



April 1, 2015

**\*He Is Savior, Acts 4:12**

## **H.I.S. Ministries April 2015 Newsletter, covering March 2015**

**We hope that you will have a wonderful celebration of our *Lord's Resurrection Day*, commonly called *Easter* that this year falls on April 5<sup>th</sup>, after the Passover.**

Easter replaces the Jewish Passover ("*pascha*") among Jews who have accepted Jesus as their Messiah and Savior, but in other Jewish homes, all over the world, Passover is still celebrated, which they call *the Festival of Redemption* (to them meaning *redemption from Egyptian slavery*). Passover is observed on the 14th day of the month of Nisan, the first month of the Jewish religious year. **Jesus was crucified on Passover and He rose on the 3rd day. That day is called *the Feast of First Fruits*, and it is always on Sunday after the Passover.** (See: Ex. 12:3-8, 18-20; Matt. 26:17-18; Mark 14:12; Luke 22:7.) In the West, most of our major holidays occur conveniently on fixed dates. However unless you are an astronomer, the date of *Easter* can be much more difficult to determine. That's because its date is set by the lunar calendar. **Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday, after the first full moon, after the spring equinox.** Therefore, it is held on a Sunday on varying dates between March 22 and April 25. **To all genuine believers in Christ the issue is not as much of the date as it is of the fact that HE IS ALIVE AND COMING AGAIN, SOON.**

The word "**Easter**" appears in the *King James Version* in the Book of Acts (Acts 12:4). The Greek word is *pascha*, meaning **Passover**, and is so corrected in most modern renderings. [The word "**Easter**" has its roots in pagan practices, as do many of our other strange and peculiar Easter traditions *like rabbits that lay eggs*.] **Preaching of the true Gospel message of *Easter* means teaching that *Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again on the third day*.** (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) **We learn from Exodus 12:2-6 that Passover lamb was selected 4 days before Passover when it was killed. *Jesus is our Passover Lamb who takes away the sins of the world*.** (John 1:29.) You may recall that people many times had wanted to declare Jesus as their Messiah-King, but He had always before said, "**My time has not yet come**" – and then, on the day we call ***Palm Sunday***, **He arranged it**. (Luke 19:28-35.) **That day was 4 days before the Passover, the day of selecting the Passover Lamb**. He then allowed Himself to be presented as King Messiah, fulfilling Ps. 118:26. (Luke 19:36-40.) When Pharisees rebuked Him, He said, "***If these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out***". [This was *the exact day* prophesied in Dan. 9:24-26, saying that the *Messiah will be put to death, but not for himself, but for His people*. Jesus wept over Jerusalem because they, as a nation, did not recognize *the time*

*of His visitation.* (Luke 19:42-44.) Zech.9:9 had prophesied of this, saying, “...thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly and riding upon an ass, upon a colt of the foal of an ass.” (It happened exactly on the day predicted by Daniel, which was 173,880 days after the commandment was given on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 445 B.C. by Artaxerxes Longimanus to rebuild Jerusalem. (The date when Jesus rode to Jerusalem was 6<sup>th</sup> of April 32 A.D.) (See also our March 2015 letter, pp 1-2.)

**“Christmas gives a promise of coming Messiah, but Easter gives us the proof that He is our Messiah and Savior of the world.”**

The Gospels tell us **HIS Story**. I.e. the Gospels are the historical record of His ministry among His own people, **Israel**, for the gospel was “*to the Jew first*” (Rom. 1:16). “*He came to His own, and His own received Him not.*” (John 1:11.) Most Christians know quite well about His teachings and miracles He performed, but not many seem to know much about his humiliation and sufferings during His last days in Jerusalem, orchestrated by Israel’s religious leaders. Let’s look at them a little closer and see **what His last week was like**:

**Before His crucifixion Jesus endured six trials.** He was put through these trials by *Israel’s religious leaders*. After Judas’ betrayal of Him he was first taken before **the High Priest Annas** (John 18:12-14) and after that before the **Roman appointed high priest, Caiaphas**, son-in-law of Annas (John 18:19-24), and after that before **the Sanhedrin** (*the highest ruling body and court of justice among the Jewish people during the time of Jesus*), (Matt. 27:1-2). After these **Jewish Trials** He was taken to **Roman Trials** before **Pilate** (John 18:28-38) and then before **Herod** (Luke 23:6-11) and **again before Pilate** (John 18:39 – 19:16).

