



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

June 1, 2022

## HIS Ministries June 2022 Newsletter, covering May 2022

Summer has arrived. We hope that we will be able to get away and have some outdoor fun as camping in God's nature, which we have not been able to do for about 3 years now - provided that gas/diesel prices will not go any higher to prevent our traveling.

In our Newsletters during the last few months we have written about the most important dates of the year for all believers in *God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (=Israel)* and to *Christians* around the world. That period this year began on April 10<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem along with tens of thousands of lambs that were driven there to be presented, inspected and then 4 days later sacrificed on Passover. (Exodus 12:-6.) **Our Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, was also presented, inspected (tried) and then, 4 days later, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan, killed, but "not for Himself, but for His people".** (Dan. 9:26; John 1:19; Lev. 17:11; Hebr. 9:22; 1 John 1:7.) **He was crucified between two thieves on Golgotha on the same day that Passover lambs were slaughtered on the Jerusalem-temple grounds as sin offerings for the nation of Israel. Three days later He rose from the dead, thus bringing the Good News of Salvation to the entire world.** (1 John 11:24; Cor. 15:1-4.) **Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God's gift for eternal life to all who repent and receive Him, believing in His perfect blood sacrifice in their behalf** (Lev. 17:11; Rom. 3:25; Col. 1:14; Eph. 2:8-9), and thus by a new birth becoming children of God. (John 1:12; 3:3,7.)

The next celebration day on our calendar is the **Day of Pentecost, on June 5<sup>th</sup>**. Some ask: **What is Pentecost?** **The Old Testament Pentecost occurred fifty days after the Passover lambs were slain, and Israel had left Egypt.** [*Pentecost is the Greek name for the Jewish Feast of Weeks, that is celebrated seven weeks (50 days) after the First Fruits* (Deut. 16:10) *on the Feast of Harvest.* (Ex. 23:16; Numb. 28:26.)]

**New Testament Pentecost occurred fifty days after the Lord Jesus, our Lamb of God who was slain on our behalf, and rose from the dead. Old Testament Pentecost celebrated the birth of the nation Israel.** (Ps. 135:4; Ex. 9:5). **The New Testament Pentecost celebrates the birth of the Church** that took place when the Father sent the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4) to indwell all believers there, and also to indwell all who after that come to faith in Jesus. **Old Testament Pentecost witnessed the slaying of some three thousand people** (Ex. 32:28). **New Testament Pentecost witnessed the saving of some three thousand souls** (Acts 2:41-47) – the former typologically points to the latter.

From Acts 2:1-6 we read: **"When the day of the Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance... Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem devout men, from every nation under heaven ...and everyone heard them speak in his own language."** **Breath or wind** is a symbol of the Spirit of God. (Ez. 37:9, 14; John 3:8.) It was **"as of wind"**, but yet not wind. The coming of the Spirit was marked with

**audible sound of wind and visible signs of fire.** [Reminder in Matt. 3:11 and Luke 3:16 when John the Baptist foretold of the **One who would come and baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.**]

**They were all amazed, for they heard the witness about Jesus spoken to them in their own language!**

[Note: These were *actual languages*, unknown to the speakers (apostles), but yet understood by the hearers from other nations. There were no interpreters needed!] (See: Acts 2:7-8.)

**[They heard the message of God in Christ Jesus in their own languages!]**

[We must keep in mind that **tongues were for a sign to unbelievers, not to believers**. (1 Cor. 14:22.)] Thus **“speaking in tongues”** in Christian meetings in our day where all can understand the same language spoken, does not make any sense.] These **“sign-gifts”** were important then (before the New Testament was written) to prove to those who heard apostles’ witness for Jesus Christ in their own languages that they were indeed gifted to do so by God.] [The word **“language”** used in Acts 2, verses 6 and 8, is the same word we get our English word **“dialect”** from.] This **gift of tongues** was one of the **signs or wonders** which God used **to bear witness of the truth of apostles’ message**. (Hebr. 2:3-4.) Miracles were needed to reveal the Old Testament prophecies of Jesus the Messiah because the New Testament was not yet written.

Just before Jesus’ ascension to heaven, He said to His own, **“...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”** (Acts 1:8-11.) What does it mean **“to be witnesses to Him”**? It means telling others about our wonderful Savior and God’s love for all people, and how we all from the Word of God can know Him, and learn why He came. God has made sure that we can know Jesus whom He gave for us and to us so that we can be saved and live with Him forever. He has made that information available to all who want to know Him and be witnesses to Him. (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16-17.)

