



H.I.S. Ministries International

He Is Savior



April 1, 2009

H.I. S. Ministries April Newsletter, covering March 2009

Spring is a time of hope and a new life. For us as born-again believers in Jesus Christ, this is a time of renewal of our determination to live for Him, to glorify Him through our lives and be eager to share Him with those who do not **yet** know Him. Our lives can take on a new dimension if we truly recognize Him and promise to serve Him with all that we are and have, no matter what the cost. We hope and pray that this season, from Palm Sunday and Resurrection Day to the Day of Pentecost, recorded in Acts 2:1-4, will fill us all with **a desire to be faithful to Him till the end** and share the Good News with the lost.

Many of us have LDS friends and relatives. We want them to be with us when He comes, which could be at any time, ***“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with the shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”*** (1 Thess. 4:16-18.)

These words are indeed comforting!

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” (John 5:39.)

Next Sunday, the 5th of April, is **Palm Sunday**, the day when our Lord rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to fulfill what Zechariah had written over 500 years before. ***“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”*** (Zech. 9:9.) (At this time rulers were riding on horses, not on donkeys.)

This was the 6th of April 32 A.D., the very day predicted by Daniel (Dan. 9:24-26), the day that the Messiah will be presented, and then killed, ***“cut off, but not for Himself”***. This “presentation day”, which we call Palm Sunday, was exactly **173,880 days after** Artaxerxes Longimanus had (on the 14th of March 445 B.C.) given a commandment to ***“restore and build Jerusalem”*** - as reported by Daniel. (An interesting study to see the exactness of biblical prophecies.)

From the New Testament we read that people had many times wanted to declare Jesus as their Messiah-King, but He always, before this very day, had said ***“my time has not yet come”***, but on this day He not only allowed it, **He arranged it** (see Matt. 26:17-18). This

was **four days before the Passover**, which was the day of selecting the Passover Lamb, to be kept four days before it was killed on Passover – according to Ex. 12:5-6. On that day, we call “**Palm Sunday**”, He allowed Himself to be hailed as their King, fulfilling Ps. 118:26 & Daniel 9.

When multitudes saw Him, “*they cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.*” (Matt. 21:9.)

Pharisees commanded Jesus to rebuke the people for declaring Him as their King, but Jesus answered them, “*if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out. ...He beheld the city, and wept over it, saying, if thou hast known, even thou, at least **this thy day**, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hid from thy eyes.*” (Luke 19:39-42.) They did not know what the scriptures had foretold about “**this thy day**”! **All scriptures were written about Him – so that they would be able to recognize Him when he comes.** (Luke 24:25-27,44; 2 Tim. 3:16.) But they (as a nation) did not! We find *His Virgin Birth* (Isa. 7:14), *His place of birth* (Bethlehem) (Micah 5:2), *His Davidic lineage* (Acts 13:22-23), *His betrayal for 30 pieces of silver* (Zech. 11:12-13) etc. etc., all recorded in the Old Testament.

The Bible records over 300 prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus’ earthly life.

One of these prophecies that I’d like to focus on at this time is, “*He made His grave with the wicked (plural in Hebrew), and with the rich (singular) in His death.*” (Isaiah 53:9.) He was crucified with transgressors, one of each side of Him, and His body was laid in a tomb that was hewn out of rock of Golgotha for Joseph of Arimathea, a rich disciple of Jesus who gave his tomb for Jesus’ burial place. [As Chuck Missler said, “*Why not, it was only for the week end!*”] Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus prepared Jesus’ body for burial. (John 19:38-40.) - **But the grave could not hold Him. HE IS RISEN!**

