



March 1, 2011

H.I.S. Ministries March 2011 Newsletter, covering February 2011

Spring is coming! Hurray!!! I love spring – it promises new life, fresh start, “green everything”, colorful flowers – and hope for camping vacations and needed rest in God’s beautiful nature.

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Last month we wrote about the evolution of Joseph Smith’s doctrine of God(s), documented from LDS Standard Works (scriptures). We have received “thank you”-notes for it and requests to continue with who Jesus is – both as understood in Mormonism and in biblical Christianity - to help our readers become more effective witnesses for the Truth (John 14:6). We have also promised to include in our next month’s (April) newsletter what Mormonism terms “salvation” comparing it with biblical salvation.

A continuous argument is presented by many LDS people who say that “*Jesus of Mormonism is the very same Jesus as is believed by biblical Christians! There is only one Jesus!*” That is true – there is only one real Jesus, but there are many, many counterfeit Jesus’. (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-14; Matt. 24:24.) When we are talking about Jesus, it is important to ask: **What do you think of Jesus? Who is He really?** Jesus asked this question of His disciples, who had been with Him for a long time. (Matt. 16:15.) If they needed to be asked, then it is a very important question for all of us. **Knowing the real Jesus determines where we will spend eternity. He said, “I AM the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh to the Father, but by Me.”** (John 14:6.)

To *Jehovah’s Witnesses*, Jesus is Michael the Archangel.

To *Mormons*, Jesus is their spirit brother from the pre-existence, and brother of all angels, including Satan/Lucifer.

To *Muslims* He is “*Isa*”, a prophet, but not God, nor the Son of God, for Allah does not have a son (says Koran).

We must examine this carefully.

Do you remember the old TV game show, “*To Tell the Truth*”? There were three contestants all claiming to be the same person, presenting some well known spectacular things they, pretending to be this person, had done. After intense questioning by a panel of individuals, the time was up and the one, who was the real person, was asked to stand up. More often than not, the truth was a surprise to all. Most had made their bid on the wrong person.

We all could repeat factual stories of many famous persons we have never personally met, almost as if we knew that individual. But if you’d ask that person what they thought of you or me, or if they knew us, they would say: *I do not know them!*

It is the same with Jesus. Just having some “knowledge” **about Him** is not the same as **knowing Him**. Jesus said, “*Many will say to me in that day* (the judgment day), *Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I NEVER KNEW YOU: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.*” (Matt. 7:22-23.)

Carefully evaluating the Jesus we believe in is crucial. Our eternity depends on it!

Lets test the truth about who the real Jesus is. What is Truth?

Mormonism teaches that He is a spirit brother of all, a created being, who began just like we all did, as a spirit child of God. **Is this true, or is it not?**

Jehovah’s Witnesses say that He is an angel (Michael the Archangel), **but is He?**

[Both Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses are using parts of the Bible and tell stories about Jesus, but they ignore its many clear teachings of His Person; who He is!]

Islam teaches that He is “Isa”, a prophet of Allah who came to prepare the way for Mohammed. (Allah does not have a son.)]

Christianity teaches and believes that **Jesus is Eternal God who became a man to die for us.** (John 1:1, 14; 3:16; Matt. 1:23; Phil. 2:5-8; Ps. 90:2.) **Jesus Himself said,** “*And this is life eternal that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.*” (John 17:3)

First we need to come to the correct conclusion about **who the real God is**. As we discussed in last months’ newsletter, the **God of the Bible is Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit – three eternal Persons – but One God.** (Deut. 6:4; James 2:19; 1 John 5:7.) **We must know what God says about Himself: He is not a man, He is Spirit!** (Num.23:19; Hos.11:9; 1 Sam.15:29; John 4:24.) **One of these three Eternal Persons, the Eternal Son, became a man for our salvation.**

Did we preexist? Did we all come from heaven? Are we brothers and sisters of Jesus?

NO, we are not! Jesus said, “*Ye are from beneath: I AM from above; ye are of this world; I AM not of this world. I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I AM He (God), ye shall die in your sins.*” (John 8:23-24; John 3:13, 31.) **Jesus is God. Only God can forgive sins.** (Mark 2:7.)

