



\*He is Savior (Acts 4:12)

November 1, 2014

## H.I.S. Ministries November Newsletter, covering October 2014

To have eternal life with God requires that we “know God and Jesus whom He has sent”. (John 17:3.) Since we, Dennis and I, were also once devout LDS, we understand the confusion that Mormons are under, for they have also read this verse from the KJV and think that through teachings of the LDS Church they “know God and Jesus”. Our ministry’s purpose is to help LDS people to see that regardless of how sincerely they believe or how devout they are in their religion, the God they believe in and Jesus whom they speak about are not real and are not God and Jesus spoken of in the Bible. In our October 2014 letter we wrote about what the LDS Church teaches about God. This month we will compare **Jesus of the Bible to the “Jesus” of Mormonism**.

The Bible teaches that **God is Triune God - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – three eternal Persons – but One God.** (Deut. 6:4; Mark 12:29; James 2:19; 1 John 5:7.) God says that He is not a man, He is Spirit! (Numb.23:19; Hosea 11:9; John 4:24.) God the Son, one of these three Eternal Persons, became a man to pay our sin-debt and give us salvation as God’s gift. (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1,14; Eph. 2:8-9.)

**In opposition to the Bible, the Mormon Church teaches that God is a man, and that all mankind are children of God and his wives from the “preexistence”, Jesus being mankind’s elder brother, as well as a brother of Lucifer and all angels.** (See Mormon Doctrine, p.750-751; Gospel Through Ages, p. 15, 51.) Is God a man? Did mankind preexist? Did we all come from heaven? Are we brothers and sisters of Jesus, and Lucifer? NO! 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, 58; 3:13, 31.) Jesus is God. Only God can forgive sins. (Mark 2:7.) Jesus (8:23) refuted the idea of pre-existence of mankind and stated that He is the only one who came from heaven. He is the Great I AM, Eternal God, who took a form of a man to die for our sins. (Phil. 2:5-8.; John 1:1, 14; 8:23-24.) He came to reveal God to us (John 1:18; 14:9; Col. 1:15) for God is Spirit, and no one can see God as He is. (John 1:18; 4:24; 1 John 4:12.) Jesus said that without knowing God, and that He, Jesus, is the One sent by God, we cannot have eternal life with Him. (John 17:3.) Knowing God and who Jesus is gives to all who receive Him (John 1:12-13) an intimate, personal relationship with Him.

We all could repeat factual stories of many publically known people we have never personally met. Having read about them, we could talk about them almost as if we knew them. But if you’d ask that person what they thought of you or me, they would say: I do not know them! It is the same with Jesus. Just being familiar with

biblical stories about Jesus is not the same as knowing Him. Jesus said, “Many will say to me in that 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.) Jesus warned us about deception (Matt. 24:4-5) and false prophets who come in His name, saying, “do not to believe them”. (Matt. 24:23-24.) We are warned about “another Jesus” (different than Jesus who is God in flesh), and “another gospel” and “another spirit”. (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15.) We are told that we must test all things (1 Thess. 5:21) by the Word of God, the Bible. We must test the spirits who, by suggestive, “positive feelings” deceive many to accept new “gospels” without testing them by the God’s Word, the Bible. (1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1.) The Holy Spirit would not be an author of feelings that “testify” of “another Jesus” and “another gospel”, other than the gospel which is taught in the Word of God (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Gal. 1:8-9) that was given by inspiration of God. (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 they have changed His person, who He is, and invented “another Jesus”. The leaders of the Mormon Church have admitted and taught that the Jesus of Mormonism is not the same Jesus as Jesus of historic, traditional Christianity. They have said that in their conference sermons, in their Church magazine (the Ensign) and in the LDS Church News, and they have also written about “their Jesus” in their books and manuals. That should be well known among Mormons, but somehow they have not understood it. For example, an LDS General Authority, Bernard P. Brockbank, in April 1977 General Conference, taught, “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.” (Ensign, May 1977, pp. 26-27, emphasis added.) LDS President Gordon B. Hinckley spoke in 1998 – on June 4<sup>th</sup> in Paris, France and in Frankfurt, Germany, and on June 5<sup>th</sup>, in Geneva, Switzerland (as was reported by the LDS Church News, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1998, on 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’.” (Emphasis added.) During 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.)

