

May 1st, 2007

H.I. S. Ministries May Newsletter, covering April 2007

Many spring greetings from us to you all.

Since we got back from Missouri and Illinois, it has been a big “catch-up” time. I am almost back to normal, whatever that might be. ☺

Our mail-box was full when we got back, and more has been coming since then, but that is a good thing. It is encouraging to see so many people interested in knowing what the truth is, and wanting to ask questions to make sure that they are worshipping the One True God and Jesus, who came to offer us all forgiveness and free passage into His Kingdom, if we only want to seek Him, and come to Him in repentance, desiring to know Him.

We also get challenges and angry mail from those who do not understand why we offer information on Mormonism. They consider our offered information as an attack on Mormon people. **How can that be considered an attack since we offer information that they have go into a trouble of finding, in order to know what we are saying?** How is it an attack when we are not picketing on the temple square, or standing on street corners yelling at them as they go by? **Anyone who reads from our website goes there voluntarily, making a self-effort to find out what we say.** They are exercising their free-agency by going there, as are we by offering information to those who want to know. **Many of them say that they just “know” that they are right and we are wrong, even though we have inspected the facts and they have not.** But of course that is what a “testimony” is – “knowing” without solid information to back it up.

We have received lately several letters from Mormons informing us that the “lost ten tribes” will be coming to “Zion”, with their genealogical records to connect with the Mormon Church so that their temple work can be done. They also say that they will bring with them other records they have kept of themselves during the centuries. They say that Mormonism is true because they have this connection to *the Lost Ten Tribes of Israel*, that also proves that the LDS people are of Israel, through Ephraim and Manasseh. They refer to Oct. 16th 1916 General Conference report, where LDS apostle James E. Talmage said, “*The Tribes shall come...they shall be brought forth as hath been predicted; and I say unto you there are those now living –aye, some here present – who shall live to read the records of the Lost Tribes of Israel, which shall be made one with the record of the Jews, or the Holy Bible, and the records of the Nephites, or the Book of Mormon, even as the Lord hath predicted...*” (Articles of faith, p. 513.)

I don’t think so. This statement was made over 90 years ago!!

There are “lost people” among Israelites, just as there are lost people among all nations. They are “lost” as far as their knowledge of God and His salvation is concerned, but **there are actually no “lost tribes of Israel”.** Let’s look at this matter together now:

There are twelve tribes of Israel, each sons of Jacob, who was re-named Israel, by God.

(Gen. 49:1-28.) Jacob’s sons were: **Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Joseph and Benjamin.** The tribes were called by these names. Judah’s leadership among the tribes was prophesied by Jacob (Gen. 49:10) and his tribe was positioned first in their marching order (Num. 2:3; 10:14). Judah also was the first tribe to offer oblation after setting up the tabernacle.

Where this idea that there are ten “lost tribes” comes from, is from a couple of misunderstood verses in the gospel of Matthew (Matt. 10:6 and 15:24). [“Lost” in the sense of being “without knowledge of salvation”.]

Paul said that the message of the gospel was “**to the Jews first**” (Romans 1:16).

God’s chosen nation, Israel, had been during Old Testament times, and still was during the time of Christ, the vehicle to make God known to all the world. That is exactly what Paul meant - **the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, was to be offered to the Jew first**, and afterwards, **through them**, to the Gentiles (non-Jews). While Jesus was on the earth, He focused His ministry on the Jews. **After His resurrection**, He commanded His disciples to take the Good News to all the world.

Some people have misunderstood that the “**lost sheep of Israel**” were the tribes of Israel nowhere to be found, and the myth that there are “**ten lost tribes**” developed from that. When the Lord sent His twelve out with His message, He said to them “...**Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**” (Matt. 10:5-6) Of course the Lord expected them to be reachable otherwise He would not have sent them to speak to them!