In John 8:23, quoted above, He refuted the pre-existence of mankind and stated that He alone came from heaven. He is **the Great I AM, the Eternal God**, who took the form of a man to die for us. (Phil. 2:5-8.; John 1:1, 14; 3:16.) **Jesus came to reveal God to us,** (Col. 1:15) for **God is Spirit**, and no one can see God as He is. (John 1:18; 4:24; 14:9; 1John 4:12) Jesus said (in John 17:3) that **without knowing God, and that He, Jesus, is the One sent by the Father, we cannot have eternal life with Him.** “*Like Father, like*

Son". Jesus is God the Son. Knowing Him means having an intimate, personal relationship with Him.

The Bible warns about false Christs (Matt. 24:24), "***another Jesus***" and "***another gospel***", "***testified***" by "***another spirit***". (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15; 1 John 4:1.) We must ***test all things*** (1 Thess. 5:21) **by the Word of God, the Bible**, even the spirits that give "***good feelings***" to those who accept as truth the words of someone, without testing them from God's Word, the Bible. (1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1) **God the Holy Spirit would never testify of "another Jesus" or "another gospel". He would only testify of the truth which is found in the Word that was given by inspiration of God Himself.** (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21.) Our source of information about **who Jesus is comes from the Bible alone**, both the Old and the New Testaments. The Mormon Church has, as have many other false religions, taken some of the historical facts about the life of Jesus from the Bible, but **changed His person, who He is, and invented "another Jesus"**. **Even the leaders of the Mormon Church have admitted that Jesus of Mormonism is not the same Jesus as Jesus of historic, traditional Christianity.** Mormon leaders have said this in their conference sermons, in their Church educational magazine, the Ensign, and in the Church News, but obviously many Mormons have not noticed or paid attention to that fact. The LDS Church has admitted: "**It is true that many of the Christian churches worship a different Jesus Christ than is worshipped by the Mormons ... For example, from the Church of England's Articles of Religion, article one, I quote: 'There is but one living God, everlasting, without body, parts or passions.'** **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints worships a God and a Jesus Christ with bodies, with parts, and with passions... These two concepts are ...completely different.**" (From General Conference Report, Ensign, May 1977, p. 26-27.)

The late LDS President Gordon B. Hinckley spoke in the summer of 1998 (June 4th in Paris, France and in Frankfurt, Germany, and on June 5th in Geneva, Switzerland), and it was reported in the **LDS Church News**, June 20th, 1998, page 7: "**In bearing testimony of Jesus Christ, President Hinckley spoke of those outside of the Church who say that Latter-day Saints 'do not believe in the traditional Christ. No, I don't. The traditional Christ of whom they speak is not the Christ of whom I speak. For the Christ of whom I speak has been revealed in this Dispensation of the Fullness of Times. He, together with His Father, appeared to the boy Joseph Smith in the year 1820, and when Joseph left the grove that day, he knew more of the nature of God than all the learned ministers of the gospel of the ages'.**"

During April, 2002, General Conference, President Hinckley again said, "**As a Church we have critics, many of them. They say we do not believe in the traditional Christ of Christianity. There is some substance to what they say.**" (Ensign, May, 2002, p. 90.)

(Emphasis added to these quotes.) **In contrast to "Jesus Christ revealed by Joseph Smith"**(as President Hinckley said), **Christ of traditional Christianity** was prophesied of by the Old Testament prophets and **revealed** by the New Testament writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, Jude and James, of whom most knew Him personally, had walked with Him, talked with Him, lived with Him, seen Him crucified, buried, resurrected and ascend to heaven. **He is God who became a man. That is who the Christ of traditional Christianity is!** Their testimonies and the events of the time of Christ are recorded in the **books of the Bible of which the author is God.** (2 Tim. 3:16; John 1:1,14.) "***ALL scripture is given by inspiration of***

*God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction** in righteousness.” (2 Tim. 3:16.) “The grass withered, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the **Word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the Word which by the gospel is preached unto you.**” (1. Pet. 1:24-25.)*

