



***HE IS SAVIOR, Acts 4:12**

1 March, 2013

H.I.S. Ministries March 2013 Newsletter, covering February 2013

We still have lots of snow, and even if it does not look so yet, Spring is coming! Hurray! We love Spring – it presents a hope of newness of life in nature, and it rejuvenates us as well.

(Correction: Last month I had “jumped ahead” a full year by typing 2014 instead of 2013 in our newsletter heading – sorry about that. If you save our newsletters, please correct that.)

We’d like to announce again the **Capstone Conference** that will be focused on our Christian love for Mormons. It will be held in about 1.5 months – **12th and 13th of April at Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake City**. Admission is free. Registration begins at 5:30 PM on Friday, the 12th. Conference will officially start at 6:30 PM and continue till 9:00 PM. Saturday morning at 8:00 there will be a Continental breakfast and meetings will begin at 9:00 AM and continue till 4:00 PM. We will have the honor to hear from **Dr. Phil Roberts, James Walker, Dick Baer** (via Skype), **Jim Spencer, Kurt Van Gorden, Rocky Hulse, Jill Martin Rische** (daughter of Dr. Walter Martin), **Marv Cowen and Doris Hanson**. We will also have a former LDS, **Carl Moore**, presenting a fantastic Hopi-Indian dance. We are sure that all attending this conference will be blessed and gain a new enthusiasm for the Gospel of Christ and His love for Mormons, and for all that are lost.

Recently we have received many questions on the **Trinity** and arguments from LDS people saying that it is not biblical but was invented in **Nicene** by *Constantine the Great* in 325 A.D. We wanted to answer this again, even though we have talked about this many times before. The very reason why the **Nicene Creed** was adopted (as were two other similar creeds) was to clarify **biblical doctrine of God**. This Creed was formed as a *Statement of Faith* because there had risen a *heresy known as Arianism* that denied the divinity of Jesus. **The Nicene creed** (as did Athanasian Creed and Apostles Creed) **rejected heretical teachings about God of the Bible and proclaimed Jesus’ deity and His equality among the Persons of the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Definition of Trinity: Within the unity of One God there are three Persons – The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three share the same nature and attributes. In effect these three Persons are the One True God.

The Hebrew word, *Elohyim* or *Elohim*, translated in English “God”, is a plural word [from El or Eloah, which is a singular word for God; -im ending in a Hebrew word indicates plural – just as *Cherub* is one angel, *Cherubim* is more than one]. The plural word *Elohyim* (Elohim) indicates that God is more than one Person, i.e. He is three eternal Persons who comprise the Godhead. (Rom. 1:19-20.) In the Old Testament language of Hebrew it is clearly understood for the verb is always in the singular when the one true God (using a plural word, *Elohyim*) is spoken of, but when the same Hebrew word (*eloahim*) refers to judges or false gods, as in Exodus 21:6 and Ps. 82, then the verb is also plural. Using a singular verb with a plural word would be grammatically as wrong in Hebrew as it is in English: it would be as saying “*we is*” instead of “*we are*”- but there is an exception when speaking of the one true God. The Hebrew word, *Elohyim*, indicates plurality of Persons in One God.

The Bible teaches, from beginning to end, One God. Jews (Hebrews) daily repeat the “*shema*”, which, in a way, is their “creed” or confession, expressing their belief and faith in one God. They confess, “*Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God is one LORD.*” If we translated it back to Hebrew, we would read: “*Hear, O Israel, YHVH, our Elohyim, is ONE YHVH.*” Jesus repeated this in Mark 12:29, saying that it is the First of all commandments to believe in One God, “*Hear, O Israel; The LORD our God is one LORD.*” In our English Bibles, when the word LORD is in all capital letters, in Hebrew text it reads YHVH (Jehovah in English) which is the name of God as God gave it to Israel in Exodus 6:3, saying, “*And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, BUT BY MY NAME JE-HO-VAH (YHVH) WAS I NOT KNOWN TO THEM.*” Note the words I (not we) and My Name (not two names as LDS use – *Elohim* and *Jehovah*). One God has one name. *Elohyim* is not the actual name of God – it is an expression of who God is - Three Persons, but One God. The same is repeated throughout the Old Testament. It is also expressed in the New Testament. GOD IS ONE. There is only One God – *even demons believe that and tremble* (James 2:19), but the Mormon Church has chosen to believe Joseph Smith’s lie of *multiple, progressive Gods* instead of the One True God of the Bible. (1 John 5:7, KJV, NKJV) “*For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word (Jesus) and the Holy Ghost: AND THESE THREE ARE ONE.*” Jesus is the image of the *INVISIBLE GOD* (Col. 1:15), for *God is Spirit*. (John 4:24.) “NO MAN HAS SEEN GOD AT ANY TIME.” (John 1:18; 1 John 4:12.) Jesus is the visible expression of the Triune God, “*For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*” (Col. 2:9.)

