



September, 2015

* He Is Savior, Acts 4:12

H.I.S. Ministries September 2015 newsletter, covering July and August 2015

We hope that your summer months have been good and blessed and that you were able to take some time off from your regular work and get much needed rest and relaxation. We have taken short camping trips to the Mountains in Utah, and we also went to Montana for a week to visit our dear friends there.

Just a day before we left to go to Montana (9th of July), I had a meeting with doctors about my thyroid surgery that was supposed to take place before the end of July. They took more tests and went over *pros and cons* of surgery with me, and they finally agreed with me and said that **perhaps we could wait 6 months** and in January take another ultrasound to find out how much this tumor has grown and then proceed with surgery if necessary. However, they were concerned about waiting since my right-side thyroid (that was removed in Nov. 1999) had cancer, saying that this left-side *might have cancer also...* but they left that decision to postpone to me. I am feeling OK, but I am very tired which is typical of thyroid problems. Also there seems to be some pressure against my voice-box for I often all of a sudden lose my voice. Dennis and I continue talking to the Lord about this, and we are trusting that He will instruct us *if putting the surgery off for 6 months* is not correct way to handle my problem. Please pray with us that we will receive the Lord's prompting for what to do. Having experienced thyroid surgery before, I am not looking forward to going through it again.

While we were camping in this summer, Dennis and I talked and marveled about the growing anti-Semitism in our nation and in the world, and how it is again growing even though after the Holocaust, in 1940's, Western nations promised that it would "*never again*" happen. What is the most disturbing about this is that the anti-Semitism/anti-Israel movement is very strong among most Christian denominations! **The hatred against Jews originates from Satan, who hates God.** Satan has been watching intently throughout history what God is doing. Satan knows the Scriptures much better than most believers in God do. **His eye has been on Israel ever since God chose Israel to be His nation and people.** As soon as Satan figured out that the Redeemer was going to come from the tribe of Judah, he concentrated on that lineage. He tried to contaminate David's bloodline, and succeeded! God had to put curse on descendants of Coniah (or Jeconiah, the fourth king after David). (See, Jer. 22:30). Satan celebrated! He thought that if Messiah was to come from this king's lineage, because of God's curse, **He would not be able to inherit David's Throne.** But through **Virgin Birth**, God "*by-passed*" the curse. Messiah's human bloodline came through another son of David, Nathan, instead. (Luke 1:31-32.) Satan again worked very hard through Roman leaders to get Jesus killed as soon as He was born in Bethlehem, but God arranged their escape to Egypt. When Jesus begun His ministry, Satan went after Him with temptations, promising Him *all the kingdoms of the world* if He'd just worship him. When he did not succeed, he worked

through the religious leaders of Israel causing them to be jealous of Jesus' popularity to the point that **they wanted Jesus killed**. Satan can read the Scriptures, but he is not all-knowing, so he did not realize that the *death of Jesus on the cross* (1 Cor. 1:18) *brought the victory over sin and death*. (1 Cor. 2:8.) He lost again, but soon learned that Jesus is coming again and **when He comes, He will come as the King of Israel, the King of kings and the Lord of lords**, to bring judgment to Satan and his false prophet and the anti-Christ (Rev. 20:10). Not only will his "*un-holy trinity*" be judged, but also all **who did not believe in Jesus** will be judged at **the Great White Throne Judgment**. (Rev. 20:11-15.) The Devil is working hard to stop God's plans of the Second Coming of Christ. He is enjoying his position as *the god of this world* (2 Cor. 4:4), and he is gaining power with people of the world; but **the Jews in Israel are his obstacle**, even while they are still in unbelief. With Hitler, as Satan's chosen vessel, he came pretty close to his goal of wiping all Jews from the world. **He figured out that without Jews, and Israel as the Jewish homeland, Jesus couldn't return, and all of God's promises would fail and he will be permanently the god of this world**. Even though he had managed to kill over 6 million Jews, it backfired when the Western nations, for a short while, became sympathetic towards Jews and agreed to give them their homeland back. And Israel, after over 1900 years, was born again on May of 1948. Jews, from the countries where they had been in exile, begun to migrate back to their homeland. Satan then arranged for the surrounding Arab nations to attack Israel as soon as they had arrived there. These attacks have been going on ever since. At times it looks like Satan is winning, but we know that he will not, for the **God of Israel is God and He is on His throne. His covenant with the Jewish People is eternal. (1 Kings 6:13.) Though He may have "hidden His face" from them at various points in history, He will never forsake His people Israel or allow other nations to flourish in the Promised Land. (Rom. 11:1-2, 25-26.) God's promises, even to us as believers in Christ, and including the promise of salvation, are ultimately built upon His promises to the Jews as a people. Going all the way back to Genesis, we see that the God of Heaven and Earth made an unconditional covenant with Abram when He said "I'm going to give your descendants this land". (Gen. 12: 1-3,7.) He made a covenant with Abram, and all the other covenants are built upon that original covenant. The new covenant, Jesus dying on the cross for us, is so that we can be forgiven, born again (John 1:12), receive His Spirit and live holy lives, and inherit the promises of God. Everything is built on the Abrahamic covenant.**

