Addendum Response to Eric Edstrom of the USA,
Ariel Dacutanan and Wilfredo Hepolongca of the Philippines

To the initial response study --

**What is the Last Message to the Church Today?**
The Shepherd’s Rod or The Branch?

The answer to this question is found in:

**THE FOUR MESSAGES BOUND UP IN THE RIVER EUPHRATES**
**OF REVELATION 9:14**
September 2014

CAN YOU NAME EACH OF THESE SYMBOLIC FOUR ANGELS BOUND UP IN THE RIVER EUPHRATES?
AND, CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THOSE FOUR MESSAGES IN PROPHECY?
WHERE DO THE FOUR MAJOR MESSAGES OF TRUTH COME FROM IN REVELATION 9:14, FROM 1844 TO THE PRESENT DAY?

THE THREE ANGELS’ MESSAGES IN THEIR INITIAL PHASE AND REPEAT PHASE ARE SEEN ORIGINATING FROM ONLY ONE PLACE ON THE GLOBE, THE USA ... NOT FIRST FROM THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE AND THEN NOT FROM THE EASTERN HEMISPHERE AS SOME ARE TEACHING IN THE PHILLIPINES – THE FAR EAST

BUT RATHER, ALL FOUR MESSAGES ORIGINATE FROM ONE MAJOR GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION, FROM ONE NATION, AS SHOWN IN THE SYMBOLISM OF REVELATION 9:14!

Let us talk about these Four Angels of Revelation 9:14 and Revelation 7:1, as they are the SAME Four Angels shown in their respective purpose for the sealing of the Firstfruits, for they are crucial to our understanding to what constitutes the LAST MESSAGE for the church today.

First, we must ask the question of .... WHERE is the geographic location of the symbolic “River Euphrates” in prophecy (Rev. 9:14)? The significance of the geographical history of the entire Advent Movement since the early 1840s is most important here, to clear the truth and to know where this “modern Babylon” of prophecy is located in the latter days.

From Victor Houteff, Tract 5, pages 80 & 87:

“The voice which came from the golden altar said “to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.” In order to identify “the four angels,” we must first understand the literal meaning of the river Euphrates.

“The capital city of ancient Babylon was built on either side of the Euphrates, thus dividing the city in two parts. The river was also the source of water supplying a fortifying mote about the city. So because the ancient Babylonians were the first to build on the banks of the Euphrates, and because the original application must attach to the original settlers there, the “great river Euphrates” emerges as a type of “the waters...where the whore sitteth” (Rev. 17:15) -- modern Babylon. And this important truth is amplified by the fact that the ancient city, Babylon, does not now exist, whereas prophecy calls for a Babylon today.

“Now in order for there to be a modern Babylon, there must necessarily be a repetition today of the conditions and events essentially characterizing ancient Babylon in its connection with God’s people. Consequently, their captivity in Babylon, the type (Jer. 29:10), must find its parallel in Babylon, the antitype. Very obviously, therefore, the angel's being "bound in the great river Euphrates" must be figurative of the Christian church during the period of her captivity in antitypical Babylon -- "that great city" rising after John's time.

“Furthermore, the statement made by the voice from the golden altar, “loose the four angels which are bound,” conclusively shows that when the “voice” spoke, the church (the angels) was already in captivity and was to be loosed.

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“The execution of the command, "Loose the four angels," meaning to set the church free from her captivity in Babylon, resulted in her being liberated from her long bondage to the tyranny of church-state rule, and in the Bible’s being restored to God’s people, so that they might study and worship in fear and in favor of no man, and in accountability only to their conscience and to their God. In the consequent dissolution of the church-state union, the “four angels” were loosed.

Rev. 9:15, first clause. "And the four angels were loosed."

“The marginal rendering gives the preposition "at" for the preposition "for," making the verse read:

"At an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year." Still more exactly rendered, it would read: "At an hour, at a day, at a month, and at a year." Thus are designated four points in time "at" which the four angels were to prepare "for to slay the third part of men." And as the "third part" in the trumpets represents, as we have seen, those who reject God’s appeals to them to repent and be saved, then, accordingly, the angels’ preparing themselves on four successive occasions for the eventual execution of death upon "the third part of men," shows that the men are to reject a four-phase (four-doctrine) message, each phase being revealed successively." END QUOTE.

