



September 1, 2017

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

H.I.S. Ministries September 2017 Newsletter, covering August, 2017

Summer is almost over, and this time I am glad. It has been too hot for me (26 days in July 100 F or over), and August has been very hot too. **Now we wish to you all a Happy and cool fall season.** Fall is actually my favorite season of the year. Colorful forests and hills are already beginning to show God's display of beauty beyond imagination. How great is that!!

We are very happy to be in the ministry to Mormons. We are often accused of being "anti-Mormon"! That is what we absolutely are not! The only reason we are in this work and willing to stand firm, regardless of anger and false accusations thrown against us, is our love for the Lord Jesus who saved us from a false gospel, and our love and concern for Mormons, as we once were. We are motivated by the very fact that no Christian ever witnessed to us when we were devout Mormons! Somebody has to speak up! We are for and not against any Mormon, but we are against Mormonism, its lies and attacks against the God of the Bible, biblical gospel, biblical Jesus and salvation by God's grace alone.

Our hope is that through our newsletters we can multiply our witness by giving you information on what Mormons have been taught about these, the most important matters leading to eternal life, also knowing that if they are left alone and remain in those beliefs till death, they will end up in eternal destruction. (Isa. 9:16.) We all, as believers in the Lord Jesus of the Bible, are the "watchmen on the wall" (Ezekiel 33:1-9), because we can now see the danger ahead of them that they do not see. Just as God held Ezekiel responsible for Israel, and commanded him to warn Israel, God will hold us responsible to warn Mormons. God said to Ezekiel that if he warns the people faithfully, but they do not hear, then they will be responsible of their own destruction, but if he fails to warn the people, and they perish, God will require their blood at the watchman's hand. Because we know the danger that the believers in a false gospel and *another Jesus* are in, it is our job is to warn them. We have been warned – we must pass the warning on. If they do not pay attention to our warning, but willingly remain there, we have "delivered our souls" by warning - in obedience to God and His truth. We warn because we care about them, but also to be without blame before the Lord regarding them.

We were very pleased to receive a request from the **Founder and Executive Director of Compass International, Bill Perkins**, to publish from our August 2017 Newsletter what we wrote about "**Mormon Missionaries at your door**", and add it to their website (www.Compass.org) in the "articles" -section. Of course we gladly agreed and we thanked him very much for his request. [See it on: <http://compass.org/products/Article%3A-When-Mormons-Knock.html>]

On the very day that Bill Perkins had posted our article on **Compass' site**, we received a phone call concerning it from a Christian lady in Nevada. She was very happy to read our information, but she said that reading it lead her to have more questions about Mormonism. *What is the difference between today's Mormonism vs. early Mormonism? What do they teach about God and salvation? What scriptures do they use? Many have said to me that Mormonism has changed from the times of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young? If so, how?* (We have received many similar questions from others on these issues, **thus we decided to combine our answers to them as a continuation to our August letter.**)

Who is the God of the people that are knocking at our doors, has to be the most important question to ask them. If their God is not the God of the Bible and if their Jesus is not Jesus of the Bible, and if their gospel is not the gospel taught in the Bible, then we should not continue with them other than correct them by the Word of God. Thus

examining who is the God of Mormonism, and how Joseph Smith “discovered Him”, are the most important questions to find answers to before getting involved in investigating Mormonism any further.

In our August newsletter we wrote that the Mormon Church declares that “Joseph Smith’s First Vision Story” is the validating and foundational event, proving Joseph Smith’s prophetic calling. Joseph Smith said that it was in 1820 when God the Father and Jesus Christ, as two physical beings, appeared to him and thus he learned that God is a man. Because of Joseph Smith’s vision the Mormon Church says that it knows more about God than any other religion in the world. These two physical gods also told Joseph Smith that all other sects (churches) were “wrong... and that their creeds were an abomination in his sight and that those professors were all corrupt...” (Joseph Smith History, 1:18-19.) The Mormon Church proclaims that this story is what qualifies the LDS Church to testify to the world that the Christian doctrine of a Trinity is false.

However, unknown to most of today’s Mormons, the “First Vision Story” was not even known to Mormons when the Mormon Church began in 1830 - and not until this story was first time published in 1842, but even after that, it was not believed nor accepted by the Church until in the 1880’s. Brigham Young and some other early Mormon leaders even denied that God and Jesus had come to Joseph Smith at all! Instead, they taught that it is the Book of Mormon that is the foundational and validating truth about Joseph Smith’s prophetic calling (i.e. not the First Vision).

