



September 20, 2025

## HIS MINISTRIES SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER, COVERING AUGUST 2025

I was introduced (in the sixties) to a young lady, close to my age, who had just about a year before joined the Mormon Church. I had no idea what that church was, or what they actually believed. When she learned that I did not have any brothers or sisters, and that my parents had died early (my mother when I was 11 and my father when I was 17), and that my grandparents had also passed away early, before I had reached adulthood, she began to realize that the Mormon Church would be the perfect religion and a church for me because of the LDS teaching of salvation for the dead. She suggested that I would come on the following Sunday with her to the LDS branch and find out what they actually teach and believe.

The Finnish Lutheran Church is a State Religion and about 93% of the people in Finland are members of that church, and most of them stay members in it unless they “*become religious*” and want to join another faith. My parents had been Lutherans, but not regular church-attenders, though my mother had taught me to memorize the Lord’s Prayer, but my understanding of religion or faith-matters was based on what little I had learned at school, but it was not about faith in God or in Jesus as much as it was about the history of religions and of the *Evangelical Lutheran Church*.

I went with my new friend to the Mormon Church’ branch in Oulu, and there I met 2 American missionaries who got very excited to present to me that Mormonism is *the only religion that offers salvation not only to **the living and faithless**, but also for the dead*, saying to me that ***IF I would join the Mormon Church***, I could get my parents and other dead relatives baptized and saved and have them back in my life after this life is over. Was this really true, I asked? They assured me that they had a spirit testimony that it was really true, and that this information is what they and all Mormon missionaries were here in Finland for - to tell me and to all who wanted to hear the gospel they presented and believed. When I told them that I didn’t have a Bible, they said that I do not necessarily need to have a Bible for they were going to give me the Book of Mormon, and it ***is comparable to the Bible***.

**I understood that perhaps I needed to be converted to be able to gain eternal life for myself, and thus maybe make eternal life available to my dead relatives also.** When I asked about this from other local Mormons, they too said that the Mormon Church was indeed the only religion teaching salvation of and for the dead! Since my parents, grandparents, and many of my relatives I had known, had died early, and since I had been the only child of my parents, ***I was told that if I became a baptized member of the Mormon Church, salvation of my dead family members would then become my God-given assignment to follow through on!*** This added to my confusion about the afterlife, and rushed

me to join the Mormon Church for my own as well as my family's salvation. I was as converted and baptized a Mormon in just 3 weeks!

*I was told that work for the salvation of the dead can only be done in Mormon Temples, adding that even after I joined the Church it would take at least one year before I would be eligible to enter a temple for their baptism and endowments. [The closest Mormon temple to Finland at that time was in Bern, Switzerland.]*

[I was told that the President of the Finnish LDS Mission had heard how excited I had become when I had learned that the Mormon Church teaches *baptism for the dead*, and that it had inspired me to join the Mormon Church in order to provide salvation for all my dead family members!]

Nine months after I was baptized into the Mormon Church, the President of the Finnish LDS Mission (in Helsinki) came to my home in Oulu to talk to me about my faith in the Mormon Church, and if he saw that I had understood the LDS gospel correctly, he would call **me on a mission for the LDS Church**, suggesting that I should begin, **even now**, to prepare for my **work for the salvation of my dead family members** by getting needed genealogy forms filled and sent them to the Swiss Temple for baptisms and other temple ordinances. He also told me that he was planning on organizing **a mission temple-trip for all 120 missionaries currently serving their missions in Finland, and that I could fly with them to the Swiss temple in January and there do the temple work for myself and for my dead relatives.**

*[By January I would have been a member of the Church for the required minimum of one year and I could receive my own endowments!]* The Swiss temple, before our arrival there in January, would have already done all baptisms for the dead I had submitted to them on genealogy forms, and now I, with other missionaries, could begin to do all other temple ordinances for my dead family members.] **That was the plan!** [At this time he also told me that **he is going to call my new Mormon friend also for a mission in Finland**, and then in January, we both could receive our endowments in the Swiss Temple.] I asked the Mission President more about the temple and what I can expect that will take place there, but he said that all he can tell me is to read **the Book of Abraham** (in the Pearl of Great Price) **about the preexistence, for what takes place in a temple is not only secret, but also sacred, and we cannot talk about any of it outside of the temple!**

**I promised to read LDS Scriptures and also read the Bible to prepare myself for my mission.**

**I bought the new Bible in Finnish, and started to read it:** (Gen.1:1) ***"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."*** **How did He do it? He did it all by His Word...** ["And God said, saw, called, made, created..." Gen. 1:3-31.]

***I learned that God is a Triune God. I read that and wondered how God can be One God if godhead includes three Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost? And I also wondered what is the Name of God, if God is Three Persons? The answer is found in Exodus 6:3, where God said, "I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac and unto Jacob (Israel), by the name of God Almighty, but by My name YHVH (Jehovah) was I not known to them" (to Israel).***

Through studying the Bible more and wondering what it all meant, I learned that **the Hebrew word for God and Godhead** (three in one) **is Elohim**, a plural word indicating that God is One, regardless. (In the Hebrew it says, **"God, our YHVH is One Elohim"** (all three persons are One God but He has only one name!)) (Deut. 6:4.) [Jesus is God (the Son) who became a man to reveal to mankind the character of God. He said, **"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and Truth."** (John 4:24.)

