



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

June, 2018

## **H.I.S. Ministries June 2018 Newsletter, covering May 2018**

As I am beginning to write this June letter, it is May 20<sup>th</sup>, the *Day of Pentecost*, the Birthday of the Church of the believers in Christ Jesus we discussed in our last month's letter. Some have asked me to explain what Peter meant when he quoted in Acts 2:15-17 from Joel 2, if he didn't mean that Joel's prophesy was fulfilled on that day and time, then what was this? *"These are not drunk, as you suppose...But this is which was spoken by the prophet Joel. And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh: your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams..."* (Joel 2:28-32.)

Peter points out that the Spirit of God was poured out as spoken by prophet Joel, and that it is going to be similar to what the Holy Spirit will do in the future, during the Tribulation, and in the very *last days* in connection with the Second Coming – (language indicates comparison, not fulfilment). (Acts 2:16-17.) The fact that the rest of the events Peter quotes from Joel 2:30-31 were not fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost. We see it from what Peter said when he continued in Acts 2:19-20. These terrifying events didn't take place at this time – they are yet future. Jesus Himself said (Matt. 24:29) that these will take place during the Great Tribulation time.

As you may recall from Acts 2:1-5, when they (followers of Jesus) were all gathered *"in one accord in one place"*, they were more than likely discussing the Old Testament passages of Pentecost (for example Leviticus 13:15-16), and maybe also talking about *the pleasantness of gathering together in the Lord* as Psalm 133 describes.

The coming of the Spirit is described as a sound that they heard, *a rushing mighty wind*, and what they saw, *divided tongues as of fire* and the *miracle of speaking in tongues* they experienced when they became indwelt by the Holy Spirit. *The Spirit filled them with excitement and enthusiasm* to share with everyone they met the things the Lord had done for them. Up to that time God's Spirit had been with the disciples, but now He indwelt them, never to depart. (John 14:16-17.)

Devout Jews had gathered in Jerusalem from all over *the then-known world* to observe the Feast of Pentecost.(2:5) When they heard what had happened, they gathered at the house where the apostles were. By the time the multitude reached the house, the apostles were speaking in tongues and to their amazement, *they heard these Galileans speaking in a great variety of foreign languages. The miracle was that these people all heard the gospel simultaneously in many languages.* It has been said that *"God gave His law in one language to one nation, but He gave His gospel in all languages to all nations."*

Joel's prophesy (in Joel 2:28-32) was for Israel, not to the church, but the excitement was similar at Pentecost than it will be among the believing Jews at the Second Coming. This happens to us too when we are born again: We cannot help but be excited and enthusiastic *and let all around us know that we have received Him* (John 1:12), and *that we now know who the Lord Jesus really is.* (John 1:1, 14; 8:24.)

*We receive the Holy Spirit when we are born again, but the daily filling of the Spirit* requires our involvement in meditating and studying His Word, also praying and being willing to live in obedience to our Lord. That is why the Lord has given us an exhortation, *"Be filled with the Spirit"* (Eph. 5:18), though we already have the Spirit dwelling in us.

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**News clip:** On May 14<sup>th</sup> 2018, Israel celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> year of rebirth, and regathering of Jews back to their homeland after nearly 2000 years of exile. Jews were always recognized as people of Israel regardless of where they went and lived. This is in fulfillment of God's promise *that Israel is going to exist as long as the sun, moon and stars exist.* (Jer. 31:35-36.) We see that the sun, moon and stars are still up there, and **Israel is back in her own land.**  
**Hallelujah!**

God has said that when they come back from their exile *to their own land they come back according to God's will and for His own name's sake, not because they deserve it.* (Ezekiel 36:19-23.) Some are saying that the church has replaced Old Testament Israel. Not so! **Israel is not the church, and the church is not Israel.** They are separate and different according to God's plan and purposes. God's Word defines that.