In contrast to the Jesus Christ revealed by Joseph Smith, the 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! Testimonies of Jesus’ apostles’ and disciples’ and the events of the times of Christ are recorded in the books of the Bible of which the author is

God. (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21.) "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 forever. 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 Redeemer will be born from the "seed of a woman". (Gen. 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 records the fulfillment of this promise, "And she [a virgin] shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS; for He shall save His people from their sins." [Actual name given was Hebrew name Y'shua. "Jesus" is the Greek translation of His Hebrew name Y'shua (Joshua), which means "Jehovah saves" or Y'shua is salvation.] "Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of 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." (Matt. 1:22-23.) Jesus is Eternal God with us. "From everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." (Psalm 90:2.) There never was a time when Jesus 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 [Jesus] 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) What is the meaning of "all things"? It means that "everything" was created by Him. Many may think that is an overstatement. We live in a great big universe, billions of light years in expanse. And the Bible tells us that "all things were created by Him, and for Him." (Colossians 1:16) It is Jesus only!!There is nothing made that was not made by the Lord Jesus. The answer to all creation is Jesus, He only. People say, "the world needs saving", but what the world really needs is redemption. And where is redemption going to come from? Not from a church, creed, or our goodness and our works, but from Jesus only. The entire universe, the plans of God for all ages comes down to two words - Jesus only. Jesus created all angels including Lucifer and thus He could not be his brother, nor a brother of men, as Mormonism teaches. (See Gospel Through Ages, p. 15.) Lucifer (the Devil), 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 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. Godhood was what he offered to Eve (Gen. 3:5; 2 Cor. 11:3), and it is godhood that is offered to Mormons in their temples. In comparing what Mormonism teaches about Jesus to the teachings of the Bible, we see that they are not the same. Jesus of the Mormon Church is the eldest son in their Heavenly Father's family of billions and billions of sons and daughters of God and His many wives. They teach that He had a beginning like all of us had, i.e. that He was born as a spirit child in the "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 the mankind is that Heavenly Father, an exalted man, came to Mary and conceived Jesus, "the same way mortal men are begotten by their mortal fathers." (Mormon Doctrine, p. 547, 742; Come unto Christ, p. 4, by Ezra Taft Benson; see also Family Home Evening Manual, 1972, p. 126 and Seer, by apostle Orson Pratt.)

Mormons say that Jesus is the ***Only Son of God in the flesh, but what they mean is that He is the only one who was literally and physically conceived by God in the pre-existence as well as on earth.*** They teach (*Journal of Discourses*, vol.1, p.51; *Come Unto Christ*, p. 4, by President Ezra Taft Benson) ***that He was NOT begotten by the Holy Ghost, thus openly denying what the Bible teaches.*** (Matt. 1:18-23; Luke 1:35.)

About “***salvation by grace alone***” Mormonism teaches that ***Jesus’ atonement provided resurrection for all mankind, but that is not “true salvation” that requires marriage in an LDS temple and life-long, faithful obedience to the Mormons Church, that are necessary for true salvation and exaltation (i.e. godhood) in the celestial kingdom*** (highest heaven in Mormonism). ***They teach that Jesus also had to be married in order to be exalted.*** According to early teachings of the Mormon Church, Jesus was married and a polygamist, and that He 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; *That Jesus was married* was also stated by president Joseph Fielding Smith in a letter, dated March 17, 1963.) ***Mormonism teaches that Jesus “became a god”*** (by following doctrines very similar to the teachings of the Mormon Church). (General Conference message by Apostle Scott, *Ensign*, May 1997; See also ***Gospel Through Ages***, p. 51.)

There is only one way to God and salvation: "***Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.***" (John 14:6.) Pastor Adrian Rogers wrote: "***Jesus will save you by His grace, and He'll save you all by Himself or you won't be saved at all. When you are saved by the grace of God (Eph. 2:8-9), you are saved instantly, and you are saved eternally. Your goodness is not enough to save you, and your badness is not enough to keep you away. Jesus loves you so much that He died to save you.***

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**Instead of answering letters from our mailbox, I will in this newsletter respond to questions about recent LDS admissions about Joseph Smith’s polygamy, articles published on lds.org.**

