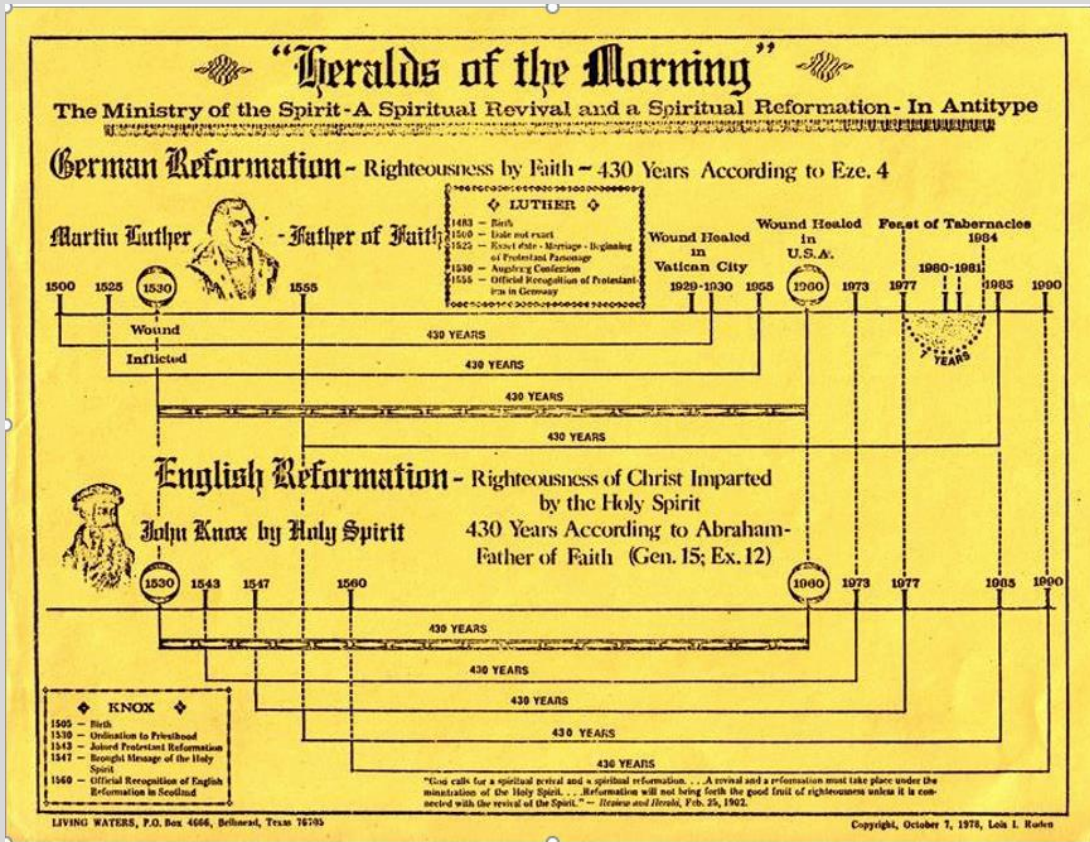


1990 TESTIMONY

THE CONTINUATION OF THE BRANCH MESSAGE



The Third Step of the Revelation 18:1 Message

1955-1977-1990

How, When and Where

TL Caldwell

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The former messenger, Lois Roden, from 1977 to 1986, did all of the essential preparation for the final step that was to arise in this Movement, the essential homework or research, the time and type or historical foundation for the next and final message, constituting the "Seventh Step" that Victor Houteff announced in 1SR126, 127. So, nothing is made up, nor contrived nor can be counterfeited in this final date, the Third Step of The BRANCH Message. Truth is "self-evident", following the same pattern and timing as the former messages.

This next step of the message and the third step of the revival and reformation developing in The Branch in the late 1980s was a time of blessed expectation, faith filled teaching and constant communication in our little company at that time. Leading out in this time of preparation was Sister Teresa Moore, who was appointed by Lois Roden in her Last Will and Testimony in 1986 to carry on the publishing work and to publish a particular memorial publication, requested by Lois Roden, which has yet to be done. I was sent a copy of Lois Roden's last will and testament by a Branch brother about a week or two after Lois Roden's passing in November 1986. Teresa Moore was a close friend of Lois Roden for many years, particularly her last two years, calling each other very regularly, sometimes daily, as Teresa related to Linda and me. Doug Mitchell was living in Waco at the time and attended the probate hearing over Lois Roden's estate at the Waco courthouse. In late 1988 the events of 1990 were approaching, not knowing what to expect, but having expectation of a great event, nevertheless. Teresa Moore led out in this work as she brought my attention to Lois Roden's final date of 1990 in the 430-year prophecy on her prophecy chart titled "Heralds of the Morning". I had received Sister Roden's prophecy chart (shown above) when it was sent out to the membership in one of her regular mailings in late 1978 or early 1979. Teresa and I knew or felt we had to do something special to mark this great prophetic date that was approaching in less than two years during our many discussions in the summer of 1988. In our many phone conversations, Teresa and I finally decided to travel to Jerusalem, Israel, to keep the Spring Feasts and wait on Divine Providence in that special year, the last great date on the 430-year timeline. In this planning and expectation for the next couple of years I became Teresa's 'sounding board' as the term is commonly used. All of the former messengers in the advanced Movements since 1930 have taught and borne testimony regarding the Ezekiel 4-time prophecy. The 1990 Message was no different.

