



June 1, 2020

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

## HIS Ministries June 2020 Newsletter, covering May 2020

The Day of Pentecost, 50<sup>th</sup> day after the resurrection of our Lord, was the day when the Father sent the Holy Spirit to indwell all believers there. That is when the Church was born. This year that Day is May 31, 2020.

We hope your summer will be good regardless of the rules and regulations that have placed limits to our freedoms and to our lives in general.

By this time at the beginning of summer we usually would have already made some plans for summer camping trips, but this time we have not even uncovered our camp-trailer. Normal life for most people has more or less stopped with this world-wide COVID-19 pandemic. It is very sad and confusing to many who have no knowledge of what God has foretold in His Word and warned us how we can avoid being in **the coming Great Tribulation**. It is not too late yet – just get started studying.

Students of the Bible can see all this as **what they should be expecting**, and thus they are paying attention to these **“signs of the times”**. Even some unbelievers in the Bible have started to talk about **“end times”** and asking **if we think that this is it?** And **it** very well could be – or at least part of the Adversary’s final “preparation” for **the end that the Bible speaks about that brings the One World Government, that brings in the One World Leader, who is going to be the Anti-Christ**.

Paul in his two letters to the Thessalonians gives clear information that will help us see **“what time it is on God’s timetable”**. Paul warns about deceptive information that can fool people. He had heard that Thessalonians had **received a third letter as from him**, even implying that Jesus had already come, but that they had missed it.

Paul refutes that and reminds them of what must take place before that happens. **He says that the coming world leader will be “the man of sin” but says that he will not be revealed until the “Restrainer” (the Holy Spirit) is taken away from the earth**. Before that there will be *whole-sale apostasy*. (2 Thess. 2:2-12.) But as Paul warned Timothy that though there are going to be times when **“some shall depart from the faith giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,”** (1 Tim. 4:1) but not all. Paul warned that we must **test all things** so that would not be led astray. (1 Thess. 5:21.) We all must be awake and test all teachings and doctrines whether they are consistent with what God has said previously. Already in Paul’s and Peter’s time many Christians were looking for the Lord’s return (2 Pet.3:4-5) just as we are today, but the greater portion of the world were then, and are now also, totally indifferent to this hope we have received from the scriptures. Most of those in the world who are working to bring a **change are working to bring in the world system based on evolutionary humanism instead of our Creator God returning to His creation**. They are too busy, **“walking according to their own lusts”**, and mockingly saying to Christians, **“where is the promise of His coming?”** In **1 Thess. 4:13-18** Paul stressed that **he does not want us** (born again believers in Jesus) **to be ignorant** of what will **all of a sudden take place**, without any further warnings. **He informs that we** (believers) **will be “caught up” or “raptured”** (as the Latin translation puts it) **“in the twinkling of an eye.”** (1 Cor. 15:51-52.) **What does that mean?** It means that **before the public Second Coming of the Lord Jesus, “where every eye will see Him” (Rev. 1:7), He first will come “in secret” to “snatch” His own away from the coming danger. He comes “in the clouds”, the same way as He left (Acts 1:11) and we will “meet Him in the air” (v.17). He will take us, His Bride, to safety as He had promised. (John 14:1-3.) This takes place just before the curtain will go up, so to speak, and the 7-year Great Tribulation begins (Matt. 24; 21; 1Thess. 5:9) as already prophesied in the OT (Isa. 26:20-21; Ps. 27:5). Even from the national news, we can see that final scene could be imminent. Everything seems to be falling into place. The Lord has given us plenty of warnings in His Word. Be diligent and find out for yourselves. (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16.) [Don’t delay studying God’s Word and putting your faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of your life. You are not guaranteed a tomorrow to make that call.]**

The last book in the Bible, *The Revelation*, is the only one of 66 books in the Bible that specifically promises a blessing to everyone who hears, reads and studies this Book. Note that it is not “*The Revelation of ST. John the Divine*” as KJV and many other translations say, but it is *the Revelation of Jesus Christ*, as Chapter 1:1 clearly says.