How was it that these four angels bound in the symbolic River Euphrates were to liberate the church (God’s people) in our recent history “from her long bondage to the tyranny of church-state rule, and in the Bible’s being restored to God’s people” as Br. Houteff stated above?

Answer: It was through the beginning of the preaching of the First Angel’s message in 1840. And then, through each of these four angels messages coming on the scene in succession, to bring spiritual liberation to the church through FOUR major steps of truth from 1844 to the present day. The First Angel’s of message of 1840 sets the prophetic stage of the deliverance of these FOUR ANGELS bound up in the symbolic River Euphrates. Therefore, WHEREEVER the FIRST Angel ARISES --- SO TOO must the other THREE ANGELS ARISE that are bound, because they ALL come from the same PLACE in the symbolism of Revelation 9.

In the paragraphs above, Bro. Houteff states that “In the consequent dissolution of the church-state union, the "four angels" were loosed.” This statement clearly points to the United States of America as the antitypical Babylon, ‘spiritual Babylon,’ if you will, just as the Second Angel’s message under William Miller identified as the United States, where the mainstream Christian churches experienced a “moral fall” in rejecting William Miller’s First Angel message thus bringing in the Second Angel’s message in the summer of 1844. The prophecy is quite clear on this – where the first message originates, ALL the messages originate. America (USA) is the geographical place were the first Three Angels of Revelation 14 originated (two major movements, or angels messages – Miller and White consecutive), so consequently, Revelation 9:14, 15 shows two more major developments of truth after 1844, namely, the Rod and the Branch messages. Many Davidians today, perhaps all Davidians today, think that the Rod message has a second phase itself, after Victor Houteff’s passing in 1955, but the sure work of prophecy does NOT represent such an idea symbolically.

The first TWO angels bound in the River Euphrates are the two major movements of the Three Angels’ messages of 1840 to 1844, under the prophetic ministries of William Miller and Ellen White. The United States of America is the only nation on earth with a Constitution and a Bill of Rights that specifically protects religious liberty, forbidding any legal or civil union between church and state. Other nations today may have provisions to this end, but the USA was the first nation on earth, in 1776, to legislate religious freedom, forbidding the state from enjoining or endorsing any particular religious body, forbidding all forms of religious persecution or religious domination by the state. We also know that the United States was in prophecy in the Book of Revelation, being
symbolized in Revelation 13, the land of the “two horned beast” the image beast, as the book The Great Controversy describes.

This being so, as Brother Houteff notes that his message, the repeat of the First Angel’s message (WHR 37), is the second to last angel of those four angels “bound up in the River Euphrates”.

This being so --- THEN JUST WHO IS REPRESENTED BY THE LAST ANGEL, OR THE FOURTH ANGEL, IN THIS PARTICULAR SYMBOLIC PROPHECY, THE LAST ANGEL THAT IS BOUND UP IN THE RIVER EUPHRATES?

WHAT IS THIS LAST MESSAGE THAT IS BOUND UP IN THE RIVER EUPHRATES?

WAS THE SHEPHERD’S ROD MESSAGE THE LAST MESSAGE IN THIS PROPHECY?

THERE ARE A TOTAL OF FOUR MESSAGES REPRESENTED IN REVELATION 9:14, AND IT IS CLEAR THAT VICTOR HOUTEFF’S MESSAGE IS THE THIRD MESSAGE IN THIS PARTICULAR PROPHECY.

For those Davidians who believe that the Rod message is the last message (angel) of those four angels of Revelation 9:14,15, we ask you to prove your assertion, to show from William Miller’s message itself (the First Angel message of Rev. 14) that it had a second phase after William Miller’s death, and thereby, if true, show that the repeat of the First Angel in its second phase had a second part to it after 1955, and after the dissolution of the original Mt. Carmel DSDA Association in 1962 --- rather than a whole new angel coming on the scene in 1955, ... which is the case. In 1844, in the Advent Movement type under William Miller, there was a First Angel’s message, then, there was a Second Angel’s message, a clear and direct fact in prophecy and in our history. The First Angel’s message had NO continuation or second phase of itself. No. Not at all. Notice, the Second Angel’s message, though connected to the First Angel’s message in succession, was NOT a continuation of the First Angel’s message, but rather it was a distinct message. This we may be clear on, that there was NOT to be an INTERRUPTED continuation of The Rod message after Victor Houteff’s death. It was not the case in 1844 and certainly not in 1955. There is NO TYPE for a continuation of the First Angel in either of its phases, 1844, or 1955.