**President Donald Trump's bold and courageous action in recognizing Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel and moving the American Embassy there was reminiscent of President Harry Truman's action when he made the United States the first nation to officially recognize the State of Israel, just moments after David Ben-Gurion had read Israel's Declaration of Independence in 1948.** Both presidents, Truman and Trump, faced great opposition from their own country and from the world. **We must not lose sight of the significance of Trump's action. He walked where other US presidents have failed to tread regardless of their promises over 20 years declaring Jerusalem as Israel's Capital.** Israel is the only nation with a God-given right to their land and the only nation that has a historic claim to Jerusalem as its capital. **Jerusalem is where God placed His house, the Temple, to dwell with Israel. It is where He has written His name and where He has promised to set His only begotten Son, the Messiah of Israel, on the throne of David to rule over Israel and the world. God has never given Jerusalem to any other nation or people, including the church.**

**The justification for a divided Jerusalem has no basis in history.** So-called *East Jerusalem* is, in fact, the ancient, historic city that includes the City of David, the Temple Mount, Calvary and the tomb where Jesus was buried for three days and nights until His resurrection. **All of the major Jewish and Christian sacred biblical sites lie within what people are calling East Jerusalem! It all belongs to God and His chosen people, Israel.** (Ex.19:5; 34:37; Deut. 7:6; 1 Chron. 16:17-19 Ps.89:3; 135;4.)

**Trump's action has changed the future peace-negotiations, allowing negotiators to focus on the real issues that has prevented peace – which is Arab refusal to recognize Israel and also UN's and European efforts to deny Israel's historical rights to the land and to the ancient City of Jerusalem.**

**After Truman officially recognized Israel, soon other nations followed suit. Our hope is that more nations will again follow the US lead and also recognize Jerusalem as Israel's eternal capital where our Lord will soon come to rule on David's Throne** as was promised to Mary in Luke 1:31-33. **God bless Israel. God bless USA.**

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Our mailbox has been full. I will just select a couple of short letters with my long answer... ☺

**From our mailbox:** A Mormon missionary wrote: *"Why don't you believe that the Book of Mormon is the word of God like the Bible?"*

**My reply:**

I will be glad to let you know why **I do not believe that the Book of Mormon is true – and that it is NOT God's Word,** at least not from the same God who gave us the Bible.

I didn't come to this conclusion lightly. I had chosen Mormonism and converted into it with my whole heart, **but I did it in ignorance of God's Word, the Bible.** (1 Tim. 1:13.) As the result of many years' of study, research, evaluation and prayer I came to see the truth. This discovery that the BoM is not true, is not just my discovery, but it has been acknowledged even by LDS leaders in high positions, as GA and Historian B. H. Roberts, whose book, *Studies of the Book of Mormon* (written in 1920's, but not published until 1985) tells about his research, saying that the Book of Mormon quotes freely from Ethan Smith's book, *View of the Hebrews* (a religious novel, not true history, published 7 years before the BoM). Roberts acknowledges that the BoM does not fit in what is known about ancient Americas or its residents. **[I'd suggest that you'd obtain B.H. Roberts book, or go to a local library and borrow it from there.]**

I will quote for you from Roberts' book (pp. 240-241). He wrote, *"The material in Ethan Smith's book is of a character and quantity to make a ground plan for the Book of Mormon: It supplies a large amount of material respecting American antiquities – leading to the belief that civilized or semi-civilized nations in ancient times occupied the American continents. It not only suggests, but pleads on every page for Israelite origin of American Indians. It deals with destruction of Jerusalem and scattering of Israel as the Book of Mormon does. It deals with the future gathering*

of Israel, and the restoration of the Ten Tribes, as the Book of Mormon does. It emphasizes and uses much of the material from prophecies of Isaiah, including whole chapters, as the Book of Mormon does... It holds that peopling of the New World was by migrations from the Old, the same as does the Book of Mormon. It takes its migrating people into a country where "man never lived", just as the Book of Mormon takes its Jaredite colony into "that quarter where there never has man been". In both cases the journey was to northward; in both cases they encountered "seas" of "many waters"...The motive in both books was the same – a religious one... Ethan Smith's book supposes that his lost tribes divide into two classes, the one fostering the arts that make for civilization, the other followed the wild hunting and indolent life that ultimately led to barbarism, which is just what happened to the Book of Mormon peoples...wars break out between Ethan Smith's civilized division and his barbarous division. The same occurs between Nephite and Lamanite, division drawn on the same lines of civilized and barbarous in the Book of Mormon. The savage division utterly exterminates the civilized in Ethan Smith's book; the Lamanites, the barbarous division in the Book of Mormon utterly destroys the civilized division – the Nephites. Ethan Smith's book assumes for ancient civilized people a culture of mechanic arts; of written language; of the knowledge of use of iron and other metals; and of navigations. The Book of Mormon does the same... It assumes the Indian tongue to have had one source – the Hebrew; the Book of Mormon makes the same assumption of language of its peoples. Ethan Smith's book describes an instrument among mound finds comprising breast plate with two white buckhorn buttons attached, "in imitation of the precious stones of the Urim" says Ethan Smith. Joseph Smith said that he used such instrument in translating the Book of Mormon, called Urim and Thummim..." and on Roberts goes, showing that ideas are the same, and wording is almost identical in many cases. Biblical quotes in the BoM (for example from Isaiah), are word for word in KJV 1611 English, not 1820's English that Joseph Smith knew, showing that he was just copying from KJV. Joseph Smith included in his BoM even 1611 KJV translators explanatory words (words not in the Hebrew text) that are in italics in KJV. (As an example, compare KJV Isaiah 53 to Mosiah 14 in BoM.)