Our three trips to Israel beginning Passover 1989, over a one-year period, were blessed times for the handful who decided to go with us on each of the trips. The first trip was attended by only one other Branch member, Lola Neiggemann of Arizona, a long time Branch message believer under Ben Roden and Lois Roden. We had an interesting time getting to know our way around Jerusalem in a rental car and driving up to the Mt. of Olives twice a day for most of the time there, to observe The Daily times, in a beautiful park that winds its way up to the top of the mount, not far from the resting place of Ben Roden and Lois Roden, side by side, near the top of the Mt. of Olives. Teresa Moore and I were the only two who attended all three trips to Israel, co-witnessing the many events. On the Second trip a good size group of Branch members from the east coast attended, as well as one other long time Branch sister from Southern California, Evelyn Parker and a new brother from Southern California who had become a good friend with a firm platform of understanding in the messages, in the first two Steps of the Movement, SDA and DSDA. I had met him at work, at a large commercial aircraft plant in Long Beach, California. On the third and last trip, one or two others attended and travelled with Teresa, as well as Charles Pace on his first trip there. I met up with Charles connecting flight in Paris, France, on our final connecting flight to Tel Aviv in early April. The whole tenor of the third trip was unexpected and unfortunate, leading to a division in our group because of Charles presence and unseemly spiritual operation in the fellowship of the participants of that final trip.

On the second trip to Israel, during the High Holy Days of 1989 Fall, our little group visited the Mount of Olives many times for The Daily meeting and Emblems. Teresa and I were already familiar with the location and special nature of the Mount. On the Day of Atonement that year, as we were preparing to leave and start down on our short walk from top of the Mount of Olives, we were standing by two or three Italian Cypress trees near the top of the Mount, a tree species that is a member of the cedar tree

family. These are tall stately trees of which I am very familiar with from my home in Southern California, a particularly heavy tree because it is filled with a heavy oily fragrant sap. I was momentarily impressed to look to the top of the trees and decided that moment to take a picture of the treetops, between two of the trees. I saw nothing (but the treetops) in the view finder of the camera but felt very impressed to take the picture with a Minolta SLR film camera. When I arrived home to California from that trip, I took all my rolls of film to the film processing store to have them developed.

I reviewed the pictures at the store and found the picture of these Cypress trees but there was an interesting light object that appeared in the photo, between the two trees, a light that was apparently far away but distinct, very well placed between the two trees. I have reproduced this photo in my study titled "1989 – Year of Miracles", on my website www.theadventmovement.net. I went home and called Teresa Moore right away and told her of the interesting object of light in the photo. At this point I was impressed that the heavenly Judicial Throne of The Branch, the Travelling Throne of Ezekiel's vision, a vision to us, had appeared on the photo as an encouragement to our expectation on the first two trips to Israel, an expectation that Teresa Moore did in fact verbalize that very day on the Mount of Olives, the Day of Atonement 1989. This was our clear indication that the Judicial Throne of The Branch was NEAR to us, coming "NEAR to us in Judgment" (Malachi 3:5; 2T190-191) as the year 1990 quickly approached. I had copies made of the photo and sent one to Teresa Moore and others who attended the fall 1989 trip.

In the month of March 1990, I was given a vivid and apparently important dream about the approaching Passover, coming mid-April of 1990. I cover this dream in my Passover 1990 study on my website also, titled "Passover 1990". The dream was, I felt, quite symbolic, and I did not know what it meant for a few days, until one morning, a few days later, I was watching an educational program called "Newton's Apple" featuring education about nature-oriented themes, mainly for youth and children. That particular episode was about reindeer and their antlers. This was the main symbolism of my dream. When I saw the program, quite providentially, I knew right away what the meaning of my dream was. Brother Houteff states that the written word can be misapplied, misconstrued, but symbols cannot be. The dream portended the change in ministration in the Heavenly Sanctuary that was coming at Passover 1990. Passover 1990 began a three year time period, ending at 1993 Passover, a three-year inspection period pertaining to the Luke 13 parable of the vine Dresser, His SUDDEN visit in judgment to the "unfruitful fig tree", our Movement, certainly pointing to Christ in His Office of Judge, to come "NEAR to us in JUDGMENT" (Malachi 3:5) as Ellen White described in Volume 2 of the Testimonies, pages 190-191, Jesus' invisible coming in judgment to judge those with the most light, the Third Step of the Advent Movement, since 1844. This is the manifestation of Ezekiel 9 as a "fire and sword" judgment that Isaiah 66:15, 16 presents as well as Isaiah 4.

After returning home from the third trip to Israel, April 1990, I began to write about the whole trip, the series of events and expectations in much detail. I took many notes during that trip in a small notebook I had with me for that purpose. That trip had to be well documented to relate to The Branch believers how we were to be judged, still not fully understood at that time, but we did understand, a few of us, that the Executive phase of the Judgment for the Living had begun at Passover 1990. That detailed study was titled "The Daily, Part 4 – A Revelation and Report from Jerusalem." That study is also to be found on my site www.theadventmovement.net under the "New Studies" tab. I finished the study on July 1, 1990, so dated on the last page with my name as the sole author under the date. I did not

realize or remember, from Lois Roden's teaching on John Knox, the Heralds of the Morning Chart, that the date of July 1st 1560 was a key date in the culmination of the Scottish Reformation by John Knox. At that time, after finishing the document, I sent it on a memory disk to Charles Pace, in Alabama at the time, for review and editing, then he sent the writing back to me for print publication and mailing to The Branch mailing list about the middle of summer 1990, which I did. Charles made no major corrections or edits, if any, in my report from Jerusalem, nor did he add his name to the end, on the final page. Only my name appeared, and the date of completion, July 1, 1990. The fact is, the truth is, the 1990 Message was based squarely on the symbolic dream I had been given only a few weeks or a month before the third trip to Israel, April 1990.

