



November 1, 2021

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

His Ministries November 2021 Newsletter, covering October 2021

Warm weather has continued and we have loved it. Wind is now bringing leaves down from our trees, - yellow, orange and red leaves on green grass look beautiful – though they have to be raked up, which means a lot of work for our grandkids, Chandler and Lauren, who have volunteered already for many years to do our fall-cleaning. It is good that we all love our trees, in all seasons. This is a beautiful time of the year.

However, *Halloween decorations* throughout the suburbs of Salt Lake City and other cities around Utah have made Utah less beautiful. Utah is a state where Halloween receives more attention than Thanksgiving or even Christmas. A huge amount of money is spent in this state to “*decorate*” homes for this *celebration*. In Salt Lake City there are “*year-around, permanent haunted spook-houses*” established for a scary and obviously demonic entertainment. I have never understood the fascination, attraction and popularity of this *tradition*. It is quite obvious what it represents by just looking at decorations and costumes used during this time. Driving by homes we see *skeletons, ghosts, witches, black cats, bloody ghouls and goblins, tombstones on front lawns, jack-o-lanterns etc.* These all are representations of *the underworld of demons, the devil and death*. **Decorations and costumes are indeed openly declaring that Halloween was not intended to be a fun and pleasant holiday, but something to be feared.** *Let’s not forget that Halloween is a pagan holiday, having its beginning with ancient Druid’s day of the dead* when Celtic priests made their appearances as wizards or magicians. It has no connection to Biblical feasts or holidays nor to Christianity. It is the Devil’s holiday, and he loves the attention. Amazingly even many Christian parents allow their children to go through *haunted houses that display bloody ghosts, vampires* and other terrifyingly evil things, and have their children even be dressed as *witches or wizards* and other scary demonic images! **Have these people ever considered what this is really all about? Where does this ‘tradition’ originate?** - Where I come from (Finland) we did not celebrate Halloween, though I hear that much has changed over there too, and in Europe also where they *smile and wink* and say that this is “*just one of the many awful American traditions*”. When I moved to Utah, I found this *attraction with death, and ghosts and other terrifying images* very distasteful, but after decades of living here, I became somewhat used to it, though we do not decorate our home *just to go along with the neighborhood*. (In our November 2016 newsletter we wrote more about the *origin of Occult and Celtic and Druid cultures*. See our website: www.hismin.com -Newsletters.)

Utah (Mormon) Culture is deeply connected to the Occult. The word *Occult* means “*covered*”, “*hidden from view*”, “*secret knowledge of supernormal*”, etc. **The Occult entices people to go beyond the five senses for gaining knowledge from spirits** (other than the Holy Spirit of God). **God of the Bible forbids His people to have any involvement with the occult**, and He calls these practices an “*abomination*” to Him. The Bible, in Deuteronomy 18:10-12, lists eight particular ways or methods of *communication with the spirit world*. **What or who are they?** 1. “*One who practices witchcraft*” (a witch or warlock); 2. “*a soothsayer*” (a seer or a false prophet); 3. “*one who interprets times*”, (a fortune teller, an astrologer, a palm-reader); 4. *sorcerer* (a witchdoctor); 5. “*one who conjures spells*” (a wizard); 6. “*a medium*” (a spirit medium); 7. *a spiritist* (a séance leader); 8. “*one who calls up the dead*” (a necromancer).

A well-known Bible teacher and scholar, Henry G. Bosch, wrote: ***“Satanism, demons, and the occult are dark, sinister realities, not tricks. One of the signs that we are nearing the end of this age is the widespread interest in witchcraft, astrology, and other forms of occult... Thousands consult their horoscope each day, attend séances, or seek to communicate with the deceased loved ones. There is also a great interest in Satanism and demons. The Bible repeatedly warns against such practices (Lev. 19:31; 20:27; 2 Chron. 33:6; Jer. 10:2; Gal. 5:19-20). How urgent and up-to-date are the warnings of Scripture! Let’s not play around with something that could become a kiss of death.”*** (From *Believer’s Bible Commentary*, by William McDonald, p. 217.)

