



*He Is Savior, Acts 4:12

April 1, 2014

We wish you a blessed Resurrection celebration on “Easter Sunday” the 20th of April. ”For God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16.)

It has been said, “**Christmas was the promise, but Passover is the proof.**” Indeed it is. The demonstration of God’s love and promise of **everlasting life** was given to the world with the birth of Jesus. And when He died, was buried and resurrected during **Passover** week in Jerusalem, which was God’s **proof** of His love for mankind and **promise of forgiveness and eternal life** to all who come to Him through Jesus. (1 Cor. 15:1-4; John 14:6.) We are beneficiaries of His love that was written in blood on the rugged cross on the Calvary’s Hill. “**He was crucified on a cross of wood yet He made the Hill on which it stood.**”

Joint actions of the **Triune God** are seen through the life of Jesus. His **incarnation, atonement and resurrection** were accomplished by all **three eternal Persons we call the Trinity**, just as the Word of God testifies. **Incarnation** was credited to **the Father** in Hebr. 10:5; to **the Son** in Phil. 2:7, and to **the Holy Spirit** in Luke 1:35. His **atonement** was credited to **the Father** in Isa. 53:6, 10; to **the Son** in Eph. 5:2, and to **the Holy Spirit** in Hebr. 9:14. His **resurrection** was credited to **the Father** in Rom. 6:4; to **the Son** in John 10:17 and to **the Holy Spirit** in Rom. 8:11. **God is three in One. “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 God, from everlasting to everlasting.** (Ps. 90:2.) We must interpret the Old Testament in the light given to us in the New Testament that says that **the Father is God, that the Son is God and that the Holy Spirit is God** and yet it emphasizes that there is only one God, anywhere. We do not claim to understand God in human terms, but **we believe it simply because God’s Word, given by inspiration of God to His servants, says so.** (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21; 1 John 5:7.) As early as 2nd century A.D. Irenaeus and Tertullian summarized the *essentials of Christianity*, i.e. belief in **Father, Son and the Holy Spirit**, known as **Trinitarian doctrine**. **Early Eastern creeds or confessions of belief** (long before Nicaea) stressed **oneness of Godhead, miraculous birth of the Son and purpose of incarnation of God for salvation of men**. There is abundant evidence from the beginning of the New Testament that from the earliest times a confession of the **divinity of Christ existed side-by-side with oneness of Godhead**, or *Trinitarian confessions of orthodox teaching* (“orthodox” meaning “correct doctrine”) of “**one God in Trinity, and Trinity in unity affirming both that the threeness of the persons in no way divides the divine substance and that substantial unity does not**

lessen the reality of personal distinctions. It also asserts the double procession of the Spirit... and teaches that Jesus Christ, while indissolubly one in person, is simultaneously fully divine and fully human, his humanity comprising a rational soul as well as body...Unity of divinity and humanity in his single person is as complete as unity of body and soul in a human individual." (Encyclopedia of Britannica on Creeds, vol. 6:717-720.) The early church, from East to West, regarded the Creeds (Athanasian Creed, Apostles Creed and Nicene Creed) authoritative and that they are based on biblical scripture. Translated from the original Greek, Nicene Creed says, "We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of all things visible and invisible: and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father, only-begotten that is, from the substance of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one substance with the Father, through whom all things came into existence, things in heaven and things on earth, who because of us men and because of our salvation came down and became incarnate, becoming man, suffered and rose again on the third day, ascended to the heavens, and will come to judge the living and the dead; and in the Holy Spirit." Thus it says that **the Father is God, the Son is God and the Holy Spirit is God**, and that they together are to **be worshipped as one God**. This creed was, as were the other creeds, established to refute heresies about the incarnation and of the Holy Spirit, which promulgated falsehoods about Christ, suggesting that before His birth into humanity He did not exist, and that He is a created being. This is one of the specific points of **Arian theology**. There had been countless numbers of men from the time of Jesus' ministry onward, who first professed to be believers in Jesus Christ - beliefs established by His apostles - but after a time, they began to teach their own ideas about God. Peter has warned, "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of." (2 Pet. 2:1-2.) **There indeed is nothing new under the sun**. We are seeing a very similar heresy to Arianism, and also to modalism, being currently promoted among some former Mormons in Utah. They are denying Trinity and Jesus as eternal God while professing that Jesus is "now" a God. James (3:1) warned about the responsibility placed on all who teach, saying, "**My brethern, be not many masters (teachers), knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.**" This "new heresy" agrees with Mormonism that is adamantly against **Trinity** and to Nicene Creed, and perhaps for that reason it may seem to be *familiar* and even *acceptable* to those who have been raised in Mormonism. We must be discerning and standing firm on the **whole Word of God**, be informative and protect the vulnerable new believers in the biblical Jesus.

