



***He Is Savior, Acts 4:12**

November 1, 2023

H.I.S. Ministries November 2023 Newsletter, covering October 2023

God of the Bible is the Triune God who is Spirit. (John 4:24.) **In order to have eternal life requires that we know this God** (John 17:3) **and have been born again** (John 3:7) **and received Jesus, and thus have become children of God.** (John 1:12.)

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.” (Ps. 122:6.) ***“He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber or sleep.”*** (Ps. 121:4.)
Israel and Jerusalem are near the heart of God.

Israel is God’s land and Jerusalem is His Holy City. Both Jews and Christians worship and believe in the ***God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the only true God spoken of in the Bible.*** God gave this land to Abraham as ***his everlasting inheritance*** (Gen. 13:15). God named the land ***“Israel”*** (Gen. 32:28) after Isaac’s son Jacob. ***Jerusalem*** (Gen. 14:18) ***or Salem, was/is the City of the king. The People of Israel are His nation, and the apple of His eye.*** God says to those who attempt to plunder Israel that ***if they touch the apple of His eye He will surely shake His hand against them.*** (Zech. 2:8b-9.)

On October 7, 2023 came an unprecedented and horrendous attack against Israel by Hamas terrorists, who are Arabs, calling themselves Palestinians.

This attack was even worse than the Holocaust.

The devil knows that his doom is sure for he has read what the Bible says about his fate. (Matt. 25:41.) **However, he seems to believe that somehow he can still win and overcome God** (Isa. 14:12-14) **but to do that he has destroy Israel all together, for then the Lord could not come back there. This war is spiritual, directed by Satan himself, and if he wins, then the prophetic Word of God is also voided.**

[There are still even many Christians who are not sure who or what Palestinians are. In the past I have written about this many times (as in our Newsletters of August and September 2011), but some of it might be necessary to repeat again.]

All that is happening in Israel, and what we read or hear about in our news, are fulfillments of prophecies written thousands of years ago by God’s prophets about the end times. Many Bible scholars have noted, ***“We cannot understand our current news from Israel unless we know the Bible and see that this is exactly what was foretold by God.”*** The Bible gives us peace and confidence when we see that no matter what takes place here or there, **our God is in control** and the news from Israel just

confirm what He has told us in His Book. If we stand by the Lord and on His Word, we can have peace in the midst of this and all coming storms.

[Therefore when hearing what is happening in Israel, it is important to know the historical facts and what has taken place there after Christ's ascension. It was the Roman Emperor who *destroyed Jerusalem and the Jewish Temple in 70 A.D. and had portions of Jerusalem plowed under*. Later, in A.D. 130, Roman Emperor *Hadrian* decided to build the Roman City "**Aella Capitolina**" on top of the ruins of Jerusalem. He prohibited Jews from entering the city, and banned circumcision that led to the "**Bar Kochba**"-revolt. After the revolt, the **Romans** (in 135 A.D.), wanting to insult Jews even further, **named that province Palestine, after the Philistines, the arch-enemies of Israel**. The people who lived in this newly named "**Palestine**" were not "**Palestinians**", but **Israelites**!

But today's "Palestinians" are Arabs who mostly came from Jordan after Israel became a nation in 1948. They are the "occupiers" in the land of Israel! In all of history, there never was a "Palestinian people" or Palestinian nation, government, language, culture, or economy. What now unites these so-called "Palestinians" and Arab nations surrounding Israel, is Islam. They all are Muslims and they hate Jews! It is amazing how little of this is known among people in the West.]

[However, what happens in Israel is relevant to the entire world, for **God reveals His plans to all people through His Word, in our day as He has done before, all recorded in the Old and New Testaments**. He is at work behind the scenes, bringing about the events that He has foretold in His Word, the Bible, that is in actuality a "*Jewish Book*", written by the *Jewish prophets* under the guidance of the Holy Spirit for instructions to the whole world. **No one can dispute the fact that Israel is the major topic of biblical prophecy that covers a large part of the Bible— and Israel is and has been the major topic even in our daily news ever since 1948 when Israel became a Nation again.** [In the KJV of the English Bible the word "*Israel*" is found 2,565 times, and "*Jerusalem*" is mentioned 811 times.] By the way, **Jerusalem is not mentioned even once in Qur'an, though Muslims today insist that Jerusalem is their third holiest city in the world! They want to take Jerusalem from Israel and make it the capital of "Palestine"!**]

