



\* He Is Savior (Acts 4:12.)

December 1, 2014

## H.I.S. Ministries December 2014 Newsletter, covering November 2014

Have a Merry Christmas and may our Lord's love and blessings be poured upon you and your families this special time of the year as we celebrate the Birth of Jesus – when God became a man for our salvation. (John 1:1, 14.)

*“This is the faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.” (1 Tim. 1:15.)*

---

The Book of Genesis (5:1, NKJV) begins, *“This is the book of genealogy of Adam”*, and introduces the first Adam. *The first Adam* was the head of the first (physical) creation. The Gospels introduce Jesus Christ as *the last Adam*, the Head of the new, spiritual creation. The Bible is God's Word. His Word is Truth. (John 17:17.) We can trust it completely and without any hesitation.

“FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR, WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD.” (Luke 2:11.) THE GOSPEL IS THE JOYOUS GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST. (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) This is the good news we celebrate at this time and all year and we must share it with the world. December is the month that has had its focus on Christ and Christmas, and that He came to offer forgiveness and eternal salvation to all who come to Him. (John 3:16.) But this message is hardly even known to the world at large any more – it is just a month to have parties and buy a lot of gifts. Most businesses count on Christmas season to bring them most of their annual profits. As nice as it is to remember our loved ones with gifts during this season, we all, as believers in Christ, should keep our focus on Christ of Christmas and lead people to Him who is our Gift, and also the Giver of that amazing Gift of Grace, forgiveness of our sins, and through Whom we become sons and daughters of God and receive eternal life. (John 1:12; Eph. 2:8-9.)

The subject of all four Gospels is Jesus Christ. His name “Jesus” (YSHUA) presents Him as Jehovah-Savior. His title is “Christ”, the Anointed One, Messiah and King. His title as Son of David is connected in the Old Testament to both of His roles – King of Israel and Messiah. Matt. 1:23 presents Jesus as who He really is, *“God with us”*, born of a Virgin as prophesied in Isa. 7:14. The Gospels present Jesus in His four roles to mankind – 1) *as King*, 2) *as Servant of God*, 3) *as man*, 4) *and as God.*

1) Matthew's gospel introduces Jesus as King and Messiah. Matthew's genealogy of Jesus begins with Abraham, the father of the Jews (i.e. legal lineage). (Matt. 1:1-16.) The symbol of Matthew's gospel is a *Lion*. Jesus is the "*Lion of the Tribe of Judah*". (Matthew wrote primarily to the Jews.) 2) Mark's gospel presents Jesus as a Servant of God, thus Mark gives no genealogy. The Symbol of Mark's gospel is an *Ox*. (Mark wrote primarily to the Romans.) 3) Luke's gospel presents Jesus as Son of Man, and begins His genealogy (the blood line) from Adam. (Luke 3:23-38.) The symbol of Luke's gospel is a *Man*. (Luke wrote primarily to the Greeks.) 4) John's gospel present Jesus as Who He really is, Eternal Son of God who became a man for our sake. (John 1:1, 14.) The Symbol of John's gospel is an *Eagle*. (John wrote to the whole world.)

