



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

May 1, 2022

H.I.S. Ministries May 2022 Newsletter, covering April 2022

Happy May-day (Hauskaa Vappua)! Spring is coming! Hurray!!! I love spring – it promises new life, fresh start, “green everything”, colorful flowers – and camping vacations and needed rest in God’s beautiful nature.

This is such a lovely time of the year to enjoy life. We see nature waking up from six months of quiet rest under a white blanket of snow. Every year this awakening seems to happen almost “over-night”. All that is needed is couple of days of rain (even snow will do), and a few days of sunshine, and here it is – leaves just popped out on the trees, tulips and pansies open this colorful show and declare that more tender flowers will follow soon. Even “spring-cleaning”, both indoors and outside, is inviting and energizing! **We wish you a very Happy Spring!**

For the last almost three years it’s been like all people were “sleep-walking” – not fully awake, not excited about life, lacking desire to do much at all. The last 2-3 summers it has been like “no use to make plans to go camping – we cannot go anyway”. All we were hearing was more bad news about Corona19, lockdowns, “vaccines”, face-masks, distancing from all people, illness and death. It still may be hard to reverse everything back to “normal” and live as we used to live, but now there is hope... Our camping trips may have to be shorter, but at least we can make plans to go. Our camp-trailer has stayed covered since fall of 2019! We plan to uncover it this month and hope to find everything in working order so that we can take a little trip - perhaps soon.

=====
Passover/Easter and joyful celebration of **our Lord’s Resurrection** is behind us now and we have been, since that day (April 17), counting days (fifty) from **Resurrection to Pentecost, the Birth-Day of the Church**, which this year will be June 5th. [We will be focusing on Pentecost in our June Newsletter.] **It is going to be a great Day to celebrate the Holy Spirit’s coming to indwell all believers in Christ, just as He promised.** (John 14:16-18, 26; Acts 2:1-4.)

During the last few months we have written a lot (enough, we thought) about **The Chosen, the video-series** about the life of Jesus Christ. We have received much “back-and-forth” opinions about the issues connected to this film. What was made known is that **The Chosen-videos were filmed on “Mormon turf” where other Mormon- films are also made.** That alone creates questions to non-LDS, adding to these questions was that these videos were produced by LDS owned **VIDANGEL studios** and that most of the actors were also Mormons. However they have said that because the script was written by *an evangelical Christian screenwriter, that should have made it acceptable to all.* They have also declared that these videos have no mention of anything referring to Mormonism, and that the films *present the very same Jesus of the New Testament as is believed by Christians!* They also say: “There is only one Jesus!”

It is true that there is only one true Jesus, but there are many counterfeit Jesus’. (2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15; Matt. 24: 4-5, 24.) [April 1, 2022 Jan Markell’s *olivetreeviews.org* presented 2-part program, “Days Of Deception”. Jill Martin-Riche was interviewed during the second half of that program about **The Chosen video series.** She handled it excellently. (Jill is the daughter of the late Dr. Walter Martin, a well-known critic of Mormonism.) You can view this interview by going to: [rumble.com/vz9hwf-days-of-deception-pastor-billy-crone-and-jill-martin-riche.html](https://www.rumble.com/vz9hwf-days-of-deception-pastor-billy-crone-and-jill-martin-riche.html)]

When we are asked questions/opinions how to define Jesus of the Bible, *who He is*, it is important to ask first what those asking already know or think of Jesus. *Whose Son is He?* Jesus asked these questions of His close

