



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

October 26, 2017

H.I.S. Ministries November 2017 Newsletter, covering October 2017

Winter is on its way although this last week of October has been very warm and sunny. Colorful leaves are still hanging on in the trees and we enjoy the beautiful hills around us. But we know that soon this all will change to a white and cold winter.

But October is a “*dark month*” in more ways than one. It is dark because days are shorter, most flowers are gone and yet there is no snow to brighten and lighten the days. It is a spiritually dark month because of *Halloween*, known as *the Devil’s holiday*.

Halloween originated as *the Druids’ day of the dead* when Celtic priests made their appearances as *wizard or magicians*. In our days, to some adult participants around the country, this holiday has become a masquerade, a party similar to *Marti Gras*. It is pagan and its emphasis is the glorification of Satan, demons and death – far cry from what true believers should celebrate. Believers in the Lord Jesus, who is the God of the Living, should have nothing to do with the celebration of Halloween.

Even before the middle of September, stores around Utah already had Halloween decorations for sale, including all kinds of scary displays of skulls and bones, demons and ghosts. It seems that dark powers are taking over peoples’ activities in preparation of this gloomy holiday when evil in all imaginable forms is boldly displayed. Many in Utah proclaim *Halloween to be their very favorite holiday of the year!*

We must warn and teach our children the facts about this celebration and time, and protect them from its influence. Utah, of all 50 states, is the leading state with its focus on scary images and the dead! This must be because Utah is “*the Mormon State*” and the Mormon Church and its “sacred” (secret) temple rituals are focused on the dead. There are now 159 Mormon temples in the world where only *worthy Mormons* can enter to do the work for the dead. The Mormon Church teaches that their temples are places specifically built for the express purpose “where the people may seek unto their God, for the living to hear from the dead”. (LDS apostle Parley P. Pratt, Journal of Discourses, vol. 2:45.) The Bible calls that *necromancy* (=seeking communication with the dead), and it is part of the occult practices that

must not have any part in the lives of God's people. (We wrote more about Halloween in our November 2011 Newsletter, available on our website, www.hismin.com)

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"Our time is running out. We will not be witnessing for Jesus in heaven! This is our earthly duty and privilege now. None of us knows how many hours, days, months or years we have left. We must seize the golden opportunities that God gives us daily to witness to the lost."

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2 Tim. 3:16.) **The Word of God is given to us so that we can know truth.** We must study it thoroughly so that we will not end up *ashamed* (2 Tim. 2:15) as both, Dennis and I did when we found out that we had been deceived and that we had followed false prophets and teachers into believing in "*another Jesus*", "*another gospel*" under the influence of "*another (demonic) spirit*". (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15.) We had believed Joseph Smith's claims against the Bible, therefore we had not studied it carefully, and thus **we did not know the truth.**

No one is born a Christian, for that reason Jesus said that **we MUST be born again.** (John 3:3, 7.) **We are NOT born as God's children** (Rom. 9:8) but as Adam's posterity UNTIL we ***receive the true Jesus and are born again.*** (John 1:12-13; 3:3, 7.) Some of us have come to the Lord through a very difficult road, and thus we can identify with Paul who said, ***"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man: but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief...This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief."*** (1 Tim. 1:12-13, 15.) We too had blasphemed the true God by worshipping the false gods of Mormonism, believing in "*another gospel*" and "*another Jesus*" and even convincing others to do the same... We are ashamed of all that, **but we, like Paul, also did it ignorantly, in unbelief** of God's Truth. To be able to be an effective witness, we need to be able ***to teach by the Word of God that what is acceptable to the Lord.*** (Eph. 5:10.) Now that we know, we must warn others just as Paul warned and wrote to Timothy, saying that in "*latter times*" many will "*give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils*", and he urged Timothy to "*...take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine...*" (1 Tim. 4:1, 16.) When we were believing Mormons, our "*testimonies*" of the "*truthfulness*" of the *Book of Mormon, and other LDS scriptures and of temple-work for the dead* etc. had come to us "*through spirit-confirmation*", i.e. **through our feelings that, we were told,** revealed the truth about Mormonism. What are these "*spirits*" that instill these deceiving feelings? **Not the Holy Spirit of God, since the doctrines these spirits give "testimonies of" teach against doctrine found in the Bible!** **Thus they must be demonic spirits!** Just like the Mormons, other false religions, Occult and New Age believers also testify of ***spirits that confirm their beliefs*** in their chosen cult, and many of them even claim to have their own "*spirit guides*". LDS people often relate stories about *visions of the dead* they had while doing their temple-work, giving the dead a second opportunity for salvation, according to Mormonism. **There is no second opportunity for salvation after death.** (Hebr. 9:27.) Many Mormons tell stories of their dead family members who occasionally visit them from the spirit world, confirming that Mormonism is true. **The dead will not come back to visit the living.** The spirits of those who died as unbelievers in God's Truth are *in torment, not in paradise or "Abraham's bosom"*. (Luke 16:19-31.) The Bible warns over and over about "*familiar spirits*". These deceptive experiences, more often than not, can seem quite believable and even harmless to those who have not studied the Bible, but God's warnings that were given to Israel, **were also given for our learning.** (Rom. 15:4). *Deut. 18:9-12*

