



*He Is Savior, Acts 4:12

June 1, 2014

H.I.S Ministries June 2014 Newsletter, covering May 2014

We meet and hear from people just about daily who do not approve of our efforts to inform Mormons about the Truth found **only in the Bible** and about errors in the teachings of Mormonism and in their scriptures. They say, ***"Mormons believe in God. They believe in Jesus. They believe that Jesus is their Savior. They are Christians too. I know Mormons who say that they are born again. Just leave them alone."*** The very reason why we do this work is that we care about Mormons, we care about their souls. **We are not against Mormons, but we are against Mormonism, i.e.** what their church, the LDS Church, teaches about God, Jesus and salvation, for with their teachings they are leading their followers to eternal hell. Mormons have been taught that to find "truth" they must find it by *relying on their feelings*. When LDS missionaries present Mormon doctrines to potential converts, they do not ask them to test what they teach by the Bible, but instead they ask, ***"How does this make you feel?"*** Dallin Oaks, an LDS apostle, instructed Mormons ***"not to rely on any combination or accumulation of historical facts in their beliefs in the authenticity of the Church, but on their personal testimonies"***, i.e. feelings. (Quoted in SL Tribune, 8/18/85.) **God's Truth is absolute, as unchangeable as He is.** Our feelings have nothing to do with whether something is true or not, just as two plus two is four, and cannot be changed based on how we *feel* about it. There is no salvation in believing in false gods and *"another Jesus"*. (John 14:6; 2 Cor. 11:3-4,13-15.) **Mormons cannot be born again from the Spirit of God until they come to know the One True Eternal God.** (Ps. 90:2; Isa. 43:10.) **God of Mormonism is not God of the Bible.** They teach, ***"The Father is a glorified, perfected, resurrected, exalted man who worked out his salvation by obedience to the same laws he has given to us that we my do the same."*** (New Witness to Articles of Faith, p. 64, by Apostle Bruce McConkie.) The LDS priesthood manual of 1997, *Teachings of the Presidents of the Church*, p. 34, affirms, ***"The doctrine that God was once a man and has progressed to become a God is unique to this Church."*** About Jesus Christ, Mormonism agrees that he is not the same as is worshipped by Christianity. ***"It is true that many Christian churches worship a different Jesus Christ than is worshipped by the Mormons..."*** (Ensign, May 1977, p. 26.) Jesus said that ***unless we know Him*** and have a personal relationship with Him, He will, on judgment day, say to, ***"I never knew you. Depart from Me."*** (Matt. 7:22-23.) ***This is the very reason why we want to clarify the doctrine of God, for a false god cannot save. Many have bought into the "works based" teachings most cults, false religions, and New Agers promote. They have never been correctly taught the most important decision each person has to make is whether to accept Jesus***

into their heart and life by faith or not. Subsequently, they don't put the same emphasis on the eternal souls of men, even though Jesus died for each one and God says it is His desire that NONE be lost! Because souls are not a priority to most, because most have never been taught the importance of sharing their faith which is a COMMANDMENT from our Lord and not an option, most are reluctant to share the Gospel with another person. Adding to that reluctance is this lie that people will be offended by those who "push their faith" on others. The fact is, people should be offended if someone DOESN'T share the Gospel, since it is the message that determines the eternal destiny of your soul!!! Let me ask you a question. If we, those who know Jesus, don't tell someone how to be saved, who will? Seriously, how is someone supposed to even have the option to find everlasting life unless someone who is saved gives them that opportunity? It is hard to blame the people, since the vast majority of churches don't even give people an invitation to accept Jesus by faith! ... the minions of Satan are bold with his lies designed to destroy people's lives and insure they die and end up in hell, yet the followers of Jesus are so timid with the truth, having the words of everlasting life to save men's soul, but are choosing to remain silent. I guess it boils down to the fact Satan's followers truly believe in his agenda, whereas the followers of Christ really don't believe what they claim to, since if you believe it you will live it and shout it from the mountaintops! I am not in any way diminishing "good works." Good works SHOULD flow from a life that has been redeemed. However, lots of "good people" do good works. Even the mafia does some good works in their neighborhoods. It is a hallmark of Mormonism and Masonry, and most of the New Age teachings. Sadly many people believe that doing good works will help them achieve eternal life. How about this for a novel idea, share the Gospel AND also do good works! The fact is God allows people to cross your path every day who are lost and without Christ. It is your job and responsibility to share Christ's love with them. In the end, it is up to that person to either accept or reject the offer to accept Jesus, but it is OUR JOB to share that offer with them! Sharing your faith with others is like praying. There is only one wrong way to do it and that is not to do it! The number one reason people don't share their faith more often, and sadly in the case of most Christians who fail to do it at all, is fear. The biggest fear is the fear of rejection. (Part of this is quoted, with permission, from Keller's 5/20/14 letter. He said it better than I could.)

