



**\*HE IS SAVIOR, Acts 4:12**

**December, 2024**

## **HIS Ministries December 2024 Newsletter, covering November 2024**

***“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believed in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John3:16.)***

**That is what God in His love for all mankind said and did.**

We pray that there are going to be many who, during these *“latter-times”*, will respond to our efforts to share His amazing love.

***What is the meaning of Christmas?*** Is it gifts we give and receive? Is it decorations we bring out to brighten our homes to make them more festive? Is it special foods we prepare for family and friends? This is what the world and worldly see that Christmas is. Calling this time a *“Christmas celebration”* has made the world at large (unbelievers) uncomfortable and they want to eliminate *“Christmas”* altogether and just call it a *Holiday*. *The world truly wants to take Christ out of Christmas.*

***What is the meaning of Christmas to us who claim to be His followers?*** Let's stop and think.

How do we as believers in Jesus celebrate Christmas? Is there any difference between us and the world? Even though we can celebrate His Birthday similarly with unbelievers with gifts, decorations and special foods – but to us this is a very special season to honor Him in all that we do, with every gift we make or buy for our loved ones, or when we decorate our homes, when we prepare our foods. As His own, we do all this to honor Him who's Birthday we celebrate. It is His birth to become a man for us that made our salvation possible. Our hope and life is in Him.

The Lord has commanded His own to share what the Word of God has told us, namely that the Birth of Jesus Christ was a great prophetic event. God has said, *“Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me.”* (Malachi 3:1.)

As it was during the time of Jesus' birth, so it is also today. *“...seeing they see not... hearing they hear not.”* People reject God's Word today as they did then. People may even quote scriptures, but it does not do any good if the words are not alive and meaningful in their hearts.

About 750 years before the birth of Christ Jesus, Isaiah wrote, *“Therefore the LORD Himself will give you a sign, “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and shall call His name ‘Immanuel’, which is translated ‘God with us.’ (Isaiah 7:14.)* That Jesus was born in Bethlehem is an undeniable historical fact, but the reason for His birth is often ignored. Isaiah wrote (9:6): *“For unto us the Child was born, unto us the Son is given.”* He has given His Son to us so that we, by receiving Him, we can become children of God. (John1:12.) Salvation is God's gift, given to all who will receive Him. But still the great majority of people reject God and His gift of salvation today as they did then.

***“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be the ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting.”*** (Micah 5:2.)

What Micah wrote in the Old Testament about **700 years before the birth of Messiah, became reality on September 29 B.C.**, not on December 25<sup>th</sup> that has been set aside as the time, worldwide, to celebrate the Birth of Christ Jesus. [Scholars who have studied this carefully from other known historical sources have pinpointed our Lord’s birth to have taken place on 29<sup>th</sup> of September, 2 B.C.]

Regardless of whether we know the exact date of Jesus’ birth, what is important for all of us to know is that **He was born for us**, and that He died for our sins, and that we understand the profound importance of these facts.

[***The Book of Isaiah is a Messianic Book.*** We can learn more about our Lord in Isaiah’s writings than even from the New Testament. Isaiah, who was related to the Royal Family of Judah, has recorded the life of king Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26), and his own prophetic calling to reveal Messiah and time of salvation (Isaiah 61) in the year when king Uzziah died (740 B.C.)]

At the beginning of Jesus’ earthly ministry, as He was visiting a Nazareth Synagogue, He was handed the **Isaiah Scroll** to read from. He unrolled it to **Isaiah 61 and He read verse 1 -and the first line from verse 2 “...to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD...”** [i.e. time to receive salvation]. Then **“He closed the book “** (at a comma!) and said, **“Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing”**. (Luke 4:18-19.) Jesus did not read the rest of verse 2 where it says **“the vengeance of our God”**, for that time [***the Great Tribulation***] (Matt. 24:21; Rev. 4-19) will not even begin until the **“man of sin”** is revealed (2 Thess. 2:1-5), and the Church Age ends in the Rapture. (See Rev. 3:10; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:9.)

Isaiah, in 9:6-7, wrote about Christ Jesus, **“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government will be upon His shoulder, and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”** (Isa. 9:6-7.) Indeed, **He is the Mighty God.** He is all that scripture says He is.

In His first coming He came to offer salvation as **God’s gift** (Eph. 2:8-9) to all who come to Him. But when He comes again, He comes as a Judge of the world that has rejected Him. **He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords** (Rev. 19:11-16.) He will sit on David’s Throne and rule forever and ever as was promised to Mary. (Luke 1:31-33.)