Jesus said, “If ye believe not that I AM He, ye shall die in your sins.” He added, “*Before Abraham was, I AM.*” (John 8:24, 58.) By this He declares that He is the Great I AM, the Almighty God, who had appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.(Ex. 6:3) “*I AM Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.*” (Rev. 1:8.)

How important is the Truth about God? Would belief in any “Jesus” or any god or “higher power” be enough? **Does the Truth matter? Jesus said that it does. He equated knowing the true God to having eternal life.** (John 17:3.) **“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God... The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”** (Romans 3:23; 6:23; Eph. 2:8-9.) **Only God, the True One, can forgive sins and give eternal life.** (John 8:24; Mark 2:7.) **We must KNOW the One who gave His life so that we can be forgiven.** (John 3:16.) We all are sinners from birth. (Romans 3:23; 6:23.) **When we receive Jesus and are born again, we become God’s children.** (John 1:12-13; 1 Cor. 15:46.) **Until** that time we are ***“children of the flesh and these are not children of God.”*** (Romans 9:8.) **If we have become His and confess our sins to Him, His blood cleanses us from all sin.** (1 John 1:7-10.) ***“...without shedding of blood there is no remission [of sin].”*** (Hebr. 9:22.) Forgiveness or atonement of sin does not come because the penalty of sin is excused, but because **it is transferred to a sacrifice whose lifeblood is poured out.** Israelites were taught this early on. ***“For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”*** (Lev. 17:11.) Dr. Henry Morris wrote about this in his commentary of Leviticus 17, and said, *“The blood circulation is the key factor in physical life. The blood carries water and nourishment to every cell, maintains the body’s temperature, and removes the waste material of the body’s cells. The blood also transmits the very breath of life, carrying oxygen from lungs throughout the body to all its cells...The shedding of animal blood on an altar in sacrificial atonement for human sins was a temporary means of showing faith in God’s promised redemption. This was necessary until the coming of Christ, the ‘Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world’ (John 1:29) since ‘the wages of sin is death’. The substitutionary taking of life (i.e. blood) of an innocent, blemish-free animal symbolized the great price of salvation, forgiveness and reconciliation that would one day be paid by the Creator Himself, becoming man and taking our sins upon Himself. Blood sacrifices became obsolete with Christ’s death and resurrection, for He ‘put away sin by the sacrifice of himself’ (Hebr. 9:26) and then was raised again for our justification. (Rom. 4:25.)”* [Note: the LDS Church teaches that Jesus’s atonement was accomplished in Gethsemane. Not so! **Wages of sin is death. His lifeblood was poured out when He died on the cross to atone our sins.**]

We as believers in Christ are part of the *Judeo-Christian faith* – **based on the Holy Bible, and in no other books of scriptures.** God revealed Himself as One God to Israelites saying *“Hear O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one!”* (Deut. 6:4.) It was very significant religious truth because all surrounding nations around Israel believed and worshipped many gods. This is demonstrated around us here, living among LDS people that had fallen for Joseph Smith’s later teaching that there are **many gods**, and that men must also ***“learn how to be Gods yourselves, same as all Gods have done before you.”*** (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 346.) We are confronted quite regularly with LDS doctrine of *“Plurality of Gods”* for they teach *“...if Jesus had a Father, can we not believe that he had a Father also?”* (Mormon Doctrine, p. 322.) In other words they believe in a *chain of gods* reaching to eternity past. They say that Father, Son and Holy Ghost are the ***three Gods*** connected to this earth, and that ***“...these three are the only Gods we worship. But in addition there are an infinite number of holy personages, drawn from worlds without number, who have passed on to exaltation and are thus gods.”*** (Mormon Doctrine, pp. 575-576.) Belief in many gods is what makes

