



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

**July 1, 2021**

## **HIS Ministries July-August 2021 Newsletter, covering June 2021**

We were ready for summer in May after a very cold winter and cold spring that seemed to just continue, but now, once summer finally got started, it has been brutally hot. ☺ Complain, complain...

We are fine though – thanking the Lord for His Word that informs us about His plans that are at work for His nation Israel and the world, and also for us, born again *believers in Jesus Christ, His Bride and His Church* (Col. 1:18, 24) *made up of Jews and Gentiles*. Though Israel *as a nation* rejected Jesus Christ as their Messiah, there were tens of thousands of Israelites that came to faith in Jesus as their Messiah during the first Century and tens of thousands more during the last nearly 1900 years. We personally know many Jews who are dedicated and devout *born again believers in Christ and thus part of the Church, to be raptured with us when He comes to take us home*. (John 14:1-3.) We are anxiously waiting for Him, and as *gospel-sharers* we are to work diligently until He comes. Maybe the Lord is delaying His coming for there could still be more Gentiles and Jews too that the Lord is drawing to His fold *before He ends the Church era*. From Romans 11:25 we can see that there is a certain number of Gentiles that will come to faith before the “*blindness is lifted*” from unbelieving Israel, and Israel is restored through severe trials during the Tribulation. “*The fullness of the Gentiles*” (11:25) refers to the time when the last Gentile is added to the Church, and when the completed *Body of Christ* will be raptured home to heaven while God’s wrath is poured out on this earth for rebellion against Him.

Remember that *Israel, as God’s special nation*, was to teach the other nations about God and His love for mankind, but they failed. Still, even the *Gospel of salvation* (1 Cor. 15:1-4) was to be taught “*to the Jew first and also to the Greek (Gentiles)*” (Rom. 1:16) to educate Jews first, for God’s will was and is “*that the **Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel.***” (Eph. 3:6.) We, as Gentiles, are of a “*wild olive tree*”, and when we come to faith in Christ, we are *grafted into the cultivated, natural Olive Tree*, which is Israel. “***For you all are sons of God though faith in Christ Jesus... There is neither Jew or Greek (Gentile)... there is neither male or female, for you all are one in Christ Jesus.***” (Gal. 3:26, 28.) When we receive Jesus and *become God’s children* (John 1:12-13), we are one in Spirit with believing Israel, “*Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of our great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.*” (Titus 2:13.)

One day very soon, *The Lord will come with the spirits and souls of the believers who had died since His resurrection, and rapture us* (1 Thess. 4:13-18) *who are born again believers, consisting of Jews and Gentiles*, and at that moment we all will receive our glorious *resurrected bodies* (Cor. 15:51-52) and go with the Lord to the place in His *Father’s House* that *He has been preparing for us*. (John 14:1-3.) Remember that Paul said that he knows “***by the Word of the Lord***” that this will happen! (1 Thess. 4:15.) ***It is a sure thing*** and it will take place just before *the Great Tribulation begins* (Matt. 24:21) for “*God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*” (1 Thess. 5:9.)

We are now still living in *the Church era* as related in Rev. Chapters 1-3. Thus the next era for the world begins with words (Rev. 4:1) “***After these things...***” *After what things?* After the Church is no longer here, then “*the*

*man of sin is revealed*". (2 Thess. 2:3.) This "*man of sin*" is held back for now and cannot be revealed until the Holy Spirit is removed, *taken out of the way* for the Holy Spirit is the one holding him back, for the Holy Spirit is *indwelling the church, by being in every born again believer*. The Holy Spirit is in us thus restraining the appearance of this coming lawless leader of the world, often called *the anti-Christ*. (Dan. 9:23-24; Jer. 30:7; Zech. 12-14; 2 Thess. 2:7-12). The Rapture ends the "*Church era*" and brings in *the 7-year Tribulation*, which is the final trial for Israel which rejected her Messiah, and along with them is bringing the rest of the unbelieving world under God's wrath.