disciples, who had known Him and been with Him for 3 years. (Matt. 16:15.) If they needed to be asked, then it is a very important that we ask these questions too. Especially from *Mormons who say that they believe in the same Jesus as Christians, and yet it is known that there are huge differences in His identity.* Knowing the real Jesus determines where we will spend eternity. Jesus said, ***"I AM the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh to the Father, but by Me."*** (John 14:6.) Biblical Christianity teaches and believes that Jesus is Eternal God who became a man to die for us. (John 1:1, 14; 3:16; Matt. 1:23; Phil. 2:5-8; Ps. 90:2.) Jesus prayed to the Father for us all, saying, ***"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent."*** (John 17:3.) We have received different answers when we have asked who Jesus is. For example, *Jehovah's Witnesses say that Jesus is Michael the Archangel. Mormons say that Jesus is their elder spirit brother from the pre-existence, and brother of all angels, including Lucifer.* Some LDS say that even though Jesus was not God, He later became a god, as all temple-faithful Mormons can also become. Though we personally have not had an opportunity to ask that question from Muslims, some others have, and have received an answer that ***in Islam they too know about Jesus, but they call Him "Isa", and say that Isa was a prophet of Allah, not the son of God, for Allah does not have a son (so says Koran).***

Therefore the "Jesus" of Mormons, JW's or Muslims is not the same Jesus that the Bible teaches about and all true Christians believe in. The fact is that these religions believe in "another Jesus". (2 Cor. 11:4.)

Just having some "factual knowledge" about Jesus is not the same as ***knowing Him personally.*** Jesus said, ***"Many will say to me in that day (the judgment day), Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name? And then will I declare to them, I NEVER KNEW YOU: depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"*** (Matt. 7:22-23. NKJV.)

Our eternal life depends on making sure we know the real Jesus! (John 14:6.)

The Bible gives strong warnings about false prophets. Isaiah 8:20; 9:15b-16 says, ***"...if they do not speak according to this (God's) word, it is because there is no light in them...the prophet that teaches lies, he is the tail. For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led by them are destroyed." False teachings are like tails of scorpions*** (Rev. 9:10) – they hurt and poison, and ultimately lead people to destruction unless they repent and turn to the true God of the Bible and be saved.

We have witnessed often that *reasoning together* with Mormons (Isa. 1:18) and taking part of *fearless investigation of facts with them* is according to God's will and saves them from shame and brings change. (2 Tim. 2:15.) Studying the Bible seriously will bring them to the Truth. ***Jesus is he Truth and He is the way to eternal life with God.*** (John 14:6; 17:3, 17.)

As strange as it may sound, many, if not most active LDS people, fear finding out that if Mormonism was not true, it would disturb their lives they now live - under bondage of the LDS Church and their prophets.

The fear of truth is a very powerful tool of the enemy of our souls who is the one who brings false prophets to mislead people away from the true God. (2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15.) We need to remind them that, ***"God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."*** (2 Tim. 1:7.) Fear is the devil's tool.

We are commanded in the Word of God to ***"be strong and courageous"*** and ***"cleave unto the LORD your God"***. (Joshua 1:7; 32:6-8.) Peter, in his Second letter, 2:1-2, reminded and warned, ***"... there were false prophets also among the people. Even as there shall be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed."***

[From this you see that ***there were false prophets in the past*** and that ***there will be also false teachers and "prophets" in the future***, but the ***role and office of God's prophets*** (as in Old Testament times) ended with John the Baptist who was the one who came to prepare the way for the Lord Jesus. (Matt. 11:13; Luke 16:16; Hebr. 1:1-2.)] ***"Prophets"*** in our New Testament text refer to ***Spirit filled teachers*** who are ***inspired by God to understand and explain the Old Testament teachings for us.*** I.e. they are not ***"foretellers"*** but ***teachers sent by God.*** ***False teachers, some claiming to be prophets, bring "damnable heresies"***. (1 Thess. 5:21; Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21.) We need to notice also that ***giving Jesus a different identity*** than what is declared in

the Bible is the same as **“denying the Lord”**. (2 Pet. 2:1.) *(They deny that Jesus is God Almighty.)* (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14, 8:23-24; Rev. 1:8.) *To the Mormons Jesus is not God who became a man to save us, but a created being, a man, who later became a god as Mormon men can also become.* They say that Jesus is the elder brother of all mankind and angels, including Lucifer.