Apostle Orson Pratt, in his book “Divine Authenticity of the Book of Mormon”, pp. 1-2, said, “This book (the BoM) must be either true or false. If true, it is one of the most important messages ever sent from God... If false, it is one of the most cunning, wicked, bold, deep-laid impositions ever palmed upon the world, calculated to deceive and ruin millions...the message in the Book of Mormon is such that, if true, no one can possibly be saved and reject it; if false, no one can possibly be saved and receive it...” But now they say that it is the First Vision that validates the Mormon Church. This change was adapted fairly recently because the Book of Mormon has been more or less proven to be fraud by a lack of any archeological evidence, and DNA testing additionally proving that American Indians that this book claims are Hebrews, are not, but are Mongolians from Siberia. That made them turn to the First Vision Story for validation of truthfulness of the Mormon Church, for the First Vision cannot be tested – there were no witnesses!

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To answer these questions asked of us, I would like to give you a timeline of teachings and changes; when and why. [April 6th of 1830 the Mormon Church was organized by the name “The Church of Christ”.]

1830 - Book of Mormon was also published. It teaches of one God, who appears in it as the Father or the Son (modalism).

1830-1831 –Joseph Smith had “visions of Moses” who “gave him corrected information” to the parts of the Book of Genesis. It is called The Book of Moses, and it too teaches the existence of one God. (The Book of Moses, by Joseph Smith, was later included in the Pearl of Great Price.)

1833 – Book of Commandments for The Church of Christ (then name of the church) was published. It included 65 revelations from God to Joseph Smith.

1835 –The Doctrine and Covenants (D&C) was published. It contained 102 “Sections” or revelations; 65 of them were rewritten and revised from the Book of Commandments. Lectures of Faith (seven lectures) was included and titled as “Theology, on the Doctrine of The Church of the Latter Day Saints, Section I”. (At that time the name of the church was changed from The Church of Christ to the Church of the Latter Day Saints.) “Part Second - Covenants and Commandments of The Church of the Latter Day Saints”. The Fifth Lecture in Theology of the Church, Section I, teaches that there are two personages in the Godhead, saying, “They are the Father and the Son: The Father being a personage of spirit...The Son... a personage of tabernacle, made, or fashioned like unto man, or being in the form and likeness of man...” (Note: These 7 Lectures were Section I of the D&C from 1835 till 1921. They were removed some years after Section 130 was added to the D&C to eliminate the contradiction between Lecture 5 and D&C 130:22 that 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...”)

1838 – The name of the Church was again changed, this time combining the two previous names. The new name is: ***“The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.”***

1842 – Joseph Smith’s *First Vision* was published, revealing the very first time that he had seen two physical Gods back in 1820. After that *The Book of Abraham*, that teaches of many gods (chapters 4-5), was published (and later added to the *Pearl of Great Price* along with the *Book of Moses*.) The heading to the *Book of Abraham* declares that it is, ***“A translation of some ancient Records...The writings of Abraham while he was in Egypt, called the Book of Abraham, written by his own hand, upon papyrus.”***

Note: [In March of 2013 the LDS Church announced that there are going to be changes made to their scriptures and that they will be made available on the Internet, and the new “Quad” (=4 separate scriptures in one volume: The Bible, The Book of Mormon, The Doctrine and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price) reflecting these changes will be published in August of 2013. This above quoted heading for the *Book of Abraham* will be referred to in the new changes. *Introductory Notes* in the Quad is saying that rather than it being “a translation” of *Egyptian papyri*, it is now called an “*inspired translation*”, i.e. *a revelation Joseph Smith received of Abraham’s writings*. [It has been shown that *the Book of Abraham is not a translation of the Egyptian papyrus, but just a creation of Joseph Smith.*]

1842, about 6 weeks after Joseph Smith had become a Master Mason, he inducted a select group of Mormons into a similar ceremony he had learned from the Masons, claiming to have received it as a *revelation from God*. (Note: The Masonic ceremony was/is for men only, but Joseph Smith included women in his temple ceremony and rituals.)

The Mormon temple ceremony refutes the biblical teaching of one God creating the heavens and the earth by His Word from nothing, instead, the Mormon temple ceremony introduces three gods, *Elohim, Jehovah and Michael*. Elohim commands Jehovah and Michael to “*go down and organize the world*” from *existing eternal matter*. After they have “*organized*” (not created) the world, Michael (*the Archangel*) is made into Adam. (There is no Holy Ghost in the Mormon temple ceremony.)

