

EARLY FIELD LETTERS BY BENJAMIN RODEN

August 9, 1960

BRANCH FIELD LETTER

**TO THE
BELIEVERS
THE
LAND OF PROMISE**

1970 REPRINT

P.O. Box 3088 Odessa, Texas
August 9, 1960

Dear Believers in the Land of Promise,

Since there is some misunderstanding as to why Sister Benjamin Roden is in Israel, let me say that she is not there on just a family visit, as some have thought. But rather, since some of our people in Israel were not interested in the place where the Lord desired to place His name and since it is impossible for me to be there at this time, it became necessary that a representative be sent who could help work out some of the many problems that arise in the process of our people's settling in Israel, also to negotiate with the authorities in behalf of our people.

Therefore, since Sister Roden has stood faithfully, fearlessly, and tirelessly by my side from the very beginning of our work in Odessa, she is therefore the best informed and, hence, the most logical one who could be sent to carry out the desires of the Odessa Office.

It is our earnest desire that all of our good people in Israel will give 100% loyal support to Mrs. Benjamin (Lois) Roden, in her efforts to allocate the Adventist people in Israel.

Sister Roden, as well as myself, holds a Certificate of Fellowship with no expiration date, issued by the Davidian Seventh-day Adventist Association and signed by our late Brother V. T. Houteff, President and Director of the work at Mt. Carmel Center, Waco, Texas and God's representative for us on earth at that time. Therefore, no earthly person or group of persons has right and authority to revoke these Fellowship Certificates issued by our Lord's Servant. Hence, it is possible that these Certificates mean more to God's work on earth, -- more than some may think.

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Furthermore, Sister Roden was appointed Secretary and Treasurer over our world-wide work after Sister Ruby Olsen resigned from her position as temporary Treasurer in 1955. Since Sister Roden has no earthly income and no means of her own, it is recommended that her expenses, as well other expenses, such as car, truck, printing, etc., be paid out of the tithe in Israel since she is spending her full time for the benefit of the Adventists in Israel. The sadly neglected second tithe and offering fund should be built up and used to care for the needy. Diligence among our people in regard to this fund should be greatly encouraged. The enemy is trying with all his might to control and divert the means God designs to be used in His work and thereby restrict and retard our work. "The cause of truth should not be hindered in its onward progress for want of means." Early Writings, p. 96.

"You who believe the truth for this time, wake up. It is your duty now to bring in all the means possible to help those who understand the truth to proclaim it." - Testimonies, Vol. 9, p. 62.

"Relieve the physical necessities of your fellow men, and their gratitude will break down the barriers and enable you to reach their hearts." - Ibid., p. 127.

"I heard voices of thanksgiving and praise, and there seemed to be a reformation such as we witnessed in 1844. Yet some refused to be converted. They were not willing to walk in God's way, and when, in order that the work of God might be advanced, calls were made for freewill offerings, some clung selfishly to their earthly possessions. These covetous ones became separated from the company of believers." - Ibid., p. 126.

There are murmurings in our ranks that say this movement to Israel by the Adventists is just an affair fostered and controlled by one family. These appear to us as the echo of the voices of an elite group of men sounding down to our time from some four thousand years ago. Those murmurers were not murmuring against the authority of the family whom God had appointed over His work at that time, but they were questioning God. The earth opened up and swallowed those murmurers.

It is our earnest prayer and desire that the murmurers of today will quit their murmuring and unite with us in a whole-hearted effort for the up-building of God's Kingdom. Murmuring meant destruction for the murmurers in that day, and God is not a man, that lie can be questioned. Their example is for Israel today (1 Cor. 10:11).

It is recommended that no printing or reprinting of Branch studies be done in Israel without the supervision and sanction of Sister Roden. Damage to the cause has been done in the past by some, perhaps well-meaning ones, who have reprinted the lessons and through carelessness made mistakes and unauthorized changes, and in general, put out a very inferior grade of work. We must all work to guard against such in the future.

Please remember that harsh criticism of each other or anyone else is to have no place in our work. Gentleness and kindness is to have sway. Let us work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

It is the desire of the Odessa Office that there shall be an advisory council in Israel, consisting of the following seven members: Brethren Joseph Parkes, Harold Knapp, George B. Roden and John Svab; Sisters Etta J. Amos, Bonnie Gillham, and Mrs. Benjamin Roden.

Brother Joseph Parkes is to be Secretary (Leviticus of D.S.D.A., p. 7, section 4).