Prophecies in the Bible concerning Israel and Jerusalem are precise and beyond possibility of misinterpretation. God specifically warns that He will bring judgment on those who attempt to bring "*peace*" by forcing Israel to give up or divide their God-given land. God will judge all who mistreat *His chosen people, the Jews, and His land, Israel*. God promises: "*...I will enter into judgment... on account [of] My people, My heritage Israel...they have also divided up My land.*" (Joel 3:2b, NKJV.)

Through the prophet Zechariah God said, "*Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all people around about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut to pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.*" (Zech. 12:2-3, KJV.) That Jerusalem is indeed a "*burdensome stone to all people*", can be seen from the fact that between 1967 and 1989 the *UN Security Council and General Assembly* made **865 resolutions, 526 of them were against Israel**. There was again a vote taken about **dividing Jerusalem** – and even now the **UN is planning on making Palestine a state** which means taking more land from Israel, to at least the 1967 or perhaps even to 1948 borders... The UN pretty much includes **all people** of the West, and most of them are against Israel! This is a vote against God Almighty and His land and His people. Scary! American presidents, starting with Jimmy Carter, have tried to negotiate "*peace*" between Israel and *Palestinian-Arabs* by demanding that Israel gives up, in "*exchange for peace*", part of her land that God gave to Israel! How can these American presidents (*one of them even claiming to be an evangelical Christian*), so blatantly go against God and His Holy Word? **The Bible tells us that God will judge nations for their treatment of Israel. How are we as a nation doing? More importantly, how are we as individual Christians doing on that issue?** God said: "*And I will bless them that bless thee and curse him and curses thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*" (Gen. 12:3.) Do we deserve

blessings or curses of God? This is a serious issue to ponder. [Scripture teaches that God will judge people and nations that plan evil or in any way try to eliminate Israel, the nation of God!]

Many *main-stream* Christian churches follow “*Replacement Theology*”, which teaches that Israel, through her disobedience and unbelief, forfeited God’s promises and that the Church is now the “*new Israel*” and has inherited blessings God promised to Israel. [God’s Word, the Bible, does not recognize this!] They also say that only God’s judgments belong to Israel, but blessings promised to Israel now belong to the Church! Not so!

God has promised Israel, “*I will put My spirit within you, and shall cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be My people, and I will be your God.*” (Ez.36:27-28.) “*The house of Israel shall know that I AM the LORD their God from that day and forward.*” (Ezekiel 39:22.) This shall be accomplished by God yet. (Chapters 37, 38 and 39 of Ezekiel tell how this will happen.)

Britain, which had been put in charge of “*Palestine*” by the allied forces, and who had conquered it in the First World War (1917), had been given a mandate by the *League of Nation* (now the UN) to make sure that **this land would remain as a refuge for the Jews scattered around the world.** But instead of doing what she was supposed to do, **Britain gave 75% of the land to Arab-Muslims in exchange for oil! In 1947 the United Nations formalized this breach of trust.** Israel received only 13% of the land they had been promised. Britain and the UN fulfilled Joel 3:2 and parted God’s land.

After being attacked by Muslim nations in 1967, *Israel, in self-defense, recaptured some of this land back.* Now the nations of the world, under the UN and USA, are joining Muslim nations in a demand that Israel gives part of her land to *Palestinians*. **Israel is God’s heritage and her Land is God’s land.**

The USA better not mess with it! As we saw, God’s Promised Land, the Land of Israel, should be much larger – “*from the River Egypt to the Euphrates*”. God has promised that He will gather “*into judgment*” all those who have taken and parted His land. (Joel 3:2.) We need to know that God is the God of Israel, unconditionally.