[This teaching that Michael the Archangel is one of the gods who organized the world we live in, and was made into Adam, seems to be where Brigham Young developed his *Adam-god doctrine* that he claimed Joseph Smith had taught to him. Today the LDS Church denies teaching that Adam is god (the Father), but still teaches the same in the temple ceremony, and also in the D&C 27:11 and 116, saying that *Michael is Adam, the Ancient of Days* (adding there, in the D&C, a reference to Daniel 7:9, 22, that speaks of God). The Bible clearly teaches that the *Ancient of Days is God*. (Rev. 1:6,8,14;20:4; Ps. 90:2.) Since the LDS Church continues teaching that *Adam is the Ancient of Days*, in actuality, they continue teaching that Adam is God.]

1844 – Seventh of April of 1844 Joseph Smith started to teach publically that God was once a mortal man, who lived on another planet, similar to this earth, and that *he was just as we are now*, saying, “*you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves...the same as all Gods have done before you.*” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 345-346.) Note: A so-called Mormon “*couplet*”, “*As man is, God once was, as God is, men may become*”, was developed from this teaching. Joseph Smith taught that all men are “*Gods in embryo*”, born first in the pre-existence to God and his many wives, Jesus being the eldest, and Lucifer/Satan one of the next ones, and all mankind and angels after them in the order of their pre-existent spiritual birth. The Mormon Church promises that all who are married in a Mormon temple, will likewise become gods and goddesses, and after they have *progressed into godhood*, they will organize their own worlds and populate them with their spirit children who will worship them as their heavenly father and mother(s). (Exaltation - Gospel Principles.)

I will add here a few quotes verifying their teachings by using their prophets’ own words:

“The Father of Jesus is our Father also...Jesus, however, is the firstborn among all sons of God – the first begotten in the spirit and the only begotten in the flesh. He is our older brother, and we, like Him, are in similitude of the universal Father and Mother and are literally the sons and daughters of Deity... God Himself is an exalted man, perfected, enthroned, and supreme. Man is the child of God, formed in the divine image and endowed with divine attributes, and

even as the infant son of an earthly father and mother is capable in due time of becoming a man, so the undeveloped offspring of celestial parentage is capable, by experience through ages and eons, of evolving into a God." (Ensign, February 2002.)

"God the Eternal Father, our Father in Heaven, is an exalted, perfected, and glorified Personage having a tangible body of flesh and bones. (D&C 130:22) The designation Father is to be taken literally: it signifies that the Supreme Being is the literal Parent or Father of the spirits of all men... All men, Christ included, were born as his children in pre-existence (D&C 93:21-23; Moses 1; 2; 3; 4; Abr. 3:22-28.) [Mormon Doctrine, page 278 (1966 ed.), under Father in Heaven.]

"Three glorified, exalted, and perfected personages comprise the Godhead or supreme presidency of the universe. (Doctrines of Salvation, vol. 1, pp. 1-55.) They are: God the Father; God the Son; God the Holy Ghost... Each occupies space and is and can be in but one place at one time..." [Mormon Doctrine, page 319, under Godhead.]

"1. All men in pre-existence were spirit children of God our Father, an exalted, glorified and perfected Man. 'The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's.' (D&C 130:22); the offspring born to him in that primeval sphere had bodies of spirit element. 'I was in the beginning with the Father, and am the Firstborn', Christ says of himself: and of all men, his spirit brethren, he says, 'ye were also in the beginning with the Father.' (D&C 93:21-23.) 2. In a future eternity, spirit children will be born to exalted, perfected, glorified couples for whom the family unit continues. The very glory of exalted beings is to have 'a fullness and continuation of the seeds forever and ever.' (D&C 132:19-15, 29-32; 131:1-4.)" [Mormon Doctrine, page 751, under Spirit Children.]

"Three separate personages – Father, Son, and Holy Ghost – comprise the Godhead. As each of these persons is a God, it is evident, from that standpoint alone, that a plurality of Gods exists. To us, speaking in the proper finite sense, these three are the only Gods we worship. But in addition there is an infinite number of holy personages, drawn from worlds without number, who have passed on to exaltation and are thus gods... Indeed, this doctrine of plurality of Gods is so comprehensive and glorious that it reaches out and embraces every exalted personage." [Mormon Doctrine, page 576, under Plurality of Gods.]

