



# H.I.S. Ministries International

He Is Savior



## February Newsletter, covering January 2009

We hope your first month of the New Year has been good and blessed regardless of what we read in the news and experience in our lives. The news about the economy and conditions in the whole world we read about in papers and hear on radio or TV are not good, but our Lord is good. His Word comforts and gives us peace and hope in the midst of the storm.

Many are hoping that the “change” this country (and in many ways, the world) asked for and received, will fix, if not everything, at least our nation’s economic problems.

I fear that our problems that we have had for some time, are only getting worse, as for our nation, we have not approached God’s Throne with a repentant heart, our young are not taught to seek God and be thankful. Prayer is not allowed in our schools, Bibles are forbidden reading there. How do we expect God to bless us, when a majority of our people have denied Him by their very actions – and by their voices?

**“IF My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”** (2 Chron. 7:14.) **Are we His people?** If we are, God would that we’d seek Him, repent from our self-centered and sinful lives, and receive His forgiveness and thus allow Him to bless our land and our personal lives and inspire our government leaders to find real solutions to our problems.

Let us not forget that our main goal and purpose in these last days must be to present the gospel to as many as we can, for soon the time is up, and our God will close the door as He did in Noah’s time.

Our friend, Joyce, wrote to me just a few days ago, saying, “...*the door of grace and mercy will not be left open forever. After Noah spent 120 years building the Ark while preaching a message of repentance and the certainty of coming judgment, it was the Lord Almighty himself who closed the door... what was left for those outside the safety of the Ark was destruction and death. So it is in our day. Our Ark of safety is in the Person of Christ. We must be doers of the Word and not hearers only. The day of reckoning is at hand and even if the entire world be against the Lord, His truth will remain. What the Lord is saying is that if we have not heard Him in our prosperity perhaps we will hear Him in our poverty. The door is already creaking and the time is short...*”

**We are looking up, not down.** He is coming soon, is our firm belief.

***“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a 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.)

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### **From our mailbox:**

We have received several questions from LDS people. One LDS man says that he is relying on the testimony of eight Book of Mormon witnesses for the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon, and he is asking why we do not believe their testimony. He said:

*“Testimony of eight witnesses (of the Book of Mormon) says that they both saw and hefted the (gold) plates. “*

**My reply:**

The fact of this matter is that the BoM witnesses **never saw the plates with their physical eyes**, only *by eyes faith* or in a vision.

Martin Harris said, *“I never saw the golden plates, only in a visionary or entranced state... While praying I passed into a state of entrancement, and in that state I saw the angel and the plates.”* (Early Mormon Documents, 2: 346-47, quoted from *Insider’s View of Mormon Origin*, Grant H. Palmer, p. 198.)

Harris was also asked *“Did you see the plates and engravings on them with your bodily eyes?...”* [Harris answered] *“I did not see them as I do that pencil case, yet I saw them with the eyes of my faith.”* (Ibid, 2:270; Grant Palmer, p.198.)

LDS Leader and author, Marvin S. Hill, stated in March of 1974, quoting Reuben T. Harmon, who had said, *“I am well acquainted with Martin Harris, who was often in my house...He never claimed to have seen them [the plates] with his natural eyes, only [in a] spiritual vision.”* (Church History 43, pp. 92-93, also quoted in *Early Mormon Documents*, 2:385, 526; and by Grant Palmer, p. 198.)

On 25th of March, 1838, **Martin Harris testified publically that none of the signatories to the Book of Mormon saw or handled the physical records.**

*“...Martin Harris stated in public that he never saw the plates with his natural eyes only in vision or imagination, neither Oliver nor David & also that the eight witnesses never saw them & hesitated to sign that instrument for that reason, but were persuaded to do it...”* (Early Mormon Documents, 2:288-93; Palmer, p. 204.) They had also said that they had *“physically hefted the box and handled something through a cloth”, but they never saw the plates*, only that there was something heavy under the cloth in that box.

[If you want to read about these men and what they also believed in addition to the Book of Mormon, please get Grant H. Palmer’s well documented book, *Insider’s View of Mormon Origin*. He has written an entire chapter (#6, from pp. 175-213), about the BoM witnesses and what they have said - after the fact. [Later three of the *Whitmers* - David, John and Jacob - and Martin Harris, Hiram Page, William Smith (Joseph’s brother) and Lucy Smith (Joseph’s mother) all joined James J. Strang and followed him - from Joseph Smith’s death until 1847, excepting Oliver Cowdery (who had already left the church in 1838). James J. Strang did very similar things as Joseph Smith. He also produced **eleven witnesses for the plates that he claimed to have received from an angel** (in Sept. 1845). **These witnesses also testified that they had seen and examined the plates** Strang had received and said that they (plates) were covered *“with characters, but in a language of which we have no knowledge”*. Their **“testimony” was the same as the Eleven Witnesses’ testimony of the Book of Mormon**. These plates of Strang were also delivered back to the angel who gave them, so they cannot be examined either. James Strang’s *“translation”* of them is known as *“The Book of The Law of the Lord”* (We have a copy of it in our library - it reads very similar as the Book of Mormon.)

