



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

March 1, 2017

H.I.S. Ministries March Newsletter, covering February 2017

We wrote in our last month's newsletter about Israel and Jerusalem, and many of you have thanked us about that brief *history lesson* we gave of the origin of the so-called "*Palestinian conflict*", and of *God's land, Israel*, and of *His city, Jerusalem*. You have asked if we could write some more about what will happen in the end times concerning Israel. We are no Bible scholars, but we have been studying the Bible about 36 years with great mentors like Chuck Missler and Dave Hunt, J. Vernon McGee and others, and we rely on God's Word to teach us "*all things*".

(We will quote mostly from NKJV, though we generally use the KJV for that is part of the LDS "Quad".)

One-third of the entire Bible consists of prophecy, some fulfilled, some not yet. All prophetic writings about **Jesus' First Coming were fulfilled literally**. We have learned that there is even more prophetic information in the Bible about **the Lord's Second Coming** than of **His First Coming**. As we studied the past prophetic fulfillments recorded in the Bible and even in secular history, we became sure that prophecies of **His Second Coming will come through just as literally as prophecies of His First Coming**.

Zechariah wrote (8:5), "**I AM zealous for Zion with great zeal; with great fervor I am zealous for her. Thus says the LORD: I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called The City of Truth, the mountain of the LORD of hosts, The Holy Mountain.**" This prophecy looks to a future fulfillment.

God makes it clear that **when He returns to Zion, He will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem, in Israel**. He also said that it will be called "**the City of Truth**". Today it is a city where there are more religions than anyone can imagine – and thus **it is not a city of truth now**, but a city of all kinds of cults and isms. At this time Jerusalem is not a holy city, **but it will be holy when Jesus comes back there. When He comes, things will be very different!** The LORD says, **when "I AM returned unto Zion... it shall be called the City of Truth."**

The Word of the LORD came to Isaiah concerning Judah (Israel) and Jerusalem. Isaiah wrote (2:1-2), "**Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow to it.**" About 7 million Israelites (Jews) have already returned to the land of Israel, yet most of them have come, and are coming, **in unbelief** (Ez. 36:19-32), but in spite of that the LORD has blessed them, but this is a minute compared to what He is going to do for His people in the future.

Isaiah continues (2:3-4), "**Many people shall come and say, 'Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion [from Israel] shall go forth the law, and the Word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.**"

That time is not yet, but the LORD has said that this time will come when He comes back. **That time will be the Millennial Kingdom, yet future.**

The first major prophetic thing to come to pass *before the Great Tribulation begins* (Matt. 24:21) is the *Rapture of the Church*. (1 Thess. 4:13-18.) After the Rapture, Israel will go through her final test and purification during the *7-year Tribulation* (along with all other unbelieving nations).

Two-thirds of the nation Israel will die during the Tribulation, yet the remnant, the one-third of Israel, will be preserved after they have been refined like silver and gold are refined. Zechariah wrote (12:10), *"I will pour on the house of David and on the habitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication: then they will look on Me *, whom they have pierced; they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn... in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move towards the north and half of it toward the south."* At this time the remnant of Israel will recognize her Messiah and call on His name, and He will answer them and say *"This is My people. And each one will say, The LORD is my God."* (Zech. 13:8-9.)

"And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be – 'The LORD is One and His name (is) One.'" (Zech. 14:4, 9.)

[Marked by *above, we report that we found something very interesting in the Hebrew text, Zech. 12:10. In the Hebrew text there is an addition, left off from translations, *Aleph and Tav*, [the first and the last letters of the Hebrew Alphabet], meaning *"Beginning and the End"*. We have the *Interlineal Hebrew-Greek Bible and checking from that, we found (after*Me , Zech. 12:10) that the Hebrew text, corresponds to Rev. 1:8, where Jesus said that He is the Alpha and Omega, "Beginning and the End" [the first and the last letters of Greek Alphabet].*

This is a witness to the Jews that Jesus of the NT is indeed Israel's Messiah, the Beginning and the End.

After the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:13-18) we will live with the LORD in His mansions (John 14:1-3) for 7 years, and then we will return with Him, *"following Him on white horses"*. (Rev. 19:12-16.) *"...His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes the sharp sword, that with He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the wine press of fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."* (Rev. 19:12-16.) *We will reign with Him for thousand years.* (Rev. 20:4.)