Paul, in Romans 11:1, asked, “*Has God cast away His people? Certainly not!*” **Their return in unbelief back to Israel has been a great testimony to the world that God’s Word is true and that He will surely fulfill all His prophecies yet in the future.**

When Joshua, thousands of years ago, led the Israelites into the promised-land, he was *commanded by God to drive away all other peoples from the land God had led them into, and said, if they do not do that, these people will be thorns in their sides and will harass them forever.* (Num. 33:55; Joshua 1-24.) They didn’t do it, and therefore they have had nothing but continued trouble from them, who are descendants of Ishmael. This is the way it has been for Israel ever since, “*wars and rumors of wars*”, and **this is what is taking place right now. Palestinians are Arabs/Muslims, Ishmaelites, and they have always been enemies of the Jews, descendants of Isaac.**

Paul’s letter to Romans (9 thought 11) are specifically written about Israel’s future. *Blindness towards the Messiah’s First coming had come to Israel so that Gentiles could be saved!* As Paul wrote, “*...the Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation, to the Jew first and then also to the Greek*”. (Rom. 1:16.) Paul also explained that *the hardening of Israel will not be lifted until the fullness of the gentiles (whom God foreknew) have come in, and they accept Jesus.* (Rom. 11:25.)

Matthew’s gospel, Chapter 24, is all about end times and coming of the Great Tribulation that finally can bring *all Israel to salvation.* (See also Rom. 11:25.)

When Israel comes to realize that Jesus indeed was and is their Messiah, the same one “*who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty*” (Rev. 1:8), then Israel’s role in God’s great plan will be given back to the Jews, and they will teach everyone about their Great God, Yeshua. **The LORD God has brought Jews back to their own land** (Ez. 36:24), the Land of Israel, from where their Messiah will reign for a thousand years. (Rev. 20:2-6.)

[The Devil is doing all he can to win, and it seems that most of the world is already with his plan.]

[The arch-enemy of God knows the scriptures better than we do and he sees that end is fast coming. He has to destroy all Israel now, and if he, with help of Hamas, succeeds, then God loses and no God's end-time prophetic announcements will take place; there will not be a Millennial Kingdom of Christ, there will be no White Throne Judgement of Christ (Rev. 20:11-15.) No "New Heaven and New Earth" (Rev. 21) no New Jerusalem (Rev. 22). God will be defeated, and Lucifer wins as he planned (Isa. 14:12-14.)

[1948 gave a major shock to Satan, God's enemy, for his time to destroy Israel and make null of all God's end-time prophecies was coming to the end.]

Most if not all God-given signs for the *last days* seem to be already in place, prophesied by Daniel (9:24-27) and others, even thousands of years ago. These indeed are exciting times also to all born-again believers, for **the Rapture** (1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Thess. 2:7) could also be "**just around the corner**", and we too may have just a short time left to share the gospel and bring unbelievers to Jesus Christ and be saved so they will not be *left behind*. **Soon after the Rapture, the man of sin, the Antichrist, is going to be revealed** (2 Thess. 2:3) **and he will then confirm his 7-year Covenant with Israel.**

Rev. 4:1 begins with John's statement, "After these things", referring that the Rapture of the Church has now taken place and the Great Tribulation is ready to begin.

Our Lord God has prepared 144 thousand Jewish believers from the twelve tribes of Israel to preach the Gospel during the Great Tribulation and convert the world. (See Rev. Chapters 7 and 14.)

After their preaching, "**God will send another angel on the midst of heaven to preach to those who dwell on the earth – to every nation, tribe, tongue and people – saying with a loud voice, Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; worship him who made the heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.**" (Rev. 14:6-7.) **Our Lord reigns!**

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem." (Ps. 122:6.)

[In our last month's Newsletter we quoted 3 statements that an LDS man had sent to us, asking *how we could disagree with him for all these prove* (he said) *that the restored gospel of the LDS church is true*. Due to the lack of space, we were only able to answer his first statement, about "*chastity*", and promised to answer the next two, "*the Word of Wisdom – WoW*" and "*the Book of Mormon*" in this, November newsletter. (See my answer to his 1st statement about "*chastity*" in our October letter, p. 6.)

Joseph Smith's revelation, called the *Word of Wisdom (WoW)*, is recorded in the *Doctrine and Covenants, Section 89*. Smith gave this *revelation* to his church as *dietary instructions*.