Mormonism a polytheistic religion, not how many of them they worship! However, Joseph Smith had started his religion with the belief in one God and that is reflected in his Book of Mormon (1830) and also in his 1835 Doctrine and Covenants that taught “almost biblical doctrines”, also teaching that **the Father is Spirit and that only the Son has a body of flesh and bones** . It was from 1839 on that he started to develop his doctrine of many gods, as we can see from D&C 121:28,32, but it was not until April of 1844, when he for the first time openly declared that **God was once a man as we are now**, and adding “...***I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea and take away the veil, so that you may see... you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves...same as all Gods have done before you.***” (Teachings of Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 345-346.) **The God of the Bible refutes Joseph Smith’s “idea” and says, “I AM He: before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me...I AM the first, and I AM the last; and beside me there is no God...Is there a God beside Me? Yea, there is no God; I know not any.”** (Isa. 43:10; 44:6, 8.) **God of the Bible is Triune God - the Trinity. Webster’s Dictionary** (p. 1263) explains **Trinity** as “*The unity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit as three Persons in one Godhead according to Christian dogma.*” In other words **biblical Christianity believes in the Trinity, but Mormons do not**, as we can see from above LDS quotes. **Webster’s Dictionary** (p.203) further explains **Christianity** as follows: “**[It is] the religion derived from Jesus Christ, based on the Bible as sacred scripture.**”

It is the LDS doctrine of God that separates Mormons from Christianity! The LDS Church does not base their doctrine on the Bible, but has their own sacred scriptures. Instead of believing the Word of God, they question the correctness of the Bible.[See the LDS 8th Article of Faith.]

Questions from an LDS person who said, among other things, that she has a problem in understanding the Trinity. Since this is a main topic of this newsletter we chose to include her questions here. She also asked: “*If Jesus is God in the flesh why does God call down after Jesus is baptized and introduced Jesus as His son in whom He is pleased? Or when it says in John that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son? This is what throws me off and I can understand why Mormons or a few other faiths believe them as two separate beings (Gods).*”

My reply: It is hard for us to understand an **Uncreated Eternal Triune God who is Spirit** (see: Ps. 90:2; Matt. 1:23; John 1;1,14; 4:24; 8:23-24), at least not until we have learned what God has said in His Word about other things we can understand. If a small child asked you a question that had required you to do a lot of studying and learning, this child could not begin to understand your “learned answers” unless she had started with simple questions that would be possible for her to understand... In other words, it is hard for us as **finite beings** to **fully understand an infinite God** – but if we start with things we can understand, we will grow in faith and knowledge. Learning is a process. As we learn from God’s Word things we can understand, we will also learn to accept what God says about Himself and believe Him. **God is a Triune God** (Trinity) – meaning that **God is three eternal Spirit Persons, but one God**. (1 John 5:7.)

Man was created in the image of God –Three in One. Think about yourself – **the real you is not your body, but the spirit and soul that is housed in your body**. Our bodies will die, sooner or later, but our **soul and spirit** that