**Jesus’ trials, according to the Jewish Law, were all illegal:** **1.** The binding a prisoner before he was condemned *was unlawful* unless resistance was expected. Jesus did not resist, but *He was bound*. (John 18:12, 24.) **2.** *It was illegal for judges* to participate in the arrest of the accused. *But they did!*(John 18:3.) **3.** *No legal transactions*, including a trial, could be conducted at night. *It was done at night.* (John 18:28.) **4.** The arrest of Jesus was made through the agency of an informer and traitor (Judas). *This was against the Jewish law.* (Ex. 23:6-8; John 18:5.) **5.** Acquittal could be pronounced the same day, but a *guilty verdict required two persons agreeing and had to come on a subsequent day.* But *He was pronounced guilty on that same night.* (Matt 26:65-66.) **6.** No prisoner could be convicted on his own evidence. *He was!* (Matt. 26:63-65.) **7.** It was *a duty of a judge to see that the interest of the accused was fully protected. It was not!* (John 18:14.) **8.** *Preliminary hearings before a magistrate were completely foreign to the Jewish legal system.* (John 18:3.) **9.** It was illegal to carry weapons on the feast day. *Arresting troops and officials had weapons.* (John 18:3.) **10.** *The use of violence during the trial was unopposed by the judges, which was against the law.* (John 18:22-23.) **11.** The judges sought *false witnesses* against Jesus. (Matt. 26:59; Mark 14:56.) **12.** In a Jewish court the accused was to be assumed innocent until proven guilty by *two or more witnesses*. (Matt. 18:63.) **13.** The Jews *failed to find two witnesses agreeing against Jesus.* (Mark 14:59.) **14.** When *witnesses first disagreed*, the prisoner should have been released, according to their law. (Mark 14:56-59.) **15.** *The trial under Caiaphas took place in his home rather than the council chamber where it should have been held.* (John 18:13-16.) **16.** The *Jewish Court lacked the civil authority to condemn a man to death*, but it did. (John 18:31.) **17.** *It was illegal to conduct a session of the court on a feast day.* It was! (John 18:28.) **18.** *They rendered a guilty verdict without evidence.*

(John 18:30.) **19.** The balloting was illegal. It should have been by roll with the youngest voting first. *Here it was simultaneous.* (Matt. 26:66.) **20.** The sentence was passed in the palace of the high priest, but the law demanded that it be pronounced *in the temple judgment hall, in the hall of hewn stone.* (John 18:28.) **21.** The high priest rends his garment. (Matt. 26:65.) (Note: Lev. 21:10 says that **the high priest is not permitted to tear his official robe that he would have been required to have on to put Christ under oath.**)

### **Jesus' Final Week could have been like this:**

**Friday** – Jesus came to Bethany (6 days before Passover) (John 12: 1).

**Saturday** - He rested the Sabbath in Bethany with friends.

**Sunday** – ***Triumphal Entry to Jerusalem.*** Also: *Jesus cleanses the temple and curses a fig tree.* (Matt. 21:8-9, 12-13; 18-20; Mark 11:12-19.)

**Monday - Tuesday** - ***Conspirators counsel and plan to kill Jesus...*** (Matt. 26:2-5; Mark 14:1-2; Luke 22:1-6.)

**Wednesday** – ***His Last Supper with the twelve.*** After that *Jesus' prays in the Garden of Gethsemane. His betrayal, arrest and humiliating trials that continued through the night.* (Matt. 26:17-20, 47-68; Mark 14:12-17; Luke 22:7-20.)

**Thursday** – ***Crucifixion*** (John 19:14-42; Mark 15:8-25; Luke 23:20-46.) ***Passover lambs are killed.*** *The Feast of Unleavened Bread begins.* (Lev. 23:4-8.) [Passover lasts 7 days; the first and last days of this feast are high Sabbaths. (Matt. 27:62; Lev. 23:6-7, 15; John 19:31.) [Note: A Jewish year includes **seven high Sabbaths** (Lev. 23:15) in addition to the weekly **Saturday Sabbaths.**] **Pilate wrote a title on the cross that said: JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. And to make sure that all understood, he wrote it in three languages: Latin** (official language of the Empire); **Greek** (common international language) and **Hebrew** (language of the Jews). **There they crucified the Creator and God who had become a man to pay the penalty of sin by giving His life as the perfect blood sacrifice.** (Lev. 17:11; Hebr.9:22; 1 John 1:7-9). **All that He requires of us to be forgiven and saved is that we believe WHO HE IS and what He did for us.** (John 1:1,14; 8:24; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 2:8-9.) We, as redeemed believers in Him, ***“are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all”.*** (Hebr. 10:10.)