These practices may also include those seeking messages through *Ouija boards, visualization, communication with spirits, channeling, astral travel*, etc. In today’s world people are offered some *“Christianized forms of occult”* where some of the names of these practices are changed and thus many may *“unknowingly”* end up practicing that which is forbidden, and *which will lead to bondage*. Satan counterfeits, but he also invents new practices. *He has worked on his deadly and deceptive plans from the Garden of Eden onward*. From time to time he may change the names of his practices to trick people into his schemes and confuse those who do not test or who are gullible and thus easily fooled. (1 Thess. 5:21; 1 John 4:1.)

Occult practices promise to give *new information and power*. [For example, when Mormon men are *“ordained into the priesthood”* they are told that they *“receive power in the priesthood”* and many of them think that they indeed are experiencing *mystical feelings of power*, especially when they *go through the Mormon temple rituals*.] **The Mormon Church builds temples around the world** (currently there are over 250 functioning temples and more under construction.) **The LDS temples are built for the very purpose of communication with the spirits (of the dead), to have places to perform “work for the dead”.** **Mormons doing the temple-work for the dead, are acting as “mediums” between the living and the dead.** (LDS Apostle Parley P. Pratt spoke about that purpose during the *Salt Lake City Temple’s Corner Stone dedication*, on April 6, 1853, saying, ***“Ye are assembled here to-day ... for the express purpose that living might hear from the dead, and that we may prepare a holy sanctuary, where ‘people may seek unto their God, for the living to hear from the dead’, and that heaven and earth, and the world of spirits may commune together...”*** (Journal of Discourses, vol. 2, pp.44-46. Emphasis added.) **This is necromancy, an occult practice!**

The demonic spirit-power is real. Once those who are involved in the occult and are seeking communication with the spirits, *they become subjects to it and lose their freedom without even realizing it*. There indeed are many ways that people can get involved with demonic deception. Some already involved may try to entice others to get involved also. Some are attracted to this by use of crystals, stones, etc. or even *“mantras”* to gain this *spirit power*.

There are serious consequences to occult practices that can affect even later generations, as we have discovered in Joseph Smith’s family-tree that he sprang from. [A BYU professor, D. Michael Quinn wrote about Smith’s Family and their connection to Occult in his book ***“Early Mormonism and Magic World View.”*** I will take some brief quotes from his book. On page 66 he wrote: ***“During the 1820’s Joseph Smith and his family used divining rods and seer stones as part of folk magic of treasure seeking... Lucy Mack Smith (Joseph’s mother) commented that Smiths practiced ritual magic and that her family participated in occult activities... and that these activities were part of her family’s spiritual quest... On pages 17-20 he wrote:” It is most often stated that Joseph Smith was an uneducated and nearly illiterate individual. While it could be stated that he had very little formal education, he was not illiterate. It is known that he read many if not most of the popular books circulating in young America at that time, in addition to the Bible and other religious works. Influential in early American folk belief were thousands of occult books that had circulated in Europe since the invention of the printing press... this list of titles was large enough to fill 175 printed pages...Another evidence of continued interest in magic...was the popularity of works condemning the occult while also affirming its reality in the present. In 1801 Francis Barrett published in England, The Magus, a systematic presentation of occult knowledge and ceremonial magic...”*** Joseph Smith was very familiar *The Magus*, and many other books like it. D.M. Quinn noted that *75% of Joseph Smith’s personal library were books dealing in*

the Occult, witchcraft etc.) There are serious consequences to these kinds of practices. In Exodus 20:4-5 God warned about **“iniquity”** connected to them. God again warned (in Ex. 34:7b) saying that He will be **“visiting iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon children’s children, unto third and to fourth generation.”** God gave this warning to His people time and time again. [*Iniquity is going against God’s commandments – and making images of sun, moon, stars and angels to revere (Ex. 20:4-5; 34:7b) and perverting the ways of the Lord and turning to serve other gods and demonic spirits. (Deut. 13:1-5.)*] In Deut. 5:9-10 God repeated the same warning, but also promised His mercy on those who repent and turn from their iniquity.