Sister Bonnie Gillham is to be Treasurer (Leviticus of D.S.D.A., p. 7, section 5).

Sister Benjamin Roden is to act as Chairman (Leviticus of D.S.D.A., p. 9, section 3 a.). Meetings may be called in accordance with Leviticus of D.S.D.A. p. 9, section 3 a. & b. The purpose of this council is to function after the manner of Acts 6:2-6. These arrangements are allocated to Israel only, and are subject to change by the Odessa Office. The General Headquarters in Israel is Amirim (Leviticus of D.S.D.A. p. 9, section 3 a.).

In the local picture there are three groups: Gan Yavne, Sabbath School Secretary: Sister Middleton. The Sabbath School Leader may be selected by the group.

Secretary for Natanya, Sister Ruth Knapp, if unable to serve, someone else may be selected. Also a Sabbath School Leader may be selected by the group. Sabbath School Secretary for Amirim, Sister Bea Svab. Sabbath School Leader, to start with, will be Benny Roden. We suggest that the Sabbath School Leader should be rotated each month. This will give experience to some who would otherwise not receive this training. The Sabbath School Secretary is to take notes of the procedure of the meetings. All tithes and offerings may be turned into the Secretary, locally.

The Secretary will make three copies of the report, she will keep one, send a copy with the tithes etc., once a month to the Treasurer at Amirim and one copy of the report will be sent monthly to the Odessa Office. The over-all Leader at Yavne, Sister Etta Amos; Natanya, Harold Knapp; and Amirim, George Roden. Brothers Harold Knapp and George Roden are to continue as ministers for Israel under the direction of Sister Benjamin Roden, who is to be considered as Temporary Director for Branch Adventists in Israel. This is in hopes that this arrangement will eliminate the confusion and misunderstanding of the past, so as to enable all to work harmoniously in the future.

Yours in the service of the Master,

BENJAMIN RODEN

The Branch
Seventh-Day Adventists
P. O. Box 3088 - FE 7-0885 - 720 N. Elliott

Odessa, Texas, U.S.A.

March 6, 1963
THE BRANCH FIELD REPORT

The glad tidings of the Branch, and the good news of the Kingdom continue to spread. Through the earth, working leaven-like in the church. This is seen by the fact that reports of our efforts keep coming into our headquarters from various parts of the earth; some from very distant points of the globe.

This is significant since we have very little help from those who believe in the Kingdom. There are a few very diligent workers in various parts of the world as well as here in the U.S.A., who are busy telling others how to get the new name. This help we are very thankful for. As another year begins, we take this opportunity to thank one and all who have contributed their efforts and means to the cause of the Branch. Each will be rewarded by the Lord for their diligent efforts to serve Him. He has nothing with which to reward you, except our good will and appreciation. But, the Lord has an abundance with which He will reward those who diligently serve Him. We continually press our petitions heavenward in your behalf.

This is as the Lord would have it, no doubt, since our compensation could only be meager and temporary, whereas the Lord's rewards are abundant and eternal.

We feel that we owe our friends an apology in a way or an explanation at least for having neglected you so much. Our work has been mainly concentrated toward our Laodicean Brethren and Israel at the expense of our Davidian friends. We let our xxxxx take care of themselves as it were. We never attempt to meddle in their affairs. We leave them entirely to the Lord, with a hope and a prayer that even they may turn and live. With Paul we say, "What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?" 1 Cor. 4:21.

In our report we wish to point out the fact, as some well know, that we do not have a large plant and organization at this time, after the manner of S.D.A. at Takoma Park, or even as Mt. Carmel was at Waco. We place more responsibility on the individual in different parts of the world field.

All workers in the Branch are self-supporting, even to those from the top here at the headquarters on down; all are able to make their own way as far as food and clothing are concerned. At the same time we pay 1st and 2nd tithe. We carry on our work much in the same manner as did Paul (Acts 18:3; 1Cor. 4:12). Those who do part time labor here, share their income with those who spend full time in the work, much after the manner of the Apostle. (Acts 20:34).

Fortunately, or providentially, the Lord placed in our hands, before this movement ever started, properties, from which we receive income sufficient along with part time employment from the rest of us who are willing and more than glad to help feed those who are spending full time in the office, but who are not paid from the tithes. Our workers in Israel labor to sustain themselves when they are permitted to work. There have been times when the enemy has sought to cut off their income.

