



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

March 1, 2015

H.I.S. Ministries March 2015 Newsletter, covering February 2015.

Our winter here in Utah and in the Western states has been very mild, in contrast to what Eastern states have and are still experiencing, but spring will be here before we know it. Spring is a time of hope and a new life. **This is also a time to commemorate and reflect what Jesus did for us, and renew our determination to live for Him, to glorify Him through our lives and be eager to share Him with those who do not yet know Him.** Our lives can take on a new dimension if we truly **recognize Him as who He is**, and are determined to serve Him with all that we are and have, no matter what the cost. **We hope and pray especially that this season, from *Palm Sunday* (3/29/15) and *Resurrection Day* (4/5/15) to the *Day of Pentecost* (5/24/15) recorded in Acts 2:1-4, will fill us all with a renewed desire to be faithful to Him till the end and share the Gospel of Good News with the lost. Many of us have lost friends and relatives. Our heart's desire is that they'd be saved (Romans 10:1-4, 17) and be awaiting with us for Jesus' coming, which could be at any time, *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with the shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."* (1 Thess. 4:16-18.) These words are indeed comforting to all who know Him personally! He said, *"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."*(John 5:39.)**

On the 10th of Nisan our Lord rode into Jerusalem on a donkey fulfilling Zechariah's prophesy, written over 500 years before. *"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass."* (Zech. 9:9.) This the very day predicted by Daniel (Dan. 9:24-26) was the day that the Messiah was presented to Israel, and then executed, *"cut off, but not for Himself, but for His people"*. This *"presentation day"*, we call *Palm Sunday*, was exactly **173,880 days after Artaxerxes Longimanus** had (on the 14th of March 445 B.C. Neh. 2:5-8, 17-18) **given a commandment to "restore and build Jerusalem"**, recorded by Daniel (9:25). [Studying the scriptures carefully we can see how literally and exactly to the day, biblical prophecies are fulfilled.] **From the New Testament we read that the followers of Jesus had many times wanted to declare Him as the Messiah-King, but He always, until this very day, had said "my time has not yet come", but on this day He not only allowed it, He arranged it (see Matt. 26:17-18) for this was the Day, four days before Passover (see Ex. 12:2-6), which was the set day to select a lamb to be inspected and kept four days before it was to be killed on Passover, the 14th of Nisan. On that day, 10th Nisan, we call "*Palm Sunday*" (this year, 29TH of March), Jesus, our Passover Lamb, was coming to Jerusalem as "*the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.*" (John 1:29.) [Had we been in Jerusalem on that "*presentation day*", we would have seen Jesus riding to Jerusalem on a donkey and around Him on the hills (as was reported by Jewish historian, Josephus) over 255,000 lambs**

were driven as sacrificial lambs to be killed on the 14th of Nisan, on the same day our Lamb, the Lord Jesus, was also killed.] **When the multitudes saw Him, they “took branches of palm trees and went forth to meet Him, and cried out, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.”** (John 12:13, KJV.) Luke reports (19:39-40) that some Pharisees commanded Jesus to rebuke the people for declaring Him as their King, but Jesus answered them, **“if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out”,** for this was **the predicted day of His visitation as recorded in Daniel 9:25. “...He beheld the city, and wept over it, saying, if thou hast known, even thou, at least this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hid from thy eyes.”** (Luke 19:41-42.) **They did not know that the scriptures had foretold about “this thy day”.** The scriptures were written about Him (Luke 24:25-27, 44) and if they had known them, they would have been able to recognize Him when He came. But they (the nation at large) did not know and thus they did not recognize Him as their long awaited Messiah, though in the scriptures they could have read about **His Virgin Birth** (Isa. 7:14), **His place of birth** (Bethlehem, Micah 5:2), **His Davidic lineage** (Matthew 1:23), **His betrayal for 30 pieces of silver** (Zech. 11:12-13; Matt. 26:15), and many more prophesied details that were recorded in the Old Testament hundreds of years before. As a matter of fact, **the Old Testament records over 300 prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus’ earthly life.** One of these prophecies, in Isaiah 53:9, says, **“He made His grave with the wicked** (plural word in Hebrew), **and with the rich** (singular) **in His death.”** **He was indeed crucified between two transgressors, one on each side of Him, and His body was laid in a tomb that was hewn out of rock for Joseph of Arimathea, a rich disciple of Jesus who gave his tomb for Jesus’ burial place and prepared His body for burial.** (Luke 23:50-53.) [Our biblical mentor, Chuck Missler, smiled and said, “And why not, it was only for the weekend!” 😊] **But the grave could not hold Him. HE IS RISEN!**

