

## AUTHOR MOVES TO WACO CITY

represent?—The Word of God explains that ancient Zerubbabel is a signet, type...therefore, represents God's servant and ... proves that antitypical Zerubbabel's appearance is now due. And the Lord's own answer is 'the hands of Zerubbabel {V.T.H.} have laid the foundation of this {spiritual} house; his hands shall also finish it'...the prophecies now unfolded {in the Rod}, prove that antitypical Zerubbabel {V.T.H.} must **now be here** {V.T.H. said this in 1946}, and that as he has started the work {1929}, he also must finish it {after he is resurrected--184.4}. The fact that Inspiration takes the pains to tell who is to finish the work in itself is proof that there must be active **usurpers** of his **office** as there were of Moses' office."—1 *Timely Greetings*, No. 14, pgs. 20-22--by VTH (boldings, braces added).

The word "usurp" means: "to seize and hold (as office, place, or powers) in possession by force or without right." (Websters Dict). Even while Bro. Houteff was alive there were Davidian "usurpers" but not yet "active;" because they were waiting for him to die so they could wrongfully seize his office. That is, they had a secret desire to usurp the office of Elijah (V.T. Houteff) and tell him **how** to "teach his message" (189.2), but they dared not do so until after he died. And others who later became Davidians after his death also arose as "usurpers." And they wanted his office to do what they thought was the right way to finish the work, as Judas thought he knew the right way for Jesus to finish His work. But Zechariah said that antitypical Zerubbabel (V.T.H.) had laid the foundation of his work and he would finish it after he is resurrected (184.4), because Elijah is the **last prophet** (172:2). So the "usurpers" had to find some way to attach some kind of important title to themselves to attract Davidians who had a tendency to idolize other men.

LIKE A VULTURE BEN L. RODEN  
WAITS FOR BRO. HOUTEFF TO DIE



Ben L. Roden (13.1) was the first "usurper" (190.0) and false prophet (188.0) who was like a vulture, circling around old Mt. Carmel waiting for Bro. Houteff to die. And as soon as he died, he came swooping down to appear among

the Davidians, and claimed that he was the Elijah who would never die! Let me tell you about him in the next chapter; but don't forget my biographical narration, I am **twenty-three** years old, and still living and working in the city of Waco, Texas.

## RISE OF FATHER OF USURPERS (BEN L. RODEN) AMONG DAVIDIANS

### CHAPTER 18

#### LOIS RODEN TELLS ME THAT HER HUSBAND IS THE ELIJAH

One hot day in **1955**, while I was working on Freddie's house in Waco, Texas, who do you suppose came there and surprised me? It was my old friend Bro. Ben L. Roden and his wife Lois (13:2). I was quite happy to see them, because I had not seen them for a long time. We did not, however, talk much about old times in Odessa, because his wife right away told me that since Bro. Houteff died, there must be another Elijah to take his place who would **not die**. And when I heard that, they surprised me the second time, because I knew that Elijah (V.T. Houteff) was the last prophet (172:2). And now for the first time I became very suspicious of them, and continued to listen apprehensively as she talked on about another prophet.



Finally, after hearing enough, I suddenly interrupted Sis. Roden and asked point blank, "Who is this other Elijah"? My abrupt question must have caught her by surprise, because she hesitated and said, "Well, er, my husband, he is the one"! And now I was surprised the third time by her declaration that Ben L. Roden claimed to be Elijah the prophet. Then I remembered a statement written by Elijah (V.T. Houteff) back in **1950**, which Bro. Roden and his wife both claimed to believe at the time he was giving me Bible studies in Odessa (13:2), and which I learned in Bible class at old Mt. Carmel (25:1):

"That as the Elijah of Christ's first advent was one person {John the baptist}, and also as the Elijah of Mt. Carmel of old was one person, not a multitude of priests, then by parity of reasoning the **Elijah of today** {V.T. Houteff} must also be **one person**, not a multitude of ministers."—*General Conference Special*, pg. 32:1--by VTH (boldings, braces added by author).

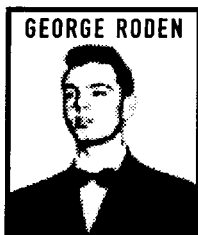
Since ancient Elijah (type) was only one male person, and John the Baptist (antitypical first Elijah--49:2), was also only one male person, then it's obvious that today the antitypical second Elijah (49:3), who is **V.T. Houteff**, can only be **one male person**—"he" (49:5). This fact not only proved that he must be the **last prophet—Elijah**, but it also proved that any Davidian who claims that he is Elijah (which Ben Roden was now claiming to me) can only be an imposter—false prophet (23:4)!

