



August, 2016

* He Is Savior, Acts 4:12

His Ministries August 2016 Newsletter, covering July 2016

How do you like this hot weather? It has been around 100 degrees and above in Salt Lake City for a long time. We left in the middle of July for Northern Idaho and Montana for R&R= resting and camping *on the cooler and higher ground*. ☺ Our purpose was also to go and spend some time with our *former Mormon, now Christian* friends. We had a great time of relaxation and fellowship with Mickey Hale and her son Eric and his wife Nicole and their three darling little sons (Sean 7, Jack 5 and Luke 3) and camping with them for a few days at Howard Lake, about 140 miles Northwest of Whitefish, Montana. We had a “caravan” of three RV-trailers: Mickey’s, Eric’s and ours, driving together there from Whitefish. This was our third trip to Whitefish where Hales have lived now for about 4 years. On our way back home from Montana we stopped at Preston, Idaho, and spent time on answering questions and having great discussions with Brent and Ruth Smart and their LDS friend, Carissa. It is heartwarming and encouraging to see how much these new believers in the Biblical Jesus have grown in God’s Word in such a short time! Many topics came up and we tried to clear some deeper concerns they had about various salvation and other Biblical questions.

There are many Christians, much older in faith, who do not know, or even care to know, what treasures we have in God’s Word and how important it is for all of us to know what it teaches about creation of God - about what secular world is totally clueless. We need to know what God has to say about these things so that we can correct and instruct especially our young people who have only learned assumptions, theories and downright falsehoods from their secular high school and university teachers.

Is it important for us to believe in a *recent creation* (less than 7,000 years) or does it matter? We think it is important since the Bible teaches it. Not even a hint of evolution or “*old creation*” (billions of years) can be found in the Bible. If we believe that the Bible is true, i.e. and that “*every jot and tittle*” in it was to stand *till all is fulfilled* (Matt. 5:18), **then evolution and “billions or years”,** that is taught in schools and universities and promoted by *so-called scientists*, **cannot be true. Our Lord Jesus believed and taught literal recent creation** and that it was He, the Creator, who “*spoke, and it was done*”. (Ps. 33:9.) In our times even some evangelicals have adapted their thinking to go along with evolutionary teachings and that words in Genesis mean something else than what they say. Many believe that “*days of creation*” (Genesis 1) are just *long periods of time rather than what the Word clearly says*. **Genesis restricted interpretation of “day” (“yom” in Hebrew) to the literal meaning of the word by numbering the days as “first day”, “second day”, “third day”, etc. Each “day” consists of “evening and morning” – not long periods of time.** The use of “*evening and morning*”, in that order, is significant. (Gen. 1:5.) Each day’s work was accomplished during the *light of the day*, and cessation of God’s work was during the night, and the next day’s work began again in the morning. **The same word, “day” (“yom”), used elsewhere in the scriptures, likewise means *literal 24-hr. day*.** God wrote with His

finger that “... **in six days the LORD made heavens and earth, the sea and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the seventh day, and hallowed it.**” (Exodus 20:11.) Jesus referred to this when He said, “***the Sabbath was made for man***” for the needed weekly rest from work. (Mark 2:27.) It is impossible to make “***day***” in Genesis 1 to mean anything but a day, “***evening and morning***”. Today’s ***secular teaching is that cosmos evolved about 16 billion years ago, the earth about 4.6 billion, primitive life about two billion and human life one million years ago.*** However, the Lord Jesus who was there and who ***created all things*** (John 1:1-3), taught that mankind was made **at the same time as cosmos itself.** He said, “**from the beginning of the creation, God made them male and female**”. (Mark 10:6.) “***The beginning***” obviously was a reference to Genesis 1:1; and in Mark 10:6 He specifically quoted from Genesis 1:27. [For commentary on Genesis and Creation, please get “***Defender’s Study Bible – KJV***” by **Dr. Henry M. Morris**, the Founder of ***Institute for Creation Research –ICR.***]

In the **Berean Call’s** June 9, 2016 on-line message, T.A. McMahan wrote,

“As a kid I often got toys that needed to be assembled. The instructions on the box were big pictures with very few words. I remember well the Ready Ranger backpack, the G.I. Joe Jeep, and a cutting-edge water rocket. Boom . . . I had these treasures put together in minutes. Life was good.

Sometimes I try to approach God the same way. But there are no shortcuts to knowing Him. Pictures are helpful, but instructions are vital.