And another time when a Gentile woman called after Jesus to heal her daughter, Jesus told His disciples to send her away, saying, “**I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**” (Matt. 15:23-24) Jesus’ words,

without knowing the reason why “*for the Jew first*”, may seem cruel. This only demonstrated Jesus’ commitment to Israel. The Jews were to have the opportunity first to accept Him as their Messiah. When Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman, He acknowledged that they (the Samaritans) did not know God, for the truth had not been brought to them yet. The knowledge that the Messiah had come, had to be offered to the Jews first. Jesus said that the **Jews knew God whom they worshiped, “for salvation is of the Jews.”**

The New Testament mentions several persons from various tribes. *Barnabas was from the tribe of Levi.* (Acts 4:36) *Matthew was a Levite* also, and of course all who were priests were from the *tribe of Levi.* *Jesus was from the tribe of Judah.* (Matt. 1:2; Heb. 7:14) *Paul was from the tribe of Benjamin* (Romans 11:1) *Anna, the prophetess, was from the tribe of Asher.* (Luke 2:36) Revelations 7:5-8 lists *12 thousand from each of the 12 tribes* who will be called to minister during the Tribulation period, a period that may not be far away.

To further understand where the 12 tribes were, perhaps the following summary may be helpful: Before the Israelites entered the Promised Land, two tribes, **Reuben and Gad** and the **half tribe of Manasseh** chose to settle on the East side of the Jordan. (Numbers 32:33). After the land of Canaan was conquered, the land was divided among nine and a half tribes (Joshua, chapters 15-19). The **tribe of Simeon** was assigned territory with Judah (Joshua 19:1). **Judah** had all the land to the West of the Dead Sea and South to Kadesh-Barnea. North of Judah were **Dan and Benjamin**, and **Ephraim** was next to them and the **other half of the tribe of Manasseh was next; then Issachar, Zebulun, Naphtali and Asher** were North of the valley of Jezreel, East of the Sea of Galilee and extended northward to the Mountains of Lebanon. Part of the tribe of Dan went North and seized some territory South of Mount Hermon, thus being the farthest North of all the Israelites (Judges, Ch. 18). Nothing much changed during the period of the Judges in Israel – most of the tribes governed themselves. When David became king over the whole land, the 12 tribes were unified and Jerusalem was conquered and became the capital of the country. Solomon built the temple there. The Lord chose this city as the place where He would put His name (2 Chro. 12:13). **David took a census of all the tribes** (2 Sam. 24:2). Later, when **Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel**, he built an altar and used **12 stones to represent all 12 tribes of Israel** (1 Kings 18:31). *There were disruptions among the tribes – and they divided into two major factions (they were all there, but they functioned as two separate kingdoms).* After the death of Saul, who was a Benjamite, David first reigned only over Judah (2 Sam. 2:4). He did not become king over all the tribes until later (2 Sam. 5:3).

There was a division again after the death of Solomon. **Judah and Benjamin** became one nation, called the **Kingdom of Judah or the Southern Kingdom**, and all the area **North of them with all the tribes living in those areas, became another nation, called the Kingdom of Israel** (Kings 12:20), **or the Northern Kingdom**. This division continued until both kingdoms went into captivity, **the Kingdom of Israel to Assyria** in 721 B.C., and the **Kingdom of Judah to Babylon** in 586 B.C. These captivities melded the tribes together more or less, and they are not mentioned as tribes or kingdoms excepting in Psalms and in prophesy. They were not “lost,” they simply melded together. Some of them kept their tribal identity, even though it was not that important any longer, for they all were of Jacob, Israel. **There were two tribes that kept immaculate records of their families. They were the tribe of Judah, who, for prophetic purposes, had to keep records of the kingly lineage, for the Messiah was to come from the lineage of David and eventually sit on David’s throne** (Luke 1:26-33), and **the tribe of Levi that kept their records for priestly purposes, for no one except the sons of Aaron from the tribe of Levi could function as priest.**

(Part of this information is gathered from Chuck Missler’s study on the 12 tribes.)

