



**\*H.I.S. Ministries, Acts 4:12**

January 1, 2023

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!**

We are praying that God will give all of us a clear vision of His will, and that He will direct us in His ways so that we will be able to rescue and bring many lost souls to Him. Let us not forget that time is short but eternity is endless. Note that we all live eternally, even after this life is over! The question is WHERE? We will live eternally either in Heaven or in Hell. If we know *Jesus who is God with us* (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1-3, 14) and have received Him during our earthly life (John 1:12; 3:7) then we are *heaven-bound*. If we have rejected *Jesus of the Bible* before we die, our eternal destiny is Hell. We are in *"the last days"* (see: Rev. 2 and 3) and our time to choose is limited.

Paul wrote how *the last days* will be characterized. ***"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come. For men shall be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying its power. And from such people turn away!"*** (2 Timothy 3:1-5.) Apostle John also wrote to the believers in Jesus, calling them *"little children"*, He said (1 John 2:18), ***"Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour."*** It has been over 1900 years since he wrote those words. We can see how much more applicable these words are even now.

Twisted and false doctrines abound even among those who present themselves as *believers in Jesus Christ*. Violence and unrest are present everywhere. There is talk of *"peace"*, *but there is no peace*. Paul warned (1 Thessalonians 5:3), ***"For when they say, 'Peace and safety' then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape."*** We must not be lulled into a false security, or thinking that *the Lord may not be coming quite yet*, but as we read the Bible and compare its prophecies to current events, we cannot help but see that the *end times are approaching*, and *are here even now*. The nearness of the end must motivate us all to be even busier with the Lord's work than ever before; while we still have time. **This is not our time to rest. In the above quoted scriptures both Paul and John were referring to those who are giving the impression that they are believers in Jesus Christ, but yet they ignore or minimize the Word of God, and bring their own agendas and plans to replace the Word of God, and lead people step by step further away from the truth. The Spirit of the anti-Christ is presented with twisted scriptures, and when, after the rapture, the Antichrist himself will appear, he will give the impression to those remaining that he is Christ, the son of God, and that he is bringing peace to the world. But soon enough all will see that he is only a "pretended son" and thus an agent of the devil.**

What we see happening in our midst now are signs leading to the Great Tribulation. (Matt. 24.) The main stage for this time; coming of *"Jacob's trouble"* (Jer. 30:7) is already being set in the Middle

East. The world has turned against Israel to the point that they are not even allowed to defend themselves when they are attacked. Iran is the main power behind the attacks on Israel, whether these attacks come from Lebanon, Syria or Egypt. Iran has plans to take over the entire Muslim world, and if it succeeds, it will own most of the oil needed by the entire world, and thus it will have all the money to build up armies to destroy Israel, America and all the rest of the non-Muslim world. If we keep our eyes on Israel, we can see how close that time is, even though many of the Bible prophecies relating to Israel and to the 7-year Tribulation will not be fulfilled *until after the Rapture*, which itself has no preceding signs, though that could happen at any moment. What is happening in the Middle East is a final build-up that leads to the Great Tribulation, and that means that the Rapture is even closer, for the Lord has promised to take His church, all born-again believers, out of here before He will come to test and try Israel and punish the entire unbelieving world as He has said that He will do. (See Isaiah 24:1, 6; 26:21.) The Word of God is true. We can trust that Jesus will come before that and take us away, as Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, *“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trump of God. And the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up (raptured) together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”*

*After saying this*, Paul revealed why we will be taken away before the time of God’s wrath is poured on the world. *“For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ...who delivers us from the wrath to come.”* (1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9.) Jesus promised that He will come and receive us to Himself, and take us to be with Him. (John 14:1-3.) Note that at this very moment the Lord is preparing a place for us. (See also Isaiah 26:20-21.) Praise God for His great salvation and love for us all.

We praise God that we have been blessed all along, even recently, to see many new believers entering the eternal future with Jesus of the Bible. Many of them have first escaped from the bondage and trap of Mormonism, which is an additional praise and blessing.

Over the years we have continued to receive doctrinal questions from those still actively involved in the LDS Church – and we certainly understand their confusion, having experienced most of the same problems and questions ourselves while we were still living as active and believing Mormons.