The Old Testament prophesied, from the beginning, that the Messiah, the Redeemer will be born from the “*seed of a woman*“. (Genesis 3:15.) In Isaiah 7:14 we are told, “*Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.*” (Matthew 1:21, 23 records the fulfillment of this promise.) “*And she [a virgin] shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS [actual name given was Y’shua. “Jesus” is a Greek translation of His Hebrew name, Y’shua (Joshua), meaning “Jehovah saves” or Y’shua is salvation], for He shall save His people from their sins...this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*” **Jesus is Eternal God with us.** “*From everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.*“ (Psalm 90:2.) **There never was a time when He was not God.** He did not “*become a god*” as Mormonism teaches. There was a day, a time, when **He became a man**, but **He always was, and always will be God.** “*I AM Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.*” (Rev. 1:8.) “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ...All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made ...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*” (John 1:1, 3, 14.)

“*By Him [Y’shua] were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him and for Him.*” (Col. 1:16) Jesus created Lucifer, and thus He could not be his brother, as Mormonism teaches. (*Gospel Through Ages*, p.15.)

Lucifer is a created being, the anointed cherub, as Ezekiel 28:15 laments, “*Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.*” Lucifer/Satan desired to be like the Most High God (Isa. 14:12-14). His “*iniquity*” was his prideful desire to be like God, and it caused his fall from heaven. He has been tempting men with the same desire ever since the Garden of Eden. (Gen. 3:5.) **Godhood was what he offered to Eve, and it is godhood that is offered to Mormons in their temples.**

In comparing what Mormonism teaches about Jesus to the teaching of the Bible, we see that they are not the same, as is also agreed by the LDS leadership. The Jesus presented by the Mormon Church is the **eldest son** in their Heavenly Father’s family of billions and billions of sons and daughters. They teach that Jesus had a beginning like all of us had, that He was **born** of a heavenly mother as a spirit child in “*pre-existence*”, as an elder brother of Lucifer and all angels and all humans who have ever lived or will live on this earth. (Mormon Doctrine, p.750- 751.)

Mormonism teaches that the only difference between Jesus and the rest of mankind is that Heavenly Father, **an exalted man**, came to Mary and conceived Jesus’ physical body, “*in the same way that mortal men are begotten by their mortal fathers.*”(Mormon Doctrine, p. 547, 742. See also *Come unto Christ*, p. 4, by President Ezra Taft Benson; and Family

Home Evening Manual, 1972, p.126.)

When Mormons say that Jesus is the *Only Begotten Son of God in the flesh*, they do not mean what the Bible says and Christianity believes. They mean that He is the only one who was **literally and physically conceived by God on earth as well as in the “pre-existence”**, when the rest of the humans are physically conceived by their mortal parents. The LDS Church teaches that *He was not begotten by the Holy Ghost*, as the Bible declares in Matthew 1:18-23. (See *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 1, p. 51; LDS President Ezra Taft Benson’s book, *Come Unto Christ*, p. 4.)

Mormonism teaches that marriage in a temple is necessary for salvation and exaltation (i.e. godhood) in the Celestial Kingdom (highest heaven in Mormonism). They teach that Jesus came to this world to provide resurrection for all mankind and to be an example for people to follow. They also teach that He had to come and “*work out His own salvation*”. That means that He had to be married in order to “*become a god*”, for a temple marriage is a requirement for godhood. According to the early teachings of the Mormon Church, Jesus was not just married to one woman, but that He was a polygamist and had children. This has not been refuted by later leaders of the LDS Church; they just do not talk about it openly any longer. (See *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 1, p. 345-346; vol. 2, p. 82; 4, p. 259; Seer, p. 172; Joseph Fielding Smith's letter, March 17, 1963.)

Mormonism teaches that Jesus “*became a god*” by following doctrines very similar to today’s teachings of the Mormon Church. (See Conf. Report in *Ensign*, May 1997; and in *Gospel Through Ages*, p. 51.)

“Another Jesus” can not save anyone! ONLY JESUS, WHO IS GOD, CAN SAVE!

