



November 1, 2022

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

H.I.s. Ministries November Newsletter, covering October 2022

This fall has been unusually warm – temperature was in the 80’s till the middle of October, but then suddenly it was over, just lots of wind, and real winter in the Mountains. It has been snowing some in the valleys, but trees are still hanging on to their leaves, and they might have to be left buried under the snow this year... ☹️ Mountains have received over 2-3 feet of snow and skiers are excited about the possibility of having 6-7 months of *fun in the snow*. We are glad for the snow, for water is needed in this desert land. 😊

Utah is the leading state among all 50 states in its focus on **Halloween**, known also as **“the devil’s holiday”** that is celebrated with scary decorations around homes and businesses, displaying *witches and warlocks, tombstones, demons and ghosts, and horrifying images of dead, skulls and bones*, and this year even 10-12 ft. tall *“screaming skeletons”* to scare *“passer byers”*. This is *“sort-of-fitting”* for Utah for Mormons’ focus is on *“the work for the dead”*. [We have written about Halloween many times in the past in our fall Newsletters, just to educate and also warn about *dark-spiritual* dangers.] **God’s Word warns about these things**, saying, **“Abstain from every form of evil.”** (1 Thess. 5:22.) **“Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil is not of God.”** (3 John 1:11.)

There is an updated Google report about **“Halloween, Pagan Holiday”**, of October 5, 2022. **You may read it at:** <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/samhain>

Utah is known as **the Mormon state** and Mormons’ most *sacred doctrine and practice* is **“the work for the dead”**. That work is done in their *“holy temples”* that are built so that qualified members can go there **“as mediums through which the living can hear from the dead”**. (See *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 2:44-46.)

God of the Bible sternly forbids any attempts to contact the dead, which is called “necromancy”. The Bible says that it is an **abomination in His sight**. (Deut. 18:10-12.) However, Mormons **“brag”** that **their plan of salvation is the best, for it is offered to all people, both living and the dead**. They ask us, **“What do you say about those who had never heard about the gospel of Jesus Christ before they died? How can they get saved since they never even heard of the gospel? What can Christians say about that? Nothing at all! But the Mormon Church has an answer to it: The work for the dead. Therefore if they had not heard the gospel during this life, Mormons who have died, are sent to the Spirit World to preach the LDS gospel there, and if the dead accept it, then the living Mormons will do their genealogy and temple work here on the earth. Then they get them baptized, endowed and sealed in LDS temples by proxy, and they can become gods and goddesses along with us. Isn’t the Mormon plan the best!”** To the living Mormons we say, **“becoming gods and goddesses” is the lie of Satan, the same lie that he gave to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden**. (Gen. 3:5.) We are the **creation of God**. (Gen.1:27.) **Men will not ever become gods! There is only one God, anywhere.** **“You are My witnesses, says the LORD, and My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I Am He. Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me.”** (Isa. 43:10; 44:6,8.) **“All other gods are idols.”** (Ps. 96:5.) When we receive Jesus who is **God with us** (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1-3,14) we receive forgiveness of our sins and then we **become children of God** (John 1:12; Rom. 9:8), **and we will live in heaven with Him forever and ever.**

[By the way, this was the “gospel” that converted me to Mormonism, for all my family members were dead. I was told by the missionaries *how fortunate I was to learn this now and see that indeed the Mormon plan of salvation is the best plan in the world, for if I become a Mormon, I can arrange that my family can be saved.* At that time in my life I didn’t know that *this was not the plan of salvation of the God of the Bible.* The Bible says, *“Today is the Day of salvation”, “It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement.”* (Hebr. 3:7-13; 9:27.) *After death unsaved mankind will face the judgment of God.* (Rev. 20:11-15.) *Only those who, while alive, have received Jesus as their Savior and Lord, they will not come into judgment.* (John 5:24; Rom. 8:1; John 3:16; 14:6.)