Our ministry, and we are sure other ministries also, have been asked ***why is the Mormon Church now beginning to admit that yes, Joseph Smith was a polygamist, big time*** - having 30-40 wives, and that he also ***“married”*** (12-14) women who had living husbands! ***We have been amazed that there are Mormons even in Utah who had not known that!*** Now there are three essays published ***with the Church’s approval*** (on lds.org website) about these marriages. It is good that they are admitting, at least to some degree, ***that polygamy is the doctrine of the Mormon Church (D&C 132), even if not practiced at this time,*** and that even though ***it was always against the laws of the United States, it was secretly practiced from early on.*** They are still not exactly honest about this shameful practice of “*celestial adultery*”. Now that LDS history and other secrets are on the Internet and are discovered by public, they are seeing it necessary to try to find excuses and justifications for polygamy, even putting a blame on God of the Bible, saying that ***“He made Joseph do it”*** by sending an angel to threaten Joseph’s life if he did not take more wives.

Quoting from one of the articles on lds.org: ***In biblical time, the Lord commanded some of His people to practice plural marriage... After receiving a revelation commanding him to practice plural marriage, Joseph Smith married multiple wives and introduced the practice to some of his close associates...Many details about the early practice of plural marriage are unknown. Plural marriage was introduced among the early Saints incrementally, and participants were asked to keep their action confidential... The revelation on plural marriage was not written down until 1843, but its early verses suggest that part of it emerged from Joseph Smith’s study of the Old Testament in 1831. People who knew Joseph well later stated that he received the revelation about that time. The revelation, recorded in the Doctrine and Covenant 132, states that Joseph***

prayed to know why God justified Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David and Solomon in having many wives.  
The Lord responded that He had commanded them to enter into the practice. (D&C 132:34.) In Joseph Smith's time, monogamy was the only legal form of marriage in the United States... He (Joseph) told his associates that an angel appeared to him three times between 1834 and 1842 and commanded him to proceed with plural marriage when he hesitated to move forward. During the third and final appearance, the angel came with a drawn sword, threatening Joseph with destruction unless he went forward and obeyed the commandment fully." (Emphasis added.)

Anyone with even a minimum knowledge of the God of the Bible, would say to this: HOGWASH!!!

The Bible does not hide the sinful actions and disobedience of people – thus we can read about David's and Solomon's polygamy there, but God of the Bible has NEVER commanded anyone to practice polygamy! God ordained marriage to be between one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:21-24.)

In Genesis 4:16 we read that "*Cain went out from the presence of the Lord*" (i.e. Cain did not follow the LORD). [Cain was the first murderer and his great grandson, Lamech, was the first polygamist!(Gen. 4:19.)

[However, Abraham was not polygamist, neither was Moses or Isaac. Jacob was tricked into marrying Leah (Gen. 29:25), when he thought he was marrying Rachel.]

After Israel's Exodus from Egypt God reminded His people that *multiplying wives* was against His command. (Deut. 17:17.) Israel was the smallest nation among many nations who did not know God and had no laws against having more than one wife, but it was always against what God had ordained for His own people. There are many reports of devastations resulting from polygamy to the families of David and Solomon who disobeyed God and practiced polygamy.

During biblical times there were no civil laws against marrying more than one wife, but God again in the New Testament forbids any man who was to be a leader and example to believers in Christ to have more than one wife. (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6.)

By defending polygamy and saying that God commanded it, the Mormon Church is making it known that they are not believers in the God of the Bible and His Word.

To the "supposed commandments of God" these article refer to the Book of Mormon (Jacob 2:27, 30) and to the Doctrine and Covenants (132:34-39). These are Joseph Smith's writings, not God's Word!

However, it is interesting to note that in the BoM, Jacob 2:27, Joseph Smith wrote, "For there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife...", but then he adds in v. 30 "For if I will, saith the Lord of Hosts, raise up seed unto me, I will command my people, otherwise they shall hearken unto these things."

[Mormon apologists have been known to say in the past that Joseph Smith did not have sexual relations with his plural wives and had no children by them – but now they admit that he did for taking plural wives was "to raise up seed", otherwise having more than one wife was forbidden...They cannot have it both ways! ]

In D&C 132:34, Joseph Smith lied and said, "God commanded Abraham, and Sarah gave Hagar to Abraham to wife." (They give reference to Genesis 16.) God had nothing to do with this! Genesis 16 says that it was Sarai's idea, not God's command. She said to Abram: "I pray thee, go in unto my maid... that I may obtain children by her. "(Gen. 16:2.) After Hagar conceived, she despised Sarai, and when Sarai complained to Abram, he said to Sarai, (Gen. 16:4-6)"...thy maid [not his wife] is in thy hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face. And the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness... and He said, Hagar, Sarai's maid [God calls Hagar Sarai's maid, not Abram's wife] return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands..." [i.e. to her mistress, not to Abram]. Clearly Hagar was not recognized by Abram or by the Lord as Abram's wife, even though he had sexual relations with Hagar – and that was according to Sarai's wish to obtain a child by her.