It is true, we use tithes for transportation and expenses on trips. Some have felt they did not wish to send in money for others to run around over the country having a good time as they see it, even if the money was tithes and not theirs in the first place. Since some of our people have become prophets, they feel that they are no longer obligated to support the present Truth for this hour with their tithes and offerings. However, this is where they are mistaken, for even Abraham, one of God's greatest prophets, and the father of the Hebrew race, paid tithes. (Gen.14:20). Also the Levites are commanded to pay tithes (Num.18:26-28; Heb. 7:9). Malachi says the store house is the place to put the Lord's tithes, (Mal. 3:10) and the store house is where Present Truth is dispensed.

If some have, the idea that covering from 15 to 20 meetings, with our Truth-filled publications, driving better than 10,000 miles in a period of four weeks, is having fun, we invite them to try it sometime. Let me tell you, over two-thousand miles per week, covering four or five meetings that souls may learn what is happening, and how to escape the many snares, will not allow time in motels looking at T.V. If you really wish to know how easily this task may be accomplished, ask some of us who have done it. Or better still those who wish to know for sure, may try it themselves.

As a suggestion to those who wish to undertake such an endeavor, it is a good plan for two to go together. Jesus used the plan, and it worked for Him. We find this to be a good plan, for one can drive while the other one sleeps until arriving at the scene of labor. A food basket along with change of clothing are necessary. An electric shaver that will work from the dash lighter of your car, is a handy tool. In order to save any expense of motels, take along a bathing suit so you may stop at some secluded spot in a stream or lake. Taking a sponge bath in a rest room while they service your car is inconvenient. Very very few of them have warm water.

However, regardless of the cost and inconvenience, our Brethren must be given opportunity to know the aims of the enemy to ensnare God's people and the way of escape that He has provided for them. They need to know that the little twig has been cut from the high tree and planted in the high mountain in Israel and will continue to grow until every fowl of every wing will dwell under the shadow of its branches (Eze.17:22, 23). We must combine our efforts to tell them it is written that the mountains of Israel shall shoot forth branches and yield fruit. (Eze. 36:8).

The Spirit of Prophecy by Mrs. White states the way we are to finance his great program "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse,' is God's command. No appeal is made to gratitude or to generosity. This is a matter of simple honesty. The tithe is the Lord's and He bids us return to Him that which is His own." Ed. 138. Our spiritual and temporal blessings hinge upon our faithfulness to fulfill this Divine statute, along with keeping His commandments. Our prosperity is conditional, and demands a twofold obligation. God says, "If ye walk in My statutes, and keep My commandments, and do them; then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase...." Lev. 26:3, 4. The rain mentioned in this Scripture has a Spiritual as well as a temporal application.

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"...When God's ministers are encouraged, His cause is greatly advanced. But when, through the selfishness of men, their rightful support is withheld, their hands are weakened, and often their usefulness is seriously crippled.

"The displeasure of God is kindled against those who claim to be His followers, yet allow consecrated workers to suffer for the necessities of life These selfish ones will be called to render an account, not only for the misuse of their Lord's money, but for the depression and heartache which their course has brought upon His faithful servants. Those who are called to the work of the ministry, and at the call of duty give up all to engage, in God's service, should receive for their self-sacrificing efforts wages sufficient to support themselves and their families." AA 340-1.

The spirit of liberality is the spirit of heaven. Christ's self-sacrificing love is revealed upon the cross. That man might be saved, He gave all that He had, and then gave Himself. The cross of Christ appeals to the benevolence of every follower of the blessed Savior. The principle there illustrated is to give, give. This carried out in actual benevolence and good works, is the true fruit of the Christian life. The principle of worldings is to get, get, ...but, carried out in all its bearings, the fruit is misery and death." 9T 254.

"Many of God's people are in danger of being ensnared by worldliness and covetousness. They should understand that it is His mercy that multiplies the demands for their mean. God planned the system of beneficence, in order that man might become like His Creator, benevolent and unselfish in character and finally be a partaker with Christ of the eternal, glorious reward." 9T 255:0, 2.

". . . God has not changed; the tithe is still to be used for the support of the ministry. The opening of new fields requires more ministerial efficiency than we now have, and there must be means in the treasury.

"Those who go forth as ministers have a solemn responsibility devolving upon them which is strangely neglected... There is great need of instruction concerning the obligations and duties to God, especially in regard to paying an honest tithe... If they fail to do their whole duty in educating the people to be faithful in paying to God His own, there will be a shortage of means in the treasury to carry forward the Lord's work.

