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

His Ministries October 2020 Newsletter, covering September 2020

We hope you are enjoying this beautiful, colorful and warm fall-season. It has not often been this warm, though always beautiful and colorful.

This year, 2020, had started exceptionally well for America with the highest economy and lowest unemployment ever, but it all came crashing down with the Covid-19 virus that is shown to have originated in a laboratory in Wuhan, China. Our president right away had wisdom to shut down all travel from China, though not from elsewhere – and the Chinese kept on traveling all over Europe and virus found its way from there to here and everywhere, eventually closing the entire country – schools, businesses and even churches. Thus life has been confusing from January till today and is ongoing. America has experienced economic devastation, reaching every state in the union and even the world. These devastations led to what was said-to-be only “*peaceful demonstrations*” against what they call “*social injustice and unfairness*”, but the demonstrators allowed some Marxist/communist organizations to blend in using their hatred for police and law enforcement and turning these “*peaceful demonstrations*” into *racial riots* and destruction of businesses opening them to lootings and robberies and total brake-down of many small businesses in just about every larger city. “*The end is near*” is a cry of scared and suffering people. Thousands are fleeing from their burning homes in Northern California and Oregon, and from huge floods caused by hurricanes in Southern and Eastern states. Many wonder if this could be God’s punishment for our country and people for *allowing evil to be called good, and good to be called evil*. Even in otherwise steady and peaceful Utah we have had unusual devastation they say are “*acts of God*” as a 5.7 earth quake on 18th of March that made even our house literally *sway* but nothing broke inside or outside of our home, but it caused a lot of damage to many buildings around Salt Lake City and around the entire SL-Valley. It even knocked the trumpet out of the hand of *the angel Moroni*, standing on the top of Salt Lake City’s Mormon Temple, and caused some other damages to this *statue of an angel of light* on top of Mormonism’s most treasured temple in the world. Aftershocks by the thousands continued for weeks keeping people “*on edge*”. Then, just a few months after this earthquake, we had incredible winds (*over 100 miles per hour*), never before experienced here, that caused the loss of electricity for days, and blew down thousands of large trees, some falling on top of houses. Hundreds of cherished old beautiful trees fell in “*The Old Salt Lake City Cemetery*” where most of the Mormon leaders from 1850’s onward are buried and where LDS visitors coming from around the world like to visit. There were a lot of fallen trees and other devastating wind-damages across the Salt Lake Valley, even in our neighborhood, and we marveled that we did not have even one fallen tree or any damage to our house or property that we have from the start considered *a gift of God* He gave to us about 30 years ago.

All these devastations seem to be fitting to the end time signs and predictions that the Bible talks about, and interestingly, even non-believers in God and the Bible are wondering *what all this could mean* and are asking *if we think the end is near!* Yes we do! When they ask what we think, it opens the door for us to ask if they would like to know why we believe that we are getting close to the end of the world as we have known, and why we are not fearful. It looks that God is opening many previously closed minds to think and seek answers to a question that everyone has, (whether they express it or not) *what happens at the end and after we die?* We point them to the Bible that has the answers to life and death and even for our everyday life we now live. (2 Peter 3:13-17.) Question to ask them is: *Do you know our Jesus?* Most everyone says that *they know about Jesus* and Mormons add, “*of course we know Jesus for His name is even on our church buildings!*” But yet when talking with them about these issues, many of them say that they wonder *if they have been good enough or have done enough* to make it to heaven. When Jesus was asked what must we do to go to heaven, He said that we must be born again and believe/trust in Him for eternal life! (John 3:3-7; 6:28-29.) When Jesus said to Nicodemus, a highly regarded teacher in Israel, “*unless one is born again, he cannot see the*