I could say and quote more, but I think it would be better if you’d read Grant Palmer’s book, *Insider’s View of Mormon Origin*, and other reliable documentation given by him

there. Both Joseph Smith's and James Strang's "plates" *belong to another world* rather than this one for **they are just imaginary plates. They are unlike the Dead Sea Scrolls and other ancient documents of the Bible that are real and can be examined!**

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**Another Mormon asked:**

*"There was a complete apostasy from Christ's original church and that is the reason for the restoration through Joseph Smith. You do not seem to think that there was total apostasy from the true church, why? History paints a different picture. I have examined it."*

**My reply:**

Are you suggesting that Jesus did not know what He was saying, when He promised, "...**upon this rock** (Jesus Himself) **I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it**"? (Matt. 16:18.) If there was not total apostasy, then Jesus lied!

I have read plenty of arguments for apostasy, but they do not hold water against the historical evidence. Jude 3 likewise says that the gospel was "***once and for all delivered***" – no redelivery is needed. God's Word, the Bible, contains all that is needed.

There always have been individuals, even large groups, who have forsaken the truth of God's Word, but the Lord has always had a remnant that stayed faithful to His Truth. I would suggest that you'd read history of the true followers of Jesus – a book by the name "***The Trail of Blood***". It traces the history of the true believers from the time of Jesus (30 A.D.) till our day. These believers had no connection to the Roman Catholic Church or other heresies that originated from political pressures. You may find some of this information on the Internet as well: [www.bryanstation.com](http://www.bryanstation.com)

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**Another LDS question:**

*"You think that the Mormons are going to hell? Don't you think the Catholics were saying the same thing to Protestants during the reformation? What makes Protestants right and the Catholics wrong?"*

**My reply:**

It does not matter what I, or, as a matter of fact, what anyone thinks, but **what matters is what the Lord says!**

TRUTH of this matter is that anyone who has not accepted the True Jesus Christ of the Bible and has not been born again from the Spirit of God, will end up in hell – it does not matter what they claim as their "religion" or denomination. NO RELIGION SAVES!

Only Jesus saves. "***Jesus said unto him, I AM the way, the truth, and the life: NO MAN COMETH UNTO THE FATHER, BUT BY ME.***" (John 14:6 – Acts 4:12.)

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**A Mormon asked:**

*"The Catholic gospel is based on works the Protestant gospel is based of faith - these are two different gospels. A case for either gospel can be made using the bible, who should I believe? Which religion is right?"*

**My reply:**

You should believe the Bible, not any “religion” or denomination, not without testing them. We are to read all facts in their proper context in God’s Word. The Bible commands that *we must test all things* by God’s Word, the Bible (1 Thess. 5:21; 1 John 4:1; Acts 17:11.)

One cannot find two or more gospels in the Bible. *There is only one Gospel*, and it was declared in the Word. Paul declared it, and it cannot be changed! “...*I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, HOW 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.*” (1 Cor. 15:1-4.)

Notice what the Gospel is. (The meaning of the word “gospel” is “good news.”) **It is a message of “good news” that Jesus died for our sins, that He was buried and rose again on the third day. Period!** Paul said that if anyone adds to this Gospel or changes it in any way it would become “another gospel”. “Another gospel” will bring God’s curse (anathema) to anyone who believes it or preaches it.

*“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you that that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”* (Gal. 1:8.) Paul warned about those who come and preach “another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted...[they, who bring a different gospel] *are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*” (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15.)

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**Questions from an LDS man who has written several times before, and whose questions I have answered and asked him to go to the Bible and test all things. He wrote again:**

*“Don't you think that there are people in all religions that study the word of God and yet we still see many different denominations? How can one group tell or imply to another group that they are going to hell because of what they believe? Where are you to draw the line.”*

**My reply:**

**God has drawn the line! It is what He says, not what any group of people say!**

Most differences in denominations are not “essentials for salvation”, only how they function, dealings with church’s administration or practices that have nothing to do with our salvation.

However, serious doctrinal differences can come through people who have not thoroughly studied the Bible, but only picked “this or that” or what they like, as if they were in a buffet line.

**We must declare all, “the whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27), all what God Himself has said and delivered to us in His Word, the Bible. We must study all matters in**

context to really understand. **“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 – see also 2 Pet. 1:21.) (**“Righteousness” means “right with God”.**)

The Word of God teaches what the doctrine of God is and Who He is (and is not).

When we rely on His Word for truth, we will not go astray.