"The overseer of the flock of God should faithfully discharge his duty. If he takes the position that because this is not pleasant to him, he will leave it for someone else to do, he is not a faithful worker. Let him read in Malachi the words of the Lord charging the people with robbery toward God in withholding the tithes. The mighty God declares, 'Ye are cursed with a curse.' Mal. 3:9. When the one who ministers in word and doctrine sees the people pursuing a course that will bring this curse upon them, how can he neglect his duty to give them instruction and warning? Every church member should be taught to be faithful in paying an honest tithe." 9T 250-1.

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Very little has been said in the Branch message in regard to the importance in faithful tithe paying. Sister White wrote much in regard to this all-important phase of the Christian doctrine. Since Brother V.T. Houteff so thoroughly taught Davidians who held a fellowship certificate in the Association, their obligations to God of paying, not only a first tithe, but the necessity of paying a second tithe too. It has been unnecessary in most cases in the Branch movement to mention the sacred privileges and blessings of the promised reward in the diligence of paying honest tithes, since a number of Branch believers were former Davidians.

However, Sister White has been laid away to-rest for about forty-eight years, and Brother V. T. Houteff for a little more than eight years, and some Davidians and S.D.A.s have begun to think by their actions in regard to their duty to God, that perhaps He does not care or perhaps He has gone on a long journey. Nevertheless, friends, do not be so discouraged, for God is very much alive and very near to His chosen. The Inspired message that builds the temple in our day is also very much alive, through the Living Testimony not to neglect our duty to the Creator of all things. After all your years of faithfulness, why take a chance by being an unfaithful steward and have the curse of Mal. 3:9 pronounced upon you. Now that the Kingdom is sprouting from the ground up, let us take hold of God's promises. Why be so foolish as to fail our duty at the last moment as it were and lose the greatest reward for mankind since Adam, and Eve made their fatal mistake nearly 6,000 years ago 6T 386:1, 2. Why, O why would a person that has so much knowledge on the Bible, sell his birthright for a small mess of pottage as did Esau?

The past summer of 1962 marked the 49th General Conference Session, and 1966 will be the 50th Session, which tentatively is to be held in Michigan, but which should be held in Jerusalem, since 1966 is a Sabbatical year. It will also be more than 120 years from 1844. (As it was in the days of Noah... Matt. 24:37).

At the rate things are moving the mark of the beast will be fully established, very soon. The year 1966 will mark the second year of the second term in office of the power of Dan. 7:3; Rev. 13:11-18. "Great changes are soon to take place in our world and the final movements will be rapid ones." 9T 11.

The 144,000 will stand on Mt. Zion in Palestine to give the Loud Cry (Rev.14:18), but they are only first fruits (Rev. 14:1-5). ". . . For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the

word of the Lord from Jerusalem." Isa. 2:3. Look, when the image beast is fully developed it will be scarlet (red), and the woman (universal apostate church), on its back will be red, also. At this time all nations are joined together to fight against the Lamb of God. See Rev. 17:14. Now since the 144,000 first fruits are going to give the Loud Cry for the second fruits (Rev. 7:9), by calling them out of all nations; (Babylon the Great) where do you think they will call them; to the U.S.A.? No, they will call them to God's Kingdom in Palestine (Eze. 36), which will last for about 30 years (2SR 256; see Zech. 14:16-19). Therefore, if the Kingdom is fully established by 1966, probation for the world will close about 1995, and the horns (civil nations of Rev. 17:12) will destroy the woman. (Rev. 17:16).

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The U. S. Government, as well as other nations, is getting quite red now as well as becoming churchy. So, evidently, it won't be long now till these forces will be united in the common market. It is interesting to watch prophecy being fulfilled as the events among the nations develop. However, Romans 11:24-27 tells us the branch of Israel that was broken off because of unbelief nearly 2,000 years ago will be grafted back into their own olive tree when the fullness of the Gentiles be come in; all because God loves them.

O how wonderful are God's promises toward His people. Friends, will you continue to be a rod, stem, or branch broken off because of unbelief, or will you be a live branch grafted into the live tree Rom. 11:24, which is now planted "upon an high mountain and eminent in the mountain of the height of Israel?" Eze. 17:22, 23.

Jesus cursed the barren fig tree which represented the Jewish nation (D.A. 582), and by this act He prophesied His own death, and the end of the Jewish nation. Through this miracle, also He showed they had rejected His message of inspiration to them. Those who claimed to be teaching the Fourth Angel's message (Rev.14:15) at Mt. Carmel Center, came to their end because they rejected the 5th angel's message Rev. 14:17. See W.L.F. 10,11. Just how long Tacoma Park can continue and not receive the mark of the beast since the wound is healed, remains to be seen. It cannot be long if they fail to accept Present Truth.

