



**\*He Is Savior, Acts 4:12**

October 1, 2016

## **HIS Ministries October 2016 Newsletter, covering September 2016**

Fall season is so beautiful in Utah. Looking to the mountains we see God's art-work. Trees along the mountains are red, yellow, orange, some still green, and behind and above them white snow-covered Mountains. Last week was cold and it snowed for a couple of days (above 7000 feet) and Alta and Snowbird measured 14 inches of snow!

On Thursday (22<sup>nd</sup>) in three areas of Utah we had even rare tornados that caused a lot of damage. Where we live we had only lots of rain and that was good. This last week of September is warm and sunny, temperature in the 70's and 80's, Southern Utah even in 90's. We live in a beautiful state with changing seasons.

During the last several months we have received letters, booklets and even books from many people who say that they are Christians, but also say that **the Jews, descendants of Abraham, Jacob and Isaac, are not God's chosen nation, and that they are strongly against today's nation Israel. They even say that people living in Israel today are not Israelites at all!** We felt that we had to stand firmly on the Word of God and express that these views are not correct. As we were preparing to write an answer to those well-meaning friends who have sent these "*anti-Israel*" books and articles to us, it just so happened that ***the Berean Call's monthly newsletter of August and September 2016*** published articles on this very topic, written about ten years ago by our mentor and friend, late **Dave Hunt, founder of the Berean Call**. We decided to use this well-reasoned information from ***the Berean Call*** to express what we also believe. Obviously they have been dealing with similar arguments against Jews and Israel.

Dave Hunt began with a question of belief in God, and who He is and that the polls among Americans show that over **90 % say they believe in God**. When they were asked what they mean by "*god*", only a few answered "*God of the Bible*". Yet belief in another or a false god could be even worse than believing in no God. Some say that they believe that there is a "*higher power*". Higher than what? Higher than they? Those in Mormonism (as we once also were) believe that they will become gods, and will be able to create their own worlds and populate them with their *spirit-children* and start the same process as what is going on the earth now. Some, as those in New Age, believe that they already are gods. I recall some years ago how actress Shirley McClain ran on a California beach shouting "*I am god*". Such foolishness! To come to know true God requires deep desire to know Him as He really is, not as one desires or imagines Him to be. Joseph Smith in his egoistic mind imagined God to be just like he is, a mere man. Paul, in Romans 1:22-23 referred to this foolishness and said, "***Professing to be wise, they became fools and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man.***" It is no less idolatry to create an imaginary god in one's mind than to make it out of wood, clay or stone – or worship living animals as gods like Hindus do. Then, what do they, who say that they believe in ***God of the Bible***, really mean? ***Who is the God of the Bible? He is God who proves Himself to be God by telling what is going to happen - even hundreds of years before it happens. "Even from the beginning I have declared it to you. Before it came to pass I proclaimed it to you, lest you say that 'my idol has done them'..."*** (Isa. 48:5; 46:10 ; Rom. 4:17.) ***God of the Bible*** declares Himself to be "***God of Israel***" (203 times) and "***God of Jacob***" (28 times) and "***God of Abraham***" (17 times) and "***God of Isaac***" (13 times). ***Never is He called the God of any other ethnic group! These definitions of who God of the Bible is are foundational to everything that the Bible teaches, including the very character of God. The Bible was written by the people of God, all of them Israelites, descendants of Abraham, Jacob (Israel) and Isaac. To profess to believe in God of the Bible and at the same time hold prejudice against God's chosen***

*people, the Jews, or be against nation Israel, turns these clear biblical identifications of God into meaningless titles, casting doubt upon whether they really know who the true God is! Jesus declared Himself to be the “I AM... the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob (i.e. Israel)... this is My name forever and this is My memorial unto all generations”*. (Ex.3:14-15 – John 8:24, 58.) This was His identity then, now and forever. God never changes. When speaking to His time’s “*scholars of the scriptures*”, Pharisees and Sadducees, Jesus said to them “*You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. Have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, I AM the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of living.*” (Matt. 22:29-32.) Jesus is saying that as they live forever so does His covenant to Israel. God is not God of His people only during their limited earthy existence, but *He is Israel’s God forever*.