Most of Bible readers tend to skip the genealogy part of Matthew's gospel (Matt. 1:1-16) as "*not important*", and start reading from chapter 2, where the "*action begins*". However, the genealogy of Jesus is very important for it gives evidence of Who He is. It is especially important to the Jews who were/are waiting for their promised Messiah, the King of Israel. Unless it can be shown that Jesus is a *legal descendant* of David through the royal line, He could not be their awaited King or Messiah. Thus Matthew begins his account with the documentary evidence that Jesus inherited the legal right to the throne of David through his step-father, Joseph. Matthew proves by the available solid evidence that Jesus indeed is the legal descendant of David and thus the King of Israel who was to come. Matthew follows the royal line from David through his son Solomon, and concludes His genealogy with Joseph of whom Jesus was an adopted Son, and thus the legal heir to the throne of David. However, the Old Testament reports a seeming problem, for there was a blood curse placed on David's kingly line (after king Jeconiah). (See Jer. 22:30.) However, if we continue to study the records carefully, we see how God had solved this obvious problem. Matthew's and Luke's genealogies of Jesus are identical through David and Solomon, but after Solomon Luke departs from Matthew's genealogy and traces the family tree and Jesus' bloodline through Nathan, another son of David (the second surviving son of Bathsheba), carrying it down through Mary's father, Heli, of whom Joseph was a son-in-law (Mary being Heli's only daughter), thus showing that Jesus is the lineal blood descent of King David. This is very important for God had made an *unconditional covenant with David* a millennium earlier, promising that his kingdom would last forever (Ps. 89:4, 36-37) and that the promised Messiah will come from the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10), and from the line of David and that He will sit on David's throne. (Ruth 4:22; 2 Sam. 7:11-16.) [The Angel of God had made that same promise to Mary in Luke 1:32, 37.] It can be seen from Garden of Eden onward that the Devil's attempt has been to destroy God's plans for mankind and divert them so that God's prophecies and promises cannot come true. Again Satan may have thought that he won, for from history we learn that from Solomon to Jeconiah, Israel's kings went from bad to worse till finally God placed a blood-curse on Jeconiah (Jeconiah was also called Jehoaichin and Coniah), affecting the kingly bloodline from Jeconiah onward disqualifying his blood descents from the throne. (Jer. 22:30.) God in His wisdom over-ruled Satan's "victory" with Jeconiah that had brought the curse: We learn that Jesus Christ is indeed the legal heir to the throne of David through Joseph, but not his blood descent. Jesus is from the seed of David, blood descent through His mother Mary. Thus God bypassed the blood curse He had put on descents of Jeconiah, making the Virgin-birth mandatory. Our God reigns! His Word is infallible and true! God had said that David's kingdom will last forever (Ps. 89:4, 36-37), and it will, for Christ Jesus will reign forever as David's greater Son. And because He lives forever there can be no other claimant to David's throne. In other words, no one else can come and claim to be the King of Israel, the King of kings

**and the Lord of lords.** That position is reserved and belongs of Jesus Christ alone. His name “Jesus” (YSHUA) presents Him as Jehovah-Savior. **His title is “Christ”**, the Anointed One, the Messiah and King. His title as Son of David is connected in the OT to both of His roles – King of Israel and Messiah. Matt. 1:23 presents Jesus as who He really is, **“God with us”, born of a Virgin** as prophesied in Isa. 7:14.

---

The Year 2014 seems to be the *shortest year of our lives* (☺) and it is almost over – one more month to go. Looking back over these past 11 months of 2014 as we have lived and worked, we ask : *Have we done everything that we could have done to bring eternal blessings to the lives of the lost?* **We praise and thank our Lord for allowing us to see many come to know Him during this last year.** Paul wrote what a joy it was to him to see God using his fellow workers as well as him to bring people to Jesus. **“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.”** (1 Cor. 3:6.) We praise Him likewise. Following the Lord and His directions are what matters in the end. We are His laborers and fellow workers with others who also work in this field that God has tilled to bring in the harvest, and thus we work with desire to bring blessed change to the lives of those who are so lost in Mormonism. **There is a day coming when all our work as His servants and laborers will be evaluated before the Judgment Seat of Christ, as 1 Cor. 3:13-17 describes. The Judgment Seat of Christ here talked about is the “reward judgment” not for judgment of our sins, for the Lord Himself has borne our sins on the Cross of Calvary where our sin debt was settled once and for all. Only the saved, born again believers will appear before the Bema Seat, the Judgment Seat of Christ. All standing there before our Lord are saved, some of us “as through by fire” (3:15). When we received our salvation and were born again, we were “created unto good works “ for the glory of the Lord (Eph. 2:8-10), but even if we have not done as well as we should have in order to receive rewards from the Lord, we are saved nevertheless.** From Romans 8:1 we read: **“There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” At the Bema Seat only the value of our work as believers in Christ will be judged, not our sins that were paid in full by Christ.** If our service to the Lord brought glory to God and blessing to man, **it will not be lost by fire, but just like gold, silver and precious stones are not affected by fire, the work done for the Lord’s glory will stand the fire and we will receive a reward for what we have done from our whole heart as our service to Him.** But if our work has been done for our own selfish motives, or if by not upholding truth we have caused doubt or confusion, our work will be **burned by fire and we would suffer loss of reward. God’s Word is compared to fire that consumes all that is not genuine.** (Isa. 5:24; Jer. 23:29; 5:14.) The Word of God will test our service to Him at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Even though we do not consciously work for rewards, the Lord will reward us if we truly seek Him and desire to glorify His name among all people.