This last book of the Bible is unique in many ways. Even its place in the Canon already says it –IT IS the REVELATION or revealing something not yet fully known, but what will take place “shortly”. The word “*revelation*” in Greek is *apokalupsis* and means *unveiling*. In this unveiling of prophetic visions of the future uses symbols and figures, similar to what we find in the OT books of Daniel, Ezekiel and Zechariah, but not elsewhere in the NT. *The Book of Revelation* reveals future finalization or “*bringing to pass*” all things that have been promised by God through His prophets and recorded in the first 65 books of the Bible, to be fulfilled at the end times. Thus it, in all actuality, requires that we have read and studied all the previous 65 books! If we have, we surely can better understand prophecies and promises of God and His eventual triumph as He brings all to pass concerning *Israel, the Gentile nations, the church, the Antichrist, Satan* (the adversary of God), and *the Thousand Year reign of Christ as the Second Adam, fulfilling what Adam was supposed to do, but could not*.

The Book of Revelation contains three main sections: 1) In Chapter 1 John simply reports what he *saw, heard and beheld*. First words spoken by Jesus to John (v. 8) were, “I Am the Alpha and Omega, Beginning and the End, says the Lord, Who is and Who was, and Who is to come, the Almighty.” John testified to truthfulness of the prophetic word and what he had seen in heavenly visions, revealed to him by Jesus Christ. (1:9-20.)

2) This speaks to all of us, the *church-age* believers - until the Rapture. This section consists of 7 letters that Jesus dictated to be delivered to seven churches in Asia. These letters describe conditions that actually existed in the seven local churches at the time John was writing this down and they also give a view of Christendom on earth at any period of its history, from Pentecost to our day.

Jesus wrote these letters to Ephesus (2:1-7); to Smyrna (2:8-11); to Pergamus (2:12-17); to Thyatira (2:18-29); to Sardis (3:1-6); to Philadelphia (3:7-13); and to Laodicea (3:14-22). At the beginning of each of His letters, He declares, “I know your works...”

[We must keep in mind that Jesus also knows what we are doing at any given time, and why. That erases our excuses about *what and why we supposedly did what we did*. He not only knows what we are doing, but He also knows our motives.]

These letters in Revelation 2 and 3 are very similar to the seven parables reported in Matthew 13 that give a *preview of history of Christendom, each church representing a distinctive period* – the trend of them being *spiritually downward*, up to the time the *Rapture that takes place just before the Great Tribulation begins*.

3) This Section (from Chapter 4 till Chapter 22) begins (4:1) with these words, “After these things...” These words introduce the beginning of *the Great Tribulation*. “For there will be great Tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved...” (Matt. 24:21-22.) All born again believers in Christ will be raptured just before the Tribulation takes place. These 7 years are for unbelieving Israel and the world.

In Revelation, Chapters 1-3, the word “*church*” (which consists of *only born again believers in Jesus*) appears 19 times. After the Tribulation begins, from Chapters 4 through 19, the “*church*” is not mentioned even once, and that is because the Lord has taken *His Bride, which is His church*, away to be with Him during these 7 years. After the Tribulation is over, we will come back with Him (Rev. 19:6-9; 20:4), and “rule and reign with Him for a thousand years.”

From Revelation 20:11-15 we read about the Great White Throne Judgment of Christ where *all dead, small and great are standing before God to be judged according to their works* that were written in the books. “There was another book opened, which is the Book of Life.” Those whose names are written in the *Book of Life*, are the ones who had *received Jesus* (John 1:12-13; 3:7) and God’s forgiveness of all their sins, as John 3:16 had promised.

Those whose names are in this *Book of Life* will not come unto judgment, but will have everlasting life. (Rom. 8:1; John 5:24.) When Jesus died on the Cross, He died for all who come to Him - from Pentecost until the Rapture.

As you can see, *true and living Christianity* believes what the Bible teaches. The Book of Revelation, *Revelation of Jesus Christ*, gives us prophetic information of the Last Days, even though we are not expecting to be present when the 7- year Tribulation is in process. We have, by then, been raptured! We may have a “*balcony-view*” of what is taking place here – or we may not, but anyway we will come back after it is over, and then enter the Millennial Kingdom to serve the Lord there. What a wonderful plan of God we have ahead of us as believers in Jesus Christ, who is Almighty God with us.

If you'd like to get a better understanding of what Jesus is saying to the churches and how His words apply to us now, please go to <https://youtu.be/bhqdxvrMgY4> and when there, click on each church's messages, one by one. They are worth your time, and I promise that you will enjoy what you learn from these letters of Jesus to all believers in Him.

