

“WHAT ARE WE MISSING?”

Nov. 26, 2016

Response to the question posed by Brother _____, as stated below:

What are we missing? I have yet to see any evidence in scripture and/or any inspired writ that negates the divine principle for having a visible leader who is the head of God's work on earth at this time. Obviously, the Spirit is working in and through all of the servants sent to the husbandmen, but the actual servants are visible men. It would make more sense to see contention on the issue of who that visible leader is then to see an attempt at circumventing the fact that there is one.

How will any of us know who that visible (under) leader (serving by appointment of the Spirit/Over Leader) is? By the message that was given to that one. Houteff and Roden taught in harmony with Scripture that there would be a 1st to receive that garment change. That servant would then be critically instrumental in passing that garment along to individuals specifically pointed out by the Spirit.

This truth jumps out plainly in the Bible, Houteff's, and Roden's references to Zechariah's prophecy. The Spirit has been crying out to the hearts of many for generations. She has given revelation to many hearts for generations. Yet, regardless of how many She is speaking to and/or through, there is a (visible) servant at the head of the work.

If the Spirit has given anyone the revelation that they are that visible leader, there message and mission ought to be able to be plainly outlined and pointed out in prophetic history even to the point where it can be distinguished what "additional truth" was given to you that Houteff & the Roden's hadn't already presented. People who understand anything about the Branch message or even the Rod know this.

Respectfully Looking To See Things From the Spirit's Interpretation of the Biblical Prospective,

Brother _____

To put it simply, there has to be a visible leader (led by the Spirit) of the work for today. Also, there has to be a Joshua leader (fallen human being that receives the garment change and by following Divine instructions) is critically involved in passing that experience to the rest of the body of Christ. How? By simply saying and doing whatever the Spirit directs him to. Even if one has doubts to who this person is at present or whether he has been brought on the scene as of yet, it seems to be a serious lack of understanding the Branch message for any genuine believer to not understand that there has to be a visible leader and eventually one that is Divinely identified as the Joshua (redeemed fallen human being--operating under the influence of the Spirit) of Zechariah's prophecy.

What discourages me about your studies, Tom, is that you seem to imply that the Spirit alone is this Joshua and that the way the Bible shows it to be and the way Houteff and Ben Roden understood it to be is null and void. I understand that Ellen White wouldn't have the most complete understanding of the prophecy as it relates more to those living during the time of the Judgment for the Living, but Houteff and Roden were given the understanding more relevant to is today. Please, tell me what you think I am missing from this topic!

Respectfully,
Brother _____

My Response/TL Caldwell:

A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Brother _____, thank you for sharing your concern on this topic. This is indeed the most sensitive of topics in our day for our consideration. WHO will be our Ruler, the Ruler of the Kingdom, even the priest and judge (Zech. 3)? It seemed so clear to our understanding, so cut and dried, as the saying goes, in the days of Victor Houteff, and after, in the minds of all Davidians today, even moreso in the day of Ben Roden, believing in a visible leader among the people today, a man to whom we look to as our divinely inspired leader. Ben Roden appointed his son George to rule after him shortly before his death. I know this for a fact since I was closely associated with George Roden and his family for a few years at and after Ben Roden's passing. At the

memorial service for Ben Roden, which I attended in October of 1978, George was openly acclaimed as the new King of The Branch, both by the people and by his mother, somewhat briefly, until it was evident that George was not going to work with his mother, not accept his mother's message FULLY, or attend to the literature work, the publication work of Lois Roden's message which was the bonified work under her inspired authority. Ben Roden recognized Lois Roden as "co-President" in at least one of his final field letters. So, the people, the Branch believers, at New Mt. Carmel and in general, began to distance themselves from George Roden since he was not going to be subject to his mother's message or prophetic authority. It was expected, after the passing of Ben Roden, that someone of the Roden family lineage would take the mantle of kingship of The Branch, which I fully believed at the time. A short historical story I share every so often is, about two weeks before Ben Roden died, as related by George Roden himself to his family, to myself and to everyone then.

