



May 1, 2020

[H.I.S.] He is Savior, Acts 4:12

HIS Ministries May Newsletter 2020, covering April 2020

Happy May-Day!

In Finland the **1st of May is called "Vapunpaiva"**. This day is celebrated as a day of hope of the soon coming summer and sunshine, taking away the gloominess of dark winter months. As a child I had lived above the Arctic Circle where during the winter months the sun is not even seen, but during the summer way up North it is the opposite – sun does not go down at all for the similar amount of months. Thus **Vapunpaiva, May-Day, marks the beginning of summer** – and it was/is something to celebrate and rejoice even though at times it could be snowing. ☺ I recall a few words from a Finnish song *"...lunta sataa ja aurinko paistaa, taitaa tulla kesa..."* – Translation: *"...it is snowing and sun is shining, summer must be coming..."*

In Finland, as in most of the European countries, 1st of May is celebrated as *a big springtime party* with flowers, balloons and parades, regardless of occasional snow. In some other countries (as in Russia) it is a more somber **Communist-Labor-Day-Party and parade**.

In our April letter we wrote about Palm Sunday, which was the day when **YSHUA, Jesus Christ**, rode into Jerusalem on *a colt of a donkey* (Luke 19:37-42), as **the Lamb of God who takes away sins of the world**. (John 1:29.) In our calendar this year it was April 5th, which in the Hebrew calendar would have been **10th of Nisan**. That was the Day when all lambs to be offered on **Passover** were presented and inspected, and then, **4 days later, killed on the 14th of Nisan**. (See Exodus 12:2-6.) **Our Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, was presented, inspected/trying and then, on the 14th of Nisan, killed, but "not for Himself, but for His people"**. (Dan. 9:26.) **Israel's Feasts** are prophetic, though Israel has not yet as a nation acknowledged that Jesus' life, death and resurrection were fulfillment of **Prophetic Feasts of Israel**. We also wrote about His death, burial and resurrection – that He **was crucified** between two thieves on Golgotha **on the same day that Passover lambs were slaughtered** on the Jerusalem-temple grounds as sin offerings for the nation Israel.

Three days later He rose from the dead, bringing the Good News of the Gospel of God to the entire world. (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) This took place during the feast of Israel, **Feast of the First Fruits**.

Easter, the Resurrection Day to us as believers in Jesus, represents God's gift of eternal life that He gave to all who repent and receive/accept His *perfect blood sacrifice* in their behalf (Lev. 17:11; Rom. 3:25; Col. 1:14) and are born again. (John 1:12; 3:7.)

The next Feast is the **Day of the Pentecost, the 50th day after the Saturday Sabbath of the Passover Week** (Lev. 23:15-16), thus it is the first day of the week. **Pentecost is the Greek name for the Jewish Feast of Weeks**, so called, because it fell **seven weeks after the First Fruits**, (Deut. 16:10) **on the Feast of Harvest**. (Ex. 23:16; Numb. 28:26.)

The Old Testament Pentecost likewise occurred fifty days after Israel had left Egypt and when the Passover lambs were slain. New Testament Pentecost occurred fifty days after Christ rose from the dead, the Lord Jesus being our Passover Lamb. Old Testament Pentecost celebrated the birth of the nation Israel (Ex. 19:5). **New Testament Pentecost celebrated the birth of the Church** (Acts 2:41-47) **when the Father sent the Holy Spirit to indwell all believers there, and also indwell all who after that come to faith in Jesus**.

Old Testament Pentecost witnessed the slaying of some three thousand people (Ex. 32:28). 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. [In Matt. 3:11 and Luke 3:16 John the Baptist had foretold of the One who would baptize with the Holy Ghost and fire.] They were all amazed, for they heard the witness of Jesus spoken to them in their own language. [Note: These were actual languages, unknown to the speakers, but yet understood by the hearers from other nations. There were no interpreters needed!!!] (Acts 2:7-8.) They heard of God in Christ Jesus in their own language. The word “language” used in verses 6 and 8 in Acts 4 is the same word we get our English word “dialect” from. This gift of tongues was one of the signs or wonders which God used to bear witness of the truth of apostles’ message. (Hebr. 2:3-4.) Miracles were needed to reveal the Old Testament prophecies because the New Testament was not yet written. (“The New Testament was in the Old Testament concealed, and in the New Testament the OT is revealed.”) We must keep in mind that tongues were for a sign but not to those who believe, but to unbelievers. (1 Cor. 14:22.) [Thus “speaking in tongues”, (i.e. in another languages) in Christian meetings in our day, where all can understand the same language, does not make any sense.] These “sign-gifts” were for then when the New Testament was not written yet, proving to those who heard apostles’ witness for Jesus Christ that they were indeed gifted to do so by God.