You are pointing to *groups of men*. **We need to follow Jesus, not men.** The very middle verse in the entire Bible says, ***“It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.”*** (Ps. 118:8.)

That is the very reason why I have always given you biblical scriptures to back up what I am saying to you and why, in hopes that you will not only read that verse or verses I have given, but read the entire context where it is found.

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**A Mormon man wrote:**

*“Is the determining factor for denominational beliefs based on their position on 1) slavery, 2) baptism, 3) preexistence, 4) homosexuality, 5) abortion, 6) predestination vs. foreordination, 7) the trinity, 8) apostasy, or 9) even if the Bible is accurate. A case can be made for both sides of any of these positions. 10) Even the new testament had prophets and Christianity surely could use a prophet today to guide them. 11) You may dislike the LDS church and it is certainly your right to express your opinion that they are going to hell, but it is your opinion only and not fact.”*

**My reply:**

(I will number my answers according to your questions.) **The Bible is our “instruction manual”.** 1) **The Bible does not teach slavery**, it only reports what people did, for mankind has rebelled against Him in many things. 2) **As to baptism, it is not for salvation, but for believers’ public identification with Jesus.** ***“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 Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”***

(Romans 6:3-4.) **Believers in Jesus** are not “baptized into a church” but ***“into Jesus Christ”***. Baptism does not save – it only identifies believer with Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection. It is the blood of Jesus that cleanses us from sin, not water baptism, that is only for those who have **washed their sins by the blood of Christ.** ((Eph. 1:7; 1 John 1:7.) 3) **The Bible does not teach preexistence of men.** We, mankind, did not preexist. Jesus said that **all men are from this earth, this world, He is the only one who came from heaven.** ***“And He said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I AM from above: ye are of this world; I AM not of this world... if ye believe not that I AM He (God), ye shall die in your sins.”*** (John 8:23-24. See also Phil. 2:6-8.)

***“And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but He who came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.”*** (John 3:13 – see also 3:31.)

4) The Bible teaches against homosexuality and wickedness of all kind. (Romans 1:26-32; Lev. 18:22.) 5) Abortion is murder. God has said: ***“Thou shalt not kill.”*** (Ex. 20:13.)

6) The Bible does teach both predestination and foreordination, which are teachings based on God’s foreknowledge of everything that will take place. ***“... God...who calleth those things which be not as though they were.”*** (Romans 4:17) God is ***“declaring the***

*end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done..”* (Isa. 46:10. See also Isa. 48:5; 139:16.)

7) **The Bible teaches that God is Triune God (Trinity), for it declares that the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God, but there is only one God.** (Deut. 6:4; James 2:19; 1 John 5:7.)

8) **Apostasy, departure from God and His will, already started in the Garden of Eden, but there has not, yet, been a complete apostasy. God has always preserved His remnant, even under tremendous persecution. But it will come, just before the end.** (2 Thess. 2:3-4.)

9) **Jesus said that God’s Word is Truth.** (John 17:17; Ps. 119:160; Matt. 5:18.) **He is the Truth, personified!** (John 14:6.) **Those who do not want to believe all of the Bible, try to make “their positions” support what they favor, but that argument does not work before God. He has spoken. Those who disagree with His Word, are like Lucifer – and they follow his plan –going away from the true God. The entrance of sin into the world started with Satan’s subtle suggestion to Eve that God’s Word might not be true and authoritative after all. After Satan got Eve to listen to him and question what God had said, he was then able to entice Adam and Eve to follow his plan for “godhood”. God’s final judgment on mankind will be in people’s relation to His Word.** Jesus said, *“He that rejecteth Me, and received not My words, hath one that judgeth him: The Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”* (John 12:48.) Jesus likewise declared, *“Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed Me: for he wrote of Me.”*(John 5:45-46.) (Jews had said that they believed Moses and trusted the Law, the *Torah*, but obviously not!)

What we all need as individuals, is to love the Lord and His Word, the Bible. If we say that we love the Lord, but do not believe His Word, we lie! **We must wash ourselves “by the water of the Word”** (Eph. 5:26). *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but by incorruptible, by the Word of God which liveth and abideth for ever.”* (1 Pet. 1:23.)

10) **There are no more prophets in The New Testament as in Old Testament times, for they had prophesied of the coming of Messiah. He has come! “The law and the prophets were until John (the Baptist).”** (Luke 16:16).