There was a family meeting one evening in Ben and Lois Roden's living room at that time, a couple weeks before Ben's passing. Ben, Lois and George were reviewing the prophecy of Zechariah 6, the prophecy of The Branch in the latter days. As George related, word for word, from Ben Roden, to George's utter amazement and protest, his father said "George, if I am seeing this right (reading the Zechariah 6:12 prophecy), then YOU are 'The man whose name is The Branch'". George was legitimately shocked and puzzled to say the least. Ben was seeing something in the prophecy that needed to be understood, but his statement was more of an inquiry in reality, not seeing all that was needed to be seen, as I see it now. Well, George's immediate response to his father was, "Father, you ought not talk that way, ... YOU KNOW who is the "man whose name is The Branch"! George was referring to his father as the fulfillment of that prophecy. This was a most unsettling meeting for both Ben Roden and his son. It portended a great change in the message and the movement, and of all things, just shortly before his death on October 22, 1978. But that was what The Branch was about, "... a GREAT CHANGE", as Victor Houteff relates in 1TG8:24,26. It will always be about a "great change" of authority, and about Deity taking the reins of control, as EGW states in TM 300. Now we have the big picture, the complete picture and we are without excuse to not see it.

Ben was unsettled about something, whether he was sensing the end of his life and ministry, we do not know, and exactly why he made the application of his son George to Zechariah 6 :12. But that is how George related it, even in the presence of his mother, and Lois Roden never disputed that story or that event, as George testified. Everyone knew about it then, at New Mt. Carmel. I believed George then, as he related what was said that evening with his father and mother, because family authority is passed from father to son, not from husband to wife, at least in the Old Testament economy. The fact that Lois Roden had a valid prophetic calling however was a major mitigating factor in all of this. Even at the memorial of Ben Roden, Perry Jones proclaimed to the many members, family and friends present that The Branch had "a new king". Today, I still believe the story of that event. George would never lie about anything, particularly about something his father said. This is what caused such a doctrinal controversy between George and his mother, in those early days, weeks and months, after Ben Roden's passing. I came through this process of the REVELATION of the KING, the TRUE KING, beginning in 1978, beginning with what Lois Roden herself taught later in her ministry, after Ben's passing, to guide us in our walk today. You see, the expectation was that a family member of Ben Roden would take up the crown (Eze. 21:26,27), the rulership of the Kingdom, which was not unreasonable to think for all we knew then. But what happens when "the Lord takes the reins into His OWN Hands" at some time after Ben Roden's passing? TM300

Lois Roden never held herself out as the NEW king of The Branch after Ben's passing. This is because she knew she was not a RODEN by blood, but by marriage. Important to note. However, as Lois Roden's message progressed, the identity of the KING, and Priest, of The Branch, and of the whole Body of Messiah, was brought out, time and time again. This is why Lois Roden never held herself out as king. She was only the visible messenger and spiritual leader of the Movement. Lois Roden's message brought about a change in thinking, a crossover point in the message, as to WHO was in charge, even as Ellen White first wrote about in 1901 to the leading brethren then, which Lois Roden quoted many times in her publications. This was in verity a paradigm shift in thinking, in the message, since the days of Victor Houteff, concerning WHO would be the "visible king" and the one to impart the "garment change" of Christ's Righteousness. It is in fact the most important question we need to ask. Nature abhors a vacuum, and so it is in the message today, both Davidian and Branch, and with the passing of Ben Roden in 1978, even the passing of Victor Houteff in 1955, the death of George Roden in 1998, there has been no shortage of claimants to the coveted title of "King David", or Solomon, in antitype. Ultimately, the office of King David and Elijah are inseparable, as are all of the types that were to reveal Christ ONLY in fulfillment, not a man in the latter days as a "vice-gerent" priest and ruler, in Christ's stead. Such an idea would leave out the Holy Spirit, making Her only the "anointing" agency. As usual, bypassed again in church authority through the ages. Men talk that they are under the direct leading of the Holy Spirit, but negating Her actual authority, priesthood and kingship by placing themselves in that position, the real authority on the ground. This has been the case for nearly 2000 years, particularly in the Church of Rome.

My whole point in sharing this testimony is to ask the question, "Was Ben Roden correct in putting his son George in succession of the Davidic throne" after himself? The answer, my answer, is NO. Ben Roden was not correct in making his son his successor. That is the sole determination of Divine Providence, and The Branch still had an association president – Lois Roden.