Preaching the gospel, as we all are commanded to do, means teaching who Jesus is, “God with us” (Matt. 1:23; 8:24), and that **He died for our sins, was buried and rose again on the third day, according to the scriptures.** (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) His death brought forgiveness and eternal salvation to all who accept Him as their Savior and Lord. (John 1:12; 8:24.) **Only God can forgive sins.** (Mark 2:7.) We are accustomed to calling this celebration **“Easter”**. This word appears only once in the King James Version of the Bible, in Acts 12:4. It is actually incorrect or *misinterpretation* of a sort of the Greek word, “*pascha*” that means **Passover, a Jewish Feast.** **The Christian church commemorates the resurrection of Christ on Easter, in place of Passover, which is celebrated at this same time of the year, according to the Jewish calendar on the first Sunday following the full moon.** If the full moon falls on Sunday, Passover is celebrated a week later. (The time of Jewish *Passover* and Christian *Easter* falls between March 22 and April 25.) Thus **Easter** replaced the **Jewish Passover among those who had accepted Jesus as their Messiah and Savior.** The trouble with the timing of **Easter**, until about 8th century, was caused primarily by the fact that the Jews observed a calendar based on lunar months. **Passover** was celebrated on the **14th of Nisan**, and it was not therefore tied to any day of the week. The first dispute was whether Christians should celebrate this festival on a weekday or the following Sunday. Eusebius (4th century) in his ecclesiastical history describes, **“The Christian communities of all Asia [i.e. the Roman province, so-called] thought, according to a very old tradition, that the feast of Savior’s pascha ought to be kept on the 14th day of the moon, on which Jews were ordered to sacrifice the lamb, and that therefore on whatever day of the week this might fall...But the churches in the rest of the world were not accustomed to observe this practice: in virtue of an apostolic tradition they followed the custom now in force and considered that no other day was right...but that of our Savior’s resurrection [which was Sunday, the first day of the week] ...”** Every Sunday was then called a “*little Easter*”. **Passover** is the basis for our **Easter**, but **“Easter”**, by that name, was originally a pagan festival honoring **Eostre, a Teutonic goddess of light, spring and fertility, celebrated around the same time as Passover. However, “Eostre”, celebrated by pagans, was focused on spring at the time of the vernal equinox** (when the sun crosses the equator and day and night are equal in length). **We, as Christians, do not identify with pagan festivals**, but when we are accused of celebrating “*pagan festival*” we need to know where some of these names came from and why. **And since we know this, we should not identify or celebrate Easter with fertility symbols of eggs and Easter-bunnies as unbelievers do,**

but we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord that took place at this time of the year!

In Jewish homes, all over the world, *Passover* is still celebrated, which they also call the *Festival of Redemption*. They observe the *Feast of Unleavened Bread* at that time also. **They eat only unleavened bread during the entire Passover week. Passover is the most sacred event in Judaism and stands as the cornerstone of Israel's identity and purpose. The Passover Lamb** is the symbol of God's deliverance of the Jewish people from bondage in Egypt. (Exodus 12-13.) They also partook of bitter herbs, symbolic of bitterness of their bondage, and **unleavened bread** that symbolized hurriedness of their flight, and **also their need to purge sin from their lives**. Exodus 12:15 explains that there **must not be leaven (yeast)** found in their homes during the **entire Passover week**. God uses everyday items, like bread and leaven/yeast, to teach us His truth. **Leaven/ yeast** (in Hebrew '*homez*') **is used throughout the Bible as a symbol of sin. Leaven is sour, and like sin, it "sours" life. Leaven changes that which was before unleavened; it puffs up and corrupts.** Just like putting a rotten apple into a barrel of good apples spoils the rest of them, but we cannot make a barrel of rotten apples good by putting a fresh apple in it. **That is how it is with sin, it contaminates what it touches, and thus it has to be thrown out.** Paul wrote to the Corinthians, **"Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump."** (1 Cor. 5:6.) Sin does the same thing. The *sin of pride* causes us to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to, while **adding no substance at all**. Jesus warned against the **"leaven of Pharisees and of Sadducees"** (Matt 16:11-12), which was their self-centered hypocrisy and malice. **Just as a small amount of yeast puffs the bread-dough up, but it does not add any more weight or substance than unleavened dough, it just takes more room.** In order to understand this symbolism better we need to be aware how yeast/leaven works. I have mentioned it before how my grandmother in Finland used to make sour-dough rye bread every week. Each time she saved a small part of the dough, with its original culture of leaven, and when she put it into a new patch of dough, it *leavened*, or "*corrupted*" it, and the fresh dough *puffed up*. Paul's instruction to the Corinthians was to **"purge out the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened."** (1 Cor. 5:7.) Jews had to clean their entire homes and **"purge out"** all leaven, symbolic of sin, before they were allowed to celebrate the *Passover*. **We must likewise purge out our sin and all that is not good in our lives, examine our hearts, so that we too can truly celebrate Resurrection Day (called Easter) and share the message of the Gospel** (1 Cor. 15:1-4), **the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, with all who do not know Him yet.**