kingdom of God', Nicodemus said to Jesus that *it was impossible!* Jesus explained that our *"first birth" is of water, but our second birth is of the Spirit.* When we come to faith in the Jesus taught of in the Bible, and believe and *receive Him, we are, at that moment, born again and become God's children* (John 1:12) and have everlasting life as God has promised. (3:16.) *Salvation is God's gift to those who believe and repent and put their trust in Him and the Gospel of Christ, which is a message of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, according to the scriptures,* just as 1 Cor. 15:1-4 declares. Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection were foretold in the Scriptures, in the Old Testament. We are commanded to *test and prove all things by the scriptures.* (1 Thess. 5:21; 1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:16.) If someone comes and presents us a *different Jesus,* Jesus who is not Almighty God (Rev. 1:8), but is either *an angel* as Jehovah's Witnesses teach, or *"a spirit brother of mankind and angels"* that Mormonism says He is and offer a *different gospel* (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15; Gal. 1:8-9; 1 Cor. 15:1-4) we must reject it and show them what the Bible teaches who He is and what the gospel is, all "according to the Scriptures". Since salvation is *the Gift of God,* it is free and it cannot be paid for. If we think that we must do good works to pay for it - it would cease to be a gift and are thus rejected by God. (Eph. 2:8-9-10.) Eph. 2:10 tells us that God has beforehand prepared good works for us to do – but not for our salvation but as witness of our belief in Him. As we continue talking about Jesus, we may also ask *what they think that Jesus meant when He said that He alone is the Way, the Truth and the Life – and that without Him no one can come to the Father, i.e. go to heaven?* (John 14:6.) He meant exactly what He said – there is no other way; our good deeds nor a church that we belong to cannot save us or add anything to our salvation, only Jesus, who is God (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1-3, 14; Mark 2:7) *can forgive sins* and save us by His grace through our faith in Him. We must believe in Jesus who is God, for no other "Jesus" can save. Jesus said that He alone came from above and unless we believe that He is I AM (God), we will die in our sins. (John 8:23-24.) He died for our sins and paid for them all. Only God can forgive sins. (Mark 2:7b.) If our sins are not forgiven, we will die in our sins and will not go to heaven. "Hard times are often God's way to shake us up and cause us to rethink what is most important for each of us. To us it is the Lord and His gospel. Even the longest earthly lives are actually very short when we stop and think about eternity. God created us in His image, which is Spirit. And man *became a living soul* that never dies. (Gen. 2:7.) Only our bodies die and are buried, but our spirit and soul will live forever. Think about Eternity! We do not know when each one of us is going to die, and as we grow older, that day is getting closer and closer. "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after that the judgment." (Hebr. 9:27.)

It is God-given responsibility of each one of us to make sure we know where we will live for eternity. Most of us plan carefully where we are going to spend our 1-2 week vacation. Here we are talking about eternity, never ending life! To those of us who know *how to get to heaven,* it is our responsibility for our family and friends to let them know *how they too can be saved.* God does not have grandchildren. The Bible tells us that each person individually must choose God and believe in Jesus who loves us and by His death paid our sin-debt. When we receive Him, we will BECOME His children. (John 1:12-13.) He has already prepared a place for us to go when we leave this life, and be with Him forever. (John 14:1-3.) He has given us in His Word all the information we need. But *"we must choose today"* for we do not know if we even have tomorrow! Hebr. 3:7-15 reminds us of Israel and how God had rescued them from Egyptian slavery and belief in false gods, but when they were entering into the Promised Land, Joshua told them that *they must choose whom they will serve,* and he assured them that regardless of their choice, *he and his house will serve the Lord.* (Joshua 24:14-15.)

1/3 of the Bible is prophecies, some of them yet unfilled. God has given us information through His prophets of what He is going to do before it happens to eliminate fear from our hearts (2 Tim. 1:7) saying that we can know with surety that it is God who has declared it to us (Isa. 46:9-10; 48:5) and that we can place our trust in Him.