Now, for any who would attempt to prove such an assertion (a second phase of the Rod message itself), then please show how your message originated from outside of the USA, outside of America, the historical spiritual home of the Advent Movement, symbolized as the “River Euphrates” in prophecy. Understand also that the “spiritual Babylon” of prophecy is also a major economic-trade giant in world-wide commerce. New York City is considered the economic and commercial trade capitol of the world, the great trade center of the western world, thus fitly representing a latter day “Babylon” in prophecy. Nevertheless, the term “Babylon” in Revelation 9, Revelation 14, and other prophecies in the Book of Revelation, is primarily a spiritual city, a spiritual domain of fallen Christian churches as the Second Angel’s messages proclaims. But let me be clear in this assertion, that there are no prophecies symbolized in the Book of Revelation showing new messages that were to arise outside of the USA. To take one statement from the Rod message that is not in harmony with the overall history of the messages and the Second Advent Movement, and not in harmony with Bro. Houteff’s clear understanding of the “River Euphrates” in prophecy is a losing argument for sure.

Ben Roden’s view on this latter day spiritual Babylon is in harmony with Victor Houteff’s statements above on Revelation 9. From his study below, “Blow the Trumpet In Zion”, Ben Roden stated:

(Emphasis added)
"The four angels bound in the river Euphrates (Rev. 9-13-15). In the time of the 6th seal and before the 7th seal opens are the four prophetic movements with the five angels, (prophetic) messages mentioned above which are bound, or that have found their origin in the United States, antitypical Babylon (Euphrates). Please tell me then how can one be bound outside of the U.S. or more than four in the U.S. when the Bible says there are but four bound inside and makes no mention of any being bound outside of the U.S.?

"All classes of second advent believers agree, that the angel brought to view in the and 7th verses of this chapter (Rev. 14), represent the advent message to the church and world. If this is true, then all five of the angels brought to view in this chapter represented five distinct messages, prior to the advent, or we are left without a rule to interpret this chapter." A Word to the Little Flock pp10, 11.

You say, how can one make five angels four? Let us think, the four angels bound in the Euphrates represent the four prophetic movements beginning with the Millerite movement, and reaching down to the opening of the Seventh Seal which should open at or shortly after the 120 years (Matt. 2-1:37; John 4:35), beginning in 1844, and the Five Angels’ messages of Rev. 14 represent the five messages of the four prophetic movements. As all Seventh-day Adventists know, two of these angels’ messages came before Oct. 22, 1844 in the Millerite movement, and as all the honest SDAs will know, three of these angels’ messages have come since 1844. The third angel’s message began to unfold with Ellen Harmon White and was followed by the Shepherd’s Rod and the Branch messages making a total of five angels’ messages but only four movements. Problems that are complicated for the human mind, you see, are made simple by inspiration.

Therefore, beginning with the prophet, William Miller, and reaching down to the opening of the seventh seal there are four prophetic movements and only four prophetic messengers. When the seventh seal opens and the loud cry begins for the world there will be 144,000 prophets (Joel 1:28). Hence no room is left for the many SDA and DSDA reformers being prophets or having a prophetic message all of their own until the seventh seal opens and thereby making it impossible for them to go to the “two olive trees” Rev. 11:4; Zech. 4:11. “the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament” GC 267, to get the oil of present truth to lighten the candle stick, the Church. Being ministers, not prophets, they must necessarily get their oil of truth from the golden bowl (Spirit of Prophecy in order to lighten the church (candlestick Rev. 2:1-5). As long as the reform ministers bring admonitions for the church from the Bible as it is revealed by the Spirit of Prophecy, they have God’s sealing approval. However, those reformers who go to the two Olive Trees, without the Spirit of Inspiration, but rather through the halls of higher learning or some other means other than Inspiration, and attempt to bring out things new and old which is the spurious and not the true oil, and dispense it to the candlestick are claiming, by their actions, to be prophets, but are termed by the Bible as false prophets.

There is a dangerous trend among the reformers, by claiming that all are prophets. This is the devil’s deal, and if this urge to prophesy is not repressed by them, it will surely lead into fanaticism, and hence bring about the fulfillment of the latter day prophecy by Jer. 23:20. "I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken them, yet they prophesied." Jer. 23:21.