## BEN L. RODEN

### AUTHOR MEETS HIS FIRST USURPER—AN OLD TIME FRIEND

Now I knew that I had met my first "usurper" (190:1), and I wondered what was going to happen to our friendship. He finally admitted to me what his wife had said—that he was Elijah who would not die, as ancient Elijah did not die (2 Ki. 2:11). Then he invited me to his house for a Bible study; and to make sure that I would come, he told me that my brother Dale (16:2) said he was coming to the study. That, of course, prompted my immediate affirmative answer, because I knew that my younger brother did not study much, and I was afraid that he would not see his error and accept his false teachings.

When I went to his Bible study I was surprised when I met Bro. Perry Dale Jones again (19:3), and learned that he was following Ben L. Roden. And what I feared most did happen; my brother Dale accepted the teachings of Ben L. Roden—that he was Elijah the prophet who would never die. Afterwards, whenever we saw each other and discussed the subject, he refused to accept the fact that Elijah must be "one person" (191:3) V.T. Houteff—the **last prophet** (172:2). So he continued to follow Ben



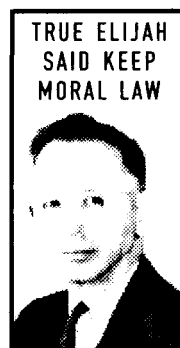
L. Roden with other Davidians who believed as he did. Later, I heard that Ben Roden's children (13:2) said he was **not** teaching the SRod message the way they (and which I) heard him teach it in Odessa (15:2). And they left the truth and went out into the world, except for George. He chose to be his father's right hand helper, and followed him wherever he went to teach his Branch message to other Davidians.

Later, I went to old Mt. Carmel one Sabbath and the Davidians told me that Ben Roden, with Perry Dale Jones (19:3) and others, came there to have a showdown. He boasted that he was Elijah the prophet who would never die; and because they did not accept his message, he was going to do as ancient Elijah did (1 Ki. 18:38,39), and rain fire down on old Mt. Carmel Center. They said his believers went home to see on television that old Mt. Carmel had burned up; but it didn't. And I said to my Davidian friends, "Well, that opened their eyes to his false claim that he was Elijah, didn't it?" (hoping for the sake of my brother Dale that it was true). But they said "No," because Ben Roden claimed afterwards that it was a spiritual burning, which his followers accepted. He kept me on his mailing list for awhile, and I read his literature; also I attended many of his Bible studies, so I knew what he was teaching that deceived some Davidians, which I must tell you briefly:

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### TRUE ELIJAH (V.T. HOUTEFF) SAID TO REMEMBER THE MORAL LAW

As already discussed, Elijah the prophet (Mal 4:5), the "one person" (189:3) whom God sent to the SDA church, was Bro. Houteff. His reformatory message (15:2) would "turn the heart of the fathers to their children, and the heart of the children to their fathers" (44:3). The way he turned their hearts to each other was by telling them to "Remember ye the **law** of Moses" (Mal 4:4). It is the understanding of which "law" the saints are to "remember" that is the key to knowing who is the true Elijah of the prophecy of Malachi (Mal 4:5). That is, if the Davidians remembered to keep the wrong "law," they would follow the false Elijah (Ben L. Roden). But if they remembered to keep the right "law," they would follow the true Elijah (V.T. Houteff); who told the saints to "remember" and keep the **moral law**:



"You know by now that Malachi, chapters 3 and 4, prophetically speak to the people of today {SDA}, to the people just before the great and dreadful day, to the people to whom antitypical Elijah {V.T. Houteff} the prophet is sent. And what wise counsel does the Lord give through Malachi?—He says, '**Remember** ye the **Law** of Moses My servant.' Which law?—The law of 'statutes and judgments' which the Lord commanded 'in Horeb.' Since this is God's faithful advice to His people of this day, we would do well to restudy this **law** of Moses, and to **remember** it, for we cannot disregard His counsel and still expect His blessings.