During the Passover Celebration with His disciples Jesus instituted "*communion*", *partaking of bread and wine as a remembrance of Him*. (See Matt. 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:23-26.) Just as death passed over all Hebrew homes in Egypt that had *blood of the lamb* brushed on their doorposts, so we also will be saved from eternal death by the *Blood of the Lamb*. **Unleavened bread** (bread without yeast) that we take as *communion bread* symbolizes sinless body of Jesus, our *Passover Lamb*, broken and sacrificed on the Cross of Calvary for you and me. Red wine or red grape juice we take as *communion*, symbolizes His blood that cleanses us from all sin. (1 Cor. 11:23-29; 1 John 1:7.) As Mormons, we did not even have that correct! The Mormon Church uses as their "*sacrament*" puffed up bread made with yeast that is a symbol of sin, and thus that bread could not symbolize sinless body of Jesus, and instead of red wine or grape juice, they take water that could not symbolize the blood of Christ. Thus LDS "*sacrament*" can be symbolic only of "*another Jesus*", and "*watered-down*" "*another gospel*", that Paul warned about in 2 Cor. 11:4. While we were blinded in the bondage of Mormonism, we did not notice how "non-symbolic" of Jesus' sacrifice this Mormon-"sacrament" of leavened, puffed up bread and water really was! And because it is routinely served every Sunday, its frequency makes it even less meaningful.

As we celebrate (this year on April 5th) the Resurrection of Jesus and our salvation through our faith in His finished work, let us not forget that He is coming soon. As His first coming was foretold of in the scriptures, so is His second coming. We must not be ignorant and be taken by surprise, but we must be ready, expecting Him to come at any moment. When He comes, first for His Bride, the Church, saved by His grace through faith, *He meets us in the air*, (1 Thess. 4:13-18), and

seven years after that He will come as a Judge of the unbelieving world. Our prayer is that many more will come to know Him now when His love and mercy is offered to all who would believe. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 10:9-10.)

From our mailbox: A new believer, coming out of Mormonism, asked, “*What exactly is the Day of Pentecost? It has something to do with rushing of Spirits? Although I have looked in my study guide and Bible dictionary, I am unable to find description.*”

Reply: [As background information: **The Feast of Weeks**, also called **the Feast of Harvest**, was one of the feasts of Israel. (Ref. Exodus 23:16; 34:22; Leviticus 23:15-21; Numbers 28:26-31 and 2 Chronicles 8:13.) It was observed early in the third month, **on the 50th day after the Feast of the Unleavened Bread and Passover**. (Ex. 13:3-10; Lev. 23:6-8.) **The church began on the Day of Pentecost.**]

The Day of Pentecost was the fiftieth day after the Passover. (The Greek word **Pentecost** means **fifty**.) [Jesus had commanded his own to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Promise of the Father. (John 16:7; Acts 1:4-5.)] As the believers were gathered in Jerusalem for observance of this feast, **The Feast of Harvest**, they experienced the outpouring of God’s Holy Spirit in a miraculous way. (**Acts 2:1-4.**) The word “**church**” is used in various ways in the New Testament. Greek word for church is “*ekklesia*” and it means “**called out ones**” and refers **to believers, all who follow true Christ**, without locality or time. It also is used of a local congregation, or *the church in general, collectively as the body of Christ*.

That the church did not begin until the day of Pentecost is demonstrated in various ways: 1) **Christ Himself declared that the church, congregation of believers, was to be yet future** (Matt. 16:18). 2) **The church, as the body of Christ, is founded upon the death, resurrection and ascension of Christ, and that was not possible until the Day of Pentecost** (Acts 2:1-4; Eph. 1:15-23). 3) In other words, *the church* as such could not exist **until it was fully purchased with the blood of Christ**. (Eph. 2:13.) If you have further questions on this, please email again.

