



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

January 1, 2024

HIS Ministries January 2024 Newsletter, covering December 2023

“He will lift up a banner for the nations and gather the dispersed of Israel, He will collect the scattered of Judah from the four corners of the earth.” (Isa. 11:12.)

“PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM. MAY THEY PROSPER WHO LOVE YOU.” (Ps.122:6.)

Israel’s place in the history of the world is well documented, even by the Lord Jesus Himself, who quoted in the New Testament from 20 Old Testament books, written by Moses, Jeremiah, Isaiah, David, Hosea, Daniel, Jonah and Malachi. He, Jesus, confirmed that both the Old and the New Testament are God’s Word given for us to study and to understand that all events spoken there have or will take place at their appointed times, just as were prophesized.

We are living in incredible times, times of which the Bible says more than of any other period, including the Time when Jesus walked on this earth. The Bible is not just a history of the past or a book of instructions on how to live our lives pleasing God. The Bible has always been and still is the Book of Prophecy that covers not only the past, but also the present and the future. Without understanding what the Word says about our time and what is next in God’s agenda, we would be like most of the Israelites were when Christ rode into Jerusalem as their Messiah in His Triumphant Entry. (Luke 19:28-44.) Those who had come to faith in Him, spread their clothes and palm leaves in the way and sang a Messianic Psalm (118:26) declaring Him to be their promised *Mashiach Nagid*, the Messiah and the King, while others rejected Him loudly.

The Word of God is all about God and His people, His land, and His plan for redemption of His people Israel that the Devil, the enemy of God, has wanted to destroy from the beginning.

Students of the Bible can see that we must be very near to *the end*, even the Great Tribulation period, for both the Old and The New Testament scriptures that tell about these end times also teach that, for this to take place requires that the Jews are back in their own land as a nation again.

Israel became a nation on May 14th, 1948. Satan knows what the Bible tells about Israel’s future and also that when Jesus, ***the King of kings and the Lord of lords*** (Rev. 19:16) ***comes back again, He will rule and reign over all nations of the world from Jerusalem, Israel.*** (Rev. 20:4.) The Devil has sworn (see Isa. 14:12-14) to win and take God’s place before any of that could happen, and also destroy all that God had planned for Israel, and for all those who come to believe in Jesus’ name.

Thousands of years ago *God had promised to give the land of Canaan to Israel as their land and inheritance.* (Ex. 6:2-4.) God had instructed Moses to speak to Israel and say to them ***“...drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy all their images and demolish all their high places...”*** (Numb. 33:50-52,55-56.)

God also warned them, saying, ***“But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain shall be irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell. Moreover it shall be that I will do to you as I thought to do to them.”***

Ever since May of 1948 the Arab nations (population in the billions against under 10 million Jews) around Israel have continually harassed and attacked Israel, but so far without major success.

[Note: About 20 years ago, under “a requirement from the UN”, Israel had agreed to give Gaza (where Israel had built beautiful, high-income-producing Greenhouses, gardens, other buildings and homes) to “the Palestinians” (i.e. Arabs), with a right to self-govern. But during the last 20 years they (Palestinians, i.e. Arabs) destroyed all income-producing greenhouses etc. and instead of taking care of their personal living, they allowed Hamas to build and establish their military headquarters and ammunition storages underground, building miles upon miles of deep tunnels, zig-zagging them under schools and hospitals around all of Gaza, with obvious plans to eventually attack and take over all of Israel.]

On October 7th, 2023, Palestinians and Hamas gave their answer to Israel’s good will towards them!

Early Sabbath morning on October 7th 2023 (Fall Feast Sabbath) **Israeli-homes were brutally attacked by Hamas-terrorists and Palestinians, supported by Iran and other enemies of Israel.** In one day over 1200 Israelis, most of them women and children, were raped and murdered, and 20 children were burned alive, and thousands more were injured and hundreds taken as hostages.