B.H. Roberts', in his 377-page book, *Studies of the Book of Mormon*, tells that Joseph Smith also copied from other books available to him, written about American Indians. Information he took from them didn't fit to the BoM time period (from 600 B.C. till 421 A.D.). Roberts, at the end of his book, includes 22 pages of Parallels between the BoM and the *View of the Hebrews* as samples of how similar *Joseph Smith's BoM* in many parts is to *Ethan Smith's View of the Hebrews*.

[I am including our lesson on all Mormon Scriptures here, hoping that it will enlighten you a bit on topic of other LDS Scriptures also. You are welcome to print it and study, verifying all that we have written. Please go our website: <http://hismin.com/understanding-mormonism/joseph-smith-and-the-mormon-scriptures>]

[Let me know if it further answered your question about the Book of Mormon and also about other Mormon scriptures, for they all came from the same author, Joseph Smith.]

Many have asked what is the purpose of the BoM if it is not to teach people the truth about God and His church? The obvious purpose of the Book of Mormon is to convert people, who are wondering if it could be true history and form God. Many English speaking investigators assume that the Mormon Church could be a biblical church, because the BoM quotes from the KJV Bible using old 1611 English, just as KJV does. Many people like the idea that they can receive added information from God through the Book of Mormon. The BoM is a major converting tool for the LDS Church.

What is amazing is that even lifelong members of the Mormon Church do not seem to notice that the BoM is not teaching what Mormonism now teaches and believes about the most important doctrines of the LDS Church!

They don't seem to notice that the BoM actually teaches against the most important doctrines of the Church as temple work for the living and the dead (Alma 34:30-35), men becoming Gods and having children in a future kingdom, etc. The BoM does not teach about two priesthoods either. LDS Church teaches that there is no eternal hell, and that the spirit prison is only a temporary "hell", but the real "hell has an end", though the BoM teaches that it is the devil who says there is no hell. (See 2 Nephi 28:21-23.)

Teachings of the Mormon Church may have been closer to what is in the BoM during the first years from its founding, but not after 1844, when Joseph Smith changed his God to be a former mortal man instead of eternal God. He said, "I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I refute that idea... God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man...you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves... same as all Gods have done before you..." (Teachings, pp. 345-346.) (See warning of this in Rom. 1:22-23).

In other words, he taught that **God is not eternal God who is Spirit** as the BoM says (Alma 18:24-28; 11:27-31) and what the Bible also teaches (John 4:24; Isa. 43:10), but that **God is a man like he, Joseph, is.**

**This missionary responded:** *“To be honest I am only concerned with The Book of Mormon. If that book is true, the Pearl of Great Price is true along with the Doctrine and Covenants. I take them all by faith. Faith is a very simple principle. The Bible says it is the evidence of things NOT seen. There is no archeological evidence that goes against the BOM. At the same time there is no archeological evidence that supports it either. As far as View of the Hebrews goes (that Joseph Smith used for his BoM), I read what [fairmormon.org](http://fairmormon.org) had to say about all of that. I am satisfied with the response they gave there. Your essay on Mormon Scriptures doesn’t help me resolve my question. “*