We are told by Peter (2 Pet. 2:2) that false **“prophets”** and false teachers **“speak evil of the way of truth”**, and that they disregard **Bible doctrine and the way of righteousness**. (2 Tim. 3:16.) God has given us His Word, the Bible, so that we can TEST by it those “who say they are apostles, but are not.” (Rev. 2:2; Deut. 18:20-22; 13:1-5; 1 Thess. 5:21; John 17:17.)

Mormons assure us that it was **the spirit that testified to them that the Book of Mormon is true, and that Joseph Smith is the prophet, etc.** Therefore it had to have been a “different spirit” that is also warned about in 2 Cor. 11: 4, for the Spirit of God would not testify of a book like the BoM, “another Jesus” or a “different gospel”.

The apostle John instructed that we must **test the spirits before believing anything that is claimed as God’s truth**. He wrote: **“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone into the world.”** (1 John 4:1.) Apostle Paul likewise warned young Timothy about this, saying, **“Now the Spirit [the Holy Spirit] expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with hot iron...”** (1 Tim. 4:1-2.) Note that Paul didn’t say that all will depart, but that **“some will depart” from God’s truth and listen to these false teachers who claim to be true prophets, enticing people into believing “doctrines of devils/demons” such as men can become gods.** This very doctrine was started by the Devil himself in the Garden of Eden. (Gen. 3:1-5.) It was the Devil that enticed Adam and Eve, our first parents, **to question God’s spoken word, and when he accomplished that, he tempted them further into a desire of godhood, which was his own ambition.** (See Isa. 14:12-14.) He still uses the same method, causing people to doubt the Bible, the Word of God, and if he succeeds in that, then he leads them away from truth to “doctrines of devils”. He obviously succeeded well with Joseph Smith, who soon produced “additional scriptures”, the BoM, D&C, POGP, saying that God was once a mortal man and a promise of godhood, adding polygamy (D&C 132), priesthoods, eternal marriage and temple work for the dead etc. to his “gospel”.

All that the Bible says has happened or will happen, in its time, proving that the Bible is God-breathed Word, and that it is 100% correct and “profitable for doctrine, reproof, for correction, for instruction...” (2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Pet. 1:21; John 5:39.) **In the case of Mormonism, IF ONLY people from 1830 on, who were attracted to Mormonism, had been students of the Bible, as were the Bereans, talked about in Act 17:11, and had been willing to test Joseph Smith’s teachings by the Bible, there would not have even been the Mormon Church. And if the Mormons in our day would agree to test teachings of their church by the Bible, they would soon separate themselves from it, and if all who receive Mormon missionaries for “discussions on Mormonism” would compare what they teach about God, Jesus and salvation to what the Bible teaches, they, instead of converting to Mormonism, would convert Mormon missionaries to Jesus of the Bible and thus end the growth of Mormonism.** The Bible presents warnings from Genesis through Revelation about spiritual deception. Just days before being crucified, Jesus’ disciples asked Him **what would be the sign of His coming back again.** He said... **“Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying “I am Christ (or represent Christ), and deceive many... many false prophets will rise and [they] deceive many...”** (Matt. 24:4-5, 11, 24.) Jesus warned, **“Be aware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves. You will know them by their fruits.”** (Matt. 7:15-16.) False prophets may look like us, the regular **“sheep”**, but their **“inward purpose”** is to lead us away **from the true God into the worship of false gods; for their plan is to destroy our eternal lives.** But as Jesus said, **we can know them by their fruits.** We ought to be **“fruit inspectors”**, inspecting the **“fruit” of someone like Joseph**