After Sarah died at age of 127, Abraham buried her in the cave of Mamre, in Canaan. (Gen. 23.) Some years after that Abraham married Keturah. (Gen. 25:1.) As we can see, Abraham was not a polygamist.

(Articles on Mormon polygamy can be read from the lds.org. One is about Kirtland-Nauvoo period polygamy, other two articles are about polygamy in early Utah, and in the LDS Church general.)

October has been very busy month for us. We have been contacted by and met with several active LDS people who are troubled about what is happening to their **Mormon-world-view** saying that their testimonies have been shaken **by many admissions to teachings and doctrines previously denied by the Mormon Church**. They say that they have all their lives heard and believed how Joseph Smith **translated the Book of Mormon from the actual gold plates** that he received from an angel Nephi (later named Moroni), and how he, after completing his translation from *reformed Egyptian* writings into English, he returned the gold plates to the angel who had given them to him... The LDS Church has published periodically, even recently, pictures of Joseph Smith sitting by his desk with the gold plates in front of him, his finger pointing on the text he is translating... Now the Church is admitting that the Book of Mormon is **a revelation through Joseph's seer-stone he placed in his top-hat, rather than translation from the gold plates**. This and some other hidden issues were finally answered, at least partially, during a meeting with Swedish Mormons who had been promised many years answers to their questions that had troubled them about the church's history. **Marlin Jensen** (from First Quorum of Seventy, and at that time the official LDS Church historian) and **Richard Turley** (an assistant LDS historian), were sent by the Church (2010) to go to Sweden and answer *some of their questions*. Swedes were promised more detailed answers "next year" but when that did not happen, they got tired of waiting and just last year published on the Internet transcript of this meeting. This may be what forced the LDS Church now to begin to admit some of the "*hidden things of Mormonism*". About *the translation of the Book of Mormon*, Richard Turley said that "**when Joseph Smith used the term 'translation', he meant revelation**", admitting that Joseph did it through his seer-stone rather translating from gold plates. During this same meeting in Sweden these Church's official representatives also admitted that Joseph Smith practiced both *polygamy and polyandry* (taking wives who had living husbands). They also discussed about the fraudulent *Book of Abraham*, different and multiple versions of *the First Vision Story* etc. To a question about *Blood Atonement* and was it ever practiced, Turley responded, "*I think it is possible*". (**Mormon Doctrine**, under **Blood Atonement Doctrine** says, "...**Joseph Smith taught that there were certain sins so grievous... that the blood of Christ will not cleanse them from their sins even though they repent. Therefore their only hope is to have their own blood shed to atone...**" (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 93.)

We continue to dialogue with many very troubled LDS people – most of them still active in the Church. They need the Truth of Jesus and salvation in Him to receive peace to their souls.

We have been teaching a small private class on Mormonism at our home on Sunday afternoons. It has been nice and easier for us – no travel in evenings, and it is great to have all our books handy.

We thank you for praying for Dale & Sharon, Dick & Patti, Pat & Max, Merridy, Heber, Tom, Bruce, Dave, Phil, Debbie and others for their individual needs. Please pray also for Culbertson family. Larry Culbertson, husband, father and grandfather died 10/31/14 of a sudden massive heart attack. Our loving God hears and answers our prayers.

Our budget is tight, but the Lord has still blessed us and we thank you who have heard the Lord's promptings and helped us to supply the needs of these potential new converts to the Lord. We have given them DVDs, Bibles and other necessary materials as they are seeking to know "*how to get to heaven from Utah*". Time is short, and we have no time to waste.

**Notice:** Our website has been down several times this month and we have lost some of our materials there. Newsletters from June 2012 to this date have vanished! Our webmaster is trying to figure it out. Please be patient. This is something that can happen in a ministry like ours that irritates the adversary. Please pray for us.

**Have a Happy Thanksgiving.**

In God's love, Rauni & Dennis

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