



***[H.I.S.] He Is Savior, Acts 4:12**

February 1, 2019

HIS Ministries February 2019 Newsletter, covering January 2019

Greetings from cold and snowy Utah. Some Ski Resorts have measured the snow base being over 8 feet deep (101"), and it is still snowing. In just one day, Martin King Jr holiday on Monday, 21st of January, they had nearly 4 feet of new snow up in the Mountains, and at our home we had almost 2 feet. It has been very cold, so no melting has happened. This is a *winter-wonder-land* - still. Utah is the driest state among the 50, thus we are always happy to receive a lot of snow that will turn into water that fills our reservoirs and lakes for summer use. ☺

January turned out to be very busy in our ministry work, even here locally. We have met with several Mormons at our home for long doctrinal discussions, and have had spiritually very beneficial times. When an LDS person comes to talk to us they at first seems to be even afraid to ask questions, at least until we remind them that we were once active and faithful Mormons who, like they now, were seeking answers to troubling questions and doubts.

We had a nice married couple with us just a few days ago. They had already read books dealing with life and history of Joseph Smith, as *Rough Stone Rolling* by Richard Bushman, and were now reading Todd Compton's *In Sacred Loneliness* (about Joseph Smith's 33 polygamous wives – 11 of them married to other men) and they were troubled by them. Interestingly, these books are not among what faithful Mormons would consider "*anti-Mormon*", though we have known a few Mormons who have *left all of Mormonism in disgust* after reading just these 2 books. [Though for us finding Mormonism false came from their own "*sacred scriptures*" (BoM, D&C and PoGP), and other much earlier works than these.]

What makes *transformation from belief in false gods of Mormonism* into the **true Triune God of the Bible** very confusing and even difficult, is that Joseph Smith had, from 1830 till 1844, prepared his followers, little by little, changing doctrines **till they didn't even notice what has been changed**. It is like putting a frog into warm water and raising the temperature slowly to boiling, and killing it. Changing the character of eternal God who is Spirit into a likeness of him, Joseph Smith, allowed Joseph's unrighteous ideas (as polygamy) became to be seen as *righteous acts*. The same method continues to be used in today's Mormonism. New converts and young children are taught to read *the Book of Mormon that teaches that God is Spirit*. Later when they learn that their God is actually a former mortal man, they have already forgotten what they had earlier learned. And when they are married in a temple, they happily accept that they too *can become gods and goddesses* as their "*heavenly father and mothers*" have done.

When Joseph Smith was "inventing" what his religion was to become, he first tested his new ideas with the inner-circle of his most trusted men – and if they accepted, then he spread the same to his larger audience. Early on he had told his closest confidants that God had commanded him have more than one wife. [And later that "*command*" included all Mormon men. See D&C 132:3-4.] And finally (in April 1844) he revealed his new

doctrine of God, saying that ***“God himself was once a man like we are now...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 will refute that idea... eternal life [is] to know the only wise and true God; and you have to 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.)

Paul, in Romans 1, wrote that when men reject the truth of the *divine nature of God that has been revealed to them even in creation* and in scriptures, their rejection will bring *the wrath of God* to them (1:18-20) and that leads them into humanizing God to be just like they are. This is exactly what Joseph Smith did and eventually taught to his followers. Paul wrote, ***“Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man...”*** (Rom. 1:22-23.)

There indeed is nothing new under the sun. ***A desire to be like God was the Devil’s own desire and that is what he passed on to mankind*** . He had sworn to be ***“like the most High [God]”***. (Isa. 14:12-14.)

After God had created Adam and Eve, Satan came to entice Eve to disobey God, suggesting to her that if she ***disobeys God, and does what he says, they will become like God is – knowing good and evil.*** (Gen.3: 1-5.)

Paul wrote a warning to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 11:3-4) about the *Devil’s deceptiveness and how he will try to change what God has said about the gospel, Jesus and salvation*, and instead bring his own *twisted teachings* about Jesus and the gospel to them. He wrote, ***“...as the serpent beguiled Eve through his craftiness so that your minds be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”*** Paul continued, ***“For if he that comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted...[those who bring these] such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”*** (2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15.) Paul wrote

also to Galatians about a danger of changing the gospel, warning that *even if an angel* brings to them something different than what they (the apostles) had taught, ***it will bring God’s curse.*** (Gal. 1:6-9.) [Note: Wasn’t it *an angel of light* [Moroni?] that brought a “different gospel” to Joseph Smith!?] We must learn first what the true Gospel is and then we will be able to see what is different and not accept it.

What the biblical Gospel is, is declared (confirmed) in 1 Cor. 15:1-4. Paul informed all what the Gospel that brings salvation is. He wrote: ***“I declare to you the Gospel which I preached unto you, which you also received and wherein you stand, by which also you are saved...For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: 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.”*** Do you believe that gospel? ***It is the gospel that saves!***

From our mailbox: A Mormon argument as an answer to my reply in last month’s (January) Newsletter:

“Trinity is unbiblical and unreasonable doctrine even as Joseph Smith has said that ‘he would be wonderfully big God, he would be a giant or a monster...’ God of Mormonism makes sense and is understandable to me – Trinity is a foolish doctrine”.

