share the gospel – the hour is later than most of us are willing to acknowledge. We must also stand against compromises and false teachings. We need to speak up when we see or hear people twisting the Gospel message. Let us pray together for God’s strength and wisdom for words to say and right times to say them, and pray for His protection as we stand against the enemy of the souls of men. We must commit to stand for the Gospel of Jesus Christ as it is declared in 1 Cor. 15:1-4. **“Be patient; establish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.”** (James 5:8.) He has promised: **“I will never leave thee, not forsake thee”**, says the Lord. (Hebr. 13:5.)

FROM OUR MAILBOX: This letter came from a Mormon man who did not identify himself as LDS. He wrote: **“I’ve been reading the essays on your website. Maybe you’ve discussed it and I’ve just missed it, but I am wondering what your theory is about how Joseph Smith produced the Book of Mormon. The Mormons have it, so it has to be explained somehow. If Smith’s explanation is a lie, how did he really do it?”**

My reply: (This question cannot be answered briefly, but I tried to make it as short as possible.)

Thank you for asking what is our “theory about how Joseph Smith produced the Book of Mormon”. When we were Mormons, we believed the “official story” of gold plates and Joseph’s miraculous translation of them, but when we finally checked into it, our belief in it fell apart. For us it started with the discovery that there is no evidence of Nephites or their large cities, fortified with walls, of their weapons of war, etc. described in the BoM. Simple fact is that cities, large buildings, weapons of war, coins etc. (Alma 11:4-19) do not disappear. Around the world even much older civilizations than described in the BoM have been found with abundant evidence. While looking into this dilemma we found out that there was a book, a religious novel, *View of the Hebrews*, written by Rev. Ethan Smith (who was Oliver Cowdery’s family’s minister) **7 years before the Book of Mormon** that amazingly tells a very similar story that is found in the BoM. We discovered that an LDS General Authority and Historian, B.H. Roberts, had already, in early 1920’s, discovered the same and written a lengthy manuscript exposing his findings about the BoM, but he was not allowed to publish it... About 50 years after his death it was finally published under the title of, *“Studies of the Book of Mormon”* (edited by two Mormon professors, Brigham D. Madsen and Sterling M. McMurrin). (I’d recommend that you check into it – amazon.com has had it available even recently for a low cost.) About ten years ago DNA research about American Indians was published. The BoM and the Mormon Church say that American Indians are descendants of Hebrews (called “Lamanites” in the BoM). DNA research declares American Indians to be Mongolian – not Hebrews. There is so much evidence against the Book of Mormon that a thinking person cannot accept it as what the LDS Church says it is. There are also many internal evidences against it. It is supposed to be a story of the Jews, Israelites, who came to this new world abt. 592 B.C. – yet there is nothing in the BoM that would connect them to Israel, their feasts and worship system – not even Passover, one of the five mandatory feasts of Israel - is not mentioned in it, but instead it talks about *Christ, Christians, apostles, churches, baptism* etc. that are New Testament words - not known before the Christian era. (You may know that in the BoM the year is listed at the bottom of each page indicating when what is talked about took place...) Even the Book of *Ether* in the BoM talks about *Jesus Christ*, yet this part of the BoM is about people who supposedly left during the Tower of Babel, 2000 years before Christ. As you may know, “Jesus” is a Greek translation of *Jeshua*, and *Christ* is a Greek word applied to *Messiah*. Greek language did not even exist 2000 years before Christ – and not only that but no one knew the name of Messiah-King until it was given by the angel to Joseph and Mary (see Matt. 1:18-23) before the birth of *Jeshua*. (New Testament was written in Greek, for it was a common language in the region during the time of Christ, even though people in Israel spoke *Aramaic and/or Hebrew* – thus we can be sure that when the angel gave His name to Joseph, he did not say “Jesus” but *Jeshua*, for Joseph and Mary were Aramaic speaking Jews.)