That very day Israel declared a War against Gaza and all Hamas-militants living in Gaza, and even against Palestinians promoting and supporting this horrendous slaughter. This is a spiritual war that is not understood by our world’s secular population. This has fueled anti-Israel, and anti-Jew-sentiments across the globe.

Violence against Jews everywhere is rampant. Some call this a *Second Holocaust*. We must pray for Israel and all Israelites everywhere. (Ps. 122:6.)

Students of the Bible might now be wondering if this Hamas-war could become a part of the beginning of sorrows spoken of in the gospel of Matthew (24:8), and also prophesied in the book of Daniel 9:20-27, and in chapter 12. It seems that these prophecies have caused many Christians to think that “the Rapture has to be just round the corner”. However, the Rapture of the Church (1 Thess. 4:13-18) will take place before the 7-year Great Tribulation begins and the Antichrist is revealed who makes and confirms the 7-year covenant for the “protection of Israel from its enemies”. The scriptures indicate that his “covenant” will be part of the peace treaty with Arabs (Islam) who then will allow Jews to build their temple on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem (perhaps where Arab’s Al-Aqsa Mosque now stands). (Rev. 11.) At the halfway point of the 7-year treaty the Antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel and causes “abomination of desolation” (2 Thess. 2:4) that brings the wrath of God to the entire world. (1 Thess. 5:9.)

When we, about 40 years ago, had begun our deep Bible-studies with our mentor and friend, Dr. Chuck Missler, we asked him if there was a way to know the timing of the “end of the world”. He said, **“to know where we are in God’s time concerning the end of the world, keep your eyes on Israel and see what is happening there.”**

Now we can see what he meant! The Bible is God’s book and its focus is Israel, and includes the NT Church. (See Rev. Chapters 1-3.) **We must take our studies of God’s Word very seriously and keep our relationship to our Lord closer than ever before! We must pray and ask the Holy Spirit to lead us in all things. Jesus said that our eternal life depends on knowing God!** (John 17:3.) A false god or “another Jesus” (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15) cannot save anyone regardless of how “sincere” your faith might be! **God of the Bible is a Triune God [Father, Son and Holy Spirit, (Trinity)]. All through the Old Testament the Triune nature of God is taught. The Jews daily repeated “Shema”, which is their confession of faith in God, and who He is. They repeated (Deut. 6:4), “Hear O Israel: The LORD our GOD is one LORD.” (Jesus confirmed the same – see Mark 12:29.) (In Hebrew it reads, “Jehovah (YHVH) our elohim (plural) is echad (one).**

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” (Prov. 9:10.) When we, Dennis and I, came to understand the truth and see who the God of the Bible is, and who our Savior, Jesus Christ is, we had to separate ourselves from where we had been, and from what we had sincerely, though in ignorance, before believed.

The Book of Joshua showed us how belief in falsehoods may give temporal comfort, but not a lasting peace. We saw how easy it would have been while we were in our distress over this change, to step back to the “comforts” that we had had while believing in the false teachings of Joseph Smith! [*This life is short but eternity is endless!*] Joshua set Israel straight by bringing them back to the truth about God who saved them. **We read how Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel** (Joshua 24:1-2, 14) **their elders, their heads and their judges, and their officers, and presented them before the LORD God of Israel**, [*the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob*]. Joshua taught them who the God of Israel is and what He had done to save them from slavery in Egypt. After reminiscing through their 40 years of wilderness hardships, and comparing what God has prepared for them all along, Joshua said, **“Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!...Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”** (Joshua 24:1-2, 14-15.)

