



\* [H.I.S.] He Is Savior, Acts 4:12

June, 2019

## HIS MINISTRIES JUNE 2019 NEWSLETTER, COVERING MAY 2019

We hope that your summer will be pleasant and enjoyable. Our plan for summer is to go camping as often as we possibly can, enjoying God's nature and peaceful surroundings away from city and praising our Lord for what He has given us. But summer is *holding off* – rain and cold weather continues. We cancelled our first camping trip all together, waiting for better and warmer weather to come. Totally unusual to start June with temperatures in 40's at night and barely 60's during the day – with rain and snow in the mountains. Snowbird ski-resort is going to be open till July sometime... We pray for those in danger of tornadoes and floods that are ravaging in the many states now.

We wrote last month about the Gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4) and what Jesus did for us, and of [His promise to send the Holy Spirit to indwell believers after He goes away.](#) (John 16:7, 13-15.)

Let's begin with Luke 24 that tells us what took place in Jerusalem on the day Jesus was raised from the dead.

Luke begins with a story of some women, followers of Jesus (Mary, Mary Magdalene, Joanna and other women who were with them), who had gone to the sepulcher on *"the first day of the week"*, very early in the morning, to bring spices they had prepared, but they found the stone rolled away and the tomb of Jesus open and empty. They hurriedly returned from the sepulcher and told *the eleven apostles and the rest of the disciples with them* what they had seen, and that one of the angels had said to them that *He is not here for He is risen, but they did not believe the women.* Peter and John ran to the sepulcher and saw the same and were wondering what has happened! (Luke 24:1-12.) Verse 13 begins telling us how two of the disciples (not apostles) had decided to go back home to Emmaus, which is about seven miles northwest of Jerusalem. They were overwhelmed with sadness for their beloved Lord was now dead. As they were walking and talking back and forth with each other about what had taken place during the last 3 days, Jesus joined them (v. 15), but they, perhaps because of the tears and their emotional upset, did not recognize Him. He asked them what they were talking about that has made them so upset. *"Then the one whose name was Cleopas, answered and said to Him, Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which has happened there in these days? And He said to them, 'What things?' and they said to Him, 'The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. And certain of those who were with us [Peter and John] went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see."* (Luke 24:18-24.)

[Note: The *other disciple* (v.18) traveling with Cleopas could have been his wife, Mary, for John 19:25 tells us that one of the women at the *foot of the Cross of Jesus was Cleopas' wife, Mary.* And, now (as we think) Cleopas and his wife were going back home to Emmaus.]

At this point Jesus began to tell them how important it is to know the Scriptures, and had they known, they would have known what and why these things have taken place now in Jerusalem: *"Then He said to them, 'O foolish ones, and slow to heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken. Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."* (26-27) When they got near the village, they asked Him, *"Abide with us, for it is*

towards evening, and the day is far spent. And He went in to stay with them. Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.” (Note: He was their quest, but He took the bread and gave it to them...) Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.” (28-31) They saw the nail marks in His hands! (28-35) It is important to note that when He met them, He did not reveal Himself to them but pointed them to the scriptures and what they say about Him. (Continue reading Luke 24: 36-53.) It is same with us: if we know the Word of God, we can recognize the signs that come before us. (Read Matthew 24.) Our knowledge and faith in the Lord must come from God’s Written Word. (Rom. 10:17.)

Jesus had told His disciples to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

They waited there for fifty days *with great joy, praising and blessing God.* (Acts 2:1-4)

It was on *the Day of Pentecost (in Greek it means fiftieth) on the Birthday of the Church,* that the Father sent the Holy Spirit to indwell all believers from that day on and forever.

The Pentecost was the 50<sup>th</sup> day after the Saturday Sabbath of Passover Week (Lev. 23:15-16) the first day of the week.

Pentecost is the Greek name for the Jewish Feast of Weeks, so called. It fell seven weeks after *the First Fruits* (Deut. 16:10) *the Feast of Harvest.* (Ex. 23:16; Numb. 28:26.)