Jesus said that His 12 apostles will sit on **12 thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel** (Matt.19:28; Luke 22:30) that will be obviously identifiable. Later, the New Jerusalem will have **12 gates, each having a name of one of the tribes of Israel.** (Rev. 21:21.)

Many gentiles, protestant believers in Jesus as our Lord and soon coming King, tend to look down on Israel and even blame Israel for killing Jesus. We all, who are the saved, are to blame. He died for all of us, for all our sins. We need to be reminded that we received the privilege of salvation through Messiah of Israel, because they, as natural branches, are temporarily blinded, so that we could be grafted in. Paul wrote about that in Romans chapters 9-11. (I would recommend that you’d study those chapters carefully, especially chapter 11.) Paul said: “*Boast not against the branches... that were broken off, that I might be grafted in...because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not high minded but fear...for God is able to graft them in again...For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in...*” (Romans 11:18-25.)

Now is our time, “time of the Gentiles” – but it will not be so always. It is only “*until...*”, meaning that our time will come to an end when all those who would come to know the Lord this side of the Rapture are saved. After we are “out of here”, the ministry and mission then be turned back to the Jews. God alone knows that number, and as has been said often, *when that number is full, then the Father will say to the Son: Go and get them...* “**and so shall we ever be with the Lord**” (1 Thess. 4:16-18.)

All tens of thousands of the first Christians, after the Church was born on Pentecost, were Jews (Acts 2:1). Since Israel, as a nation, rejected her Messiah, we as gentiles, have had a blessing and privilege, to come to know the Lord Jesus, and be grafted in with the Lord's own people. We thank Him for the Jews, through whom we have the Word of God. All of the Bible, excepting Gospel of Luke and Acts, were written by Jews, for our learning! Luke, who was a Greek and a friend of Paul, wrote those two books, Luke's Gospel and Acts. Let's remember to *pray for the peace of Jerusalem* (Ps.122:6) And bless Israel, as the Lord promised to Abraham (Gen. 12:3), "*I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*"

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From our mailbox:

An LDS person wrote in part:

"I have a burning testimony of Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon... you must admit that Joseph Smith was one sharp fellow to write the Book of Mormon, given his limited education. I have trouble writing a letter or a lesson and I'm pretty well educated, and besides having come from the Baptist religion for many years. At least we both worship the same Jesus Christ... and spread the gospel of love. Please try to refrain from tearing down what some hold as precious. I know you mean well... You have "made assumptions about President Hinckley's comments that he does not worship the same Jesus traditional Christians worship". He did indeed state that, but he was describing the resurrected Jesus we know to be our Lord and Savior, that one with "flesh and bones" as revealed by Joseph Smith. I think you were a member long enough to know who the Jesus we worship is. I am not sure what your current concept of Jesus is, but mine is as a loving Savior of the world, the one and only Redeemer. He'll return one day, and we'll be able to worship Him at his feet. This is not a different Jesus from that in the Bible. If it were, why would we study the Bible along with the Book of Mormon?... Also tell me about who is your Heavenly Father, what do you believe about him? If you don't believe that Jesus will return in a bodily form, then you are mistaken and perhaps your Jesus concept is faulty? P"

My reply:

...Evangelical Christians believe that **Jesus is God who became a man** (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14), and **not a man who became a god**, as is taught in the LDS church. Jesus of the Bible is not Jesus of Mormonism, who is a spirit-brother of Lucifer and mankind. Jesus of the Bible **is God who created all things**, including Lucifer and thus could not his brother. (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16.)

I do not know why you think that biblical Christians do not believe that Jesus has a body of flesh and bones. Of course we believe that Jesus is a "flesh and bone" physical being. He showed Himself after His resurrection. (John 20:27-28; Luke 24:39.) We will see Him as He is when He comes for us. Paul declared that **Gospel is the message of death, burial and (physical) resurrection of Jesus.** (1 Cor. 15:1-4.)