From our mailbox:



An LDS man, who has written to us many times, wrote again:

“Isn’t it unchristian to question Mormon claims to Christianity? The Savior in the Bible is the same Savior, Jesus Christ, as in the Book of Mormon. Please do not misrepresent the facts. By so doing you may mislead people who do not know any better. C.M.”

My reply: Jude 3 command that *we earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered*. (No redelivery or “*restoration*” is needed!) ***Contending for the faith*** means ***proving all things*** from the Bible (1 Thess. 5:21), and making sure that we follow the True Jesus Christ, for there are many false Jesus’ presented by salesmen of various religions. (See: Matt. 24:24; 2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15.) The Bible was given to us *for doctrine* so that by studying it we would not end up *ashamed* (2 Tim. 2:15) and in ignorance following *another Jesus*. We must test all new doctrines paddled from door to door (as Mormonism is) by the Bible. ***“All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction...”***

We only present what the Bible says about God, Jesus and salvation and encourage everyone to be diligent in their studies just like the “Bereans” spoken of in Acts 17:11.

Another Mormon man wrote:

“I came across your website and thought it was an interesting reading, but pretty much the same old anti-Mormon rhetoric. I am a life long member of the Church of JESUS CHRIST of Latter-day Saints, and I have held many important callings in the Church. I

love being a member of the true Church and I enjoy living the Gospel in it's fullness. I have many non-LDS friends who don't consider me to be a Christian even though I consider them to be. I know that the Savior knows that I believe in him and follow him to the best of my ability... You say that the Book of Mormons is not true, but I know that it is and that contains the fullness of the Gospel."

My reply:

I used to be content being LDS too – until I studied the history of the LDS Church and compared Mormon doctrines to the Bible. My eyes were opened and I was able to *come out from among them* (2 Cor. 6:17) and be *born again* (John 3:7; Eph. 2:8-9) and “join” the *real church* (Col. 1:18, 24), which is not an organization, but the *body of believers* in the true Christ. The reason your non-LDS friends do not take you as a Christian is the fact that Mormons are not Christians, for they do not believe what traditional, biblical Christians believe. Most Mormons I know are *good people*, as far as human “goodness” is concerned. It is their doctrine that separates them from Christianity. They adhere to their own, very different doctrine of God, Jesus and salvation, and that is why they are in a category of their own and not part of Christianity.

You say that you believe the Book of Mormon to be true. I use to believe that too. I had converted to the Mormon Church on the basis of the Book of Mormon that does not teach obvious doctrinal contradictions, noticeable to a biblical illiterate as I then was, but yet it says that it contains the “*fullness of the gospel*”. I believed it did - then. When advancing as a Mormon and finding out that the Book of Mormon did not teach any of today's mandatory LDS doctrines, needed to be obeyed in order to go to the celestial kingdom, I started to study and ask from the leaders of the Church what is meant by “fullness of the gospel” (D&C 20:9). **Doctrines of Salvation**, vol. 1, p. 160, Joseph Fielding Smith (10th President of the LDS Church) answered that question saying, “***By fullness of the gospel is meant all the ordinances and principals that pertain to the exaltation in the celestial kingdom...***” If that is true, then all one needs is the Book of Mormon. (See also Mormon Doctrine p. 333 and pp. 512-13.) If the Book of Mormon is true (which I now know it is not) and if it had all the necessary ordinances pertaining to exaltation, then all of today's Mormon Church's *ordinances, principals, temple marriage, work for the dead* etc. is just unnecessary busywork, right? If “***exaltation in the celestial kingdom***” can be obtained without any of these “ordinances”, why are they required? - Please search out, think and reason. “*Today is the day of salvation*”, do not harden your heart against Truth, but if you really believe that Mormonism is the truth, then you would not fear investigating it through and through. Fear of finding it not to be true is what I have found keeps most Mormons from searching deeper. Many already suspect that it may not be the truth, but rather stay “willingly ignorant” thinking that saying on judgment day “I did not know” would be a good defense!! It is not! Eternity is way too long not to check these things out now! After death it is too late. There is no “*second chance!*” (See Luke 16:19-31; Hebr. 9:27.) Please write again and *let us reason together*, as Isaiah said. (Isaiah 1:18.) Sincerely, Rauni

Question sent by a Mormon:

“How do you explain all the good fruit that comes from Mormonism? And how would it be the fastest growing religion if it was not true?”