This LDS lady, I am reporting about here, is asking questions that could have come from many other Mormons, myself included, some years ago: She wrote: *“I am LDS, I have served a mission, married in the temple, and have had many callings of leadership. I have also received my patriarchal blessing. I read it often and wonder. It promises that if I live worthily certain blessings will be mine. It says nothing about conditions...or does it? During the last Sunday’s Relief Society meeting, a sister who was teaching a lesson, said that all God’s blessings and promises come with conditions. She said that God’s love is also conditional, and is based on God’s laws and our obedience to these laws. I have always believed (assumed?) that God’s love is unconditional, but if what this teacher said is true, this means that if we do not obey in all things, God will not love us anymore. Do you think it is so?*

**My reply:** The Mormon Church teaches, *“There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundation of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated. And when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated.”* (D&C 130:20-21.) She said that it means that *everything* taught in the LDS Scriptures and theology, *including God’s love, is conditional*. The word “if” indicates a condition, does it not? When someone says to you, “If you do

*such and such, you will receive such and such...*" The word "if" and what follows it, spells out *on what condition* you can expect to receive something promised.

You were also wondering about ***the Patriarchal Blessings***, asking: ***are the promises indicated therein also predicated on God's laws?*** Obviously they must be if God of Mormonism is to be believed.

***The [LDS] Patriarchal Blessing is God's revelation concerning individual recipient's future; some considering it to be similar to a "fortune telling"***. However, think about it: If a Patriarchal Blessing is based on God's *foreknowledge*, your obedience or disobedience should not make it conditional. What I can say now as a believer in the Bible, that ***if these "blessings" came from the True God of the Bible, He would not say, "if you live worthily, you will receive certain blessings"***, for all-knowing God, who knows the end from the beginning, would not give you predictions that depend solely on you, and not what God already knows you will do or not do. ***"God...calls those things that do not exist, as though they did."*** (Rom. 4:17.)

Based on many patriarchal blessings I personally have translated and/or know about, including my own Patriarchal Blessing, I'd say that these LDS Patriarch's "blessings" are not from the real God, and thus this God can only make *conditional predictions that depend solely on you, the recipient, to bring them to pass, and if they do not, then the fault is entirely on you, the recipient.*

***Many LDS people may not know that there was a big change made, in the late 1970's, relating to the authority of the Main Patriarch to the Church.*** The LDS Church's main patriarch, from the beginning of the Church (1830), was also ordained into a position of ***"a prophet, a seer and a revelator", a General Authority of the Church, and his name was listed directly below the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve.*** All other patriarchs were functioning under his authority. ***(The First Patriarch of the Church was Joseph Smith Sr., and after him his oldest son, Hyrum Smith. This position was an inherited position, "from father to son, till the end" (See D&C 124:91-94.) In the late 1970's, without an announcement or an explanation, this position was promptly discontinued! Thus the last Patriarch of the Church was Eldred G. Smith and his position was made into an "emeritus"-status. All patriarchs from then on were under the Stake Presidencies without respect to their lineage. [By the way, I had received my Patriarchal Blessing from this same Eldred G. Smith.]***

*In the early 1970's, before Finland had a Stake and their own Patriarch, the Patriarch to the Church, Eldred G. Smith, made a trip to Finland and there he gave patriarchal blessings to "a selected number of worthy members". These Blessings were recorded and he brought back ninety blessings for me to translate into Finnish. This ended up being a shock and a disappointment for me personally **for they were all alike**, just like my own blessing that I had received from this same patriarch a few years earlier. It became clear to me that the God of Mormonism did not know me, nor had he anything to say to me personally, or for anyone else for that matter. My future was boringly the same as everyone else's and also conditional to what I did or did not do during the rest of my life.*

***I would want all of you reading this to know that the God of the Bible knows us all intimately and loves us unconditionally. He is Triune God and our creator. (John 1:1-3; Gen. 2:7.) He is God who created mankind into His image, our soul being eternal person, made into an image of God. We will never die. "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." As God is Triune, so are we - we are spirit, soul and body. (When we die, our spirit leaves the body that is then buried, waiting for resurrection. The eternal souls of those who had received Christ while alive (John 1:12-13) will immediately, upon their deaths, go to be with the Lord in heaven (2 Cor. 5:6-8), there waiting for the Rapture when they will receive***

their immortal bodies along with us who are Raptured while still alive. (1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:14-18.)