"Broadly speaking, the **law** of Moses consists of **three parts**. The first is the Ceremonial law, the law of the temple—the **sacrificial {feast} law** {198:5}. This law, of course, we today must **not observe**, except in antitype {199:1}, for it foreshadowed things to come, particularly Christ's first advent. Thus it is that if we had lived in Old Testament times and had failed to comply with the sacrificial law and system of that day, we would thereby have demonstrated unbelief in Christ, Who was to come. But since we are living in the Christian era, if we should **now observe** the typical sacrificial law and system, we should thereby demonstrate **unbelief** in **Christ**, Who has **come**.

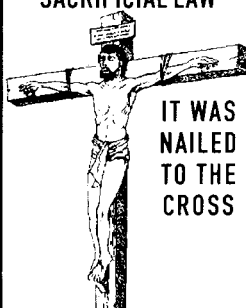
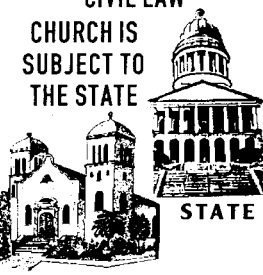
"And so, as this {ceremonial} **law** was nailed to the cross (Col. 2:14) {at the crucifixion of Christ}, we {the Davidians} need not, and **must not** {direct command}, **observe** it **now**.

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"The second part of Moses' law, is the law by which Israel was to rule its people, the **civil**, or **legal law**,—the law which defines what penalty the government should impose upon those who are caught stealing, killing, or the like. Now, since we as Christians do not have a government of our own, but are still under the governments of the nations of today, we personally, or as a group are **not** required to enforce the **legal law** of Moses either.

"The only law of Moses, therefore, that we can possibly be admonished to **remember**, is the third part of his law: the **moral law**, which consists of the things that pertain to us as individuals, the things that we as individuals must perform, the things that perfect our character, the things that make us a peculiar people. We therefore need to search out 'and do the things contained in the moral law of Moses—'The commandments, and the statutes and the judgments.' Deut. 5:31."—2 *Timely Greetings*, No. 37, pgs. 14, 15--by VTH (bolds, braces added by author).

There are three parts to Moses "law;" and since Jesus said John the Baptist was the first Elijah (51.2), then He could only tell the Jews to "remember" two parts of Moses' "law"—the sacrificial law and the moral law, because they were under Roman law and couldn't exercise their own civil law. That's why the Jews had to get permission from the Romans (Jn 18:31) to crucify Jesus. When the second Elijah (V.T. Houteff) came in the latter days (51.2), he could only tell Davidians and people in the SDA church to "remember" the one part of Moses' "law"—the **10 commandment moral law**. That's because we can't remember to observe the sacrificial ceremonial law, since it was "nailed to the cross" (193.4); or remember the civil law, because "the church is in subjection to the governments" (12TR23:0), who would not allow us to enforce the civil law among ourselves.

<p><b>CANNOT REMEMBER SACRIFICIAL LAW</b></p>  <p><b>IT WAS NAILED TO THE CROSS</b></p>	<p><b>CANNOT REMEMBER THE CIVIL LAW</b></p> <p><b>CHURCH IS SUBJECT TO THE STATE</b></p>  <p><b>CHURCH</b>      <b>STATE</b></p>	<p><b>ONLY LAW TO REMEMBER IS THE MORAL TEN COMMANDMENT LAW</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>1 Have no other gods. 2 Bow to no image. 3 Do not Curse God. 4 Keep Sabbath holy. 5 Honor father, mother</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>6 Do not kill. 7 Do no adultery. 8 Do not steal. 9 Thou shalt not lie. 10 Do not covet.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>1 Have no other gods. 2 Bow to no image. 3 Do not Curse God. 4 Keep Sabbath holy. 5 Honor father, mother</p>	<p>6 Do not kill. 7 Do no adultery. 8 Do not steal. 9 Thou shalt not lie. 10 Do not covet.</p>
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Note how emphatic Bro. Houteff was in regard to the sacrificial (ceremonial feast) law; he said "we **need not, and must not, observe it now**;" because we would "demonstrate **unbelief in Christ, Who has come**"! The Jews today still believe, teach, and observe the ceremonial feast law (even if they cannot kill their sacrifices just yet), because they do not believe that Jesus was the Messiah. But if a Davidian should dare do the same, then he has declared to all Christians and to his God that Jesus Christ was not the Messiah! Blasphemy indeed against the Son of God!—truly the sin against the Holy Ghost (Mt. 12:32)! So there is no excuse for any Davidian being guilty of practicing such an abomination, because Elijah the prophet (V.T. Houteff), the one who gave them their name (20:2), warned all of them not to do so. Even Christians everywhere who study their Bibles and believe in Jesus Christ accept this most elementary fact—that He was the Messiah who fulfilled the sacrificial ceremonial feast law and nailed it to the cross (193:4)! That is why Christians have not converted to the Jewish faith (who believe this ceremonial law was not nailed to the cross), because they believe that Jesus Christ was the Messiah. This fact, of course, leads one to ask this most profound question: "How could some Davidians be led to practice such an abomination, which denies that Jesus was the Messiah?" The obvious answer is that they must have been **deceived** by another Davidian—Ben L. Roden. And here is how he did it in brief:

### FALSE ELIJAH (BEN RODEN) SAID TO REMEMBER THE CEREMONIAL FEAST LAW

Every Seventh-day Adventist who studied the message, and who desires to become a Davidian is required to read all of *The Shepherd's Rod* literature (5A29:4); and if he does, he will know without a doubt that Elijah (V.T. Houteff) was the **last** prophet (172:2) who had the **last** message of truth (9TR67:3). But Ben L. Roden told the Davidians that he was the Elijah in the prophecy of Malachi who would never die (192:1), because ancient Elijah never died (2 Ki. 2:11)! This teaching is a **lie** and it deceived some of the Davidians, and there are four reasons to show the reason why:



(1) His **lying deception** meant that the two Elijah's of Malachi's prophecy—John the Baptist (51:2) and V.T. Houteff (51:2) in the last days, could not come in the spirit and power of Elijah and then die; because they must (according to Ben L. Roden's teachings) come as two Elijah's who will **never die**!

## BEN L. RODEN

(2) His **lie** also meant that Jesus lied when He said that John the Baptist was Elijah (43:4); for how could John (51:2) be the first Elijah (according to Ben Roden's teaching) if he **died**!

(3) His **lie** was also a direct implication that Bro. Houteff was not the second Elijah (51:2) because he also **died**!

(4) And then to really clinch his **deception**, he stated that the "law" which Davidians and Seventh-day Adventists were to "remember" (Mat. 4:4) was the ceremonial sacrificial feast law, not the **moral law** that Bro. Houteff said we are to remember (194:2).

### REASON BEN L. RODEN TOLD DAVIDIANS TO REMEMBER SACRIFICIAL FEAST LAW

When I understood Ben L. Roden's lies about Elijah (191:1) and about keeping the Jewish sacrificial ceremonial feast laws, then I remembered two facts about him: (1) What I learned during my early years with him and his family in Odessa, Texas (13:2), which suddenly shocked me—that he and his wife were **Jews**! (2) And what my brother Dale said sometime after he decided to follow his teachings (192:2)—that "Roden said he was not a Christian but a **Jew**." These facts didn't matter to me then and even now, and it really doesn't concern you readers; but I only mentioned them to show that his teachings proved he was not truly converted from his former Jewish beliefs, when he professed to be a Christian Davidian.

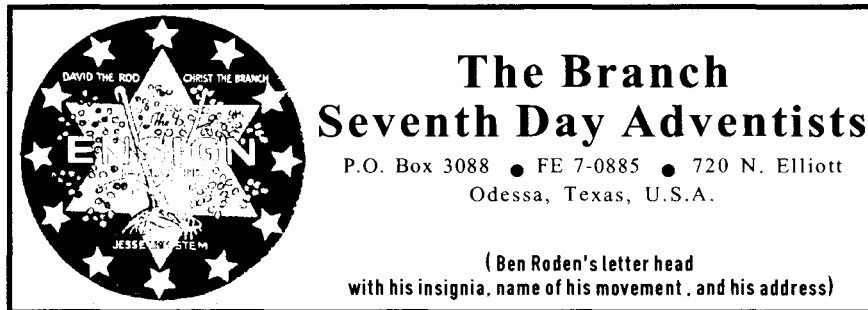


Obviously, he chose to practice the Jewish ceremonial law, and indoctrinate it among the Davidians, which is strictly forbidden to Christians (193:4). He, then, was the one solely responsible for the ceremonial sacrificial feast laws being kept by the Branch Davidians, which infiltrated into other Davidian groups and a few SDA independent churches. This proved that the Davidians who profess to be true Christians, while blindly being led by Ben Roden to "remember" and keep the ceremonial sacrificial feast law, are blatantly denying that Jesus, their true Messiah, has come (193:3)! And having rejected Him, it was not too hard for the Branch Davidians to be fooled by David Koresh, who said that he was their new messiah! As for the name of his movement, Ben Roden used this Bible text:

## BEN L. RODEN

### BEN RODEN USED THE NAME "BRANCH" FOR HIS MOVEMENT

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto **David** {visible king} a righteous **Branch** {Jesus}, and {He} a {invisible} King shall reign and prosper {in God's kingdom}, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In His {latter} days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is His name whereby He shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."—Jeremiah 23:5 (boldings, braces added).