My reply : We as mere humans can never completely understand God, but we can believe what the Bible, God’s Holy Word, says about who He is: That there is only one true God is told throughout His Word – (see as examples Deut. 6:4, Isa. 43:10, 6, 8; John 17:3.) In the Bible the Father is called God, the Son is called God and the Holy Spirit is called God. Masculine concept is used when speaking of God. God is called “He”, but the Word confirms that ***God is not a man.*** (See Numbers 23:19; Hosea 11:9; Isa. 31:3-4; Job 9:32, etc.) ***God is Spirit and Spirit does not have flesh and bones.*** (See John 4:24; Luke 24:39.) Each Person in the Godhead has attributes of personality – which are mind, will and emotions as wells as intellect, sensibility and will. - In the fullness of the one God, there are three Persons who are co-equal and co-eternal. These three Persons have always existed – from eternity past to eternity future - and there never was a time when God did not

exist. All three Persons in the Godhead have the same attributes such as omniscience, omnipresence and omnipotence. All three members of the Godhead are called God.

To say it simply: God of the Bible is a Triune God – Trinity!

Let me try again to explain the best I can what the Bible teaches about Trinity.

Within the unity of One God there are three Persons – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three share the same nature and attributes. In effect these three Persons are the One True God.

The Hebrew word for God is *Elohyim*. It is a plural word, translated in English simply as “God”.

A singular word for God is *El* or *Eloah*, at times used when specifically spoken of one of the members of Godhead. [A word *Elohyim* is plural word. -im ending on a Hebrew word indicates plural – just as *Cherub* is one angel, *Cherubim* is more than one]. *Elohyim* indicates that **God is more than one, i.e. He is three eternal Persons who comprise the Godhead.** (Rom. 1:20.) In Hebrew, which is the Old Testament language, *Elohyim* is clearly meant to be understood to be One God, for the verb is always in singular when *Elohyim*, the true God, is spoken of, but when the same Hebrew word with lower case “e” (*elohyim*) is used, it is referring to false gods or judges, as in Exodus 21:6 and Ps. 82, then in those cases the verb is also in plural. Using a singular verb with a plural word would be grammatically as wrong in Hebrew as it is in English: it would be like saying “*we is*” instead of “*we are*”- but there is an exception when speaking of *Elohyim*, the one true God. As is already indicated, the Hebrew word, *Elohyim*, indicates plurality of Persons in One God.

The Bible teaches, from beginning to end, that there is but **One True God**. Jews repeat daily their “*shema*”, which, in a way, is their “creed” or confession, expressing their belief and faith in One God. They confess: “Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God is one LORD.” (Deut. 6:4.) If we translated it back to Hebrew, it would say: “Hear, O Israel, YHVH, our Elohyim, is ONE YHVH.” Jesus repeated this in Mark 12:29, saying that it is the first of all commandments to believe in One God, “Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord.”

In our English Old Testament the word LORD is in all capital letters, in Hebrew text it reads YHVH (Jehovah in English) which is the name of God as God gave it to Israel in Exodus 6:3, saying, “And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, BUT BY MY NAME JE-HO-VAH (YHVH) WAS I NOT KNOWN TO THEM.” Note the words I and My Name (not two names as Joseph Smith taught – *Elohim* and *Jehovah*). One God has one name. *Elohyim* is not the name of God – it is an expression of who God is - Three Persons, but One God. The same is repeated throughout the Old Testament. It is also expressed in the New Testament. GOD IS ONE. There is only One God – even demons believe that and tremble (James 2:19), but the Mormon Church has chosen to believe Joseph Smith’s lies of multiple, progressive Gods instead of One True God of the Bible. Note what Apostle John wrote: “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word (Jesus) and the Holy Ghost: AND THESE THREE ARE ONE.” (1 John 5:7, KJV and NKJV.) Jesus is “the image of the INVISIBLE GOD” (Col. 1:15), for “God is Spirit”. (John 4:24.) “Spirit does not have flesh and bones”. (Luke 24:39.) John also wrote: “NO MAN HAS SEEN GOD AT ANY TIME.” (John 1:18; 1 John 4:12.) Jesus is the visible image or expression of the Triune God, “For in Him (Jesus) dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” (Col. 2:9.)

“I AM Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.” (Rev. 1:8.) Here Jesus declared to be the Almighty God (Exodus 6:3), one of the Triune God. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16.) God (=entire Godhead) sent the Second Person of the Trinity, to save mankind, because God loves us so much. “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12.) “I, even I, am the Lord; and beside Me there is no Savior.” (Isaiah 43:11.)

Let me know if this helps you all to see who God of the Bible is – and is not!