***The world pictures Yeshua/Jesus as a physically beautiful man*** who gives all who follow Him the gift of eternal life. **And He does give eternal life to all who repent and come to Him for salvation**, but we do not get that image from Isaiah, who writes about Him (Isa. 53:1-4.) Isaiah 53 is very detailed. He has asked us to pay attention: **1. Who has believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the LORD been revealed?**  
**2. For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.** **3. He was despised and rejected by men; a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.** **4. Surely He has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.”** Isaiah asked this to draw attention **to the lack of faith people have in God’s Word and message; for Messiah was rejected, His person was refused, and to human observation, the Davidic kingly line had ended, thus it was like “a dry ground”.** **His mission was not understood, He was humiliated, and they did not see any “beauty or comeliness” or anything “kingly” in His person for men to admire or to “desire Him” (v. 2).** **Men still want to hide their faces from Him, but it is His suffering and death alone in our place that brings appeasement between God and man** (vss. 3-4). **Isaiah**

**continued:** *5. But He was wounded for our transgression, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. 6. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. 7. He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. 8. He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people was He stricken. 9. And He made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth. 10. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He hath put Him to grief. When you make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. 11. He shall see the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities. 12. Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong: because He poured out His soul unto death: and He was numbered with the transgressors; and He bore the sins of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.” (Isa. 53:5-12.)*  
It is our guilt and sin what causes us to want to hide our faces and not look at His sufferings He took in our place for our sins were laid on Him (vss. 4-6).

Some have thought that verse 5 means that He paid for our sicknesses and that our illnesses are healed through His sufferings on His cross. It does not say that! Of course God can heal anyone He wants to heal according to His will and purposes (1 John 5:14), but we need to realize that there have been thousands upon thousands of faithful followers of Christ who were not healed from their illnesses. What God promises in this is to forgive our sins if we come to Him through Jesus, who took our sins upon Him on the cross. Verse 5 says that He took God’s wrath for all our sins in our place. *“He was wounded for our transgressions (our sins), He was bruised for our iniquities (our wrongs); the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.”* It is God’s forgiveness that gives us spiritual healing and peace with God. When we carefully read all of Chapter 53 of Isaiah, we can be certain that Jesus was *the Lamb of God who took away the sin of the world* (John 1:19). He went *as a lamb to the slaughter, He did not open His mouth in His defense, because He went to the cross in our place and we are guilty* – we had all gone astray, and the Lord had laid on Him the iniquity of us all (vss. 6-7). That night He was taken to an illegitimate trial, held in the middle of the night, which was against the Law, and *He was cut off out of the land of the living.* He suffered a violent death seemingly by decisions of others, but the fact is that He willingly laid down His life for our sins (v. 8). *“He made His grave with the wicked”* (He was crucified and died between two thieves), *“and with the rich in His death”* (v. 9) is a reference to His burial in a tomb of a rich man, Joseph of Arimathea (Matt. 27:57-60). Looking at verses 5 and 10 together makes it clear that Messiah’s death was according to the foreordained plan of God as the payment of our iniquities, so that we, who believe in Him, can become children of God, His seed (v. 10) *through our faith in His finished work for us.* (John 1:12-13; Gal. 3:26-29.)  
“Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God”. (Rom. 10:17). When we submit ourselves to the righteousness of Christ, He will justify and bear our iniquities (v. 11). His righteousness will then be applied to us even though we have no righteousness of our own. (Rom. 10:1-4.)  
Isaiah 53 ends (v. 12) with glorification and exaltation of our Lord Jesus. (See also Phil. 2:9.) *“He poured out His soul unto death”*, carries a meaning that *He gave Himself and died in our behalf, “intercession for the transgressors”* is a reference to His High Priestly work as our One and only Mediator before the Father. (1 Tim. 2:5.) If we are *in Him* (i.e. have been born again) we have guaranteed acceptance before God. “There is therefore no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.” (Rom. 8:1.) Our salvation is secure and we can know now that we have eternal life.

