



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

May 1, 2023

HIS MINISTRIES MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER, COVERING APRIL 2023

Jesus is the *Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.* He was crucified between two thieves on Golgotha on the same day that Passover lambs were slaughtered on the Jerusalem temple grounds as sin offerings for the nation of Israel. ***Three days later He rose from the dead.***

In the month of April we celebrated our Lord's resurrection, **the Good News of the Gospel of God.** (1 Cor. 15:1-4 .)

The Day of Pentecost is the 50th day after the Sabbath (Saturday) of Passover Week (Lev. 23:15-16) on Sunday, the first day of the week.

Pentecost was the Greek name for the **Jewish Feast of Weeks**, so called, because it fell seven weeks after **the First Fruits** (Deut. 16:10), **the Feast of Harvest.** (Ex. 23:16; Numb. 28:26.)

Therefore, at the end of this month, 28th of May, is our next land-mark celebration, the Birth of the Church on the Day of Pentecost, the Father sending the Holy Spirit to indwell all true believers there, and all who come to faith in Jesus after that.

The Old Testament Pentecost occurred fifty days after Israel had left Egypt and the Passover lamb was slain.

New Testament Pentecost occurred fifty days after Christ rose from the dead, the Lord Jesus being our Passover Lamb.

The Old Testament Pentecost celebrated the birth of the nation Israel (Ex. 19:5). **The New Testament Pentecost celebrates the birth of the Church** (Acts 2:41-47). **The Old Testament Pentecost witnessed the slaying of some three thousand people** (Ex. 32:28). **The New Testament Pentecost witnessed the saving of some three thousand souls** (2:41) – the former typologically points to the latter.

Acts 2:1-6: ***“Now when the day of the Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared unto them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven...and everyone heard them speak in his own language.”***

Breath or wind is used as a symbol of **the Spirit of God.** (Ez. 37:9, 14; John 3:8). We note that it was ***“as of a rushing mighty wind”***, but yet not wind. **The coming of the Holy Spirit** was marked with **audible wind** and **visible signs, “as of fire”**, but yet not fire. [Both Matthew and Luke reported (Matt. 3:11; Luke 3:16) that John the Baptist had foretold of the One Who will come after him and baptize with **the Holy Spirit and fire.**] And indeed, they all were filled with the Spirit which connects (joins) every believer to **the body of Christ** (1 Cor. 12:13; Col. 1:18, 24.). **They all heard the witness of Jesus spoken to them in their own language.** Note: **These were actual languages**, unknown to the speakers, but yet understood by the hearers from other nations or language groups. **There were no interpreters needed!!! “They were all amazed and marveled”.** Men of all

nations of the then known world there heard wonderful words of God in their own tongues or dialects. (Acts 2:7.)

The only power of God in God's Church is the power of His Holy Spirit, whereas "power" talked about today in a majority of churches is *the power of man*, i.e. *their leaders*. **God does His work by the Holy Spirit**, while many, even Christian leaders, attempt to do their work by the power of their trained men. **"Woe to the rebellious children, says the Lord, who take counsel, but not of Me, and who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, that they may add sin to sin."** (Isaiah 30:1.)

The Word of God leads us to all truth. Let us not forsake studying and sharing with others what we have learned. The Bible gives us signs to watch. The **"writing is on the wall"**, so to speak. Evidence of His soon coming is there and if we know, we can pretty much figure out *where we are now in God's plan and timetable*. We can see signs that indicate that He must be coming soon, even if we do not know the exact *"day or hour"*. Many Bible scholars assure us that we can predict *"tomorrow's newspaper-headlines"* from the Bible. The Bible is indeed history written in advance. Information about what is coming is there if we just study His Word with understanding.

But just like the religious leaders in Jesus' day did not know or understand the prophecies that were telling of their Messiah's coming, but couldn't see or apply them to Jesus (Luke 19:42), likewise many of our teachers and leaders today seem to be just as lost to the biblical warnings about our times. Jesus' words fit to today's people just as they did then to the Pharisees, **"Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times."** (Matt. 16:3b.) He commanded: **"Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."** (Luke 12:40.)

Jesus compared the time of His coming to the time of Noah. Noah had preached 120 years of the coming calamity, but people were not listening to him any more... very similar to our time. **"But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know not until the flood came and took them away; so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."** (Matt. 24:37-39.)