In the middle of the Tribulation (Matt. 24:15-18) Jews will come to see and realize that this World Leader (*anti-Christ*) has deceived them with "*the 7-year peace agreement*" and that the prophetic, "*abomination of desolation*", is now taking place. (Matt. 24:15-22; Dan. 9:23-24). They run to the mountains (to *Petra*, perhaps) where God has prepared for them a place to hide until the indignation is past. (Isa. 26:20-21.)

The Tribulation ends (Rev. 19:7-9) with the *marriage supper of the Lamb*.

We all ought to carefully study the entire Book of Revelation. Jesus, God the Son, *was born to the world* as Savior. He comes again as **God Almighty**, who He truly is, but *now He comes as her Judge*... "*every eye shall see Him and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord*." (Rev. 1:7-8; Phil 2:11.) (Read Zechariah Chapters 12-14.)

When *the Church, the Bride of Christ*, is taken to heaven by the Lord in the Rapture, *He meets us in the clouds*. It will be invisible to the rest of the world. (1 Thess. 4:13-18.) When we come back with Christ, dressed in white linen, then His coming with His saints is going to be visible to the entire world.

Both Old and New Testament give ample evidence of the symbolism related to marriage – the Church being the *Bride of Christ*, and at His Second coming, *His wife*. (Rev. 19:7-9.) Guests at *the marriage supper of the Lamb* are the *rest of the redeemed, friends of the Bridegroom*. (John 3:29.)

### **The saints will reign with Christ 1000 years**

The Book of Revelation (Rev. 1:1) begins *Jesus' foretelling* of what is going to take place during the seven-year Tribulation and afterwards. He restores and brings all anew, as it was when God gave dominion to Adam (Gen. 1:26-27), but who, through sin, lost it all. (***Messiah's Millennial Kingdom*** - See: Isaiah 11:1-12:6 and Rev. 20:4.) He rules and reigns with His saints a thousand years and after that comes the Great White Throne judgment. (Rev. 20:11-15.) He creates a New Heaven and a New Earth and brings the New Jerusalem and...then Eternity. (Rev. 21-22.)

**The Bible, from Genesis 1 through Revelation 22, tells it all.**

**No new revelation concerning mankind's future is needed. God has indeed revealed it all.**

We all must understand that the seven year tribulation is going to be horrendous. Just reading the Prophet Zechariah's prophecies of it (Zech. Chapters 12, 13 and 14) as he describes these unbelievably terrible times, is very scary. There are more warnings throughout the Bible concerning *the last days*. It chills us and causes us to even more urgently warn everyone not to *wait and receive Jesus later* (as some say). Receive Jesus today for "*today is the day of salvation*" (Hebr. 3:7-15), *tomorrow is not promised to anyone*.

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Just to remind us again, "***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.***" (John 1:1.) That is Jesus, our Lord, **HIS Story is in the Bible** – all of it. He is our Savior, and He is God Almighty who is soon coming back. (Rev. 1:7-8.) When we speak of *Scripture*, we mean ***the Bible that is the Word of God***. There is no other Word or collection of books that is God-given to mankind but the Bible alone. God created the universe and the world and all that is in it, by His Word – *out of nothing*. ***The Word*** is of the titles of Jesus. (John 14:6.)

We need to tell those who are still wondering (Col. 2:13-14) that *if Jesus is not God, then we are all dead in our trespasses and sins* and are the saddest among men.

We are not shocked when we hear that *one out of every three professing Christians do not believe in the eternal deity of Christ. But this is the most important truth in the Christian faith.* If Jesus is not God who became a man to die for us, the best he could have done was to go to the cross and die for his own sins, and in that case you and I would still be dead in our sins and lost for all eternity.