*God reveals Himself in two ways. Theologians call these general revelation and special revelation. General revelation does not come as nouns and verbs; it comes to us through the splendor of creation. Whether we are looking through a microscope or a telescope, the message is clear - **God is real! “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork”** (Psalm 19:1). This is happening every moment of every day, and **no place on earth or in the cosmos escapes this message** (Psalm 19:2-4).*

Revelation also exists inside people, through their conscience. “The work of the law [is] written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness” (Romans 2:15).

*What do these helpful pictures communicate? **The Creator’s Existence** (Psalm 19:1) - He is here and everywhere. He leaves His providential fingerprints on everything. Every day. **The Creator’s Glory** (Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20) - He is not like us and we are not equal to Him. His attributes, eternal power, and divine nature are exalted above all creation and eternity. **The Creator’s Authority** (Romans 2:14-16) - This Creator will judge human beings against His standard, not theirs.*

*As helpful as the pictures are, they are insufficient to answer the urgent questions they raise in our hearts - questions like “**How can I be rightly related to this Creator?**” “**Can I be free from my guilty conscience?**”*

*General revelation is very informative, but it does not give us the complete story. **We need to read the instructions.**[From His book – the Bible.]*

*Just as God reveals His glory through creation, He also reveals His will through language. “**Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son**” (Hebrews 1:1-2).*

In other words, the Old Testament (the words of “the fathers, the prophets”) and the New Testament (“His Son” speaking by His Spirit and through the authors) give us the vital specifics (special revelation) that the pictures (general revelation) can’t provide. They give us specifics about the history of creation, Fall, rescue, and restoration. According to 2 Timothy 3:15-16, the Bible tells us: how to be saved (wisdom that leads to

salvation); **what to believe** (doctrine); **what is wrong** (reproof); **what must change** (correction); and **how to live** (training in righteousness).

Every book of the Bible gives us crucial information the "pictures" of general revelation do not provide. Take Genesis as an example. **It shares the details of creation** (Genesis 1); the placing of mankind at the pinnacle of creation and the institution of marriage (Genesis 2); **the Fall into sin and the promise of a Savior** (Genesis 3); the cause and global extent of the Flood (Genesis 7-9); the beginnings of nations and languages (Genesis 11), and much more. **The truths of Genesis lay the foundation for the rest of special revelation.** We cannot truly understand our world and why things are as they are without the specifics that the Bible provides.

No vital detail is left out of the instructions. Period. **When it comes to any necessary spiritual instruction, the Bible, God's special revelation, is all we get and all we need.** As Peter puts it, **"His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue"** (2 Peter 1:3).

So we can't just marvel at the helpful pictures of nature; **we need to press further into the vital information. Every day, believers should work their way through the timely truths of Scripture. No shortcuts."**

<https://answersingenesis.org/the-word-of-god/word-worth-thousand-pictures/>

From our mailbox: Devout LDS man wrote: "You have said in one of your interviews that I listened to that 'the Book of Mormon is not true because Joseph Smith in his translation of the Gold Plates used New Testament words like Jesus Christ, Christians, apostles, Bible, baptism, churches and more, words not known during the time period when the Book of Mormon was originally written— i.e. before Christian era.' **I must inform you that he did it because the intended audience for Smith's translation was 19th century speakers of English – not Greeks or Hebrews.** It is important to remember that the BOM was a translation of an ancient text. It's like that with English translations of the Bible, too. For example, **the KJV speaks about candles.** Jesus said: **'Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house'** (Matthew 5:15). **But candles weren't used in Palestine in biblical times.** Light came from oil lamps, not from candles. The KJV translators chose an English term 'candles' that was appropriate to their time and place. Jesus' meaning remains clear with the translation, even though he was speaking of a lamp, not a candle. - I agree with you that the word 'Christ' is Greek word for Hebrew 'Messiah'. It is no more anachronistic for pre-Christian era Book of Mormon peoples to believe in coming Messiah/Christ than it was for Old Testament prophets to foretell of coming Messiah/Christ. Remember that the BOM is a translation of an ancient Nephite text. The English word 'Christian' is not the word that originally was on the plates, but it is the English word that Joseph Smith used then translating the Nephite word to his time English speaking people. We do not know what that original Nephite word was, but we can assume that the word simply had to mean 'Christ-believer'. The same concept of a future Messiah was taught to Nephites as was in ancient Israel, and anyone who believed those prophecies would have been called a 'Messiah-believer'. Therefore, all pre-Christian era Israelites who believed in the coming Messiah/Christ were 'Christians' in this sense. This is what we find in the Book of Mormon... Furthermore, the BOM records many more prophecies by the New World, BOM prophets concerning the coming Messiah/Christ. All who believed these prophecies were 'Messiah-believers' i.e. 'Christ-believers'. The English word that Joseph Smith used to convey this message was 'Christian'. A similar argument can be made for the term 'Bible' and other words that you listed."