We only have a very, very short time to give all in the church an opportunity to know that God is going to sanctify His great name before the heathen when He is sanctified in His people before their eyes. Let us unite our forces to tell our Brethren the good news that God will take us from among the heathen and gather His elect out of all countries into their own land and there sprinkle clean water on His elect and cleanse us from all our filthiness and idols. Then He will give us a new heart and a new spirit. He will take away the old stony heart and give us a heart of flesh and cause us to walk in His statutes and keep His judgments Eze. 36:23-27.

Who is willing to spend and be spent for our Lord's sake, to tell our Brethren of the wonderful plan of God's beneficence for His chosen people? Will you go or will it be necessary for the stones to cry out? In this event where would be the recompense of your reward? Who is willing to go with us and tell our Brethren of God's great plan? Why wait until it is too late? Why hesitate? The Savior's voice says go and tell them that "the righteous

shall flourish as a branch". Prov. 11:28. "In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful." Isa. 4:2. "At that time will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David.... she shall be called, the Lord our righteousness." Jer. 33:15, 16. God's promises are sure: "I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH." Zech.3:8. "I will be as the dew unto Israel: he will grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon. His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree They that dwell under his shadow shall return." Hos.14:5-7. "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:" Matt. 24:32. "So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." Luke 21:31.

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Who is ready and willing to go? "Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out, therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with the old leaven neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." 1 Cor. 5:6-8.

Here we see that Paul recommends that God's people keep the Passover in order to cleanse the church. God's people anciently were delivered from Egypt, and the firstborn who did not have the blood of the Passover lamb on the door post at midnight were slain. At Christ's time the church our Savior established with the twelve Apostles was cleansed of the one sinner in their midst at the Passover. John 13:25, 27.

Of the Passover and the Lord's Supper Mrs. E. G. White under the influence of the Holy Spirit writes: "When the Savior yielded up His life on Calvary, the significance of the Passover ceased, and the ordinance of the Lord's Supper was instituted as a memorial of the same event of which the Passover had been a type." P.P. 539.

It is plain to see through a mind led by the Spirit, that our Passover Lamb was nailed to Calvary's cross. This event in no wise abrogated the feast law given on Sinai. The Law not nailed to the cross, it was the law-GIVER who was sacrificed for the sins of the sinful race.

Memorial: "anything which preserves the memory of something." Webster's Dictionary. Therefore, the Lord's Supper which Jesus instituted on the Passover is to remind us that our Passover Lamb was nailed to the cross, and we are to observe it as He did. Otherwise, the Lord's Supper observed on Sunday becomes a reminder of Sunday that became a law in 321 A.D. and a reminder of Easter that became a law in 325 A.D.. Observing the Lord's Supper on Sabbath morning is in memory of tradition and not a memorial of the sacrifice of our Savior. He was sacrificed the night of the Passover over which was Wednesday night -- Abib 15, when He was taken captive by wicked men who nailed Him to the cross at 9:00 A.M. Friday -- Abib 16 on the second day of the Passover. Hence, those who partake of the bread and wine on Sunday or Sabbath morning are just having a mid-day luncheon, since the "Lord's Supper" suggests an evening event and not a mid-day affair. One who continues to follow tradition and disregards the light revealed on this subject is eating and drinking with the drunken.

The Lord says, "But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart; My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, and shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matt. 24:48-51.

The Spirit of Prophecy by Sister White, in regard to Matt. 24, exclaims, "Jesus has left us word, 'watch ye therefore; for ye know not when the master of the house cometh'; ... We are waiting and watching for the return of the Master, who is to bring the morning, lest coming suddenly he find us sleeping. What time is here referred to? Not to the revelation of Christ in the clouds of heaven to find a people asleep. No, but to His return from His ministration in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, when He lays off His priestly attire, and clothes himself with garments of vengeance." 2T190:1.

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Here we see that Sister White places Matt. 24:42-51 to the experience of Jesus finishing the investigative judgment for the living, and coming to execute judgment on those who are found asleep. "Read the ninth chapter of Ezekiel." 3T 267. In Ezekiel 9:3, 4 the man in linen set the mark upon the forehead of those who sigh for their own sins and cry or warn of the sins of others in the church. The five men (angels) follow on to slay. Eze. 9:5-10. See 5T 211. The man in linen does as he was commanded. Eze. 9:11.