It was then just as it is with people of today who say, **"Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willfully forget (are ignorant of)..."** (2 Peter 3:4-5.) They are indeed **willfully ignorant** of what God can do, and how suddenly even the Rapture can happen. Noah had warned for 120 years about **the coming sudden destruction**, but they ignored what he had said, therefore they didn't know **until Noah with his family entered the Ark and the door for salvation was shut**. When Jesus comes to Rapture His own and take them to *His Father's House* for safety while the 7-year-Tribulation is taking place here on earth, **it too will happen suddenly, "in the twinkling of an eye... the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed"**. (1 Cor. 15:51-53; 1 Thess. 4:13-18;)

We, as believers in the Lord and **His gospel**, are called to live during these end times just as we have been living during every single, normal day of our lives. Continuing to be faithful to God's Word and His ways in the course of our everyday life is what will enable us to remain strong during the coming **increasingly turbulent Last Days**. Like in the case of Job, **it may seem like everyone is falling away from God and His Word**, but we, as

the Lord's own can be assured of God's protection. We have read His Book, and thus we know how it all ends. Being ready for the Lord's coming does not mean that *we just wait and do nothing*. Actually the opposite is true. Understanding the shortness of the time creates urgency and makes us want to work even harder to reach lost souls for the Lord before it is too late for them.

He is coming just as He promised, as He said to His own: "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's House are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I AM, there you may be also." (John 14:1-3.) Paul also wrote about this to comfort living believers about **the "imminent return of the Lord"** (see 1 Thess. 5:1-11), and to remind them that **their believing loved ones who have passed on before this glorious event, will join them and us "in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air"**. (1 Thess. 4:13-18.)

Never forget that the more we are doing for the Lord, the bigger of a target we will become to the enemy. In other words, the more you are doing for the Lord, the more Satan will be after you to *"take you away from his way"*. Remember also that the more you are doing for the Lord, the more spiritually strong and prepared you will become. ***"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*** (Eph.6:12.)

Satan always has and always will target faithful pastors and other Christian leaders and all true believers in Jesus who are making a difference for the Lord in this world of sin. Satan knows that by taking down a pastor or a Christian leader or other faithful servants of the Lord, he wipes out many people who have been following them in this work of faith. It is like in bowling: If you hit the *"head pin"* you'll see all pins behind it also fall down. One of the quickest ways to fall away from your own walk with the Lord is to put too much emphasis on *"the leading man or woman of God"*. We know that God uses believers, both men and women, to plant the seeds of salvation. He uses human instruments to teach and disciple us and help us to grow in our faith. He uses human instruments to impact our spiritual lives. In a society that is prone to idolize famous men, such as entertainers, athletes, and other successful people, we tend to elevate our spiritual leaders likewise. **We tend to place our pastors and Christian leaders on pedestals they should not be put on. Our eyes must be focused on the Lord, and our emphasis needs to be on His Word. He alone can save. Jesus said that in order to even see the kingdom of heaven, we MUST be born again.** (John 3:3,7.) ***When we believe the Gospel*** (1 Cor. 15:1-4) ***and receive Jesus, then, at that moment, we are born again and become God's children.*** (John 1:12.) [Until that day, we all are just *"children of the flesh"* and they are NOT children of God. (Rom. 9:8.)] **Jesus said that unless we believe that He is God** (John 8:24; John 1:1-3,14) **we will die in our sins. Only God can forgive sins.** (Mark 2:7b.)

We continue to get emails, phone calls and letters from LDS people who obviously do not know or have not seen the huge differences there are in what we as Bible-believing Christians believe about God, Jesus and salvation, compared to what they (Mormons) believe. Joseph Smith wrote his Book of Mormon using the King James English wording and terms, even including and adding multiple chapters from the KJV of the Bible, (17 full chapters from Isaiah alone), and that has caused people to assume that the BoM is doctrinally comparable to the Bible when it is not! What causes more confusion is that though Mormons use KJV words, they have given to them *non-biblical, out of biblical context interpretation*. Bible doctrine is not even close to what Mormonism teaches. Today's Mormons *insist that they are Christians* too. **They say: "We read the Bible (KJV) and believe the same stories of Jesus as you do, therefore we are Christians too!"**