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[In our last month's letter (May 2020) we answered an LDS person's Question # 1 about Rev. 6:1-2, and we promised to answer their two next questions, 2 & 3, in this month's letter. Here they are:

[Question # 2. "Who do you think are the 144,000 in Rev. 7:4-8 and in 14:1-5? [LDS] Apostle Bruce R. McConkie, in his *Doctrinal New Testament Commentary* quotes from D&C 77:11 that says, "... they are high priests, ordained unto the holy order of God..." McConkie continues and explains "...12,000 from each tribe, [are] converted, baptized, endowed, married for eternity, and sealed up unto eternal life, having their calling and election made sure." Do you agree with this interpretation?"

Answer to Question #2: (First read Rev. 7:4-8 and 14:1-5 about the 144 000.) Rev. 7:4-8 tells us clearly who these 144 thousand are! They are unmarried Jewish believers and virgins, not married high priests of the Mormon Church! The LDS Church and its "apostles and prophets" are wrong as always! [Jesus' words about them in Rev. 2:2 clarify that, "they say that they are apostles, but are not, and found them to be liars."]

Let's read first Rev. 7:4-8 and see which tribes are included and which ones are not. The Twelve tribes of Israel, 12,000 from each tribe are listed here, but you'll notice that there are differences when compared to OT records that lists 12 sons of Jacob/Israel. **Most often this list excluded the Tribe of Levi and Joseph, but instead of Joseph, it included Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh.** In this (Rev. 7) list, the Tribe of Joseph was added instead of his son Ephraim, the Tribe of Levi was added in place of Dan. Joseph's other son, Manasseh, was still listed to make it 12 tribes.

When listing 12 tribes in the OT, the tribe of Levi was most often not included, for it was *the priestly tribe*. When listing the tribes, it was often for a particular purpose: if it was selecting men for a war, Levi was not listed for *Levites did not go to war*. If the purpose for listing tribes was land inheritance, Levites were not listed then either, for *their inheritance was the Lord and being in His service*. (Numb. 18:20.) (Those were the two main reasons why the tribes were listed and counted.) After the death and resurrection of Jesus, "*Levitical priesthood was abolished*" (Hebr. 7). Priests were no longer needed (no more blood-sacrifices), and all believers in Jesus had direct access to God. (Matt. 27:51.)

The Tribes of *Ephraim and Dan* are absent for they were spiritually unqualified for they took part in idolatry (Hosea 4:17; 8:11; Gen. 49:17). [This is very interesting in a light of LDS teachings, for to them *Ephraim is the greatest tribe*, and *nearly all Mormons are said* (in their patriarchal blessings) *to be from the tribe of Ephraim!* Dan likewise is an *important hero* to Mormons. In Mormon literature they are taught about a group of *very tough men*, called "*Danites*", who were chosen to be Joseph's and later Brigham's "body guards", also named the "*Destroying angels*", who were protecting first Joseph Smith and after him, Brigham Young, and later also other LDS "*prophets*".]

This list of 144,000 from 12 tribes is one of the most important of "qualifying lists" of tribes, for their calling will be to evangelize the rest of the Israel and other unbelievers during the Tribulation time. Soon after the Rapture (as we can see), these 144,000 Orthodox Jewish young men will become believers in the Messiah of Israel and be saved. They already know and have a zeal for God and His Word, which to them has been the Old Testament only. We think that it is very possible that when they come to *understand the rest of the story* and how their forefathers had rejected Jesus, their Messiah and they heard about the Rapture, it *all clicked* and made sense to them. When they are converted, they will become the most effective evangelists the world has ever seen. God will use them in such a powerful way that millions of people living during the Tribulation world will be converted to Jesus Christ and willingly die rather than line up with the New World Leaders and Anti-Christ's agenda. (Rev. 7:9.) We have read reports a couple of years ago (*Compass International*) from Israel that there already are now, among Ultra-Orthodox Jews in Jerusalem, approximately 150,000 unmarried young men, *virgins literally*, from age 18 to 35, who continually study the Torah, and the rest of the OT, who do not date, but are *determined to remain single for God's purposes they do not even know yet, saying to God, "thou knowest"*, and they continue practicing Orthodox Judaism and legalism to the extreme.