Jesus' disciples asked Him, *"Tell us, when will these things be? And what are the signs of your coming, and the end of the age? And Jesus answered and said to them: Take heed that no one deceives you..."* (Matt. 24:3-4.) He took them through many OT Scriptures that inform what is coming, and giving warning of what will take place even in our day, before the Great Tribulation and horribleness during it. (Matt. 24:21.) Our problem seems to be the same as was the Pharisees' Jesus was talking to when they were *asking for signs* (Matt. 16:3-4) - they obviously did not know the Scriptures either.

Some Christians say that *the Old Testament is not for us,* for it is just *"history of Israel from a long time before Christ".* Not so! We read in the NT that when Jesus sent His apostles to share the Gospel, and make disciples of all nations, they taught about Jesus from the Scriptures (from the Old Testament), proving that Jesus is the Promised Messiah of Israel and the world, and that He will come again.

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures”. Paul was saying that he himself had also *received and learned this from the Scriptures.* (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) *The only Scriptures* they had was the Old Testament.

When Paul taught about the Rapture and what will take place after it, he reminded believing Thessalonians that they already knew what is coming and that *he doesn't need to write to them about that again.* (1 Thess. 5:1-4, 9-11.) Perhaps the biggest reason why people today make mistakes and join cults and *accept false Christs and another gospels* is that *they have not studied the Old Testament that gives absolute proof who the true Jesus is and why God sent Him as the Redeemer of Israel and the whole world.*

If people had learned and known the true Jesus from the Word of God, even verified by the Old Testament, they would not be converted to false Christs and other gospels! God had warned: *“My people are destroyed for the lack of knowledge.”* (Hosea 4:6.) Isaiah also warned about false teachers and prophets, saying, *“For the leaders of this people cause them to err, and those who are led by them are destroyed.”* (Isa. 9:15b-16.) False teachings lead persons to a confused life, and without finding the Truth and *“coming out from among them”*, to eventual destruction.

“In the Old Testament the New Testament is concealed. In the New Testament the Old Testament is revealed.”

Jesus is the promised King of Israel and the Savior of the World (John 3:16) who came and was rejected, but He promised to come again and fulfill and *restore all things* that were lost because of sin.

If we study the Scriptures from Genesis through Revelation, book-by-book, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, we *will know the truth and the Truth will set us free.* (John 8:31-32.)

Paul wrote to Timothy, *“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; 3:16 KJV.)

[We will be ashamed if we in ignorance accept *another Jesus* and *another gospel*. I speak from my personal experience. I had done that and when I found out the truth, I indeed was ashamed. Paul was also talking about his own errors he had made *“in ignorance”*— see 1 Tim. 1:12-13! God is forgiving God. He knows the end from beginning and prepares work for us to do for Him after we are converted. Eph. 2:8-10.]

The New Testament begins with the Gospel of Matthew, who, from the Old Testament records, is giving a pedigree of Jesus, proving that Jesus, through His stepfather Joseph, has rights to the *Throne of David*. The Gospel of Luke gives the proof of Jesus' *bloodline* to King David through His mother Mary, (Luke 3:23-38). God had promised that *“He will reign over the house of Jacob (Israel) forever and of His kingdom there will be no end.”* (Luke 1:32-33; 2 Sam. 7:12-13, 16.) Jesus did not reign over the House of Israel nor was He sitting on the Throne of David during His earthly life, but from the Scriptures we know that when *He is coming again He will reign as “the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords”* from Jerusalem during the Millennial Kingdom, and after that *forever.*

Dennis and I have studied the Bible, book-by-book, verse-by-verse since the early 1980's. We became very soon convicted of how important the Old Testament studies really are for all Christians as well as for the Jews.