It may be important for us now to take a look at history and see what has taken place from early on, soon after the apostles of Jesus had been put to death. Around 300 A.D. there was a Christian priest at Alexandria, named **Arius**, who was the originator of "**Arianism**". He began a theory that **Christ, the Son of God is not divine**, but a created being who at one time did not exist. Arius was a deacon in Alexandria (300-311). In 318 he came in conflict with Bishop Alexander there. This conflict continued till August of 323 when Alexander began in detail examining Arius' teachings. In Nicaea, February of 325, the Council of Bishops who had been inspecting Arius' claims, condemned his teachings as heresy. The fundamental premise of Arius was the uniqueness of God who alone is self-existent and

immutable, and that the Godhead cannot be shared - ***so the Son cannot be [preexistent] God...*** Arius may have derived some of his ideas from a 2nd century heretical teaching named the “***Logos***” or “***Word Christology***” which had made the Son an impersonal function of, and therefore inferior to, the Father. Arius carried his teachings from there to his own conclusions. Such teachings reduced the Son to a demigod, and reintroduced polytheism since worship of the Son was not abandoned. It also undermined the Christian concept of redemption, since only He who was truly God could reconcile man to God. **The Nicene Creed condemned Arius’ teachings and declared that according to the scriptures the Son is all that the Father is and thus completely divine.** There was a readiness of many “***half-converted***” pagans to accept this “***new doctrine***” and it continued among unlearned until the 7th century. “***Modern Arianism***” began during 18th century England against the background of polytheism. Today’s ***Unitarians*** are virtually ***Arians*** in that they do not recognize Jesus as having a divine nature, identical to the Father. We see a form of ***Arianism*** in ***Jehovah’s Witnesses*** and in some way also in ***Mormonism***, **for Jesus of Mormonism is not God who became a man, but a created being who “became a god”**. Mormon doctrine, however, is fully polytheistic. Society as a whole is weakened when systematic theology (doctrine of God) is neglected. Without application of theology, people too often approach the Bible with a smorgasbord mentality, picking and choosing what pleases them at the moment. **Who then is a Christian? A Christian is a person who has come to faith in the God of the Bible and the gospel** (1 Cor. 15:1-4) and who sees himself/herself as a sinner in need of a Savior (Rom. 3:23; 6:23), who then repents (Luke 13:3; 5:32) and **receives true Jesus, and thus becomes a child of God.** (John 1:12; Rom.10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-9.) Those “***claiming to be Christians***” but denying the Triune God, as ***Jehovah’s Witnesses*** and ***Mormons*** do, logically cannot be true Christians, for true Christians believe in the God of the Bible, and that Jesus is the second Person of the Triune God. He is Eternal God, who alone can forgive sins as He Himself declared (in John 8:24), saying “***...if ye believe not that I AM He (God), ye shall die in your sins.***” Only God can forgive sins. (Mark 2:7b.) Either your sins are still in you, or they are on Christ, the Lamb of God. If your sins are still in you, you are lost; but if your sins are resting on Christ, you are saved. (Rom. 8:1; 1 John 1:7-9.) Think about it. Which is it? Are you saved or are you lost? You can choose the True Jesus Christ right now if you have not done it before. **This is the good news of the gospel of Christ.** (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) Rejecting the Trinity because that word is not in the Bible is not a valid reason at all. We use also other words summarizing biblical teachings, words that are not found in the Bible either, such as “***soteriology***” (doctrine of salvation), or “***immanence***” or “***transcendence***” etc., that are labels for concepts of complex teachings that belong together and sum up the concepts that are taught in the scripture. **That God is One, but more than one Person is expressed in both the Old and the New Testaments, as in Deut. 6:4, “Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God is one LORD.”** [In Hebrew it reads, “Hear, O Israel, YHVH, our Elohyim, is ONE YHVH.” In our English Bibles when we see the word LORD in all capital letters it is in Hebrew text YHVH, the name of God, as God gave it in Exodus 6:3. Elohyim is not the name of God, but an expression of who God is. Elohyim is a plural word, indicating plurality of persons in One God.] In Mark 12:28-29, Jesus was asked which is the first commandment, and He answered, “***Hear O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord.***” In other words, our plural God (Elohyim) is One YHVH (Jehovah). Jesus said that ***no man has seen God at any time*** (John 1:18; 1 John 4:12; Col.1:15) **but He (Jesus) came to reveal God to us. He is the visible expression of the Triune God, “For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”** (Cor. 2:9.) Jesus said about Himself, “***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.) (All the New Testament books contain the teaching of the Trinity, only exceptions are James and 3rd John.) **Jesus proclaimed the**