Providence had another Truth to reveal WHO was to come and sit on David's throne. The message that carried on after Ben's message ended was to REVEAL (Isa. 40:5) WHO is the King and Priest of the Kingdom. Ben Roden published Br. Houteff's Tract 16 (that is reproduced on www.theadventmovement.net site under the tab "For Davidians". <http://theadventmovement.net/upload/for-davidians/tract%2016.pdf>

Beginning on page 51 of the Shepherd's Rod Tract #16, Br. Houteff wrote a whole section entitled "When All is Not Revealed". In that section he states that "every messenger has at least one private opinion", which is permitted by Inspiration, even though the opinion is not true, it is to be later corrected. But understand that which is shown in a vision or in a dream is NOT corrected, not private opinion, but is given directly by Inspiration as an inspired truth that withstands close investigation. Well, Ben Roden had his private opinion about the continuation of David's lineage through his own family, but not understanding Who it was to be revealed in the Davidic lineage, Who was revealed at the Cross, and came down on the Day of Pentecost. This was the message that Lois Roden brought. She knew that her very own son George could not meet his potential as even a temporary leader of The Branch Movement unless he accepted her message fully. But George attempted to force his own agenda of rulership after his father's passing. Lois Roden's message was to unfold to reveal the true and final King of the Movement, and that right soon, in her message. But George was not ready for that truth, nor would he ever be ready for it in his lifetime. And for your information, George's youngest son today (Joshua), so named by Ben Roden no less, living in Jerusalem, Israel today, does claim the continuation of the Roden crown of earthly-divine authority of David's throne, yet, he does not connect with the people here in this country, he has no connection to the Movement other than his own family, and to my knowledge has produced no studies or new revelation, time and type, which is a requirement in this Movement for spiritual leadership, since 1930, since 1844. He only presumes his authority is a 'given' expectation, or his divine right, based on family name and blood-line, which is not to deny the Roden bloodline connection to King David of old. For that matter, any of us could have blood lineage to King David far back in our ancestry, but that is not provable, and it would not be Divine will to keep a sinful man on that Davidic throne to the end of time when the Davidic throne really belongs to Christ and His second self, the Divine Daughter. Scripture is clear on this. Joshua Roden claims, based on the Ezekiel 21:27 prophecy, as Ellen White comments on in the book Education, page 179, that he is the ONE "whose right it is", with capitalized pronouns that EGW uses in her statement (Ed 179). Joshua's father made this claim also, claiming he (and now his son) is the one revealed by the capitalized pronouns in Ed 179. Of course, Ellen White was pointing to Christ the Savior, The Branch, ONLY. This is just some of what I have seen develop in 38 years, as of last month, since Ben Roden's passing.

Brother _____, this is what we have all been missing.

THE ANSWER TO OUR CONTROVERSY

Rev. 22:16 - I, Yahshua have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, [and] the bright and morning star.

Why not accept this verse as our starting point concerning David, and more-so who is the rightful extension of Yahshua? Christ is of the lineage of David. How wonderful is that?

We all accept Yahshua, the Son of YHVH, as the David in prophecy after the Cross of Calvary, however, there is a circumstantial issue or break, in that prophecy since Yahshua ascended to Heaven 40 days after the resurrection and is no longer on the earth. There are other verses to validate this truth, other than Revelation 22:16.

In her study tract "In the Beginning, God..." Lois Roden taught that the Holy Spirit was to be revealed "in the flesh". Here is the quote in the paragraph context on page 14, second column:

"In a primary sense, this prophecy applied to (a masculine person) Christ's priesthood, but in the secondary application it applies to the end of time in which one like (a similitude – likeness) Melchisedec the Holy Spirit is to appear with the same gender as the Holy Spirit, IN THE FLESH, as revealed in the creation story." End quote.

In this statement she is revealing the coming of the Divine Daughter, in the flesh, in Person, which means "visible". This same principle of gender extension, dual applications, is repeated in many places in Lois Roden's publications.