For says Mrs. White, "When Jesus ceases to plead for man, the cases of all are forever decided. This is the time of reckoning with His servants." 2T 191:1. "If such had only known that the work of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary would close so soon, how differently would they have conducted themselves! How earnestly would they have watched! The Master anticipating all this, gives them timely warning in the command to watch. He distinctly states the suddenness of His coming." 2T 191:2.

"But there are many, many in our churches who know little of the real meaning of the truth for this time. O, how many who have not sought their souls' salvation will soon make the bitter lamentation. "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and my soul is not saved!" We are living in the closing scenes of this earth's history. Prophecy is fast fulfilling. The hours of probation are fast passing. We have no time--not a moment--to lose. Let us not be found sleeping on guard. Let no one say in his heart or by his works, 'My Lord delayeth His coming.'" 8T 252.

There are very few in our S.D.A. churches who know the real meaning of the truth for this time. The people have been taught to look for Christ's second coming instead of the purification of the church in the judgment of the living which is shown by the term of the "harvest". The first-fruit harvest is the investigative judgment of the living in the church.

This is foreshadowed by the message of the harvest, which calls our attention to the truth of the feast laws. We as a people have had no light on this subject before this message came.

Some will see their mistake and lament, because they are not saved when they see that probation for the church has closed. The term "summer is ended" means the harvest or judgment that seals or marks the first fruits of the 144,000 which is over at the Pentecost, which comes at the end of the summer for the first fruit harvest of wheat. Exodus 23:16, first part; Lev. 23:16, 17; Rev. 7:1-8; 14:1-5, 16, 17. After this will begin the second fruit harvest of other crops. Ex. 23:16 last part; Lev. 23:34; Zech. 14: 16-19; Isa. 60:1-5; 62:2; Rev. 7:9; 14:18. The final ingathering of souls in Rev. 14:18, John likens the loud cry unto a grape harvest.

Read all of these texts given above in the order given, and you will see how the harvest feasts in the Old Testament explain the harvest of souls in the New Testament; both of which point out our Savior the Lamb of God and Redeemer--the Lord of hosts. If this is not quite clear, write in and we will explain this all-important subject more fully.

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In the message of the harvest feasts we see there are two closings of probation; one for the church when the Lord reckons with His servants before the loud cry. "But the days of the purification of the church are hastening on apace: God will have, a people pure and true." 5T 80. (See 1 Peter 4:17; Eze. 9:5). The second close of probation is for the world. Rev. 22:11, 12. Let us repeat there are two literal harvests which are types of two Spiritual Harvests of souls. (1) The harvest of the first fruits beginning at Passover at the offering of the wave sheaf (Lev. 23:15), and ending at Pentecost when the two wave loaves are offered. Lev. 23:17. The two wave loaves are symbolic of the two houses of Israel -- Judah and Israel.

The first fruits of Judah and Israel in our day are the 144,000 (Rev. 7:4-8) who are sealed in the church, and will be offered at the Pentecost. At this time God will pour out His Spirit on His elect, then they will go forth in a loud cry to the world, in the second phase of the Third Angel's message which is brought by the angel that joins the Third Angel's message. Read G.C. 604; E.W. 277.

The first phase of the Third Angel's message is the Sabbath and Sanctuary truth. The Ten Commandments point out sin and judge those who die -- Judgment of the Dead. G.C. 490. The feast laws point out the remedy for sin, and deliver the sinner from the condemnation of the Ten Commandments. Therefore, the feast laws are the Judgment of the Living. All who keep the Ten Commandments and the feast laws are through faith covered with Christ's righteousness, and thereby are delivered from the condemnation of the moral law, (2) All nations that do not come up to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles will be condemned and will not receive rain. Please read Zech. 14:16-19.

This is the second fruit harvest of Rev. 7:9; 14:18; 18:4, from Babylon the Great of Rev 17. This is the Loud Cry of the Third Angel's message. The Spirit of Prophecy by Mrs. E.G. White says, "The plan of Moses to raise means for the building of the tabernacle was highly successful. No urging was necessary. Nor did he employ any of the devices to which churches in our day so often resort." P.P. 529:1.

"Upon the foundation that Christ Himself had laid, the apostles built the church of God. In the Scriptures the figure of erection of a temple is frequently used to illustrate building of the church. Zechariah refers to Christ as the Branch that should build the temple of the Lord." A.A. 595.