**My end note:** I have responded to this young man several times, giving him facts and detailed information from LDS leaders’ own writings etc., but all answers he gave to me, he obviously just copied from **“[fairmormon.org](http://fairmormon.org)”** and from their pre-packaged responses. **[[Fairmormon.org](http://Fairmormon.org) is a site maintained by [paid Mormon-defenders](#) who do not have a problem with telling lies. They “*lie for their lord*”, as their own saying goes. Their main purpose is to refute all and any information that exposes Mormonism for what it is: A Counterfeit Christian religion.** I have stopped answering this LDS missionary for I have no reason or interest of communicating with *ghost-writers* and reading “Fair’s” *made-up* answers. It would be like “*me vs. Fair*”, rather than communicating with this LDS missionary who asked a question. They remind me of **“FARMS” that was also operated by “paid defenders or Mormonism”**, directed by Daniel Peterson from BYU, who himself wrote to me many times trying to discourage me. All I can say is the he is not a nice man! (FARMS later changed its name, perhaps because it became known that they were not truthful either.) Some years ago one of FARMS’ former employees came to me in person, telling that **he had once been “assigned” by FARMS to keep writing to me as if he was doubting the Mormon Church and searching for truth.** (He didn’t use his real name then, of course.) **He said that he was told to present to me sincerely sounding questions about the Church in hopes that I would keep answering him and not have much time to answer others who were truly searching and questioning the LDS Church.] There is a genuine crookedness evidenced among these Mormons. Very sad!**

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We praise God for our new Christian brothers and sisters in Perth, Australia. [We have given news about them in our newsletters since February.] Zibby first time wrote to us on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, asking questions about the LDS Church, that she has been a lifelong member of, along with her husband Carl and their 3 daughters. Zibby came to know the Lord very soon after that, and together with her husband, Carl, they have been helping their close LDS friends, **who have now also left the Mormon Church!** They are having weekly Bible-studies together and attending a Bible-teaching church there. Their pastor is willing to help them in their weekly studies. Last night we received a long email from Zibby that brought tears of joy to our eyes and praises to Jesus for her faithfulness to Him and for her love for these friends they have been able to bring along to freedom in Christ. These other couples and their children are not quite as far along spiritually as Zibby, Carl and Elmien, but they are getting there. We are asking that you’d keep them in your prayers.

We continue to counsel many Mormons here, some are further along than others, but it is our joy to see them grow in their faith and courage.

We are concerned about our LDS relatives and friends for their lack of concern for their eternal life. “Tomorrow” is not promised to anyone and that makes us concerned for them. Eternity is a long time for misery if they refuse to seek and gain a relationship with Jesus Christ of the Bible before they die. We pray for them all, every day!

We are asking that the Lord will help Cheryl, Suzanne, MaryAnn, Aira, Heber and Don in their various trials and give them His peace to carry on.

Not being part of local major Utah religion gives its own difficulties, especially to those who *used to be Mormons*. Judy is having her knee fixed surgically this week. It was damaged by her therapist, who had put too much pressure on it. Judy has been in therapy for 2-3 years after her stroke and it is getting very hard for her. She has a new home now and is otherwise happy there. We need to pray for her daily.

Max has been moved to his permanent new care place in Vernal, and he is glad to be there, but needs our prayers.

Thank you for praying with us for Kathy's cancer healing. It has all but disappeared – it is going away by prayers and her special diet (no surgery or chemo needed). When she was discovered with breast cancer almost a year ago, Kathy and Preston asked for prayer, and then they went into a serious research for natural healing, and after almost a year in this mostly a vegetarian diet, doctors are amazed at her healing and all the energy that she has. Maybe something for all of us to consider to stay healthy!

We want to thank you who have helped us this month. We are asking that you'd pray with us for the Lord's provision for our needs in the ministry. We are low in our needed supplies, but we trust that the Lord will come through and help us as He always has. We praise Him for everything, just as Paul also rejoiced when he wrote, *"I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at least your care for me (us) has flourished again: though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am to be content: I know how to be abased, and how to abound... I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (us)."* (Phil. 4:10-13.)

Dennis is working hard but these last couple of months we have fallen a bit short. I have had high dental expenses and we do not have a dental insurance, but the Lord knows it all and His Word tells us not to be anxious for anything, but in everything with thanksgiving we are to make our needs known to Him, and He will comfort our hearts and minds and supply our needs. (Phil. 4:6-7, 19.)

We know that help comes to any and all of us when our friends join in prayer for all things. God is able.

We are getting this newsletter ready early so that we can take a few days off to rest – maybe do some camping.

May you all have a wonderful **Memorial Day weekend**, remembering your loved ones who have gone to be with the Lord.

Soon, very soon, He is coming to take us there also, but until He does, we seek to do His will, make His Name known and bring more people to Him.

We send our love and the Lord's blessings to you,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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**Thought for the month:** *"Who are the elect? Elect are the "who-so-evers" in John 3:16.*

*We have to believe in Him first in order to know if we are part of the elect."* (Pastor Adrian Rogers)

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