Questions from an LDS person: "In the Mormon Church we have learned that Jesus atoned for our sins in the Garden of Gethsemane. What does the atonement mean? What about priesthood? Only the LDS Church can ordain worthy men to the priesthood and give them authority to perform ordinances as baptism that is mandatory for salvation. You cannot be saved without the priesthood and the LDS Church? We have the same organization as the original church, with apostles and prophets to lead us in these latter-days."

Answer: Atonement is an Old Testament word. It is only used once in the KJV New Testament, in Romans 5:11. This word in 1611 English meant **at-one-ment** or **reconciliation**. Most of the later translations **have followed the correct interpretation which is reconciliation.** The Old Testament word, **atonement**, meant "covering"- i.e. that an innocent animal had to die to **cover** for the sins of guilty men. "**For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.**" (Lev. 17:11.) "**For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**" (Rom. 6:23.) Satisfaction for sins has been made through

Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, which is the good news of the gospel that saves. (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) **Jesus did not die in the Garden of Gethsemane, and thus He did not atone for our sins there, but on the cross.** That is the reason why ***His Cross is preached*** rather than baptism, for water baptism does not save – ***only the blood of Jesus Christ saves those who believe.*** (1 Cor. 1:17-18; 1 John 1:7.) Atonement spoken of in the OT was a temporary covering of sin until it was dealt with completely and perfectly by Christ Jesus on Calvary's cross. In the OT (Exodus 29:1-9), God ordained Aaron and his sons as the first priests. They were to offer animal sacrifices as ***covering*** for sins of the people of Israel. ***The only way to become a priest was by being born into the priestly tribe (Levite) and family of Aaron, not by "ordination"***. Priests' duties were to act as mediators between God and men, and present the blood of animals to God as a *covering* for confessed sins. This continued throughout the OT. Only the High Priest could go behind the veil of the temple on *the Day of Atonement* to present the blood sacrifice to God for the entire nation. When Jesus Christ died for our sins at Calvary, ***"the veil of the temple was rent in twain, from top to bottom"***. (Matt. 27:51.) [The veil of the temple was 60 feet high and 6 inches thick woven tapestry that was impossible to rip in two by anyone but God who opened the way to Him for all who come to faith in Jesus' atoning work on the cross. Neither more animal sacrifices nor priests were needed, for *"there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."* (1 Tim. 2:5.) It is ***"the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin."*** (1 John 1:7.) ***All who have received Jesus have become children of God, and thus are born again.*** (John 1:12; 3:3, 7.) ***They receive the "royal priesthood" by their new birth.*** (Rev. 1:5, 6; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Gal. 26-28.) No man can *ordain* anyone to priesthood – it is a ***birthright*** in our time as it was in the Old Testament. - The Bible informs us that there are to be no more prophets! ***"Law and the prophets were until John (the Baptist)"*** (Matt. 11:13; Luke 16:16), ***"but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ"*** (John 1:17), ***who is our last prophet, High Priest and soon coming King.*** We are no longer under the law, but under grace. (Gal. 2:16-21; 3:10-13.) Learning this, we have, according to God's command, (1 Thess. 5:21; 1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1; Acts 17:11), ***tested the "apostles and prophets" of the Mormon Church, and "have found them to be liars"***. (See Rev. 2:2.) Haven't you read that God ***"spoke in time past to fathers (ancestors) by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son..."***? (Hebr. 1:1-2.) Jesus gave us His prophetic information what will take place ***"after these things"*** (Rev. 1:1; 4:1). *The Book of Revelation* takes us through all human history, through *the Great White Throne Judgment* (Rev. 20:11-15) to the *New Heaven and New Earth* and *the New Jerusalem and Eternity*. (Rev. 21 and 22.) ***There is nothing that God left out.*** The Word of God, the Holy Bible, is complete and ***it is Truth.*** (John 17:17.) If you have further questions or comments, please write again.