---

**From our mailbox:** An LDS man wrote, *“You wrote that the Mormon Church and its prophet, President Hinckley, some years ago denied and even lied that they teach that God was once a man and that men can become Gods .You statements are false and unwarranted. I’d say that there is not a Mormon who has been a member even for a short time that does not know that we are taught, and we accordingly believe that God was once a man and that we have potential of become gods ourselves, same as all Gods have done before us. It is central to Mormon beliefs. This was taught by Joseph Smith and prophets after him. When our previous prophet, Gordon B. Hinckley, was asked by Time magazine as well as during some other interviews in 1997 if the Mormon Church teaches this, he understood the question to mean **if it is taught from the pulpit today?** He said **“I don’t know that we teach that... I don’t know that we emphasize that.”** You say that he lied, but he*

*told the truth. I have been an active member all my life and I don't remember any of the General Authorities emphasizing or teaching it lately, but we study it from the past teachings of our prophets and we believe it to be God's truth and doctrine. We do not emphasize this teaching now, but instead we emphasize obeying God in order to become like he is. As President Hinckley said that **he understood the theory behind it** even though he said that does not know a lot about it. You misrepresented our prophet and the Church when you accused him of lying. A prophet of God will not lie."*

**Reply:** This doctrine was taught in 1997 when Pres. Hinckley made his denial, and is taught today in current LDS manuals. **LDS Priesthood manual of 1997-1998, Teachings of Presidents of the Church, Brigham Young,** lesson # 4, says, "**The doctrine that God was once a man and thus progressed to become a God is unique to this Church.**" (p.34.) "**Some would have us believe that God is present everywhere. It is not so.**" (p. 29) It declares that mankind is made "**after his likeness**" – that he is our **Father in Heaven who begat all the spirits that ever were or ever will be, upon this earth.**" It continues, "**We were made first spiritual [beings] and afterward temporal** [physical beings]". (p. 30.) **The Bible teaches exactly the opposite: "Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural [physical]; and afterward that which is spiritual."** (1 Cor. 15:46.) We are not born as God's children, but as "**children of the flesh**", Adam's posterity. "**They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God.**" (Rom. 9:8.) **We are created by God.** We are first born "**natural**" (physical) and when **receive Jesus** (of the Bible), **we are born again**, as Jesus said **we must be** (John 3:7), **and receive our spiritual birth**, and thus we "**become sons of God**". (John 1:12.) However, **we will never become gods. There is only one God.** Contrary to LDS Church teachings, there were no Gods before God of the Bible nor will there be any Gods after Him. **God says, "...before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me."** (Isa. 43:10; 44:8b.) I agree with you that "**a Prophet of God will not lie.**" Isaiah warned about lying prophets. "**...the prophet that teacheth lies, he is the tail. For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed.**" (Isa. 9:1b-16.) False prophets and their teachings are like "**tails of scorpion**" – their teaching will not only hurt spiritually, but they can even destroy their followers eternally. (Rev. 9:10-11.)