If the nation of Israel no longer existed, or if it has been replaced by the church, then “*God of Israel*” and His many promises that *Israel would never cease to exist* would bring shame to the name of God, and His “*everlasting covenant*” to Israel would have been broken.

*If “everlasting” concerning Israel doesn’t mean everlasting, how can we trust God’s promise in John 3:16 of everlasting life to those who believe on Christ?*

Some say that God’s covenant to Israel was broken because Israel rejected God’s Son. But God’s “*everlasting covenant*” with Israel was *an unconditional covenant*. (Gen. 12:1-3;15:7, 18-21;17:7-8, 19, 21; 26;28:13; 1 Chr. 16:14-18, etc.) [Hebrew scholar, Arnold Fruchtenbaum, explains, “*An unconditional covenant can be defined as a sovereign act of God whereby God unconditionally obligates Himself to bring to pass definite promises, blessings, and conditions for the covenanted people. It is a unilateral covenant. This type of covenant is characterized by the formula ‘I will’ which declares God’s determination to do exactly as He promised.*”]

God knows the end from the beginning, and He promised eternal blessings to Israel and also a full restoration in the last days. God says that He gave the land to Israel “*forever and ever*”. (Jer. 7:7.)

God said that He was going to bring them back to Israel from the nations *where He had scattered them*. He said, “*I do not do this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for Mine Holy Name’s sake, which you have profaned among the heathen... For I will... gather you out of all countries, and I will bring you into your own land... and I will do better unto you than at your beginnings; and you shall know that I AM the Lord...I the Lord have spoken it, and I will do it.*” (Ez. 36:11, 19-26, 32-36; Jer. 7:7.) Integrity of God’s Word and His holy name are the very reason that God has brought them back in spite of their continuing rebellion against Him.

Furthermore, prophets had foretold that the Messiah would be rejected by Israel and crucified, yet there were no suggestions that if they do that, God would break His *everlasting covenant* with Israel. The covenant was made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, not with their descendants; it was never conditional upon their descendants’ obedience, and thus could not be broken by anything that those descendants did or didn’t do.

It is a slap in eternal God’s face to say that Israel has been replaced. Scripture records literally hundreds of God’s promises to Israel that it, as a nation, would never cease to exist. (Jer. 31:35-37, etc.) It is irrefutable fact that Israel possessed a physical, historical land that was given to her by eternal decree. It is equally an historical fact that God expelled them from this land for her rebellion. It is also an historical fact that Israel, according to promises of God, became a nation once again (on May 14, 1948), and that millions of Jews have since returned to that Promised Land from more than 100 countries – just as scriptures foretold.

Psalm 83:3, 4 foretells of the Muslims’ open and oft-stated plan “*to wipe Israel off the map*”, saying “*They have taken crafty counsel against Thy people...Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation...*” Likewise, many Christian denominations have initiated boycotts against companies that do business with Israel, and thus they are joining Iran and other Arabs in their hopes to destroy Israel, also saying that people that are now in Israel *are not true Jews*. They say that the “*10 lost tribes*” of Israel migrated to British Isles and that their descendants are true Jews today. There were no “*10 Lost tribes*”! These ten tribes were taken to Assyria (2 Kings 17:23) and their descendants make up most of those called Jews today whom God dispersed to among all countries in the world, most of them after 70 A.D. Hundreds of biblical prophecies foretell *Israel’s affairs in the world in the last days*; and of the attack of *all the nations* that fight against her at *Armageddon* (Rev. 16:14, 16), and Israel’s rescue by the Messiah, and of Israel’s glorious final restoration, after *the Great Tribulation*, in the *Millennial Kingdom*. Most of the more than 2000 references to *Israel* or *Israelites* in the Bible, in addition to thousands of prophecies already fulfilled or yet to be fulfilled, pertain to *the historical land of Israel in the Middle East* whose boundaries are described (Gen. 15:18-21), and to the Israelites who

lived there nearly 2,300 years, but were cast out under God's judgment, and eventually all of them will be brought back by God so *not one ethnic Jew will be left outside Israel*. (Ez. 39:27-29.)