Pondering these things prompted Dennis and I to again study Genesis and other Old Testament books to see **how Israel is the key to understanding end times and what God is up to**. All people in the world who have trusted the true God and His love for mankind, have learned **about it through the prophets that God called from among His chosen nation, Israel**. (John 6:45.) **All writers of both Old and New Testaments were Jews, as is our Lord Jesus, our soon coming King, our Lord Jesus, the true King of Israel**. We all should *pray for Israel and the peace of Jerusalem*. (Gen. 12:3; Ps.122:6.) **Jews, Israel, and Jerusalem are of utmost important for the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus**. The coming 7-year Great Tribulation is going to be God's judgment on unbelieving Israel that will bring them to dependence on and faith in their God. When it ends, the Lord will come and "*all Israel will be saved*". (Matthew 24:21; Romans 11:1-2,25-26.) **Israel was called by God to be His witness to show to the rest of the world God's love and grace, mercy, power, and faithfulness**. Because of that calling, each and every time when Israel rebelled against God, her punishment was severe, **but God has not forsaken Israel forever**. **Israel is and always will be God's Chosen people and the Promised Land**. When the nations finally recognize the wonders God has done and still does, they will be ashamed of their rejection

of Israel and of the God of Israel. All who have become God's children through the new birth (John 1:12) will never cease to be His sons and daughters, even if we *backslide* and rebel. God has provided us a way back to Him through repentance and the blood of Jesus. (1 John 1:7-9.) **Israel is God's chosen nation forever, and likewise we, after we have been born again, we are His children forever.**

Genesis (meaning "beginning") is a theological history of how the world and life on earth began. "***In the beginning God...***" are the first words of the Bible, and **they are the foundation of faith in God.** Without believing these words, we could not properly understand and believe the rest of the Bible; but if we believe these words, then we can believe all that follows in the 66 books of the Bible. **God The Creator** (the only one who was there at the beginning), **through Moses, tells the story of creation** and of earth's earliest ages. [Genesis, chapters 1-11: **A. The Creation** (chapters 1 and 2). **B. The Temptation** (testing) (chapter 3). **C. Cain and Abel** (chapter 4). **D. Seth and His Descendants** (chapter 5). **E. Widespread Sin and Universal Flood** (chapters 6-8). **F. Noah after the Flood** (chapter 9). **G. Table of Nations** (chapter 10). **H. Tower of Babel** (chapter 11).]