What that means is that *a Christian cannot deny the Deity of Christ and be saved.* This is #1 reason why Jehovah's Witnesses are hell-bound and so are the Mormons, though they both have also many other perverted beliefs. I.e. JW's believe that it was Michael the Archangel who became flesh (Jesus), not God. Mormons do not believe either that Jesus is God who became a man, but instead that *He is a man, a spirit-brother of all, who became a god.* All faithful Mormons believe they can also become gods.

The truth is that *if Jesus is not God, then our faith in the gospel is in vain (1 Cor. 15: 1-4) and everything we have believed is a lie.*

The main reason Jewish leaders of Jesus' day justified their plan to kill Jesus was that *He had declared Himself to be one with God* – i.e. saying that *He is God.* (John 10:30.) *Scripture is full of passages that teach that Jesus indeed is God – 100% man and 100 % God!* He left the glories of heaven to walk on earth as a mere man. He did that because He loves us and wants to save us so that we can live with Him forever in heaven.

We wrote in our last Newsletter (June 2021) about *His Virgin birth* (Matt. 1:18-23) which means that *He did not have the sin nature* that we, mere humans, inherited from Adam. His Virgin birth made it possible for Him to have and live a sinless life and go to the cross and give His life as *the perfect blood sacrifice* (Lev. 17:11) for the sins of all who will believe and receive Him. (John 3:16; 1:12-3.)

It is sad that many *so-called Christian churches* are *not clearly teaching* that *Jesus is God* who gave His life and died in our place, which is the most important basic truth of our faith, and thus they are causing confusion among professing Christians about who Jesus is. *Jesus Himself said, "...if you do not believe that I AM He (God) you will die in your sins."* (John 8:24.) If our sins are not removed/forgiven, we will not be saved and we will not go to heaven.

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***"All Scripture is given by inspiration God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be Perfect (=complete), thoroughly equipped for every good work."*** (2 Tim. 3:16-17.) When Paul was instructing young pastor Timothy and referring to ***"all Scripture"***, he meant ***all of the Hebrew Old Testament***, completed about 400 B.C. and even translated into Greek nearly 300 years before Christ, (Greek was the common language of the entire region). Pau, by saying ***"All Scripture"***, included also those parts of the New Testament that were already known to the believers. (As an example Luke 10:7b, quoted in 1 Tim. 5:18b.) Peter also quoted from ***Paul's Epistles as Scripture*** (2 Pet. 3:16) and we apply that verse (3:16) to the entire Bible.

**The Word of God is literally *God-breathed*.** Though individual literary style of each writer can be detected, *it was the Holy Spirit who gave them the words.* (See 1 Cor. 2:13; Pet.1:20-21.)

God communicated His Word to men and had them write it down for our edification and for permanent preservation, thus by the Word of God was *"equipping us for every good work", and to do all that God has beforehand prepared for us to do* (Eph. 2:10). *If we say that we do not know that, we truly are without excuse.* (Rom. 1:20.)

The Word of God indeed is *God-inspired, true and infallible*. (See John 7:16-17.) Paul emphasizes that Bible doctrine is God-given and thus unchangeable. God's Word teaches the absolute Truth about *who God is, who Christ Jesus is and why He came, and how we can, by studying and coming to know His Word, become able to reproof and correct false doctrines and teachings that abound especially in our day as His Second Coming is getting ever so close*. (See Matt. 24:3b-4.)

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**From our Mailbox:**

I have already had a few discussions with this LDS man, who again wrote: *"Why do you jump around so much using different scriptures in an attempt to justify your particular belief! I have two rather simple questions that you should be able to answer with just yes or no, without you 'reasoning from your scriptures'. My questions are: #1. Do you agree that we will be judged according to our works, but not our faith? #2. Do you agree that faith without works is dead? LM"*

**My reply:** You obviously are taking your questions from Scriptures, i.e. James 2:14-26.

I will also use Scriptures to let you know that I base my faith in the *Word of God* in order to learn what God has said, and I am not basing it on my own thinking or imagining or in *"good works"* that I might be able to do. God's Word gives the reason why believe and what to believe. Isaiah urges people to think and reason by the Word God has given. (Is. 1:18.)