[The LDS Church has picked just a few items from section 89 that are **forbidden to use**, and if used, their entrance to the temples is denied.] Today's LDS members, if asked **what the WoW means to them**, say that *they are not permitted to drink coffee, tea, liquor or use tobacco*. [Most LDS do not seem to know why only these are forbidden, or what else this revelation permits or does not permit?]

[All Mormons should read, *with thinking and reasoning*, this short 21-verse revelation and see what it actually says! For example it says that **all liquor** is forbidden, but vs. 6, 16 say that **homemade wine** is permitted. V. 17 says that "**corn is for the ox, and oats for the horse, and rye for the swine and all beasts of the field, and barley is for mild drinks** (i.e. beer)". V. 9 says that "**hot drinks are not for the body or belly**" (interpreted: **coffee and tea**. What about hot chocolate? What about cold coffee or tea?) V. 12-13 tells that **meat** is to "**be used sparingly or not at all, only in times of winter, or cold, or famine**. (Notice that **corn, oat, rye, barley** are in daily use by LDS persons, thus the **WoW** is not observed.)

When I arrived in Utah as a just returned Mormon missionary (having carefully studied *the Word of Wisdom*), I was surprised to see *BBQs going* in most neighborhoods even in hot summer nights, and all kinds of meats were eaten year around and with "*corn on the cob*". In my home country (Finland) meat is truly *eaten sparingly*, even in winter and hardly ever during summer months, only fish. I discovered that my Finnish diet was a lot healthier than what is told in Joseph Smith's *revelation from God, D&C 89*.

About the Book of Mormon: Did you know that large sections of the Book of Mormon are copied *word for word* from **the English KJV of the Bible** (17 full chapters from Isaiah alone), and much more. Many

parts in the BoM are taken from **the New Testament** teachings of Jesus Christ? Why does anyone need the BoM, when we can read about Jesus' teachings directly from the New Testament? Since large sections of the BoM have been taken from the Bible, these, of course, agree with the biblical teachings and *doctrine of God and Jesus*. Question to ask: Does Mormonism teach today of the same God and Jesus as the Bible or even the BoM does? Both Bible and the BoM teach that there is only one God and that He is Spirit. (Alma 18:24-32; 11:26-40; Moroni 8:18.) This was also taught in other LDS scriptures even years after the BoM, but not anymore. It was 14 years after the BoM (in 1844) that Joseph Smith led his followers after other gods (Deut. 13:1-5). He taught, *"We have imagined that God was God from all eternity...I refute that idea and take away the veil so you can see... I am going to tell you how God came to be God...God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man... and you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves... same as all Gods have done before you."* (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 345-346.) When Joseph Smith said that, he refuted his own earlier teachings in the BoM, and in the D&C of 1835. [Actually his teaching in the D&C 1835 (*saying that that God is spirit*) was carried on in the D&C through several later printings, even though in 1876 they had added Section 130:22 that says that God the *"Father has a body of flesh and bones"*, clearly contradicting his previous teachings.] It was not until 1921 when *"Section I, Doctrine of the Church of Latter Day Saint"*, including teaching that *God the Father is Spirit, was removed from the D&C.* (Verified from earlier LDS Scriptures.) Mormon Doctrine (pp. 576-577) affirms that *the Mormon Church believes in plurality of Gods*, (a teaching against the BoM), saying, *"Speaking of the Father, the Son the Holy Ghost...it is evident from this standpoint alone that a plurality of Gods exists. To us, speaking in the proper finite sense, these are the only Gods we worship. But in addition there are an infinite number of holy personages, drawn from worlds without number, who have passed on to exaltation and are thus gods."* Thus Mormonism is polytheistic doctrine. [Polytheism is belief in existence of many gods regardless of how many of them they worship. You asked also, *"Could that book (BoM) come from anywhere but divinity? My answer: Yes, it could! That Joseph Smith copied from the Bible, is evident, and that he also used even his own time period's preachers messages in the BoM, and many more books available to him, as Ethan Smith's religious novel, "View of the Hebrews", that even LDS Historian and GA, B.H. Roberts had discovered. [Roberts' His book "Studies of the Book of Mormon" is out of print but still available through Amazon.com].* – Let me know if this helped you to see that what you, as a Mormon, now believe, is not biblical nor is it Christianity.