This is the "visible" leader we are to be looking for rather than looking to a man who makes great claims and great titles for himself. This is the core Truth and summary of the message given to Lois Roden. Oh, those who claim the highest positions in the church stress they are "led" by the Holy Spirit, as "vice-gerent", as "visible leader", but discount the full truth and the complete prophecy that the Divine Daughter will come and rule in person. Then what, of those claimants who gave themselves their great titles, ... "Joshua", "David", "Solomon", "Elijah", even "Elisha" or "the anointed one" (antitype of Christ

Himself)? False leaders want it both ways, recognize the Holy Spirit as King, yet place themselves in the “vice-gerent” position. Frankly, I think this has gotten kind of obvious and we all should clearly see it for what it is. It is time to wake up.

Understand if you will:

- There is no antitype of a Christ today in a person, as stated by Victor Houteff and Ben Roden. A man who teaches he is the “anointed one” (meaning “Christ”) is putting himself equal with Deity, in the very place Christ holds, both in Heaven and on earth as the “vice-gerent” to Christ. This is popery.
- We must come away from trusting in man, thinking a man can represent us before the Heavenly Throne when that is the very place of the Holy Ghost in the earth today. There is no actual type for what Charles Pace teaches on this. Seriously, he made it all up because he seems to make sense to himself, and it is for him, and others, wonderful to be in a position of complete and ultimate authority over the church and the Kingdom, just like the Bishop of Rome today.
- People who believe, or have been led to believe, that there must be a “visible” king today, referencing Victor Houteff’s statements in Tract 8:43-47 (not copied here), must now step away from “the common order of things”, thinking a man only can be the visible leader and that it will always be that way. Ellen White warned against this in Testimonies to Ministers page 300. This was the way it was in the ministry of Victor Houteff and Ben Roden. The people looked to them as representatives with prophetic titles, even titles of Christ (Elijah, or David, etc). Prior to the Seventh Step in the Movement (1SR126, 127) it was permissible, BUT NOT IN THE TIME OF THE SEVENTH STEP, not today, after 1990. Now, there must be a decided CHANGE in our thinking and expectation.
- We must come away from the thinking that the Holy Ghost is only a “vapor” and not a real person. The Holy Ghost Daughter is VISIBLE by Faith today, just not yet manifested, not yet come forth. This is exactly what Lois Roden taught in her study “In the Beginning ... God” page 14, quoted above. Frankly, we can even consider the cloud by day and fire by night in the Mosaic system a ‘visible manifestation’ of the Holy Ghost, as Isaiah 4:5 also shows in a future application. Expect it and act accordingly.
- As Victor Houteff warns, 1TG18:15: **The name of the idols (the flattering titles of men) shall forever be forgotten: Men shall never again be known by such titles. Thereafter neither a false prophet nor an unclean spirit shall be tolerated in the land.** In fact, not even a father or a mother will then tolerate their own son to pose as such, but they shall deliver him to the executioners. It shall come to pass that the men who even now are exalting themselves, and, worst of all, are preaching without having been "sent," shall be ashamed as they see their foolish teachings, predictions, and private interpretations of the Scriptures. No longer will they wear deceitful garments. Rather, they will say, "I am no prophet, not even a pastor, I am only a herdsman, a common farmer." This time is NOW.
- 2TG 21:13 - Yes, rather than be her lord, God is indeed to be her husband, for one can have lords many, but only one husband. Hos. 2:17 -- "For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name." The names of Baalim are significant of persons possessing selfish characters such as Balaam's -- teachers of religion, prophets who would rather curse Israel than lose the opportunity of monetary gain, or of some other foolish, selfish promotion that exalts and flatters. **Such shall then no longer be known by their lordly, high and exalted titles. When the Church is thus purged of all her idols,** then will she find eternal peace.

Brother _____, when a man is telling you, telling everyone, that he is offering the “garment change” spoken of by Victor Houteff in 1TG8:23 (top of page), telling the people with his mouth that he will give them the garment change (the sealing), only when they PROVE themselves to him, only to those who follow him, yet on one hand he is teaching and urging people to observe Sunday sacredness, which is the “mark of the beast” (denying the continuous weekly cycle as the Advent Movement founders and all the messengers taught, believed and practiced) and on the other hand giving himself exalted titles of prophecy, making himself the center of the sanctuary work on earth, as a chief “sibling”, the “firstborn son” of the movement, a go-between intercessor to the Divine Daughter, without any type or basis for such a teaching, Brother _____, can you begin to see who or what you are dealing with? Should it not be obvious what the situation truly is? I am “sighing and crying” over this, and so should you.