For Mormons, this is saying that if we have believed in other gods, gods taught to us in Mormonism, we have to check this out and verify what the Bible says about God, Jesus, eternal life and salvation, and compare what we were taught in Mormonism, **and then choose whom we, from that day onward, will believe in and serve. The Bible is true. It has been read, tested and critiqued literally thousands of years, and the facts are standing solidly by it. Evidence in history, in archeology, fulfilled prophesies and more have proven that it is true. What we all must do is to learn, compare what we have been told even against it, and then choose between truth and error. Our eternal life depends on that.** (John 17:3) **The God of the Bible informs that there indeed is life after physical death!** We must prepare now to face what we all will be experiencing some day. In many, if not in most cases, death comes without an announcement. And when death comes it is too late to make changes. **We all are eternal beings!** Where we spend our eternity depends on into whose hands we have placed our life-to-come. **Gaining eternal life requires that we KNOW God, who He is. A false god will not do! Jesus said, “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him, must worship [Him] in Spirit and in Truth.” God of the Bible is a Triune God – (three equal eternal Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit) that are One God! We may not understand that right away, but searching through His Word, we will find out that it is true.**

The Bible states clearly that it was the second Person of the Triune God who became a man in Jesus Christ for our salvation. The Bible connects Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning...”, to what it says about who Jesus Christ is. **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and dwelled among us.”** (John 1:1, 14.) **I.e. Jesus is the Word, “God with us”.** (Matt. 1:23.) **He became a man to pay for our sins by His death, for the “wages of sin is death”.** (Rom. 6:23.) Why did He do that? **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should have everlasting life.”** (John 3:16.) [God created mankind for fellowship with Him. He loves us, but because of our sin that separates us from God, the Second Person of the Triune God volunteered to become a man and pay the price for our salvation. **“In Him (Jesus) dwells all the fullness of Godhood bodily”.** (Col. 2:9.) This is possible because **Triune God is one God who is Spirit and He does not have a body of flesh and bones.** (Luke 24:39.)]

Just to repeat the facts we already talked about: **God of the Bible is Eternal God.** He has been God from all Eternity. There was never a time when He was not Almighty God! **God created man (Adam) in His spiritual likeness** (Gen. 1:27), **and thus all humans are also eternal beings –[only our physical body dies as result of our sin-nature we inherit from Adam, but not our spirit.** (Rom. 3:23.)] In order for mankind to live with God eternally, **our sins had to be paid by a sinless man (Jesus).** Thus God the Son became a man, and by dying for our sins, He provided the full payment for our sins in behalf of all who accept and receive Him (John 1:12-13). **Salvation is God’s gift to all who believe in Jesus as who He is, a Virgin born Savior.** [He had to be born of a virgin, for sin nature is inherited, passed from a man (Adam) who sinned. (1 Cor. 15:22.)] **(Absolutely no works are required for Salvation. It is the Gift of God.** (Eph. 2:8-9; John 6:29b.) **Anyone who chooses to ignore the facts of eternal life, and what God has done to have us live with Him forever, will end up spending eternity in hell, the place that was created only for the Devil and his angels.**(Matt. 25:41.)

In summary: Only true and eternal God who created us can save us, and that only through His Son Jesus Christ, who is God in human flesh, and who gave His life on the Cross of Calvary so that we can live eternally with Him. (John 14:1-3.) **We determined to think and reason where we had been and what we must do now.**

The Mormon Church teaches the opposite to the Bible about who God is, who Jesus is and how mankind can be saved. When Joseph Smith began his religion in 1830, he named it then *The Church of Christ*. The *Book of Mormon* declares that *there is only one God* and that *God is spirit* (Alma 11 and 18) and it also says that *God “is unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity.”* But 14 years later, in April of 1844, Joseph Smith changed what he had before taught about God, and said, **“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 can 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... I am going to tell you how God came to be God... It is the first principle of the Gospel to know for certainty the Character of God... you 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.) He also taught, **“If Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and John discovered that God the Father of Jesus Christ had a Father, you may suppose that he had a Father also. Where was there ever a son without the father?... Hence if Jesus had a Father, can we not believe that he had a Father also?”** (Teachings, pp. 379-373.) **“In this way both the Father and the Son, as also all exalted beings are now or in due course will become Gods of Gods.”** (Teachings pp. 342-376.) About the *LDS Godhead*, Mormonism teaches: **“Three separate personages – Father, Son and Holy Ghost comprise the Godhead... Each occupies space and is and can be in but one place at one time... as each of these persons is a God, it is evident, from this standpoint alone, that plurality of Gods exists... To us, speaking in the proper finite sense, these three are the only Gods we worship. But in additions there are an infinite number of holy personages, drawn from worlds without number, who have passed on to exaltation and are thus gods... Indeed, this doctrine of plurality of Gods, is so comprehensive and glorious that it reaches out and embraces every exalted personage...”** Joseph Smith taught that **“every man who reigns in celestial glory is a God... exalted far above principalities, powers, thrones, dominions and angels...”** (See Teachings, p. 374, and Mormon Doctrine pp. 576-577, under *Plurality of Gods*.) All of Mormonism is against what the Bible teaches about God, Jesus and salvation! **“The current (2024) President of the Council of the Twelve Apostles of the LDS Church, Jeffrey R. Holland, has declared: “A Trinitarian notion [was] never set forth in the scriptures because it is not true.”** (We must compare and decide for ourselves who is telling the truth: Is the ***Word of God*** or Mormonism?)