Bro. Houteff began in **1929** and named his movement, *Davidian Seventh-day Adventists* in **1942**<sup>(20:1-3)</sup>. In **1955**<sup>(191:1)</sup> Ben Roden named his movement, *The **Branch** Seventh Day Adventists*<sup>(197:1)</sup>. The true Davidians who follow the SRod teachings are not connected with them<sup>(6:3)</sup> in any way. After he acquired the new Mt. Carmel property he had himself coronated as **king David**<sup>(197:1)</sup>; later his followers were called Branch Davidians. Thus, he usurped<sup>(192:1)</sup> both titles of Bro. Houteff—Elijah<sup>(49:3)</sup> and David<sup>(65:3)</sup>! The SDA leaders willfully (and some book writers unknowingly) link all Davidians with Ben L. Roden and David Koresh.

These facts prove Ben Roden was a hypocrite and an apostate who hated the SRod message, which he said he believed. That's why he claimed Bro. Houteff was not Elijah because he died, and did not restore the literal kingdom in Jerusalem<sup>(166:3)</sup>. Obviously, that is why he went to the city of Jerusalem in the New State of Israel to set up God's kingdom there. After all, he could tell them that he was a Jew<sup>(196:4)</sup>, and Elijah the prophet who would never die<sup>(192:1)</sup>. Also, he could tell them that he had been crowned as **king David**<sup>(197:2)</sup>, and that God had sent him there to restore His kingdom, if they would follow him! But it failed, obviously because the Jews would not follow him as their new king David, since they did not crown him—"appoint themselves one head"<sup>(Hos. 1:11)</sup>, and nothing came of it. What he started in America, however, did not fail; it caused a split among Davidians, leaving everyone to choose between one of two Elijah's:



**BEN L. RODEN**



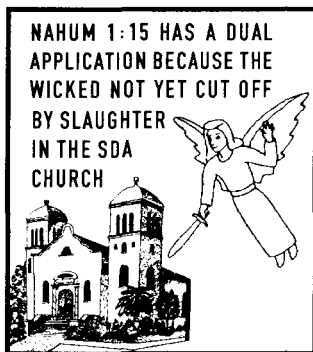
**True Elijah:** The faithful Davidians followed **Elijah** (V.T. Houteff) the last prophet <sup>(172.2)</sup> and his message of *The Shepherd's Rod*. He told them that they were to "remember" <sup>(Mal. 4.4)</sup> to keep the **moral law** <sup>(194.2)</sup>.

**False Elijah:** The Branch Davidians didn't believe Elijah (V.T.H.) was the last prophet, and they followed a false Elijah (Ben Roden). He said to "remember" to keep the ceremonial sacrificial **feast laws**.

**FALSE ELIJAH IGNORES FEAST LAW STATEMENT IN SROD TO DECEIVE DAVIDIANS**

Nahum 1:15 mentions the word "**feasts**," and the false Elijah (Ben L. Roden) used it to deceive his followers; because he never showed them what the true Elijah (V.T. Houteff) had said about it, lest they see his deception. Note Elijah's interpretation of the word "feasts":

"Behold, upon the mountains the feet of him {V.T.H.} that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! Oh Judah, keep thy solemn **feasts** [the **truth** of the **sanctuary**], perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass though thee; he is utterly cut off. Nah. 1:15."—4 *Tract*, pg. 61:2--by VTH (brackets [] added by Elijah) (boldings, braces {} added by the author).



This prophecy has a dual application, because it says the wicked are to be "cut off"—die in the slaughter of Ezekiel 9. And since this destruction has never taken place up to this day; then there must be another application for our day when the wicked are actually to be "cut off"—slain by the angels <sup>(133.3)</sup>. This fact proves there must be two applications to Nahum 1:15: One for ancient Judah who were commanded to keep the ceremonial sacrificial "feasts" during the Jewish

era, and another application today. That's because the sacrificial system of keeping these "feasts" was "nailed to the cross" <sup>(193.4)</sup>, and must not to be kept during the Christian era, even now in the last days. And that is why Elijah said that the word "feasts" means "**truth** of the **sanctuary**" <sup>(198.4)</sup>!