Brother _____, I point you to “**the root and offspring of David, the bright and morning Star**” (Rev. 22:16) as your/our only hope, and as our only King, both invisible and visible. This is your sealing. If we do not begin to think, act, believe and teach that the Divine Daughter is “visible”, the “visible David” to us today, then She will not be King and Priest to those who do not believe and only want to follow a man because he is “visible”. She is in hiding, put away for our sins (Isa. 50:1), but not for much longer. There are some now who are ready for Her APPEARING. The Divine Daughter is the ONLY antitype of Christ, as His personal representative IN THE EARTH, the ONLY ONE Who could be in such a position after the Cross of Calvary. Reject any man who claims to share that position or Christ’s name, or Christ in antitype – in a person. Such a position, in a person today, was rejected by Ben Roden and Victor Houteff, warned against, as quoted in Branch Lesson #3 page 13. I can post the entire page if you do not have it or can’t find it. It is on www.theadventmovement.net, in the Original Publications section.

The "Joshua" of today, is both the Divine Daughter, and Her children (corporate body) who believe in Her that have been separated because of unbelief. Now that separation has ended, when the body is connected to the true Head (Deity), the "garment change" is effected, one by one, as we believe, without the need to go through a man who purports exalted titles of himself, equal to Deity. The "Spirit" and the body (of believers) constitute the "Joshua". There must be a WHOLE body with a Head who is Deity, NOT an acting head, pretending to be Deity, or to be feared as "vice-gerent" of Christ and head bishop of the work. No type for this in the Apostolic Church. That is what Rome teaches otherwise. The "change of garment" is simultaneous and mutual for both the Spirit and the body, but remember, it is a figurative change, but denoting a literal change in attitude, ideas, theories habits and practices as stated by Ellen White. Victor Houteff was not given the Revelation of the Holy Spirit that began under Lois Roden but you already understand this as you stated in your comments at the beginning of this response. Remember, Lois Roden was given the greatest understanding of this truth, prior to 1990, not Victor Houteff or Ben Roden, as you stated. Nevertheless, she was prior to the Seventh-Step of the Movement as were all the previous messengers. If a message was not given, initiated and published in writing in 1990, per the final message announcement by Lois Roden on her Heralds of the Morning chart, with TIME and TYPE presented for that message, then all you have are theories of uninspired men, and there are a few out there. If you have not read that study, Passover 1990, that came through a personal dream, showing the coming event, prior to the Passover trip to Israel of that year, with a clear explanation given, then I suggest you read it and know how it came and through whom it came, or was given to.

Please read "In the Beginning God" By Lois Roden, pages 12 through 15 and substantiate for yourself what I am presenting here. "The Holy Spirit She is THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS".

<http://theadventmovement.net/TheOriginalPublications/TheBranchMessage-LSR/InTheBeginning>

"The Holy Spirit is Christ's representative, but divested of the personality of humanity and independent thereof"
Ellen White, Desire of Ages, 669.

We need only ONE Representative in the earth, Whom Christ appointed 2000 years ago to guide the church through the ages. Only Deity can save and seal. A man will try to make you think he has that power, but the results will be grief and sorrow. The Lord (YHVH) comes "suddenly to His temple" Mal. 3:1-5, FIRST IN JUDGMENT, THEN IN PERSON, in the Person of His Glory, before the Second Advent in the clouds of heaven. We need to LOOK for Her APPEARING. Isa. 40:5

The test of the mark of the beast is upon us in The Branch, so that when it comes in the world with civil legislation, we will know how to come against it and show those who are called out from Babylon how to not be deceived by it. We went through it. Ben Roden and Victor Houteff warned that the church, the Revelation 18:1 Movement, would "incur" the "mark of the beast" first. See Branch Lesson #7 page 1 by Ben Roden.