We learn from early on in the Bible that obedience to God brings blessings and disobedience brings curses. Examples of curses are *the Fall of Adam* and *Universal Flood*, and of blessings God making a nation (Israel) from one man, Abram (from Gen 17:5 on he is called Abraham), who *by faith* obeyed God and did as He had commanded. (Acts 7 gives a summary of Israel's history.) **By faith we understand what God has done throughout history and what He is doing now.** The world says, "***Seeing is believing***"; but God says, "***Believing is seeing***". (John 11:40.) ***Faith is confidence in the trustworthiness of God.*** (Hebr. 11:1-3.) ***Faith is full conviction that what God says is absolutely certain and real, and that through His Word we too can "see" what otherwise would be invisible.***

Genesis 12 begins with how God had commanded Abram to get out of his (pagan) country and from his kindred and go to a land that He will show him. God promised that from Abram and his descendants He will make **a great nation.** (Gen.12:1-3.) We come to see that **this nation is the nation Israel.** (For the development of the nations of Israel, read Genesis chapters 12 through 50.) From Genesis 15 we read of *God's covenant to Abram*, and also further testing of his faith. From Genesis 16 we read about a *lapse of Sarai's and Abram's faith* that resulted in the birth of *Ishmael*, who became the father of Arab nations that are, to this day, enemies of the people of Israel who are descendants of *Isaac* and *Jacob* (=Israel, Gen. 32:28). God tested Abraham by not giving him his son, Isaac, until he was 100 years old and his wife, Sarah, was 90! Even though Abraham already had a son, Ishmael, about 13 years earlier, **God calls Isaac, Abraham's only son,** for he is the ***son of God's promise*** to Abraham; while Ishmael, born of Sarai's Egyptian maid to Abram, is called a ***son of the flesh***, born of the will and desire of Sarai and agreed to by Abram. (Gen. 16:1-2.) From **Isaac's son, Jacob** (whom God renamed **Israel**, Gen. 35:10) came one nation, **Israel**, and from **Ishmael** came many nations that hate Israel. **We wouldn't know about God and His love for mankind (John 3:16) without His chosen people, Israel.** We, as Gentiles, owe a huge spiritual debt to the Jews for the Word of God that they collected and carefully preserved.

Luke's Gospel records Christ's prediction of what will happen to Israel and Jerusalem as a result of their rejection of Him, their Messiah. (Luke 19:41-44.) God would judge Israel and scatter the Jews among the nations of the world. Indeed, the Jews were dispersed throughout the countries for over 1900 years, but **they**

did not cease to be God's nation, regardless of their unbelief. God had promised to bring them back even while they, as a nation, are still in unbelief. [That happened, and is still taking place.] About bringing Jews back to their own country, while in unbelief, **God said** (Ezekiel 36:22-36), ***"I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. 23. And I will sanctify My great name... 24. For I will take you from among nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land...28. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God... 32. Not for your sake do I do this, says the LORD God... Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel...34. The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate... 35. So they will say, This land that was desolate has become like garden of Eden...36. Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. I, the LORD, have spoken it, and I will do it."***

This has been an observable act of God since 1948. The land of Israel for many years has been producing most of the fruits, vegetables and flowers exported all across the Europe and beyond. [We also have received news from Israel that hundreds of Jews have recently repented and come to believe that **Jesus is their Messiah and soon coming King.**] These are the end times about which Zechariah wrote - God will make *Jerusalem a "cup of trembling and a burdensome stone" to all nations* (Zech. 12:1-3). And this, indeed, is the fact that can be heard and seen in our daily news. Zechariah also wrote that when the Messiah comes back *Israel will mourn about "Him whom they have pierced"* (Zech. 12:10) and they will ask, ***"What are these wounds in your hands? Then He will answer, 'Those with which I was wounded in the house of My friends.'"*** (Zech. 13:6.) **The Messiah of Israel was slain at Calvary and people of Israel were scattered.** (See Zech. 13:7.) Zechariah prophesied that during the coming Great Tribulation two-thirds of the nation Israel will die, but a remnant of one-third will be ***refined like silver and gold. They will call on the name of God and He will hear them and acknowledge them as His people.*** (Zech. 13:8-9.) There will be a final siege of Jerusalem by the Gentile nations (Zech. 14:1-2), but the Lord Himself will intervene and when His feet shall touch the Mount of Olives, it will split in two (Zech. 14:3-5), with a large valley between. Satan and his troops will lose.