Since December of 1989, with the ongoing planning for the 1990 Passover trip approaching, Teresa Moore had become increasingly concerned about Charles Pace attending on the third trip, that was his first trip to Israel, as she related to me on the phone a few times, before the trip due to events surrounding Charles and Alexa's visit to her and Duke's home in Downingtown PA, at the end of 1989, at Hanukkah time. At that time, I could not connect the dots of the perplexing events of Charles and Alexa's sudden visit, unannounced and uninvited, and their sudden and hurried departure. When Charles and Alexa's appeared at Duke and Teresa's doorstep that day during Hanukkah week they were warmly welcomed by Duke and Teresa. Their home was always ready for visitors. Teresa called me twice and told me about the many details during the Pace's visit. Teresa did not want to prevent Charles from coming on the trip, yet after he and his wife's departure she was troubled by Charles also coming with us. I do believe it was all providential for whatever Divine purpose was to unfold in the next few months. Teresa handled all of the flight booking arrangements for all three trips as far as I know. It was a strange situation as I look back. Too much was happening too quickly. Teresa and I were on-overload, on many levels, as the prophetic clock of Passover 1990 was approaching as predicted by the Sixth Angel Messenger, 1977 to 1986.

A Personal Revelation

Sometimes it takes a "voice" out of the blue, as the saying goes, to begin an awakening, for myself, that is. That day came for me in early June of 1990 on Sunday morning near my birthday at the first hour near sunrise, around 6 am. It has been well over 30 years now since that awakening began for me. I have never shared this before in writing. I did not even share this testimony with Linda, my wife, until seven years into our marriage, in 2005. I never shared it with Teresa Moore. I told Linda at the time I revealed it to her, NOT to share it with anyone else. She agreed but urged me in late 2011 to share with a few members I have known for many years, two who have been elder counselors to me in the Movement. My choice to keep silent is now over, now ready to at least talk about it in part. There are examples in the visitation of Paul the Apostle in the Book of Acts and in the writings of the modern messengers in this Movement that have impressed me to not keep silent any longer.

When Teresa Moore first contacted me in early 1988, it was a wonderful spiritual renewal for me since Lois Roden's passing in 1986. I supported Teresa fully as the appointed publisher and continuation of the message by Lois Roden, stated in her will along with another sister by the name of Irmine Sampson of New York City. Irmine did not accept the conferring or appointment upon her from Sister Roden's Will and Testament, for her own reasons or misunderstanding of her calling by Lois Roden. Then, when Charles re-entered the scene of our fellowship, after four years absence from early 1985, showing up at

Duke and Teresa's door in December 1989 for a multiday visit, without even a phone call, I was curiously interested since I previously had such an extensive working friendship with Charles beginning the Spring of 1984, at New Mt. Carmel. It is a long story. Still, fairly soon after his visit to Teresa Moore's home, Charles brought in a spirit of division in our small group of remaining Branch members under Teresa Moore's leadership. This was Charles' intent, now as I look back at that time. The personal awakening for me was slow and arduous.

I do not like to share some of these details because it is not my nature, but recently, on the Facebook Unity group (started by Charles Pace sometime in 2017 or 2018) this topic came up which Linda testified to briefly in a general sense. I am no longer part of that group, for many years now. I was nevertheless pressed by one member of the Unity group to state what I had heard in 1990, what I was told by an audible voice, about the time just after I finished The Daily – Part 4 study and then mailed out to The Branch membership in the mid-summer of 1990. I never wrote down the date of the event, because of the startling nature of the "Voice" one morning, but I know it was early June near my birthday, spring of 1990. I remember clearly that it was the first day of the week (sunday morning), not a workday for me, about 6 am. A clear and sunny Southern California early morning. I was in the twilight of sleep, about to wake up, just barely conscious, eyes still closed. I am going on record of the event, that I heard a clear and distinct voice say to me --- four distinct words, and this is all I will say about it here. Just four words, nothing more, and nothing since then. I awoke immediately, fully awake, eyes open. I did not even look around my room. I knew there was no-one in the room, door closed, an otherwise quiet week end morning, as always. All I could think, quietly to myself, is "what did I just hear?" My mind started analyzing everything. The voice was clear, but in my mind the meaning was unclear. As I told Linda in 2005, I thought it might be a test, but on the other hand, I was not quite able to believe that. Looking back now 33 years from this update, now 2023, during those first few years after what I was told, I still wondered what the "Voice" meant? I considered this question many times in that first decade after 1990. Time, however, changes things, by the time 2011 came around.

I accepted what I heard that early morning of June-July of 1990 as a representative designation of my work, or calling, as a witness and teacher of this message. Benjamin Roden was given a similar experience when he wrote his first of seven letters to Florence Houteff in 1955. He related that after "The Branch", Who is Christ, instructed him to write a letter to the Davidian executive counsel right away, after a brief time of hesitation to the Divine instruction he was given, soon after, one evening, as he related in his testimony then, he wrote that he was pulled up by his pajama collar and audibly TOLD (in no uncertain terms) to "write that letter to Mt. Carmel and I will help you"! After he had finished the first letter, he looked at the letter and told the Divine Author, "I cannot sign my name to this letter", because Brother Roden felt he did not really write it, or was not really the author, ... so Ben Roden inquired to Heaven HOW to sign the letter. A voice told him, clearly, a Divine Voice, "sign it -- 'The Branch'". Six more letters followed to the Davidians from 1955 through 1956, seven letters in all, and the rest is history.