was created/made into an image of God never dies. Our spirit that is in the image of God lives forever, and during this life we must choose **where we will live forever** – choices are: **either in heaven or in hell.** Sinful man cannot live with a Holy God. That is why **God Himself became a man** (John 1:1, 14) **to pay our sin-debt** and give us the possibility to be saved and after our physical death be resurrected and live with Him forever. (John 3:16.) If we reject His gift of eternal life, our sins are not forgiven and we cannot live with God, but are destined to live forever with the devil and his angels in hell. Hell was created for the devil, not for man. (Matt. 25:41.) God does not send anyone to hell – it is our choice if we reject His gift. (Eph. 2:8-9; Romans 10:9-10; John 14:6.) In order for our sins to be taken away, the sinless Son of God died in our place and made it possible for our sins to be forgiven. (See John 8:23-24.) Since **all have sinned** (Romans 3:23; 6:23) it meant that God Himself had to become a man. Sin has passed to all mankind through Adam who sinned. We all are Adam’s posterity **until** we are born again and **become sons of God** – (John 1:12-13; Romans 9:8). Thus it required a Virgin birth to bring a Savior to the world. He was not begotten by any man, but begotten by the Holy Spirit. (Luke 1:35; Matt. 1:18, 23; Phil. 2:6-8.) Remember that **God is Spirit, an invisible Spirit.** (John 1:18; 4:24; Col. 1:15; 1 John 4:12.) When God became a man in Jesus, we read in Colossians that **“in Him all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily”** (Col. 2:9.) That is possible because God is Spirit. **God is a Triune Being – three Persons, one God.** (1 John 5:7.) At Jesus’ baptism, the Triune God manifested Himself so that people were able to understand that **God is Three Persons.** At His baptism, Jesus was visible, standing in water, the voice of God was heard (God whom we cannot see – John 1:18) and Holy Spirit came as a dove on Jesus so that all could see that **there are three Persons in the Godhead; one visible, two invisible.** Of course we understand that the Holy Spirit is not a “dove”, but this way all could see that **God is Triune God. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are One God,** but three **PERSONS.** (1 John 5:7.) They are three uncreated, eternal Persons. (Ps. 90:2.) They love each other, they talk with each other, they plan and commune with each other. One of them, Jesus the God-man, is, since His resurrection, a physical Person forever and we will become like Him when we are resurrected and see Him as He is. (1 John 3:2.)

Personhood of a man is his soul and spirit. (When God created man, He **“breathed into him the breath of life and man became a living soul.”** Gen. 2:7.) **We are triune beings – we have spirit, soul and body.** All in God’s creation reflects His Triune nature. Basics of the Universe are **“three in one”**: **space, matter and time.** **Space is also three in one: length, breath and height. Matter is also three: energy, motion and phenomena. Time is three in one: past, present and future.** Egg is white, yolk and shell – yet one egg... We can go on and on about God’s creation – **all is three in one,** but just as Paul wrote in Romans 1:19-23, those who refuse to believe and see **“the invisible things of Him from the creation... even His eternal power and Godhead”**, **they are without excuse!** When Joseph Smith could not understand Eternal God, he made himself a god who is like him, Joseph Smith. He recreated his god to be an image of himself. Paul seems to warn particularly about men like Joseph Smith, who **“changed the glory of incorruptible (and invisible) God in to an image like to corruptible man...”** (Rom. 1:23)

Throughout the Bible we are told that **God is not a man.** (See: Numbers 23:19; 1 Sam. 15:29; Job 9:32; Isa. 31:3-4; Hosea 9:11 etc.) **There is no God but He.** (Isa. 43:10; 44:6, 8 etc.) God said, **“Before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me.”** (Isa. 43:10) God asks: **“Is there a God besides Me? Yea, there is no God; I know not any.”** (44:8.) In opposition to God’s Word, Joseph Smith taught, as his church is also currently teaching, **that there were gods before God and men will become gods after him.** No, says God.

You asked why God the Father was “pleased” in **Jesus who had become a man. He is God, 100%, but He become a man, 100%. God was pleased in Him as a man, His Only Begotten Son. God does not have any other sons, UNTIL we are born again by His Spirit** (John 1:12) and **BECOME sons of God**. Before we are born again, we are descendants of Adam, “**children of the flesh**”. (Rom. 9:8.)

