



January 1, 2018

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

## **His Ministries January 2018 Newsletter, covering December 2017**

**We are wishing you Happy New Year 2018 and God's blessings of good health and prosperity**

**We have just celebrated Christmas, a time that has been set apart by the world for the celebration of the Birth of Jesus Christ.** However there are many reasons to think that December might not be when He was born. Many scholars have concluded that His birth could have taken place during the fall season – perhaps at *time of Tabernacles – the Feast of the Trumpets*. **For us as believers in Him the most important thing to know is that He was born of the Virgin Mary, and that He is the sinless Son of God who takes away the sins of all who just believe and receive Him.** (Luke 2:1-19; John 1:12; 3:16.) ***“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believed in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”***

Without Him we would be lost and in darkness. The prophet Isaiah wrote about 750 years before the birth of Messiah (Christ) promising that there is a great Light coming. ***“The people who walked in the darkness have seen a great light: they who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a Light has shined.”*** (Isa. 9:2.) Imagine being in a cave without a flashlight. Can you see any shadows? You cannot even see your own hand in a total darkness. **Shadows are only visible in the presence of light. Regardless of how dark it is when a shadow appears it indicates that there is light. And the Light gives us hope and casts away fear.** ***“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for You are with me; Your rod and You staff, they comfort me.”*** (Ps. 23:4, NKJV.) That Light is the Son of God, our Great Shepherd that God gave to the world for the redemption of sins. **When we confess our sins and receive Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we are born again and receive the Holy Spirit, and we will never be in darkness again. We become children of God (John 1:12) and He, Jesus, takes the sting out of sin and fear out of death and grave. The Holy Spirit comforts us as well as gives us confidence that He will always be with us, and that He watches over us.**

**Many ask: How do we know that Jesus is the promised Messiah? The Word of God gives us assurance by what was written hundreds of years before in the Old Testament and what came true and is verified in the New Testament. Let's look at some of the prophecies here:**

**He was innocent, but declared guilty - [Isaiah 53:9](#); [Luke 23:4](#).**

**He was sold for 30 pieces of silver - [Zechariah 11:12](#); [Matthew 26:14-15](#)**

**He was silent before His accusers - [Isaiah 53:7](#); [Matthew 27:12-14](#)**

**He was mocked - [Psalm 22:7-8](#); [Mathew 27:31](#)**

**He was beaten - [Isaiah 52:14](#); [Matthew 27:26](#)**

**He was spat upon - [Isaiah 50:6](#); [Matthew 27:30](#)**

**He was crucified among thieves - [Isaiah 53:12](#); [Matthew 27:38](#)**

**His hands, feet and side were pierced - [Psalm 22:16](#); [Matthew 27:3](#); [Zechariah 12:10](#); [John 19:34](#)**

**He prayed for His persecutors - [Isaiah 53:12](#); [Luke 23:34](#)**

He was given gall and vinegar to drink - Psalm 69:21; Matthew 27:34; Luke 23:36  
They cast lots for His garments - Psalm 22:18; John 19:23-24  
None of His bones were broken - Psalm 34:20; John 19:35-37  
He gave up His spirit - Psalm 31:5; Luke 23:46  
He was buried in a rich man's tomb – Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60  
He took upon Himself our burdens of sins that had separated us from God – Isaiah 53; Ps. 103  
Messiah's ascension and promise of return - Hosea 5:14; Acts 1:9-11

**That same Jesus who came the first time is coming again.** Christmas is not complete without the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The incarnation without the coronation would be like the east without the west. It would be like an engagement without a marriage. The story of Jesus is not complete until He comes again... Best is yet to come! We get excited about Christmas, about the baby that was born. We believe that He came to die for our sins, but do we know and believe that His First Coming and His Second Coming are linked together? The Christmas story in Luke 1 and 2 speaks not only of Jesus who came to redeem us, but also of Jesus who will reign *“over the house of Jacob forever; and of His Kingdom there shall be no end.”* (Luke 1:33.)