This personal event was my 'visitation' in the late spring of 1990. I believe the Voice was of Divine origin, without question, and I never doubted it at any time and because of my continued and deep involvement in the Movement and commitment to the general Message through the decades, since July of 1974, I now believe it was a Voice to confirm my calling in presenting a TIMELY Message, the one that was to come in 1990. Romans 11:29 states: "The gifts and calling of Elohim are without repentance." I

have told many in the Movement, in my 1990 Passover study, that I was given a message through a symbolic dream in March of 1990, a dream of the **change in ministration** as Ellen White wrote about in Early Writings pages 55-56, where she wrote about a change in the heavenly ministration of Christ, and that one day the Heavenly censer (Rev. 8:5), a hand-held priestly instrument (full of incense) would be “cast into the earth” revealing the true and final intercession of The Branch for the Body, His Body of believers, for the Movement, that the HEAVENLY MEDIATION would cease, in the Sanctuary above, and BEGIN TO BE finished on earth. Lois Roden taught this, about a time that we as a church body were to be “left WITHOUT AN INTERCESSOR”, that is, without ONE OF our TWO Divine Intercessors, a big part of Lois Roden’s message, THUS, what I was shown in March of 1990 has indeed given “power and force” (EW 277) to the Third Angel’s message in its repeat phase, through Lois Scott Roden. And if we did not FOLLOW Christ by faith in this “change in mediation” or “change in ministration” then we would be LEFT without ANY Divine Intercession and be left without the Sealing (of the message). Most of those in the message today believe and teach that this time of being “left without AN Intercessor” is far into the future, an important point of truth left undefined, not imminent, made unimportant, but that is a false belief and will lead to spiritual and personal ruin.

This is my testimony that I am now sharing, knowing full well for a long time that someday I would have to share it out of necessity as the controversy of truth escalates. The 1990 Message uplifts DEITY, the WORK of Deity, in the final ministration that brings our Sanctification and SEALING, the sealing of the Wavesheaf Company before the earthly and the Heavenly Throne of Grace. The 1990 Message reveals Deity in HER FINAL MINISTRATION (Rom. 8:26; Rev. 8:5). The message that came in 1990 was not about a “Daily Meal” (by Doug Mitchell) at the Third and Ninth hours each day, set times for daily physical nourishment, which was not new in 1990 nevertheless, a work of man, not an “intercession” or a ministration of Deity, not about the final ministration of Deity, but a form of works righteousness, a procedure or practice, as stated by Doug Mitchell, to uphold the health message, nothing more. This is the point of comparison and discernment we must have to evaluate the nature of a message, whether it uplifts and proclaims Deity, and the works of Divine Ministration, or whether it uplifts what is clearly works of righteousness in our daily dietary regulation, or the regulation of mealtimes in connection to the Daily Emblems. Much can be said about this in the overall comparison of the two ideas of the 1990 Message. But ONLY ONE of these “messages” came in 1990 and was proclaimed at that time in the summer of 1990. The claim by Doug Mitchell is carefully tested in a separate study as to the TIME, TYPE and nature of the claim (message) by Doug, which was not written or published in 1990, but in 1992. Doug Mitchell’s claim to the 1990 date based upon his attending the 1990 General Conference Session pre-meeting on July 1, 1990, at Indianapolis, Indiana, to pass out his literature to the SDA leaders.

Validating a Message – How Inspiration Reveals a New Message

We as Davidians and Branches know about the whole concept of “time and type” as Victor Houteff first demonstrated in his message, also as Ben Roden and Lois Roden demonstrated in their messages. The final message, the LAST step in the seven messages, the Seventh Message or the Seventh Step (1SR 126-127) is no different than the way the former messengers presented their evidence of a valid message, beginning in 1930, the beginning of the REPEAT of the Three Angels’ messages. Those who reject this message, the 1990 Message, do so because of the need to uplift a fellow servant (as King and Priest) in the message and otherwise just set aside the well-established requirements of a message that was

supposed to arise in the year 1990.

A Review

A true message or a Divine calling is based upon:

1. "A dream or a vision".

Numbers 12: 12:6-8 -- And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, [I] the LORD **will make myself known unto him in a vision, [and] will speak unto him in a dream.** My servant Moses [is] not so, who [is] faithful in all mine house. With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

Job 33:14-17 -- **For God speaketh once, yea twice, [yet man] perceiveth it not. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed; Then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction, That he may withdraw man [from his] purpose, and hide pride from man.**

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2. TIME and TYPE (Ezekiel 4). Victor Houteff never claimed a dream or a vision, yet he had a valid claim to his office through the message given to him. Victor Houteff studied a prophecy or book, as he explained once, that he would lay down on his couch and meditate (Job 33:15) on the passage or prophecy and receive prophetic instruction. Brother Houteff's message, the REPEAT of the First Angel's Message (WHR37) was based on TIME, the correct time for the next message to arrive in the Advent Movement (1929-1930) when he began to write. Victor Houteff's message, in a real sense, was based on direct Inspiration, "weight of evidence", and having the right TIME to begin The Shepherd's Rod Message. Since 1930, the BEGINNING of a message is essentially everything, as long as it upholds "the Law and the Testimony" (Isa. 8:20; Rev. 19:10), all of the former messages.

3. TIME and TYPE, example #2 -- Ben Roden's message, the REPEAT of the Second Angel's Message of Revelation 14:17 (Angel #5 in the total count of Angels) was also based on "time and type" (430 year prophecy of Ezekiel 4) when The Branch came ON TIME in the year 1955, the next fulfillment of the 430 year application of Ezekiel 4 that was based on the actual beginning of the Protestant Reformation under Martin Luther in 1525. Ben Roden's message announced the opening of **the Judgement for the Living – Investigative phase**. However, Ben Roden also heard an "audible Voice" (at least twice) that directed him to write the letters of warning to Florence Houteff and her executive council in 1955. He was physically moved one evening to begin to write the Seven Letters to the Davidians, after a short period of hesitating the first Divine direction to write, but finally was "sat UP" in his bed by the collar of his pajamas by an unseen Hand, accompanied by a voice "**write that letter to Mt. Carmel and I will help you**". After he completed the first letter, he told his Heavenly attendant (Christ or an Angel attendant) "I cannot sign my name to this letter" since he felt he was not really the author, but Christ was the Author. Therefore, he heard the Voice tell him, "**Sign it -- The Branch**". Ben Roden complied with his Heavenly attendant and signed all seven letter "The Branch". Ben Roden may have also been given a

dream, or a vision, at least one, relating to a “Texas Longhorn”, a longhorn steer with its long horns in THREE STAGES of development, either pertaining to a future messenger, or the THREE PHASES of The Branch Message itself, 1955, 1977 and finally 1990.