Trinity when He, after His resurrection, sent His disciples to teach about God and the gospel, saying, ***“Go therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”*** (Matt. 28:19.) ***One God, being the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, has one name.*** [We see the Trinitarian gospel commanded to be preached in Acts 2:32-33; 5:29-32; 10:38; Gal. 3:13-14; 4:6; 5:5-6, 22-24; Rom. 1:18-32; 3:21-31; 8:1-30.] ***May we all become diligent students of the Whole Counsel of God (Acts 20:27; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16), the Bible, which is the final and infallible Word of God, so that we will not be deceived.*** As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, His disciples came to Him privately, asking what will be the sign of His coming and of the end of the world. He answered and said, ***“Take heed that no man deceive you.”*** (Matt. 24:3-4.) Growing deception is the sign of the end times just as Paul warned, saying, ***“...evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.”*** (2 Tim. 3:13.) But if we diligently study the Word, we will ***know the doctrine*** and if we do, no one can deceive us.

From our mailbox: Questions about LDS temple ordinances: *“What do you mean when you say that Mormon-temple ordinances originated from Free Masons? The Mormon Church teaches that the temple ordinances we have today are the same as was done in the Solomon’s temple. They were restored to Joseph Smith by revelation. You have also falsely said that Mormons are put under death-oaths in a temple. That is not true.”*

Reply: What is done in the Mormon temples is very similar to the ***secret Masonic practices***. Joseph Smith had become a Master Mason about 6 weeks **before he brought Masonic rituals he had learned there into his church.** Since Masonry and its rituals had been around nearly a thousand years **before Mormonism,** it is easy to see where Joseph Smith’s “revelation” originated, is it not? He copied them from Free Masons when he became a Master Mason. We can read from the Bible what was done in the Solomon’s Temple. [Read 1 Kings, chapters 5 through 8, and see for yourself. **There is absolutely nothing similar to Mormon or Masonic practices to what was done in the Solomon’s temple.**] Masonic blood oaths demonstrated in the Mormon temples have been part of the temple oaths from Joseph Smith’s times, from the spring of 1842 until April 9th of 1990. I have participated in these rituals hundreds of times during my nearly 20 years as a temple-active LDS. As an example of the first blood oath, after receiving this “handshake” as a “token”, I had to say (not out loud, but in my mind), ***“I will never reveal the First Token of the Aaronic Priesthood, with its accompanying name, sign, and penalty. Rather than do so, I would suffer my life to be taken.”*** **While saying this in my mind, I had to draw my thumb across my throat demonstrating cutting my throat from ear to ear.** Other Masonic bloody oaths were also sworn and demonstrated as a penalty if revealing (outside of a temple) the Second Token of Aaronic Priesthood or **tokens of Melchizedek Priesthood.** The Masonic handshakes/tokens are still used in the LDS temples, and even though secrecy of them and penalties are implied, penalties are not demonstrated any longer. To even think of having to put yourself under such oaths are terrifying. The temple ceremony has been the most troubling part of Mormonism to a majority of people who have dared to talk about their temple-experiences. **It is all true,** and even though penalties are no longer

demonstrated, all temple-goers know that what takes place in a temple, excepting baptisms for the dead, has to be kept secret!