The Old Testament Pentecost occurred fifty days after Israel had left Egypt and the Passover lamb was slain.

The New Testament Pentecost occurred fifty days after Christ had risen from the dead, the Lord Jesus being our

Passover Lamb. Old Testament Pentecost celebrated the birth of the nation Israel (Ex. 19:5; Lev. 19:2).

New Testament Pentecost celebrated the birth of the Church. (Acts 2:41-47.)

The Old Testament Pentecost witnessed the slaying of some three thousand people (Ex. 32:28). The New Testament Pentecost witnessed the saving of some three thousand souls (Acts 2:41) – the former typologically points to the latter.

*“When the day of the Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance And there were... devout men, out of every nation under heaven ...and every man heard them speak in his own language.”* (Acts 2:1-6.)

*Breath or wind is a symbol of the Spirit of God* (Ez. 37:9, 14; John 3:8). It was *“as of wind”*, but yet not wind. The coming of the Spirit was marked with *audible sound of wind* and *visible signs of fire.* (Acts 2:1-4.)

[As reported by both Matthew and Luke, John the Baptist foretold of the One who would baptize with the *Holy Spirit and fire.* (Matt. 3:11; Luke 3:16.)] They were all baptized by one Spirit, which joined every believer to the body of Christ. (1 Cor. 12:13-14; Col. 1:18, 24.) They all heard the witness of Jesus spoken to them in their own language. Note: These were actual languages, unknown/unlearned of the speakers, but yet understood by the hearers from other nations. There were no interpreters needed! They were all amazed and marveled - men of all nations of the known world there heard the wonderful words of God in their own tongues or dialects. (Acts 2:7.)

The Word of God leads us to all truth. Let us not forsake studying it and sharing with others. The Bible gives us signs to watch. *“The writing is on the wall”*, so to speak. Evidence of His soon coming is declared there and if we know the Word, we can pretty much figure out where we are now in God’s plan and time-table. We can see that He is coming soon even if we do not know the exact *“day or hour”*. Many students of the Bible can say that knowing prophecies makes it possible to even predict *“tomorrow’s newspaper- headlines”*. The Bible is indeed history written in advance. Information about what is coming is there. But just like the religious leaders of Jesus’ day did not seem to know the prophecies of their Messiah’s coming or couldn’t apply them to Jesus (Luke 19:42), many of our Christian leaders today seem to be just as lost to the biblical signs or warnings about our times. Jesus’ words are as fitting to today’s people as they were to the Pharisees: *“...Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.”* (Matt. 16:3.) He has said, *“Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”* (Luke 12:40.)

Jesus compared the time of His coming to the time of Noah. Noah had preached of the coming calamity for 120 years, but people were not listening... *“But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”* (Matt. 24:37-39.) It is just as people of today who mockingly say, *“Where is the promise of His coming? For*

*since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly forget [are ignorant of]...*" (2 Peter 3:4-5.)

Being ready does not mean doing nothing and *just waiting!* Actually the opposite is true – understanding the shortness of time creates urgency and should make us work harder and faster to reach the lost souls before it is too late. He is coming soon just as He promised.

*"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's House are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I AM, there you may be also."* (John 14:1-3.)

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**From our mailbox:** *"You claim that Mormons believe in "another Jesus" and thus are not Christians! How can that be for we read stories of Jesus from the same New Testament as you do, and we believe what He did and said. He is the same one – there is no other."*

**Reply:** Yes, we know that most of the Mormon stories of what Jesus did and said are taken from the New Testament, but the Mormon Church has invented another Person behind the name Jesus. The name is the same and stories are very similar, but who they say He really is does not match. They say that their Jesus is an eldest spirit-son of their God and his wives from the preexistence, and that all people born on this earth are His brothers and sisters, as is Lucifer and all angels too. However, the New Testament declares that Jesus' birth was as miraculous Virgin birth by the Holy Ghost, prophesied in Isaiah 7:14 *as a sign [to be] given by God, "behold, the Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, 'God with us'.*" (See: Matt. 1:18, 23.)