4. TIME and TYPE, example #3 -- Lois Roden’s message was based on the continuation of the Protestant Reformation under John Knox (A.D 1547, beginning the Scottish Reformation), exactly as Victor Houteff’s message made provision for, “the Reformation by Luther and OTHERS” (1SR127), but also, Lois Roden received a vision, or direct VISITATION by the Shekinah Glory one night during the Feast of Tabernacles of 1977. This visitation was well documented and stated in Lois Roden’s message, the REPEAT of the Third Angel’s Message. Her message was message number SIX in the direct count of the messages of Revelation 14, verse 18, the message with the angel with “power over fire”, symbol of the Holy Spirit (message) and a message about the **Judgment of the Living – Judicial phase**, warning of the impending Executive phase to follow quickly (1990), when the Judgement “fire” would be fulfilled at New Mt. Carmel to end the great apostasy of the Koresh movement.

5. TIME and TYPE, example #4 – The 1990 Message given to the messenger on TIME, received and published in the year 1990, based on the 1560 date given to Lois Roden as the culmination of the Scottish Reformation by John Knox as depicted on Lois Roden’s prophecy chart titled “Heralds of the Morning”. A DOUBLE application of the 430 year prophecy to the Seventh-Step of the Advent Message of 1990, and a second application of the 430 year confirmation, again, from the Scottish Reformation, after John Knox death however, the completion of his Reformation in the civil enactment of the Scottish Reformation made into civil law by the King of Scotland (King James II) in 1580-1581 and later throughout the realm in Scotland in the early 1600s. The complete Reformation, both religious and civil. See study on www.theadventmovement.net, New Studies tab. This date brought us to the final awakening of the 1990 messenger(s), a personal reformation, in 2010 and 2011, to the proclamation of the Shekinah Glory as the “visible” King of the Kingdom, the Divine Intercessor proclaimed in 1990 in the earth, and the “David” Who sits on the Throne of David in our day, to “lay in the dust the glory of man”, uninspired men. The second phase of the 1990 Message began in 2010 -2011 to RESTORE TRUE WORSHIP in The Branch. This is the work of the Revelation 18:1 Message, as Victor Houteff depicted on his prophecy chart of the FIVE Angels, to end “false worship”, the purpose of the Elijah Message.

6. A direct VISITATION by an Angel or Christ’s Presence, with other validation to bring a chosen individual or co-messenger to a rapid stage of development in the message, and for validation of an existing message. Ellen White’s ministry and message, the Third Angel of Revelation 14:9, was validated by dreams and visions, as well as a direct visitation of an angel(s), and even Christ Himself or His express Presence. This was the basis of the 1844 Message of the Third Angel in its beginning, to bring many early pioneers in the message to a rapid learning of the Third Angel’s Message and to bring rapid growth to the Movement through the Spirit of Prophecy.

7. Example #5 -- What of the TYPE of Elijah, and the subsequent TYPE of Elisha? In the Old Testament economy the prophet of Israel or Judah, prophet of a king, such as Nathan, then Samuel, would

sometimes have a student or understudy of his message and his work, but these types are not to be applied in our day, to an individual, or fellow servant, because of the people having the tendency to FOLLOW the messenger or follow the leader, rather than follow Christ, who is Deity. Even following a messenger, rather than the message, is idolatry, apostasy, and will bring judgment! This application, both applications, Elijah and Elisha, is the most coveted application that false teachers claim for themselves as the highest title, the highest aspiration, in the message, to gain followers. But we will see from Brother Houteff's application that this OFFICE, of Elijah, actually belongs to Deity. Statement to follow after next statement.

Victor Houteff:

Of Jonah, we read in Desire of Ages, page 406, "As Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, Christ was to be the same time 'in the heart of the earth.' And as the preaching of Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so Christ's preaching was a sign to His generation." See also Prophets and Kings, page 274. {SR1: 16.1}

Elisha was a symbol of Christ. Prophets and Kings, page 240: **"Like the Savior of mankind, of whom he was a type, Elisha in his ministry among men combined the work of healing with that of teaching."** **These are the reasons why Isaac, Jonah, and Elisha are types of Christ, representing the different phases and imports of the work of Christ.** {SR1: 16.2}.

In another application of Elijah and Elisha, Victor Houteff applies to the corporate body of the Firstfruits and the second fruits of Revelation 7. He makes no application to either Elijah or Elisha, in any direct sense, to a coming individual, in either case. So TOO are the applications of King David and King Solomon, both TYPES of Christ, ... Christ the Son and Christ the Daughter!

Therefore, I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the Lord of hosts, and in the day of His fierce anger." Isa. 13:2-13. {TN5: 92.1}

"And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray Thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." 2 Kings 6:17. {TN5: 93.1}

If our eyes were opened as were the eyes of "the young man," we, too, would see an angelic host round about the "Elishas" of today. {TN5: 93.2}

And now as to what swelled the number of preachers from 144,000 to 200,000,000, the Lord says: "I will also take of them [of those whom the 144,000 shall bring from "all nations," after the fulfillment of Isaiah 66:16 -- the purification of the church] for priests and for Levites." Isa. 66:21. The very fact of such a multitude of workers speaks for itself that they are engaged in reaping the harvest of the world. {TN5: 93.3}

Here in pledged word, God foretells in clearest tenor that many of those whom He brings into the church after the purification, will join the 144,000 in proclaiming the message to the whole world, when the earth is lightened with the glory of the angel (Rev. 18:1). {TN5: 93.4}

Victor Houteff stated that his OFFICE in his message, as the Elijah message, was a direct application to that of "Elijah - John the Baptist", but not Elijah the Tishbite, the prophet TAKEN UP, without seeing death. Davidians of today assume and read into The Rod Message and misapply the types to make Victor Houteff the end-all of all typical representations of Old Testament prophets, that of Elijah in particular.