"Zechariah's vision of Joshua and the Angel ("Who is Christ Himself" P.K. 584) applies with peculiar force to the experience of God's people in the closing scenes of the great day of Atonement." P.K. 587. Here we see in parabolic language that the message of Christ the Branch is a message of Himself and His righteousness to build the Loud Cry church (temple) of 144,000 who stand with the Lamb on Mt. Zion and give the call, 'Come out of her my people.' Rev. 18:4.

The work of building the last church will not be an easy job, since the people of God called to give the first phase of the 3rd Angel's message have no understanding what great things the Lord is about to do for them. Nevertheless, "...in it (the church) shall be a tenth (tithe of the people), and it shall return." Isa. 6:13. Since Seventh-day Adventists and Davidians are Israel the true, in our day, a tenth, the holy part, will return to the promised land of Israel as a teil (linen) tree," Isa. 6:13. "... the Branch of righteousness." Jer. 33:15. "And hath made us kings and priests unto God." Rev. 5:10. As priests they have on the linen garment (Lev. 6:10; Ex. 28:2, 29; 31:10), ". . . and we shall reign on the earth. Rev. 5:10.

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There are homes with a nice plot of ground in Israel awaiting some S.D.A. or Davidian families or individuals to occupy them. We lost one entire village over there because the S.D.A.'s and Davidians did not return as the Jews did from ancient Babylon to possess the houses that were ready and waiting for them. Nevertheless, we have been promised another village; and those who wish may write in for applications for a home over there.

Just recently an S.D.A. family who were persecuted in a Communist country got permission from their government to go to Israel. They are there now and may be among the first to occupy one of the modern homes in the first all-S.D.A. village.

The last prayer of our father David is quite comforting to our few Adventist families who have gone to Israel to establish the Lord's name in the mountains that God promised Abraham. "There shall be an handful of corn in the earth upon the top of the mountains; the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon: and they of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth. His name shall endure forever: his name shall be continued as long as the sun: and men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed. Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things. And blessed be His glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with His glory; A-men, and A-men " Ps. 72:16-19.

The first all-vegetarian village was established shortly after we went to Israel, and Seventh-day Adventists were invited to move to this village up in the mountains and were assigned homes. The invitation was sent out for other S.D.A.s to come to that village.

Our people seem a little reluctant to break up house-keeping in the good old U.S.A., regardless of impending Sunday laws, and disregarding the fact that the antitypical 70 years (Jer. 29:10) beginning in 1890 have passed since 1960, and they refuse to go to a land where the nation as a whole believe in the Sabbath as the 7th day of the week.

The Lord says: though at first the people refuse to go, yet He knows they will go when they have to flee. ". . . and ye would not, But ye said, No; for we will flee upon horses; therefore shall ye flee: and, We will ride upon the swift; therefore shall they that pursue you be swift.... at the rebuke of five shall ye flee: till ye be left as a beacon upon the top of a mountain, and as an ensign on an hill." Isa. 30:15-17.

That the majority will wait till they have to flee, is certain, and perhaps they will be fleeing for their life, since they are being pursued. The five wise virgins will make it in time for the wedding, but the five foolish virgins wait until it is, too late, and find upon their arrival that the door is closed. It is just too bad that people won't listen and hear and act at the right time. Jesus says, "whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." Lu. 14:33.

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The Passover this year is Tuesday, April 9, which according to the Bible calendar is Abib 15. Jesus ate the Passover according to the Bible Feast Law by Moses (Ex.12:6,8), sometime after sunset following Abib 14, and before midnight which is actually Abib 15. Since the Bible day begins at sunset (Gen. 1:5), Christ ate the Passover and instituted the Lord's Supper the same night of the Hebrew Passover Abib 15 (Lev. 23:5). This year we should have the Lord's Supper after sundown Monday night; April 8, which according to Bible time is the beginning of April 9.

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Abib 15 (April 9) and Abib 21 (April 15) are Sabbaths, besides the regular Sabbath on April 13. No servile work is to be done on these days (Lev. 23:7, 8). All leaven is to be put out of the house on April 8 before the beginning of the Passover Sabbath at the going down of the sun on Monday. Although we are commanded to observe the first and last days of the Passover week as Sabbath days, nevertheless, the command is to keep leaven out of our houses for seven days (Lev. 23:6, last part). God has always blessed His people in a special way, when they were faithful in observing the Feast laws along with the Ten Commandments. Please read Joshua 1:8; Deut 11:27, 28.