Questions from an anonymous former LDS: *"I hear Christians talking about justification by grace through faith alone and not by our works. I have a hard time understanding this for James in the Bible stresses works for salvation (James 2:20, 24-26) as well as the Book of Mormon (2 Ne. 25:23) that also teaches that it takes both grace and works."*

Answer: *Justification* means to declare someone righteous. It is not from ourselves, for we have no righteousness of our own. We must receive God's righteousness. ***"For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto***

the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believeth. (Rom. 10:3-4.) **Justification is by grace, by faith and by the blood of Jesus Christ. Genuine faith is seen in our actions, but our actions/works do not bring salvation. Salvation as work was already finished by Jesus.** (John 19:30.) In Romans 3:24 we read, **“Being justified freely by His grace through redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”** That means that **we do not deserve to be justified, nor do we merit or earn it, but only receive it freely as the gift of God.** (Eph. 2:8-9.) **What is given as a gift cannot be purchased or paid for by any means!** Romans 5:1 declares that **justification is by faith** when we trust in Jesus Christ who paid the penalty of our sins on the Cross. When we repent and in faith reach out to God we receive His *gift of salvation* without any thought of deserving it by what we might have done. (Isa. 64:6.) Romans 5:9 continues, **“being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”** This refers to the price that had to be paid in order that we might be justified. **Our sinless Savior shed His precious blood that our sin-debt could be settled.** James 2:24 only **seems contradictory** to what Paul has said **until we consider to whom James was speaking to and why.** **James does not teach that justification is received by doing good works, nor does he say that it is “faith plus works”.** He is talking about **what kind of faith is a genuine faith – it is faith that results in a life of good works.** [Eph. 2:10 also says that **after we have been saved, we are created by God unto good works.**] Genuine faith is the motivator for good works. If you’d say that you have faith, but there is nothing that people could see as proof of your faith, they simply will not believe you. **If our faith is only words, it is worthless faith.** (James 2:14-17.) **True faith is invisible to men but it can be seen by what we do.** (2:18.) James then tells how we can come to see that Abraham’s faith was genuine – we see it by his willingness to offer his **“only son”**, Isaac, upon the altar. (Gen. 22:2-14.) **In other words our works are outward manifestation that we have been justified by faith in God. Works we do are the fruit that justifies us before people.**

A doubting LDS man is asking: *“Hi Rauni, I'm a conflicted LDS that is trying to find the truth and decide whether or not I should believe in the Mormon Church. There are so many contradictions, cover-ups and discrepancies that it is hard for me to believe anymore. I read lots of stuff, some might be speculation, some are referenced and well researched. I'm a psychology researcher and I'm trained to look for evidence, facts and statistics. I'm really bothered with so many unethical things that have happened and are still happening in the Church. And I'm still researching. I still need to investigate 2 things that really bother me, hopefully you would have an answer or direct me to some people that would. 1. How can a 17 year old write a 500 page book that apparently changed lives of millions around the world? 2. How would he ever think about instituting such things as the priesthood, because this is one of the most essential parts of the LDS church. Basically without the priesthood, you can't do anything: no sacrament, baptism, temple, etc... so how did he think that out? I've read that his mother said that JS was a very good story-teller and very innovative and creative, that might be part of the answer. I'm just thinking that if JS's story is false, this is the BIGGEST con job and he is the BIGGEST con artist in the history of this world. And this is very difficult for me to swallow. I hope to hear from you. Emmanuel.”*

My reply: Thank you for asking **“how can a 17 year old write a 500 page book that has changed lives of millions around the world?”** **Joseph Smith was not 17-year old when he put together the Book of Mormon.**