Who the Jews are today can be known by DNA testing. [*Israeli Immigrant Liaison Bureau* requires DNA tests if there is any questions as to authenticity of claimed Jewish ancestry.] Such tests would draw a complete blank if applied to the average person of British descent, and prove *British-Israelism* to be complete folly.

No other ethnic group, without its own land and been scattered around the world for about 2000 years, has or even could maintain its DNA identity as have the Jews! It is not that important to know where other peoples originated, but it is vital to know who is or is not a Jew. Why? Because about 70 % of the pages of Scripture recount Israel's history and prophecy about her future. Scriptures tell of the Jews' worldwide dispersion and her continued rebellion against God, and His reluctant and long-delayed but finally severe discipline (the worst of which is yet to come - Matt. 24:21), and their re-gathering from all over the world *into their own land in the Last Days*.

There are hundreds of prophecies concerning Israel's present key role in world's affairs, and of *her greatest trial that is just ahead* (Jer. 30:7) *when two-thirds of all Jews on earth will be killed* (Zec. 13:8, 9), and of her final restoration under Messiah. (Zec. 12-14.) Unquestionably Israel is the major subject in God's Holy Word. To be wrong about Israel is therefore to be wrong almost everything in the Bible!

God calls Israel the "*apple of His eye*" at least three times. (Dt. 32:10; Zec. 2:8; Lam. 2:18, KJV) and says that Israel will never cease to exist as a nation: "*Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob (Israel), says the LORD... Though I make a full end of all the nations where I have scattered you, yet I will not make a complete end of you, but I will correct you in justice, and will not let you go altogether unpunished.*" (Jer. 30:10-11.) "*Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, that the city (Jerusalem) shall be built...it shall not be plucked up or thrown down anymore forever.*" (Jer. 31:38-40.) There are hundreds of other promises from God to Israel recorded in Scripture and they are a sharp rebuke to those who teach that the church has replaced Israel. "*Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for a light by day, and ordinances of the moon and the stars for light by night... If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the LORD, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever.*" (Jer. 31:35-36.) "*While the earth remains...day and night shall not cease.*" (Gen. 8:22.) God has promised that as long as the earth remains, so will Israel. Though God punished Israel, He has not cast her out permanently, but has promised, "*Behold, I will gather them out of all countries where I have driven them in My anger...I will bring them back to this place (Israel)...And they shall be My people, and I will be their God... so I will bring on them all the good that I have promised them.*" (Jer. 32:37-42.)

Israel failed to fulfill her calling to be an example to the world of *holiness in dedication to God*. (Lev. 20:22-24, 26; Deut. 6:4-5; 7:6 etc.) While there are many believing Israelis, some of them even within Israel's military and government, Israel today as a whole remains as wicked and godless as America and rest of the nations.

However, *God's chosen people* are living again in the *Promised Land* in fulfillment of many specific biblical prophecies, but they still, as a nation, refuse to give honor to God of their fathers who has brought them there. (Ez. 36:22, 32, 36.)

Most Jews, worldwide, are waiting for Messiah's first coming, unaware that He already came and was rejected and crucified. Tragically, it will take Armageddon for the surviving Jews to repent and turn to their God, *God of Israel*.

Concerning the soon coming greatest distress ever faced by Israel, God declares that He will bring only one-third of them alive "*through the fire... refine(d) as silver is refined.. as gold is tested. They shall call on My name, and I will answer them.*" (Zec. 13:8,9.)

When they see that their Messiah has come to rescue them, then they discover, to their shame, who He is, "*they will look upon Me, whom they have pierced, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son... there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem...*" (Zec. 12:10-11.)

There is so much of Scriptures that the religious leaders in Israel did not know, though they should have! Hosea lamented that God's people *are destroyed for lack of knowledge*. (Hos. 4:6.) Jesus told the religious leaders that their *lack of knowledge of Scriptures caused them to err*. (Matt. 22:29.) It is the same lack of knowledge of Scriptures that causes Christians to make these mistakes and think that God has forsaken Israel forever. Not so! "*For thus says the LORD of hosts: "...for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.*" (Zec.2:8.)