In God's calendar, the Rapture will come first, then the Great Tribulation and after that the Thousand- year reign of the King of the Jews (Rev. 19:15-16.) ***"Thus the Lord will come with all His saints."*** (Rev. 19:14; 1 Thess. 3:13.) And they will ***"rule and reign with Christ for a thousand years"***. (Rev. 20:4.)

Maybe this report from **Breaking Israeli News of 8/23/15** will be of interest to you as it was to us: ***"THE BREAKING ISRAEL NEWS, BIN, 8/23/15 reports: UPCOMING JEWISH HOLIDAYS BEGINS – PERIOD OF CATALYCLYSMIC EVENTS FOR ISRAEL. Latest news – biblical perspective."***

"The month of September is going to be very interesting month. Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashana, will begin on the evening of September 13th and will end at sunset on September 15th. According to Jewish belief, Rosh Hashana is the day that God begins the process of judging the entire world. This year it is especially unique in that it signals the end of Shemittah year, a Sabbatical year which occurs in seven year cycle. (Lev. 25.) According to Talmud, the written text explaining the oral Torah, the Messiah will come in the years following the Shemittah year. As the second and final day of the holiday of Rosh Hashana ends on September 15th, the 70th United Nations General Assembly will commence. The issue of the creation of a Palestinian state is

expected to be decided by world representatives during the General Assembly. While not having yet happened, the upcoming session is already fraught with tension as it is unclear whether the US will continue to use its veto to prevent the Palestinians from unilaterally declaring a state. Conflict over the Holy Land is prophesied to be the process of redemption. In Zechariah 12:6, the end times are described: ***“In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people around about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem will be inhabited again in her own place.”*** In Amos 9:15, we are told that once the Jews are re-established in their land, ***“I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.”*** After the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashana is an interim period referred to as the Ten Days of Awe. It is during this period, on September 17th, that the US Congress will vote on whether to reject or accept the nuclear deal negotiated by US President Barack Obama with Iran over their nuclear program. Religious leaders have characterized the Iran deal as cataclysmic and fiery conflict as part of apocalyptic war of Gog and Magog. In Ezekiel, chapter 38 and 39, this was described as involving several nations, none of whom border Israel. However Persia (Iran) is specifically mentioned as a main actor of the war. It should be remembered that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave his fateful address to US Congress protesting the Iranian deal on March 3rd, the day before Jewish holiday of Purim. Purim celebrates the Jewish victory over Haman, an officer in the Persian court, known today as Iran. Jewish holidays indeed play a significant role in the process of heavenly warning to the nations. Concluding the Days of Awe is the holiday of Yom Kippur, known as the Day of Atonement on which God seals His judgements. Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the years and falls on September 23rd. Oddly enough, September 23rd, Yom Kippur, is the day on which Obama has chosen to host Pope Francis at the White House on his first visit to the United States. Pope Francis, in his role as leader of the Catholic world, has chosen to involve himself in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, recently recognizing the “State of Palestine”. The weeklong Jewish Holiday of Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles, begins September 28th, also the date of last of the four blood moons in a special tetrad cycle. Previous lunar tetrad cycles have coincided with important historical events that impacted the nation and State of Israel, For example, four blood moons followed the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. In 1967, before the Six Day War in which divided Jerusalem was liberated and united by Israel, there was one blood moon with three following. The upcoming blood moon will be clearly visible from Jerusalem and similar pattern of eclipse happened just before and just after the destruction of the Jewish Temple by Romans in 70 AD.”

We will be watching these times very intently. Though we do not know “*what day or hour*”, we know that **what God has said, will take place one day.** (Matt. 24:36-37.) We are commanded to watch ***the signs of the times***, and be ready at any moment. (Matt. 25:1-13.) It will be wonderful to see our Lord “*in real time*”.