Smith, who claimed to be a “prophet of God”. [Our job is to find out what they teach, and whom they serve!] Joseph Smith led his followers after other gods (Deut. 13:1-5) teaching that God is a former mortal man, who had “progressed into a God”. By this he revealed that his god is not eternal God of the Bible (Ps. 90:2; Isa. 43:10). The second prophet of the Mormon Church, Brigham Young, said that this god [taught about by Joseph Smith] is actually Adam, “...the only God with whom we have to do.” (JoD 1:50-51.) Sadly most Mormons are too afraid to test Mormonism, but Mormons who actually have dared to test LDS teachings, have left the entire Mormon-system, as we and many others have done. **To biblical illiterates, as we were then, false prophets may seem sincere and believable. Without knowing the Truth, people are able to believe just about anything that sounds or feels good. “Ignorance indeed is bliss”. To discover counterfeit prophets and their false doctrines requires a serious study of the true doctrine that is found in God’s Word, the Bible. (2 Tim. 3:16.) **We must start our testing from the beginning and first find out who the True God is. God of the Bible is eternal Triune God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Ps. 90:2.) Jesus said, “God is Spirit”. (John 4:24.) Jesus, the Second Person of the Triune God, is called the Son of God, born of a woman, begotten by the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 1:18-23; Col. 1:15-16; 2:9.) But Mormons are taught that their Father God is a former mortal man, thus not eternal God. (Ps. 90:2.) (See Mormon Doctrine, under “God of Gods”, p. 322, and under “Plurality of Gods”, p. 576.) Thus God of Mormonism is a false god, and Jesus of Mormonism is likewise false, a counterfeit, not the Son of God of the Bible who was begotten by the Holy Spirit. We learn from their own words that *Jesus of Mormonism was begotten by their exalted, “...Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by their mortal fathers”.* (Mormon Doctrine, p. 547, see under “Only Begotten Son”.) We must similarly examine all their teachings by comparing them to what the Bible says. However, we need to understand that the reason why many Mormons have difficulty in trusting the Bible is that their *living prophets* have told them that THEY, the prophets, are more important than the Scriptures. Ezra Taft Benson (LDS president in the 1980’s) defined what “*living prophet*” has to mean to the members of the LDS Church. He said, “*The living prophet is more vital to us than Standard Works (i.e. Scriptures). The living prophet is more important than a dead prophet. The prophet is the only man who speaks for the Lord in everything. The prophet and his counselors make up the First Presidency, the highest quorum in the Church... follow them and be blessed, reject them and suffer.*” (Quoted from “*Fourteen fundamentals in following the Prophet*” by Ezra Taft Benson.)****

We must not get confused when talking with Mormons, for they like most of the other cultists, use biblical words and terms, but they have given them **their own definition or meaning based on Mormon doctrine and their own dictionaries.** This is one of the reasons **why anyone who is not sure what the Bible teaches should not allow their missionaries into their homes to teach them doctrines that are not found in the God’s Word, the Bible.** Apostle John made it clear, when he forbid that by saying, “**If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him, for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.**” (2 John 10-11.) But if you consider that you know well enough what the Bible teaches, and regardless of John’s warning, want to invite them into your home, **you should define terms and in each case ask what they mean** when they use words as “*God the Father*”, “*Jesus Christ*”, “*salvation*”, “*gospel*”, “*prophet*”, “*apostles*”, “*scriptures*”, “*priesthood*”, “*authority*”, “*kingdom on earth*”, “*heavenly kingdom(s)*”, “*born again*”. Also you need to keep in mind that **Mormons believe doctrines of Mormonism**, including belief in “*another Jesus*”, “*another gospel*” (2 Cor. 11:4) all very different than what the Bible says. For example, what “*the Gospel*” is to an LDS person is declared in their **3rd Article of Faith**. Though it first acknowledges the Atonement of Christ, it adds, “**all mankind may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.**” There are “**no laws or ordinances**” in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. ***Salvation is the Gift of God, and not of or by works of any kind.*** (Eph. 2:8-9.) ***Paul declares what the Gospel is in 1 Cor. 15:1-4, and says that it is the message of what Christ Jesus did for us, and when we believe it, we are saved.*** Also, if you ask a Mormon, “*Have you been born again?*” He would say, “*Yes, I was baptized*”.