After the Great White Throne judgement (of unbelievers) (Rev. 20:11-15), the Lord creates for His own a new heaven and a new earth – He will make all things new... (Rev. 21:1, 5).

And *"thus we shall always be with the LORD."* (1 Thess. 4:18.)

Jesus said, *"Surely I AM coming quickly"*, and John added (Rev. 22:10), *"Even so, come Lord Jesus!"*

Question from an LDS man:

"We see from your website that you are teaching that people are saved by faith, not by works. That is against what James says, namely that faith alone does not save, but there needs to be works included. "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." (James 2:17.) Explain what you mean by "saved by faith alone"? What is this faith you are talking about?"

Reply:

First of all faith must have an object. *Faith in faith is no faith at all*. Biblical *"saving faith"* is placing our trust and faith in Jesus Christ, who paid the sins of everyone who puts their faith and trust in Him alone for salvation –and what He did when He died for us on the Cross of Calvary. *"Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree..."*(1 Pet. 2:24.) The Biblical Gospel is a declaration of how we are saved. Paul wrote, *"I declare unto you the gospel, which I preached unto you, which also you have received...by which also you*

are saved... For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received, that how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures." (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) [*"Scriptures"* spoken of here is the Old Testament, testified as truth in The New Testament.] When we truly believe this gospel, we receive Jesus (John 1:12-13), and that brings in our new birth (3:3,7) and by that we become children of God. There are no works from our part involved – just faith and trust in His finished work for us. "For by grace are you saved through faith, and that (i.e. grace) not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Eph. 2:8-9.) God's grace is a GIFT – received through our faith. Because it is a gift, it, of course, is free and unconditional present to all who receive Jesus. *Faith is not a leap in the dark. Faith is not "I hope-so"*. Faith is confidence in trustworthiness of God and what He has said in His Word, the Bible.

Hebrews 11:1 says that "faith is substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." What is "substance"? Since our English New Testament is a translation from the Greek text, the best way to understand what any *difficult word* could mean, is to check out how it was understood by those who read it in Greek. [All serious Bible students should have *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* to the KJV that also includes a dictionary.] When there is a question of the meaning of a word that is not easily understood, it is best to check from a Greek dictionary (or Hebrew dictionary in the case of OT words) what that word means. The Greek word for "substance" is "hupostasis". It is a scientific term, opposite of "theory". Greek scholar, Dr. A.T. Robertson, interprets it "title deed", i.e. it is a legal term meaning *firm evidence* (Hebr. 11:1), "...the evidence of things not seen". The Greek word for *evidence* is "elegchos". It is also a legal term, meaning "evidence that is accepted for conviction". Thus "substance" and "evidence", *substance* for a scientific mind, *evidence* for a legal mind, are so understood in the Word of God. Jesus said that *God's Word is Truth*. (John 17:17.) "Thy Word is true from the beginning." (Ps. 119:160.) *God holds His Word even higher than His Holy Name*. (Ps. 138:2.) Our faith is based on what God has said. If we say we believe in God of the Bible, we cannot question/doubt His Word, but when we wonder what something really means, we seek to understand it better by going to the words in the language that they were originally given in, and thus find out what they could mean in our language. Even in English we may not always be sure of the meaning of all words we hear used– and for that we need to go to the *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* and check what a word in question could mean. There we can read definitions for each word – but it is the context that determines how it can be used. For example of "substance", Webster says that it means "essential, fundamental, foundational, solid" etc., and "evidence" means "proof" or "a testimony of truth concerning a matter". Words without understanding their meaning do not edify.

Our faith rests on the Bible, the Word of God. From that very Word of God, we can learn what the true doctrine is, as well as what God's will and plan for us is. (See 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16.)

"For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of thoughts and intends of the heart. There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." (Hebr. 4:12-13.) Something that is "living" will not stand still – we are either going forward or backward – we grow in our faith if we are daily connected to the Word of God – but we slide backwards if we forsake our study of His Word.

People who do not know the Bible nor the God of the Bible can believe a lot of foolish things. God wants our faith to rest upon His Word so that we can continue to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Pet. 3:18.) Conclusion: Works do not save anyone, but good works do follow those who are saved. Works we do are not for our salvation but for the glory of God. I.e. we do good works because we are saved and are God's children, not to become saved by works. That is what James was talking about. If we just say that we are saved, but there is no evidence of our changed lives, then it is just words *without substance*. Eph. 2:10 says that when we receive God's gift of salvation (vs. 8-9), we are "created in Christ Jesus for good works". If this helped, please let me know.