instructs: *“When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shalt not be found among you anyone... that useth divination... or [is] an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD...”* The Old Testament gives contrast between a false prophet and the prophet of God who communicates His message to the people. **God identifies the false prophets and false teachers by what they do: they practice divination, they are enchanters, witches, charmers, consulters with familiar spirits, wizards and necromancers. All of these are an abomination to the Lord. (Mediums are necromancers – they communicate with the dead.)** Mediums have, at times, or so it seems, been able to bring forth **spirits familiar to those seeking communication with the dead.** When this supposed connection with the dead is accomplished, **it is done by the power of Satan. Enchantments, familiar spirits and wizards, or mediums - all pertain to an outburst of demon-energized occultism, forbidden by God. This was forbidden to the Israelites (Lev. 20:27), and it is forbidden to us as followers of Jesus Christ of the Bible, who is our LORD and God. (John 20:28.)** Regardless of biblical warnings, **contacting the dead is among Mormons a Church approved practice.** The Prophet of the Mormon Church is said to be *“the one holding the keys of the oracles of God, as a medium through which the living can hear from the dead...The spiritual philosophy of the present age was introduced to the modern world by Joseph Smith...the most holy things pertaining to the salvation of the dead, and all the most holy conversations... with God, angels and spirits, shall be had only in the sanctuary of His holy Temple on earth...[they are built] for the express purpose that the living might hear from the dead...”* (Journal of Discourses, vol. 2:44-46.)

The God of the Bible has warned us about necromancy (dealing with the dead), divinations, witchcraft, horoscopes, sorceries, enchantments and heresies of all kinds. [Here is a partial list of God’s warnings about these: Lev. 19:31; 20:6, 27; 1 Sam. 28:3, 7-9; 2 Kings 21:6; 23:24; 1 Chron. 10:13; 2 Chron. 33:6; Isa. 8:19; 19:3; 29:4; Ex. 7:11; Gal. 5:20.]

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A doubting LDS person is asking questions about Joseph Smith: *“Someone told me that Joseph Smith believed himself to be Enoch, the grandfather of Noah. Have you heard about this and where can I verify it? I have also heard that Joseph Smith compared himself to Mohammed and what he taught and believed. What do you know about this, is it true? These and some other things have caused me to wonder about our church.”*

Reply: There are many writings and teachings of Joseph Smith that seem to indicate that he acted as if he **“was Enoch”**. One example is found in D&C, Section 78. [To verify that you need to read it from a D&C, printed prior to 1981.] Prior to the 1981 version, Section 78, verse 1 begins, **“The Lord spake unto Enoch [Joseph Smith Jr.], saying: Harken unto me, saith the Lord your God, who are ordained unto the high priesthood of my church...”** In the verses that follow, every time the name Enoch is mentioned [the name Joseph] is in parenthesis right after the name Enoch. We believe that Joseph Smith must have read the **Masonic Legend of Enoch** and had become fascinated by it, and thus he acted that story out as if he was Enoch. Freemasons believe that Enoch had hidden wisdom and knowledge of the pre-flood world that he had accumulated and buried on Mt. Moriah where King Solomon built his temple. Enoch is said to have also buried a triangular shaped object (tetragrammaton) there that contained the name of God in four Hebrew letters, YHWH or JHVH. **The Masonic Legend of Enoch** has been told for centuries as if it was truth. There are fascinating similarities to parts of Enoch’s legend, and what we as Mormons, were taught about Joseph Smith and his gold plates.