They are the only group of Jewish men who can fulfill this prophecy! Imagine what they will be like after the Rapture when God suddenly opens their eyes to the whole biblical truth, and they come to trust Jesus as their Messiah. That conversion marks them for His service as evangelists. Mind-boggling and amazing indeed! The Seal on their foreheads

brands them as belonging to God and guarantees that they will be preserved alive during the ensuing seven years. Rev. 7:14 tells more about their future, after the Tribulation is over, saying *“These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”* God’s reason for 7-year Tribulation is to bring Israel back to faith in God and in their Messiah, Jesus Christ. Watching Israel and what God is doing in the Middle East, has alerted us that we must be close to what Ezekiel 38 and 39 also prophesied – that means Tribulation is at the door... When we ponder about all this, we are reminded what Luke wrote about times nearing the Coming of The Lord. *“Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”* (Luke 21:25-28.) However, let’s not forget that the Rapture comes first... During the first and even second centuries the truth about Jesus and the Gospel was mainly taught from the Old Testament. Of course, it is all about Jesus. (Luke 24:25-27.) [Amir Tsafarti, a young Jewish man who was in the Israeli Army, is now a powerful born again Israeli evangelist from Galilee. He shares that he, at age 19, came to believe that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah. He learned it all by studying the Old Testament. His website is: BeholdIsrael.com

Question # 3. Who do you think are the two witnesses in Revelation 11:3-12? [I am] Quoting from Apostle McConkie’s New testament Commentary, which says: “...these two shall be followers of that humble man, Joseph Smith, through whom the Lord of heaven restored the fullness of his everlasting gospel in this final dispensation of grace. No doubt they will be members of the Council of Twelve or the First Presidency of the Church.” Do you agree with this explanation, or who do you think they are and where does this take place?

Answer to Question # 3. We absolutely do not agree with Apostle McConkie’s explanation! We can also with absolute surety say that these two witnesses are NOT members of the Council of Twelve or the First Presidency of the Church - or any Mormon, for that matter! Read Rev.11:2-12.

What we can say is that *most of the best Bible scholars agree that these two witnesses* more than likely are going to be Moses and Elijah. That is based on several identifying characteristics of them and their ministries, and how they fit to these *two witnesses*. The miracles performed by Elijah and Moses are the same as what these *two witnesses* are going to do. Elijah brought fire from heaven (1 Kings 18:38; 2 Kings 1:10, 12 (Jer. 5:14) and shut heaven that it did not rain for 3.5 years (1 Kings 17:1; Luke 4:25; Jas.5:17), the same as these two witnesses will do.

Moses turned water into blood ( Ex. 7:19-20) and caused plagues in Egypt. (Ex. 8 through 12.) Both Elijah’s and Moses’ ministries were unfinished and interrupted. (About how and why Moses’ ministry was “interrupted”, see Num. 20:12; Deut. 3:26-28; 34:1-4.) (About Elijah, see 1 Kings 17:1; 19:13-16; 2 Kings 2:11.) Elijah was taken to heaven without tasting physical death. (2 Kings 2:11.) There is some mystery about Moses’ death, for God took him, and no one knows where his body is. (Deut. 34:5-6.) However, what we do know is that for some reason the Devil wanted Moses’ body and even contended and disputed with Michael the Archangel concerning that. (Jude 9) Maybe God preserved Moses’ body for a future reason that only He knows now? (Rev. 11: 2-12.) I am sure that we’ll learn about that later, perhaps while we watch from a heavenly balcony what is going on in Israel during the Tribulation ☺.

This of course takes place in Jerusalem, Israel. Text itself clarifies that this takes place in Jerusalem, Israel, at the beginning of the last 3.5 years of the 7-year Tribulation (Rev. 11:2-12.)

If this was not enough, let me know and I will add more.

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Some of you have perhaps have met our Jewish friends, Arthur and Dorothy Traiger. We have been friends with Arthur and Dorothy for 28 years – since 1992, when they bought a home across the street from us. They were originally from New York, and had been last ten years before coming here, teaching in Tokyo University in Japan. They retired and wanted to live in Utah for they both were avid skiers. We became good friends immediately. We had dinners together often throughout the colder part of a year and every summer we made several camping trips together to many places around Utah and Idaho and had a marvelous time together. We talked about our faith often, but they said that they were *not interested to know about Jesus because they are Jews*. We said. *“So was Jesus...”* We did what we could do. We tried but *wanted to remain friends and left it in God’s hands*. We had given them an Old Testament as a gift, and after a few years went by, Arthur informed Dennis that *since he has seen that Dennis and I take our faith seriously, maybe he should learn more about Judaism and what he is supposed to believe about God*. He started on *line-OT-studies* and was very diligent at it. We had Passover Seder meals with them *many years in a row*, and with their families when they came to visit. About 5 years ago Arthur and Dorothy moved to Connecticut where their daughter and her family live. They were not ready to move away, but their children insisted – for both Arthur and Dorothy are in their 90’s now. We have still stayed in touch by phone and emails.