John 1:1-3 had already revealed who the Son is, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made."* This reveals that *Jesus is "God the Word" who created all things out of nothing*, just as Genesis 1:1-31 says.

In Colossians 1:15-17, Paul further explains; *"He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God...For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things and in Him all things consist."* Paul continued in Colossians 2:9, *"In Him (in Jesus, the Word) dwells all fullness of the Godhead (i.e., all 3 persons) bodily."* [It is possible because only Jesus has a physical body, but the Father and the Holy Spirit are Spirits.]

Hebrews 11:3 further explains what *"God created"* means: *"By faith we understand that the worlds were framed (created) by the word of God, so that all things which are seen, were not made of things which do appear (and are seen)."*

When the missionaries gave me the Book of Mormon, they said again that *it is like the Bible*, so I could study it instead of the Bible. *But I didn't find the Book of Mormon to be like the Bible at all*, except that its language (in English) read as if it was written in 1611-period English.

The Bible begins with the creation story of how God (the Word) spoke the heaven and the earth into existence *from nothing*. (KJV Gen. 1:1-31.) The Book of Mormon does not start *"In the Beginning..."* as the Bible does. There is no *"Creation Story"* in it that the Bible begins with, telling how *God the Word* spoke the heavens and the earth into existence. (NKJV 1:1.)

It was Joseph Smith who told how it all had begun. He wrote: "In the beginning, the head of the Gods called a council of the Gods; and they came together and concocted a plan to create the world and people it." Joseph Smith also said, *"When we begin to learn this way, we begin to learn the only true God, and what kind of being we have to got to worship. Having knowledge of God, we begin to know how to approach him. Now I ask all who hear me, why the learned men who are preaching salvation, say that God created the heavens and the earth out of nothing? The reason is that they are unlearned in the things of God... If you tell them that God made the world out of something, they call you a fool. But I am learned, and I know more than all the world put together... If you ask the learned doctors why they say that the world was made out of nothing, they answer, "Doesn't the Bible say that He created the world... but that word (create) means to organize..."* (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 349-350; Underline added.)

That didn't sound true to me, but I had not known the Bible, and the Book of Mormon did not seem comparable to Bible to me, though they had told me that it is. However I was truly hoping that since I have believed that dead can be saved and I had brought my dead family members names into this church and had them baptized and endowed, though through proxy work only, but if that is not true then none of their work would have been accepted by the Lord - and then there is no salvation for them. I would lose them again - it would have been just a big lie .

After my mission in Finland was over, I moved to Salt Lake City and I was hired by the LDS Church as a translator and interpreter, translating from English to Finnish all needed doctrinal LDS manuals and books, and Temple rituals and ordinances that I had also participated in doing the work for my dead relatives. and that gave me all that I needed to know about the Church I had joined to bring my dead family members into it also. I had with all my heart believed those 20 years that I had been working for salvation of my dead family. But my translation work of LDS doctrinal books and other writings over 14

proved to me that Mormonism is totally false doctrine. Having to see that broke my heart, for now I had to lose my family second time: There is no salvation for the dead!. Hebr. 9:27 clearly says "As it is appointed men once to die, but after that the judgement." Luke 16: 19-31 verifies that salvation is only possible for those who are still alive.

Joseph Smith had placed his name in the Book of Mormon as "Author" (1830), and just 1-2 years later he had started to write other "Scriptures", as the *Book of Commandments*, 1833, the *Doctrine and Covenant*, 1835, *Lectures on Faith*, in 1835, and rather than teaching what *the Word of God, the Bible*, teaches about **God who is Spirit**, he began to wonder (in 1839) **if there is just one God or many gods?** (See: D&C 121:28.) And **on he goes from there...** he announced that there are many gods, and that **God was not God from all eternity, as we had imagined, but that he was once a mortal man, just as we are now**, and added, **"you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves, the same as all Gods have done before you..."** (See: Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 345-347.) [*The "Mormon couplet, 'As man is, God once was, as God now is, man may become', was developed from this teaching. [Joseph Smith had already taught that "all men are Gods in embryo".]*

Joseph Smith said that he had translated **the Book of Mormon from the gold plates of Nephi** (from 600 B.C.) which **was a record of ancient inhabitants of Americas, comparable to the Bible**. Joseph Smith had it published in 1830 when he also organized his new church and named it the *Church of Christ*. Three years later (in 1833) he published **the Book of Commandments that contained 65 "revelations" that he had received from the Lord**. In 1835 he rewrote (corrected) most of them and enlarged the book to 101 revelations. He also renamed it **the Doctrine and Covenants**, including in it his **Seven Lectures on Faith**. At that time he also changed the name of his church to **"The Church of Latter-day Saints"**, removing "Christ" from it. In 1838 he again decided to change the name of his Church, adding Christ back to it - this time giving the name that it still has; **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**.