Over the years, many who had converted from Mormonism to Jesus Christ of the Bible, have contacted us saying that they believe that they are suffering from demonic oppression, and that it is perhaps because they know that *their parents, grandparents or even great grandparents were deeply involved in Mormonism or some other occult practices, and that this spirit has resided in their homes.* Our suggestion was that if that has been their family’s heritage, and since **they have come to faith in Lord Jesus of the Bible and have received Him** (John 1:12-13), they must **renounce all that is past, and pray as Paul taught in 2 Cor. 6:14-18. If they do that, they will be released from this occult power that is in Mormonism and other practices that are not according to the Word of God.** Many have even worried that they could again be taken captive by these demonic spirits. **That is not possible, for when a person is born again, he has the Holy Spirit of God living in him. When we are born again, our bodies become a Temple of God (1 Cor. 6:19-20) and it is impossible for another spirit to come in, though they may tempt us and try to entice us in many ways.**

We can be sure that evil spirits cannot just “enter in” us, they must be allowed or invited into our lives through certain practices that they had previously thought were good and even godly.

When we come to know the Lord and diligently STUDY His Word, we will be set free from all that. We are then under the protection of God’s Holy Spirit.

When Dennis and I came to know and believe in the Lord Jesus of the Bible and were born again we realized that we had been in bondage to a strange and demonic power, and we renounced it and all temple-oaths we had made in ignorance of truth, without understanding. We burned all our ritual temple clothing and our temple garments, and we were truly set free! (John 8:31-36). God in His love and mercy has freed us from this powerful influence we had been under.

As we are daily in His Word, He will guide us away from anything that could make us stray from the Way, which is the Lord’s Way.

We hear much about *“contemplative prayer”*-and teaching about it that is spreading across the country. The methods that are used resemble *“emptying our minds”* that can happen through *repetitious use of a word or a few words.* That could lead one into a *subjective mystical experience* that can seduce people through *meditative states* into following false spirits. (2 Thess. 2:9-11.) The Devil is clever in his deceptive ways. But we must always be alert and keep our eyes on the Lord as we are waiting for His appearing (Titus 2:13; 2 Tim. 4:8) to take us home to Him. (John 14:1-3.)

This following question from an LDS person demonstrates what we just explained here about Occult, Halloween and Mormonism: *“Why do you attack Mormons? Joseph Smith was our prophet whom God called to restore the everlasting gospel through angel Moroni who also gave us the Book of Mormon. God commanded Joseph to teach about baptism for the dead (D&C 128:15,18, 20) for he said that their salvation is necessary for our salvation. We do good works for the living and the dead, and teach how to live a good life and be saved with our families, for “families are forever”. We must attend to our genealogies and find our dead who were not yet part of the Church when they were alive so that they too can be saved. What better than that does your religion offer?”*

Reply: We are not attacking Mormons but sharing **the truth about God, Jesus and salvation** that is found only in the God’s Word, the Bible. Paul had warned **“But though we, or an angel from heaven (Moroni?), preach any other gospel unto you than that we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”** (Gal. 1:8.) Paul had

“declared “ what the true gospel is in 1 Cor. 15:1-4, saying that it is a declaration of death, burial and resurrection of Jesus for us. Salvation is not a reward of our “good works” (Eph. 2:8-9; John 14:6), for salvation is received only by God’s grace and it is a gift of God through faith in Jesus, who is God with us. (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14; 8:24.) Seeking after dead is abomination to God. God is the God of the Living. There is no second chance to be saved after death. (Hebr. 9:27; 3:15.) Apostle Paul says that we should avoid seeking after the dead and doing “endless genealogies” for that is “unprofitable and vain”. (1 Tim. 1:4; Titus 3:9.) – I hope that answers your question.

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Time is running out. There will be no witnessing in heaven. That is our earthly duty and privilege now. The end is near. None of us knows how many hours, days, months or years we have left. We must seize the golden opportunities that God gives us daily to share His love and truth with those who do not yet know. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (2 Tim. 3:16.) The Word of God is given to us so that we can know the doctrinal truth. We must study it diligently and thoroughly so that we will not end up ashamed (2 Tim. 2:15) for not knowing the truth that will set all free.