My reply: You are trying to explain Joseph Smith's "translation" of the Book of Mormon and his usage of words that could not have even been on the so-called "Gold Plates", **if they existed**. You should know that **translation is just that - "translation of what someone else had written or said."** Translation is not editing, adding or changing what the text says. And if any addition was done for some valid reason, it should have been explained in a footnote. [For example, the KJV-translators at times added words but they did not edit or change the meaning of the text – they only added some words to *make a language flow better*, and when they did that, they put those words **in italics to indicate that they were not in the original text.**]

I worked as a translator for the LDS Church over 14 years. I, for sure, would not have been allowed to add my own views or opinions to what GA's of the Church had written or said. I had to translate what they actually had said.

You said that there were no candles in ancient Biblical times, but yet the Bible talks about candles. You say that because the Bible talks about candles "before there were candles", then Joseph Smith is excused and he too can use New Testament words in the BoM, even in B.C. times. You ought to know better. **Candles were used even in ancient Egypt.** Maybe you should do some research and if you do, you'll find that candles have been found in ancient tombs at Themes. Even similar to modern candlesticks were found in Crete, from the first *Minoan civilization*, about 3000 B.C. Romans also used candles and tapers of tallow and wax in the 1st century A.D. (Encyclopedia Britannica, vol. 4, p. 777.)

Expected Messiah of Israel in the Old Testament times did not mean to them "Christ" as we, New Testament believers understand that title. Israel was expecting their Messiah to come as their King and political leader who would deliver Israel from bondage and establish His Kingdom. (From the New Testament, see the Gospel of Matthew and also Luke 24:21.) *Messiah means "anointed one", anointed King of Israel. The anointed one (Messiah) is used as many as 30 times in the Old Testament of kings, as in the case of King David, who became a model of Messianic King who would come at the end of the age.* (2 Sam. 22:51; Ps. 2:2.) **It was not until 6th Century B.C., at the time of Daniel, that Messiah was used as an actual title of the King who would come in the future** (Dan. 9:25-26.) The Christian expectations of the King of Israel did not emerge until way into the Christian era. Therefore you are wrong in implying that "**Nephites**" knew of "*Christ*" and of "*Jesus*". Besides that, there were no "Nephites" or "Lamanites" ☹. It was Joseph Smith who wrote this fictional book, the Book of Mormon, and listed himself in his 1830 edition as "**Author**" of this book. In his ignorance of history and the Bible, he made these huge errors, and these same errors are passed on to the rest of the Mormons, as you demonstrated here.

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life and absolutely the only One who can save you as He saved me and millions of others.(John 14:6.) **Study of Truth is the study of facts**, and it will prevent us from following of fables and babblings. (2 Tim. 2:15-16; 3:16.) **Truth means "according to facts"** which is the only safe way. If I can help you further, please write again.

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Question from an active LDS: "*Why are there so many denominations in Christianity if they all believe the same Bible? How do you know which one of them is true? We believe we are Christians, and that the LDS Church is the only true Christian church. What do you say to that?*"

Reply: If you check the **Statement of Faith** of any of these denominations, you can see that they state that they believe the same **fundamental doctrines that are non-negotiable and absolutely necessary for true faith and salvation. All of their members have the same opportunity to believe and follow these fundamental**

truths. It is up to each individual to commit themselves to Jesus Christ, be born again and follow His teachings found in the Bible, the Word of God. No church or denomination saves, only Christ saves. All born again Christians who believe the fundamental doctrines are part of the Body of Christ, which is the True Church, regardless of denominational lines. (Col. 1:18, 24.) I will list here for you what the fundamental doctrines are – and as you read them, you can see that the LDS Church is not part of Biblical Christianity. The Fundamental Doctrines leading to salvation are: 1. Belief that the Bible alone is the inspired Word of God. (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21.) 2. Belief that there is only one God existing eternally in three Persons. (Trinity) (1 John 5:7.) 3. Belief in the Deity of Jesus Christ – that He is God who became a man. (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14.) 4. Belief in the Virgin Birth of Christ. (Luke 1:35.) 5. That there is no salvation in any other, but Jesus of the Bible. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12.) 6. Belief in the Gospel, which is *death, burial and resurrection of Jesus* (1 Cor. 15:1-4), and that *He ascended to heaven and that He is coming again.* (Acts 1:11.) 7. Belief that salvation is by grace alone through faith, apart from any works that we might do. (Eph. 2:8-9.) 8. Belief in the final judgment of all unbelievers. (Rev. 20:11-15.) 9. Belief that those saved by grace alone will have eternal life with God. (Rev. 21 and 22.)