What about Jesus of Mormonism? Who is he? Is he a man who became a god (as Mormonism says, and that all mankind can also become) **or is He God who became a man to die in our place and pay our sin-debt, as the Bible teaches? What does the Mormon Church actually teach about who Jesus is?** (From *The Gospel through Ages*, an LDS Melchizedek Priesthood Manual, (pp. 14-15), we read: **“Jesus is man’s spiritual brother. We lived with him in the spirit world as members of that large society of eternal intelligences, which included our Heavenly Parents and all the personages who have become mortal beings upon this earth... In that spirit-creation (where we were born) we became children of God, Jesus was the “first-born” and so he is our elder brother... Our 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 of the World was contested by one of the other sons of God. He was called Lucifer, 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. At the great council, he proposed a new plan of salvation...”** [Underlining added.] [Note: Lucifer’s plan was rejected by the great council and thus **Jesus was “chosen” as a Savior over Lucifer.**]

[A Mormon owned movie- and video production company, VIDANGEL STUDIOS in Utah, has produced series of videos, they named “THE CHOSEN”, about “the life of Jesus”. These videos have become very popular for they are advertised **“as Christian videos”**, not only in America, but also around the world. The screen-writer of these movies is a man who says that he is a Christian, although he has confessed **that 95% of the script for these videos is not from the Bible**, though he uses names of the real persons told about in the New Testament! **These movies present a different Jesus**, and are very beneficial to the Mormon message, but hurtful to the true Gospel. They only provide entertainment and huge financial growth to their Mormon owners.

About the birth of Jesus, the Mormon Church teaches that He was NOT begotten by the Holy Spirit, but that He “was sired” by their God, “their Heavenly Father”, who is a resurrected, immortal man. Quoting from their encyclopedic volume, Mormon Doctrine, pp. 546-7, under Only Begotten Son, we learn that, “These name titles all signify that our Lord is the only Son of the Father in the flesh. Each of these words is to be understood literally. Only mean ‘only’, Begotten means ‘begotten’ and Son means ‘son.’ Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by their mortal fathers.”

A president and a prophet of the Mormon Church, Ezra Taft Benson, in his book, “Come Unto Christ”, on p. 4, wrote, “The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints proclaims that Jesus Christ is the Son of God in the most literal sense. The body in which He performed His mission was sired by that same Holy Being we worship as God, our Eternal Father. Jesus was not the son of Joseph, nor was He begotten by the Holy Ghost. He is the Son of the Eternal Father!”

In addition to all that is written by many LDS leaders, Mormon Doctrine (p. 742), under Son of God, says, “God the Father is a perfected, glorified, holy Man, and immortal personage. Christ was born into the world as a literal Son of this Holy Being; he was born in the same personal, real and literal sense that any mortal man is born to a mortal father. There is nothing figurative about his paternity; he was begotten, conceived and born in the normal and natural course of events, for he is the son of God, and that designation means what it says.”