In summary (about “our theory”): Joseph Smith was a young man gifted with great creativity and imagination. He did not have a formal education, but he had been an avid reader (based on his mother’s testimony) and a student of the Bible since he was a young boy. (He had broken his leg and was not able to work or play with other young boys, so he read a lot.) His mother tells how **he entertained his family with stories of Indians he made up as a young boy**. When he was 25 or so, he created the Book of Mormon by copying from books he was familiar with –

the Bible being his main source (large portions of the BoM are taken from the KJV of the Bible - it has 17 chapters from KJV of the Bible, word for word, from Isaiah alone... Alma's story in the BoM is an obvious copy of Paul's life found in the New Testament, but yet Alma is B.C. character...). The BoM has references even to Joseph Smith's own time's preachers' messages he had listened to... B.H. Roberts discovered that the main BoM storyline comes from Ethan Smith's View of the Hebrews (*Studies of the Book of Mormon*, p. 240) that tells about Jews who sailed to Americas, and then divided into two warring groups – one civilized (called *Nephites* in the BoM), the other consisting of wild hunters (called *Lamanites* in the BoM)... B.H. Roberts (above mentioned LDS General Authority and Historian) compares Joseph Smith's creativity to that of *Shakespeare's and English Bard's*, (*Studies of the Book of Mormon*, pp. 243-244) thus saying that Joseph Smith was capable of writing the BoM himself by using materials available to him. In addition to *View of the Hebrews*, B. H. Roberts lists several other writings that were available to Joseph Smith that could have provided information he used in writing the Book of Mormon. Roberts mentions, among several other books, "*The History of the American Indians*" by James Adair (1775) and Josiah Priest's "*The Wonders of Nature and Providence*", published in 1824, which also argued that Indians may be descendants of the Israelites. This idea was quite common during the late 1700's and in 1800's. These books were quite popular and available to Joseph Smith and written many years prior to the Book of Mormon.

My advice to all who, like my husband and I, were once convinced to accept the Book of Mormon as a scripture, is to reject it and **take the Bible that is the proven Word of God**; proven by history and archeology as well as prophetically. It consists of 66 books written by 40 authors over 1500 year timespan – yet these books agree with one another and are trustworthy. [Suggested sample reading: Deut. 8:3; Ps. 119:50; Prov. 30:5; Isa. 40:8; John 1:1, 14; 17:17; Phil. 2:16; Hebr. 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:16.] We have on our website a paper on **Mormon Scriptures**: www.hismin.com/content/joseph-smith-and-mormon-scriptures. If we can further help you, please write again.

I received from him about 11 pages refuting my above response to him. He was very skillful in demeaning and belittling our studies, and he even says that B.H. Roberts' manuscript, now known as "*Studies of the Book of Mormon*", was only Roberts' "*private study of the BoM*", never intended for publication, and that he wrote it only as "*a devil's advocate*" describing how he would address criticisms directed against the LDS Church concerning the Book of Mormon. In my following response to him I am only quoting his beginning statement, for as I said, his letter was too long to include here. I am quite confident that you can determine what his arguments were from my responses.

He started with these words: "*Hey, Rauni, I honestly didn't want to get in an argument with you. Truly, my interest was simply that I had never heard of you before and wondered if you were any different in substance or had anything new to offer than the other myriad counter-cult "ministries" on the web. And I thought by asking your opinion of how Joseph Smith produced the foundational BOM would be a good indicator. That's all. But now I feel a need to respond..."*

I answered: I had never heard of you either, so in that we are even. You contacted me, saying that you had "read essays on our website". **Interesting.** Since you had asked, I gave you my/our opinion about the Book of Mormon, even though just briefly. (There would have been a lot more to say about our discovery for it had devastated our lives!) Finding out that the BoM is fiction caused me to lose my faith in it and naturally in its **author, Joseph Smith** (that he is **it's "author"** is stated on the title page of 1830 BoM), **and in his religion**. I had not expected you to write again after my reply to your question, unless, as I had said, you had other questions. It does not seem that you do, but **you chose to do what most Mormons do after their questions are answered – they attack the messenger that gave them information they did not like**, and you resorted in calling me "*anti-Mormon*", and **belittling what I had sincerely and honestly said**. We should be used to that! ☺ Some LDS people even use curse words in their replies to us.... We also often get *hate-letters* from **people of the LDS faith**, even occasional death-threats, and wishes that we'd go to hell... These **Latter-day Saints** do not often act very "*saintly*"... Their spirit sort of "*peeks out*".