**Friday** – ***Women prepare spices and ointments.*** (Luke 23:55-56.)

**Saturday** – “...[women] *rested the Sabbath day*” (Luke 23:56). *“In the end of the Sabbath...(after 6:00 PM) [they] came to the sepulcher”.* (Matt. 28:1.)

**Sunday** – **Announcement: He is risen!!!** (Matt. 28:6; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:6-8; John 20:1-18.)

Let us share this knowledge we have of Him and bring the lost to Christ Jesus and rejoice with them here and eternally before the Lord. **He is coming soon.** Paul, writing to Corinthians, warned that anyone **who does not know and love the Lord will be accursed at His coming.** He ended by saying ***“Maranatha”***, meaning **come Lord Jesus.** (1 Cor. 16:21-22, KJV.) (Rev. 22:20.) ***Happy Resurrection Day!***

## **From our mailbox: An LDS man asked these several questions:**

- “1. If Christ established His church with prophets and apostles, what happened to it? What was the purpose if it was just going to be discontinued and disappear?*
- 2. Why were prophets and apostles necessary then, if not now?*
- 3. Paul organized seven churches, what happened to them?*
- 4. If there should be no prophets anymore, who are the prophets who will lay on the streets of Jerusalem?*
- 5. Are people receiving revelations now about God’s will for them?*
- 6. Why are there so many Protestant churches – how do we know which one or if any of them are correct? Why do so many Protestant churches approve gay marriage?*
- 7. What do you say about me or other Mormons who have received a testimony of the Holy Ghost that Mormonism is true and that the Book of Mormon is true?*
- 8. Why are there so many versions of the Bible? – Thank you for responding.”*

### **My Reply:**

**1.** The word “church” in the original Greek is “ekklesia” and it does not mean **organized religion**, but **people who are “the called out ones” to serve Christ. They are the Church**, and Jesus is **the Head of Church** (Col. 1:18, 24), *i.e. He is the head of all who are believers in Him regardless where they “go to church”*, to fellowship with like believers. **The New Testament Apostles that Jesus called were eyewitnesses of Jesus’ life, ministry and teachings, thus they are the foundational teachers of the Gospel**. The Old Testament prophets are also foundational, for the prophecies about coming Redeemer and Messiah were revealed to them. The ones who are called “prophets” in the New Testament are not bringing new prophecies, but are **Spirit filled teachers who explain the OT** in the light of Jesus’ ministry. We have had the complete Bible for nearly 2 thousand years – and it tells us all –and from the Word of God we learn who God is, what the Gospel is and how to be saved. It is securely reported in it. **The Truth has not disappeared nor has it been discontinued.**

**2.** The OT prophets and the NT apostles gave us the Bible, and their words are necessary for us. There are no “new prophets or apostles”. **For God has, through them, given us all that is needed. Prophets, as in the OT, ended with John the Baptist** (see: Matt. 11:13; Luke 16:16; Hebr. 1:1-2). Jesus Christ is our last and **only Prophet, Priest and our coming King. His words to us about the future are in the Book of Revelation** (Rev. 1:1). Instructions on how to live a life of a believer in Christ are in the twenty seven New Testament books.

**3.** Paul established seven congregations of believers as he brought them to faith in Christ in various areas where he traveled. **He wrote instructions to them** (letter to Romans, 2 letters to Corinthians, letter to Galatians and to Ephesians, to Philippians and Colossians, and 2 letters to Thessalonians). **These instructions are intended for all believers in Christ, which we are.**

**4.** You are perhaps referring to Rev. 11:3-12, right? This is going to take place during the time of **7-year Tribulation** (Jer. 30:7; Matt. 24:21; Dan. 21:1), **which is yet future**. These two prophets are most likely Moses and Elijah (Rev. 11:6 seems to refer to 2 prophets of the OT who performed these same miracles during their ministry – see: Ex. 7:19 and 1 Kings 17:1).