Yes, the stories are the same, but who their Jesus is He is not the same Person as is taught in the Bible. Jesus of the Bible is God who became a man to die in our place so that we can be forgiven! (John 1:1-3,14.) *Jesus of Mormonism is a man who became a god as all Mormon men also plan to become. They use their video, "The Chosen", written for the LDS owned VIDANGEL STUDIOS by an "evangelical Christian, Dallas Jenkins", and they use his name as a "proof" for the "sameness"... and that makes this video "profitable" also for the growth of the Mormon Church.* Most Mormons lack the knowledge of how much the Mormon Church has changed over the years. When Dennis and I served our LDS missions (in mid-1960's) *we were told to say to those we were trying to convert to Mormonism that "we are NOT Christians, we are Mormons; we are different!"* If we were asked further, we were told to explain it with the words that *the Personage, who had appeared to Joseph Smith (in 1820), had said to him when he had asked which one of all the (Christian) sects was right and which one he should join. Joseph was told that he "must join none of them, for they were all wrong, and that their creeds were an abomination in His sight; and those professors (believers in them) were all corrupt."* (See PoGP, Joseph Smith History, 2:18-19.)

Indeed, Mormonism teaches about God, who He is, and about Jesus, who He is, and how a person can be saved and after this life be able to live with God throughout eternity. *But what they teach is all against what the Bible teaches.* Their teaching about God and Jesus are not found even in the Book of Mormon (1830), even though most of them think it is as they "*testify of the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon*". It was in 1844, 14 years after Joseph Smith had started the Mormon Church, that *he led Mormons to believe in other Gods* (Deut. 13:1-5). [Only rarely we can find a faithful, practicing Mormon being aware of what they believe about God is not the same as is taught even in the BoM, though the Book of Mormon is presented by them as true *Scripture* in converting Christians to Mormonism!] **The Jesus taught of in Mormonism is not God the Son, the Creator of everything** (John 1:1-3,14; Col. 1:15-16), but just a created being and a brother of all mankind. LDS owned VIDANGEL Studios have produced a Video series "**The CHOSEN**", and after it became popular even among Christians, it seems to have become the main "*advertisement*" for "*the Mormon-Jesus*", based on "*evangelical*" Dallas Jenkins' imaginations and belief about Jesus. He says that the *Mormon Jesus is the same Jesus he also believes in, the one who was begotten by the Holy Ghost.* (Matt. 1:18.)

The Book of Mormon (1830) teaches that *there is only One God and that He is Spirit.* (BoM, Alma 11:26-29; 18:28.) But that is not what Mormonism has taught ever since 1844. About God, the Encyclopedic Mormon *Doctrine* (p. 317) says: "*There are three Gods – the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost.*" On p. 319 it says, "*Three glorified, exalted, and perfected personages comprise the Godhead or supreme presidency of the Universe... Each occupies space and is and can be in but one place at one time.*" Joseph Smith, in 1844 (14 years after he had the started his church) defined his doctrine of God further and said, "I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea and take away the veil, so that you may see... God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens! That is the great secret... Here then is eternal life – to know the only wise and true God: and you have to got to learn how to be Gods yourselves... same as all Gods have done before you...I will preach on the plurality of Gods...when I have preached on the subject of Deity, it has been the plurality of Gods" (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 345-346, 370.)

Who really then is Jesus that is taught of in the Mormon Church? Is He God who became a man? (John 1:1-3,14.) No He is not. Is He the Son of God, begotten by the Holy Spirit (Matt. 1:18, 23) as the Bible says? No, He is not. Jesus of Mormonism was begotten by a physical, exalted, resurrected God-man, their Heavenly Father. Mormon Doctrine (p. 547) says that "Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by their mortal fathers." LDS prophet and president, Ezra Taft Benson, in his book, "**Come Unto Christ**" (p. 4) says the same, and assures that **Christ was NOT begotten by the Holy Ghost, but by the Heavenly Father!** Jesus warned about deception and other Christs. (Matthew 24:4-5, 24.) **Jesus of Mormonism is "another Jesus", warned about by Paul who also says that this information "came from false apostles, deceitful workers transforming themselves into apostles of Christ... and from Satan who has transformed himself into an angel of light..." (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15.) The LDS Church's Melchizedek Priesthood Manual, The Gospel Through the Ages (pp. 14-15), teaches that "God, [their] Heavenly Father proposed as a center of the plan of salvation that one of His sons be appointed to be the Savior of the world...Appointment of Jesus to be the Savior was contested by one of other sons of God. He was called Lucifer, the son of the morning. Haughty, ambitious and covetous of power and glory, this spirit-brother of Jesus desperately tried to become the Savior of mankind..."** After the meeting of **the great council of heaven**, Jesus was chosen to become the Savior. [Therefore the name of the video is THE CHOSEN.] Lucifer lost and was cast out and he became an enemy of all mankind. **This same book, The Gospel Through The Ages**" (a lesson manual for the Melchizedek Priesthood holders, approved by the First Presidency and twelve apostles of the Mormon Church), teaches that **God is an Exalted man** and that **all men may become Gods by following the teachings of the LDS Church**. It teaches that **"As man now is, God once was; and as God now is, man may become."** It teaches a **plurality of Gods** and says that even **Christian fathers** understood that doctrine, and that both Paul and Jesus taught **"that this teaching was compatible with pagan philosophies, and that eternal truths had come down throughout the pagan cults in the Mediterranean world."** [This book presents the core doctrines of Mormonism and is firmly believed by the high leadership of the Mormon Church, though most of its content is not any longer often openly taught because most of the membership has Christian background and would object to it.]