Question from a former LDS man:

"I was a lifetime Mormon and I left the Church few years ago, and as you were helping me then, you may remember that I became a believer in Jesus of the Bible, but now I am afraid that I have lost my salvation. I do not feel God – I do not feel closeness to Him – I experience silence – I receive no answers to my prayers. Can you help me? How can I become worthy to be saved again. "

Reply: Jesus told Nicodemus that we **must be born again**. Nicodemus didn't understand. He was thinking that Jesus was talking about a physical birth. Thus he asked Jesus, **"How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"** We may smile at this as a silly question - *of course we cannot be born again physically!* Jesus explained that *there is a second birth, birth of the Spirit*, and that that will make us children of God, eligible for God's Kingdom. (John 3:3-7; 1:12-13.) *When we become God's children*, we will be His children forever, regardless of how we might *occasionally feel* about our relationship to God. We can be born physically only once – same applies to our Spiritual Birth – it too can only happen once.

When we were children and disobeyed our earthly father, we didn't feel close to him, we even avoided him, until we said we were sorry and received father's forgiveness. But even during that time of feeling distant from our dad, we didn't cease to be our father's child. When we do not feel close to our Heavenly Father, it more than likely is because we have sinned and in some ways disobeyed Him. We intuitively know that we have separated from Him. If we have been born again, born of the Spirit, we will never cease to be a child of God, but we need to search our hearts and ask His forgiveness of our sins in order to restore our relationship to Him. "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:7-9.)

Whether you can *"lose your salvation"* once you received it, depends on how you received it! There is nothing you can do to become *"worthy of salvation"*, we can only ask *God's gift of grace through our faith*. (Eph. 2:8-9.)

Isn't it true that when you *"left the Church"*, you also forsook Mormonism's false gods and *"another Jesus"*, and you repented of your sins and asked Him to come to your heart and life and save you? If that is what you did, then you are saved! Once born again, always born again equals: Once saved, always saved! There is nothing or no one, not even you yourself, who can take your salvation from you! Jesus is your Shepherd. He said, **"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. I give them ETERNAL life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are One."** (John 10:27-30.) He also said, **"...Those whom You gave Me I have kept, and none of them is lost..."** (John 17:12.) You are held by the Father and the Son, and you have the Holy Spirit residing in you. You are eternally safe! The Lord, who is our Shepherd, keeps His sheep in safety. There is no work or credit to the sheep in that. We, as followers of Jesus, are compared to sheep – and that for a reason: A sheep is helpless. It cannot defend itself – it has no fangs or claws to fight its enemy. A sheep depends on its Shepherd for everything. When we, as God's sheep, are saved, born again, and we are not boasting of our own merit or what we do to *"keep us saved"*, instead we are boasting of our Shepherd, who says that He has given us eternal life and we will never perish.

Think about this: If you are questioning your salvation, are you not questioning your Shepherd's ability to keep you safe as He has said He will? Your salvation does not depend on if you can hold onto Him. He says He can and He will – it is now a matter of you trusting Him! Our salvation rests upon the Word of God, not on our feelings. It is up to you whether you believe Him or not. He has made it very clear that your salvation is sure – it is ETERNAL, it is not depending on how you feel at any given day. Remember – you are in the

handclasp of the eternal Triune God – He will never let you go. - Let me know if this helped you. I will pray for you.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16.)

Remember that though God loves us, but it is not His love that saves us – it is our belief in His Son that demonstrated His love for us, and if we believe in Him, we will be saved.

“Justification is not us being good, thus when we do good, we give God glory. When we put your faith where God put our sins—on the Lord Jesus Christ—then God stamps “righteous” over our name in His “Book of Life.”