Arthur has had some serious health problems during the past 2 years. It was just a few weeks ago when he called Dennis and towards the end of their discussion, he said to Dennis “*Maybe I’ll see you in heaven.*” Dennis lovingly reminded him “... *you know Arthur what it takes to get there.*” To which Arthur said, “*If they don’t let me in, I’ll say – I know Dennis Higley...*” © He still had his sense of humor, though he understood seriousness of their discussion. ... We surely have been praying for Arthur’s and Dorothy’s salvation for a long time. Now we keep praying for Dorothy, and are happy that she lives close to her daughter and her family. Arthur passed away 5/16/20 at the age of 93.

We are sad, very sad, but we have a little bit of hope mixed in our sorrow *for Arthur has been studying on line the OT now for several years with good teachers...* We hope that perhaps he came to see that *Messiah of Israel had come already...* [we mentioned in this letter (on p. 4) just briefly how a young Israeli man, Amir Tsafarti, about 20 years ago, came to know Jesus Christ just from his OT studies, and he is now an evangelist teaching all over the world and is working also with Jan Markell with her Olive Tree Ministries.

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This *Covid-19* isolation continues to hamper everybody’s normal life. Life is not how it was before January 20<sup>th</sup> this year. We just have to do the best we can with this separation from church, family and friends. However, the Internet makes it possible for me to be busy in our ministry work, and we are thankful for that – time is short and we need to use every day in sharing the truth as if it was the last day.

Our friends in France have been in touch with us quite often via the phone and we are encouraging them to continue studying the Bible. We have sent them some very good Bible teaching sites that we too use and trust that they will help them. It is interesting that their social limitations are pretty much the same as ours are here – *wear mask when outside of your home, stay 6 feet apart from everyone when going to stores or pharmacies, etc.* Mainly: Just stay home. Dennis is doing well, and I am feeling somewhat better, but I still have to stop every 1-2 hrs. and lay flat on my back to ease the pain and pressure in my back. It is *doable* – so I am not complaining. My radiation treatment for my skin-cancer is still on hold, for the hospital still has some Covid-19 patients and they will not take other patients unless it is an emergency. I am relying on *chemo-cream* that keeps this skin cancer at bay until I can get started with radiation.

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We thank you, our friends and partners, for standing with us, helping us in many ways and most of all, praying for us and for those with whom we are working hard to guide their understanding to be on line with God’s Word.

Slowly but surely they are “*getting it*” and being freed.

Our Finnish pastor-friend, Mika, amazes us. Even though he is very busy in his own church’s pastoral and teaching work (he even teaches Hebrew) he has still continued having weekly meetings with Mormon missionaries, discussing the differences with hope that they will be able to open their hearts and minds for TRUTH. He is learning that these missionaries indeed are not free to meet with those who are not interested in becoming a Mormon. We are amazed that he has still been able to do this, though there has been many changes, and he only has one of perhaps six or seven of them that the Mission President has one-by-one sent elsewhere. Please remember him in prayer too.

We sent 2 days ago a prayer request of Al and Sandy. They have been in our prayer list for a long time (Sandy has had 2 heart surgeries before and heart-valve replacement last year), but this time it was Al. Sandy took him to ER and they said that his kidneys had failed. He was in extreme pain. It was questionable whether he will get healed at all. We alerted a group of people we know, and many responded that they are praying. In just two days his kidneys started to work some – and Sandy called saying that if all continues like it now is, he might be able to come home in just a few days! Praise God. When God’s people pray, if it is not their time yet to depart, God will heal them. (1 John 5:14-15 – has His promise.)

Please pray for Aira, Dwayne, Sharon, Tom, Mary, Yandel, Heber, Judy, Al and Sandy, Cynthia and Scott.

With the Love of Jesus Christ,  
Rauni & Dennis Higley

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