However, we, as **"ambassadors of Christ Jesus"**, as all believers in Him are, must warn them and everyone who even thinks of becoming part of the Mormon Church. **There is no salvation to those who believe what they teach about God and Jesus, and salvation "by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Mormon Church (3rd Article of Faith). "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."** Those who have heard the Gospel while living during the church age, and rejected it, will not be saved.

Important note: Revelation 7:1-17 contains the parenthetical portion between the sixth and seventh seals mentioning two distinct groups: (1) The 144,000, which are sealed, are from the twelve tribes of the children of Israel. This does not mean that the number of Israelites who will be saved will be limited to 144,000. Rather, it refers to 12,000 out of each tribe who are sealed from the wrath of Satan and the antichrist. These are called 'the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb.' (Rev. 14:4). (2) A great multitude, without naming the exact number from all nations, as distinct from the nation of Israel, will also be saved. These are described as 'they that have come out of the great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb'. (v.14) These who will be saved will seal their testimony with their own blood. It has been made clear, however, and we learn from 2 Thess. 2:10-12, that those who have heard the Gospel during the church age, or the age of grace, and have rejected it will be damned. These will not have a second chance to be saved during the tribulation. The only ones who will be saved during the tribulation will be those who have not heard the Gospel previous to that time." [Copied from *The Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible*, King James Version. These notes were written by Noted Greek Scholar, Spiros Zodhiates, Th.D.]

We want to thank you, our friends, who faithfully pray for us and support our little ministry, and us too, in many ways. We thank the Lord for each one of you, and ask His blessings for you all. Our ministry continues to be busy and it tells us that we are still needed. ☺ We thank the Lord for that. We are getting many calls and emails almost daily from former Mormons who are asking doctrinal questions they never got answers from the LDS Church. They are thanking us for our newsletters, saying that they have learned much from them that has helped them to see the huge differences that exist between Mormonism and biblical Christianity. We are going to meet with many of them soon to further assist them. We received a call couple of days ago from an LDS lady who said that she has *“lived the LDS life as required, including serving a mission, marrying in a temple, teaching in her wards etc.”*, but now she is not sure that all that has been worth it. She said that she would like to come and see us and find out why we left the LDS Church and *“became just born again Christians”* since we had been through pretty much the same as she has as an active Mormon. She said that she would like to come *“after the holidays”*.

You, our praying friends, have known about Judy’s stroke that almost 10 years ago left her paralyzed on her left side. She has been able to “drag” her left leg by using a cane, but about a week ago she fell and broke her angle. She has to stay now in the Rehab Hospital at least 4 months and be in therapy as long as she is there. This is so hard for her physically but also emotionally and spiritually. We are asking that the Lord will strengthen her by His Spirit and make her healing faster than what the Doctors say it will take. Please keep her in your daily prayers. Her daughter, who usually comes weekly to see her and help her, now cannot come for at least 1-2 weeks for she and her husband and a son are all *having Covid19* – even though they were *“fully vaccinated”*!

There are others we need to also remember in our prayers: Marlene, Bruce, Aira, Mark, Virve, Heber, Dave B., Justin, Jake, Luke, McKensy, Jamie, Sharon, Lisa, Suzi, Al and Sandy, Mark and Virve. We rely on the promises of the Lord *that if we pray, according to His will, He will hear us and respond to our requests.* (1 John 5:14-15.)

We also will continue to pray for those who have not yet responded to the Lord’s call for them to be saved. Some of them are members of our family and some are our friends we love dearly. It saddens our hearts that we will not see any of them after our life here is over unless they come to the Lord and be saved. God is pleading for them that they would let Him change their hearts and minds while there is still time. *“... times of ignorance God [has] overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.”* (Acts 17:30.)

With the Love of Jesus,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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