I don't write to people I don't know unless they have first contacted me (as you did), but when they do, I answer their questions, sincerely and with the best of my knowledge. My husband and I have quietly set a website for **seeking Mormons** to give them **something to consider and think about**. **We do not harass Mormons, but they do harass us!** Why is that? **There are perhaps thousands of LDS websites promoting Mormonism and thus saying, as did Joseph Smith, that all Christian churches are an abomination to God, and that the LDS church is the only true**

church on the face of the whole earth, implying that all of Christianity is false! **Is it not right and about time that Christians stand up and defend the Holy Bible as what it is: the absolute truth and the Word of God?** However, most Christians defending biblical truth, are not promoting any church, knowing that **salvation comes from Jesus Christ alone and the knowledge about Him from His written Word**. When we say that **Mormons are not part of Christianity (i.e. Christians)**, we speak from our own personal experience as former Mormons. **When we were members of the LDS church, we were Mormons, not Christians. We were told early on when we served our missions for the LDS Church that if we are asked “are you Christians”, we were to say, “NO, we are Mormons.”** This was based on Joseph Smith’s story (PoGP, 1:19). [There has been a change to this, based on Church’s New York PR firm’s counsel: **They now say that they are Christians, but their doctrine of Christ and His gospel has not changed – it is still the same old Mormonism!**] Just so that you’d know, Christianity is based on **the Bible alone, and its revelation on Who Jesus is and what the Gospel is. Jesus of the Bible is Eternal God, God Almighty and the Creator of all things**, who became a man to pay the sin-debt of those who come to Him by faith. (John 1:1, 14; Matt. 1:23; Rom. 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-9; John 1:1-3; Col. 1:15-16.) **But Jesus of Mormonism is NOT God Almighty, but a created being, a brother of all mankind and angels, including Lucifer**. That “Jesus” is “another Jesus” warned about in 2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15! **The Gospel of Mormonism is “laws and ordinances” of the Mormon Church (3rd Article of Faith), i.e. it is “another gospel”.** (See 2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15.) **The Gospel of God is a message of what Jesus did and is declared in 1 Cor. 15:1-4.** Salvation is the **Gift of God to be received by faith**. (Eph. 2:8-9.) **“Another gospel” is condemned** in Gal. 1:8-9, even if it was brought by an angel (Moroni?), as is “another Jesus” and “another spirit”. (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15.) Only Jesus came from “above”, from heaven, we did not: **there is no preexistence of mankind**. (John 3:13, 31; 8:23; 1 Cor. 15:46.)

Now that we are born again Christians, we must do what the Bible commands us to do (Ez. 33:7-9); **that is to warn those who may not know what happens after death to all who do not know the true Jesus**. (Matt. 7:21-23; Hebr. 9:27; Luke 16:19-32.) Jesus said that **unless we know that He is God** (not a spirit brother of mankind and Lucifer), **our sins will not be forgiven, for only God can forgive sins**. (John 8:23-24; Matt. 1:23; John 1:1; Rev. 1:8; Mark 2:7, etc.) **If our sins are not forgiven before we die, we are not going to heaven. He alone is the Way, the Truth and the Life**. (John 14:6) **Salvation is God’s gift to us, not to be earned by works**. (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 4:1-8; John 6:29.)

You talk about Joseph Smith’s “translation” of the Book of Mormon, and why it was OK for him to add words to his BoM he was pretending to “translate”, words like *Christians, Christ, Jesus, apostles, baptism* etc., words that were not known before Christian-era. You should know that **translation work is just that – translating what someone else had written or said – it is not editing, adding and/or changing what the original text said**. I worked over 14 years as a translator for the LDS Church. **I would not have been allowed to add my own interpretations to what GA’s of the church had written or said**. **If it indeed was true that Joseph Smith was translating from the gold plates, he could no longer call it a “translation” if he was editing it to say something that was not there; not at least without footnotes indicating that these words as “Jesus Christ”, “Christians”, “apostles”, “churches”, “baptism” etc. were not in the original text but were added there by him**. Surely you should be able to see that words **not known before New Testament era could not have been on the gold plates supposedly written during before Christian-era – that is if the story is true**. Since we know that the BoM is **not true**, we can just observe Joseph Smith’s ignorance and illiteracy by these and other similar things found in his book.