**The Bible is God’s Love-letter to all He is seeking to save.** (Luke 19:10.) **If we know Him, we also love Him. Even when we yet didn’t know Him, He loved us.** (Rom. 5:8.) **Knowing Jesus** compels us to want to share Him with others who do not yet know Him personally. We, who know Him, can tell them about His love and how our love for Him has increased ever since we came to know Him personally and received Him as our Savior and Lord. **Therefore we ought to share how we personally came to believe in Jesus, the Son of God!** **“For God so loved the world (us) that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”** (John 3:16.) There are many who say that they believe in Jesus, but yet do not know who He really is. (Matt. 7:21-23.) **Therefore we need to let the person we are witnessing to know who He is: the Virgin-born Son of God.** We should start witnessing with that fact and help them to see why His Virgin-birth is a critical part of sharing the Gospel of Christ! Clarifying what the Virgin birth means is especially important when talking with persons who are or have been raised as Mormons. **First we need to introduce them to the God of the Bible, who is not the same God that Mormons believe in.** [God of Mormonism is a former mortal man who “progressed” into godhood and is now an exalted man.] **God of the Bible is Triune God who, by His nature and essence is Spirit.** [Triune God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.] **Spirit does not have flesh and bones as mankind does.** (See John 4:24; Luke 24:39; Col. 2:9.) **Jesus is God the Word** as John 1:1-3, 14 tell us. (See also Col. 1:15-17.) [BTW - It is important to study Genesis 1 through 11 – from Creation to the call of Abraham, when starting a purposeful study of the Bible to understand God’s eternal plan.] Genesis 1:27 tells us that Adam and Eve were **not born to God**, as Mormonism teaches, but that **they were created by God in the image of God (His spiritual image)**. After Adam fell for Satan’s lie (Gen. 3:1-6) and disobeyed God, the Spirit of God departed from both of them. Later as sons and daughters were born to Adam and Eve, they were born/made **after Adam’s likeness/image** (Gen. 5:3), each inheriting Adam’s sin-nature. [A person with a sin-nature could not save even himself, no matter how “good” they thought they were.] Therefore **without the Virgin-birth**, even Jesus’ sacrifice of Himself would not have paid for our sins. **But because He was born of a Virgin He was exempt of sin-nature**, for there was no man’s involvement in His conception and birth. (Matt. 1:18-23.) All mankind inherits sin-nature from Adam, **but only Jesus who was begotten by the Holy Spirit is sinless and thus able to save all who come to Him, and forgive our sin.**

(John 8:24; Mark 2:7b.) Since He is Virgin-born, *“He is holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners”*. (Hebr. 7:26-27.)

**Without the Virgin-birth Jesus could not have qualified as the long-awaited King of Israel!**

Those who have not studied The Old Testament well enough, may have missed the importance of the Virgin Birth in qualifying who can be the King of Israel and rule from David’s Throne and by-pass the blood-curse God had placed on Davidic kingly lineage.

The first chapter in the Gospel of Matthew was written by him especially for the Jews who had been waiting for their promised King whose qualification and identity had to be proven by his ancestry.