The Mormon Church has taken the biblical record of the true Jesus and applied it to their concept of "Jesus", who is "*another Jesus*" warned of by Paul in 2 Cor. 11:4 and also by Jesus Himself in Matt. 24:4-5. **The name is the same, but the Person behind that name is different.** Jesus of Mormonism is an "*elder spirit-brother*" of all, as taught in the Mormon Church. Jesus of the Bible is Eternal God. **He never was less than God.**

I have met many Jehovah's Witnesses at my door. They quote from the Bible also. They speak of "Jesus", but they too have invented "another Jesus". Perhaps you know that they believe that their Jesus (regardless of what the Bible they too use says) **is not Eternal God, God Almighty, either, but that he is Michael the Archangel, who became Jesus, but after his death, and ascension to heaven, he became the Archangel Michael again.**

We've got to be careful. Jesus said, "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many will come in my name (using His name)..." (Matt. 24:4-5.)

You asked what is my perception of Heavenly Father. I believe what the Bible says about God. It says that **God the Father is Spirit, as Jesus also said He is.** (John 4:24.) **Spirit being does not have flesh and bones**, as was also declared by Jesus. (Luke 24:39.) **God has**

never been less than God Almighty. He was not once a mortal man, who progressed and “became a god”, as you and I learned in Mormonism. God of the Bible is God “from everlasting to everlasting”. (Ps. 90:2.) He does not have a God before Him, as the LDS church teaches that He does, nor will men become Gods after Him. (Isa. 43:10.)

God does not even know any other Gods. (Isa. 44:8.) He is not a man. (Numb. 23:19; Hosea 11:9; Isa. 31:3-4; Job 9:32.)

I believe, as the Bible teaches, that the Godhead consists of three Spirit Persons, co-equal from eternity past to eternity future. John wrote in 1 John 5:7, “The Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one.” One of them, whom we know as God the Son, the Word, became a man, the likeness of men to pay the penalty we deserve, but could not pay. (John 1:1, 14.) Since His incarnation, He will always be 100% man while He is 100% God.

When I was a Mormon, I too believed that God the Father was once like we are now, and that Jesus was my elder brother, and thus a created being, born in pre-existence, just as I was.

I believed that there was a time when I did not exist, and Jesus did not exist either. I believed that we had the same father there, a former mortal man, who has lots of wives. I also believed that when Jesus was born of Mary, He was begotten by an exalted god-man, Elohim, in Mary, “same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers” (Mormon Doctrine, p. 547). I too believed that Jesus became the likeness of His Heavenly Father when He received His physical body. But the Bible says that He (Jesus), who is God, alone came from heaven and became the likeness of men (Phil. 2:6-7), not the likeness of God physically, for God is Spirit. Jesus told the Pharisees that they (as all mankind) are from “beneath”, from this world, and He alone is from above (heaven), for He is I AM (God). (John 8:23-24.)

We did not pre-exist, only God pre-existed. We “become God’s children” when we are spiritually reborn. (John 1:12), Until then, we are Adam’s posterity, “children of the flesh”, who are not children of God (Romans 9:8), but we can become His own and be adopted to His family through Jesus. (Romans 8:14-17.)

Since God the Father of Mormonism is different than God of the Bible, then it follows that the son of that different father-god is also a different Jesus, or “another Jesus”. (2 Cor. 11:4.)

Of course people may believe what they choose to believe, but I do not find Mormon doctrine of God and Jesus in the Bible, no matter how many Bible verses are applied to their gods and Jesus from the Bible. Names are the same, but identity is different.

And by the way, I assume that you know that the Book of Mormon does not teach what Mormonism has taught since 1844, when Joseph Smith changed his concept of God? (See the King Follett discourse of Joseph Smith, April, 1844.) The BoM does not teach that God was once a man, or that men can become Gods. It does not teach temple-marriage, pre-existence, two priesthoods, genealogy and baptism for the dead, polygamy, etc. The BoM teaches that God is One, and that He is Spirit, (examples: Alma 18:24-28; 22:7-11.)