We both were ashamed, when we learned that we had been deceived and that we had followed false prophets and teachers into believing in “another Jesus”, “another gospel” under the influence of “another spirit”. (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15). We had believed Joseph Smith’s attacks against the Bible when he spoke against it, saying that it is not translated correctly, and that there are books missing from it, etc., and believing that we had not studied the Bible much, and thus we did not know the truth.

No one is born a Christian even if we are fortunate enough to be born to Christian parents. Therefore Jesus said that to BECOME a child of God, we MUST be born again (John 3:3, 7; John 1:12). Before our new birth we are just “children of the flesh”, which is a posterity of Adam (Rom. 9:8). We do not BECOME children of God UNTIL we believe and receive the true Jesus and are born again. Some of us have come to that point through a very difficult road, and thus we can identify with Paul, who, after he was converted, said, “I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man: but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief...This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.” (1 Tim. 1:12-13, 15.) We too had blasphemed the true God by worshipping false gods of Mormonism, believing in “another gospel” and “another Jesus” and convincing others to do the same... We are ashamed of all that, but we, like Paul, also did it ignorantly, in unbelief of God’s Truth. To be able to be an effective witness, we need to be able to prove by the Word of God, what is acceptable to the Lord. (Eph. 5:8-10.) Now that we know the truth, we must warn others just as Paul warned and wrote to Timothy, saying that in “latter times” many will “give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons”, and he urged Timothy to “...take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine...” (1 Tim. 4:1,16.) When we were believing Mormons, our “testimonies” of the Book of Mormon and other LDS scriptures and of temple-work for the dead had come to us “through spirit-confirmation”, i.e. through our feelings that we were told reveal truth. Who or what are these “spirits” that instill these feelings? They cannot be of God, since doctrines these spirits gave were “testimonies” against teachings of the Bible – thus they were from demonic spirits!

In the LDS book, “Temple Manifestations”(by Joseph Heinerman), Heinerman tells (p. 64) about the spirits of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence coming to LDS President Wilford Woodruff in the St. George Temple, in early March, 1877, seeking for the performances of their temple ordinances. President Wilford Woodruff told more about that incident in the address he gave on September 16, 1877 in the New Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, telling how” building of Temples now underway has to be hurried to completion” because, he said, “The dead will be after you, they will seek after you as they have in St. George. They called upon us, knowing that we held the keys and power to redeem them.” (From Journal of Discourses, vol. 19, p. 229.)

Just like Mormons, Occult and even *New Age* believers also speak of *spirits that confirm their beliefs* and many of them say that in time they will receive their own “*spirit guides*”. Many LDS people tell stories of the *visions of the dead they have seen while doing temple-work for them*, and many of them inform that they have had their dead loved ones visit them from the spirit world and instruct them.

None of these cannot be spirits of those who have *died as unbelievers of God’s Truth*, for they *are in torment*. (Luke 16:23.) The Bible teaches that “*the dead*” will not come back to visit the living. **These are *deceiving spirits, “familiar spirits”*** that we are warned about over and over in the Bible. These deceptive experiences, more often than not, can seem quite innocent to those who have not studied the Bible. God’s warnings that were given to ancient Israel, were also *given for us and our learning*. (Rom. 15:4). Deut. 18:9-12 instructs: **“*When thou art come into the land which the LORD THY God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shalt not be found among you... that useth divination, or [is] an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.*”** The Old Testament gives contrast between false prophets and the *prophet of God who gives His message to the people by the Word of God*. False prophets are identified by what they teach or do - **they practice divination, they are observers of times, enchanters, witches, charmers, consultants with familiar spirits, wizards and necromancers. Mediums are necromancers – they communicate with the dead.** Mediums, at times, have been able to bring forth *spirits familiar* to those seeking communication with the dead. All of these things are abomination to the Lord. If or when this supposed connection with the dead is accomplished, it would have been done *by the power of Satan. Enchantments, familiar spirits and wizards, mediums* - all pertain to an outburst of demon-energized occultism, forbidden by God. However, contacting the dead is an approved practice among Mormons, and it is part of Occult – and a demonic practice. It was forbidden to the Israelites (Lev. 20:27) and it is forbidden to us as followers of Jesus Christ of the Bible, our LORD and God.