But in opposition to what the NT says about Jesus' birth, the Mormon Church teaches that their Jesus was not begotten by the Holy Ghost, but begotten by their father-god [who is "a man with a body of flesh and bones", D&C 130:22] who had sexual relations with Virgin Mary.

President and prophet of the LDS Church, Ezra Taft Benson, in his book, "Come Unto Christ" (p. 4), wrote about Jesus' birth saying, "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints proclaims that Jesus Christ is the Son of God in the most literal sense. The body in which He performed His mission in the flesh was sired by that same Holy Being we worship as God, our Eternal Father. Jesus was not the son of Joseph, nor was He begotten by the Holy Ghost". Mormon Doctrine, under "Only Begotten Son" (p. 546-7) specifies, "Only means only, begotten means begotten; and Son means son. Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by their mortal fathers." (Underline added.) [The Mormon Church teaches that Jesus was not God who became a man, but a son of their god who later "became a god" just as all faithful Mormon men can also become.] God of the Bible is not a man. (Numb. 23:19; Hosea 11:9; Isa. 31:3-4.) God is Triune. Jesus said, "God is Spirit" (John 4:24) and because of that fact "in Him (Jesus) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily". (Col. 2:9.) Jesus is God who became a man to die for all who, by faith in Him and in the gospel (1 Col. 15:1-4; Eph. 2:8-9), will be saved into eternal life. (John 3:16.) The NT warns about another Jesus as well as another gospel and another spirit presented by "false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel: for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end will be according to their works." (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15.) Paul warned, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which you have received, let him be accursed." (Gal. 1:8-9.) Note: Joseph Smith is said to have "received visitations from Moroni, an angel of light". (See Introduction to the Doctrine and Covenants in printings prior to 1981, when this statement was removed.) If you'd want to know about more differences between the Bible and LDS teachings, I'd be glad to elaborate, just let me know.

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**Question from a new believer:** *"Is there a short-cut to God's requirements, i.e. what we must know to be right with God without having to read the entire Bible from cover to cover?"*

**Answer:** Paul's letter to the Romans could be used as a sort of *"theological summary"*. Paul was a highly educated man in Jewish faith and also in Greek and Roman cultures and was fit to lead all to the knowledge of God. Paul is often compared to Moses of the Old Testament, who also was *"a learned man in all wisdom of Egyptians and mighty in words and deeds"*. (Acts 7:22.)

Just the first chapter in Paul's Letter to Romans shows Paul's knowledge of the Scriptures (OT) and also his wisdom:

It teaches that **Jesus is both God and Messiah** (vs. 1, 9)

It tells that the **Bible is without error** (v. 2) (i.e. all takes place as foretold in the scriptures – i.e. the OT)

It tells that **Jews are God's chosen nation** (v. 3) - (2 Sam. 7:8-17)

It teaches that **Jesus was resurrected, proving that He is God** (vs. 4-6)

It commands that **we ought to be praying for God's will for our lives** (v. 10)

It teaches that **salvation is by faith alone, to the Jew first and also to the Gentiles** (vs. 16, 17)

It warns about **God's wrath that is coming for those who suppress the truth from people** (v. 18)

It declares that **God is invisible, but His eternal power is seen in His creation** (v. 20)

It tells that sin-clouded **men became foolish by changing God into a likeness of men** (i.e. as a former man) (v. 21-25)

It tells us why **God will give some up to vile and shameful passions** that gives them a penalty they will deserve (26-31)

It teaches that **even approving behaviors that God abhors, brings God's judgment** (v. 32).

[If you'd continue reading Paul's entire letter to the Romans and all other letters by Paul: two letters to Corinthians, letter to Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, two letters to Thessalonians, two letters to Timothy, a letter to Titus, a letter to Philemon and also a letter to Hebrews, a letter that most scholars credit Paul for writing it, you will come to see the truth about God clearly, and you will praise the Lord for giving His Word as our treasure of knowledge of Him.]