However, the Bible absolutely disagrees with what the Mormon Church teaches about God and Christ, for God of the Bible is Spirit and Jesus was born of a Virgin, without any man’s involvement, as Matthew’s Gospel, v. 18 says, “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.” (Please read more in Matt. 1:18-23.)

Jesus informed Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, that God requires that a person must be born of the Holy Spirit before he can see or enter the kingdom of God. [He said, “Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Adam was created in God’s image, and God is Spirit. When Adam sinned God the Holy Spirit departed from Adam.] Nicodemus did not understand how one can be born again. Jesus explained to him what the new birth is. (John 3:3-8.) We will receive the Holy Spirit of God when we come to believe in Jesus Christ and who He is (John 1:1, 12-13) and in that instant we “become God’s children”. Until that moment we are only “Adam’s descendants”, and “they are not children of God.” (Romans 9:8.) Thus men are not automatically Children of God, but only Adam’s descendants. We all eventually die (physically), but our spirit, that was created in the image of God, will never die, therefore we must be born of the Holy Spirit to become God’s Children who can live with Him forever. (See 1 Cor. 15:22.)

The Gospel of Christ, which is the “good news of salvation”, (Jesus died for us, was buried and then rose again) is declared to us. (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) Salvation is the Gift of God. “For by grace we have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the Gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (Eph. 2:8-9.) “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”. (Rom. 3:23.)

John 3:16 declares God’s love for all mankind, and why Jesus had to take all our sins on Him and suffer and shed His blood and die on the Cross of Calvary in our place. He had to die because we all are guilty, “the wages of sin is death, but the Gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23.)

“The LDS Creed” is their Articles of Faith, and #3 in it, (even though it mentions the Atonement of Christ), says, “all mankind may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the (LDS) Gospel.” (Note: there are no laws or ordinances in the biblical Gospel of Christ!)

LDS Doctrinal encyclopedia, Mormon Doctrine, lists several ways or roads to Salvation (see pp. 669-673). 3 different “programs” or methods in the LDS “gospel of salvation” are:

1. **Unconditional or general salvation** [i.e. bodily resurrection only that could lead to “damnation”] (see details)
2. **Conditional salvation** [includes *gospel obedience, but no temple ordinances or marriage there*]– (see details)
3. **True salvation** [i.e. *exaltation, and godhood in the highest heavens within the celestial kingdom-* (see details)

About Salvation by Grace alone: Mormonism teaches (ibid p.670 that **it is resurrection only**, and says, **“it is one of the untrue doctrines found in modern Christendom”** for it teaches a concept that man can gain **salvation by grace alone without obedience**. They call it a **“soul-destroying doctrine”**, because **“without works”** it leads to damnation.

In conclusion, just to reiterate: The God and Jesus of Mormonism are not the God and Jesus spoken of in God’s Word, the Bible, regardless of their claims!

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We ask that you pray for our dear friend Judy, who continues to have lots of pain in her ankle. Prayer is needed also for Marlene, Harold, Bruce, Mark & Virve, Al, Sandy, Julie, Jamie, Luke, McKenzie, Aira, Heber, Sharon, Roy and Lisa. Suzi is going to have hip replacement surgery on 1/26/24, in spite of her high blood pressure that is now being controlled with medication, which had made her doctor hesitate to approve her serious surgery. 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 heard the gospel of Christ, but have not yet responded to God’s call for them for salvation. Some of them are our friends and relatives 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 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.)

We thank you for your prayers and support of our little ministry. Your assistance gives us strength and hope for the future. Dennis is still working in his carpentry profession, and takes time to help me in answering Mormon-questions and challenges that are continually presented to us. We love questions and comments that we receive, and we are also glad to hear that many of you share our newsletters with others that might like to read them also.

We will be sending tax receipts in couple of weeks for your gifts we received during 2023.

We wish you a Happy New Year!

With the Love of Jesus, waiting for His Coming. “Even so, come Lord Jesus!” (Rev. 22:20.)

Rauni and Dennis

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