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.” (2 Cor. 6:17.)

We, who belong to the Lord, have a wonderful future ahead of us just as we are promised in Revelation 20:4. We will be working with our Lord and King there during His Millennial Kingdom and we will see Him fulfill the Father’s Eternal plan for the earth as it was to be before the Fall of Adam. Our King Jesus, as the Second Adam, will restore all things (Acts 1:6-7) and at the end it, He will take all His own to God’s Eternal Kingdom where we will live forever and ever, praising the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. (Revelation, Chapters 21 and 22.) “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

There has been a lot work ahead of us this month of October. We thank you, our friends and partners, for praying and supporting us in many ways to make our work for the Lord possible. God has taken care of us and we have stayed healthy regardless of what is going on around us. Surely we have had pains and aches but that can be expected as we grow older, but none of that has stopped us from doing what the Lord put before us to do. We thank the Lord Jesus for you and that He still keeps us in this HIS Ministry we have promised to be working in until He appears. It is such a satisfying blessing to us to hear good reports from those we have been able to speak with and help by meeting their spiritual, emotional, physical and practical needs as Dennis has done by setting “poles” in Judy’s apartment to help her to be able move easier. Please keep on asking the Lord to make us to be even more aware of all her needs. Being paralyzed is very hard. It has been her trial already for 6 years. She came to know the Lord and left Mormonism a few years before that happened, and she often wonders why. Someday we all will know things that we now just wonder about. She stays positive and she loves the Lord and waits for Him. She loves our monthly newsletters and tells us that she reads each letter many times and shares with those she speaks with. Please keep praying

for her. We have another serious need of prayer: Our friend Aira, also a former Mormon, single over 81-year old retired RN, has been in serious distress for almost a year now. (I have mentioned her name before, but without details.) She has been abducted and put under conservator- and guardianship, and we do not see a real reason for that. Her guardians have sold her home and all her belongings and everything she had, and worst of all, she has lost all her freedoms. We were allowed one 1-hr. visit about 3 months ago - inside a locked outside area, and 10 min. phone calls as and when "they" allow. We have tried everything we can think of to get help for her, but nothing as opened up as of yet. She needs legal help, but it would take a lot of money that she does not have. **As we see it, only the Lord God that she belongs to, can help.** Our God is a God of miracles and that is what we ask.

We continue asking prayer also for Al and Sandy, Jamie, Mary, Bruce, Suzi, Marlene, Heber, Mark, Virve, Scott, Cynthia, and our former-Mormon friends in Australia (without naming them). Actually all but one of our prayer requests are for former-Mormons, who are now believers in the Biblical Jesus, and who have suffered greatly. God know their needs and He will give them strength and comfort as we pray and present them to Him and His care.

We praise God that my hurt hand is better now – and I can type OK, but still sitting at the computer and writing is giving painful cramps to my injured back. ☹

I will continue telling more in our next newsletter. There would be more to write even now, but I need to get this letter to our printer for postal mailing before October is over. ☺

Next real Holiday is Thanksgiving – and we wish you a Great Thanksgiving, that is a lot more pleasant than Halloween, I'd say.

If you have questions or comments about what I have written in this letter, please feel free to email and I would be glad to elaborate. We have in the years past done a bit more research on Occult and also on Free Masonry and how they relate to Mormonism.

God bless you and keep you safe and healthy during these difficult times.

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Something to think about:

"HE THAT HAS THE TRUTH ON HI SIDE IS A FOOL AS WELL AS A COWARD IF HE IS AFRAID TO OWN IT BECAUSE OF OTHER MEN'S OPINIONS." (DeFoe)

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