Now we are living in expectation of the Second Coming of Christ for the signs of His soon coming are evident to those who have spent time in studying the Word of God and can recognize the signs. He has given us clear instructions that we are to be about His business until He comes. We do not have to be Biblical scholars to understand passages found in Matthew 24; 2 Timothy 3; 2 Peter 3 and elsewhere, pointing to us clearly that we are in the last days. Evidence is clear. His coming must be very soon. Threats of wars are everywhere, and earthquakes are weekly experiences around the world, even here in Utah we had 5.7 quake (March 18th) and we have had over 1800 small aftershocks since then and continuing. This world-wide pestilence that begun about 3 months ago is disturbing lives, killed hundreds of thousands people in over 180 countries, closed just about all businesses, schools and churches and all sport-events around the world - even July’s Olympics in Japan were cancelled, and people are ordered to stay at home and not meet with others etc. and we must wear face masks when needing to go buy food or medicine. We are often asked if we believe in the Rapture of the Church and if we do, are we “pre-trib, mid-trib or post-trib” - believers? Absolutely we believe in the Rapture of the Church, which is when the Lord calls His Bride, the Church, to come home (John 14:1-3) just before the 7-year Great Tribulation (Matt. 24:21) that is coming for Israel and for all unbelievers everywhere. (Rev. 4:1 – till Chapter 19...) The only biblically logical time for Rapture, in our opinion, is the Pre-Tribulation Rapture. (See 1 Thessalonians 4:11-18.) In verses 11-12 Paul teaches that though we are expecting and looking for Christ’s soon coming for us, it does not relieve us from our responsibilities in life while we are here. The world is watching those who say they are Christians and they are judging our Savior by our behavior. Paul says that we should walk properly, mind our own business, sharing the gospel, respecting others and working to support ourselves. Paul stressed the importance of this teaching, beginning of verse 13, saying “I do not want you to be ignorant concerning those who have fallen asleep”, (i.e. those who have died.) Sleep in the NT is used to refer to believers who have died, but never to their spirits or souls. They are consciously waiting for the Rapture in the presence of

the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8; John 14:1-3). **1 Cor. 15:50-54** tells that *our bodies will, at the moment of Rapture, be suddenly changed and raised incorruptible*, and when we, who are then alive, hear the trumpet, *we will be snatched up to join them in the air, also receiving our resurrected bodies and thus being together with the Lord forever.* (1 Thess. 4:13-18.)

These *our times* are indeed the *“times of the signs”* told to us in God’s Word, the Bible. We are expectantly waiting for Christ to come and take us home while the unbelieving world instead is expecting and planning for *“One World Government”* that will be led by Anti-Christ. When the 7-year Great Tribulation will come to an end, then *we will come back with the Lord* (Rev. 19:14) and *He will be the King of kings and the Lord of lords*, reigning from the Throne of David for 1000 years, and from there on forever. (Luke 1:32-33.)

What our studies have taught us is that we are still in *“times of the Church-age”*, revealed in Revelation chapters 2-3. **Chapter 4:1** begins with words, *“after these things”, i.e. after we have had an opportunity to come to know the Lord Jesus, receive Him and become His children (John 1:12). Now that time is over.* After 4:1 the *“church”* is no longer mentioned until Rev. 19:11-14, when we, as God’s own, come back and follow Him on white horses, just before the 1000 year-reign of Christ begins (Rev. 20:4-5).

Since we are obviously in the Last Days, even many LDS people are starting to ask questions from the Bible, especially from the Book of Revelation, and wondering if the LDS Church and Bible-believing Christians agree on interpretation about what the Bible says about those times.

An LDS person sent 3 questions. I will list them after my answer to #1 here. I will answer the other two in next month’s letter.