Even though February is a short month, lots of things have happened and we have been very busy in our ministry:

We have received some *unfriendly challenges* from LDS persons as well as also genuine questions about *Christianity vs. Mormonism*. Some have accused us for not “*respecting their faith*” when we speak the truth of Jesus to them. This type of accusations have become very common, not only from Mormons, but from atheists and *whom-evers*. In actuality it is a sort of “*code language*” intending to silence us and others who are telling the truth of God’s Word, and who Jesus really is and what He has done to save people. It is our joy to respond to all of them and also pray that their minds and hearts will open to the biblical truth. Just like Paul, we too have “*received God’s mercy not to lose heart*” when we are attacked. We love how Paul responded. Using his words, we also say from our hearts, “Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God. But if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of glory of Christ, who is in the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake. For it is God who commanded light to shine out of darkness who has shone in our hearts to give the light of knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2 Cor. 4:1-6.) If we’d just memorized the New Testament, we wouldn’t have to stumble in our own words, but could truly speak the truth in love we have for the lost! 😊

We are thankful that God has provided for our ministry’s needs, and also for our personal needs. We give our heartfelt thanks to every one of you who have shown your love for the Gospel of God in a practical and concrete way. By your assistance you have shown your concern for those lost in Mormonism and in its “*another gospel*” with “*another Jesus*” and “*another spirit*”, who believe that their own endless “*good works*” will take them to their heavenly kingdom.

We thank the Lord for you and pray daily for you, our partners and friends in this ministry, that the Lord will “*give you the desires of your heart*”. (Ps. 37:3-7.)

Those of you who have come from a false religion, as Mormonism, to true Christ centered Christianity, understand how hard it is to be rejected by your family and friends. This becomes a reality when you announce Jesus Christ of the Bible as your Lord and God, as many of you have experienced.

The Mormon Church is perhaps the Devil’s best invention and master-piece – demonstrated by the wealth that this world, under Lucifer’s power, can provide. It is outwardly *good-looking* church in every way, but deceptive and eternally damning to its followers.

Please pray with us especially for those who are, at this very time, trying to find a way to tell their generational LDS family that they will be leaving it for the Truth of Jesus Christ. They know what they have ahead of them, having witnessed sadness and devastation by others close to them when they were in this same place. We cannot give their

names at this time, but the Lord knows who they are and that they need Him, His strength and courage that only He can give. To many leaving Mormonism may mean loss of a job and all that has been valuable to them before they found out that what they had sincerely believed was not true, but a big lie. Finding the Truth and Jesus of the Bible, to us meant losing everything we had too, but **there is nothing in this world that can compare with the joy of knowing the Lord and having His truth. It is precious and priceless.**

Please pray with us for Christian parents who are struggling to save their daughter who has been, for the last few months, in danger of Mormonism, because of her romantic involvement with a young Mormon man. This is how many young people surrender and fall for this deceptive religion when they think they are “in love” and assume that their love will conquer all obstacles. These parents, during the last 4 months or so, have communicated with me/us by phone and emails, have learned how hard this spiritual warfare is, for **“we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of darkness, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places.”** (Eph. 6:12.) They truly have educated themselves and are from this time on perhaps able to be a help also to other Christians in their community, and inform them about dangers of Mormonism. There obviously is in their community an active Mormon missionary-force working to convert young people, who might not know the Bible well enough to be able to counter or have answers to well-programmed “conversion methods” that are presented by Mormon missionaries to unsuspecting and gullible young people.

Our Christian pastors need to diligently teach the biblical truth about God, Jesus and salvation to our youth so well that falsehoods cannot stick.

Please pray with us for these matters and people, and others that we are working with at this time, but have not room now to elaborate further.

Please pray for health improvement for Dale, Heather, Tom, Al, Sandy, Kristine, Dan, Dave, David, Max, Merridy, Helen and Judy. There are also others who are in various trials at this time. We can pray for them without naming names – the Lord knows.

There are several dear friends of ours who have lost their spouses during the last 1-2 years. Theirs loss is still hurting them very much even though they know that their loved ones are home with Jesus. (Ps. 116:15.) . Heaven is our home, but it is lonely now for them. Please pray with us for comfort and peace for Carol, Suzi, Patty, Max and Carla.

“If you are a Christian, you are not a citizen of this world trying to get to heaven; you are a citizen of heaven making your way through this world.” (Pastor Dr. Vance Havner – 1901-1986.)

We hope that this exceptionally snowy and cold winter will soon turn to a nice and sunny spring. ☺

God bless you all!
In Christ and with His love,

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Thought the month: “When men choose not to believe in God, they do not thereafter believe in nothing, they then become capable of believing in anything.” (Great 19th century preacher, G.K. Chesterton's observation still rings true.)

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