**Let us worship Him with true understanding of His great love for us and share His gospel with all whom we meet.**

We praise the Lord for His love and care of *H.I.S. Ministry* and us as His servants that He has allowed to work in it for four decades now. We thank Him for His provision and direction. We observe miracles of God daily and see how He takes care of this ministry and us personally. **He has sent you to bless us in many ways. We thank Him for each one of you who stand with us and encourages us to keep on regardless of hardships we have, during these many years, experienced. We know that you are and will continue to be blessed by our Lord Jesus for all you have done for Him, even through our little ministry.** There is no question in our minds that we are His and that even though we are far from being “good” [as Jesus said, “no one is good but One, that is God”], we also know that **His goodness is covering our failures and He directs us to try to do better every day.**

The work of the Lord is accomplished through human instrumentality, and He rewards His servants/agents, which you are, as you labor with us for His glory. We are so thankful that the Lord has given to us special friends who partner with us in prayer, and some of you have helped in expenses. As most of you know, we do not receive any salary or paycheck for the ministry-work, but we have worked in secular jobs to earn our living. God has been with us all along. You have helped HIS Ministries without our asking – we only present our needs to the Lord, just as His Word counsels us to do, and He alerts our friends, you, when there is a real need. (Phil. 4:6-7.) **“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”**

Ever since we left our self-sufficient but anxious life as Mormons, and trusted our lives to Jesus, the Lord has taught us not to worry even when by *human reasoning* there has been reasons to worry. We have learned to trust in Him **in everything**, and we mean **in everything!** Psalm 119, the longest Psalm, has been our refuge during our “wilderness tests”. **“Remember the word to Your servant, upon which You have caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life...It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes. The law of Your mouth is better unto me than thousands of shekels of gold and silver.”** (Ps. 119:49-50, 71-72.) We have learned that our afflictions have indeed been for our good, and through them we have learned to trust in God and His care. We have also found that our trials have been good for some others who have seen God working in our lives, and through that they too have received hope for their trials as well. (Rom. 8:28.) When we present our requests to the Lord, we do not doubt that our prayers are heard and He supplies for our Ministry’s and even to our personal needs according to His will and His mercy towards us.

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**We again ask you to pray with us for Judy, Marlene, Connie, Harold, Mark & Virve, Al &, Sandy, Julie, Jamie, Aira, Heber, Roy, Lois & Phil, Sharon, Robert, Luke, Vladimir, Suzi, Bruce, Paul and Sam for their healing or other needs that only the Lord can meet.**

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We are continuing to pray for our dear friends in Australia (Elmien and Leon ,former Mormons themselves) , who are now witnessing to two Mormon couples who have reached out to them for answers for biblical truth about God, Jesus and Salvation (Trinity) that Mormonism contradicts. We have during last few weeks sent them our class-papers documenting the differences, beginning with **Terminology Differences, Mormon Doctrine of God, Jesus and Salvation**, and we will continue providing them with information that they’ll need. When Dennis made a trip to Australia (in 2012) to meet with a few former Mormons whom we had ministered

to from mid-90s, (mostly by internet and phone). Dennis packed a large suitcase full of important Doctrinal LDS books to leave with them, so Elmien and Leon also have access to these. We have also taken many of the important LDS books to Finland also and we have had contacts with some Finnish Lutheran pastors from the beginning of our ministry (1984), when **Askel** (Finnish Christian Magazine) published their Editor in Chief's, Olli Valtonen's 6-page interview of me (Rauni). We later learned that most Finnish Mormons rushed to buy the Magazine... The Truth about Mormonism came out! We have had other contacts over the years with Mormons in Northern Ireland, Scotland and England. (Many stories to tell...) Our little ministry "*has been around*", so to speak.

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**We are continuing to pray for the God's Land, Israel, and victory of the war that was brought against her 14 months ago.** We pray for her people's salvation for a majority of them are still in unbelief that Ezekiel 36 laments and the Great Tribulation that Matthew 24 predicts is almost at the door.

**The Great Tribulation** is not only for Israel, but also for the entire unbelieving world that will be in the middle of the coming 7-year Great Tribulation.

**May the Lord Jesus bless you and yours as you celebrate HIS BIRTHDAY and spread His love to all you meet! ☺**

**Do not forget to "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you!" (Psalm 122:6.)**

**All Americans are hoping for a better future, and we all are praying for a peaceful change of power on 1/20/2025!**

We are sorry to be late with this Newsletter. We were invited to spend Thanksgiving with our dear friends in the Flathead Valley of Montana.

***We wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2025!***  
**(If you have comments or questions, please email or call.)**

With Joy in the Lord,

Rauni & Dennis

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