Biblically baptism has nothing to do with a new birth – it is only identification with Jesus, and an acknowledgement of what He did so that we can be saved, as declared in the Gospel. (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) **To be a born again Christian means that he has repented** (Matt. 4:17; Mark6:12; Luke 13:4) **and received the true Jesus of the Bible as his Lord and Savior, that he believes the Gospel and has become a child of God, in that instant.** (John 1:12-13.)

You can see that we cannot have a meaningful discussion with an LDS person (or other cultists) without understanding what the words they say or terms they use mean to them. Just by asking a definition to what they believe on each subject matter you are addressing, their answers make it evident that their “gospel” is “another”, and what they believe does not come from the Bible.

From our mailbox: A Mormon man wrote: *“I came across your website and thought it was interesting reading, but pretty much like all old anti-Mormon rhetoric, I am a lifelong member of the Church of JESUS CHRIST of Latter-day Saints, and I have held many important callings in the Church. I love to be a member of the true Church and I enjoy living the Gospel in its fullness. I have many non-LDS friends who do not consider me to be a Christian even though I consider them to be. I know that the Savior knows that I believe in him and follow him to the best of my ability. You say that the Book of Mormon is not true, but I know that it is and that it contains the fullness of the Gospel.”*

My reply: I understand. I used to be LDS too until I finally studied the LDS Church history and compared Mormon doctrines to the Bible. Then my eyes were opened and I was able to “come out from among them” as Paul said we need to do (2 Cor. 6:17), *repent and be born again.* (John 3:3,7; Eph. 2:8-9.) Then we will become part of the *real church* (Col. 1:18, 24) which is not an organization, but the *body of believers in true Christ.* The reason why your non-LDS friends do not take you as a Christian is the fact that Mormon are not Christians, for they do not believe in God of the Bible nor in Jesus of the Bible, God’s only Son. **One has to know the real Jesus Christ to become a Christian.** Mormon-beliefs separate them from Christianity. You say that you believe that the Book of Mormon is true. I used to believe it too, for I converted to Mormonism on the basis of the BoM, not knowing then that actual *Mormon doctrines* are not found in the BoM, it only says as you say that *it contains the “fullness of the gospel”* (D&C 20:9). As I was actively living my *Mormon life*, **I realized that the BoM did not actually teach any of the mandatory LDS doctrines that Mormons are told they must be obey in order to get to the celestial kingdom and exaltation there. I started to ask questions from the high leaders of the Church what “the fullness of the gospel” actually meant. Joseph Fielding Smith (the 10th president of the Church) pointed me to his books, *Doctrines of Salvation*, vol. 1, p. 160. It answered my questions by saying, “By fullness of the gospel is meant all the ordinances and principals that pertain to the exaltation in the celestial kingdom...”** If the Book of Mormon is true (which I now know **that it is not**) and **if it contains (teaches) all necessary ordinances and principals pertaining to salvation**, then all today’s **Mormon Church’s required temple work, ordinances, endowments, temple marriage, work of the dead and sealings**, etc., that are not even mentioned in the Book of Mormon, **is just unnecessary busywork.** If all that is needed is the Book of Mormon and what it teaches, why are all these other things required? You ought to check this out. The Bible says, **“Today is the day of salvation”**. Do not harden your heart against God and His truth. If you really are sure that Mormonism is true, then there could be no reasons to hesitate testing it, for *Truth will always be the Truth.* I have found that many Mormons fear to find out what it is, and even think that it is *better not to know*, and then say on the judgment day – *I didn’t know that. That would not be an acceptable excuse!* There are no second chances after death. (See Luke 16:19031; Hebr. 9:27.) Please write again, and “let us reason together” (Isa. 1:18.)