Dennis had been a Mormon all 40 years his life without ever knowing what we were now learning. I had fallen for Mormonism because I didn't know the Bible. It became so wonderfully clear while we were studying especially what Luke wrote about how *Jesus Himself led an “Old Testament”-study from the Scriptures* to two of His followers who were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus. (That was 3 days after Jesus was crucified!) They didn't recognize Jesus then and during their conversation they sorrowfully expressed that Jesus may not have been who they had thought that He was. (Luke 24:13-24.) Jesus said to them, *“O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe ALL that the prophets have spoken... and the beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”* *“... He opened their understanding that they might comprehend the Scriptures”, saying that “all must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning of Me.”* (See Luke 24:13-35, 44-45.)

Paul also in Romans 15:4, reminded all believers in Christ of the importance of the Old Testament, saying *“whatever things were written were written for our learning that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”* When Paul wrote about the coming Rapture, he obviously was referring to Scriptures, saying, *“I do not want you to be ignorant... as others who do not have hope”.* (1 Thess. 4:13-18.) *He also was saying that we who have hope and know what is coming, must comfort one another with these words”.* Our living hope is in the Living Word of God. *“Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”* (Luke 21:28.) If we abide in Jesus and in His Word, we will bear fruit by bringing others to know Him while we still

have time. Jesus said, ***"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."*** (John 15:4-5.) There is no fruit without life. There are no *fruit factories* anywhere – only real *life in Christ* can produce *fruit of the Spirit*. (Gal. 5:22-25.) If we have studied His Word and continue in it, *He will remind us of His teachings through the Holy Spirit* as He promised in John 14:26. If we have never studied His Word and learned about what is written, how can He remind us?

It is no wonder that there are Christians who are not seeing a need to study the Bible, especially the Old Testament, for I recall mentioning to a pastor of a relatively large church here in Utah about importance of prophecies and teachings of the *"church age"* and coming end times taught in the Book of Revelation, who said that he was not in favor of spending much time studying prophecies nor the Book of Revelation. It was surprising to me for there are many scriptures that command us to study the Word of God, not just *"here and there"* but all of it. (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16-17; Rom. 10:17; 15:4.) God has even promised special blessings to those who study the Lord's Book of Revelation that He Himself revealed to His beloved apostle, John, saying, ***"Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near."*** (Rev. 1:1-3.)

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Received from an LDS person: *"You must stop telling people that Jesus is God who became a man. He is not God but the eldest of the sons of God who was chosen in the preexistence to redeem mankind from Adam's transgression that caused death to all men. Jesus Himself denied that He is God. See Mark 10:18 *"And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is God."* Don't you see, Jesus said that He was not God, but only that he became a god by being obedient in all things and atoning Adam's transgression that had brought death to all men. He made the atonement of Adam's sin in the Garden of Gethsemane where he bled from every pore in his body. (Luke 22:44.)"*

My answer: Jesus didn't say that He is not God! Jesus said that men are not good, only God is good. The fact that Jesus is God is declared throughout the Scriptures. (See Matt. 1:23; John 1, 1-3,14; 8:24, 58; 10:30; 11:25; Phil 2:6; Titus 2:13; Hebr. 1:8; Rev. 1:8 etc.) This young man had asked Jesus, ***"Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"*** Jesus response was to a title that this man gave, ***"Good Master"*** (or teacher). Obviously this young man believed that by *obedience to the Law and being/doing good* is how one can inherit the kingdom of God. Jesus emphasized to him that *not all teachers are good, only God is good*, and He then tested this young man's knowledge of the Law of God. Jesus quoted to him five of the Ten Commandments that deal with our relationship with our fellow man: ***do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not bear false witness, honor your father and mother.*** To these he answered, ***"Master, all these I have observed from my youth."*** Jesus looking at him, loved him, and said to him ***"One thing you lack; go and sell whatsoever you have and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven: and come, and take up the cross and follow Me. And he was sad at that saying and went away grieved for he had great possessions."*** (Mark 10: 19-22.) Jesus was not saying that by selling all and giving all to the poor would allow him to inherit heaven. This man's response has already showed that he had not really kept all the commandments as he said he had. Jesus, knowing man's heart knew that *he did not love his neighbor as himself* for he loved his possessions more and would not want to separate from it for the sake of the poor. Keeping the Law of God does not save anyone. It only shows what God's standard is. That is why God had to become a man and die for us, for *no one is able to keep the whole law for the law itself is spiritual*, as Jesus had taught before, saying that if we even hate someone, it is same as murder, if we envy and want something someone else has, it is same as stealing etc. all we lack is an opportunity. James wrote that even if we think we are keeping the whole law, but ***yet stumble in one point, we are guilty of them all.*** (James 2:10.) We have to come to God as repentant sinners needing His gift of grace. (Eph. 2:8-9.) Keeping commandments or doing *"good works"* will not save us – ***only Jesus, who is God, can save us if we come to Him in repentance and with a changed heart.*** (Eph. 2:8-10). Our heart, without God changing it, is ***"deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. Who can know it?"*** (Jer.17:9.)