A man wrote: “*I have never been a Mormon and after reading your evaluation of Mormonism, I can say that agree with you that Joseph Smith was a false prophet. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life? – I do and I also believe that the Holy Spirit lives within me. However, I do not believe that Jesus is Almighty God as you say. I believe that only the Father is the Almighty God. Please reference Jesus’ own words in John 17:3. Either Jesus is truth or he is not. The Trinity is not in the Bible nor is it taught anywhere in the Bible. From Genesis to Revelation, “Hear o Israel the Lord God is one”[not 3 in one]. Please respond. Steve.*

Reply:

[What caused you to be interested in Mormonism? Perhaps you have friends or relatives who are LDS? If you are asking in their behalf, my answers are taken from KJV of the Bible which is the one Mormons use. Please check all the scriptures from KJV as you read my answers so that you’d see where my belief is coming from and what I am trying to say, for it would take too much time and space to type all of them for you.]

Yes, I also believe that **He (Jesus) is the Way, the Truth and the Life** – that is what Jesus Himself said in John 14:6. Acts 4:12 also says “**for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**” After we **receive Him, we are born again**, as Jesus said we must (John 3:7), and thus we *become children of God*. (John 1:12.) – When we do not know God as One God, we can come into false conclusions. Mormons have created three separate Gods of biblical teaching of Father, Son and the Holy Ghost. Some have ignored the fact that even though the Bible says that there is only One God, the Bible also speaks of Jesus as God and Holy Spirit as God (not “*lesser Gods*”, but equally God). (See Isaiah 43:10; 44:6; 45:5; Ps. 90:2; John 1:1, 14; Titus 2:13; John 8:24, 58: 20:28; Jude 25; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; James 2:19; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 3:16.) Of course the Father is Almighty God, but so is the Son, who said, “*I AM Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.*” (Rev. 1:8.) This “**Almighty**” is **Jesus**. When we read prophesies of the coming Messiah (“*God with us*” in Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14) we see that Jesus is not a partial or a lesser God, but that **He is God**. Isaiah 9:6 says, “*For unto us a child is born,*

unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, **The mighty God**, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” You referred to John 17, which, all of it, is His prayer for us, His own. In the verse 3 He prays that we’d know the Father and Him, Jesus, sent by the Father. **He was sent to us as a man, even though He is God.** If we only read our English text, and not try to get deeper into the meaning of the Hebrew words, we might get confused, for Hebrew words generally carry more depth and meaning than our English words do.

The Word of God starts with, “*In the beginning, God...*” In Hebrew the word for God is *Elohyim*, which word means plurality of persons. He said, “**I AM JHVH Elohyim**”, in English, “**I AM the LORD God**”. Exodus 6:2-3 says, “**And God** (Elohyim, plural) **spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I AM the LORD: And I appeared to Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by name of GOD ALMIGHTY, but by My name JE-HO-VAH, was I not known to them.**” When we read this in original Hebrew, we read, “**I AM JHVH... EL-SHADDAY, but by MY NAME JHVH was I not known to them.**” Notice, **God Almighty, Elohyim, has only one name**, and that name is **Jehovah (JHVH in Hebrew)**. Notice also that God (plural word, Elohyim) always speaks of Himself as “**I**”, as **ONE GOD**, but yet the word we have in English, “**God**”, in Hebrew means **plurality of Persons in One God**. Notice also that **God** is plural throughout the Old Testament, as in Gen. 1:26-27, “**And God said, LET US make man in our image, after our likeness... So God created man in His OWN IMAGE...**” **One God, three Persons**, thus “**us**” and “**our**”, but **yet ONE IMAGE for one plural God, God is Spirit**. If we study the Bible carefully and in context, we come to see that **God is one**, meaning that there is only one God, but **within this One God there are three Persons. They are all equally eternal God.** (Ps. 90:2.) Anyone of them is not lesser than the other. In our English Bible when the word LORD in all capital letters appears, in Hebrew text it is JHVH (Jehovah). When the word **Lord** appears in lower case letters, then in Hebrew it is **Adonai** – talking about the LORD but avoiding frequent use of JHVH, the Holy Name of God. [The plural word, *Elohyim* (God in English) is used when referring to the **Triune God**. --im ending in Hebrew words indicate more than one –for example: a *Cherub* is one/singular (Ezekiel 25:19), *Cherubim* is more than one (Ezekiel 25:20). When Triune God, Elohyim, is talked about, the verb is singular, but when the same Hebrew word, *eloxyim* (lower case) is used of false gods, verb is then in plural form.]