Sunday is the counterfeit Sabbath, and Easter is the counterfeit Passover. See the National Encyclopedia. Sunday worship destroys the knowledge of the Creator from the minds of God's creatures. Easter destroys from the minds of the people the knowledge of the Recreator. God created the earth in six days and rested on the seventh (Gen. 1:1-31; 2:1-3) Jesus in six days by the sacrifice of His life made it possible for this earth and every honest soul to be recreated. He rested in the grave on the Seventh-day Sabbath. (Mark 16:1, 2). Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper at the Passover, and we are to follow His example.

Therefore, those who keep the Seventh-day holy as Jesus did, can die and be resurrected.

But those who observe Seventh-day Sabbath and the Passover Sabbaths can live and never die. Hence, "To the law (Ten Commandments) and to the testimony (the Levitical law): if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isa. 8:20.

Those who keep Sunday as the Sabbath honor a sun god. Those who observe Easter instead of the Passover pay homage to "the goddess of light or spring, Easter." This is the mark of the beast (Rev.13:16). Whereas to keep God's law and the law that points us to our Savior is the mark by the man in linen of Eze. 9:3, 4.

"Therefore, worship God" for the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy." (Rev. 19:10).

Our Passover services will be held in the Fort Davis Mountains in Ft. Davis, Texas. Every one is invited to attend those meetings. And for those who cannot meet with us, they may have Passover services in the church or in the home with a minister conducting or the head of the house if a minister is not available.

"Behold, upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off." Nahum 1:15.

"Therefore let us keep the feast" 1 Cor. 5:8. "And we sailed away from Philippi after the days unleavened bread:" Acts 20:6. "At Philippi Paul tarried to keep the Passover." (A.A. 390).

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Those who missed the Passover April 9-15 for Scriptural reason (Lev. 12:2-5; 15:2) Passover for them on May 9-15. (For the priests who minister holy things see Lev. 21:16-24; 22:4-6). "Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place I have prepared. Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him. But if thou indeed obey his voice, and do all that

Ensign Logo

GENERAL ASSOCIATION
OF
BRANCH DAVIDIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

May 24, 1976

Dear Sister _____:

"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory (truth) of the Lord is risen upon thee." Isa. 60:1

Praise the Lord that the light has come, even the light of the Mighty Angel of Revelation 18:1! He is pleading with His precious Adventist and Davidian people to accept His beautiful robe of righteousness "which is pure unadulterated truth."-- Testimonies to Ministers, p. 65.

May the Lord bless you for the stand you have taken for the wonderful truth of restoration which restores life without death to God's people. Your name has been added to our regular mailing list that you may receive the Branch Sabbath School Lessons, special tracts, and other publications. We are sorry that we inadvertently mailed your request for literature somewhat later than the others!

Should you have questions arising from your study of The Branch message, please do not hesitate to write us.

God's laws are being restored, even the services of the Sanctuary, and soon the land of Abraham will be restored to God's people. Yes, Elijah has come and is restoring all things. (Matt. 17:11; Mal. 4:5).

May The Branch help you to heed the voice of Elijah that you may keep the holy feasts (Nahum 1:15; Lev. 23, become an heir to the Kingdom (Ezek. 36:24-38; Isa. 2:1-4; Ps. 105:8-11; Gal. 3:29), and receive the new name of Jesus (Rev. 2:17; 3:12; Isa. 62:2; Zech. 3:8; 6:12; Jer. 23:5; 33:15.16).

Sincerely yours in The Branch,

Ben L. Roden
BLR:pdj:enc.

Ensign Logo

GENERAL ASSOCIATION
OF
BRANCH DAVIDIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

June 3, 1976

Dear Sister_____:

"The significance of the Jewish economy is not yet fully comprehended. Truths VAST AND PROFOUND are shadowed forth in its rites and symbols. The gospel is the key that unlocks its mysteries." -- Christ's Object Lessons, p. 133.

Praise the Lord for the fresh oil revealing the "vast and profound" truths of the services of the sanctuary. We are preparing an article for publication regarding the daily.

Your delight in contributing to the Storehouse of Present Truth is the Lord's delight! Thank you!

The printing presses are running full-time to supply our literature evangelists with the new camp tract, a copy of which we are enclosing for you. The new Sabbath School lessons have been mailed out, and you should receive your copy soon.

Thank you for the names and addresses! They have been placed on the regular mailing list.

Campmeeting time has started, and our evangelists report excellent contacts made with the brethren. Let us join together in prayer for the summer's literature crusade.

May the Branch bless and keep you as you seek to be a citizen of the coming Kingdom!

Sincerely yours to finish the work,

Ben L. Roden

BLR:pdj:enc.