



H.I.S. Ministries International

He Is Savior



May 1, 2009

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

We just celebrated (April 12th) our Lord's resurrection, which is the Good News! Jesus, our Passover Lamb, "*who takes away the sins of the world*", had been crucified between two thieves on Golgotha on the very same day that Passover lambs, over two hundred and forty thousand of them, were slaughtered on the Jerusalem temple grounds as sin offerings for the nation and people of Israel. Because the next day was a High Sabbath (i.e. not their regular weekly Sabbath), they could not leave bodies on the cross, and for that reason certain Jews had asked Pilate to hasten the deaths of the crucified by having their legs broken. They broke the legs of the two men crucified on each side of Jesus, but when they came to Him, they saw that He was already dead, and they did not brake His legs, but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and out of it came blood and water. (John 19:31-34)

Halley's Bible Handbook, p. 549, explains: "*Some medical authorities have said that in the case of heart rupture, and in that case only, the blood collects in the pericardium, the lining around the wall of the heart, and divides into a sort of bloody clot and a watery serum. If this is a fact, then the actual immediate cause of Jesus' death was heart rupture. Under intense pain, and the pressure of His wildly raging blood, His heart burst open. It may be that Jesus, literally, died of a heart broken over the sin of the world. It may be that suffering for human sin is more than the human constitution can stand.*

Possibly there may be a mystic parallel to Genesis 2:21-22. As God took from Adam's side, in sleep, that from which He made a bride for Adam, so He took from Jesus' side, in sleep on the cross, that from which He made the Church, the Bride of Jesus." (Underline added.)

We need to re-read, from John 13:31 on through chapter 17 which is His prayer for all of His own, then living and afterwards. We will see that all of us, born again believers, are His Bride for whom He died.

Jesus started to prepare his disciples for His coming departure (John 13:31-36).

We can read (John 16:6-7, 13) how His disciples became sorrowful when He told them that He is going away. He explained to them that if He is not going to go away, the Comforter (the Holy Spirit) will not come unto them, but when He comes, He

will guide them into all truth. (2 Tim. 3:16.) The word of God is given to us through the Spirit of God, and as we are daily in this Word, we will be guided by Him to all truth. Jesus also told them more about heaven and that **He is going to go and prepare a place for His own, and then He will come and get His Bride, His Church, to be with Him in His Father's dwelling place forever.** (John 14:1-3.)

He said that He will ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to be with His own forever – giving them His peace and desire to bear fruit for Him (John 15:1-17.)

At the end of this month of May, fifty days after the Resurrection Day, is our next land-mark celebration, the *Birth of the Church on the Day of Pentecost*, and Father sending the Holy Spirit to indwell all believers, and all who come to faith in Jesus after that.

The *Day of the Pentecost* is the 50th day after the Sabbath (Saturday) of Passover Week (Lev. 23:15-16), thus it is the first day of the week. *Pentecost* was the Greek name for the Jewish *Feast of Weeks*, so called, because it fell seven weeks after the *First Fruits* (Deut. 16:10), the *Feast of Harvest* (Ex. 23:16; Numb. 28:26).

The Old Testament Pentecost occurred fifty days after Israel had left Egypt and the Passover lamb was slain. New Testament Pentecost occurred fifty days after Christ rose from the dead, the Lord Jesus being our Passover Lamb. Old Testament Pentecost celebrated *the birth of the nation Israel* (Ex. 19:5). New Testament Pentecost celebrated *the birth of the Church* (Acts 2:41-47). 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* (2:41) – the former typologically points to the latter.

Acts 2:1-6: “*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 all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance And there were... devout men, out of every nation under heaven ...and every man 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 wind* and visible *signs of fire*. [As reported by both Matthew and Luke, John the Baptist foretold of the One who would baptize with the Holy Ghost and fire. (Matt. 3:11; Luke 3:16.)] They were all filled with the Spirit, which joined every believer to the *body of Christ* (1 Cor. 12:13; Col. 1:18, 24). They all heard the witness of Jesus spoken to them **in their own language.** Note: **These were actual languages, unknown to the speakers, but yet understood by the hearers from other nations. There were no interpreters needed!!! They were all amazed and marveled - men of all nations of the known world there heard wonderful words of God in their own tongues or dialects.** (Acts 2:7.)

