



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

November 1, 2020

## His Ministries November 2020 Newsletter, covering October 2020

Winter is on its way, and there are many who love snow and even cold – but the older we get, the less we like the cold part, but in many ways this season is beautiful and even restful. October however is a “*dark month*” in more ways than one—it is dark because the days are shorter, flowers are gone, and no snow yet in the valleys to brighten and lighten the days, but it is also gloomy because, at least here in Utah, dark powers seem to take over the lives and activities of people in preparation for *Halloween*, which is *the devil’s holiday*, and evil in all imaginable forms is boldly displayed. Houses are decorated with skulls and bones, witches and warlocks, demons and ghosts—some even add tombstones to their front lawns with screaming recordings as coming from the tombs to frighten those who pass by. Utah, of all the 50 states, is the leading state with its focus on scary images and *the dead*! This must be because Utah is known as a *Mormon State* and *the Mormon Church* and its “*sacred*” (=secret) *doctrines are focused on the dead*. Their most holy places are their temples, and “*they are specifically built so that the living may communicate with the dead*” as LDS apostle Parley P. Pratt had preached. *Temple-going Mormons* are said to be “*acting as mediums through which the living can hear from the dead*”. (Journal of Discourses, vol. 2:44-46.) The Bible calls that *necromancy*, and God sternly forbids that and calls it *an abomination in His sight*. Deut. 18:10-12 lists *necromancy and occult practices that must not have a part in any of His people’s lives*. Every year Christians, especially children, are put under social pressure to participate in the celebration of *Halloween*. Many Christian churches try to arrange something that will, in some sense, compete with this day by having harvest festivals or something similar so that Christian children do not feel left out of *all the fun* other children *may seem* to be having. Children are exposed to *Halloween* at school and they are urged to participate and dress up in various costumes, most of them depicting something evil or frightening. Many Christians view this as “*harmless fun*” and do not oppose it. However, participating in *activities of the devil’s holiday* is not harmless for *it can be used as an entry into the occult*. Halloween puts a focus on *the enemy of our souls* and he loves it! Let’s not forget that *this is a pagan holiday*, having its beginnings with the “*Druids’ day of the dead when Celtic priests made their appearances as wizards or magicians*.” To some adult participants this holiday has become a *masquerade*, a party similar to Marti Gras. Believers in the Lord Jesus, who is the God of the living, should not have anything to do with the celebration of *Halloween*, *the Druids’ day of the dead*, for it is thoroughly pagan and its emphasis is glorification of Satan, demons and death. It is deception all the way through. Thus Christian believers ought not to have anything to do with the celebration of *Halloween*. That is a far cry from what true believers should celebrate! It does not have anything at all to do with God. It is, quite honestly, a celebration of those who oppose God and all that He represents. This is why it’s a day Christians should NOT celebrate nor be part of in any way. There is NOTHING about Halloween that honors God.

Now some good News: We finally got to go to Cedaredge, Colorado, to meet our friends there and speak at the First Baptist Church on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October. We had been invited there many times during the last 1.5 years to come, but my health issues (mainly my severe back pain) had made it impossible for me to travel that far (about 400 miles). Now even the weather was great – warm and sunny - both going and coming back home. We were so blessed to again spend time with our “*church family*” there. Their new pastor asked us to take all of their Sunday meetings (Sunday school, Worship Service, and even their Evening Fellowship meeting), to share and answer their questions. It was great and in many ways so “*freeing*” to be there, “*just like in old times*” without wearing “*masks or keeping 6-ft. distance*”, for that entire community was well and without Corona virus. (They only knew of 2 positive virus-cases during this *8-month virus-time*.) Dr. Larry Dillon and his sweet wife Nancy were hosting us at their beautiful home and

we enjoyed Nancy's wonderful cooking and our fellowship with them and with the entire church was so uplifting. Couldn't have been nicer!

We indeed live in very troubling times. *Covid-19* [so named because it had begun in 2019, in China] *has been declared a world-wide Pandemic* though it in many ways is similar to the regular flu that kills tens of thousands every year, or is even much more contagious than some other serious diseases that have been around in the past. However *Covid-19* as a virus can be deadly especially for older persons who have other underlining illnesses as heart, lung problems or diabetes and for those who have otherwise weakened immune systems.

This virus, combined with closing most of our country's businesses now for 8 months, has pretty much disturbed normal lives and destroyed our economy that in January 2020 (just before this so-called *Pandemic*) was better than ever before! It seems like it was "*planned to be that way*" to put blame on our current Administration during this election time that is ending in just a few days. We all, as voting citizens of USA, have to make our choices, not just between one or the other person, but between the Parties, **the Republican Party** and **the Democratic Party**, and what they represent and what their plans are for America for the following 4 years.