"*Paul, an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin*", refuted that God would cast away His people Israel, and said that *God's rejection of Israel is not permanent*, but brought as punishment "*to Israel UNTIL the fullness of the Gentiles has come in (to Christ)*". (Romans 11: 1-2, 25-36.)

***The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of Israel, He is the only true God.*** The Messiah, promised to Israel by Jewish prophets of God, came 2000 years ago. He is the Savior of all who believe on Him as the one who, in fulfillment of what the Jewish prophets foretold, died for the sins of the world, rose from the dead, and ascended to the Father's right hand. He is coming in power and glory to punish the world for its abuse of His people Israel and to rule the world from David's throne in Jerusalem. (Luke 2:32-33.) **The Word of God was given to us so that we will be able to correct those who have not known what it says about God's eternal covenant to Israel.** (2 Tim. 3:16.)

Without Israel and Jewish prophets who wrote the Word of God under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we nor the world, would not even know God.

Let us stand firm on this and the truth of Scripture, and present the true gospel of God to all, ***"to the Jew first, also to the Gentile."*** (Rom. 1:16.)

(Excerpts taken from The Berean Call's August and September 2016 Newsletters.)

**Dave Hunt's excellent book, *Judgment Day*, about *Islam, Israel, and the Nations*, is a must read to better know and understand these issues.** It can be ordered from the Berean Call – [www.thebereancall.org](http://www.thebereancall.org).)

A thought from Adrian Rogers: ***"Satan is a clever liar. In fact, many of his lies sound like the truth. He plays with our minds to confuse us. He lies about the biggest subject of all – God. Satan wants to deceive you about God. If he can distort your idea of God, then beyond the shadow of any doubt, he has you in everything else."***

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**From our email letter-box:** An LDS man who has written to us often about Mormonism, has now changed his tune and instead of defending Mormonism, is now going against the Bible. He wrote: *"Most Christians seem to think that the bible (as it is now, with its sixty-six books) has existed for thousands of years. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, the bible that most Christians are familiar with is a fairly recent contrivance. Most Christians claim that the bible is a perfect book, written by forty writers, all inspired by God, and that it has remained unchanged for thousands of years. The books of the bible, both the Old and the New Testament, have undergone changes through the centuries. The Scrolls, dating to about the first Century C.E., demonstrate that there were several versions of scripture in distributions that are different and of better quality than those found in the modern bibles. These books found in the caves of Qumran were nothing like today's bible. Don't you know that the bible you have was written by Christian leaders of the past. When we discuss the bible, which one are we talking about? Throughout history, there have been literally thousands of translations."*

**Answer:** I would recommend that you'd read at least these two books, Josh McDowell's ***"The New Evidence That Demands Verdict"*** and Werner Kessler's ***Archeology & Science Delve 4,000 Years Into The Past, The Bible As History***). These two books alone would help you to see that **the Bible is about real people** (Israelites) and **that it is a real "dirt-history" through archeology, telling of real cities and civilization, from Ur of the Chaldees where Abraham lived, to destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.** It all took place in the Middle East, and is proved to be true, **unlike the Book of Mormon that has no evidence** of its *"Nephites and Lamanites"* or the huge *walled cities* it talks about. Kessler also reports discovery of ***Dead Sea Scrolls (in 1947), that verifies all Old Testament books*** - only exception is the Book of Esther. Even fragments of the New Testament were found in the Qumran caves, written before 70 A.D., when Romans conquered and destroyed Jerusalem and its Temple.

Many people, not just you, have been confused about what else was found in these Qumran caves, thinking that all literature found there should be part of the Bible! Essenes, a Jewish ascetic sect, were *in charge of the caves*, so to speak. They had an incredible library there including not only biblical writings, but they had a collection of many books covering philosophy, history and culture, books by Philo, Josephus and Pliny, etc. There were also *"Gnostic gospels"* and heretical writings of all kinds, just like our modern libraries also have.