Preaching the gospel, as we all are commanded to do, means teaching who Jesus is and that He died for our sins, was buried and rose again on the third day, according to the scriptures. (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) His sacrifice brought forgiveness and eternal salvation to all who accept Him as their Savior and Lord. (John 8:24.) We are accustomed to calling this celebration time “**Easter**”. This word appears in the King James Version of the Bible only once, in Acts 12:4. It is actually a *mistranslation*, or *misinterpretation* of a sort, of the Greek word, “pascha”, which means **Passover, which is a Jewish Feast. Easter is a festival or a feast of the Christian church that commemorates the resurrection of Christ, in place of the Passover.** It is celebrated at this time of the year, according to the Jewish calendar, on the first Sunday following the full moon. If the full moon falls on Sunday, it is celebrated a week later (the time of *Easter* falls between March 22 and April 25). Easter replaced the **Jewish Passover** (“pascha”) **among those who have accepted Jesus as their Messiah and Savior.** The trouble with the timing of Easter, until about 8th century, was caused primarily by the fact that the Jews observed a calendar based on lunar months. **Passover** was celebrated on the **14th of Nisan**, and it was not therefore tied to any day of the week. The first dispute was whether Christians should celebrate this festival on a weekday or the following Sunday. Eusebius (4th century) in his ecclesiastical history describes, “*The Christian communities of all Asia [i.e. the Roman province, so-called] thought, according to a very old tradition, that the feast of Savior’s pascha ought to be kept on the 14th day of the moon, on which Jews were ordered to sacrifice the lamb, and that therefore on whatever day of the week this might fall...But*

the churches in the rest of the world were not accustomed to observe this practice: in virtue of an apostolic tradition they followed the custom now in force and considered that no other day was right...but that of our Savior's resurrection [which was Sunday, the first day of the week] ... Every Sunday was then called a "*little Easter*". *Passover* is the basis for our Easter, but "*Easter*", by that name, was originally a pagan festival honoring *Eostre*, a Teutonic goddess of light, spring and fertility, celebrated around the same time as *Passover*, but Easter, celebrated by pagans, was focused on spring at the time of the vernal equinox (when the sun crosses the equator and day and night are equal in length). **We, as Christians, do not identify or have anything at all to do with pagan festivals**, but we do need to know, if asked, where some of these names came from and why. **We need to remember that we do not celebrate Easter with fertility symbols of eggs and Easter-bunnies as unbelievers do, we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord that took place at this time of the year!**

In Jewish homes, all over the world, *Passover* is still celebrated, which they also call the *Festival of Redemption*. They observe the *Feast of Unleavened Bread* at that time also. They eat only **unleavened bread** during the entire *Passover* week. *Passover* is the most sacred event in Judaism and stands as the cornerstone of Israel's identity and purpose. *The Passover Lamb* is the symbol of God's deliverance of the Jewish people from bondage in Egypt. They also partook of bitter herbs, symbolic of bitterness of their bondage, and **unleavened bread**, that symbolized hurriedness of their flight, and **also their need to purge sin from their lives**. Exodus 12:15 explains that there **must not be yeast** (leaven) found in their homes during the **entire Passover week**.

God uses "everyday items", like bread and leaven/yeast, to teach us His truth. **Leaven**, i.e. yeast (in Hebrew 'homez') **is used throughout the Bible as a symbol of sin**. Leaven is sour, and like sin, it "sours" life. **Leaven changes that which was before unleavened; it puffs up and corrupts**. Putting a rotten apple into a barrel of good apples spoils the rest of them, but we cannot make a barrel of rotten apples good by putting a fresh apple in it. That is how it is with sin, it contaminates what it touches. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "**Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.**" (1 Cor. 5:6.) Sin does the same thing, it makes us self-centered and puffed up, and the sin of pride causes us to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to, while **adding no substance at all**. Jesus warned against the "*leaven of Pharisees and of Sadducees*" (Matt 16:11-12), which was their hypocrisy and malice. Just as a small amount of yeast puffs the bread-dough up, and as the dough rises, it does not have any more weight or substance than unleavened dough, it just takes more room. In order to understand this symbolism better we need to be aware how yeast/ leaven works. My grandmother in Finland used to make sour-dough rye bread weekly. Each time she saved a small part of the dough, with its original culture of leaven, and when it was put into a new patch of dough, it leavened, "corrupted" it, and the fresh dough puffed up. Paul's instruction to the Corinthians was to "**purge out the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened.**" (1 Cor. 5:7.) Jews had to clean their entire homes and "**purge out**" all leaven, symbolic of sin, before they were allowed to celebrate the *Passover*. We must likewise purge out all that is not good in our lives, examine our hearts, so that we too can truly celebrate Easter wholeheartedly and meditate in the meaning of the Gospel (1. Cor. 15:1-4), which is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