**5.** The Word of God reveals God’s will to all who diligently study His Word. (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16.)

**6.** All Protestant denominations declare that they rely on ***the Bible alone as an Infallible Word of God***. If they indeed do rely on the Bible alone, there should be no doctrinal differences, even if they vary in some unimportant, functional issues. All people, regardless of where attend church are responsible of learning the Word of God so that no one could mislead them into following false doctrines. It is sad that so many are not studying the God’s Word, and thus they are falling for *false apostles and prophets*. (See 2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15; Gal. 1:8-9.) We are to be **“like the Bereans”** (Acts 17:11) who tested all teachers **by the Word of God** before accepting their teaching. - If a group or a church approves or teaches practices that the Word of God is against, then **they have crossed the line** and are not following the will of God, and no believer in **God of the Bible** should be part of that. Even approving practices that God has forbidden, puts that person under God’s judgment. (Romans 1:20-32.)

**7.** We learn from God’s Word that the demonic spirits are very active and **able to give “good or warm feelings” or “testimonies”** that may *seem right, but are not according to truth of God declared in His Word, the Bible*. **God has commanded that we’d test ALL THINGS** (1 Thess. 5:21) **by the Bible, including “spirit-testimonies”** (see: 1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1), and especially test *“spirit-given-feelings”, for the devil and his demons are able to fool a person who does not know the facts from the Word of God*. **God’s Holy Spirit would not testify that something that is against His Word is true! The Word of God was given to us through the Holy Spirit! (2 Tim. 3:16.)** Thus I can say that anyone’s *“testimony that Mormonism is true, or that the Book of Mormon is true”* did not come from the Holy Spirit of God, but from demonic spirit trying to mislead them. My advice would be that you’d **compare what Mormonism teaches about God, Jesus and salvation to what the Bible teaches. If you do that, you will see that they do not teach the same doctrine. The Bible is true, but the Book of Mormon and Mormonism are not.**

**8.** There are many English translations of the Bible but they are all translated from the same source text – **“Original Hebrew and Greek”**. (Please look at the Title Page of your LDS KJV of the Bible . It says, **“Translated out of the Original Tongues”**.) English language has gone through modernization of words, etc. and thus some newer translations *may seem different*, although the **meaning of the text is the same and has not changed**. However, there are many translations of the LDS Scriptures and only the older ones may reflect what earlier BoM said. The 1830 BoM has received about 4000 changes. I would challenge you to test today’s BoM with the 1830 version, and **you would see not just grammatical or linguistic changes but also doctrinal changes**. (I have tested them and assure you that it is a fact.) -- Does this answer your questions. I hope you will write again.

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**Question sent to us by email:** *“If God exists and as you say, and that God loves us, why does He allow Satan and all evil to exist and lead people to do all kinds of evil? Why doesn’t God, who Christians say, is all powerful, just put an end to evil?”*

**Reply:** The Bible teaches that He will one day put an end to it – and that maybe very soon. **Evil exists because we are all sinners.** (Romans 3:23.) But it is actually out of love and mercy that God allows all to continue now, waiting for people to repent and come to Him for redemption He has provided through Jesus Christ. We must choose whom we will serve, whether God or the world and our sin nature. (Joshua 24:15.) When God does put an end to evil, He does it by wiping away this world as we know it, but after that there will be no more opportunities for men to come to know Christ as their Savior. We learn from the Bible that God’s desire is that ***all will come to repentance and be saved.*** (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9.) As long as God allows the world to continue, sin and evil will also exist, and He gives opportunities for people to accept the Lord Jesus and escape the horrors of eternal damnation. We can be sure though that *evil will cease to exist* when God pours out His final wrath on sin and unrighteousness. **This world will come to end. The Bible declares that.** We also know that Jesus, who is God Almighty (John 1:1, 14; Rev. 1:8) came to save sinners. (Matt.9:13.) Sin and results of sin and evil will continue to exist until that final Day of Judgment. Until then men can still make choices to live their lives in rebellion to God and His Word **or be saved and freed from sin.** From there on, as people have believed and trusted on Jesus, He has changed their hearts and lives. God is calling us as believers in Him to share the knowledge of Him who can change hearts, and thus He eliminates evil from their lives. Our job is to share the truth of His Word, the Bible, and the love of Jesus Christ with people we meet in this lost and hurting world we live in. We are called to be His instruments to touch lives for the Lord and allow His power to change their hearts. **The two things that are eternal are our souls and the Word of God.** Only our bodies will die, but our souls will live forever – whether in heaven or hell - that is our choice to make while we are alive here. (Hebr. 3: 12-15.) ***“Forever, O LORD, Thy Word is settled in heaven.”*** (Ps. 119:89.) I hope this helps some.