My reply:

God calls His own to be “*fruit inspectors*”. **The fruit of a prophet (Joseph Smith) is his teaching.** The Bible commands: “*prove all things*” (1 Thess. 5:21). Jesus said, “*Be aware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits.*” (Matt. 7:15-16.) He said that because *wolves kill their prey.* **False teachings about God, Jesus and salvation lead their followers to eternal death.** Joseph Smith’s teachings are wrong and against the biblical doctrine, and thus deadly. The leaders of the Mormon Church are indeed *wolves* that pretend to be *sheep!* They are false prophets. ***Be aware!***

Mormonism is not “*the fastest growing religion*”. Islam is. There are about 1.6 BILLION Muslims, and about 1.2 BILLION Roman Catholics. If numbers proved the truth, then Islam or Roman Catholic Church would win. LDS membership is only a fraction of 1% compared to Islam or RC. Besides that, numbers do not prove truth, only that there are a lot of foolish people who do not test all things as the Bible says. “*...wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat...narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Be aware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*” (Matt. 7:13-15.) This is Jesus’ warning to all. – Rauni

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This seems to be a hard time for all of us – in more ways than one – everybody is strapped financially – our work situations, for most of us, are not as they were, **but we still rejoice – we have the Lord, God of all comfort as our refuge. He is in charge of our lives and we do not need to fear anything at all. It is not just that we believe in Him – WE TRUST IN HIM!**

Trust and belief are on a different level. As James said, “*even the devils believe and tremble*”



(James 2:19), but our faith is on a totally different level – **we trust in Him**, even to the point of personal suffering if that is what it requires.(Herb.11.) “*The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name sake. Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine*

enemies; Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.” (Ps. 23.) Being in Him is a great place to be – even when we walk through the *valley of death, sorrow and are in the presence of those who hate us.* There is no need to fear, for we belong to Him. We are so blessed to know that. We live from day to day, knowing that we are in His hands. We have committed our lives to Him, to serve Him till He comes or calls us home. That is a secure position to be in. The world is in turmoil – bad news comes from all directions – but we are comforted for we have read the end of God’s Book – we will win! **All our days are directed by Him, and that is security.**

We want to thank you, our partners, for your prayers and help – we know that you are doing it all for His name sake when you bless us.

We ask you to pray for Dale and Sharon, health strength and patience; continuing healing for Dick, Max and Grace. Directions for Bruce’s future plans that he needs to make. Heber is still having problems with ringing in his ears. Dwayne (inmate in prison) has had brain surgery, but we have not heard how it went. Please pray for him and that they would allow him to contact us. Please keep in your prayers many LDS people we have been counseling and talking with – they fear for their families’ reactions if and when they let them know of their decisions to leave

Mormonism. We are thanking the Lord for those who have made this decision already and are trusting in the Lord's love to heal all the hurts they have – and whatever may be ahead of them. This is a blessed work, but it wears us down, and we need your prayers to sustain us to keep it up. This is our 27th year in a ministry. Dennis is still working full time to earn our living. God had blessed him with health in spite of two heart attacks he had in past years. Only through the blessings of the Lord we are able to do this. Dennis is going to Australia in September for a week to teach there. We have a friend there, Jennifer, who came out of Mormonism a few years ago, and who is wanting to have Dennis come and teach at her church and help her to know more how to help others trapped in this cult.

It is interesting to see how many “converts” God had put on our way from all over the world – from many countries, and how they are staying in touch with us even if we have never (yet) met them in person. It is truly a testimony of our connection with them through the Spirit of God that takes residence in those who come out of a cult and are born again. We are one in Spirit with them and look forward to meeting them “*here or there or in the air*” and be with them for all eternity. God is so good!

May the Lord God be with you and bless you abundantly!

In His love,

Rauni & Dennis Higley
2890 E willow Bend Dr.
Sandy, Utah 84093

Tel. 801.943-5011

Web: www.hismin.com

Email: hismin@xmission.com

Thought for the month:

God has put eternity in the soul of man.

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