I have very good news: During the month of September I had both of my eyes operated on and cataracts from them removed, two weeks apart. My long distance vision is now 20/20, and I only need reading glasses. I praise the Lord for this. I only had to use three different prescription eye-drops in my eyes; 3 days before surgeries and 3 weeks after each operation. I just finished medicating my right eye and have only 2 more weeks to do the same for my left eye. ☺ This was amazingly easy and fast. I only had two days off from ministry work after each operation when I could not do much, for I was not permitted to read during those days. I now use *non-prescription 1.5-reading classes* when I work at the computer when I am writing our newsletter and/or answering questions related to Mormonism and the Bible. In a

month my eye-surgeon will evaluate what kind of reading glasses I may still need after my eyes are completely healed. I am so blessed! God is so good. He has blessed both of us so very much! Dennis works still 5 days a week doing custom wood-work that he enjoys, and also ministry work that we do together during the weekends. This year we have not taken any camping vacations that we normally have done between May and September, mainly because of my back pain that is now bearable and perhaps as good as it will be. I am not complaining. Dennis has been well too.

The world is falling apart everywhere because of sin and ungodliness. But perhaps because of that, many more people are now seeking the Lord and answers that only God's Word can give. We are happy to see that many, one-by-one, are finding Him and we so are blessed when we can take part in their transformation in becoming children of God.

The Bible teaches that if we are "about the Father's business", sharing Christ and teaching how to be saved and forgiven, He will be about "our business" and takes care of us. **We are very thankful to our dear partners in this ministry who have made sure that we have what we need to keep on ministering in this calling that God gave to us so long ago. We are asking the Lord to meet their and their families' needs, whatever they may be, and give them desires of their hearts (Ps. 37: 1-7) for their faithfulness to the Lord and to us too.**

We are praying and ask you to pray with us for Judy's health and her daughter's salvation and eye-sight and for her little grandson. We are praying for Al's continued healing and Sandy's strength as she takes care of him. We ask prayer also for our friends, Mark and Virve in France, and that they will grow in the Lord *who has begun a good work in them, and that He will complete it until the Day of Jesus Christ.* (Phil. 1:3-6.) We ask that you pray also for various health issues of Dwayne, Richard, Aira, Heber, Marlene, Sharon, Yandel, Helen, Mary, Tom and Rich.

We are praying and ask that you also **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem** (Ps. 122:6) and pray also for our country and our President, and for soon coming election that the will of the Lord will prevail. We must prayerfully consider electing leaders who want to protect the unborn and otherwise also want to do what is right and the very best for our country. **We pray for the rights of the unborn and all those who cannot defend themselves.** (Prov. 31:8.) Our hearts are broken for their silent cries as they are forsaken. We, as a country have allowed and many still allow violence towards children, born or unborn. We will have to answer to God about all that one day for He will not to be mocked. Every life is given by God, and He will be the Judge of those who do this evil.

God bless you and keep you.

In His Love,

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What is democracy? It is like two wolves and a lamb voting what to have for lunch. Who wins? Majority! ☺

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