We have many, many reasons to praise The Lord. He has blessed us with many new believers even during the last month. One of them is Kim, with whom I have spent many, many hours on a phone as well as answering her letters. She is a quick learner, her heart is open to God and His truth, and within a few days from our first discussion she was ready for a serious Bible study. I mailed her a NKJV of the Bible and John Study MP3, plus several DVDs and reading materials. We have been in touch almost daily and she has blessed me so much. Please pray for her, for she has been *temple endowed* and has family that is very LDS. That spells heart-ache. Also keep on praying for Dixie and Sidney – they both have a desire to learn, but their families are upset about their questioning. Please pray for several other LDS men that I have spent days on answering their challenges and poured my heart out as the Lord has inspired me to do. I know that not everyone who hears God’s truth actually loves the truth. It makes me sad to read what the Word says will be their destiny if they continue to choose to believe in the deceptive doctrines of Mormonism. It is the love of truth that makes salvation possible. It was in 2 Thess. 2:10-12 (NKJV) where Paul wrote about “**unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all might be condemned who did not believe the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**” I believe that “**the lie**” mentioned here is the first lie told to mankind – the lie of Satan (Gen. 3:5) saying that **men may become gods**. This deceptive “**doctrine of devils**” appeals to the pride of men, and takes them captive. (1 Tim. 4:1.) Sad fact is that in many cases a Christian witness to them will be realized by them too late – perhaps not until at the **Great White Throne Judgment**, where what they had heard now will leave them guilty, ashamed and condemned. (Rev. 20:12-15.) Lets pray together that the Lord will prepare their hearts and minds to open for His love and truth before it is too late.

We are happy to report that Preston and Kathy Stewart’s on going **Understanding Mormonism** classes in Vernal have been well received and attendance has been well above what they had expected. Their classes will last twice as long as ours here, for they can only do 1-hour classes, when we do 2-hr classes each week. We praise God that *our efforts* in writing these class papers are put forth not only in Vernal, but also in Australia where Dennis went to start these classes 1.5 years ago. This assures us that there will be more and more people who will know the facts and can help Mormons to see that **God loves them and wants them to “come out from among them” and be saved**. (2 Cor. 6:17-18.)

Dennis’ truck was broken into a week ago. The thief took his checkbook, all his keys, and what was perhaps the biggest loss of all was that they took his briefcase that had his appointment book with names, addresses and phone numbers of his clients, and all his receipts for materials he has bought for them during the last several months, and his daily accounting of his hours he has worked in several, yet unfinished, jobs. He does not usually bill his clients till the work is completed and now he will have a hard time figuring out what is owed to him and by whom. This may be a bigger loss than we can afford. Please pray with us that somehow this will be solved.

We ask that you'll pray for our friend Tom, and those with him who have been wrongly accused, that the truth will prevail and false accusers will back off. We also ask prayer for Heber who needs legal help to have his sentence reexamined. He was a victim of Joseph Smith's false doctrines that many years ago led his father and family into extremism that brought severe results to them all. Our friend Bruce asks prayer that his beautiful photography book he is working on presenting God's creation-story will become a success and free him to work for the Lord as he has desired ever since he left Mormonism and received the Lord many years ago.

Please pray for Dave and Ruth Hunt, Max and Merridy, Sandy and Al, Dale and Sharon, Debbie, Ed and Carol, Chris and Jamie and Dick and Patty for their various health needs. (2 Cor. 1:3-4.) It is comforting to know that the Lord hears us and comes to our aid as we pray according to His will.

We thank the Lord that when Dennis spoke at Calvary Chapel (2/17/13), there were responses for invitation to receive the Lord. Also an LDS lady who was there, came and introduced herself to him and asked further help. She called that evening and they had a long discussion on doctrinal differences between Mormonism and biblical Christianity. She said that she will contact Dennis again as soon as she comes back from her 2-week trip to Oregon. Isn't the Lord good! There seems to be more and more seekers after God. We get calls and emails just about every day. Maybe He is coming back sooner than we think and He wants ***the fullness of Gentiles to come in*** before the ***Great Tribulation*** begins. (Rom. 11:25; Matt. 24:21.) Harvest is great and workers are few.

Thank you so very much for making our work possible by your payers and assistance. We know that your sacrifice will be rewarded by Him who answers our prayers and sees into our hearts and sees your love and faithfulness to the Lord you demonstrate by partnering with us in this ministry. (Rev. 22:12.)

Please keep the Son in your eyes,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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Thought for the month: *“By entertaining strangers, men sometimes entertain angels unawares; but by entertaining of strange doctrines, many have entertained devils unawares.”* (John Flavel)

May God bless your desire to be our partners in sharing His Truth with those who do not yet know Him. We thank you for your help in this work. **We could not do this without you.**

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