Paul wrote that His Second Coming takes place in two phases. Before He comes to rule and reign on earth, He comes first in the air [not publically] to remove born again believers from the earth before the wrath of God will be poured out during the Great Tribulation. (2 Thess. 5:9.) Paul wrote, *“I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep [who have died as believers] lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the Word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with the shout, with the voice of and archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”* God's words are indeed comforting in this troubled world. We can count on Him doing all that He has said He will do concerning His Second Coming, just as it was fulfilled concerning His First Coming that was to remove our sins by His death, burial and resurrection, which is the message of the Gospel for all who believe. (1 Thess. 15:1-4.) After the seven year-tribulation is past, He will come for all to see Him, and *“every eye will see His coming”*. (Rev. 1:7.) He comes with all His saints to Jerusalem, Israel... *“in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall split in two, from east to west...And the Lord shall be King over all the earth... The Lord is one, and His name one.”* (Zech. 14:4, 9.)

*“[He will] give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels... when He comes in that Day to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.”* (2 Thess. 1:7, 10.) Our Lord reigns! Our Lord Jesus is God over the all earth, and we praise His holy name! He is coming soon! Is He coming for you?

[Read Isaiah 9:7; 45:22-24; Zech. 14:6-9; Phil. 14:6-9 and as long as we have breath share the Truth about Jesus and who He is, with all you meet.]

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**From our mailbox:** *"I am a Mormon, converted and baptized in my early teens without really knowing what I was getting into, and I am now nearly 60 years old. I appreciate all that I just read under your website. Many things have happened over the past few years that have made me reevaluate my faith and religion. Thank you so much for your research and information. I see now that the Mormon religion is from the devil himself. I agree whole heartedly on everything you stated.*

*I do have a question for you: How, after so many years of putting my faith into one way of life (Mormonism), and one set of rule and values, can I have a confidence in any religion again? I was married in the temple, had all my children sealed to me. I paid full tithing, fast offerings, ward budget, contributed to the building of temples, stake centers etc. How do you go to another church and put your faith into that church? When I think of all the money, closer to 15-20 %, I have contributed to the LDS church and time I have spent fulfilling all my callings in the church. I married in the Los Angeles temple without any of my family present, because they were not Mormon. How can I regain that trust again? I have prayed many nights now, over 6 months, about all this. I know without any doubt, that leaving the Mormon Church is the right thing to do. I know that I will have to have my name removed from the LDS Church records and all ordinances erased. But when I try to attend other churches, I always, in the back of my mind, think that maybe it will all turn out the same way? I don't have a problem of donating my time, money and myself to others, in fact I rather enjoy it. I love the feeling it gives me when I know that I am helping others. I love the Lord Jesus but religion scares me. Any help you can give me would be appreciated. Carol."*

### **My reply:**

As you read my answers to you, please take your Bible and the read scriptures I am referring to as you read and let the God of the Bible advice you what to do, rather than me.

I am glad that you have finally discovered the painful realization that you were "*duped*" into believing in Mormonism. I too had accepted it without testing their teachings by the Bible first. I know now that if I had been more familiar with the Bible, I would have never joined Mormonism. The best defense against all false religions is the knowledge of God's Word that is Truth. (John 17:17.) My husband and I both can see now that had we studied the Bible instead of Joseph Smith and his writings, we could have discovered the truth much earlier than we did. The Bible over and over again, urges people to "*test all things*" by the Word of God and **warns about deceptions, false prophets, "another Jesus", "another gospel", and "another spirit"**. (See 1 Thess. 5:21; Matt. 24:4-5, 24-25; 7:15, 22-23, 2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15; 1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1, and more.) We also believed in "*the Lord Jesus*" as **Mormons do**, but we found out that **that Jesus could not save anyone**, for he was just Joseph Smith's invented **counterfeit Jesus**, who, as we were taught there, **is a created being, a brother of angels and Lucifer**. Mormonism has taken **stories of the life of the real Jesus from the Bible** and attached them to their "**version of Jesus**". When we started **to study the Bible without Mormon twists**, we learned that **Jesus of the Bible is not a created being and brother of all, but He is GOD WITH US** (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14), **the Creator of everything, including angels and Lucifer**. (John 1:1-3, Col. 1:16.) **When we came to see and understand that, we repented and asked the real Jesus to forgive and save us – and He did!** (Rom. 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-9; 1 John 1:7-9.) **I hope that you have seen that too and have perhaps already asked Jesus of the Bible, who is God, to come to your life and save you by giving you a new birth – being born again, as He said that we must be.** (John 3:7.)