It is the long-standing culture of the Davidians and Branch Movement to have a "visible" leader. Some look for Victor Houteff to be resurrected and become that leader once again. Many look for someone today to fill that role, never thinking about who has guided the church for 2000 years, the rightful leader and king. Think of the various prophecies of David, Joshua (Zech. 3) as a vacuum cleaner, along with the various statements from Victor Houteff about antitypical David and Elijah, providentially worded to attract the office seekers, to invite the infiltrators of Rome to gather their followers, separating the good fish from the bad fish. There is always a Providential angle to prophecy created to bring about house-cleaning, and separation for the Judgement for the living. There is always a test to receive the Mark of YHVH (God). All of Heaven, even the whole creation, is watching to see who we choose as our leader. Follow the leader, whom ever you choose. I choose to follow the Holy Ghost Daughter, the visible Head of the Church Universal for 2000 years.

V. T. Houteff, Jezreel Letter, No. 2:11

"The mark of God (Ezekiel 9:4) and the mark of the beast (Rev. 13:16) are here seen to be two opposites as are the two women of Revelation twelve and seventeen -- the true and the counterfeit.

"The beast we are told is a man (Rev. 13:18). The demand to worship, obey the beast's command, therefore, is a demand to worship (obey) man in place of God. Both marks are for no other purpose but for to define who is who -- who is for God and who is for the beast. Those who obey God's Judgment message rather than the beast's decree, receive God's mark. And those who obey the beast's decree rather than God's message receive the beast's mark. These two different marks, you see, separate the worshipers of God from the worshipers of men. And since Jesus declares that the separation takes place during harvest, and as you now see that the "harvest" and the "Judgment" for the living are synonymous terms, then the conclusion is that as the mark of God is urged upon the believers of His Judgment message in

the church, and as the mark of the beast is urged upon the worshipers of the beast during the Judgment in the world, the subject becomes clear: The enemies of the Judgment message in the church, and the enemies of the Judgment message in the world are both imbued with the spirit of the beast -- both doing the same kind of work against God's people, **first in the church then in the world. The only difference between the two is that in the world the mark of the beast is enforced by civil law, whereas the church it is not**, though the enemies against the Judgment message already have done everything in their power to secure the arm of the law against us. It is now left up to every individual member of the church to either take heed to God's Judgment message and receive His mark of deliverance, or to give heed to men's vain talk and die under the slaughter weapons of the angels."

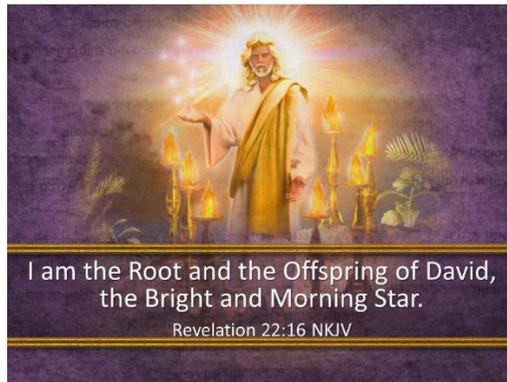
Ellen G. White:

"Christ, the Lord of the whole earth, was a humble artisan. He was unrecognized, neglected, and despised. But He held His commission and authority from the highest power, the Sovereign of heaven. Angels were His attendants, for Christ was doing His Father's business just as much when toiling at the bench as a carpenter, as when working miracles for the multitude. But He concealed the secret from the world. **He attached no high titles to His name**, to make His position understood, but He lived the royal law of God. His work must begin in consecrating the humble trade of the craftsmen who have toiled for their daily bread. Had Christ passed His life among the grand and the rich, the world of toilers would have been deprived of the inspiration which the Lord intended they should have." {OFC 257.3}

"It is one of the leading doctrines of Romanism that the pope is the visible head of the universal church of Christ, invested with supreme authority over bishops and pastors in all parts of the world. More than this, the pope has been given the very titles of Deity. He has been styled "**Lord God the Pope**" (see Appendix), **and has been declared infallible**. He demands the homage of all men. The same claim urged by Satan in the wilderness of temptation is still urged by him through the Church of Rome, and vast numbers are ready to yield him homage.

"But those who fear and reverence God meet this heaven-daring assumption as Christ met the solicitations of the wily foe: "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." Luke 4:8. **God has never given a hint in His word that He has appointed any man to be the head of the church.**" {GC 50.3}

Nothing has changed.



In The Spirit of The Branch (1990)
TL Caldwell
Fellow servant