As believers in God of the Bible, our choices in the most important issues have been made very clear to us in God's Word. God of the Bible is the Creator of Life, so we MUST choose Life! *The Fact is that **The Republican Party is Pro-Life**, adamantly against aborting (killing) babies, from conception to birth!* *Also the Fact is that **The Democratic Party is "pro-choice"** which means that unborn babies can be killed at any time during the 9 month-pregnancy, and for any reason.* It has been correctly said that "*woman's choice ends when a life inside of her womb begins.*" Therefore all who believe and honor God must vote against a Party that approves and promotes abortion. There may be many other reasons to support one or the other Party, but even if there were no other reason than saving the lives of the unborn, all believers in the Lord Jesus MUST choose life, and that means to vote Republican. God will not be mocked! God's Word pronounces His judgment to those who even approve of abortion or other unrighteous practices that God has clearly forbidden. (See Romans 1:18-32.) Verse 32 emphasizes that God's judgment comes to everyone "*who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.*" ("Wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23.) There may be some who have been guilty of approving or even taking part of these practices while yet not knowing God, but if they come to understand their error and repent, our Lord God will forgive! "*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*" (John 3:16.)

*Every born again believer's* job is to share the Gospel (declared in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4) with all who do not yet know the Lord Jesus personally and have not received Him and experienced the new birth. (John 1:12-13; 3:7.) Our purpose as believers in Christ is to bring everyone we can to eternal salvation that comes from Jesus Christ alone. (John 14:6.) **There is no salvation in any other!** We must do as much as we can to help them in their learning the Word of God that will comfort them especially in these hard times.

The Bible, both Old and the New Testament, has the answers to all things that we face in life. (1 Peter 3:15-17.) The Old Testament is history of Israel containing also prophecies concerning their future before Christ. All the prophets of the Old Testament prophecy about the coming of Messiah of Israel and the world. In these 39 books there are over 300 prophecies about the Redeemer/Messiah.

Jesus expected people of Israel to know these prophecies, but sadly they did not. In Luke 24:14-27, 44-49 we learn how Jesus, after His resurrection on the road to Emmaus, met two of His disciples (followers), whose "*eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him...*" They were sad and told Him that they were not sure why "*the chief priests and rulers had delivered Jesus of Nazareth to be condemned to death, and crucified Him*"... Then Jesus took them through the Old Testament study... "*He said to them, O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe 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 (explained) to them in all Scriptures the things concerning Himself.*" (Please read Luke 24:13-53.) It is the New Testament that explains what the Old Testament had revealed.

The New Testament begins with four Gospels, telling about the life of Jesus and who He is. They were written specifically for four various groups (of people) Jews, Romans, Greeks, and the rest of the world, and they identify Jesus as the One the OT-prophecies were all about. The rest of the NT, the letters of Paul, James and Jude as well as Peter and John expand Jesus' teachings through His apostles and brings the knowledge of the Savior Jesus Christ to all the world as He has commanded. (Luke 24:45-47.)

The last book of the Bible, *the Book of Revelation*, is *"The Revelation of Jesus Christ"* (Rev. 1:1), that He gave to John to write down. Verse 3 promises a special blessing to all who read and take this book into their hearts. Chapters 2 and 3 are about the seven churches that represent *"the Church Age"* in which we are now still living in until the Rapture will take the true Christianity (all born again believers in Christ) to *"the Lord's safe-keeping" in His mansions* (John 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:9) He has been preparing for us to live with Him while the 7-year Tribulation is devastating the earth. The word *Revelation, means unveiling (of Jesus Christ)* and what He is about today, including the Great Tribulation and the future of the world clear to the end of time about what God's prophets have written for us so that we could be able to see *"where we are in God's time table"*, even now. Continual study of the Word of God gives us *peace in the middle of the storm* for through His Word we come to know that He is in total control even when times are getting to be very hard.

As He has promised, He will come and take His Bride to be with Him (1 Thess. 4:13-18; John 14:1-3) before the 7-year Tribulation begins during which His wrath will be poured on unbelieving Israel and the world. (Matthew 24:21; 1 Thess. 5:9.) Revelation Chapter 4 begins with words *"After this"* (after the Church age) and continues from Chapter 4 through Chapter 19 – to 20 that starts the Thousand Year reign of Christ Jesus.

People often say that they avoid reading the Book of Revelation because *"it is so strange and hard to understand"*. One of the reasons why the Book of Revelation *seems strange* is that many have not studied or understood the Old Testament. The Book of Revelation has 404 verses, and in those verses are about 800 allusions to the Old Testament. The more we know about the Bible and the OT in particular, the easier it will be for us to understand the Book of Revelation and idioms found in it. This book is more relevant now than ever before for we indeed are living in the *"last days"*. It was late Dr. Chuck Missler who truly inspired us to study the entire Word of God *"book-by-book, verse-by-verse"*, and always in context. He taught us to see the entire Bible as *"one integrated message system, designed by God."* In other words, the Bible truly is *"an integrated whole" where every detail is there by design* (Matt. 5:17-18), nothing in it is trivial for all of it is meant to be for our learning. (Rom. 15:4.) *"God says what He means and means what He says!"* The entire Word of God is of *"extraterrestrial origin"* for *"...the holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit"*. (2 Pet. 1:21.) *"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 complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."* (2 Tim. 3:16-17.)