---

**A Mormon man wondered:** "*Why do you and some other evangelicals make such a big deal about Mormon belief that Jesus is Lucifer's brother? It is better that they are brothers, since no one is responsible of actions of his brother. In my opinion it is far worse to believe that Jesus created Satan while knowing fully what Satan will do. Our belief that Satan and Jesus are just brothers does not make Jesus responsible of Satan's actions. I also cannot believe in a god who created man with worldly lusts and appetites, and then created hell where he will put most of humanity to punish them forever and ever, and take to heaven only those who will praise him forever. This is an egotistical, sadistic god. I am unwilling to spend eternity with a god who will eternally punish my Mormon brothers and sisters instead of letting them go out of existence, or if not, why doesn't he give them a place of their own somewhere in universe to exist and do as they will. I am sure that you think that I will go to hell as a Mormon. I'd rather go to hell with other Mormons who love and respect and appreciate each other and do not wish others harm than live eternity with your egotistical god who desires to see me punished for having more love and compassion and charity than he.*"

**Reply:** Satan cannot be a brother of Jesus for Jesus is God (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14) and Lucifer is a created being. (Isa. 14:12-14; Ez. 28:13-19; Isa. 14:12-14.) Lucifer in his pride wanted to replace God, and be as God, and he was cast out of heaven. It is interesting that Lucifer's lie to Eve in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:1-5) is the same lie that is promoted by the Mormon Church. 1) They question correctness of God's Word, the Bible, – "...hath God said...?" 2) And like Lucifer, they teach that men can become *as gods*. That is very sad and a drastic mistake. So that you'd know, **God did not create hell for people, nor is He sending anyone there. Hell was created for the Devil and his angels, not for men.** (See: Matt. 25:41.) Only those who reject God's salvation by grace alone are "sending themselves there" by their rejection of salvation Jesus offered. (Eph. 2:8-9.) - You speak about hell similar to what Joseph Smith did. I'll quote him, "***I see no fault in the Church, and therefore let me be resurrected with the Saints, whether I ascend to heaven or descent to hell, or go to any other place. AND IF WE GO TO HELL, WE WILL TURN THE DEVILS OUT OF DOORS AND MAKE HEAVEN OF IT. WHERE THIS PEOPLE ARE, THERE IS GOOD SOCIETY. WHAT DO WE CARE WHERE WE ARE, IF THE SOCIETY IS GOOD.***" (History of the Church by Joseph Smith, vol. 5, p. 517. Emphasis added.) Anyone who chooses to live in rebellion to God, no matter what that rebellion is, will end up paying a huge price for their rebellion and if not repented of and changed, it will eventually destroy them. I sincerely hope that you will investigate your beliefs and study the Bible. (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16; 1 Thess. 5:21; 1 John 4:1.) If you do that, you will come to know that **God is love and that He loves you.** You will come to see His love and wonders He has prepared for those who love Him. "***Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.***" (1 Cor. 2:9.) Heaven is too wonderful for us to even imagine. I pray that you will reconsider what you wrote and come to Jesus of the Bible and be saved.

---

**A Christian lady asked:** "*I have recently heard of a Christian ministry that teaches that it is an insult to God for Christians to ask for forgiveness, and that is because He died for all our sins (past, present and future sins). So if this is true, how can a Christian truly get rid of guilt and know that she is forgiven?*"

**Reply:** Sadly we have known that this is and has been taught. That is why it is important to inspect sermons you are listening in the light of the Bible. There are heretical teachers everywhere. Our knowledge of the Word of God is the light that reveals false teachers. We must be like *the Bereans (Acts 17:11)*, who **checked the scriptures daily** to see if what they had heard was so! **What you recently heard is 100% wrong.** 1 John 1: 7-10, written to Christians, born again believers in Christ, says that we all sin and are in need of forgiveness. When we came to faith, we repented, confessed our sins and asked forgiveness, but we still need to confess our daily sins and ask forgiveness of our failures. "***For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.***" (Rom. 3:23.) The wonderful thing is that we have this assurance from God's Word, "***IF we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness***". (1 John 1:9.)