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**As I type this, it is Palm Sunday – the day Jesus rode to Jerusalem on a colt of a donkey, presenting Himself as the King who comes in the name of the LORD (Luke 18:38)– and also as the Passover Lamb, who takes away the sin of the world (Luke 1:29)– to be killed on Passover, four days later. How grateful we are that He loved us, sinners, and came to die in our place. (John 3:16.)**

These last weeks have been very sorrowful for us. Two dear friends (Debbie Boggess and Rich Brown) passed away – Debbie, from a long-term illness, on 26<sup>th</sup> of February, and Rich of skiing accident in Deer Valley, Utah, on 27<sup>th</sup> of February. We weep with their loved ones for the loss of Debbie and Rich, but we do not sorrow as those who have no hope, **for both Debbie and Rich were strong believers in the Lord** who has received them into His arms, where they wait for us to come also, either by Rapture, or by death. (1 Thess. 4:13-14.) ***“In Your presence, LORD, is fullness of joy.”*** (Ps. 16:11.) Please pray with us that Tim and little David will be comforted for loss of Debbie, and that Suzi will find the Lord’s comfort from the sudden loss of her beloved Rich. -

Thank you for praying for Dennis as he had his extensive sinus surgery 3/3/15. That day was the most snowiest day we have had this year, roads were treacherously slick and my 17-year old SUV had just broken down... We had Pastor Phil Foard drive us to the hospital in his pick-up truck early in the morning, and our

neighbor picked us up from there later that afternoon. The first week after surgery was very hard for Dennis, and made him even wonder if this had been a good idea, but after 7 days when the splints were removed from his nostrils, he was able to breathe through his nose and start feeling better. His 2 week-appointment with the doctor (to have large scabs removed from his sinuses) was the most painful, but since then his healing has sped up. One more appointment to go... Thank you again for praying – it is the best “medicine” in all illnesses. – Our friends Dick and Patti, Max and Pat, Merridy, Sandy, Dale and Sharon, Tom, and Dave continue to struggle with their health issues, and we ask that you’d remember them when you talk to the Lord. Bruce’s LDS father passed away last week. His mother had passed away a few years ago. He has many spiritual issues to solve due to his late parents deep involvement in the Mormon Church. Bruce left the LDS Church many years ago, but since he was a caretaker of his parents, living with them he had to endure spiritually troubling years. Bruce needs prayer for spiritual cleansing from all that he had endured.

We thank the Lord for help that we have received from friends that stepped in to cover some of our *out-of-pocket expenses* for medical costs, for car-repair and loss of work-time for Dennis. We did not ask them, we only asked the Lord, and Brenda, Mark, Ed and Marla stepped in and covered these extra expenses almost *to the penny*. We thank them for their relationship with the Lord and hearing from Him. Our God is amazing God. Our hearts are full of gratitude for the Lord’s care and provision, and for friends of this ministry that He has given to us. Our ministry expenses are covered for now and we are thankful that that too. We are currently working with several local LDS persons that we are in frequent contact, and many others out of town and out of state that we are in contact via emails and by phone. Please pray that we will be able to answer them according to their needs and that they have a desire and ability to weigh the evidences from the Bible for true Christianity and evidences we give showing that Mormonism is not biblical, and that they’d “*come away from among them*” and be born again. (2 Cor. 6:1-17.) Mormons we know and love are as nice and good a people as is possible without knowing the Lord Jesus of the Bible, but they are lost for eternity unless someone reaches out and challenges them to investigate these important issues resulting heaven or hell for them.

We wish you Happy Resurrection Day and celebration: He has risen indeed.

In His love,

Rauni & Dennis

We stand for Israel and we “*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.*” (Ps. 122:6.)

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