Matthew said the same, *“For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John (the Baptist).”* (Matt. 11:13.) Hebr. 1:1-2 says that God spoke *“in time past (meaning: not anymore) unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son...”* (Hebr. 1:1-2.) [*“Prophet”* in the New Testament means also *Spirit inspired teacher of God’s Word.*]

11) **We learn from God’s Word that heaven is the eternal home for those who come to a true relationship with the Lord Jesus - by understanding the gospel** (1 Cor. 15:1-4), **and that Jesus is God (John 1:1, 14; 8:23-24) who became a man in order to save all who come to Him. He alone can save us from everlasting separation from God that resulted from our sin.** (John 14:6.) **He died and rose again thus making our salvation sure if we only acknowledge our sins and accept His sacrifice in our behalf and free gift of salvation that results from what He did for us.** (Eph. 2:8-9.) **If we receive Him, we become sons of God** (John 1:12), **and heirs of God to live with Him forever.**

**It is not for me, or anyone else, to say who goes to hell and who does not! The Word of God informs us of that. The Word of God says that if your name is not in the Lamb's Book of Life, then the lake of fire is your destiny. That is what God says! (Rev. 20:11-15.)**

**The question for you to ask is: *How can I get my name into that book, the book which is a list of names of those whose sins are washed away by the Blood of the Lamb, people who are saved by the gift and grace of God alone, and not by their works?* (Eph. 2:8-9.)**

**Answer to that question is that your name goes into that book the very moment you accept Jesus as God who became a man, and died for you and rose again on the third day, according to the scriptures. (John 1:1,14; John 8:24; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 2:8-9; John 1:12.) The choice is yours. It is between God and you. Salvation does not come from any church or through any other person but Jesus. The Jesus of the Bible,**

**We love Mormons – many of our family members are LDS, as are many of our former dear friends, but we dislike Mormonism, i.e. the teachings of the LDS church, for they are false, unbiblical and even demonic, teaching the devil's plan for "godhood" (Gen. 3:5; Isa. 14:12-14).**

**We understand how hard it is to come out from it and it's brainwashing, but it is possible by the grace and love of Jesus if you'd turn your life over to Him, who is God. We speak of God's truth from His Word, and that is the ultimate fact!**

With best wishes, Rauni

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January has been a month full of challenges and hard work. We have received lots of letters from LDS people and also from Christians who are either married to LDS spouses or having family members who have joined the Mormon Church. There is a lot of heartache included in these family problems. We have to totally depend on the Lord to be able to reach out to their hearts – for He alone knows what their real needs are. Please pray for us as we try to help them.

We started a new class on Mormonism on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January at The First Baptist of West Valley City. It continues Sunday evenings for about 2 months. Attendance has been good. Please pray that we will be able to answer the many questions people have. We have several former LDS attending, and some that are just barely coming to question their faith in Joseph Smith and wanting to examine Christianity. We need to be in tune with the Holy Spirit, who knows what each individual needs in order to come to trust Jesus Christ alone, and be saved.

There are many prayer requests that we are asking your participation in. **1.** Heidi had another brain surgery Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> of Jan. It went well, is what the doctors are saying. She will have to continue with chemo and radiation after she is out this immediate danger. She and her husband and children are in need of strength from the Lord. This has been extremely difficult for her and for them all in more ways than one.

**2.** Bruce is receiving chemo treatments for his lymphoma cancer, and he wants to come back from Virginia to be closer to his children here in Salt Lake City. He is yet to receive

his insurance settlement for injuries he received 3-4 years ago in a car accident that was not his fault.

3. Judy's former husband, a life-long LDS, needs prayer for salvation – he is terminally ill with cancer and is very afraid to die.

Please pray for all who have sent their requests for prayer, some asking salvation and healing, some have not been specific, but the Lord knows what their needs are and who they are.

**Even in midst of our trials, we are the most blessed, for we know the Lord.** Paul, while being chained to a musty prison wall, waiting for the worst to come, wrote, ***“Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice.”*** (Phil. 4:4). And Nehemiah said, ***“neither be ye sorry, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”*** (Neh. 8:10.)

We praise the Lord that He hears and will take care of these and other requests **according to His will and purposes.** Not all illnesses are healed, but we can be sure that the Lord will be with His own. **After Paul had asked the Lord three times to heal him, His answer to Paul was, “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”** Paul then said, ***“Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”*** (2 Cor. 12:8-9.)

Be assured that the Lord Jesus will strengthen you all.

He will help Heidi, and her family. He will help Bruce and Judy's former husband. **He will save all who ask the Lord to save them. His promises are sure – all we have to do is ask His forgiveness and His grace and mercy to be upon us. He has said, “If thou shalt confess with thou mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation... For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”** (Romans 10:9-10, 13.) ***“For by grace are ye 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.)

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**Thank you for being our prayer-partners and supporters in this HIS work. Without your help we could not do this. We thank the Lord for you daily and pray that He will take care of all your needs.** (Phil. 4:6-7, 19.)

**With His love,**

Rauni & Dennis Higley  
2890 E. Willow Bend Dr.  
Sandy, Utah 84093-2044  
Tel. 801.943-5011  
Email: [hismin@xmission.com](mailto:hismin@xmission.com)  
Website: [www.hismin.com](http://www.hismin.com)