It was during the Passover Celebration with His disciples that Jesus instituted *communion*

of bread and wine as a remembrance of Him. (See Matt. 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:23-26.)
As death passed over all Hebrew homes in Egypt that had blood of the lamb brushed on their doorposts, we also will be saved from eternal death by the Blood of the Lamb. **Unleavened bread** (bread without leaven) we take as *communion* symbolizes **sinless body of Jesus**, our *Passover Lamb*, broken and sacrificed on the Cross of Calvary for you and me. **Red wine or red grape juice** we take, symbolizes His blood, that cleanses us from all sin. (1 Cor. 11:23-29; 1 John 1:7.)
As Mormons, we did not even have that right! The Mormon Church uses as their “sacrament” puffed up “Wonder bread”, made with yeast, symbol of sin, and water that could not symbolize the blood of Christ. LDS “sacrament” is symbolic only of “another Jesus”, and “watered-down” “another gospel”, Paul warned about in 1 Cor. 11:4. While we were blinded in bondage of Mormonism, we did not notice the emptiness and **meaninglessness** of taking this “sacrament” of leavened, **puffed up bread, and water**, which was given every Sunday, it’s frequency making it even less special.

As we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and our salvation through our faith in His finished work, let us not forget that He is coming soon. **As His first coming was foretold of in the scriptures, so is His second coming. We must not be ignorant and be taken by surprise, but we must be ready, expecting Him to come at any time. He comes first for His Bride, the Church, saved by His grace and mercy, and *meets us in the air*, (1 Thess. 4:13-18), and after that He will come as a Judge of the unbelieving world. **Our prayer is that many more will come to know Him now when we still have time.****

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From our mailbox:

An LDS man sent eight questions. You will see my answers below each question.

1. *To be a true apostle of Christ, must he have been with Jesus in person?*

Answer: Apostles were eye-witnesses of Christ’s ministry. The word “apostle” is translated from a Greek word “*apostolos*”, which means *an ambassador sent [to represent Christ]*. Luke 1:2 and 2 Peter 1:16 confirm that apostles were *eye-witnesses* of Jesus’ ministry. Throughout the New Testament this word is used of those who were true ambassadors/apostles of Christ, excepting in 2 Cor. 11:13, where a word in Greek is “*pseudapostolos*”, meaning pretenders, a false apostles or a false teacher. The word *apostle* is a New Testament word, and was not known before Christ and His mission. The Book of Mormon proves to be only a 19th century production for it speaks of *twelve apostles* from the beginning of the BoM – 600-592 B.C. and also about *Christ* and *Christians* hundreds of years before there was Christ or followers of Christ. *Christ* in Greek is *Christos* meaning Messiah or the Anointed One.

2. *If one truly asks God for an answer to a prayer, can Satan intercede and give an answer?*

Answer: I do not know if you are a “temple Mormon” and know what goes on in LDS temples, but if you are, then you’d know that in LDS temples **Adam’s prayer is answered by Lucifer, who says that he is the god of this world.** That this happens in

a temple, the holiest place in Mormonism, should answer this question for you. The Bible warns us about “another spirit”, and commands us *to test the spirits* (see 1 John 4:1) that can give “good feelings” or testimonies of something that is false. We must test all teachings and feelings by the Word of God that cannot lie. The Word of God was given to us so that we would know what the doctrine is, and how to correct those who have gone astray. (Read 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16.) If all Mormons would *test all things* (1 Thess 5:21), including their “testimonies” by the Bible, they would see that it cannot be the Holy Spirit that has given them feelings that Mormonism is true for Mormonism teaches of *another Jesus*, that God was once a man, and that men can become gods, when the Bible says that Jesus is I AM (God) and that God is not a man, and men will not become gods after Him. (John 1:1, 14; 8:24; Isaiah 43:10; 44:6; Ps. 90:2; Numbers 23:19; Hosea 11:9.)

3. Do you have to be baptized to be saved? Isn't Mark 16:16 saying that salvation requires baptism?

Answer: Mark 16:16 says, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he who believeth not shall be damned.” It is “not believing” that causes damnation. Baptism follows after we believe. Romans 6:3-4 explains why we are baptized. “*Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized INTO Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life.*” When we are baptized we show our faith in the Gospel of Christ which is a message of His death, burial and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) The Bible clearly teaches that it is the blood of Jesus, shed in our behalf, that saves. (1 John 1:7.) Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9 explain how we are saved – no works can be added. Faith in Jesus alone is the way to salvation (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). What are the works that we must do to be saved? Jesus answered that question, “This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He has sent.” (John 6:29.)