***"STUDY to show thyself approved to God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*** (2 Tim. 2:15, KJV.) ***"ALL scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect (mature) thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*** (2 Tim. 3:16-17, KJV.)

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We thank you, our praying and supporting friends, for all that you do for us. Please know that you are in our daily prayers too, for without your help we could not do all that has been before us and still is.

We have received requests for help not only from Mormons living here and in USA, but also from other countries. Request from England just the other day came asking for direction and that reminded us of a great friend that the Lord had many years ago placed in our lives and allowed us to help him out of Mormonism and into a life in Christ. I sent a note to him and he responded. We are blessed to know that he is still working for the Lord Jesus and is in a ministry in England. He was LDS Stake President there many years ago when he first called us by phone. We continued conversing many times by phone and later by emails. Our busy life has prevented us to be in contact during the recent years, thus it was so lovely to hear from him now and we are sure that he can assist this LDS man.

Just about a month ago we received an email from an old Mormon missionary friend who had served his LDS mission in Finland at the same time we did. He has lived overseas for many years (and still does) but he is now visiting Salt Lake City because his over 90-year old mother passed away. He told us that 2-3 years ago he had stumbled into our story via the Internet and has been reading there what we have written and said ever since we left Mormonism. Now he, with his Finnish wife, wanted to come and talk with us in person. We have met several times and had many hours' long discussions each time. We have given them our recorded *Mormonism-class teachings* we have on DVD and much more, including Chuck Missler's John-study. We are amazed that they both are now already considering leaving the Mormon Church! Our prayer to the Lord is that they don't just make that exit, but also come to the saving relationship with Jesus Christ of the Bible.

We are still working with many other local LDS persons. Several of them are seriously studying the Bible and have already requested that their names be removed from the records of the Mormon Church.

We pray daily, and have done so for years, that the Lord will send to us those whom He knows we could help – and He has done so. We thank Him and are filled with joy when we see good results as we have seen many times before and now again see! We feel that time must be very short, for more and more people we could have never expected are “*coming out of the woods*”, so to speak, and want to talk with us about Mormonism. Please pray with us that the Lord will help us to have the right words to say to everyone who comes to see us for Truth. Our desire is that their hearts will open to the Word of God so that they would want to receive Jesus and be saved.

God has patiently waited for many of us to come to Him. Peter was saying that *the Lord is not slack, but that He is “...longsuffering towards us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”* (2 Peter 3:9.)

There are many more for whom we are currently praying that they would open their hearts and minds and come to know the Truth and be saved, **for God’s Word is Truth.** (John 17:17.)

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We present our prayers daily to the Lord for wellbeing and healing both physically and emotionally for our dear friends that need His touch and blessings. Please pray with us especially for Max and Preston and for the entire “Stewart-clan” that has been *our believing family* for over 40 years. There are many other dear friends that ask and need prayer – Tom, Mary, Dave, Aira, Al, Sandy, Scott, Cynthia, Dale, Sharon, Heber, Don, Dwayne, Judy, Suzi, Dan and Kristine, Tracey and Britney and their children, Amy and her husband and family, and Lisa and her family and also Matt and his wife and children in Hawaii. There are also others that we pray for daily, but cannot use their names here as of yet.

Our prayers are also with our dear Australian friends as many of them have been this spring receiving Christian baptism “*into the Christ Jesus*” (Rom. 6:3-4). They are working with their LDS friends in sharing the biblical gospel of Christ with them. (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) Our heart rejoices with them and all who have come and who are still coming to Christ Jesus!

It makes our hearts tender when we think of our dear friends like Kathy and others who are already with the Lord.

We wait for their appearing with the Lord when He comes to call us all to Him in Rapture. (1 Thess. 4:13-18.)

*“Even so, come, Lord Jesus! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”* (Rev. 22:20-21.)

May the Lord God bless you all!

In His service,  
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**Request from Rev. Franklin Graham: Along with 250+ [Christian leaders](#), I am asking followers of Christ across our nation to set aside next Sunday, June 2, as a special day of prayer for the President, Donald J. Trump.**

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