**In 1842 he published his First Vision Story, revealing for the first time that he had seen 2 physical Gods back in 1820.**

Following is the list of books that Joseph Smith had written and published: *the Book of Mormon, the Book of Commandments, the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lectures on Faith and Fourteen Articles of Faith*. [He later made many changes, additions and removals in them.]

Wilford Wood of The *Historical Department of the Church*, combined these books, written and published by Joseph Smith Jr. into 2 volumes: **# 1 was titled, JOSEPH SMITH BEGINS HIS WORK, Book of Mormon, 1830 First Edition; and Volume II had, The Book of Commandments; the Doctrine and Covenants; the Lectures on Faith; Fourteen Articles of Faith.**

Joseph Anderson (from Hist. Dept. of the Church) wrote, **"Volumes issued by Wilford Wood were photographically reproduced from the 1830 Book of Mormon, from the 1835 Book of Doctrine and Covenants, from the 1833 Book of Commandments, and the Lectures on Faith. They were officially approved by the Church... Joseph Smith made many corrections in 1837 and in the 1840 editions of the Book of Mormon... you will find in comparison of 1830 and the current BoM that there are many changes, but they all were made by Joseph Smith. The same is true of the revelations contained in the 1833 Book of Commandments and the 1835 Doctrine and Covenants. **Joseph Smith, being the one who had received these revelations and had them recorded, likewise would have a right to add or remove from them, or change the revelations and he did so in some cases...**"** (Letter of 29 July, 1974.)

Joseph Smith later introduced as a part of his visions *8 chapters containing his translation of writings of Moses* (1830) that were 30 years later published and included in the *Pearl of Great Price*; also included were the *Book of Abraham*, *Joseph Smith's Writings*, and the *Articles of Faith*.

In 1844 General Conference Joseph Smith revealed to them what he believed about God and who he is. He declared that his God had been once a mortal man, and that men "got to learn how to be Gods themselves, same as all Gods have done before them."

He told his audience (mostly members of his church) that "every man has a natural, and, in our country, a constitutional right to be a false prophet, as well as a true prophet. I show verily that I have the truth of God, and show that ninety out of every hundred professing religious ministers are false teachers, having no authority ..." He continued, "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!"

He also told them that "it is the righteous who will dwell in everlasting burnings", not the devil and unbelievers. (Teachings, pp. 344-347.)

God, in His Word, the Bible, has warned many times about someone coming and teaching untruths about God and leading men into belief in different gods.

Could Deuteronomy 13:1-5 be a prophecy of what would happen to Joseph Smith?

God had warned, "If there rises among you a prophet or dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder...saying, 'Let us go after gods which you have not known, and let us serve them. You shall not listen to the words of that prophet, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all our soul. You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. But but that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the LORD your God... to entice you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst."

(Deuteronomy. 13:15.) (See also Romans 1:18-24.)

It was in June, 1844, only about 2 month after Joseph Smith had (in April of 1844) told them about different gods, and that men can learn how to be Gods themselves, when **the Prophet Joseph Smith was put to death.**

In our next newsletter I will be answering questions we have received about Mormonism and its relationship to the occult and Freemasonry. I will reveal some things I had I discovered while working 14+ years for the LDS Church translating their doctrines when I translated the temple rituals and sealing ceremonies. I will also like to explain the symbols that are on the Nauvoo Temple and on the SL temple (though some of them may be eliminated with the SL-temple-refurbishing that will be completed by 2027.) I will respond why the Mormon Church requires "worthiness interviews" of its members. I will answer your questions about Michael (presented in the Temple Ceremony).

We want to thank you, our prayer- partners and supporters for your assistance to us and in our Ministry- needs. A few of you have even extended your help and prayers to us personally when you learned about my health problems. We thank you from our hearts for we know your prayers have made a difference and your offers for help warmed our souls.



We invite your prayers for Judy, Marlene, Aira, Taylan and his family, Emily and her children, Bruce, Heber, Helen, Elmien, Leon (in AU), Roy, Lois, Suzi, Mickey, Connie, Mark and Virve and their friend Kris (in France), Sandy and Al. We Praise God for healing our dear friend Tubi from a serious cancer and also for Eeva-Liisa's health improvement (in Finland). We also want to share a special praise to God for Sam for whom you along with us, have prayed often. His eyes are now completely healed and his sight has been restored! Thank you, Lord.

[Dennis is thanking you for your prayers for the healing of Rauni. She is doing better and is glad to be able to write our Newsletters again and answer challenging questions. God has been good to us both.

To those of you in the northern hemisphere, enjoy the fall. And to our dear friends "*down under*" have a wonderful spring and summer!

**Please pray for Erika Kirk and her 2 small children for the loss of God's faithful servant and Leader of Turning Point Ministries, Charlie Kirk.**

**Please pray for the peace of Jerusalem! (Ps. 112:6.)**

**Love to you all! And Keep the Son in your eyes!**

Rauni & Dennis

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