You also said that **there were no candles in biblical times and yet the English translation of the Bible talks about candles**. You say that as “*the Bible translators added words that were not known during the time in question*”, thus Joseph Smith was likewise permitted to add words “*unknown during the time of Nephites*” to his translation to make his book easier to understand! **You need to check this out! Candles were known and used in biblical times – they were used in ancient Egypt** (they have been found in tombs at Thebes). **Even similar to modern candlesticks were found in Crete, from the first Minoan civilization about 3000 B.C.** Romans also had candles and tapers made of tallow and wax. **The evidence indicates that they were also used in the 1st century A.D. etc.** (See Encyclopedia Britannica, vol. 4, p. 777.)

You said that Joseph Smith translated the “**original Nephite word**” (“**original**” from the gold plates?) **for Messiah into Christ, because this Nephite word meant “Christ-believer”!** I would say that he did it because he had no **understanding of the Old Testament**. He did not know that to Israel **Messiah did not mean “Christ” as believers in Him know Him from the New Testament**. Joseph Smith’s ignorance of the OT is demonstrated in his “translation”

and his use of the name *Jesus Christ* in the BoM, placed into the *before Christ* era. [Israel was expecting **the Messiah to come as their King and political leader** who would deliver His people and establish His Kingdom. *Messiah* in Hebrew means the “*anointed one*”, the ***anointed King of Israel!*** The **Messiah, or the anointed one, is used as many as 30 times in the Old Testament of kings**, as in the case of King David, who became a model of **Messianic King** who would come at the end of the age. (2 Sam. 22:51; Ps. 2:2.) It was not until the 6th Century B.C., at the time of Daniel, that **Messiah was used as an actual title of the King who would come in the future** (Dan. 9:25-26.) **Jesus did not refer to Himself as Messiah until the crucifixion time** (Mark 8:29-30;14:61-62), except privately (Matt. 16:16-17.) **He was the promised King to sit on David’s Throne, as was promised to Mary** (Luke 1:32). **He was the Messiah and “Christ”, the Anointed One, but He did not want it to be known publically, for He was to be first the Suffering Servant** prophesied in Isaiah 52:13-53:12. **That Jesus was the suffering Messiah, the crucified deliverer, was indeed a “stumbling block” to the Jews** (1 Cor. 1:23-24), and **He still continues to be the stumbling block to the most Jews**. The Jews saw the cross as the proof that **He was not Messiah-King**, but a weak and powerless impostor. Christian expectations of the King of Israel to be also the Savior of Gentiles did not emerge until way into the Christian era, mainly under Paul’s ministry. He wrote, **“Israel is blinded [to their Messiah]until fullness of the Gentiles is come in”**. (Rom. 11:25.) Therefore you are wrong in implying that “*Nephites*” (if they were Jews from Jerusalem 600 B.C.) could have known of “*Christ*” and of “*Jesus*”! It was Joseph Smith who wrote the book (BoM) and in his ignorance made these huge errors.

You also made an effort to impress us by giving a list of “*many educated Mormons, working in various professional fields, not employed by the Church but yet they teach and believe in Mormonism!*” **I know it is possible – been there – done that – but we have also known many, many Mormons who do not believe, but still teach and even pretend to believe in Mormonism...** Some of them say that **they have to do it** because they cannot hurt their families by denying the *faith of their fathers*. We have likewise seen many abandoning their “*fathers’ faith*”, most of these **only after they have come to realize that there is an absolute truth available through the Bible, the Word of God, and that eternal life can only come from and by knowing the True God and Jesus whom He has sent**. (John 14:6;17:3, 17.) We have known many Mormons who hang on to Mormonism for the *family’s or friends sake, or even for the sake of their jobs*. Some of them have said that **they cannot believe that there is an eternal hell waiting for them ‘just because they did not believe in the right Jesus and right God’**. (See John 17:3; 8:24.) They say that because **they have done good works, have loved and supported their wives and children, have done many wonderful things for the society, etc.–and that they are ‘good people’, “God would not send good people to hell ‘for just not getting doctrine right’ – or would He?”**- they ask. (See Matt. 7:21-23.) They are correct - **God will not send anyone to hell – but people who go to hell go there because they chose to reject the true God** for the convenient life over and above following God’s truth, when He had done all that could be done to bring them to eternal salvation (John 3:16). **He Himself paid it all** for those who come to Him alone. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Eph. 2:8-9.) I would suggest that you’d read how Jesus answered these same arguments or questions: **1. About doing good and wonderful works, but not knowing Him, the True God, read His answer in Matt. 7:22-23. - 2. About not believing that He is I AM (God), He said that unless we believe that He is God, our sins will not be forgiven - read John 8:24. Only GOD Almighty (not a spirit brother) can forgive sins. (Rev. 1:8; Mark 2:7.) - 3. Jesus is the only one who came from heaven, we did not – mankind did not preexist - read John 3:13, 31; 8:23.**