About "the Only Begotten Son of God", the LDS church teaches, "These name-titles all signify that our Lord is the only Son of the Father in the flesh. Each word is to be understood literally. Only means only; begotten means begotten; and Son means son. Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by their mortal fathers." [Mormon Doctrine, pp. 546-547.]

"The Holy Ghost...He is a Personage of Spirit...He can only be in one place at one time, and he does not and cannot transform himself into any other form or image that of the Man whom he is..." [Mormon Doctrine, p. 359.]

"...the Holy Ghost is a man; he is one of the sons of our Father and our God." [LDS Apostle Heber C. Kimball, Journal of Discourses, vol. 5, p. 179.] (Thus the Holy Ghost is a spirit-brother of Jesus, Lucifer, angels, and all mankind.)

[Gospel Through Ages, the Melchizedek Priesthood Manual of the LDS Church, on the title page says, "Written and published under the direction of the General Priesthood Committee of the Council of the Twelve of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints". It teaches that Jesus and Lucifer are brothers who both wanted to become Saviors of the world.] "...Heavenly Father proposed as the center of the plan of salvation that one of His sons be appointed to be the Savior of the world...The appointment of Jesus to be the Savior of the world was contested by one of the other sons of God. He was called Lucifer, son of the morning. Haughty, ambitious, and covetous of power and glory, this spirit-brother of Jesus desperately tried to become the Savior of mankind." [Gospel Through Ages, pp 14-15.]

"The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints proclaims that Jesus Christ is the Son of God in the most literal sense. The body in which He performed His mission in the flesh was sired by that same Holy Being we worship as God, our

Eternal Father. Jesus was not the son of Joseph, nor was He begotten by the Holy Ghost. He is the Son of the Eternal Father. [Come Unto Christ, by President of the LDS Church, Ezra Taft Benson, p. 4.]

“It is true that many of the Christian churches worship a different Jesus Christ that is worshipped by the Mormons... The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints worships God and Jesus Christ with bodies, with parts and with passions... These two concepts are... completely different.” [Bernard P. Brockbank, April 1977 General Conference. Recorded in Ensign, May 1977, pp. 26-27.]

“In bearing testimony of Jesus Christ, President [Gordon B.] Hinckley spoke of those outside of the Church who say that Latter-day Saints ‘do not believe in the traditional Christ. NO, I DON’T. The traditional Christ of whom they speak is not the Christ of whom I speak. For the Christ of whom I speak was revealed in this Dispensation of Fullness of Times. He, together with His Father, appeared to the boy Joseph Smith in the year 1820, and when Joseph left the grove that day, he knew more of the nature of God than all the learned ministers of the gospel of the ages.’” [President Gordon B. Hinckley spoke this in Paris, France and in Frankfurt, Germany and also in Geneva Switzerland, as reported in the LDS Church News, June 20, 1998, p. 7.]

“The grand reason why the Gentiles and philosophers of his school persecuted Jesus Christ was because he had so many wives: there were Elizabeth, and Mary, and host of others that followed him... we might almost think that they were Mormons.” [LDS apostle Jerediah M. Grant, Journal of Discourses, vol. 1, p. 345-346.]

“...Jesus was the bridegroom at the marriage at Cana of Galilee... before the Savior died, he looked upon his own natural children, as we look upon ours; he saw his seed, and immediately afterwards he was cut off from the earth...” [LDS Apostle, Orson Hyde, Journal of Discourses, vol. 2, p. 82.]

[Note: Some emphasis has been added to these above quotes that are taken from Mormon Doctrine (Encyclopedic volume of doctrines taught by the LDS Church), Gospel Through Ages (Melchizedek Priesthood Manual of the LDS Church), Come Unto Christ (Book by LDS Prophet, Ezra Taft Benson), Ensign (LDS Church’s monthly magazine), The Church News (weekly LDS paper) and Journal of Discourses, (26-volumes of recorded General Conference talks of the High Leaders of the LDS Church.)