**Matthew’s genealogy of Jesus begins with Abraham (the father of Jews) and ends with “Joseph, the husband of Mary of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.”** (Matt. 1:16.) However there was a problem in this bloodline because of curse that God had put on Jeconiah (Jer. 22:30; Matt. 1:11), *the 14<sup>th</sup> descendant of the Davidic royal lineage, pronouncing that no descendant of his could ever occupy the throne of David.* Joseph, espoused husband of Mary, was in that line; he was a direct living descendant of Jeconiah, and he was thus a legal heir to David’s throne (Rev. 11:15), but because of the blood-curse, he would not be eligible – *for anyone of Jeconiah’ seed could not sit on David’s throne and rule over Israel, and ultimately the world.* There were three conditions that the coming ruler of Israel had to meet: **He had to be the lineal descendant of King David to satisfy God’s promise to David.** (2 Sam. 7:12.) **He had to be the legal son of Joseph to inherit the throne of David** (Matt. 1:16), **but he could not be a physical son of Joseph, for if he was, he would be under the blood-curse God had placed on Jeconiah. God had resolved this problem by the Virgin-birth!** (Gen. 3:15; Luke 1:31-35.) As we can see, **Jesus was the legal son of Joseph, but Joseph was not Jesus’ physical father.** (Matt. 1:16.) Verse 16 clearly indicates that **Jesus was born of Mary, but not of Joseph and Mary, for it is also stated that Joseph had not known Mary as his wife until after Jesus was born.** (Matt. 1:25.)] The Gospel of Luke (3:23-38), explains and solves the rest of the potential problems concerning prophecies of **Messiah the Prince [King] of Israel** (Dan. 9:25) who had to be lineal descendant of King David. We learn from Luke’s gospel that **Mary also was a direct lineal descendant of David, however not through the lineage that carried Jeconiah’s curse, but instead through Nathan, another son of David.** (Luke 3: 23-38.) Thus this curse did not affect Mary or her Son Jesus to whom she gave birth. In summary: **Jesus was the legal son of Joseph, husband of Mary, and through Joseph Jesus inherited the legal right to the Throne of David, but since He was not the physical son of Joseph, Jesus, inherited that right through the Virgin birth, and therefore He was not under the curse of Jeconiah.** Fulfilment for this was declared in Matthew’s gospel (1:22-23), spoken by the prophet Isaiah (7:14) saying, *“the LORD Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”* [The Hebrew word *almah* in Isa. 7:14 is translated *the virgin*. Many Bible-critics have said that a word *almah* could mean just a young unmarried woman who would conceive and bear a son, being not a virgin.] But when looking at this word, *almah* in the context of Isaiah 7:14 **had to mean “a virgin”** (one of a kind) **for a conception by a young unmarried woman would hardly be a sign of anything except of sin.** (Sin cannot be of God.) Read again what Isaiah says, *“the LORD Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”* (Isa. 7:14.) **Immanuel means “God with us”** (Matt. 1:23), i.e. **God incarnate, God in human flesh.** This is the unique miracle foretold in Gen. 3:15, *“the Seed of a woman”*. Men produce seed naturally, but **a woman could only generate seed supernaturally. This has happened only once.** (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14.) **The Virgin-birth is indeed a mighty sign, a miracle of God – as was His creation of Adam and Eve.** (Gen. 1:27.) When the Old Testament was translated into the Greek language about 200-300 years before Christ, Greek scholars, seventy of them working at it, understood what Isaiah was talking about, *the virgin* (one only), not just any young woman, and they used a Greek word *“parthenos”, that can only mean a virgin.* (Jer. 31:22.) In the **New Testament, that came to be almost 500 years after the Greek Septuagint translation of the OT,** Matthew 1:23 **quotes Isa. 7:14 from the Septuagint** that translates *almah* correctly *“parthenos”, the virgin.* (See also Gal. 4:4.) Again, it is important to know that if Jesus was not born of a Virgin, He could not have

paid the penalty of the sin of the world by *His death on the cross*, as John 3:16 promises, ***“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.”*** (Acts 16:31.) **To believe on the Lord Jesus Christ is to believe that He is the Virgin-born Son of God who came for the express purpose of giving Himself as a sacrifice for our sin.**

Paul wrote that the Church was an *unrevealed mystery* in the Old Testament. (Rom. 16:25-26; Eph. 3:2-10; Col. 1:25-27.) **The church was born suddenly at Pentecost** (Acts 2:1) and **will also suddenly end at the Rapture**. (John 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:9.) **The Church is unique in the plan of God, a new entity that is separate from God’s plan for Israel. All true believers in Christ are members of His body, the Church.** (Col. 1:18, 24; John 16:5-15.) The church partakes in the **spiritual promises of the Abrahamic covenant, fulfilled through Christ. Israel will fulfill its national destiny as a separate entity during the Messianic/Millennial Kingdom that will take place after the Tribulation**, the time, when unbelieving Israel and the unbelieving world will come under God’s wrath and are judged.

The church, *the Bride of Christ*, includes both Jews and Gentiles, but the Church has no *earthly prophetic destiny after the Rapture but she has a wonderful promise that they will always be with the Lord*. (1 Thess. 4:17; Rev. 19:7; 21:9). During the millennium the church will *rule and reign with Christ* (Rev. 3:21; 20:4) along with the Old Testament Saints and redeemed Israelites who had before the Rapture become part of His Bride. (For more about that, see also Matt. 19:28; 2 Tim. 2:12.)