Beginning with the Third Angel’s Message after 1844, and before the seventh seal opens, there are three prophetic steps of the message of righteousness; which are:

(1) Righteousness by Grace in the Third Angel’s message of the atonement for the dead by Mrs. E. G. White - SDA. By keeping the Sabbath since 1844, God's people received the assurance of His righteousness through His grace.
(2) Righteousness by Faith came in 1888, but it was rejected by the General Conference and the people, and produced no movement. See COR 87:2, 70:2. Sr. White wrote "thus the Lord, did for the children of Israel, thus He has done with his people in all ages. He will prove them where they have formerly failed." ST623:1. The people rejected the message in 1888 and the ministers, Waggoner and Jones did not persevere and consequently no prophetic movement resulted from the message therefore, the message of 1888 completely failed. We may be sure, though, that the Lord's truth is not to fail but on the other hand is to triumph, and since this is true then the message of righteousness by faith would necessarily have to be sent back to the church again. This is just what happened in 1929, the Lord sent the message of righteousness by faith through the Sabbath School Quarterly which developed into the Shepherd's Rod message, and which has tried the faith of every Seventh-Day Adventist since it came into existence.

Yes, it is true that the denomination claims the Shepherd's Rod is false. "The Jews refused to receive Christ, because He did not come in accordance with their expectations. The ideas of finite men were held as infallible, because hoary with age." TM64:2. We are not to go by what the church says, for the church has rejected the messages He sends through His delegated messenger in all ages. If God's people would ever learn to stay with the Spirit of Prophecy rather than listen to fallible men they would be safe. Actually, the message of 1888 was in a sense sent to announce the Shepherd's Rod, and although the Shepherd's Rod did not bring that great reformation in the church anticipated by its believers, yet it taught a great prophetic truth.

(3) The movement that follows the Davidian movement, the Branch, is the message of the Lord our Righteousness of Zech. 6:12,13; Jer. 23:5, 6, which is the investigative judgment of the living for the church (I Pet. 4:17), and is the message and revival that brings the reformation (reorganization) in the church before the loud cry for the world. Do you not want to be one of, or one with, the 144,000 first fruits? We need the Righteousness of the Branch in the Atonement. Hear Inspiration, "The work of Christ as man's intercessor is presented in that beautiful prophecy of Zechariah concerning Him whose name is the Branch." GC415. "Hear ye the Rod"; "Who is to bring this revival and reformation, this, great change? - the BRANCH. And according to Isaiah 11:1-5, the Branch is the Lord." 1TGr 8-24:3. The Lord is bringing the revival and reformation in His own name, and when this revival and reformation is completed which is the marriage of the Lamb (Matt. 25:10), the Lamb's wife (Rev. 14:1) will have His name (Jer. 33:15, 16). Therefore there are three steps of righteousness, SDA (Grace), DSDA (Faith), BDSDA (Righteousness of Christ).

O! for the height and depths of the wisdom of God and His ways past finding out until at the right time when He reveals His secrets to His servants the prophets. You can see, the Lord through Inspiration make's His truth so plain and simple that none can gainsay. However, men turn to their own righteousness in order that they may have a following who will bow to them instead of the Lord. These false teachers may as well know now that God will surprise them at their unholy feast.

So you see, friends, there is no possible way to brush the Lord's message aside, for "he will try them, and if they fail under the trial the second time, He will bring them around to the same test again." ST 623:1. Since the Lord's people failed the second time to receive the message of righteousness by faith through the Shepherd's Rod He is now bringing them around to the same test again through the Branch, and this time it will triumph to the glory of the Lord. Do you not want to triumph in His glory?

Any movement that meets this Divine blueprint in these last days, you may be sure, is ordained of Heaven, and you can be safe in putting your all into it, even to all you have, all you are, and all you hope to be. This is
Heaven’s chart and compass and you certainly will not go wrong following it. Compare any movement by the above blueprint and if the organization does not meet the specifications and requirements laid down here you will know to leave it alone, for it is the spurious, not the true, and will surely bring you to a bad end. The only profitable thing to do is to put your time, energy and means into the genuine which will bring you joy, happiness and everlasting peace. Do not get contaminated by the false which will only bring everlasting destruction. There is no time to lose, why dabble with that which is not bread, why not be overcomers and partake of the true Bread which cometh down from Heaven, the hidden Manna? (Rev. 2:17).