He does state clearly however, in 1 Answerer Book 77-79, that:

CHRIST OR HIS SERVANT?

Question No. 7:

How do you harmonize "Gospel Workers," p. 44, par. 2, with "The Shepherd's Rod," Vol. 2, p. 240, par. 2, presented comparatively as follows: {ABN1: 77.3}

"The messenger is not the Lord Himself,...he is the one who shall prepare the way for the Lord."--"The Shepherd's Rod," Vol. 2, p. 240. {ABN1: 77.4}

"Christ, the Messenger of the covenant brought the tidings of salvation."--"Gospel Workers," p. 44. {ABN1: 77.5}

Answer:

While on page 44, Gospel Workers applies the title "Messenger of the Covenant" to Christ, on page 20 it applies it to Moses. In juxtaposition, these are seen as follows: {ABN1: 78.1}

"When Moses was chosen as the messenger of the covenant, the word given him was, 'Be thou for the people to Godward.'" -- Gospel Workers, p. 20. {ABN1: 78.2} "Christ the messenger of the covenant, brought the tidings of salvation." -- Gospel Workers, p. 44

Whereas Gospel Workers applies the term to both Moses and Christ, Christ Himself applies it to John the Baptist. He said "unto the multitudes concerning John...But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send My messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come." Matt. 11:7, 9, 10, 14. {ABN1: 78.3}

As God had made both spoken and written covenants with His ancient people that He would send them Moses, John, and Christ, they came in fulfillment of those covenants. And each having brought a message, **each in his own time was the Messenger of the Covenant. Nevertheless, the words of Malachi make plain that the Messenger of the Covenant is, in the strictest sense Elijah the prophet (Mal. 3:1-5; 4:5), the last messenger who prepares the way of the Lord.** (See Testimonies to Ministers, p. 475.) {ABN1: 78.4}

In the last analysis, however, the title Messenger of the Covenant belongs to the Holy Spirit. For example, 1 Peter 3:18-20 states that Christ preached to the antediluvians by the same "Spirit" Who "quickeneth" Him. But as He preached by the Spirit in the person of Noah, not of Himself, He thereby unfolded the truth that the Holy Spirit is in all His messengers alike. {ABN1: 79.1}

Thus "holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Pet. 1:21. Briefly summarized, **the term Messenger of the Covenant means the Holy Spirit (the invisible Christ) in Heaven's visible**

representative--be it Moses, John, Christ, Elijah, or some other. {ABN1: 79.2}

Ellen White stated in Testimonies to Ministers page 475, that was coming an Elijah in the message(s) to come, but what did she mean by this statement? :

Let Heaven Guide

Prophecy must be fulfilled. The Lord says: “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.” Somebody is to come in the spirit and power of Elijah, [See appendix.] and when he appears, men may say: “You are too earnest, you do not interpret the Scriptures in the proper way. Let me tell you how to teach your message.” { TM 475.3}

There are many who cannot distinguish between the work of God and that of man. I shall tell the truth as God gives it to me, and I say now, If you continue to find fault, to have a spirit of variance, you will never know the truth. Jesus said to His disciples, “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.” They were not in a condition to appreciate sacred and eternal things; but Jesus promised to send the Comforter, who would teach them all things, and bring all things to their remembrance, whatsoever He had said unto them. { TM 475.4}

Brethren, we must not put our dependence in man. “Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of? You must hang your helpless souls upon Jesus. It does not become us to drink from the fountain of the valley when there is a fountain in the mountain. Let us leave the lower streams; let us come to the higher springs. If there is a point of truth that you do not understand, upon which you do not agree, investigate, compare scripture with scripture, sink the shaft of truth down deep into the mine of God’s word. You must lay yourselves and your opinions on the altar of God, put away your preconceived ideas, and let the Spirit of heaven guide into all truth.—
The Review and Herald, February 18, 1890. { TM 476.1}

Seventh-day Adventists are taught that Ellen White was the “Elijah” of this statement above, and Davidians teach that it was Victor Houteff was the Elijah, the last message and last messenger. Both are incorrect. Victor Houteff announced the “Elijah Message”, the message of The Branch, to come. Christ Himself is typified by the Elijah of old. The orthodox Jews in Jerusalem today believe and teach that the “Messenger of the Covenant” is the Shekinah Glory who will PREPARE the way for the Messiah to come, ... the Messiah Who was taken up into a cloud 2000 years ago and will return.

In contrast, a false message is based on a simple claim to have a message, without the above qualifications, or, in one case, the claim to have been ordained by a presumed former messenger, a presumed authorization by a man, without Divine authorization, without TIME or TYPE, without a prophetic dream or a prophetic vision. Various claimants to the present-day message present lots of teaching but no “message”. A “message” has a starting point based on TIME and TYPE, as demonstrated by the former messengers. Some use the type of Elijah, or a multiple succession of Elijah applications, more than one, or Elisha, in an untenable and false application of convenience to obtain a following.

The whole theme in this personal testimony that goes back to the spring of 1990, is a Movement led by Inspiration as always. However there are a few individuals today in this Movement that claim they have

a message, yet have not produced a single point of evidence of validation of their message, based on time, type, vision, dream or visitation, particularly that goes back to 1990, the date given by the former messenger that proves the beginning of the next step, the final step in the Movement, the Seventh Step.