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"How do we keep the **Sanctuary truth**? It is kept, not in type {as ancient Judah who kept the feasts}, but in **antitype**. By faith we believe that Christ, our High Priest, in the heavenly sanctuary is officiating in our behalf {33.4}, as it was taught in type by the earthly sanctuary, built by Moses. As Israel complied with the requirements of its service in the type {kept the feasts}, so we {Davidians} must in the antitype {keep the **truth of the sanctuary**}. Thus we proclaim the truth [Sabbath and Sanctuary] more fully."—2 *Shepherd's Rod*, pg. 139:2--by VTH (brackets [] by Elijah) (boldings, braces {} by author).

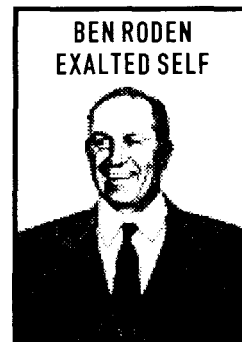
If all the Davidians had chosen to follow the instruction that Elijah had given them to do in his Shepherd's Rod literature and keep the moral law (194.2), not the sacrificial ceremonial feasts law (193.4); and if they also kept the "feasts" in antitype—**truth of the sanctuary**, then none of them would have been deceived by the false Elijah (Ben L. Roden), or Lois Roden, or George Roden, or David Koresh, all of whom led them to deny that Jesus was the Messiah, by keeping the literal ceremonial feast law. So why were some Davidians deceived? Because they are trust-in-man Davidians who chose not to trust God or believe all that his prophet Elijah (VTH) wrote in the SRod.

### THE TWAIN DID MEET—TRUST-IN-MAN DAVIDIANS AND MEN WHO EXALT THEMSELVES

Jesus said that the saints cannot be deceived (Mt. 24:24). So how were some of the Davidians fooled by the lies and deception (195.3) of the false Elijah—Ben L. Roden? The true Elijah (V.T. Houteff) said it is because of two basic sins:

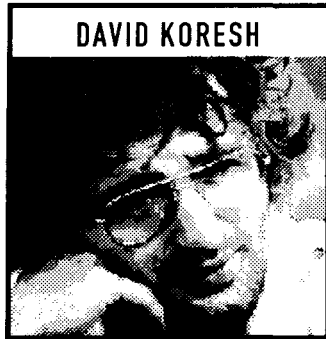
"These two sins—{Davidians who} **trust in man**, and {Davidians who} desire to **exalt self** {such as Ben Roden}—are still the leading sin elements now here on earth."—2 *Timely Greetings*, No. 28, pg. 13:4--by VTH (boldings, braces added).

Ben Roden exposed his "desire to exalt self," while other Davidians who did not believe Elijah (V.T.H.) was the **last prophet** (172.2), exposed their desire to "trust in man." And the twain did meet! As a result, they had no power to escape Ben Roden's lies and deception (195.3), because they were not the elect of God who could not be deceived (195.1). So he became their idol, their king David (197.2), and their Elijah who would never die (192.1)—the man whom they trusted to lead them to the soon-coming kingdom of God.



**BEN L. RODEN**

**DAVID KORESH (SINFUL MESSIAH) BECAME A PLAGUE TO THE BRANCH DAVIDIANS**



Instead, he died and left them with a damnable doctrine (keeping the feast laws). It led them to accept another messiah (David Koresh), resulting in their death in the fiery Waco burn out at the new Mt. Carmel on April 19, **1993**. And so Ben Roden became the father of "usurpers" (191.4), because he arose soon after the death of Bro. Houteff in **1955**. His Branch movement became a **plague** to the new Vice-President (Florence Houteff) at old Mt. Carmel.

**FLORENCE HOUTEFF (VICE-PRESIDENT) ALSO BECAME A PLAGUE TO DAVIDIANS**



What Sis. Houteff did, however, was just as wrong! She was also a "usurper" like Ben L. Roden, because she deceitfully took the office of the Vice-President from Bro. E.T. Wilson (101.3). And now she had become a **plague** to the Davidians, even those who followed her! Had they heeded the warnings of Bro. Houteff (Elijah) to beware of "professed friends"—Florence Houteff and her Council, it maybe they would not have suffered his **knockout blow**, as is noted in the next chapter.