Let’s see first what Enoch’s Legend tells us, and then compare:

1. Enoch had a vision of Hill Moriah where he was shown a hidden treasure of **a gold plate with engravings**, and a marble pillar with **Egyptian hieroglyphics** telling the story of this treasure. 2. Enoch erects a brass pillar that tells the history of creation and the Tower of Babel. **This brass pillar has a ball on the top which has a power to direct.** 3. Enoch learns from this the story of a world-wide flood and that after the flood **descendants of the Israelites will find the hidden treasure.** 4. It tells that three masons finally find the treasure after three attempts and **they become three witnesses** to the treasure that is called “Solomon’s treasure” containing a gold plate, brass pillar and a record, **the High Priest’s breastplate, the Urim and Thummin and a brass ball** and the tetragrammaton containing the name of God. 5. The Legend also tells that **the gold plate gave enough light to illuminate the cavern** where the treasure was hidden. This treasure was later moved to the Hill Moriah. 6. The story tells that King Solomon selected **only a few persons to view or see the treasure.** 7. Enoch’s cavern was covered with **a large stone that had an iron ring.** 8. Enoch is called by God to preserve and guard the treasure. (I high-lighted what specifically corresponds to Joseph Smith’s claims in connection to his BoM.)

How does Enoch’s Legend compare to the story of Joseph Smith and his gold plates? – Joseph Smith had a vision of the Hill Cumorah. He was shown **the gold plates that had Egyptian engravings** on them. He “**translates them into the Book of Mormon**”. The BoM tells of a brass ball (Liahona), which is **used as a compass**. The Book of Mormon tells of brass plates that are said to contain the five books of Moses written on brass plates telling the **story of the creation, flood and migration from the Tower of Babel**. Smith’s treasure also consists of **gold plates, Urim and Thummin, the High Priest’s breastplate, tetragrammaton** (the name of God). Joseph Smith claimed that the **plates lightened the cavern** where they were first held and then moved to **the Hill Cumorah**. Joseph Smith had said that plates were in an **iron box, but later he said that it was a stone box with iron ring**. Joseph Smith, like Enoch, didn’t succeed of getting the plates until his **third try**. Then he arranges **three witnesses for the gold plates** (Martin Harris, Oliver Cowdery and David Whitmer). Joseph (in the BoM) tells that **descendants of Israelites** are the ones who made this record/treasure. Later Joseph Smith added [in the Pearl of Great Price to the Book of Moses] Chapters 6-8, telling additional stories of Enoch, making Enoch to be even more like him, Joseph Smith. Thus you can see that the **Masonic Legend of Enoch and Joseph Smith’s own story, as relating to the Book of Mormon, are very similar**. Let me know if this is enough as evidence you were looking for.

You also asked about Mohammed and Joseph Smith.

Let me tell you a story: “**Many years ago there was an unlearned man who spent much of his spare time in prayer and reflection. While alone one night, an angel of light appeared and told him he has been called of God to be a prophet and restore true word of God to earth since the truth had been lost for some time. In the subsequent years this new prophet received many revelations. Scribes wrote down what he had to say and a lengthy book was published. It was proclaimed to be the inerrant word of God. The prophet and his followers received much persecution, but eventually prevailed and grew into a large and powerful religion.**”

Does that sound familiar to you? Does that sound like the story of Joseph Smith? I’d say it does, but **this is not the story of Joseph Smith**. This is the story of Mohammed! Mohammed was totally illiterate. He could not read nor write. **An angel of light** appeared to him and told him that **he was chosen by God to be a prophet**. This took place around 610 A.D. Mohammed produced a book that in English is called *The Koran*, and religion he started is *Islam*. Today Islam has about 1.6 BILLION followers – i.e. about a 5th of the world’s population. Muslims (members of religion of Islam) **claim to have a testimony, received by the spirit, that Mohammed is the prophet of God, and Allah is that God**, and also that **the Koran is the word of Allah and that Islam is the only true religion on the earth**. Islam teaches polygamy – but limits the number of wives to four. [Joseph Smith, founder of Mormonism, likewise believes in polygamy, but does not limit the number of wives.] Joseph Smith once said, “**I will be to this generation a second Mohammed.**” (History of the Church, vol. 3, p. 167.)

Muslims like Mormons say that they believe the Bible, *but also with reservation “not correctly copied”,* and only as *an additional book to the Koran.* However, Islam teaches that their God, **Allah,** *does not have a son,* and that *Jesus, they call Isa, is Allah’s prophet* who was taken to heaven *without tasting death,* and that *he will come again to establish Allah’s kingdom on earth.* Notice that in the story Mohammed claimed to have received visitations from “*an angel of light*”, as did Joseph Smith, who had named this *angel of light* first as *Nephi,* but later changed his name to *Moroni.* (“*Joseph Smith received visitations from Moroni, an angel of light...*” *Explanatory Introduction to Doctrine and Covenants,* prior to 1981 publication.) If you desire more information on this, please let me know and I can add to this in our next newsletter.