He was 25 years old at that time. (He was born 1805, the BoM was published in 1830.) There are other religions with similar beginnings to the LDS Church. **Islam is one of them.** It was started in 610 A.D. by Mohammed, who also claimed to have received angelic visitations, telling him that **the true religion was lost**, and that he, Mohammed, **was called to restore it**. Mohammed's story is very similar to the story of Joseph Smith, except that Mohammed was totally illiterate, he could not read or write, but through his scribes he too produced a book that was to represent *the Only True Religion*. That book is *the Koran* and the religion he started is *Islam*. Islam, not Mormonism, is the fastest growing religion in the world. **There are currently over 1.5 BILLION** followers of Mohammed and his religion. *They have a strong testimony of the Koran, and Mohammed as the prophet of Allah, and Islam as "the only true religion in the world"*. Muslims' testimony of Mohammed, Koran and Islam seem to be stronger than Mormons' testimony of Joseph Smith, the Book of Mormon and Mormonism. They are willing to sacrifice their lives for "Allah", the god of Islam. They are in the news almost daily for doing just that. Contrary to Mohammed, Joseph Smith was well-read, though self-educated young man, who had read many books telling stories about American Indians, i.e. when putting together the BoM he had a lot of help from these books and novels he had read. His main scribe for the BoM was Oliver Cowdery – a school teacher related to Joseph Smith. It has been proven that the main story-line for the Book of Mormon came from a religious novel, "View of the Hebrews", written in 1823, seven years before the BoM, by Rev. Ethan Smith, who was Oliver Cowdery's family's minister! (Makes one think, doesn't it?) This book is a fictional story of Jews who sailed to Americas, and soon after divided into two warring groups – one civilized and religious, and the other one wild and uncivilized. In the *View of the Hebrews*, as in the BoM, the uncivilized group eventually destroyed the civilized group. (These are said to be ancestors of the American Indians.) There were other books available to Joseph Smith with similar topics that he wrote about in the BoM, books that were widely read and talked about during Joseph Smith's youth in Palmyra, N.Y. area. One of them was Josiah Priest's "**Wonders of Nature and Providence**", published 1824, six years before the BoM. There were also several other shorter essays available to Joseph Smith that likewise assumed that American Indians were Hebrews, descendants of "*lost tribes of Israel*". However, DNA research during the last 2-3 decades has proven that the American Indians are not related to Hebrews, but to Mongolians, which, along with other facts, refutes the BoM. An **LDS General Authority and historian, B.H. Roberts**, wrote about the origins of the BoM in 1920's, but his research was not published until 1985, titled, "**Studies of the Book of Mormon**". (It was edited by two LDS professors, Brigham D. Madsen and Sterling M. McMurrin.) Roberts shows that the BoM reflects Joseph Smith's familiarity to these many above mentioned books that were available to him, and he also credited Joseph Smith's creative mind and imagination in producing the BoM. B.H. Roberts writes, "Joseph Smith [was] possessed of a sufficiently vivid and creative imagination as to produce such a work as the Book of Mormon from such materials as have been indicated in the preceding chapters, from such common knowledge as was extant in the communities where he lived in his boyhood and young manhood; [also] from the Bible, and more especially from the View of the Hebrews, by Ethan Smith. That power of imagination would have to be of a higher order is conceded; that Joseph Smith possessed such a gift of mind there can be no question...Lucy Smith [mother of Joseph Smith] writes, '...during our evening conversations, Joseph would occasionally give us some of the most amusing recitals that could be imagined. He would describe the ancient inhabitants of this continent, their dress, mode of traveling...their cities, their buildings...their mode of warfare; and also their religious worship. This he would do with as much ease, seemingly, as if he had spent his whole life among them.' ... Roberts continued, "It must be remembered that the above took place before the young prophet had received the plates of the Book of Mormon...Whence came his knowledge for these recitals... [from] no other source than the vivid, constructive imagination of Joseph Smith, a remarkable power which attended him through all his life. It was a strong and varied as Shakespeare's and no more to be accounted for than the English Bard's." (Studies, pp. 243-244.) At the end of Roberts'