If, for example, a city in USA was destroyed, and centuries later they discovered a library that was stored in a Mountain cave near that city, they would discover many kinds of books, not all would be about facts or truth – some just fictional, not written to be believed but to be enjoyed as literature of that time.

I am appalled that you say that *the Bible was written by Christian leaders!* That is absurd! Absolutely not!

The facts are: The Old Testament was a complete Canon by about 400 B.C. and even translated into Greek about 270 B.C. It is called the *“Septuagint Version”*. (Seventy scholars had worked together for decades to make Hebrew scripture available in Greek, the common language of the region.)

Comparison of the Old Testament to the Dead Sea Scrolls has proven that the books of the OT are the same as we have today – only a few minor spelling differences were found.

However, Dead Sea Scrolls are not the only ancient proof we have for the Bible. There are in existence nearly 25 thousand manuscripts of the New Testament and they verify that what we have today in our NT is indeed factual and doctrinally correct. **All of the NT books were written prior to 100 A.D., not “by Christian leaders” of later time.** The last writer of the NT was Apostle John.

Jesus and His apostles authenticated the Old Testament by *quoting in their writings (NT) from every book of the OT.* Jesus authenticated the Old Testament when He, after His resurrection, met with two of His followers on the road to Emmaus, and took them through the entire OT and explained what the prophets had foretold. **(See Luke 24:25-27, 44.) Notice that He “expounded to them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself”.** Nothing was missing – all scriptures were included and they spoke of Him.

You said that *“Throughout history, there have been literally thousands of translations of the Bible”.* Most of the LDS persons **who challenge the correctness of the Bible, incorrectly imply that translations of the Bible are “translations from translations”** – i.e. that they are very changeable because they have no connection to the original text. **The KJV version of the Bible, used by most scholars as the best translation of the original tongues, Hebrew and Greek, is also the translation included in “the LDS Quad”.** The title page of it reads, *“Translated out of the original tongues”, which are Hebrew for the Old Testament and Greek for the New Testament.*

I hope that you will think again, and are willing to study as is commanded in 2 Tim. 2:15, **“STUDY to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”** [“Rightly dividing the word of truth” simply means that when we earnestly study, we learn to handle the word of God correctly, without changing anything in it. **“Whatever things were written before were written for our learning (all of it), that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”** (Rom. 15:4.)] 2 Tim. 3:16, assures that when we are studying the Bible, we are learning God’s instructions He has intended for us. **“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”** [“All scripture” here specifically means the Old Testament, even though they already had portions of the NT – as **Luke’s Gospel** (quoted in 1 Tim. 5:18). Peter also speaks of **Paul’s Epistles as Scripture.** (Mentioned in 2 Pet. 3:16.)

Now that we have a complete Bible, **all of it applies to us.** Jesus commanded, **“Sanctify them (believers) through Thy Word: Thy Word is truth.”** (John 17:17.) It is God’s Word that sets us apart and enables us to serve God. **His Word, all of it, is Truth. Truth is also one of the titles of Jesus.** (John 14:6.)]

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We had a great and restful time camping near Mt. Nebo during the Labor Day week. Our Spring City-friends, Gary and Joyce Larsen, came one day (Friday) and took us to lunch in Nephi. We had a very nice time with them.

We were delighted to have Sally and Bob Wilkinson drive all the way from SLC with Suzi Brown (from Park City) to see us and spend the entire day with us. They brought a great dinner for us to enjoy together. All else was prepared excepting the pork tenderloins that Dennis cooked on BBQ. It was such a lovely time – beautiful nature and good friends, praising the Lord together. There was big surprise included in this visit: **We learned that Suzi has found a beautiful (and we mean BEAUTIFUL) home to buy just a few blocks from us here in Sandy.** It was our Real Estate Broker daughter, Minna, who made this sale for her! **Suzi will be moving this month (October) from Jeremy Ranch, Park City. We are so happy to have her close to us and also close to Bob and Sally.** She misses her Rich, but new surroundings and friends close-by will make her life happier and easier for her. God is good.