You are asking questions that affect your salvation you found in the Word of God, but you are asking that I would not use Scriptures, but just give you my opinion? How could that help you to know or understand what is truth if I will not tell you now what He, the Author of Life and death, has said about these issues? Therefore I must use Scriptures to let you know *"why and what I believe"* in order to answer you.

#1. The Scripture tells us how we are saved, ***"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast."*** (Eph. 2:8-9.) That excludes our works, thus those who have received *God's gift of salvation, will not be judged*. (Rom. 8:1; Gal. 2:16-21.) However, those who have not submitted themselves to Christ Jesus and nor received salvation He offers to them, but instead are trusting in their own good works to save them or contribute to their salvation, then they, of course, will be judged by their works, just as they have desired, but they will be found *"wanting"* and they fail. (See Rev. 20:11-15.)

#2. If a person says that he has faith, but his life has not evidenced any changes after saying he has become a believer in Christ, but instead shows contrary to what he says, then it is evident that *his faith is a dead*— he is just spurring empty words. As Eph. 2:8-9 says, *our salvation is the Gift of God*, not something that we have earned or even could earn by own works. One cannot pay or work for a gift, or it is no longer a gift. If we could *"earn"* our salvation by our own works, we would have something to boast and be prideful about.

Paul uses Abraham as an example in Romans 4:2-5, and says that *it was not what Abraham did that made him righteous*, but it was *his faith in God that was accounted unto him for righteousness*.

I hope that by reading what God says, you will learn to reason and accept His truth. Jesus said that *God's Word is Truth*. (John 17:17.) I am giving just short references to His Word, though marking where they can be found and read further, hoping that you will read more than just those verses I give. It would be good if you'd read now the *entire letter to Galatians* that is about *works vs. faith*, to get more information relating to your two questions you gave.

Paul's Letter to Galatians set me straight and cured me from *works-oriented Mormonism* I was involved in many years ago, and it taught me what Faith in God really means. Let me know if this helped.

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We are very thankful to you, our faithful friends and partners, for you have been our encouragement and strength. *God has been good to us through you*, and our most important needs have been met, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts every day and ask the Lord to bless you as you have blessed us.

We have been given joy to work in this little ministry since 1984 and we have seen how God works and how His Holy Spirit uses even us to bring people to Him, and after this life, to heaven. It is amazing how many people we now have as *our true brothers and sisters in the Lord* that He has brought into our lives, who are part of our eternal family even now. As many of you know, I didn't have a family, no brothers or sisters either, but now we, Dennis and I together, have hundreds of them for eternity! ☺

We are very thankful that God has kept us reasonably healthy, so that we have not had a need to take time off for health reasons. We love to go camping "*to a higher ground*" especially now that is so hot here "*in the valley*", but so far we have been too busy to pick up and just go. Actually we have not gone camping for over 2 years ☹ because we have received so many requests for help, and we surely have been happy to do what we can. We just keep on working. "*God is good, all the time*", and He will show us, day by day, what we are to do.

By the way, we find it interesting that the Mormon Church has been so silent during the last 1-2 years. It seems that the only thing we hear in the news about "*the Church*" is that they are planning on building more and more temples, and wanting everyone to be "*vaccinated against Covid19*", though there still is a question presented by many medical researchers *if it is a real vaccine at all!* Who knows! Time will tell.

We hope to take time off soon and go camping to a restful place away and relax and enjoy God's nature. However, we are waiting for Him to come at any time, and maybe He comes for us when we are already "*on a higher ground*" and there ready to go up with Him. ☺

We have noticed that there now some LDS people who have not been interested before to learn more about Biblical God and "Eternity", but they seem to be waking up and wondering *what is really going on now!* We are willing and eager to help anyone who asks about *the reason why we are not frustrated or scared*. God of the Bible has made it very clear what He says about the End Times. (See 1 Peter 3:15-17.) When we know that the Lord is in charge, we do not fear.