book he also gives as examples about 20 pages of parallels between the BoM and *View of the Hebrews*. You might want to obtain this book – it has been even very recently available from www.amazon.com. - You also asked about the priesthood and *how Joseph Smith even came to think about it?* Of course it was known that the Roman Catholic Church claimed Priesthood roots from the apostle Peter that they believe was the first “pope”, and also pastors of many protestant churches are often referred to as “*priests*”. Joseph Smith had obviously also read about the priesthood from the Bible but he had not read carefully enough to see that the Priesthood as in the OT was abolished/ended when Jesus Christ, on the Cross of Calvary, paid the penalty of mankind’s sin. Priests had been mediators between God and men and they administered the animal sacrifices as *covering for sins*. (Lev. 17:11) (Priests and their duties are described in Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers.) Animal sacrifices were symbolic of what the Messiah was going to do when He comes and offers Himself as payment of sins of those who will believe in Him. (Hebr. 9:22.) Jesus Christ was the final and ultimate sacrifice for the sins of men. (See Hebrews chapters 7 through 9.) Since that time Jesus is *our only High Priest and the Mediator between God and men*. (1 Tim. 2:5-6.) For more information you may want to read our paper on Priesthood from www.hismin.com/content/do-you-have-valid-priesthood-0. - I agree that Joseph Smith was a good *story-teller* - and a fraud! I, like you now, came to see that I had been deceived when I had joined the Mormon Church. It was not a pleasant thing to realize. I had to swallow my pride and admit that I could only blame myself for I had not tested Joseph Smith’s claims as the Bible tells that we must do – to test all things. (See 1 Thess. 5:21; 1 John 4:1; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16.) If I had read even these few verses before joining Mormonism I could have avoided the greatest heartbreak of my life, instead of ending up spending 20 years as a devout follower of Joseph Smith’s religion. Because of that I am now warning others to TEST, TO STUDY, TO EXAMINE –and to make sure that we follow what is **Truth, and that is Jesus Christ of the Bible** (John 14:6), **who is God with us**. (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14.) “**His Word is Truth**”. (John 17:17.) I hope to hear from you again. For answers to other doctrinal questions, please check also our website. www.hismin.com/content/mormonism-what-you-really-need-know . Sincerely, Rauni

We are excited about our upcoming trip to Finland in July. It more than likely will be my last trip to my homeland. Thinking of that it makes me a little sad, but America/Utah is my home now – and has been for over 40 years. We are still not sure of the details of our work there, and whom the Lord wants us to meet is also in His hands, as it was 30 years ago. That time we thought we had it all planned, but our trip ended up developing totally differently, but under the Lord’s direction, just perfectly. We could not have planned it that way ourselves. We know that we ought to do as much as we can to prepare before we go, and then let it all take place as He wills. It is good to have the Lord as our *director-in-chief*, we just follow the orders He gives us each day. Our life *in Him* is an adventure, always full of surprises. We were somewhat worried earlier about how we can even afford this trip – but we stopped worrying when it came clear that He wants us to go. Since it is His will, providing for this trip is *His problem*. “*Is anything too hard for the Lord?*” (Gen. 18:14.) In other words, we trust that He will work it out. We already have been acquiring materials to take to Finland, especially DVDs on Mormonism. So far we have about 100 already of 6 different titles. We need still more for we hope to have enough to take about a dozen of each to all major cities where there is a Mormon ward and at some former Mormons who could arrange showing them and even translating if necessary. We will be taking some books as well though the weight of them could present a problem. Please pray that we will be directed to take what is the most important to bring the best results. We trust that you will keep us in your prayers for success in this, and that we will stay healthy and strong now and during the entire time there.

Many of you have already promised to pray and we thank you for that. Some of you have already contributed towards our trip and we are thankful that the Lord directs in all things. We do not need to ask – for we believe that He will let His own know when help is needed.

Please continue to pray for Emily as she assists Andrew in his walk towards the relationship with the true Jesus. We have often talked about Emily’s heart and her desire to have Andrew come to know the true Jesus. As you may recall, Andrew, a devout LDS, finally left the Mormon Church a few months ago and is attending a Baptist Church in California where he works now, but he has not yet committed his life to the Lord. It is very confusing time for him – we understand from our own experience how hard it can be after a lifelong devotion to the Mormon Church and its doctrines. Sorting out the truth is a hardest for those who have been missionaries and teachers of false doctrines, as Andrew has been. There are other young Christian ladies who also need help as they are reaching out to their Mormon fiends with the “good news” of the Gospel of Christ. (1 Cor.15:1-4.) Prayers bring miracles as we have seen over and over again. Praise the Lord.

We also ask you to pray that the Lord will comfort and bless Dale and Sharon, Dick and Patti, Merridy, Max and Pat, Bruce, Heber, Tom, Sean, Debbie, and that He will meet their needs.

I am not sure if I have time (in addition to other ministry work and trip-preparations) to write a newsletter at the end of June (for July) ☺ before we leave for Finland, but if not, we will report about it in our August letter, which will be late too, for we will not be back until 29th of July – with a jetlag. But you can be sure that “**we will return and report**” ☺ [phrase that all *former temple-Mormons* are familiar with ☺].

There is much joy in serving the Lord and seeing people set free. (John 8:31-32, 36.)

In the love of Jesus Christ, Rauni & Dennis Higley

(You can contact us by email: hismin@xmission.com or by phone: 801.943-5011.)

Thought for the beginning of summer: “Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf and flower in springtime.”

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