Another Mormon wrote: *“You are saying that we believe that we will become Gods. We will not become Gods, but “like God”. You say that we believe in polygamy and that there is polygamy in heaven, and that it has been taught from Joseph Smith to this day. Not true. You have also said that Jesus’ birth was result of physical conception by God and Mary, and thus not a Virgin birth. Not true either. I want to see some quotes from our prophets on these and other arguments you have presented against my Church, if you have them. I doubt that you can do that for I have been a member of this Church all my life and I have never heard these teachings. Maybe Brigham Young had said something that can be made to sound like he said it, and even if he said it, then he was wrong. President Hinckley did not believe anything like these things you say, and President Monson does not believe these things, neither do I.”*

Reply: Your current “*prophet’s*” (Monson) “*authority*” depends on authority of a “*prophet*” (Hinckley) before him, whose authority depends on one before him etc. back to Joseph Smith – who claimed that he received his priesthood authority from the apostles of Jesus Christ. (However, you need to know that Christ’s apostles did not have nor did they ever claim to have the priesthood.) The Mormon claim has been, and still is, that they are *successors of Joseph Smith, linked to him perfectly without any exception... and indeed it has to be, for if their “prophetic” link or chain to Joseph Smith was broken even once, the whole structure would be invalid after it was broken. You asked for quotes if any of these things were taught by LDS “*prophets, seers and revelators*”, which is a title of every LDS “*prophet and/or apostle*”. I will list you some here: About his prophetic calling, Joseph Smith said, **“Every man has a natural, and in our country, a constitutional right to be a false prophet, as well as a true prophet”**. (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 344.) [You may need to consider ***was he a true prophet or a false one?***] About eternity of God, Smith said: **“We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea...I am going to tell you how God came to be God.”** (Ibid, p. 345. Compare to Ps. 90:2.) About men becoming Gods, Joseph Smith said, **“You have to got to learn how to be Gods yourselves...same as all Gods have done before you.”** (Ibid, p. 346. Compare to Isa. 43:10.) About where his followers will go after this life, Joseph Smith taught: **“The Righteous to dwell in everlasting burnings.”** (Ibid, p. 347. Compare to Rev. 20:15.) (Is this the *eternal lake of fire* as in 2 Ne. 28:23 and Alma 5:7?) However, Joseph Smith said not to worry, for **“... if we go to hell, we will turn the devils out of doors and make heaven of it.”** (History of the Church, vol. 5, p. 517.) Joseph Smith boasted: **“I have more to boast than ever any man had I am the only man that has ever been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam... Neither Paul, John, Peter nor Jesus ever did it. The followers of Jesus ran away from Him; but the Latter-day Saints never ran away from me yet.”** (Ibid, vol. 6, pp. 408-409.) Mormon Doctrine (about Jesus’s birth), says: **“Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by their mortal fathers.”** (Mormon Doctrine, p. 547. See also *Come Unto Christ*, p. 4, by LDS Prophet, Ezra Taft*