4. If we are saved through grace alone, why does the Bible command us to do His commandments?

Answer: The Bible says that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments! Keeping commandments does not save, but keeping them proves that we love Him and that our faith in Him is real, from our heart, not just words we say. (Romans 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-9.) Jesus condensed all commandments into two: *To love God and our neighbor.* (Matt. 22:37-40.) The same can be applied to our own lives. The way our children prove that they love and respect us is that they obey and do what we ask of them, for our reason for giving them rules to follow is our desire for their best. Likewise God has given us commandments because He loves us and desires the best for us.

5. If Jesus is God, as you say, how can He increase in wisdom and stature?

Answer: Jesus is 100% God and 100% a man. As God, He could not increase in wisdom and knowledge, but we tend to forget that he was also a man, and as a man He had to grow in His humanity just as we have to. If He did not, He could not have fully been a representation of us.

6. *If your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life, can it be taken out if you reject Him (Once saved always saved?) Hebr.12:15 and 6:4-6.*

Answer: The Bible teaches that when we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ, who is God with us, we are born again by the Spirit of God, and He will *never leave us nor forsake us*. It is not a conditional promise! Jesus said that *He will give us eternal life* and we, who have received it, *will never perish* or be lost. (John 10:28-30.) If “*eternal life*” could be lost, then it would not be “*eternal life*” at all. The moment we are born again, our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life, and our names will stay there forever. You referred to Hebrews 12:15; “*fall short of grace*”(NKJV) simply means that some may have come close to becoming truly born again Christians, but they were never saved at all – in other words, they *fell short of accepting the grace of God by faith*. The same could be said of any goal we fall short of reaching – *being close* or “*almost there*” is not the same as being born again. In other words, they never had really accepted the grace of God.

Hebrews 6:4-6 is one of the most misunderstood passages I can think of. For that reason we all need to be careful in inspecting this, and not jump to conclusions before carefully considering the meaning. The main question from this seems to be in the minds of most whether or not a born-again believer can lose his salvation. In v. 6 it says, “IF they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance”! Note: it does not say WHEN THEY FALL AWAY, but IF. The key word is “IF” – if they could fall away, then they could not be saved again, because it would prove that Jesus' work on the cross was not enough to keep them saved, and He would have to be crucified again for one to be saved again! Remember and understand that Christ purchased salvation for us at a price we could never pay, and He GAVE that salvation to us as His GIFT (Eph. 2:8-9). He will never take His Gift from us – He is the one who keeps us saved! John 10:28-30 says that we are held in the handclasp of both the Father and the Son, and thus we will never perish! If that was not true, then He, Jesus, *would be put to open shame* for promising something that either was not so, or He could not do. This statement in Hebr. 6, “*IF they shall fall away*” is hypothetical – something that could never happen. It ends with an assuring word, (v. 9) “BUT beloved, we are persuaded better things for you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.” This obviously means that “*falling away*” does not accompany true salvation – God's promises are “*better*”.

7. *Does “endure to the end” (Matt. 24:13-14) mean believe to the end?*

Answer: It (Matt. 24) is a prophecy about the end times. And “*then shall the end come*” which in this context means “*the end of the age*”. Jesus reveals to His disciples what will take place before the very end.

1. The destruction of the Temple (verses 1-2).

2. The Signs of the End Times and the End of the Age (verses 3-14).
3. The Great Tribulation (verses 15-28).
4. The Coming of the Son of Man (verses 29-31).
5. The Parable of the Fig Tree (verses 29-35).
6. No One Knows the Day or Hour (verses 36-44).
7. The Faithful Servant and the Evil Servant (verses 45-51).

We can see that this chapter was written to Israel, not to the church, which will not be here during the 7-year Tribulation period, also called “*the time of Jacob’s trouble*”. (Jer. 30:7.)

8. *If God the Father and Jesus are the same being, why does Christ make such a point over and over again distinguishing the two as separate beings? Example: Jesus is praying to the Father.*

Answer: As finite beings, we have a hard time describing and understanding an infinite God. But as we read and study the Word of God, we have to come to the conclusion that there is only one God, and that this One God consists of Three Eternal Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Hebrews 11:6 says, “*Without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.*” God, the author of His Word, asks that we believe what the Bible says. It should not be hard at all for we have ample proof that the Bible is true and that it is the Word of God. It is “history written in advance”. The Triune God of the Bible by His nature is Spirit, not a man. (John 4:24; Hosea 11:9; Numbers 23:19.) Jesus is the Second Person of Triune God. *He is God, who became a man* as John 1:1, 14 and Matt. 1:23 say. He “*was made in the likeness of men*” (Phil. 2:7), even though He was and is eternal God.