From our mailbox: A Christian lady who has been witnessing to her LDS friend about the biblical Gospel, asked if I could help her to understand what this friend told her and she also asked if Mormons believe that Joseph Smith used Urim and Thummim or his own “brown seer stone” that he put in his hat, as has been reported in the newspapers lately? She wrote: “My LDS friend told me that the Mormon Church has a more correct record of the true gospel in the Book of Mormon rather than incorrect Bible that has been corrupted by wicked scribes and translators. He told me that the Book of Mormon is the most correct book on earth and that it teaches the

gospel doctrines with much greater clarity than the Bible and is thus superior book over the Bible. He said that gold plates were written in reformed Egyptian language, and that it is history of American Indians, called Lamanites. With the gold plates Joseph Smith also received the Urim and Thummim, called "lights and perfections" or interpreters, to translate the plates into English. He said that they (Urim and Thummim) were used in Old Testament times. Sometimes Joseph Smith also used a seer stone he had."

Reply: In reality the Book of Mormon is not scripture nor history of American Indians, but a plagiarized novel that Joseph Smith wrote by copying and borrowing from several existing books, for example from "*The View of the Hebrews*", a religious novel written by Rev. Ethan Smith, about 7 years before the BoM. This was admitted by late LDS General Authority and historian, B.H. Roberts, who wrote "*Studies of the Book of Mormon*", published in 1985. Joseph Smith wrote the BoM using 1611 English and included much, even several full chapters, from KJV of the Bible. "*Urim and Thummim*" mentioned in the Bible was a Breastplate, symbolic object of 12 stones, representing high priest's authority to represent 12 tribes of Israel, and it was a part of High Priest's attire when we went before YHVH to seek counsel from God for Israel. (Ex. 28:30.) **It has nothing to do with interpreting languages!** This was before Israel had the written Word of God. Did you wonder why would Joseph Smith be given Israel's High Priest's Breastplate? ☺ Joseph Smith had said that angel Moroni had brought them with the gold plates to him. The Book of Mormon is not "*the most correct book*" nor is it gospel, but "*another gospel*", Paul warned about in Gal. 1:8-9! The LDS Church has just this last month published pictures of a brown stone that Joseph Smith had used to "translate" the Book of Mormon. He did it by putting this rock in his top-hat and "seeing" the text, which he dictated to his scribes, on this stone. This stone obviously eliminates the stories of gold plates and "Urim and Thummim" all together, and thus clarifies that they were not needed. By the way, this stone pictured in SL papers is the very same "seer stone" that was used by Joseph Smith when he was a treasure seeker, arrested and fined (in 1826) for fooling people by claiming that he could see from *this rock in his hat* where buried treasures were hidden...I hope you can help your LDS friend to start thinking, and seeing that Mormonism is not true at all.

An LDS man wrote: "*Question: How can an illiterate, non-schooled young man like Joseph Smith write a large book that has apparently changed lives of many millions around the world? I have a testimony from the Spirit that the Book of Mormon that came through prophet Joseph Smith is true and that Mormonism is the only true church on the face of the whole earth. I have another question: How could Joseph Smith invent such things as priesthood that is one of the most essential parts of the LDS Church? Without it you cannot be saved, you cannot administer sacrament, baptize, be married for time and all eternity, or do other temple ordinances for living and the dead. What can you say about that?*

Reply: Joseph Smith was not illiterate, even though he did not have much formal schooling. In writing the Book of Mormon he had a lot of "help" from books that he had read and had access to, books that had a similar storyline about American Indians that he was interested in. There are other religions with similar beginnings as Mormonism. Islam is one of them. Mohammed was visited (abt. 610 A.D.) by an angel who told him that "*the true religion was lost and that he was called by God, Allah, to restore it*". Mohammed was totally illiterate, he did not know how to read or write, but through scribes he produced the Koran. Now there are about **1.6 Billion** Muslims in the world who firmly believe that Islam is "*the only true religion*", that Mohammed is a true prophet, and Koran is God's Word. Muslims say that they have received this testimony

from the Spirit. They are willing to sacrifice their lives for that testimony, as we read about almost daily. As to the Priesthood, Joseph Smith had read about it in the Bible (the Book of Mormon quotes from both the Old and the New Testament). However after the death and resurrection of Jesus, **the only Priesthood in Israel, Levitical Priesthood, ended.** (Matt. 11:13; Luke 16:16; Hebr. Chapter 7.) **The Priesthood of Melchizedek belongs to Jesus alone. It cannot be transferred to any other.** (Hebr. 7:24.) Jesus is our only Prophet, Priest and soon coming King. (Hebr. 1:1-2). Ordinances you listed are obsolete – not necessary. Jesus did it all. **“For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lets any man should boast.”** (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 10:9-10.) - I hope this answers your questions. Please write again.