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I received a letter from Linda Duke some time ago, stating that she and her husband, Brent Duke had attended our *"Understanding Mormonism"* classes in Price, Utah, in 1985. They had since moved to Southern Utah, and had continued in the Mormon church until just recently. She left a message on our website, saying, *"I am trying to locate Rauni Higley, whom I met in Price, Utah in 1985. She and her husband were speaking at the Wellington Baptist Church there. If you have her contact I would appreciate it. It took me 37 years, but I have seen the truth of what they were speaking. I would like to personally thank her and her husband."* (What joy she brought to us with that note! It tells that *His Word indeed will not return void.*) I emailed back to her – and we spent time talking by phone several times. They (Linda and Brent) arranged to come and see us, and they brought Dianna, their married Mormon daughter and her husband and their 7-year old son and 3 year old daughter with them. What a treasure they all were and are! We spent nearly 5 hours talking and rejoicing with *happy tears*. We were pleased to give them each a NKJV Bible and some other needed books and materials. We have sent our Newsletters to Linda and Brent ever since.

I now sent to Dianna and her husband our October 2023 newsletter, and asked how they otherwise were doing. This is what she wrote to us, just 10 days ago,

"Hello Higley's, I know this email is long overdue, and a long time has passed since our meeting with my parents, Brent and Linda Duke. I wanted to reach out to just say thank you. Meeting with

you was at the very beginning of my journey in leaving the church, and I was feeling very overwhelmed with it all. Your generosity and hospitality meant a lot to me, and I appreciated very much the time you took for my family. I've come to learn so much, not only about the LDS church and its deception, but of the Biblical truths that I never truly understood. The freedom and joy that I have felt since leaving the church has been unexpected, especially since the church tells you the opposite will happen if you leave. I look to you both as a pivotal moment in my walk with Jesus, and I'm grateful. Thank you again! I hope this email finds you both well and happy. Sincerely, Dianna Wiley

Letters like this are our reward from this work God has called us to do, and not just for us, but ***"...there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*** (Luke 15:10.)

We want to thank you, our friends and partners, for praying for us and supporting us in many ways in the Lord's ministry that He has called us to do. We are praising our Lord daily for His provision also for our personal needs and that Dennis is still able to work in his carpentry work. The Lord has blessed us with reasonably good health, and though we have had problems that expectedly come with age, they have not been serious enough to slow us much. ☺ God really has been good to us during all these many years.

We ask you to pray with us for the precious people we have had a blessing to present the gospel to during these last few months, and that they would have courage to act on *their new faith in Christ*. Some of them have already experienced harsh opposition from their LDS friends and family that are not seeing the importance of this change in their lives. We know that God will bless them as we all continue to pray for them! We ask prayer for our dear Judy, who still has lots of pain in her ankle that was broken months ago. Prayer is needed also for Lois, Marlene, Harold, Bruce, Mark & Virve, Dave B., Al, Sandy, Julie, Jamie, Luke, McKenzie, Aira, Heber, Sharon, Robert, Lisa and Suzi. We rely in the promises that our Lord has given to us in 1 John 5:14-15. He does hear and answer us as we pray according to His will.

We ask that you will continue to pray with us 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 old Mormon 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 are saved. ***"...God our Savior desires that all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus."*** (1 Tim. 2:3-5.) The Lord is pleading that they all would repent and 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.) Jesus's last words to His disciples that includes all of us were, ***"Make disciples of all the nations, and He promised to be with us always, even to the end of the world."*** (Matt. 28:19-20.)

We praise the Lord for answering prayers of all who have been praying for God's mercy for America and forgiveness for disobedience, and giving us hope for the future by electing a new Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson, who loves the Lord and wants to take a responsibility to *"lead like Jesus"*, as he said. Please pray for him and for all who serve people of America as our founding fathers had directed.

Waiting for His coming - ***"Even so, come Lord Jesus!"***

Rauni & Dennis Higley,

Website: www.hismin.com – Email: hismin@xmission.com Phone: 801.943-5011

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