Three Persons in the Godhead are One God (Trinity) – not three separate Gods. There is only one God, *even the devils believe that and tremble*, says James (2:19). The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit have always existed as One God. (Ps. 90:2; 1 John 5:7.) They have always communed/talked to one another. Jesus, who is fully God, became fully a man. He is 100% God and 100% man. Of course He talked/prayed to the Father. Colossians 2:9 says, “*For in Him (Jesus) dwelleth ALL the fullness of the Godhead BODILY*”. The “*Godhead*” consists of three eternal Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. “*Dwelleth*” means that “all attributes and the essence of Deity are in Christ; not just divinity but Deity; not Godlike, but God; not a nature like God’s, but a nature the same as God’s.” “*Bodily*” means that incarnation was real. “Here our Lord Jesus Christ was one Person with two natures: the God-man...Paul (in his letter to Colossians) declares the Deity and humanity of Jesus in corporeal form.”

I hope this helped. If you have more questions or want more clarifications, please write again. With best wishes, Rauni

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We are asking you all to continue praying for Heidi and her family. She is receiving chemo and radiation treatments that are taking a toll on her. It is very stressing to her husband and children too. We do not know why this is happening to her, but we

know that she and her family are loved by the Lord.

Heidi is wanting to minister to others suffering from cancer and she is getting ready to have her own website up for that purpose. It is heartwarming to see her compassion towards others who have similar illnesses, but who do not have the comfort of knowing Jesus and His love.

We are aware that many of the troubles we go through now, or have gone through in the past, were so that we could understand and help others better. It is true that *“if it has not happened to you, it cannot happen through you.”* As believers in Jesus, we are continually in training so that we can help others that may some day face similar trials. We have learned to ask (if and when we have some “easier times”), *are we not making a difference?* The enemy of our souls is trying to make us miserable so that we would not be effective for the Lord. Hard times are when we cling to the Lord tighter – and our blessings come from His presence.

Pray for Bruce. He is back in Utah and receiving treatments for his cancer. His insurance settlement for his a car accident several years ago, that left him unable to work, is yet to come through.

We praise the Lord for an LDS couple that is now out of Mormonism. They need prayer for their children and their salvation.

We continue to pray that the Lord will bring people into our lives who He knows we can help. We try to answer everyone that contacts us with hope and prayer that the truth will penetrate their hearts and releases them from the bondage of Mormonism into His love and grace.

Our friend, former BYU professor Lynn Wilder, has put her story on our website. You can read it at www.hismin.com/FormersMormon.htm. Please pass the word around. She included her email address and she is willing to answer letters sent to her.

Those of you living in Salt Lake City, Utah, may remember that last summer (in August) Lynn and Michael Wilder’s sons’ fantastic *Adam’s Road Band* was here in Utah. We were privileged to have all of them as guests at our home. We barbequed hamburgers on our patio, and talked and talked with them for hours. They gave a “private concert”, so to speak, on our patio for us. We simply fell in love with the “boys”. Their music, their stories, on how they found the true Jesus of the Bible, are inspiring. They gave a concert at *Calvary Chapel* and *Utah Christian Fellowship’s* Park meeting to large crowds, and they also appeared on Shaw McCraney’s TV Show here in Salt Lake City. We are hoping and praying that they will be invited by many churches in Utah to come back this summer and share their love for the Lord and the lost. They can be contacted at www.adamsroadband.com and their music can be sampled at www.myspace.com/adamsroadband

While you are at our website reading Lynn Wilder’s story, you might want to read more of former Mormon stories. They should encourage you to be a bold and loving witness of God’s truth, bringing the lost to His fold. It does happen! It only requires your bold and loving witness of His Truth.

Please keep us in your prayers. We have had our share of illnesses and problems during last month, but the Lord has taken care of us. It is also comforting to know that we have friends who are lifting us up in prayer to the Lord.

Our finances could be better, but we know that the Lord knows it all and He provides what is necessary. We are deeply grateful for all of you who have contributed to our ministry so that we can provide necessary materials and information to truth-seekers.

We pray the Lord's provisions for you as you share from your blessings. Thank you.

In Christ and in His service,

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