A true claim of The Branch Message continuation of today will stand close examination. This is our duty, to investigate and prove the message, one way or another, to validate or invalidate. All claimants to the Seventh Step in the message, the Seventh Message, the Seventh Thunder (Rev. 10), the Seventh Angel (Rev. 18:1), will be required to present “weight of evidence” for their claims. A claim itself is not “weight of evidence” nor is an appointment or anointing from any man, or a group anointing, evidence of a message. The following study by Victor Houteff presents the Biblical method of Divine succession of the two key offices, the first offices, in the Body of Christ, for the unity of the body.

This is my testimony in the Name of “The Branch”
and before the recording angel.

TL Caldwell

www.theadventmovement.net

Appendix Study:

Confirmation Study by Victor Houteff –

How the Office of Apostle or Prophet is GIVEN, Established, or Conferred – The Two First Offices

1 Corinthians 12

12:25 **That there should be no schism in the body; but [that] the members should have the same care one for another.**

12:26 **And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it.**

12:27 **Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.**

12:28 **And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.**

12:29 [Are] all apostles? [are] all prophets? [are] all teachers? [are] all workers of miracles?

12:30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

12:30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

12:31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet show I unto you a more excellent way.

From 2 Shepherd’s Rod:

The Woman of Revelation 12 and Apostleship

Her crown of twelve stars originally represented the twelve patriarchs and later the twelve tribes after they went out of Egypt, at which time the wonderful light shining from the written Word of God (the Bible), clothed the church (woman) while she was travailing with the "child" (the promise of the Messiah). But the crown of twelve stars in the New Testament period stand for the twelve apostles. Number twelve is a symbol of government. Jesus said to them: "Ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." (Matt. 19:28.) This fact is proven by the type (the twelve tribes). It will be noticed that in the reckoning of the tribes of Spiritual Israel (the 144,000) by the type (Israel after the flesh) as in Revelation 7:5-8, the tribe of Dan is missing, and instead the tribe of Manasseh, the first born son of Joseph is numbered. The type corresponds perfectly with the anti-type, for Judas Iscariot being one of the "twelve apostles," was cast aside, of whom Dan is a figure. And in his stead Paul of Tarsus was added, of whom Manasses is a figure. Therefore, we see perfect harmony in type and anti-type. The lesson in this instance by these unmistakable symbols, teaches that God has had only one church, one truth, and one way of salvation for all generations. The same is also expressed in the words of Paul: "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all." (Eph. 4:4-6.) {SR2: 75.3}

God's church has been symbolized also by earthly objects; we speak of the symbols by women; namely, Hagar, and Sarah. The former is a symbol of the Jewish, and the latter of the Christian Church. (See "The Shepherd's Rod," Vol. 1, p. 136.) These earthly symbols point out God's church in different sections and conditions. But the "woman clothed with the sun" and her "eagle's wings" being of heavenly origin, denote God's true church (truth) in one continuous line, and her Child, our only Saviour and Redeemer in both periods -- before and after Christ. {SR2: 76.1}

The Crown Of Twelve Stars In The New Testament Period

John's vision in the twelfth chapter of Revelation, deals with two main subjects; namely, the "woman clothed with the sun," and the "red dragon." The latter has been explained. (See pages 65-69.) The symbol of the "woman" in the New Testament time covers three divisions: 1st, the apostolic period; 2nd, her absence from civilization (in the wilderness) for 1260 days (years of papal persecution, Rev. 12:6, 14); 3rd, the last period of the church while in conflict with the dragon. (Rev. 12:15-17.) The first and second period shall be explained in connection with another study. An explanation of the third period is found in "The Shepherd's Rod," Vol. 1, pp. 151, 152. {SR2: 76.2}

Therefore, our intention is this chapter is to briefly visualize the lesson taught by her "crown of twelve stars." We ask the question: Who appointed these present day self-styled apostolic authorities? It is said that after the apostles passed away, another set of the same number have a right to be apostles. Suppose the claim is true; there are hundreds of churches, and if each one of them had twelve apostles, there would be a multiplicity of thousands of them at one time, and if that act had been repeated in every age, there would be an innumerable multitude of apostles at the appearance of Christ. If there have been thousands of apostles, it is evident by the following Scripture that they shall never enter into the city of God as apostles, for Inspiration says: "And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the name of the twelve apostles of the Lamb." (Rev. 21:14.) {SR2: 77.1}

What is the difference between an apostle and a minister of the gospel? If there is no difference then there should have been more than twelve apostles in the early church, for there were more than twelve engaged in the ministry. Christ had appointed twelve, but Judas was counted out leaving only

eleven. After Christ ascended on high, the eleven agreed to appoint another in Judas' place: "And the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles." (The Acts 1:26.) **Therefore, they made up the number. Now if Matthias took Judas' place, then there must be thirteen such men according to Romans 1:1, "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an Apostle, separated unto the gospel of God." {SR2: 77.2}**

Mark carefully that the "woman's" crown has only "twelve stars" and in the foundation of the city there are only the names of the twelve apostles. Which one of the two, Matthias or Paul, is not recognized by Him, who laid the precious foundation of the Holy City? If we say Paul, we make him a liar. If we say Matthias, then his ordination by the eleven had no effect in appointing an apostle. What then? In The Acts 1:26, is the first and last we hear of Matthias, but not so of Paul. If Matthias is the apostle, then he surely is not as worthy as Paul. **Which one of the ordinations would be most honorable? Is it Paul's by Christ Himself as He met him on the way to Damascus, or Matthias', by the hands of the apostles? {SR2: 77.3}**