The Word of God leads us to all truth. Let us not forsake studying it and sharing with others. The Bible gives us signs to watch. “*Writing is on the wall*”, so to speak. Evidence of His soon coming is there and if we know, we can pretty much figure out

where we are now in God's plan and time-table. We can see that He is coming, even if we do not know the exact "day or hour". Many Bible scholars say that from the Bible we can predict "tomorrow's newspaper headlines". The Bible is indeed history written in advance. Information about what is coming is there.

But just like the religious leaders of Jesus' day they did not know the prophecies of their Messiah's coming or couldn't apply them to Jesus (Luke 19:42), many of our leaders today seem to be just as lost to the biblical warnings about our times.

Jesus' words are as fitting to today's people as they were to the Pharisees, "O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" (Matt. 16:3.) He commanded: "Be ye therefore ready also; for the Son of man cometh at the hour when ye think not." (Luke 12:40.)

Jesus compared the time of His coming to the time of Noah. Noah had preached of the coming calamity for 120 years, and people were not listening to him any more...

"For as the days of No'e were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that No'e entered in the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." (Matt. 24:37-39.) It is just as people of today, who say, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of..." (2 Peter 3:4-5.)

Being ready does not mean being idle and just waiting! Actually the opposite is true – understanding the shortness of time creates urgency and makes us work harder and faster to reach the lost souls before it is too late.

He is coming soon as He promised.

"Let your heart not be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's House are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I AM, there ye may be also." (John 14:1-3.)

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From our mailbox:

An LDS man from Brigham Young University wrote:

"Your LDS questions are very interesting. I have come across most of the information on your page in my own studies, partly due to my family relations (I am related to many of the early leaders of the Church) and my general interest in history. You presented some new information that I'd like to know more about – I will look them up, for here at BYU I have access to a great wealth of historical documents that many others may not ever see.

I can respect your opinions, especially in the light of conclusions that you have drawn from Mormon history. You seem to be very sincere and good people...

My questions to you are:

1. Since leaving the LDS Church, have you joined another Christian faith?
2. If so, how do you feel about your particular new-found group and about Christianity in general?
3. Do you sincerely feel that somebody like me – an active Mormon, who really tries to follow my Savior and is trying to lean more about the gospel and who feels that the

Mormon Church is helping me to do that – is a lost cause? Do you believe that I am damned to hell?

4. Have you simply come to the conclusion that the LDS church could not be true based on its history and that other Christian churches offer you more in way of leaning to live a Christ-like life?

I am not trying to attack you or anything like that; I just appreciated your article because it grouped together many historical items in the LDS Church that I'd like to know more about. I feel that you have presented your positions and conclusions on those issues well, and so the unanswered questions to me are the ones I presented above. Thanks, and best luck to you – and Lord bless you. B_____”

My response:

Thank you for your kind letter. I will number my answers according to your questions:

1. Since leaving Mormonism we have been part of some Christian churches. Our faith is not in any church, but in the *Word of God, the Bible*, and Jesus Christ of the Bible who is God, and who alone can save. (John 14:6; 8:24.) We have found like-believers in many Evangelical congregations and we fellowship with them. The Bible recommends that believers in Christ assemble themselves together often to encourage one another in their walk and life with Christ. (Hebr. 10:25). We are not limited in our fellowship to just one church or congregation, for *the Church*, biblically speaking, is not a denomination or organization, but all born again believers are part of one another as *one body, Jesus being the head of the body* (Col. 1:18, 24), regardless of where they *go to church*.

2. Once we learned what the *church* biblically is (i.e. all believers as one body, regardless of denominational lines), and learned what *a Christian* biblically speaking is, we have sought to have a deeper fellowship with those, who like us, have received Jesus and are, in reality, part of us. They are our true brothers and sisters in Christ. We have also learned that not all who attend Christian churches are Christians in the true meaning of the word, regardless of how “*nice*” they may be. We mingle with all people, believers and non-believers alike, from all walks of life, in efforts to present the gospel of Christ to those who do not know it, so that they too could become part of *the real church, the Body of Christ*.

3. *The Gospel is a message of death, burial and resurrection of Jesus* (1 Cor. 15:1-4), no works, no *laws and ordinances* are included in the gospel (Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 2:16-21). We can be saved only if we accept and receive God’s gift of salvation through the cross and gospel of Christ. Jesus said that we must *know that He is God so that our sins can be forgiven, for only God can forgive sins* (John 8:24; Mark 2:7). That means that if one believes in “*another Jesus*” (2 Cor. 11:4), who is not eternal God, but, as in the case of Mormonism, is a “*brother of all mankind and angels*”, then he cannot be saved.