Benson.) **“Jesus Christ was not begotten by the Holy Ghost.”** (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, vol. 1, p. 51. Compare to Matt. 1:18; Luke 1:35.) **“The Virgin Mary... was the lawful wife of God the Father.”** (Apostle Orson Pratt, Seer, p. 158; Brigham Young, JoD, vol. 11, p. 268.) About polygamy: **“God the father had a plurality of wives.”** (Ibid, p. 172.); **“The great Messiah, founder of the Christian religion, was a Polygamist.”** (Ibid, p. 172.) **“A belief in the doctrine of plurality of wives caused persecution of Jesus and his followers.”** (Jedediah M. Grant, JoD, vol. 1, pp. 345-346.) **“If you will deny the plurality of wives...you will be damned.”** (Brigham Young, JoD, vol. 3, p. 266; Joseph Smith, D&C 132:4.) Brigham Young said, **“I have never yet preached a sermon and sent it out to the children of men, that they may not call Scripture.”** (JoD, vol. 13, p. 95.) Brigham Young said that **Joseph Smith “was God to us and is to the nations of the earth, and will continue to be.”** (JoD, vol. 8, p. 321.) Brigham also said, **“I am an Apostle of Joseph Smith.”** (JoD, vol. 3, p. 212.) **“If it had not been for Joseph Smith and the restoration, there would be no salvation. There is no salvation outside The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.”** (Mormon Doctrine, p. 670. Compare to John 14:6; Acts 4:12.) (Joseph Smith is more important than Jesus?) If you’d like to see more, please let me know. Please consider what the Bible has to say about these same issues as: Who is God of the Bible? Who is Jesus of the Bible? (1 John 5:7.) (Jesus is *God with us* – Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14.) God is Eternal God **“from everlasting to everlasting”**. (Ps. 90:2.) **God is not a man.** (Hos. 11:9.) **There were no Gods before God, nor will there be after Him.** (Isa. 43:10.) Polygamy was never commanded or ordained by God, but by sinful men who copied practices of other sinful men. (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6.) **I’d be glad to hear from you again.** Rauni

We want to extend our condolences to Pastor Marv Cowen at the passing of his wife, Janet Elizabeth Cowen. We pray for Marv, for there is deep sadness in his life now, but we know that there is also a great joy for his wife is now with the Lord and there awaits for Marv and all others who knew her here and loved her very much. (John 16:22b.)

Please pray for Dick, Patti, Sean, Debbie, Dale, Sharon, Heber, Chris and Jamie, Max, Pat and Merridy – they need the Lord’s healing and strength. We have many friends who are having trials at this time and who have asked that we pray for them. The Lord knows who they are and what kind of help they are seeking. Trials more often than not are just to make us strong in Him.

Please pray for many LDS people that we have been helping by answering their questions, and comforting them in the sadness they are experiencing when they are learning that they have been deceived. It is difficult for many of them to even consider having to separate themselves from the Mormon Church, for often it is seen by their family and friends as betrayal of their heritage and ancestry. Please pray also for several young college-age ladies I have been communicating with for several months. They are diligently studying to become better witnesses to their LDS friends. Some of them are already finding out that the truth is starting to separate them from these friends. It has caused sadness, for these friends have meant a lot to them – but presenting the true Jesus to the lost is

worth the risk. Please pray for Adam, Larry, Melissa and other young Mormons in this group of friends who have heard the truth, but so far have rejected it. Please continue to pray for Emily and Andrew. Even though Andrew has left the Mormon Church, he has not come to the true Jesus yet.

We extend out thanks to you for praying for us and supporting us in many meaningful ways. We have been in this ministry now for 30 years, and throughout these years the Lord has shown that He is with us, and that we do not need to worry but present our needs to Him. **He is the one who provides for us - through His own. His Word promises, "...by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."** (Phil. 4:6-7.) We thank the Lord for you, our faithful friends, and we ask Him to give you the desires of your heart. (Ps. 37:3-6.) The Lord is so good to us all.

Notice: Calvary Chapel, SLC, is going to have their Annual Capstone Conference on the evening of April 11th and all day of April 12th. Attendance is free. For more details you may call Calvary Chapel, at 801.264-9999. We will have great speakers who will deliver messages of love for LDS people as they share their knowledge of lifetime research on topics of Mormonism, and of also on their deep understanding of God's Word, the Bible. You will hear from **Rob Bowman (IRR), Pastor Chip Thompson, Dr. Bryce Pettit, Kurt Van Gorden, Sandra Tanner, Bill McKeever, Marv Cowen and our pastors Terry Long and Jim Harris.** These speakers have been ministering to Mormons for decades and they will be sharing their love for the LDS people and their knowledge of issues in question. Both Dennis and I will also be there throughout this event to assist and help. We ask prayer for these meetings, and also that we will have a good turnout. Please pass the word to all interested in coming to learn and fellowship. We are hoping that many LDS people will come and see that none of us are "anti-Mormon", but **pro-Jesus of the Bible** who loves them and wants them to acknowledge Him as their Lord and Savior. (John 3:16; 14:6.)

Serving Christ Jesus with gladness,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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"Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (Eph. 5:10-11.)

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