Our “Aussie-friends” are doing well after their exodus from Mormonism and the notes they send to us relating to their growth in the Lord warm our hearts. It was just one year ago (in 1/15/18) when Zibby first time contacted us, and we have had continued a joyous connection with her and others that have joined her and her husband as they have shared and brought many out of Mormonism into the Light of Jesus of the Bible and be saved. We ask that you’d continue to pray for them, and that their Mormon families will also accept the truth and be born again. We thank you for your prayers for our work and for the people who contact us even from other countries and eventually *come out from among them that have deceived them*.

There are still many who need prayer for their health and other trials they have. We are just naming them, for the Lord knows each individual and He responds to their needs accordingly. Please ask the Lord to bless Tom, Mary, Dave, Scott, Judy, Sharon, Dale, Sandy, Al, Max, Kathy, Merridy, Aira, Heber and Dwayne. Our friend Harriet, who lives in Eden, NC has asked Christian books for her to read to unbelievers who are not yet interested in the Bible. (She lives in a Blind Center, though she herself is not blind.) We have already sent to her some of Mark Cahill’s very inspiring books, and we hope she will be able help them to find the Lord and a relationship with the Lord through her reading to them.

We ask again also prayer for our friends to whom we have, over the many years, witnesses to, but who are still active in the Mormon church. Dennis is going to Idaho soon to see his old friend who he grew up with, and who was a witness to our temple-marriage over 50 years ago. Dennis has talked to him many times and given books and information that he has not shown any interest in. His wife has had a stroke and is not doing well, and she has asked to see Dennis. We ask you to pray with us that both of their hearts will be open to God’s message.

We also ask you to pray for many Mormons we are communicating with at this time here locally. It seems that God is opening their eyes and that their lives are already beginning to change some.

We have ordered more NKJV study Bibles. The KJV Bibles that Mormons have in their “Quad” can be even dangerous, for their LDS Bibles have added chapter-headings or summaries that give *the Mormon interpretation* for each chapter before they even start reading it.

Over the years we have given every LDS who shows interest in studying the Word, a nice, letter-bound Bible or a study Bible, and we can see how happy that makes them. An LDS couple just left our home with two Bibles, one larger study Bible and another nice Bible that they can carry with them if and when they start going to a Christian Church.

We are so blessed to see God working in many lives. It is our hearts desire to see lives changed for the Lord Jesus. We thank you for praying for them and for us.

We have sent (1/11/19) tax receipts to those of you who have helped us financially in our work. [If you have not received the receipts, let me know and I will resend them.]

We praise God for your willingness to assist us and supply these seeking people with needed Bibles, other books, MP3s and DVDs etc., and by so doing you are with us helping the lost to find God’s truth and be saved.

We have managed OK and are not “*in the red*” yet, though we are very close to *the bottom of the barrel*, so to speak. Our contributions were about 42% less in 2018 compared to a year before.

Our Ministry contributions have never been high enough for us having to even file annual tax forms with the IRS. All these years we have only needed to send them “*a postcard*”-report that is meant for small ministries that have contributions too small to be under a requirement to file. ☺ That is good part of low donations! ☺ Of course we pay income taxes for Dennis’ work. He has been working hard in building cabinets, tables, remodeling kitchens, etc. He has been able to take care of not only of our personal monthly

expenses from his work, but even pay part of ministry-expenses. We thank the Lord for our blessings and also ask that you pray for our health and our needs that are not that much anymore...☺ Our vacation expenses for many years have been just what some campgrounds charge for a space to pull our trailer on, and even that is just *half-price* since we are “seniors”. ☺ The Lord watches over us and takes care of us. We are thankful for every day we have and we thank the Lord for sending us lost people we can help to become free from spiritual bondage we also once were in...

When they learn that we were once likewise in the same bondage, it helps them to receive hope that the Lord will make leaving possible for them too. We are not suggesting to them that troubles vanish when they become believers in Christ. Quite the opposite may happen. *Believers in Christ alone for salvation* become “enemies of the world” (James 4:4) and our lives could become even harder. But we can assure all of them that there is nothing that the Lord cannot help us to go through. Hard things have happened to us, but the Lord has seen us through them all. We are sure of one thing: that *our future with the Lord is literally “out of this world wonderful”*, and difficulties we have had, and still have, are not even worth mentioning. We like to say, using Paul’s words (in Romans 8:18) that we too “*consider that sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*”

As we get old(er) we can see better how short life really is and that eternity that is promised to us in Christ will never end! Is that wonderful or what! We already have victory in Jesus – we know where we are going – maybe even soon. Actually we hardly can wait to see our Lord face-to-face. He took all our sins on Himself and paid them all. (Col.2:13-14.) We are free in Him. (John 8:31-32.)

Please read with us this promise He has given to all who believe, “He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself...And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and that life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life: he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things have I written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.” (1 John 5:10-13.)

We pray the Lord’s directions and blessings for you this New Year, 2019!

Let us know how we can better help you in reaching others for Christ.

Keep the Son in your eyes. In His love and care,
Rauni & Dennis

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