Jesus said (John 3:7) that *we must be born again of the Spirit of God* to enter the kingdom of God. The Bible teaches that only those who have believed the gospel and

received salvation by the grace and gift of God will go the heaven. (Eph. 2:8-9)
Others will go to hell, and that by their own choice for having rejected the gift and
grace of God. There is only one gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4), and *“If any man preach any*
other gospel than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”
(Gal. 1:8-9.)

4. Yes, we have come to the conclusion that Mormonism is not true – based on their
teachings of who God is, who Jesus is and how to be saved. Teachings of the LDS
Church are not biblical, and thus not true. It is the Bible alone that sets the
guidelines for what we are to believe, and then how we are to live. History of the
LDS Church helped us to start seeing that something is not right there. However, I
have to say that history of Christianity is very disturbing also – and we can see that
following men, any men, can lead to trouble – we need to follow Christ Jesus of the
Bible, who is unchanging God and in whom we can trust. He is the Word of God,
personified. (John 1:1, 14.) He will never lead us astray.

We have found many true believers in Christ in various Christian churches. They
help us to stay strong in this struggle we call life. My prayer for you is that you
would study the Bible in earnest and find the true Jesus and be saved. - Rauni

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We received a letter from someone who is LDS, but has no one in the LDS Church
that she dares to ask this question of so she sent it to us:

Is there a mother-god and if there is, why can we not worship her?

My reply:

Yes, the Mormon Church teaches that there is a mother-god, actually more than
one.

The Mormon Mother God theory is a logical extension of Church’s teaching that
Joseph Smith introduced in 1844 – namely by teaching that God was once a man
like us, who had a father and who had a father and so on...

(See *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp.345-347.)

Since Joseph Smith taught that God was once a man who *“became a god”*, it is
assumed that he also had a wife - or actually *wives*, since polygamy was also part of
Joseph Smith’s teachings.

The Mormon Church teaches that all humans and angelic beings were begotten sons
and daughters of Elohim before they were begotten on earth as mankind. God the
Father and His wife (or wives) are considered by the Mormon Church to be our
heavenly parents, and that we all were born to them as their spirit children, and
that we grew in that heavenly abode to spirit adulthood (Gospel Principals, 1997 ed.,
p. 290.)

Our earthly parents procreated our physical bodies to which these spirits then
would come. There are many references throughout official Mormon teaching
materials to *“our heavenly parents”* meaning that there is a mother (or mothers)
also. (Gospel Principles, p. 11, 13-15, 19.) Mormonism teaches that through *“eternal*
or temple marriage” we all can become heavenly parents of our spirit children -
after we are exalted and have become gods and goddesses. (Gospel Principles, p.
302.) There is an often sung hymn in the Mormon Church, *“O My Father”*. Ending

of the third verse says, *“In the heav’ns are parents single? No, the thought makes reason stare! Truth is reason; truth eternal - Tells me I’ve a mother there.”* (Gospel Principles, p. 351.)

However, the Mormon Church does not sanction worship of Mother in Heaven, or even prayer to her, but it does clearly teach her existence and her necessary role in procreation of human spirits, including Jesus as well as Lucifer. (Gospel Principles, pp. 17-18.)

This led to the teaching that *men can become Gods and then create their own worlds and procreate their own spirit children who will have the same relationship to them (prayer, worship and adoration) as they now have with God the Father* (Gospel Principles, p. 302.)

Such teaching is completely unbiblical and foreign to Christianity – from the time of Christ to this time. This teaching resembles Egyptian, Greek, Assyrian and Roman pagan concepts of their gods being just little above humans, and who relate to humans on their level and who procreate as they do.

This (men becoming gods) doctrine can be traced back to Satan’s own ambition of godhood (Isa. 14:12-14), and his promise to Adam and Eve in the Garden. (Gen. 3:5.)

This is an abomination to the God of the Bible, who is the only God there is and ever will be. He is not a man – He is wholly apart from His creation. (Deut. 6:4; Isa. 43:10-11; 44:6, 8; 45:21-22; 46:9; Mark 12:29-34; James 2:19. See also Numbers 23:19; Hosea 11:9; Romans 1:22-23; Psalm 90:2; Isa. 40:28.)