There is a place prepared for the souls of those who have died and die as unbelievers in the true God. (Luke 16:19-31). There is no *“second chance for salvation”* i.e. there is no work for the dead. All unbelieving dead will be resurrected and *judged according to their works*, during **the Great White Throne Judgment** (Rev. 20:11-15), just as they had wanted, and they will end up in the *“lake of fire”*, which is the *“second death”*. Anyone still alive today can be saved – even at the very last moment, just like it was with the *“thief on the cross”*. (Luke 23:42-43.) Do not put off your salvation. *“Today is the day of salvation.”* (Hebr. 3.) *“Tomorrow”* is not promised to anyone. If you are seeking to know God, He will find you and save you. (Jer. 29:11-13.) **God is seeking for you – today!**

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**This newsletter is our last letter of 2022.** There are many heart-breaking issues that have troubled our hearts ever since our dear Minna Johanna passed on to eternity to be with the Lord Jesus she loves, who had taken away all her sins when He died on His cross (Col. 2:11-18) for her and for all of us who likewise have believed and trusted in Jesus’ redemptive work in our behalf.

Minna’s adult life was not easy in any sense of the word. She grew up in a large Mormon community and after becoming a believer in the biblical God, she admitted that she didn’t have boldness or courage to express her faith to others as she had wanted to do. We talked about that often, and we assured her that our All-knowing God knew her and **unconditionally loves her** – and that He had forgiven all her sins, never to forsake her. We all are sinners by our human nature, but nevertheless loved by God. Apostle John wrote, ***“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. It is the blood of Christ that cleanses us from all sin.”*** (1 John 1:7-9.) We often read together with Minna what the Apostle Paul wrote about his own personal failures before God. (See Romans 7:13-25.) Minna understood that even a faithful man like Apostle Paul was prone to sin, but was forgiven. Paul wrote, ***“O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God – through Jesus Christ, our Lord!... There is therefore now no condemnation (judgement of sin) to those who are in Christ Jesus.”*** When we were born again, and received Jesus (John 1:12; 3:7), from that moment on **we are in Christ Jesus! It was He who died for all of our sins, past, present and future sins – they were all “nailed on His cross”**. (Col. 2:14.) Our sins do not surprise our Lord – He knew all about them, from our birth to our death – and as we come to Him, He had paid already for them all.

Minna’s last years were tormenting her more than we could ever know. I am thankful that she felt free to talk to us about her regrets and mistakes she had made in her *chosen relationships*. Her last month, May of 2022, was perhaps the saddest time of her entire life. She came to see us, her loving parents, many times, last time on 5/10/22, *“letting it all out”*, so to speak. She told us that her terribly abusive marriage was finally ending, and that her husband had informed her that on *May 29<sup>TH</sup>, on her birthday*, he will have divorce papers delivered to her!! About 10 days after this long discussion with us, Minna called again and we talked for hours. She was weeping and in deep sadness regretting what she had mistakenly promised, and because of that she had never been able to have a conversation with her adult children about her faith in Jesus. That mistake was her promise to Dave (her previous husband who was raised Mormon, though he never believed it) that **in their family they will not talk about “religion”**, but allow everyone to choose what they want to believe.

Then she said, *“I know, mom, you hate tattoos, but I have been thinking about having a scripture-tattoo, my favorite Scripture, John 3:16, put on my hand.”* She explained, ***“If I’d have this scripture on***

**my hand – then I do not have to say anything, just let everyone see what I believe.”** I know she sincerely meant that from all her heart. The Lord God knew what was in her heart; and that she truly believed in Jesus. I told her that instead of *marking her body with a tattoo*, she could make a simple “*business card*” with her name and John 3:16 typed on it, and then hand it to everyone she wanted to share her faith with. *She agreed that it really could be a better solution than tattoo.* She may not have had time left to get that card made, but that was her intention. **The Lord God knows our hearts and desires, and that was to be her statement of faith to others.**