Question # 1. **Rev. 6:1-2:** *Who is the person who opens the first seal and is riding on a white horse? Our most respected biblical scholar, late apostle Bruce R. McConkie, has written 3-volume “Doctrinal New Testament Commentary”, and in it he says that it is Enoch. Who do Christians believe this person is?*

Answer to Rev. 6:1-2: Note that this takes place during the coming Tribulation period that lasts 7 years (Dan. 9:27) and begins from **Rev. 4:1**. There are six seals opened during the first half of the Tribulation, [during the first 3.5 years, coinciding with Matt. 24:15]. **Verse 1, The Lamb opens the first seal. Verse 2, A Rider on a white horse has a bow and a crown on his head.** This rider presents himself as a victorious leader going to war, having a **bow, white horse and a crown**. This is the Anti-Christ, pretending to be the Real Christ. What further proves that **this one is the Anti-Christ** is that those who ride with him are associated with *war, famine, pestilence, plague and death* (verses 3-9). Another proof of his identity as a false Christ is that *his weapon is a bow!* **The weapon of the real Christ (and those with Him) is not a bow but a sword.** (Eph. 6:17.) **The Crown of Anti-Christ is “stephanos”** (Greek, Strong’s dictionary # 4735), *which is not a real “kingly crown”, but a game-prize or “a tinsel crown”.* When the real Christ comes, (Rev. 19:11-16) *He will have many crowns, having taken over many nations and being “THE KING OF KINGS, AND THE LORD OF LORDS.”* The word in Greek here for crown is **“diadema”** (the real crown, dictionary # 1238) and He also has a sharp sword with which He smites the nations, and His name is called **“The Word of God”**.

The biblical view of Rev. 6: 1-2 is that this rider is the coming Anti-Christ, and NOT Jesus Christ or Enoch! **Why Mormons believe that this rider is Enoch is that in LDS theology Joseph Smith is Enoch.** (See **D&C 78:1, 4, 9; prior to 1981**). Joseph Smith identified himself as *Enoch of the Masonic Legend [of Enoch]*, and he *“played that part”* many times. [The Masonic legend tells of *Enoch, his gold plate and translation of it*...Sounds like Joseph Smith and his *“gold plates”* and *“translation of them”*, doesn’t it?] **If you have a prior to 1981 edition of the D&C, go to Section 78.** Verse 1 reads **“The Lord spake unto Enoch [Joseph Smith, Jun], saying Hearken unto me, saith the Lord your God...”** Verse 4 **“...the city of Enoch [Joseph], for a permanent and everlasting establishment and order unto my church...”** As you can see Joseph Smith named himself

Enoch, and he says that **Enoch [i.e. Joseph] had a city, "City of Enoch [Joseph]"** (v. 4). In the **Pearl of Great Price, the Book of Moses**, Joseph Smith elaborates and writes that **not only was Enoch taken to heaven, but his city [called Zion] was also taken to heaven.** (PoGP, Moses 7:19-23, 69).

Interesting side note about this Joseph Smith's "fictional city" is **the only City of Enoch that the Bible mentions, a city built by CAIN, who named it after his son, Enoch.** (Gen. 4:17.) **There are two men named Enoch in the Bible.** One is Enoch, a **son of Cain** (Gen. 4:17.) **Joseph said that Cain's seed was black** (PoGP, Moses 7:22), and thus couldn't have the priesthood (prior to 1978) and **the other Enoch was a son of Jared who was that Enoch who was taken to heaven.** (Gen. 5:18, 24.) **Cain's son, Enoch, is not the one who was taken to heaven.** Interestingly **it was Cain's grandson, Lamech, who was the first polygamist in the Bible and who, by some scholars, is called "evil personified"**. Note: Joseph Smith became a polygamist, polygamy originating from wicked Cain's family.

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I will answer these questions, #2 and #3, in our next month's letter.

Question # 2. Who do you think are the 144,000 in Rev. 7:4-8 and in 14:1-5? Apostle Bruce R. McConkie in his **Doctrinal New Testament Commentary** quotes from D&C 77:11 that says, **"... they are high priests, ordained unto the holy order of God..."** McConkie continues and explains **"...12,000 from each tribe, [are] converted, baptized, endowed, married for eternity, and sealed up unto eternal life, having their calling and election made sure."** Do you agree with this interpretation?

Question # 3. Who do you think are the two witnesses in Revelation 11:3-12? Quoting from Apostle McConkie's **NT Commentary**, which says: **"...these two shall be followers of that humble man, Joseph Smith, through whom the Lord of heaven restored the fullness of his everlasting gospel in this final dispensation of grace. No doubt they will be members of the Council of Twelve or the First Presidency of the Church."** Do you agree with this explanation, or who do you think they are and where does this take place?

It was brought to my attention that it was May 22nd, 2010, 10 years ago, when the Salt Lake Tribune announced that the **"Encyclopedic volume titled Mormon Doctrine"**, written by the late LDS apostle Bruce R. McConkie, **"will no longer be printed"**, stating the reason being that **"sales have been down, and the demand is no longer there"**, and thus it is no longer profitable for the Church. They were **"Lying for the Lord"**, again.