I would again suggest that you’d read B.H. Roberts’ book yourself rather than parroting FARMS statements that he was only “*playing the devil’s advocate*”. **His book was intended by him for publication, but it was denied. It was not just his “private study” either, but his response to requests by other leaders of the church.** (The church had received challenges concerning historicity of the BoM from the public in general, and Roberts was assigned as a GA and a Scholar to answer them. As an honest man, he wanted to give honest answers to those asking, and that caused him to start investigating – and as they say, “*the rest is history*”.) **I have seen letters/memos from mid-1920’s he wrote to other GA’s about publishing his studies.** He also said that he had *previously believed* that the BoM was true, but after doing several years of research, he found it problematic to believe in it. However, he had to obey other leaders that were above him and keep on “testifying” that the BoM is true, but obviously he did not believe it. Perhaps he feared for his life, or his loved ones destiny if he would deny the BoM? There are many accounts of that kind of danger in the history of this church. I worked “*among them*”, and during those many years I became quite “*educated*” – I leaned what “*lying for the Lord*” means – **it simply means to protect the church at any cost.**

This is basically all that I wanted to say you, for I don't see that we will get anywhere very fast unless you come to see that God, Jesus and gospel of Mormonism are not same as what biblical Christianity believes and teaches, so I will leave this with my prayer that you would consider the scriptures I have sent to you with this and in my previous answer. Sincerely, Rauni Higley

Another LDS man asked: *Isn't it obvious that we need a living prophet for our day to explain doctrine because there are so many churches who believe in the Bible and yet do not believe the same?*

ANSWER: It is critical that people study the Bible and know what it teaches about doctrine. That is the very reason God gave us His Word – so that we study and know. 2 Tim. 2:15 commands, ***“STUDY to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing (understanding) the Word of Truth... 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.) If we are grounded in the Word, then no one can lead us away from the Truth. **However, on all of the foundational issues of faith, who is God, who is Jesus and the Holy Spirit, and what we must do to be saved are the same in all biblical faiths and not disputed.** There is an answer to this question in Acts 16:30: *“...Sirs, what must we do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord, and thou shalt be saved...”* Doctrine of God, Jesus and salvation taught in the Bible is clear enough for a child to understand. Sadly, it is on many *non-essentials* that some men have fallen into Satan's trap of division to create their own groups and present some “better” or “different” ways of worship and function. Some even may do it for personal gain and power. The good news is that when a person dies, it doesn't matter what was the name of the building he chose to worship in, **only what matters is if he knew Jesus and had accepted Him as his Savior by faith. (Romans 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-9.)** **You must take care of that issue in your own life. I am praying for you, Rauni**

We again want to express our gratitude to all of you who have prayed with us and for us and in many ways supported our Ministry. This would not be possible without you! Times are hard financially for us, but we trust in the Lord's provision through His own. **Thank you for responding to Him.** As we work with LDS people and share the Gospel, we can feel your prayers sustaining us! We receive many calls, letters and emails from those who have found their way out of the bondage of Mormonism into the Freedom in Christ Jesus (John 8:31-32,36). They are thanking us, and we in turn praise **the Lord and you** to whom these *thank-you notes* belong.