Our ministry’s main focus has been and is to inform Mormons by lovingly showing them who the God of the Bible is, who Jesus of the Bible is and what does the Bible teach about how we can be saved. **“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.) God has given us the way to Him through Jesus, who is **God with us.** (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14; 8:23-24.) Paul in 2 Corinthians warns us and reminding us how Satan begun his work of deception by fooling Eve to believe him instead of God. Nothing has changed in Satan’s desire to deceive. He always finds ways to attack the truth by placing a doubt on God’s Word, the Bible—... **“Yeah, hath God said...”** (Gen. 3:1) and he then gives his own plans instead. He is still after mankind with his deceptions. He presents counterfeit gospels, counterfeit Jesus’, and uses his demonic spirits to testify to those who do not put him to test. He gives to the gullible **“another gospel, another Jesus and another spirit”** (2 Cor. 11:3-4). Paul reveals that it indeed is Satan who brings these falsehoods and presents **“false apostles as apostles of Christ”** (13-15). We are commanded to **“test all things”** (1 Thess. 5:21) and do it by comparing all new teachings to God’s proven Word, the Bible, and not believe anything that does not agree with what God has said! (1 John 4:1; 1 Tim.4:1.) What the true gospel is we can read from 1 Cor. 15:1-4. We see there that **the true gospel is a message that Jesus died for our sins, was buried and resurrected – according to the scriptures - that had predicted what God will do.** Paul warned that **even if an angel** would come and present **another gospel, different from the true gospel, we must not receive it, accept or believing it for it will bring God’s curse to them.** (Gal. 1:8-9.) Joseph Smith said that he received the gospel he is presenting **from an angel (Moroni) who brought him “the Book of Mormon containing the fullness of the everlasting gospel”.** (D&C 27:5b) The LDS Church teaches that their gospel is not just a message, but a demand of obedience to the **“laws and ordinances”** established by the Mormon Church. (3rd Article of Faith.) **There are no laws or ordinances in the true gospel!** It is to be received through faith in Jesus’ finished work for us. **“For by grace 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.) When Jesus was asked what we must do to be saved, He said, **“This is the work of God that you believe in Him whom He (God) has sent.”** (John 6:29.) Let us all be “watchmen on the wall” for our Lord.

We are doing quite well health wise. Dennis is still looking for a new cardiologist, but he still has his medication for at least a month more. My thyroid tumor is still under observation and I have been slowly healing from my cancer-surgery that was about 4 weeks ago. We trust and hope that all cancerous cells were removed. There might be some “corrective fixes” that Dr. Swenson still has to do, but Dennis says that my nose is already looking “close to normal”, even though I had 20-30 stiches in my nose ... It is great to have a gifted surgeon when cutting is done to your face...☺ We are sure that it was the Lord who was watching over all this.

We will be spending a few days of camping and resting before we get back to a full schedule at the beginning of this month – Dennis in his carpentry work and I in writing more needed articles for the ministry

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Thank you for your prayers and help you give us, and we again ask the Lord to reward you in the areas in your lives that you need His special touch, be it health, family or finances. We thank the Lord for you and direction He gives to you and to us. We are working hard, making our days count for Him, and at the same time believing that we all as His own will soon be with Him forever! (1 Cor. 15:50-58; 1 Thess. 4:13-18.)

We pray every day for our dear friends who are having illnesses and trials of various kinds, and we ask the Lord to take care of them, comfort them and be with them through it all. We are asking prayer especially for Judy, Max, Merridy, Kathy, Tom, Dave, David, Al and Sandy for their healing. Aira, Marlene, Heber, Scott, Cynthia, Andrea, Zak and Hunter are having various stresses, mostly caused by others. They are in need of the Lord’s comfort and peace in their hearts that these issues will be resolved. We know that the Lord Jesus hears us, and we praise Him for restoring both physical and emotional wellbeing to them. (1 John 5:14-15.)

Suzi, Patty, Max, Karol and Don are missing their spouses who have departed, though they are comforted by knowing that they are well and happy in the Lord’s house where we all are looking forward to someday. (John 14:1-3.)

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We are having a trying time in America. Please pray for revival that will come if we return to God asking that God would bless us with His peace. But for God to bless America, *we all, who are called by His name* and belong to Him, *must humble ourselves, pray and seek His face and turn from our wicked ways. If we, as His people, will do that, He will hear us and forgive our sins and heal our country.* God had given these conditions for His blessing to Israel in 2 Chron. 7:14. God’s Word, all of it, was also written for our learning (Rom. 15:4) and we can apply it to our situations. We need to pray like Daniel prayed, **“...we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments... To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him.” (Read Dan. 9:3-5, 9.)**

We are also commanded to *pray for the Peace of Jerusalem.* (Ps. 122:6.)

May the Lord bless you and keep you, till we meet again.

In His service,

Rauni & Dennis

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