**Jesus is coming again after the Great Tribulation, as the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. He comes with His saints to rule and reign in the world from Jerusalem, Israel, for a thousand years.** (Rev. 19:7-20:4.)

As Jesus had commanded just before His ascension to heaven that His own, the Church, will go and preach the Gospel ***“to the ends of the earth”*** without wavering, until He comes back. (Acts 1:7-11; Luke 19:13.) We as believers in Him, while waiting for His coming, are to preach diligently *the Gospel of Salvation* that Paul later also pronounced (1 Cor. 15:1-4) saying, ***“I declare to you the Gospel, which I preached to you, which also you received and in which 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.”***

***When we receive Jesus (believe on Him), we are born again and become children of God.*** (John 1:12-13.) ***The Spirit of God will be indwelling us from that moment on and forever. He has said that He will never leave us or forsake us.*** Our faith is in Jesus Christ, the Virgin-born Son of God and coming King of Israel who will sit on the throne of David, as angel Gabriel promised to Mary, and as was reassured also to Joseph. (Luke 1:30-37; Matt. 1:20.)

Jesus was and is our substitute for He died in our place and rose again. We will live with Him forever and ever. **We have to make sure that we know this very Jesus, Jesus of the Bible.** The Bible commands that we ***test all things by the Word of God to make sure that what we believe is true*** (1 Thess. 5:21). We must test our feelings also (1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1), for the Holy Spirit would not give us ***“testimonies”*** of something that is not true, but the Devil and demonic spirits would!

We must know that ***Jesus is God*** and that He ***became a man*** to die in our place to give us the gift of eternal life. **If we do not believe that He is God, the Great I AM, we will die in our sins** (John 8:24) for ***“only God can forgive sins.”*** (Mark 2:7b.) **Knowing this truth determines our eternal destiny!** (John 14:6.) Satan hates that and he will do anything to deceive us, and instead of the real Jesus, he will present ***another Jesus*** (2 Cor. 11:3-4; 13-15), by the same name and even using stories of Jesus we can read from the New Testament. Jesus warned that knowing **about Him** is not the same as **knowing Him** and having a personal relationship with Him. Jesus said, ***“Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name,***

***cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name? And then I will declare to them, I never knew you: depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.***”(Matt. 7:22-23.)

When witnessing to LDS people, we need to keep in mind what they have been taught about God and Jesus and what salvation means to them. I am just briefly reminding what they believe for it will help you to understand how to reason with them and help them to see what the Bible teaches about God, Jesus and salvation: They have been taught that their God was once a mortal man who progressed into Godhood with his wives, and that all mankind and angels, Lucifer included, are his and his wives spirit children from preexistence. They teach that Jesus is God’s eldest son and a brother of all mankind and angels, and that he was *The Chosen* in preexistence *to become the Savior of all* (over competing Lucifer).

They believe that by following and obeying the teachings of the Mormon Church and their living prophets, marrying in a Mormon Temple, obeying all the laws and ordinances of the Mormon Church, they too can after this life become gods and goddesses and have their own worlds to populate with their spirit children who will start the same process over again.

As to the birth of Jesus into mortality, they teach that it was their Heavenly Father who came to Mary and conceived Jesus’ physical body, and not the Holy Ghost as the Bible teaches and Christianity believes. Their understanding is based on what their prophets have taught. ***“The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint proclaims that Jesus Christ is the Son of God in the most literal sense... The body in which He performed His mission in the flesh was sired by that same Holy Being we worship as God, our Eternal Father. Jesus was not the son of Joseph, nor what He begotten by the Holy Ghost. He is the Son of the Eternal Father.”*** (“Come Unto Christ”, p. 4, by Prophet Ezra Taft Benson.) To understand what he is saying, we look at what Mormon Doctrine says he means, ***“Begotten means begotten; and Son means son. Christ was begotten by an immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by their mortal fathers.”*** (Pp. 546-7.)