We have been working hard and God has blessed. Our health has been better too. That is a huge blessing and we praise the Lord for all He does. Our finances are not great, but we have managed. **The Lord promises to meet our needs, and He has done that!** (Phil 4:19.) We have been able to provide Bibles, DVDs, CDs etc. and other materials to those who are seeking God’s truth– and we want to thank the Lord for you, our friends who help in this and also pray with us and for us. **We pray daily for all of you for responding to Lord’s promptings in our behalf.** (Col. 1:3.)

**We want to express our heartfelt thanks to Matt McClung who has faithfully monitored our website for nearly 20 years while he has been busy in his own work. He started to help us in this when he was still living in SLC, Utah, and he continued his unpaid volunteer service to our Ministry, even after he moved with his family to California. We are so thankful to him. Please pray with us that our Lord will reward and bless him greatly.**

Our website was hacked about two years ago, and we lost a lot of it. We are now going to have *a new and improved website* that our grandson, Chandler, has created for us. We will also very soon add to our website a Spanish translation of our booklet, *The Truth About Mormonism*, along with English version with Finnish translation. [Carmen, who three years ago converted from Mormonism to Jesus of the Bible, has translated it into Spanish. We wrote about Carmen's miraculous conversion to the Lord in our *May 2013 Newsletter*. (Her story is on p. 4 in that letter. It can be read from our website, [www.hismin.com](http://www.hismin.com) .) This young lady was a temple worker in Draper LDS Temple. After she was converted to Jesus of the Bible, she asked Dennis to help her in writing her *exit letter* from the Mormon Church. Right after that she handed her temple recommend to Dennis and said "*I won't need this any longer*". She moved back to California where she is from, and is now married to a wonderful Christian man. It is people like Carmen who are seekers after God and His truth, and who courageously act on that truth, that keeps us encouraged. There is nothing that we'd rather do than this Ministry work among LDS people that we love.]

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We are asking that you'd pray for Heather who has a lung cancer. Heather and Don live in Canada and do ministry to Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses there. They came to see us last year and didn't have any idea that soon she was going to be very, very ill. Don informs us that she is been treated with chemo and that she is in a lot of pain. We have not heard from Caryl Matrisciana since she was in Mexico for treatment for her cancers, but we are still fervently praying for her healing. Our God is God of miracles – and we must pray *according to His will*. (1 John 5:14.) We testify of our faith and our trust in Him even in the midst of our suffering as He also suffered for us. We continue our daily prayers for Dale, who is paralyzed from the neck down and has suffered for a long time after his accident many years ago. His wife, Sharon, is his main caretaker. They both need the Lord's strength and comforting. There are illnesses that we have a hard time understanding why some of us have to suffer so much – but it will be revealed some day when we meet the Lord who loves us in all circumstances. Please pray also for Max and Pat relief in their arthritis pain. Their daughter, Merridy, takes care of them, and she also needs prayer. We have on our prayer list Dave, Tom, David, Al, Sandy, Judy and our LDS friend Kristine, who had a stroke (we pray also for her and her husband Dan's salvation). Heber and Bruce need the Lord's direction in their lives. We are so thankful for your prayers and care for these people.

God bless you all,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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As we mentioned last month, to save money, we, **at the end of October, 2016**, are closing **HIS Ministries P.O Box 900415, Sandy, UT 84090**. From now on, please direct all postal mail to our home address: **2890 E. Willow Bend Drive, Sandy, Utah 84093-2044**.

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**H.I.S Ministries** is IRS approved 501 (c) (3) ministry. Your gifts to this ministry are tax deductible. We give books, Bibles, CDs, and DVDs, etc., free of any charge to all LDS people asking for them. We have, from the beginning operated on belief that **God will provide as we seek His face, and He has done that**. We do not make appeals for financial help, although we operate primarily on freewill donations, trusting that the Lord will direct His own to give so that we will be able to do our work. We thank you who partner with us in this ministry and ask God's blessing for you. Our postal address is **HIS Ministries, 2890 E. Willow Bend Drive, Sandy, Utah 84093-2044**