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus told about *two men who both had died.* One was a beggar, named Lazarus, who was a *believer in the God of Abraham,* and other one was a *rich man, who had lived a good life, but who was not a believer in God.* In Luke 16:22-31, *“So it was that that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torment in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘...between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us...’* [rich man cried] *‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment. Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent. But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead’.”* (Read this entire story Jesus told about what takes place after death, from Luke 16:19-31.) [Note: *Jesus rose from the dead and most people still do not believe.*] (Notice: *“a great gulf fixed”* would make *Mormon-missionary work in the Spirit World* impossible. *They cannot go from one side to the other!*) Therefore we see that the *Mormon-plan* is not “the best “. *It will not work at all.* God has made *His plan of salvation* possible for all living to be saved here and now. *“God desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.”*(1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9.) *He sent His Only Son to make sure that all who would want to receive Him can, and they will then become His children.* (John 1:12; 3:16; Romans 5:8; 10:9-10.) This is a great time to remind people that *“God is not the God of the dead, but of the living”.* (Matt. 22:32.)

Romans, Chapter 1, tells clearly that God has indeed made Himself known and observable to all mankind, even before anyone shares *the Gospel of God* with them. *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image like corruptible man...”* (Rom. 1:18-23.) [That is what Joseph Smith did – he made his god to be like he was, just a man, a former mortal man.] Even nature itself testifies of the existence and power of God. Another proof of God is *the subjective witness of our conscience* (mind). God speaks to a man through *his conscience.* I.e. He speaks to a person who (in his mind) marvels upon nature and thinks *“there must be God, otherwise this all would be impossible”.* Perhaps at that time a person in his heart may cry, *“Lord God, I want to know You, I need to know You. I believe that You exist!”* That is how faith in God can begin, and then it grows from *“faith to faith”* as he willingly steps forward in the Light, until he comes to Jesus Christ.

We believe that there has never been a person, man or woman, young or old, who ever lived on the face of this earth, who died without some opportunity to come to know and even receive Christ. That happens if they only just act and live up to the light God had given to them. God has said, “I know the thoughts that I

think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” (Jer. 29:11-13; Hebr. 11:6; Deut. 4:29; Ps. 27:7-8; Isa. 55:6. Matt. 7:7; Acts 17:27.) **That is God’s promise to everyone.** As to Mormons *“becoming gods and goddesses”*, it is the lie of Satan, the same lie that he gave to Adam and Eve. (Gen. 3:5.) *We are the creation of God.* (Gen.1:27.) **Men will not become gods! There is only one God, anywhere.** *“You are My witnesses, says the LORD, and My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I AM He. Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me.”* (Isa. 43:10; 44:6,8.) *“All other gods are idols.”* (Ps. 96:5.) **When we receive Jesus who is God with us** (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1-3,14), we receive forgiveness of our sins, and we **become children of God** (John 1:12; Rom. 9:8) and we will live in heaven with Him forever and ever. (John 10:28-31; Romans 10:9-10.)

Many people say that they wish that they had lived during *the time of Christ* and had seen His miracles and experienced His love *in person*, and seen the fulfilment of God’s promises concerning **His Messiah’s coming** just as it was recorded in the Old Testament. Many fail to see that **we are witnessing even more miracles now that we live in these last days.** We are truly blessed to have in our hands **the entire Bible, the completed Word of God**, to study and read about those OT times and also see what God has done after that, during the last 2000 years. Since the ascension of Jesus Christ to heaven (Acts 1:9-11) Jesus has been our *Advocate* and *Mediator* (1 Tim. 2:1-6) *before God the Father*, and He has been directing the miraculous work of God that gives us signs to see where we are now, in *“the God’s Timetable”*, concerning the last days and what must take place before **Jesus’ Second Coming** to earth as **the King of Kings and the LORD of Lords.** (Rev. 19:11-16.) **One of the major “sign-miracles” took place May 14, 1948 when Israel became a nation, again.** This miracle set the stage for the final *end-times*. Many Bible scholars literally *“jumped up”* then as they realized that the rest of the biblical prophesies may also come true very soon now, perhaps even in our lifetime. Reading the OT books of Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel etc. and especially Zechariah, we can see that God has beforehand told us what is now rapidly coming to pass. We understand that God had *scattered Israel among the nations of the world as His punishment for their unfaithfulness to Him*, but *He had also promised to bring them back to their own land*, even while they are still in unbelief, *‘for His holy name’s sake’.* (Ez. 36:17-24.) **We see it: God keeps His promises even if His people do not acknowledge Him or praise Him.** [See Jer. 31:31-36.] These things that **the Word of God** has told us about, even thousands of years before, are indeed **taking place now, faster and faster.** Our time is getting short to reach out to those who do not know the Lord yet, to give them the message of salvation. God’s patience must be running short against rebellious, wicked and evil people of the world, therefore we all need to be **“the watchmen on the wall”** and sound a warning of the coming danger. *“So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me. When you say to the wicked, O wicked man, you shall surely die! and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he shall not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.”* (Ez. 33:7-9.) (i.e. our warning has to be definite , such as to give them a reason for repentance and seeking the Lord.)