Question about Godhead asked by a Mormon: “*Mormon Doctrine, p. 319, under Godhead teaches, “There are three glorified, exalted, and perfected personages that comprise the Godhead or supreme presidency of the universe. They are: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost... Each occupies space and is and can be but one place at one time...” Joseph Smith saw both the Father and the Son as two physical men. D&C 130:3, 22-13 confirm this and says “The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s; the Son also, but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit. A man may receive the Holy Ghost, and it may descend upon him and not tarry with him...the idea that the Father and the Son dwell in man’s heart is an old sectarian notion, and is false.” You say that you believe in Trinity –that is, one God who is Spirit. The LDS teaching and Protestant Christian teaching about God are totally different. Which one is true?”*

Reply: Jesus said, “*No one has seen God at any time...God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth... Spirit does not have flesh and bones...*” (John 1:18; 4:24; Luke 24:39.) “*In Him [Jesus] dwells all the fullness of Godhead bodily.*” (Col. 2:9.) [That would be impossible if God the Father was also a physical, exalted man!]

“*There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.*” (Protestant Westminster Catechism.)

Joseph Smith, in his D&C 130:3 said that *God does not dwell in men’s heart* and contradicted his earlier scripture, the Book of Mormon, that says, “*The Lord hath said he dwelleth not in unholy temples, but in the hearts of the righteous doth He dwell...*” (Alma 34:36.)

Take your pick: i.e. the Bible and the teachings of Jesus, or teachings of Joseph Smith.

Jesus is the Truth personified (John 14:6), **His Word is Truth.** (John 17:17.)

We have chosen the Bible and the truth taught by the Lord Jesus. The Word of God was given so that we may know doctrine of God. “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*” (2 Tim. 3:16; 2:15.)

There is nothing as wonderful in this life as having caring friends who pray for our *HIS Ministry* and for the work we do for the Lord’s glory, and who also pray for us personally, and who, without us asking anything, are so close to the Lord that He directs them how to best help us. We have been helped in many ways. We have had just enough to take care of our expenses, both the Ministry’s and our personal expenses. We praise our Lord for that, and we thank you! We thank you, our friends and partners, from the bottom of our hearts. We are indeed blessed!

We both are in good health now, but please do not stop praying for us. ☺

Dennis is working in his carpentry work 5-6 days a week, and he still helps me in answering LDS questions and challenges. We thank the Lord for allowing both of us to work in this ministry. We love to do it and ask the Lord daily to keep us focused on Him and His will, and in love correct those who are in doctrinal error about who He is and who do not yet understand His love, grace and forgiveness.

I received a prayer request from a friend, who like I, does a lot of research and writing that is very tedious and involving. She says that she has had spiritual attacks that she sees as the devil's attempts to interfere and keep her from completing this urgent work she is doing at this time. She didn't want me to say much more about it at this time, not at least until her work is completed. We both are working in the devil's territory and he does not like what we are doing. However, we know that the Lord Jesus has overcome the evil one and we do not need to fear. ***"For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."*** Tim. 1:7.) ***"...because greater is He who is in you that he who is in the world."*** (1 John 4:4.)

We ask you to join us in prayer for Nicole, Max, Merridy, Kathy, Preston, Aira, Judy, Patty, Suzi, Don, Jamie, Marlene, Tom, Mary, Dave, David, Al, Sandy, Cynthia, Scott, Andrea, Hunter, Zak, Heber, Chris, Helen and Dan and Kristine and many other LDS people we are trying to inform about our Lord's love, grace and care. We know that He hears our prayers and that He knows what each of these individuals need, be it for health, or emotional or spiritual needs and salvation.

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him." (1 John 5:14-15.)

We pray for *His soon coming* when He brings peace to Jerusalem and to the whole world. We look for that every day and are trusting that our waiting is soon over. ***Maranatha!*** (Rev. 22:20-21.)

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus ... Amen." (Eph. 3:20-21.)

Serving Jesus with joy,

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Thought for the month: ***"He that has the truth on his side is a fool as well as coward if he is afraid to own it because of other men's opinion."*** (DeFoe)

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