

Dear Bro. Mould,

We were forwarded your most recent newsletter and felt compelled to respond due to the content and tenor of your article.

In your newsletter, you speak extensively about the need of the church to do all it can to make sure that its image is as Christlike as possible approaching the time of trouble. We agree completely. However, your link to the Davidians and the need to purge them from the church to restore the church's image was misguided. The Seventh-day Adventist church has done far more in the eyes of the public to damage its own credibility than anything connected with the Branch Davidians. The trademarking of the name, numerous financial scandals and God only knows what else may come to light will negatively impact the church far beyond any influence the Branch Davidians may have. Indeed, "the conviction is gaining ground in the world that Seventh-day Adventists are giving the trumpet an uncertain sound; that they are following in the path of worldlings." - *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 86.

You then relay your conversation with a "Gileadite", and a certain sister's comment to an elder and undertake the bold step of judging the entire Davidian message and movement by them. We find it incredible that someone who did such painstaking research to verify every detail of the Roman persecution of the saints during the Dark Ages and the change of the Sabbath would engage in such poor methods of research. You produced not a single quote from the Davidian message to substantiate that this concept is officially taught there (as you always do with Catholic books on the change of the Sabbath). It is not fair to judge the Davidians by a few extreme elements that may be in its midst anymore than it would be appropriate to judge the Seventh-day Adventist church by the extreme elements within it. You should also thoroughly research something before presuming to comment on it in such a public manner.

"How many men in this age of the world fail to go deep enough. They only skim the surface. They will not think closely enough to see difficulties and grapple with them, and will not examine every important subject which comes before them with thoughtful, prayerful study and with sufficient caution and interest to see the real point at issue. They talk of matters which they have not fully and carefully weighed."--
Testimonies, Vol. 4 p. 361

Here is what the Davidian message officially teaches on who will perform the slaughter forecast in Ezekiel 9,

"Are the 144,000, after being sealed, to go and kill all the others in the S.D.A. church who have failed to receive the seal?"

"Ans. The slaying of the tares in the church is plainly foretold that this work IS NOT MAN'S DUTY TO PERFORM. The prophet Ezekiel, in vision, was shown that the angels who bear the slaughter weapons are the ones whom the Lord commissioned to 'slay utterly old and young, both maids and little children and women'...but to 'come not near any man upon whom is the mark.' The Lord makes this destruction of the tares still plainer by His parabolic illustration, saying, 'Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to be burn them; but gather the wheat into my barn.' (Matt. 13:30)

'So shall it be at the end of the world: THE ANGELS shall come forth and sever the wicked from the just.' (Matt. 13: 49).--[*The Symbolic Code, Vol. 1 No. 16, p. 3 \(1935\)*](#).

" 'I have been told,' says one, 'that Mt. Carmel Center is being builded as a sort of fort where weapons are being stored for the purpose of slaying all the SDA's who do not accept the message of the Rod. Is this true?'

"Nothing could be quite so absurd as the story which the questioner has been told, and we admonish our brethren not to believe what they are being told by Mt. Carmel's enemies, any more than while they were investigating the Sabbath truth they believed the wild stories told about Adventists."--[*The Symbolic Code, Vol. 3 Nos. 11, 12, p. 3 \(1937\)*](#).

"How can we know for sure in what school we are getting our training? -- To be in the school of God we must walk with God. And how can we know that we are walking with God? -- I am sure that if we go to places where God would not go, and if we work where God would not work, then rather than walking with God and learning from Him, we would be walking with the Devil and receiving training from him.

"How can we know that the work we are doing is the work God would have us do? -- It is certain that God would not build instruments to kill regardless of the pay; that He would not work at something that the Devil works at; neither would He go into partnership with one who is not walking with God."--[*Timely Greetings, Vol. 2 No. 25, p. 10 \(1948\)*](#).

In addition, in the 80 year history of the Davidian movement, there has not been a single documented, credible incident of violence by a Davidian towards Adventists. In contrast, there is a significant amount of documented evidence of the Adventist church perpetrating violence against Davidians for no other reason than showing up to church. There is also documented evidence of the Adventist church betraying its own members into the hands of certain government officials to retain official church status. Then, armed with one-sided misinformation and ignoring the above facts, you call for a worldwide ban on Davidian attendance from the SDA church. Ironically, you call your organization "laymen for religious liberty." Is this not having "horns as a lamb" but "speaking as a dragon."

The Seventh-day Adventist church leadership did well in not entertaining your suggestion of the worldwide ban, for they well know that the Davidian message does not teach the idea you were attempting to make it teach. They know this because they have the original Davidian message and its publications in various Adventist institutions across the country.

It is just this spirit of intolerance and hypocrisy that led us to compose the attached document which we are forwarding to you. We look forward to your retraction of the previous newsletter in light of the facts brought to your attention in this response.

Sincerely,

THE PUBLISHERS

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