Actually D&C of 1835, Section I, *Theology of the Church of Later-day Saints*, (lecture 5) says that God is Spirit and that only the Son has a body of flesh and bones and that he was made into a likeness of men. (Part I of the D&C was the Lectures of Faith, and they remained in the D&C until 1921. These lectures were approved by a Conference vote on August 17, 1835, to be added to the Book of Commandments, first published in 1833 (name was changed to Doctrine and Covenants in 1835). When the Lectures were removed in 1921, no vote was taken and no explanation of “why” was given. (*Lectures of Faith* can be obtained from Deseret Bookstore as a separate little book.)

I hope this helps you to see what we believe and why. Sincerely, Rauni

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We have received many requests from various people asking for updates on the “Anne story” we had reported in our Newsletters in October-December 2006. (If you have not read that story, I would suggest that you’d go to our website (www.hismin.com) and read it from our Newsletters.)

Just a brief summary as a reminder about Anne’s story:

Anne lived in Belfast, Northern Ireland. She wrote to me last fall 26 letters in about 2 week-period asking questions about Mormonism and the Bible. I answered everyone of them, plus some.

Anne was a Mormon, an older single lady, who came to see that Mormonism was not true and she wanted to leave the Mormon Church.

Less than 2 days after she had told her LDS friends that she had written her request to have her name

removed from the LDS church, she was found dead, “fallen off during the night from her 3rd floor balcony”.

[The balcony had high safety rails that would have made it very difficult, if not impossible for an older woman to climb over.]

Since Anne denounced Mormonism and expressed her faith in Jesus Christ of the Bible, *just days before her death*, and we trust that she is with the Lord.

We had a very good friend, Jim Cowen, in Belfast, who was in a ministry to cults, and who knew Mormonism well. We had asked him to visit Anne. He visited her and they talked for hours and hours. She was very happy to find a friend who would understand.

After Anne was found dead in mysterious circumstances, Jim was contacted by a policeman from the **Criminal Investigation Department**, who informed Jim that the Coroner who did Anne’s autopsy, was suspicious about the cause of her death.

During the next 2 months Jim had two separate police investigators interview him. One of them had said during his last visit with Jim in December, that this is a difficult case to prove as a homicide and it might take from six months to a year to gather enough information to be presented to the courts, but if they can do that, they might call Jim in as a witness.

Jim had shown them copies of all Anne’s letters to me and my answers to her as well as records of Jim’s conversations with Anne and also what he knew about Anne’s “friends”.

Jim will not be called in. We might never hear anything more about Anne’s case.

We have a very sad news to report. Jim passed away on April 27th. Jim has suffered from leukemia for about 12 years. Two weeks ago his wife, Margaret, called us in tears saying that Jim’s cancer had spread to his liver and pancreas and his situation was grim. He had been taken to a hospital, where he passed away last Friday night.

Please pray for Margaret. She is a sweet, sweet lady who was so dependent on Jim. We know that Jim is with the Lord, but Margaret is missing him terribly and she is lonely and heartbroken. We love them both dearly.

We are very thankful for you all, our friends. Many of you receiving our Newsletters are our close personal friends as well as friends of this ministry. We know that you are concerned about this work we do for the Lord, and that you pray for us. We do need your prayers and the Lord’s help and His provision. We trust in Him, for He has said that He will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised that He will supply all our needs, and that we have no reason to be anxious for anything. (Phil. 4:6,19.)

This month is going to be a bit hard, for Dennis lost 2 weeks of work while we were in Missouri and Illinois. But actually hard times are blessings in disguise, for they allow us to see God working it all out when we step out in faith and do what He calls us to do.

We pray for you as we know you pray for us and we are asking our Lord Jesus to reward you for your faithful prayers and support for this work we do for the Lord.

Serving the Lord till He comes,
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