SUMMARY

I. The Five Angel’s Messages:


b. Rev. 14:9 after 1844 - The Testimonies, Portland, Maine.

c. Rev. 14:15 after 1844 - The Shepherd’s Rod, Los Angeles California.

d. Rev. 14:16, 17 after 1844 - The Branch “He” The Lord Our Righteousness for the 144,000, Odessa, Texas.

[Editor note: The Branch message came in three parts, three sections, 1955, 1977, and finally 1990, so that the total messages since 1844 are seven angels in all. The Millerite message itself came in two sections, comprising the 1st Angel, then the 2nd Angel. But the Millerite message was NOT a sealing message; it was a pre-requisite to the Third Angel. The Third Angel’s message was the FIRST sealing message in the Second Advent Movement. There were TWO more sealing messages to come after 1844.]

1. Rev. 14:18 is the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit.
2. Rev. 14:18, 19 is the Loud Cry - the Branch “SHE”, the Lord Our Righteousness for the great multitude.

II. Four Angels Bound in Euphrates (Babylon) GC 389-90; at an hour, day, month, and year.

First-day Adventists - the Hour of His judgment. Rev.14:6, 7.

Seventh-day Adventists; Day - great judgment day beginning Oct. 22, 1844.

Davidian Seventh-day Adventists; Month - the latter rain of truth in first month. Joel 2:23.

Branch Davidian Seventh-day Adventists; Year - year of the redeemed. These four are summed up in the Branch. See 5Tr 87. The four angels find their origin in Euphrates (United States).

III. Three steps of Righteousness during the time of the Atonement.

a. Righteousness by Grace - judgment of the dead (GC 483, 490) SDA.

b. Righteousness by Faith - pre-judgment of living (2TG 39) Davidian SDA.

c. Righteousness of Christ - judgment of the living Branch DSDA (1TG39:5; 6T 19).

End Quote
Therefore, when we add the major movement of William Miller, comprising the First and Second Angel’s messages, to the Third Angel’s message of 1844, then add the repeat of the First Angel (The Rod message) in 1930, then add the repeat of the Second Angel’s message (The Branch) of 1955, we now have a count of FOUR ANGELS’ messages, perfectly fulfilling the Revelation 9:14, 15 prophecy.

The prophecies in their symbols clearly show that there are FOUR major developments of truth since 1844, and it is clear that The Rod message was the third development of truth in this particular prophecy. Other lines of prophecy show the development of truth as THREE overall sealing messages since 1844 (Rev. 3:12), THREE sealing messages, and still other lines of prophecy show FIVE DISTINCT messages (Rev. 14/WLF 10-11). Therefore, to assert that the Rod message was the LAST MESSAGE cannot stand a close investigation of the types, symbols and direct prophecies of ALL the Angels’ Messages of Revelation 14 in particular. Three major developments of truth as depicted in the Isaiah 11:1 prophecy -- fulfilled.

THESE ARE THE SAME ANGELS THAT ARE BOUND UP IN THE SYMBOLICAL RIVER EUHRATES OF REVELATION 9 HOLDING BACK THE TIME OF TROUBLE UNTIL THE SERVANTS OF YHWH ARE SEALED
THESE FOUR ANGELS ENCOMPASS THREE MAJOR SEALING TRUTHS (Rev. 3:12)

HOW COULD ANY DAVIDAN REJECT THE BRANCH MESSAGE WHEN IT IS THE VERY MESSAGE THAT VICTOR HOUTEFF ANNOUNCED BY NAME IN 1TG8, AS THE MESSAGE THAT BRINGS “REVIVAL AND REFORMATION – THIS GREAT CHANGE...”?

NOW, ONCE MORE, CAN YOU NAME THE FOUR ANGELS THAT ARE BOUND IN THE RIVER EUPHRATES OF REVELATION 9:14, 15?

YOUR SEALING IN THE FIRSTFRUIT HARVEST – YOUR SEALING IN THE THREE MAJOR STEPS OF THE GREAT SECOND ADVENT MOVEMENT, REVELATION 3:12 (EW15), FROM 1844 TO THE PRESENT DAY, DEPENDS ON THAT YOU ANSWER THE ABOVE QUESTION CORRECTLY.