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The Lord has blessed us with a good news of Heidi’s and Bruce’s improved health. (I trust that you received our praise report of that a few days ago.) There is one more *good news* to add: Heidi’s MRI report, taken last week, showed that her brain tumor is shrinking. Thank you, Lord!

Please keep them both in your prayers – they are not *“out of the woods”*, yet, even though these are great improvements.

We do not know the reasons behind these trials that especially Heidi and Bruce, and many other brothers and sisters in the Lord, have been experiencing and are going through still, but there has also been many blessings coming from this to those involved in praying for them. We have seen God perform miracles, and the Lord has poured His grace and love on all of us involved in prayer for them.

“The Lord does not measure our afflictions according to our faults, but according to our strength, and looks not what we have deserved, but what we are able to bear.”

There are many illnesses around, even epidemics, as this *“swine flu”*, but we are in our Lord’s hands and He is our Healer and Protector. (1 Peter 2:24.)

We just received from our dear friend this scripture from Exodus 15:26 – *“and he said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His eyes, and wilt give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases upon thee, which I have put upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.”* We hope that it comforts you as it comforted us.

We have been blessed to have good news of salvation of several LDS people we have ministered to during the last few months. Please pray for them. We are not listing their names at this point, but the Lord knows who they are.

It is not easy to leave friends, families and “all that they knew and were familiar with” behind. There is a lot of pressure from outside, lots of “feelings” involved in changes in one’s object of faith. As Mormons, our main object of faith was “the Church”, prophet, temple or the priesthood. But when we came to see the truth of the Bible, our object is not any longer a church or a ritual or set of traditions or procedures. Our faith is now in a person, the Person of Jesus Christ, not a doctrine, not a philosophy, and it is not faith in faith.

One of these couples is searching for a church that has also a good Bible-teaching program for their young teenage children. They have studied the Bible together now for a several months, and are ready to “venture out”.

We remember how it was for us – we too studied the Bible for quite a long time alone before we were ready to “put our learning to the test” and investigate where good and correct teachings and like-believers to have a fellowship with can be found.

We all need to be like “the Bereans” mentioned in Acts 17:11, who tested by the Word of God all teachings they heard, to see “*whether those things were so*”.

The fact is that the more we study the Bible, the more discernment we receive. We, who have been once deceived, have learned to be cautious. It is a good thing! As Dennis often says, “*Once burned, twice smart.*”

We have heard many good reports from other ministries, as Chip and Jamie Thompson’s *Tri-Grace Ministries*’ successful outreach in Colorado City’s FLDS polygamist community last week, where they, with about a dozen other faithful, went to bring the good news of Jesus to these very depressed people living under oppression and fear. We need to remember them in our prayers.

These times are hard for all people, but especially for small ministries like ours that is not “underwritten”, but depends on the Lord alone to inspire individual Christian brothers and sisters to partner with us in this work.

We are determined to continue to work as long as the Lord wants us to do it. He called us into this ministry, and He is our “Employer” and thus our Provider. Our Heavenly Father knows us. He knows exactly what we need, and when we need it – and the very fact that He knows is proof enough that we are in His care. He delights in His people. We are safe and secure in Him.

Dennis has had enough work – up to this month – to provide for our personal expenses, but now it looks like that is “drying up”. We are asking you to also pray for more work for him.

We have a little bit of good news – Dennis was able to get rid of his high priced health insurance – for he turned 65 in April and is now eligible for Medicare!!! We never thought that qualifying for Medicare will be something to celebrate, but we are celebrating now! ☺ ☺

God is good, all the time, as Chip Thomson also says “all the time”!!!

Our Lord’s advice to us through Paul is,

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus...And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 4:6-7, 19, NKJV.)

The Compassionate Boldness Conference – May 29-30, 2009.

Dennis and I will be giving a workshop presentation again with other ministries to Mormons in *“The Compassionate Boldness Conference”*, organized by Bill McKeever, Mormonism Research Ministries.

“Come and hear what God is doing in Utah. Discover what the Bible has to say to our Mormon neighbors, and what it has to say to us about compassion and boldness. Learn how to use this information in practical and Christ-honoring way to tell your Mormon friends about the hope that is within you – the hope that can be theirs as well.”
For more information, go to www.compassionateboldness.com .

Please remember us in prayer. It is a much needed source of help.

In Christ, serving Him with gladness,

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