We have been asked to help how they can best start a discussion about **their (LDS) beliefs vs. our Bible beliefs, and what are the most important issues to begin with in order to warn Mormons that their religion is not teaching the truth about God of the Bible, and without knowing the True God, they cannot be saved!** Teachings of Mormonism may make their lives, *“here and now”*, *seem outwardly good and respectable, but false teachings will not lead them to eternal life and salvation. Mormonism is unbiblical in all of its doctrinal teaching, but eternal life comes only by knowing the true God and Jesus Christ who died to pay our sin debt.* (John 8:24.) **The most important thing to know how to have eternal life, is to know the true God and Jesus Christ, who is God with us** (Matt. 1:23). The rest of *their teachings* will be erased naturally through *the study*

of the Word of God as they have come to faith in **“the Only True God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent”**. (John 17:3.)

Some have explained, **“When we try to tell our LDS friends and relatives about God, they say that they already know God and that He is their Heavenly Father, and that they were born to Him and their mother-god before they were born physically here on earth to their mortal parents. They often add that Jesus is their elder brother from that pre-earth-time, as are all angels, including Lucifer. How do you refute these teachings?”**

Suggestions on how to begin a conversation about who God is with an LDS person:

You may start with a question: *As a believer and a member of the Mormon Church, do you believe that you will have eternal life after you pass on from this life?* If the answer is, “Yes”, then read together John 4:24, **“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him, must worship Him in spirit and in truth”** and ask: ***Is this the God who you believe in?”*** Listen carefully how he/she answers [knowing that the God of Mormonism is not a Spirit being, but a mortal man **who had progressed into a God, thus he is a different God.**] You may at this point read from John 17:3 what Jesus said about **what one must know in order to gain eternal life, “And this is eternal life that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.”** Next you may read Matthew 1:23, that declares that **Jesus is not a created being or spirit-brother from preexistence**, but that **He is “God with us”** as John 1:1-3, 14 also say. Read also 2 Corinthians 11: 3-4, 13-15 and Galatians 1:8-9, that inform that there will come **“false Christs”** that Jesus Himself had warned about in Matt. 24:4b-5. Then ask: *Can a different God and ‘another Jesus’ give eternal life? According to the Bible, the answer is NO.* –

This is just a beginning, but from this you already can see where your conversation needs to go to continue.

[I will attach to this newsletter a short article of what Joseph Smith and other Mormon leaders have taught about God and Godhead. www.hismin.com/understanding-mormonism/god-was-once-a-man (at the end of this brief article you’ll see also **“Godhead as taught in the Mormon Church”**. Click on that. (You may want to print these articles.) (See also attached file, **“Who is God - Who is Jesus - as taught by the Mormon Church”**

A letter from our mailbox:

“Can you explain why most Americans believe that Mormons are Christians and believers in Christ Jesus just as other Christian denomination are? My understanding is that there are huge doctrinal differences, but I do not know how to explain or refute them. I wonder why Mormonism is growing around the world in many countries very fast, when other Christian churches are not growing much, but are getting smaller and smaller?”