**You asked about religion and church. Our salvation does not come from any religion or from any church at all, but only by faith in the real Jesus alone.** (John 14:6; Acts 4:12.) **We should not put our trust in men but in God alone.** [The middle verse (Ps. 118:8) in the entire Bible says, "**It is better to trust in the Lord than put confidence in men.**"]

I understand your confusion about how you can trust a church again, for *the Mormon Church claims to be the only true church organization on the face of the whole earth. But you do not need to trust in any church – only Jesus Christ of the Bible.* Biblically a “church” is not an organization or a building even. The word “church” used in the New Testament is translated from a Greek word, “*ekklesia*”, which means “*people who have been called out to follow Jesus*”, regardless of where they “attend church”. **It is the faith in Jesus and the Holy Spirit that unites people together. Bible teaching churches provide us with a fellowship with like-believers in Christ. It is wonderful to get to know persons who share the most important part of each one of us, i.e. the Spirit of God that dwells in the hearts of all born again believers in Christ.** We have had many get-togethers with fellow Christians over the years also in our home, talking about the Lord Jesus and other matters that are important to all of us as believers in Him. **We all need to grow in our faith and knowledge of Him who loves us and saved us** (2 Pet. 3:18), therefore we must also spend time every day in His Word – studying it book-by-book, verse-by-verse in order to understand it in the context that teachings were given. (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16.) We have attended Calvary Chapel (a non-denominational Bible teaching fellowship) here in Salt Lake City for many, many years and love it. Check if there might be one like that in the area where you live. There could also be other good evangelical churches in your neighborhood that you could check into. Most main-line denominational churches have over a time become too liberal and careless towards the Word of God so I do not recommend them unless they happen to have a pastor who is a truly born again believer.

The main thing to find out about a church you’d like to attend is to ask to see their “**Statement of Faith**” i.e. what they believe and **are they teaching the Bible alone systematically, book-by-book**, for that is the only way to gain understanding of what God has said and what He wants all to know. **Jesus Himself said** (John 17:3.) **that it is equal to eternal life to know God and Jesus whom He has sent to save us.** **I.e. without knowing God and having a personal relationship with Jesus, there is no eternal life with God. Again: Our faith is not in a religion, but it is in and about the Person, Jesus Christ.** All religions are manmade attempts to please God, but only through a personal relationship with Jesus, the true One, we can be accepted by God. As Paul wrote to young Timothy, “*For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*” (1 Tim. 2:5.) Jesus became a man, our likeness, even though He was and always will be God. (John 1:1, 14; Phil. 2:6-8; Col. 2:9; Rev. 1:8.) **If we do not know and believe that Jesus is God, our sins cannot be forgiven, for only God can forgive sins. Jesus said, “...if ye believe not that I AM He (God), ye shall die in your sins.** (John 8:24; Mark 2:7.) I hope that this helps you some. If not, please write again and I will try to explain more. We live in Sandy, Utah. If you live in Utah or visit here, you are welcome to come and talk with me in person.

God bless, Rauni

[hismin@xmission.com](mailto:hismin@xmission.com)

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### **Letter from another LDS lady:**

*“Dear Rauni and Dennis,*

*I hope you do not mind me emailing to you, but I need your help and advice. I have just begun my journey out of the Mormon faith. I feel profound sense of loss, betrayal and confusion. I need direction but I am afraid of being misled again. I was born and raised in the Mormon religion but I have always struggled with it. I tried to live it and do my best but I fell in and out of attending church... I got sealed in the temple later in my marriage hoping that it would solve all my problems. I always felt as if I was an imposter, no matter how hard I tried and that I just was not as good or spiritual as everyone else seemed to be.*

*I never did feel that a lot of the teachings of the church were true. I had a hard time with the Temple concept. . I had a hard time accepting that your loved ones, if they were not members of this church, could not see their loved ones getting married in a temple. I was shocked at the ceremony and thought that it was bizarre. I also hated garments and also thought that the temple clothes were like some sort of weird joke – (or was it Joseph Smith’s joke on us?) I have often wondered how people have bought this whole story – Joseph Smith, the vision, the garments, the temple, polygamy revelation Section 132 in the D&C, etc. There are people in the church that are far more intelligent than me. How in the world do they not see what is wrong with this picture? The only thing I can think of is that they are just as brainwashed as I was, and have been told time and time again to just have faith and not question the church, and do not read anything anti-church or dwell too deeply into past and what went on way back when. And then there is also the threat that if you leave the church that you will be cast into outer darkness when you die. I hope you can give me advice what to do next. I thank you for your courage as you have also traveled this path. S.B.”*