The question is clear. No man's hands are qualified to ordain an apostle, regardless of his high standing in connection with the gospel. The holy hands of Christ and His personal presence only can appoint one for such an office. This is Unimpeachable evidence, for the "woman" has a crown of only "twelve stars." Therefore, who has the power to ordain another and thus multiply the "stars"? {SR2: 77.4}

What is an apostle? Answer. -- One that is "separated unto the gospel of God." But if this is the only meaning of the title, then all who are engaged in the proclamation of the gospel, being separated must be apostles. Therefore, the word, "apostle," must have a special significance and a deeper meaning than simply separated unto the gospel of God. The apostle Paul was called to be an apostle for the Gentiles. Thus he, with the eleven became the earthly founders of the church of the Gentiles, and Christ the divine head. **Speaking of the gifts in the church, apostles are the first, for without a founder there would be no organization, thus the rest of the gifts follow.** (See 1 Cor. 12:28.) {SR2: 78.1}

The crown is her glory, and the stars (twelve apostles) are her only earthly authority. Here is a striking evidence that the present day apostles are falsely so-called. A prophet may claim authority as a prophet but never as an apostle. However, there is a difference between the prophets of the Old Testament and the ones of the New; the latter being under the authority of the former; in other words, he may be an interpreter or revealer of the Bible: "For all the prophets and the law [ceremonial -- in type] prophesied until John." (Matt. 11:13.) Interpretation is correct only when inspired by the same Spirit, thus timely utterances are revealed. Not only do the annals of history prove this, but the Bible is very emphatic on the subject, for it plainly says that we are, **"Built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone."** (Eph. 2:20.) Again we read: **"Howbeit when He the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak; and He will shew you things to come."** (John 16:13.) Where is the need for such apostles? Are not the words of the apostles in the Bible? **If we should appoint a set of such men, would we not set aside the "woman" and her "twelve star crown"? If we set aside the "crown" by voluntary election of apostles, what will we do with the gospel committed to the church by Christ's ordained apostles? Hear the authority by the crown of stars: "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again. If any man**

preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received let him be accursed." (Gal. 1:8, 9.) "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ." (2 Cor. 11:13.) The world is filled with so-called apostles and sects of every kind, is it not? It is time for God's people to fall on their knees before their Creator, and study the Scriptures for themselves, that they may know what is truth. Why should one accept the decision of another? By so doing we are robbed of an experience of our own. If so, may we not ask the question, What is the future outlook of the world? No one is saved because he may admit the evidence of the truth, or because he may belong to the right church, or creed. It is only by an experience of his own, based upon evidences of truth, received into the heart, that can renew the mind, and regenerate the soul, so that he can walk in newness of life. It is utterly impossible to enter into the kingdom of Christ without a personal touch of divine glory. Jesus said: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3.) The following Scriptures bear the same evidence. "For he is not a Jew which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God." (Rom. 2:28, 29.) {SR2: 78.2}

"Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the Commandments of God." (1 Cor. 7:19.) "And rend your heart and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of evil." (Joel 2:13.) "For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple." (Romans 16:18.) {SR2: 79.1}

Returning to our original thought: **The eleven were allowed to perform the ordination of Matthias for a lesson to this present day with its new-modeled religion, showing that God has committed to no man apostolic authority -- save to the twelve.** The commission to the ministry is: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matt. 28:19, 20.) "So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them for Me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand." (Ezek. 33:7, 8.) {SR2: 79.2}

In reality the twelve "stars" on the "woman's crown" originally represented the twelve patriarchs; later the twelve tribes of fleshly Israel, after that the twelve apostles, and last the twelve tribes of Spiritual Israel (the 144,000). Thus again it proves number four" to be an important number, and that by the "woman" these four periods are represented. {SR2: 79.3} End quote.

The whole point of this study by V.T. Houteff is that the foundation of the 12 Apostles (including Paul as the 12th), not including Matthias, is NOT repeated today as an antitype, which would otherwise be saying that the church has TWO foundations, rather than only ONE Foundation, from 2000 years ago. This point is in view of Doug Mitchell's Seven Thunders study of 1992, where he presents himself as the twelfth antitypical apostle to the church today, beginning with the leaders of the Protestant Reformation, stretching credulity of an application well beyond the breaking point. The office of "prophet" (messenger) is similar only in the way that it must be INSPIRATION that appoints the next message, or messenger, through the means of Inspiration, NOT by the laying on of hands of any man,

NOT by the word of any man to create a presumed succession of these two key offices. No man may confer the Gift of Inspiration or the succession of the offices of apostle or prophet. It is about TIME that the brethren learn this most important lesson so that they are not misled, Heaven has given us a roadmap, a Plan to follow and the prophets must agree, we cannot place ourselves on slippery slopes when Heaven has given us a firm Foundation to place our feet upon. It is not a free-for-all with prophetic office as we have seen come about with quite a few in recent years.

Closing statement – The Great Apostasy

Ellen White:

“The apostasy prevailing today is similar to that which in the prophet's day overspread Israel. In the exaltation of the human above the divine, in the praise of popular leaders, in the worship of mammon, and in the placing of the teachings of science above the truths of revelation, multitudes today are following after Baal. Doubt and unbelief are exercising their baleful influence over mind and heart, and many are substituting for the oracles of God the theories of men. It is publicly taught that we have reached a time when human reason should be exalted above the teachings of the Word. The law of God, the divine standard of righteousness, is declared to be of no effect. The enemy of all truth is working with deceptive power to cause men and women to place human institutions where God should be, and to forget that which was ordained for the happiness and salvation of mankind.” PK 170.

Mark 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Are you ready, brother and sister, for the Leadership of the King of kings, the Holy Spirit?

The Glorious Branch our Righteousness.

TL Caldwell