Answer to this may be that most of the Christian *church-goers* lack the Bible-knowledge and understanding of fundamental doctrines of *biblical Christianity* (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16), and also what it really means to be a follower of Jesus Christ of the Bible. Another reason is that Mormons use *biblical terms and words* when talking about what they believe, *although what they actually believe about God, Jesus and salvation etc. is very different from what the Bible teaches*. It can be very confusing. *“Mormon-talk”* sounds biblical, thus people assume that their beliefs are the same as theirs. Many are impressed by the Mormon Church, because they offer many programs especially for children and young adults that other churches do not. They are admired also because they promote modest dress-codes especially for the youth, and conservative hair-styles, and *“no-tattoos”*, which makes them look handsome and attractive when seeking good job-opportunities. Many non-Mormon parents make comments like *“we wish our young people would look and behave like Mormon kids do”*.

The Mormon Church grows worldwide quite fast for these and other similar reasons. The Mormon Church sends tens of *thousands of young, well-dressed and groomed* missionaries (18-21 olds) worldwide to represent *Mormon wholesomeness as examples of their religion*, when other same age young people often look sloppy and un-kept. It is known that the Mormon Church sends their missionaries only to the countries where Christianity is already known and accepted as a religion and where biblical terms and words are familiar. The Protestant Christian missionaries have, for more than 1-2 hundred years, already *prepared a way* and gained converts, but biblical knowledge is not yet well established. Therefore only very few can give a challenge from

the Bible to what the Mormon missionaries teach – and with their handsome looks and good behavior they can “steal the sheep” (new converts) from other churches with their *Christian verbiage*, and convincing them that they are Christians, and they offer more and have better teaching programs for all.

We thank our Lord for your support and prayers for our little ministry. It continues to amaze us how many people contact us every month thanking for our newsletters and telling us that they share them with their friends and even copy and mail them around. We’d like to suggest that rather than doing that, you could send (with their permission) their email or postal addresses to us, and we would send our newsletter to them directly. We have been blessed to receive your phone calls and your emails and comments about our Newsletters. We would be happy to answer any of your questions either by phone or by email or include our answers in our up-coming newsletters, just as you wish.

We are happy to work in this ministry that the Lord had prepared for us to be in. He called us out of Mormonism *when He considered us to be ready to start serving Him, the True and Living God*, and exposing the falsehoods that we previously had believed and accepted as truth. **Our God is an amazing God.** We came to see that God’s hand has been in all of it, all the time, without us realizing that we were in His School, and that even all our past was also orchestrated by Him. It will be wonderful to hear Him tell us all of it after He comes to *pick us up in the clouds, knowing that from that time onward we will always be with the Lord.* (1 Thess. 4:13-18.) We are glad to be busy at His work, but we still hardly can wait for His coming for us... (Rev.22:20.)

Last night we had a lovely dinner and *get-together* with 5 other believers at Suzi’s home, and it gave us a *taste of eternity*. We shared about our very different lives we had lived before the Lord had called us, one by one, to be His own children. It was an amazing evening, and it will be interesting and exciting to hear other believers’ stories there while we wait to come back to earth to serve Him again, this time in *His Millennial Kingdom* for a thousand years (Rev. 20:4) – and after that, through never-ending eternity. (Rev. 22:3.)

What a “out of this world wonderful” future we all will have as His own, Spirit-born-again children!!! ☺

Let’s be faithful and share the *Gospel of God* with others who have not yet discovered the Love of God and be saved. (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Rom. 10:9-10) **“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you.”** (Eph. 4:32.)

While we are in this world, we will have troubles, but as we continue daily to read His word, we are better able to endure and also *comfort each other* with what the Lord has promised to us. (Titus 2:11-14.)

We are asking you to join us in prayer for **Judy, Lisa, Suzi, Sandy, Al, Aira, Bruce, Heber, Richard, Mark, Virve, Sharon, Mary, Eeva-Liisa, Mika and our many Christian (former LDS) friends in Australia.** We also ask you to pray for my home-country, Finland, against Russia’s specific threats now that Finland has joined NATO. (Finland has the longest boarder (over 800 miles) with Russia, and Putin is a dangerous man!) I still remember with fear Finland’s last war with Russia even though I was just a little girl. I feel that kind of fear for and with Ukraine’s children. They will remember this horror for the rest of their lives. We pray for the peace for all other countries that are also under that kind of danger. We continue to pray for the *peace of Jerusalem, Israel* (Ps. 112:6) and other countries that are under the *threats of war* at this time.

With the Love of Christ,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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