We have reported earlier (in our newsletter, August 2022) how she became our child and a child of God at the age of 14. She deeply believed in God’s promise (John 10:28-30): **“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand. I and My Father are one.”**

**Minna knew God and she is with the Lord now. “This is eternal life that they may know You, the only God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”** (John 17:3.) We know that *days of our lives* are appointed to us (Hebr. 9:27). **June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022** obviously **was her appointed time** to leave and go to be with Jesus. How we die is not always made known. However, Minna had mentioned several times, during the last 1.5 years, how sick she had become after she got her Covid19 “*vaccination*”. She said that she didn’t want to get this shot, but she said that *she had to do it* in order to be able to see her only grandbaby. She got very ill again when she had to get *the booster shot* (at the end of April). She told me then, “*Mom, I am so sick. What if I die as a result of this booster?*”

[She passed away less than 2 months later, during a camping trip that she had said *she absolutely didn’t want to go on*, especially as they were in the middle of a divorce! [But they went to camp on 10<sup>th</sup> of June – she passed away during the night of June 12<sup>th</sup>.] It has been now 7 months since she went to be with the Lord. We miss her more than words can tell, though we know that she is now well and away from all her trials. She was the center of our life during all her 54 years. We know that her children likewise miss her, for she was the center of their lives also. We love her and we continue to love her 3 children that we have known from the day of each of their births. They are all we have left of what Minna gave us. We pray that the Lord will save them too.

Looking at the world’s situation and seeing biblical prophecies coming true, we trust that the Rapture cannot be far away. Then we will see her and be with her and with many others who have fairly recently also *graduated to heaven*. We indeed have many friends in “*high places*”. But we now have work to do for the Lord.

**We are looking and seeking for those who should come to the Lord before the Rapture, so that we all can go home.** ☺ Our spiritual mentor, Dr. Chuck Missler, used to say [after giving a gospel message]: **Which one of you is holding us up?** He was talking about what Paul wrote in Romans 11:26b, saying that **Israel as a nation will be “blinded” to the gospel message of Messiah until “the fullness of the Gentiles has come in”**. *I.e.* when that number is filled, (known only to God), and the “*last Gentile*” had come in, then we all as believers in Jesus can go home to the Lord (John 14:1-3), **and the Great Tribulation can take place**. That is the **70<sup>th</sup> week of years** to try Israel, according to Daniel 9:24-27. We like Paul, had earlier in our lives worked against the True God, but then, in His time, we obtained mercy because what we had done before *we did it in ignorance*. (Please read with us 1 Tim. 2:12-17.) Let’s be faithful to Him who has called us to this work. Come, Lord Jesus. (Rev. 22:20b.)

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We are getting ready to write tax-receipts for your lovingly presented gifts to our Ministry so that we have been able to continue 38 years of teaching ***Mormonism vs. Biblical Christianity***. Expect to receive our receipts in the next 2 weeks or so. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts, for you have given without us ever asking.

We have only made our requests to the Lord, who then has inspired your giving. We wanted to be “self-supporting” ministry, both of us working for our living along with this ministry work, and the Lord has been with us in all of this. We are getting old(er) and we cannot travel as much anymore to speak in various places, but by phone and computers we can still manage to get our information to those requesting it.

The prayer requests are still #1 on our list of things to do daily. There is so much illness going on perhaps due to the cold weather and our dry mountain air. Please pray with us for those who have asked for prayer – some for health, some for other trials. Again, we only list their names, for our Lord knows their troubles and He answers directly to them. (1 John 5:14-15.) They are: Sandy, Judy, Al, Lisa, Suzi, Heber, Richard, Sharon, Mark, Virve, Marlene, Eeva-Liisa, Mika, Aira, Jamie, Dave B, Justin, Jake, Luke and McKensy and few others who needed prayer but didn’t want to give their names out as of yet.

Please pray with us that we can find ways to witness to our family and friends who already have heard the Gospel, but have so far rejected the Lord’s plea for receiving Him. We keep trying and praying as long as we live.

This newsletter is nearly 10 days late do to my illness and tiredness.

Please share our message with your family and friends and please feel free to email questions or just call to let us know how we can help.

***Happy New Year and good health along the way.***

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