We indeed live in exciting times. **We are looking toward to being with our Lord whom we love so much, but at the same time we also hope and pray that we could have a little more time, even if just a year or two... to share His Word and Gospel with our family and friends, and others who have not yet committed their lives to Him.** Some of them have *professed to believe*, but we wonder if they have understood what belief and faith in Jesus really means? (Matt. 10:32-39.) There are many people in the world and even in our sphere that use His name and “say” that they believe in Him, but do they really? Do they know Him? We hope that they are not like those that Jesus, when He comes, will say to *“I never knew you”*. (Matt. 7:21-23.) To know Him and that He knows us means that we have a **relationship with Him** rather than **know about Him** from biblical stories. Many know the stories about Him, but **it is not the same as relationship**, which is like *two-way friendship*.

We have been sharing the Gospel of Christ of the Bible for over 30 years, and we have seen many come to Him, be born again and living for Him, but there also are those who have *nodded their heads and said that they agree and believe*, but without any fruit or change in their lives. We pray that we still will have time to share what faith in Jesus is all about, and see them come to *that light*. We pray daily that the Lord will send to us those whom He knows that we can help.

We have been talking with pastor Terry about doing another class on **Understanding Mormonism** this fall – but we have not yet set the starting date. It will be held either at Calvary Chapel, or if there are not that many wanting to attend, at our home. During the Labor-day week we will go *to the Mountains* - one more time – to rest and pray, and after that we’ll decide. We thank you for requests we have received for our class. We will let you know about that before mid-September. If we do our full seminar, it will last 10 weeks. We could cut it in half – 5 classes this fall and 5 after the holidays – starting in January. We’ like to hear what you’d like?

We want to thank you for your prayers and for your support that we appreciate very much. We thank the Lord Jesus for your faithfulness to Him that obviously is why you are willing to support and stand with us. **We know that He will reward you according to your needs**, be they emotional, relational, physical or financial. (Phil. 4:19.) **You, our friends, encouragers and supporters, are in our daily prayers!**

Please pray for Caryl, Dick, Dale, Max, Pat, Merridy, Sandy, Al and Jasmine that their health will improve, and for their family members who lovingly take care of them. Please pray our friends Suzi, Bruce, Tom, JoAnn, Sharon and Leslie. They need the Lord's comfort, strength and direction in their lives, as we all from time to time also need.

We are working currently with several LDS people who are afraid that their families will reject them if they express their doubts or plan to leave Mormonism. They need prayer for strength and wisdom, and courage to act on what they seem to already know that they should do.

Our website: www.hismin.com is still somewhat under construction, but still can be utilized. For a study of doctrinal issues – ***Mormonism vs. Christianity*** - we recommend "***Mormonism, what you really need to know***" **from the list of topics**. This site has over 30 printable papers with documentation. Let us know if you have any additional special needs that we can be of help.

May God bless you all!

In His love,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

Email: hismin@xmission.com – Tel. 801.943-5011

Thought for the month: *The Bible is God's Book, but it is also a Jewish Book. It is central to Israel and Jerusalem. Jesus is the Jewish Messiah, our Savior and Lord, and He will come again.*

Tax deductible gifts to H.I.S. Ministries can be mailed to 2890 E. Willow Bend Dr., Sandy, Utah 84093-2044 or by using PayPal: www.hismin.com/content/ministry-donations. Your gifts will help us to continue giving Bibles and other needed books, DVDs, CDs, etc., all free of charge to all LDS persons asking for them. Thank you, and may God bless you for your partnership in this ministry for the glory of God.