**My brief reply:** We would be glad to help you. We understand how you must feel. *Been there, done all that*, as they say. There indeed is a tremendous sense of loss when one loses faith in a religion one has believed to be absolutely true and solid. We have been through this, and feel for you. It is worse than divorce, and worse than the death of a loved one, I know. We have just during the last couple of weeks met with a generational LDS lady who is heartbroken now that she is also coming to the realization that Mormonism is a *big lie*, and that what she has believed all her life are just “made-up” things, including temple rituals, Joseph Smith’s vision-stories, and that the Book of Mormon is a plagiarized production taken from many known books, and that his other “scriptures” are just “made-up” or his own imaginations, etc.

If you live in Utah or in SLC area, it would be best, IMO, to talk with you *face-to-face* – these are deep and emotional issues that have a need of understanding and human contact.

Surely we can also talk about these things over the phone or even like this, via email, if that is what you’d prefer. Let me just give you my phone number so that you can call me (801.943-5011), but if you prefer that I put my detailed answers in writing, I would be glad to do that – just let me know ASAP.

Sincerely, Rauni

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Our Christmas week was good and peaceful. We had family and friends for Christmas Eve dinner and it was lovely! Before dinner we played *Hallelujah* song by a little Irish- girl and her classmates – it was sweet song of Praising the Lord. After that we played a CD of a little 5-year old Apthorp- girl’s Christmas story from Luke 2, same one played often during December on BBN. We were blessed by the Spirit of the Lord and love expressed to everyone present – and we prayed for those who were not here with us.

We want to thank you who have blessed us so much with your prayers during this year that was not good for me health wise, but I am doing a lot better now and I have healed well from my cancer surgery – and my thyroid tumor has, according to last tests, shrank 1/3 of its size. Next ultra-sound test will be in February to see how it is doing now. Our God is able to heal anything when we ask according to His will. (1 John 5:14-15.) I didn’t even miss very many days of our ministry work that I am blessed to be able to do from home.

We have been meeting here with many **soon to be former-Mormons (!!)** here in our home, and also with others who are seeking to learn how to best help their LDS friends to come to know the Lord and be saved. In some of these meetings that have taken place during the evening hours Dennis has been

able to participate with me. God is good!

We just got great news about Kathy's cancer surgery that went well and that she is healing faster than expected. - We are now asking serious prayers for Judy. She is still going through therapy for her stroke of 2 years ago when her entire left side was paralyzed, and now she is in the middle of her move to a new apartment! You can imagine how difficult packing is for her when she has to do it with one arm and hand! She needs a lot of help! We must pray for all that too.

Cold winter months are hard for many with arthritis and we ask prayer for Max and others who also suffer with this painful illness. Please pray for improved health for Sandy, Al, Tom, Mary, Merridy, Dave and David. We are also asking prayer for Aira, Jamie, Heber, Cynthia, Scott, Marlene, Don, Patty and Suzi that the Lord will help them in their work and trials.

Please pray that the Lord will help us to minister to persons we have already been meeting with just recently trying to answer their doctrinal questions on **Mormonism vs. Biblical Christianity**. We feel very hopeful for them for they seem to be honestly seeking for God's Truth.

We want to thank you, our ministry partners, who have helped us during 2017. Even though this year has been hard financially, we praise the Lord that we have still been able to fill the needs and give Bibles and other books, CDs, DVDs, etc. that are going to help these persons seeking help and information.

We are also hoping to start our **Understanding Mormonism** classes again this coming new year, and are asking you, our readers, to inform those who might be interested to participate to contact us either by email, [hismin@xmission.com](mailto:hismin@xmission.com) or by phone – 801.943-5011.

**With the Love of Christ,**

Rauni & Dennis Higley

Email: [hismin@xmission.com](mailto:hismin@xmission.com) Website: [www.hismin.com](http://www.hismin.com)

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**Thought for the month:** *“Wisdom is God given ability to use the knowledge we have gained. It begins with understanding the words we use.”* (Chinese saying.)

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Our postal address: **HIS Ministries, 2890 E. Willow Bend Dr., Sandy, Utah 84093-2044. For your convenience, on our website we also have a PayPal account for donations. God bless you for partnering with us!**

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