Thus, in order to be saved and become a child of God, we must be born again (John 3:3, 7; 1:12-13) which means *“born of the Spirit”, “for those who are children of the flesh, these are not children of God.* (Rom. 9:8.) Thus we learned that, *“spiritual is not first, but natural, and afterwards spiritual.”* (1 Cor. 15:46.) [No preexistence!] Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 2:14, *“...the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”* Triune God of the Bible can only be understood by the Spirit of God. *“It is the Spirit of God who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.”* (1 John 5:6-7.) Jesus said, *“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth.”* (John 4:24.)

We have freedom in Christ, and we are not under the law. (Gal. 2:16-21; 3:19-23; 5:1; Rom. 14:13-24.) Under the principle of law, a person receives what he has either earned or deserves. Under grace he is spared from what he deserves and receives salvation as gift, i.e. what he does NOT deserve. Paul explained that in Romans 4:4-5, *“Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”* Grace and law cannot be mixed! *“And if by grace, then it is no longer works; otherwise grace is no longer grace.”* (Rom. 11:6b.) *“For by grace are you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works, lest anyone should boast.”*(Eph. 2:8-9.) *“This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”* (John 6:29.) Law leaves a person without an excuse when he fails. Grace provides forgiveness and us an Advocate, Jesus Christ Himself. (1 John 2:1-2; 1 Tim. 2:5-6.) We as believers, belonging to Jesus, are like prodigal sons – when we confess our sins, we are back in the fellowship with the Father. (Luke 15:21-24; 1 John 1:9.) – **May the True God of the Bible open your heart and mind to receive Him and be saved.**

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Again we want to thank you, our friends and partners in our Ministry for your prayers and support that is our “life-line”. God has been faithful to you and **through you to us** and we have been able to continue in Ministry and have eternal joy with so many whom our Lord has rescued and brought to His fold. We reason and debate with them, and then the Lord touches their hearts and understanding and brings them to salvation. What a great Lord we serve!

My health has improved a lot, and it looks that I may not need a thyroid surgery – at least not yet. Dennis’s blood pressure has been under control with 3 different BP medications and he has been able to continue to do both, his carpenter work and ministry too. We thank the Lord for each day, week, month and year we have to do His Work.

We received a sad note from Caryl Matrisciana 7/29/16. Her cancer has returned. She wrote: *“My cancer continues to spread and love of so many of you continues to grow letting me know daily of your concern – thank you for your prayers and encouragement which I deeply appreciate. Reports now show I have tumors in both of my breasts and the cancer has spread to my lungs, esophagus/stomach junction, caloric stomach, and right and left medulla (area in the brain that plays major role in automatic functions) and lower intestines and colon. Of course I already knew it was in my lymph nodes, liver and bones! Quite a spread! The doctors remedy is conventional chemo treatment, but now a different kind! I’ve already had chemo meds since April 2015 and rather than ceasing, the cancer is obviously abounding! The lesions on my skin have been so painfully irritating since May and are, to my layman’s knowledge, not working. It would be insanity to imagine a different type of chemo, an infusion, would be any better? Now God had opened up options which He did on queue! Through a friend an alternative plan opened up within an hour! After serious prayer, thought and talks with my family, who’ve been wonderfully supportive, although we were all a bit afraid, or skeptical, or both, within two days I opted for this alternative treatment and am here in Mexico for 3 weeks of intense detox therapy...*

Please pray and ask God’s mercy and care for this faithful sweet lady who has worked decades in exposing the occult, Hinduism and cults, including Mormonism. We know that there comes time for all of us to go home to our Lord, but our *preferred exit* from this life would be by Rapture or without much suffering but we also know that the Lord has a purpose for all we go through in life, therefore we plead with Him for Caryl’s healing even when it seems that it is not coming. **He knows, He loves her and we give her in the Lord’s care.**

If you like to read more about Caryl, go to Caryl Matrisciana - newsletter@caryl.tv

There are others who need also help in their trials. Please include Dale, Sharon, Max, Pat, Merridy, Dave, David, Bruce, Tom, Al, Sandy, Patty, Judy and Suzi in your daily prayers. We are continuing to pray also for Greg and Jennifer Cantrell and their soon to be born baby boy. We pray that all goes well for Jennifer and that this new baby will be healthy and strong.

Please email your prayer requests and/or questions.

You may also contact us by phone: 801.943-5011

In His love and care,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

Email: hismin@xmission.com

Website (still under construction and accessible): www.hismin.com

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Thought of the month: *“This world is all the Hell that a True Christian is to ever endure, and it [this world] is all the Heaven that Unbelievers shall ever enjoy.”* Jonathan Edwards

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