Another LDS question: *“How do you explain all the good fruit that comes from Mormonism? And how could the Mormon Church be the fastest growing religion if it was not true?”*

My reply: The “fruit” of a prophet is his teaching. We, as believers in Jesus Christ our Lord, are called to be *fruit inspectors*. The Bible commands: **“Prove all things.”** (1 Thess. 5:21.) Test all things, even spirits and feelings. (See 1 John 4:1; also 1 Tim. 4:1.) Jesus said, **“Be aware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. You will know them by their fruits.”** (Matt. 7:15-16.) He was saying that “wolves” are the enemy. They kill their prey. **False teachings about God, Jesus and salvation lead their followers to eternal death.** Comparing teachings of Mormonism to what God’s Word says, you can discover that **Joseph Smith’s teachings are wrong and against to God’s Word, the Bible, and thus deadly. Be aware!**

Mormonism is not the fastest growing religion. Islam is. There are about 1.6 BILLION Muslims, and about 1.2 BILLION Roman Catholics in the world. If numbers were to prove the truth, those 2 religions would win. LDS membership is only a fraction of 1% compared to Islam and RC Church. Besides, numbers do not prove the truth – they only prove that there are many foolish people who are willing to follow even **the lie**, or anything that sounds or feels good, but have not been willing to study and test to find out what is true. What does God say about that? **“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”** (Matt. 7:13-15.) I hope this answered you questions.

We want to thank you, our friends and supporters of our little ministry, and for your continued prayers for us. That means more to us than words can express. We know that it is the Lord who inspires you to do what you do for us, and we thank Him daily for that. We also pray every day for every one of you asking that whatever your concerns or needs are, that they be met and that you and your family are happy in the Lord who will soon come to take us all to be with Him (John 14:1-3). **“...and thus we shall always be with the Lord”.** Our future **“heavenly retirement”** will be **“out of this world wonderful”**, **but now we must work hard** - with joy and trust in Him that He is directing our thoughts and deeds until we hear the trumpet and His voice calling us by name. **Hallelujah!**

Please pray for names we list below. We are sure that Lord knows what ails or troubles each one these and He will be with them, take care of their trials - all according to His will.(1 John 5:14-15.) Please pray for Judy, Jamie, Janet, Marlene, Sandy, Al, Emily, Suzi, Aira, Heber, Richard, Mark, Virve, Bruce, Kaylee, Mary, Eeva-Liisa, Mika, Bonnie and Paul. (Bonnie is a former LDS and a Christian, but Paul is still LDS.) Please pray for our friends in Australia, and we ask that you’d pray for our LDS family and friends. We’d like to have opportunities to get together with them again to share Christ and what Eternity means with them.

If any of you want to make comments, corrections or give suggestions for improvement, please write or call. We are just trying to help you who, like us, are concerned about our lost friends and relatives and would love to have them saved and eventually join us in the Millennial Kingdom, and for eternity with God in the New Jerusalem. Let’s pray for the peace of Jerusalem, Israel. (Ps. 122:6.)

“Hoping that we’ll see you soon, here, there or in the air...” 😊

With the Love of Christ,
Rauni & Dennis Higley
2890 E. Willow Bend Dr., Sandy, UT 84093
(Website: www.hismin.com – Email: hismin@xmission.com – Phone: 801.943-5011)

[H.I.S. Ministries is IRS approved 501 © (3) Ministry. Your gifts to this ministry are 100% tax deductible. We give books, Bibles, CDs and DVDs, etc. free of any charge to all LDS people asking for them. We have, from the beginning, operated on belief that God will provide as we seek to do His will. We do not make appeals for financial help, although we operate our ministry primarily on freewill donations, trusting that the Lord will direct His own to give so that we will be able to do our work. We thank all of you who pray for us and partner with us in this ministry, and we ask God’s blessings for you. Our Postal address is: 2890 E. Willow Bend Dr., Sandy, Utah, 84093. We have a PayPal account for donations on our website, www.hismin.com]