But reading from the Bible (Matt. 1:18) where an angel of God told Joseph, ***“...do not be afraid to take Mary your wife, for that what is begotten in her is of the Holy Ghost.”*** (John 17:17) ***“Your Word is Truth.”***

Regardless of clear contradictions between the Bible and LDS prophet’s statements about Jesus and His birth, ***most Mormons still insist that their Jesus is the same Jesus as taught in the Bible and believed by Christianity! However, the Mormon Church has openly (and publically) admitted that “their Jesus is not the same Jesus as Jesus of historic, traditional Christianity... and that their concepts are completely different.”***

[It seems that the general membership of the Mormon Church either does not care what the truth is, or they trust their leaders more than they trust the Bible since they also have been taught that the Bible may not be correctly translated. (8<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith.)] LDS leaders’ doctrinal statements about Jesus have been published in their conference sermons, in their educational magazines, in their Newspapers, in their books and their teaching manuals.

We must ask these LDS friends or neighbors we are inviting to reason with us which ones would they rather believe – the Bible or the Mormon prophets, They cannot reasonably believe two opposing teachings. Believing the Bible leads to eternal life, believing falsehoods will lead to eternal damnation.

Just days before going to the Cross, Jesus was asked by His disciples about the end times and what will be *the sign* of His coming. Jesus said, ***“Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, saying I am Christ, and will deceive many...false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders, so as to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand.”*** (Matt. 24:4-5, 24.)

Paul also, when warning about deceptions, reminded believers that it was *Satan who by his cleverness deceived Eve*, and that he will do the same to you, even today. (2 Cor. 11: 4, 13-15; Gal. 1:8-9.) Warnings about deceptions throughout the Bible are many. Not knowing is not a valid excuse.

The next newsletter will be a combined letter for July-August 2022. During the latter part June or perhaps sometime in July we hope to take time off for camping. My back is better now thanks to the *Mito Red Light* but still not good enough to go on longer trips, and traveling on paved roads only ... 😊

We thank you, our ministry partners and friends for your faithful support and prayers for our ministry work and for us personally. We thank the Lord for you in our daily prayers and ask that He will take care of you and meet your needs, whatever they are, and we are assured in our spirit that He does watch over you! Many of you have let us know that you have been and are still praying for my back that I injured some time ago. It has been painful even after the surgical procedure, but it is getting better, though slowly. The Lord has heard our joined prayers and we thank Him and you.

We are often asked if it would be a time for us (after 38 years of ministry) to retire? We have no retirement plan! We have not found even a hint for retirement in God's Word. Actually all God's workers we read about in the Bible continued their work till death. Moses didn't even start His work for the Lord until he was about 80 year old – and he worked 40 more years after that! I read a statement that said, "*Being in the Lord work is not easy, but if you continue to work till you die, your retirement is "out of this world-amazing".*" We'll wait for that! In addition to our ministry work, Dennis is still doing his carpentry work, though not as many hours every day as he has done before, and we are amazed that we both are able to do our ministry work pretty much full time, and also help and counsel those who are spiritually struggling. God is so good!

There are many who need and ask for your prayers. I again will just list their names here as I know that Lord knows what ails or troubles them, and He will take care of them *according to their needs and according to His will.* (1 John 5:14-15.) Please pray for Judy, Jamie, Janet, Marlene, Sandy, Al, Emily, Suzi, Aira, Heber, Richard, Mark, Virve, Bruce, Greg, Mary, Bonnie, Paul, Eeva-Liisa, and Pastor Mika and his sister and family in Finland. Please pray for our former LDS friends in Australia, and we ask that you'd pray also for our LDS family and friends. We'd like to have new opportunities to get together and again share Christ with them.

**This time of the year is delightful. Spring time is always beautiful, though now it has been colder than usual during the nights. It is snowing in the mountains and we have had some frost on the lower areas. We have had to cover our newly planted flowers, tomatoes and other vegetables to save them. We hope that the Hummingbirds that came a bit early this year will survive these cold nights. We have 3 hummingbird-feeders and we have so many birds that we have to fill them with sugar-water every couple of days. We hope that warmer weather will be here soon, to stay – but as it usually is, when it arrives it soon will be too hot! That is what Utah weather is like: too cold or too hot! 😊**

The world seems to be falling apart, but not really dor *prophetically speaking "everything is just falling in place"*, as we heard Jan Markell explain. 😊 **No fears – our Lord is in control. Let us all share the gospel thanking the Lord that He has allowed each one of us to be alive at this time and be witnesses in these last days. We wish you happy summer-days and God's blessings.**

***"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; may they prosper who love you."* (Psalm 122:6.)**

With the Love of Christ,  
Rauni & Dennis Higley

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