As we have said many times before, we want to encourage you all to watch what is happening in the Middle East and Israel. (See 1 Peter 3:15-17.) Israel is God's country and the Center of His plans. Our mentor, the late Dr. Chuck Missler, used to say that *when things get confusing here, check what the Word says and look at what is happening in Israel, and you'll start seeing*.

God's entire Book, the Bible, was written by the Jews as God had chosen them to be His nation to teach the world about Him, and its focus of the End Times is on Israel and the Middle East area of the world. Israel and also the Church are God's own people. The Church is saved by His love and grace (among them are some Israelites too), though most of the Jews in Israel are still *in unbelief* (see Ezekiel 36), but their trial (Tribulation) is coming... "*and all Israel will be saved*". (Rom. 11:25-26.) *So we pray for the peace of Jerusalem*, (Ps. 122:6) even while knowing that true peace will only come with the *Prince of Peace, Jesus*, who will be *King over all earth* (Zach. 14:9). He will come to rule and reign the entire world from Jerusalem. We are looking forward to that time, and being with Him forever. ☺

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We are still asking prayer for Aira. She is in a need of Lord's direction for her and for us who are seeking ways to help her out of her complicated situation. We ask that you continue praying for Judy who has had trouble with her leg and arm (results of her stroke several years ago). But she is staying brave and she is witnessing to her daughter and her family. Judy's little grandson is also praying for them all. Heber and Richard are asking prayer for their medical problems and salvation for their families. Al and Sandy have both been ill (not

Covid19) and they ask you to pray for them. Our dear friend, Suzi has had serious health problems and she needs the Lord's help in her Physical Therapy and other issues facing her now. We ask you to pray for Cynthia and Scott and for their health issues. They both need the Lord's direction in all matters, as we all do. Mary (our new sister in the Lord) has been sharing her faith with her LDS friends and studying her new NKJV Bible. She has had her name removed from the LDS records!! She is planning on bringing other LDS friends to talk to us, and she is praying for their salvation. We ask that you remember Mark and Virve in your prayers. They are living in France but they would like to come and visit the USA (perhaps in August), but traveling from Europe is yet "iffy" because of this "Pandemic". Please pray for Lisa and her health problem. We are asking prayer for James and for our friend Bruce. The Lord knows everyone's needs better than we can explain and He will answer them directly. "God is good – all the time". (1 John 5:14-15.) We ask that you pray also for our unsaved friends and relatives. It is very sad to see that many of them seem to be too involved in "life here and now" and simply are *not interested, at least not now* what will happen after death. But everyone will die, sooner or later! When our time is up, we do not know when, we have only 2 choices of our destiny: We go to heaven if we know and belong to Jesus Christ, or we go to hell if do not know Him. (Luke 16: 19-31.) To those who are still *young(er)*, death seems to be far away, but *tomorrow is not promised to anyone – young or old*.

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We were reminded the other day by our pastor-friend, Ken Hornock, that our Utah Governor, Spencer Cox, had announced that *Utah celebrates June as Gay Pride month!* A few days later he made another announcement, asking that everyone, regardless of their religion or faith or who they pray to, should pray for cooler weather and rain.

Pastor Hornock noted that *in Christianity* people must first repent of their sinful lives before asking God's blessings.

It was reported on the 30<sup>th</sup> that this June, 2021 has been temperature wise the hottest June ever on record, and nearly all of these 30 days have passed without any measurable rain.

***Have a blessed summer!***

God bless you all,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

2890 E. Willow Bend Dr., Sandy, Utah 84093

[Website: [www.hismin.com](http://www.hismin.com); Email: [hismin@xmission.com](mailto:hismin@xmission.com); Tel. 801.943-5011]

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