---

It looks like our website has been hacked. We have lost over 2 years' worth of newsletters and more. Our friend, Matt, in California, has taken care of our website for nearly 20 years, informed us about this nearly a month ago. He has tried to retrieve and fix it, but without success, and he said that he may have to redo the entire site. In order to do that he will have to shut down our website completely for a few days. We hope not longer than that. We would be glad to send to you needed information from our back-up files we have in our home computer if you just let us know what you need. Most of our newsletters are also in our home computer. If you have missed some, just ask. Our class materials are also on **Calvary Chapel's** website. Go to [www.calvaryslc.org](http://www.calvaryslc.org) and from their homepage click on "*Resources*" and then "*Mormonism*" and scroll to the bottom, - under our picture click on "*Understanding Mormonism*" – and you'll see 38 doctrinal topics on Mormonism. They are printable from there.

We want to thank you, our friends and partners **in this H.I.S. Ministry for you prayers and assistance.** As many of you already know, when we started this ministry 30 years ago, we dedicated our work to the Lord, trusting in His provision. **Daily we present our needs to the Lord, just as He says we should** (Phil. 4:6), and we have learned NOT to be anxious for anything. We believe that this is **HIS Ministry** and He will take care of all our needs. However, our faith has been tested many times in this matter. We have strengthened our faith by reading about Hudson Taylor's and George Muller's *faith ministries* and how the Lord cared for their needs – often just “*at the last minute*”. George Muller has said, “***The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety.***” It truly has been a blessing to depend on the Lord alone, and at the same time come to know *friends of this ministry* whom He chooses to assist us in this work. There are not very many, but those who help us have been faithful. **And we thank you very much!** We have been able to continue giving Bibles and other books, DVDs, CDs, booklets and other materials worldwide to those needing them. Dennis has been working full time doing carpentry work all these years to provide for our living and also to financially support the ministry when needed. God is good. We thank our Lord that He has blessed us to see the fruit of our work even this side of eternity. Since the first part of October, we have been in conversation with five separate, active LDS people. We have given each one of them a New King James Bible with John-Study MP3, and other DVDs to help them grow in faith. Please pray with us that these LDS persons will keep studying the Word, and that they will keep coming to meet with us. We have also been teaching our *Understanding Mormonism* class at home this fall instead of at Calvary. If we have a small enough class we can continue doing it at home where we have all our resources handy. We are thinking of starting another class in February. Please write to us [hismin@xmission.com](mailto:hismin@xmission.com) if you'd like to attend – (space is limited if we have it at home). If there are more than a dozen people wanting to attend our new class, then we will have to teach Sunday evenings at Calvary, as we have done for a decade or more.

We are praising the Lord for good results and on-going healing of pastor Phil Foard's eye. We also continue to pray for Debbie, Max, Merridy, Dick and Dale for healing of their long-term health problems. We also ask you to keep Tom, Heber, Bruce and Dave in your prayers for their special needs. We are praising the Lord for His love and mercy that He shows to us. Both Dennis and I have had health problems this past month, but we are doing better now. “***When God is about to make pre-eminent use of a person, He puts them in the fire.***” ***We grow in faith as we depend on the Lord.***

**What is Faith, anyway?** Hebrews 11:1 says, “***Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.***” **What does that mean?** ***The Greek word for “substance” is hupostasis. It is a scientific term, the opposite of hypothesis or theory. It is that which rests upon facts. What is substance? It is the Word of God. If your faith does not rest upon the Word of God, it is not biblical faith at all. It has to rest upon what God says. Actually, it means to believe God.***” (Dr. J. Vernon McGee.) **God's Word is The Truth, and we can depend on it.** (John 17:17.)

**May the Lord give you desires of your heart (Ps. 37:4-5) and bless you during this Christmas Season. We also wish you very Happy New Year, 2015.**

Rauni & Dennis Higley, 2890 E Willow Bend Dr., Sandy, UT 84093 – email: [hismin@xmission.com](mailto:hismin@xmission.com)

=====

**Tax deductible donations to H.I.S. Ministry can be sent by postal mail to 2890 E. Willow Bend Dr., Sandy, UT 84093 or via website: [www.hismin.com/content/ministry-donations](http://www.hismin.com/content/ministry-donations). We thank you for your partnership with HIS Ministry. Our materials are always given or sent free of any charge to all LDS asking for them. God bless you. During the first weeks of January we will be sending tax-deductible receipts for donations given during 2014.**