When God became flesh (John 1:1, 14) He took upon Himself a form of a man and lived as a 100% man, even though He did not cease to be also 100% God. Jesus is this unique **God-man** who has participated in all of Creation and in all of Redemption. One of Jesus’ titles is the **Word**. (John 1:1; 1 John 5:7.) **He spoke the world and universe into existence, thus the entire world was created by Him and for Him.** (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16.)

Genesis 1:1-3, “**In the beginning God** (Elohyim, plural= Father, Son and Holy Spirit) **created the heaven and the earth...And the Spirit of God** (God the Holy Spirit) **moved upon the waters. And God** (the Word – John 1:1) **said, Let there be light...**” Notice: **All three Persons of one God (Elohyim) were actively at work in creation, and throughout the Bible. [This concept of plurality of Persons in One God is taught throughout the Bible.]** The word **Trinity** is a coined word to describe with one word what and who God is. It is not mandatory to use the word “**Trinity**”, but it is simply a brief way to refer to all three Persons in One God.

Even the best translations lack some of the depth that is found in the original Hebrew text. Deut. 6:4, in Hebrew, says, “**Hear, O Israel, THE JHVH our Elohyim is one JHVH.**” What does that mean? It means that God, **Elohyim, is plurality of Persons, and His name is JHVH. (Three Persons by One Name, JHVH.) It is translated into KJV English, “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD.”** JHVH (Jehovah) is **Jesus Christ** of the New Testament, “**which is, which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.**” (Rev. 1:8.)

Steve, this is not all that could be said. You need to do your own in-depth studies, for no one can do it for you. I can only point you to that direction, and I am sure that when you are determined to find out from the Word of God what it really says about God, you will come to see that God is One, Trinity. We cannot really describe God in human terms, because there is none like Him. He is not like we are.

However, not every doctrinal difference is worth “*going to war over*”, only the fundamental doctrines need to be understood in order to be saved. They are: Faith in Triune God, belief in Jesus who is God, His Virgin birth and His death and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1-4) and our new birth by the Holy Spirit (John 3:7). May the Lord help you in this important study of who He really is. - Rauni

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We want to thank you for praying and assisting us in this work. It is encouraging to hear from those who have come away from Mormonism and have received the Lord and eternal salvation. We thank the Lord for allowing us to be of help to them in this transition. We work hard with them and we depend on your prayers to connect us spiritually to those whom the Holy Spirit is convicting and bringing to salvation.

Please pray that Dennis' surgery on 3/3/15 will go well and that his recovery does not take too long. He is concerned about our finances when he has to miss work.

We received a word that **Debbie Boggess** passed away 2/26/15. She has been in our prayer-list for a long time. She has suffered with cancer for several years, and it has been hard for her husband, Tim, and their little son, David. But Debbie is now with the Lord, and we pray that the Lord will ease the sorrow and pain that Tim and David are going through for losing her. Looking at the world's situation, it might not be long before we will join Debbie and other believers who have left from this world. ***"...knowing that whist we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord. (For we walk by faith, not by sight.) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."*** (2 Cor. 5:6-8.)

Yesterday, on 2/27, we lost another dear friend, Rich Brown. He died in a terrible skiing accident at Deer Valley, Utah. His wife, Suzi, is devastated, though she knows that Rich is now with the Lord. Rich loved skiing, and he loved the Lord and his sweet wife, Suzi. Death is part of life, but sudden death is always a shock. Suzi needs our prayers and comfort for she does not have family around her. **We, believers in the Lord, are her family. When we live, we live for Christ, and "to die is gain."** (Phil. 1:21.)

We need to also pray for Dick Baer. He has been very ill with pneumonia and his wife, Patti has a bad flu. We ask that you'd pray with us continually for Dale, Sharon, Max, Pat, Merridy and Sandy Herter. Sandy had a serious carotid artery surgery 2/25. Her husband, Al, called to say that surgery went well, but she is still in a hospital. Please keep Tom, Heber, Bruce, Kami, Gregory, Robert, Jo Ann and Gail also in your prayers. The Lord knows their needs and our needs, and He will solve these problems according to His will and plan. We are very thankful that we can ask you to join us in prayer for these matters.

Let's be ready for the Lord might be coming soon, sooner than we think. (1 Thess. 4:13-18.)

Serving the Lord with gladness till He comes,

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Our website: www.hismin.com is still in "recovery" after it was hacked, but Matt has been able to restore much of it already. Our website has a "new face". Please visit it and let us know what you think.

Thought for the month: "Art of wisdom is knowing what to overlook." (William James)

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