Obvious reason for this volume being taken **out of print** is just the opposite. **This Encyclopedic volume of Doctrines taught and believed in the Mormon Church** made it too easy for everyone interested to learn what they actually taught and believed without having to **"dig deep"** to find these doctrines from literally hundreds of LDS leaders' publications and lesson manuals. There was no other book so well organized and doctrinally verified, listing all teachings in alphabetical order, than Mormon Doctrine. Thus this was the major volume for all Christian ministries interested in bringing true salvation message to those trapped in Mormonism, for most Mormons do not even know how far from the biblical truth Mormonism really is.

This book was also a **"must have volume"** in every Mormon ward's and stake's libraries to help **"lay-leaders"** of the Church to give authentic and doctrinally correct answers especially to their newer members who were wondering what they are supposed to believe about various topics.

It was about 45 years ago when it was translated to all major languages spoken by the members of the Church world-wide, thus demand of this volume only kept on growing and never eased, but now, as soon as this announcement was made, the price has at least tripled even for used copies.

Bruce McConkie was a General Authority of the Church from 1946 onward and the most respected Theologian of the Mormon Church **"before him and since him"**. Apostle Bruce R. McConkie passed away in 1985 at the age of 69. Mormon Doctrine was first published in 1958, second volume was published in 1966. The only changes to the first printing were concerning a more modified tone. The LDS prophet and president Ezra Taft Benson had commented, **"Whenever a doctrinal question came before the First Presidency and the Twelve, it was Bruce McConkie who was asked to quote the scripture or comment on the matter. He would quote scripture verbatim and at the great length. McConkie provided the entire Church with an example of gospel scholarship. He could teach the gospel with ease because he first understood the gospel."**

Bruce McConkie was, during my 14 years as a translator of the LDS Church, a speaker at just about every General Conference. He was also a major contributor to the materials that I and other translators were translating for Church's use in our native countries. I would like to take a deeper look, maybe next month, into Bruce R. McConkie's exceptional scholarship and knowledge of all LDS doctrinal subjects. His additions to the KJV in the Mormon "quad" included chapter headings which were also his commentary on each book and chapter of the KJV of the Bible.

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During these several months of isolation at home has not been all bad for Dennis and I, excepting that Dennis has not been able to go and install what he has built for his clients. Maybe later...

However, he has been able to take time to clean and organize his "wood-shop", and bag "tons" of saw-dust that some of our gardening friends like to mix into the soil, hoping that their veggie-products will grow better, and also make more room for my car in the garage. ☺

Actually my work has not slowed down for now people have had more time to ponder and ask questions by email and also by phone since they are home and not working. My back is still troublesome (painful actually) and every 2-3 hours I have to go and lay down on my back to take the pressure off from my spine.

We thank our faithful friends who have been praying for us and a few have even helped us financially, knowing that Dennis' income has been lately close to zero –and will be at least until he can go and install (i.e. finish) what he has been working on. We are not worried at all, for we know that our Lord knows even better than we do what our needs are. He lets His own know if we or others need help. It is great to know that He cares for His own. Our prayers are for those who do not know the Lord, who do not have a personal relationship with Him yet. We pray that they would hurry up and commit their lives to Him and be raptured with us when we hear the trumpet... (1 Cor. 15:50-53.) We continue praying daily for Tracy and Britney and their children and many others we have come to know. There are many more that need our prayers as they learn and grow in the knowledge of the Lord, as Mark and Virve and Amy...We watched a great video just recently about the *Jewish Wedding* (Matt. 25:1-12) and were reminded that when our Bridegroom comes for His own, we too must be ready! When we were praying together last night, Dennis said that the Lord's arrival for His Bride indeed could be at night when we are sleeping... we need to make sure that everything is in order and ready – just in case He comes tonight. ☺

Please pray for our friends who are having various trials and health problems. Please remember Judy, Dale, Sharon, Mary, Tom, Aira, Sandy, Al, Cynthia, Heber, Dwayne, another Sharon and Yandel (a little 8-year old boy we are supporting in Dominican Republic). The Lord knows them all and what their needs are, we just need to pray.

Please pray for the peace of Jerusalem as Ps. 122:6 commands, and **pray for our country and our president and his administration.** (Rom. 13:1-2.) There is a lot of turmoil going on with this world-wide virus-problem that has affected our normal living. Economy that was very good just 2-3 months ago seems to be now in ruins. Spiritual war is raging. May the Lord guide and protect all of us from dangers that are around us.

With the Love of Jesus Christ,
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Something to think about: Life is short. Death is for sure. Salvation is free and Eternity is endless.

Do you know where you are going when this life ends?

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