Do you remember us writing about ***“our Becky and Sam”***, whom we met the first time just a year ago (1/26/12)? They started to study the Bible very soon after that. We gave them Chuck Missler's John-study first and more studies every couple of weeks after that. **They came to know the Lord Jesus of the Bible, and they were excited!** We have talked about them often for they became faithful witnesses for the Lord from that time on. Becky has brought many of her siblings to the Lord. **Her father, John Dailey, excepted the Lord in May 2012**, and just like Becky, he started to witness to all who would listen. **We praise the Lord for his salvation, for the Lord unexpectedly called John home 1/20/13, nine months after he was saved.** There was sadness of course among his family, for he passed away suddenly, *“in good physical health”*, but there was also great joy among his now three saved daughters (Becky, Mary and Jen) and his son Brian, his wife and their seven children who also are walking with the Lord. We attended John's *“home-going”* service at American Fork Calvary Chapel on 1/25/13. Of John's 18 children four of them are now Christian, the rest of them are still Mormons; several of them are *fundamental Mormons*, i.e. believers in Joseph Smith's polygamy- doctrine/revelation, D&C 132. We pray that the pastor's message speaking of **John's love for the Lord** touched the hearts of his unsaved children and their families and brings them to Jesus of the Bible. **We serve an amazing God.**

John's home-going reminded us of ***“Grandma Irene's”*** passing on Resurrection Sunday, 2011. She had accepted the Lord at the age of **88** and she went to be with the Lord 1 ½ years later. (We wrote about her in our **May of 2011 Newsletter**, and in **May of 2012 we wrote about her again, and included a photo of her Tombstone.** (Go to: www.hismin.com/newsletter.html and check May 2011 and May 2012 letters). Her daughter Jamie and her husband Chris Hohnbaum placed on her grave a stone that reads: **IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS!** It also tells that she came to know the Lord at the age of 88, and out of Mormonism. Her stone also declares: **JOSEPH LIED.**

Grandma Irene had said many times that she wished she could have known the truth about Jesus earlier and been able to witness to others. **Through this stone Grandma Irene keeps on witnessing to all who visit this newer little Herriman Cemetery. Most people buried there were LDS and visitors to this Cemetery cannot help but see her witness of Jesus, for her grave is right next to the exit road!**

We are asking that you'd to pray for Dick Baer's health (he has been hospitalized with heart trouble in addition to his other health problems , but is home now). Please continue to pray for Debbie - she continues to have some setbacks in her recovery from cancer. Dale and Sharon need God's comforting touch – his life in a wheelchair is not easy for either one of them. [They have still been working in witnessing and sharing DVDs and other materials that have been a big help to many.] Please pray also for Max, Pat, Merridy, Ed, Carol, Chris, Heber, Tom, Dixie and Bruce. Our prayers continue to be with Dave and Ruth Hunt. We love them and owe them our gratitude for their life-long service to the Lord. The Lord knows the needs of all these people and as we lift their names to Him, He will bless them accordingly. ***“Blessed be God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”*** (2 Cor. 1:3-4.)

We are working with several LDS people that are having problems with their families over their research into the history of Mormonism. Please pray with us that they could get their loved ones involved in that also and understanding that searching and finding truth is important for everyone. **TRUTH DOES MATTER!**

We know so many amazing people that love the Lord and want to serve him. Our friends, Preston and Kathy Stewart in Vernal are starting this month to teach *“our” Understanding Mormonism* classes at Calvary Chapel there. Dennis has been helping Preston in getting prepared for that. Preston is fantastic Bible-teacher – and we are sure that all attending their classes will be greatly blessed. We are blessed to have our research work shared in our former home-town. There was a big revival in the mid 1980's in Vernal, when sharing the truth with LDS people was first attempted there, and many came to know the Lord. This was what we call “Herb Stoneman- times”. Herb was a pastor who led this spiritual awakening in Vernal. We were new in it then, but God blessed us all and the very same people who came to know the truth then are still faithfully serving the Lord and bringing more people to Him. We Praise the Lord for them all.

We wish all of you very happy and love-filled Valentine's Day!

Keep the Son in your eyes, is our prayer for you,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

(You are welcome to contact us by email at hismin@xmission.com or by phone 801.943-5011.)

Thought for the month from God's Word:

“Have no fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.” (Eph. 5:11)

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God bless your desires to be our partners in sharing His Truth with others who do not yet know Him.

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