We, Dennis and I, have studied the Bible about 38 years and can assure to you all that if these two Testaments are not taken together as a whole revelation of God, they could not be understood as God has intended.

*"The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed; the Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed."*

Assuming that you already have been studying the Bible, but have not yet tackled the Book of Revelation seriously, we would recommend that you'd study *the Book of Daniel* first, for in his book you will find the same or similar idioms and symbols - explained. From our own experience we promise to you that *the Book of Daniel* makes *the Book of Revelation* [of Jesus Christ] (Rev. 1:1) easier to understand, though it is, as is the entire Bible, God's Word that is deep, and thus it takes serious study made easier by using Hebrew and Greek dictionaries and Concordances.

It is the love of God that He has shown to us that motivates us to share His truth with others who do not yet know that if they repent, be born from above, and "receive Jesus" (John 1:12; 3:7), they do not have to go through the most horrible times coming to earth, (Matt. 24:21.) but be taken up in Rapture, as the Bride of Christ. According to the signs and proofs given in the Word of God, His coming is Imminent, meaning that it could at any time. (Matt. 16:1-3.)

Let us all commit to sharing the Gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4) asking everyone to repent, believe and receive Jesus Telling the truth about God to those who have been deceived and convinced to believe in *"another Jesus, another Gospel and who have another spirit"* (2 Thess. 11:4, 13-15; Gal. 1:8-9) can be hard and even frustrating. It is easier to talk to just *"plain lost people"*, but it is sure worth the effort. For anyone admitting that he/she/us have believed what is not true for a long time is not easy to hear.

Adrian Roger's statement reminds us what it takes:

*"It is better to be divided by truth than to be united in error. It is better to speak the truth that hurts and then heals, than falsehood that comforts and then kills. Let me tell you something, friend, it is not love and it is not friendship if we fail to declare the whole counsel of God. It is better to be hated for telling the truth, than to be loved for telling a lie. It is impossible to find anyone in the Bible who was a power for God who did not have enemies and was not hated. It's better to stand alone with the truth, than to be wrong with a multitude. It is better to ultimately succeed with the*

*truth than to temporarily succeed with a lie. There is only one Gospel and Paul said, 'If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.'* (Pastor Adrian Rogers.)  
*Be encouraged and blessed. God is good and He hears our prayers for help in this and all good works He has prepared for us to do. (Eph. 2:8-10.)*

We will answer received LDS letters next month, we run out of time and space. Sorry about that. ☺

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We are thankful to you, our ministry-partners, for your prayers and much needed help we have received from you. We praise the Lord for you, for through you, He has been blessed us. We pray daily for you too that He will indeed "supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" just as He has promised. (Phil. 4:19.)

We both are doing quite well health wise too. Other than our trip to Cedaredge, we have been staying pretty much isolated at home as the demand from the state has been for Covid19. Dennis has been working at his shop at home and I am very thankful that I have been able to be answering letters and calls we received. My back has been a lot better, which gives me more hours at the computer. My cancer radiation treatment was again postponed due to Covid-19 patients that are in this hospital where my treatments would be done also.

We have been blessed to be able to view weekly video messages from our pastor Terry Long, and view daily messages from other Calvary Chapel pastors in California (Jack Hibbs in California, J.D. Farag in Hawaii), and Amir Tsarfati recordings in Galilee, Israel. (I found out that Amir's Middle East updates are available even in Finland and in Finnish!!) Their Bible teachings have been timely, uplifting and accurate, and they are as excited as we are about soon possible Imminent Return of Christ (Rapture), though, of course, they nor we do not know the timing of it, "*the day or hour*", but it is wonderful to study God's Word also with them and see what His plans are for all of His people. We pray for Israel and that many of the Jewish nation would yet come to know that their Messiah's First Coming was on Palm Sunday, almost 2000 years ago, and that His Second Coming for His Church will be soon, at least seven years before the Great Tribulation (Matt. 24:21) and "His Official Second Coming" for Israel, in Jerusalem, and the world, *when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord* (Phil. 2:5-11).

We ask that you'd pray with us for Judy, Liz, Al, Sandy, Aira, Richard, Dwayne, Heber, Bruce, Yandel, Marlene, Lisa and also for our continued health so that we can continue to serve our Lord. (1 John 5:14-15.)

Please pray that God's will be done in US election that is in just a few days and that all will remain peaceful.

Please pray also for the Peace of Jerusalem. (Ps. 122:6)

God bless you and we hope that this virus is soon defeated and the Election be over with, and according to His plan for America. Our God is in control of it all. ☺

With love, Rauni & Dennis –

Contact information: Email: [hismin@xmission.com](mailto:hismin@xmission.com). Website: [www.hismin.com](http://www.hismin.com); Tel. 801.943-5011

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