

The Symbolic Code

Vol. 21

November -December. 2021

No. 2



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Statement of Purpose

This publication is dedicated to the mission of conveying to Davidian present truth believers edifying news and articles of significance.

The Symbolic Code is the official organ of The General Association of Davidian Seventh-Day Adventists (Salem Association)

282 Davidian Way
Tamassee, SC 29686



STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION

Greetings Dear Salem Brethren,

With the release of Salem's latest Code, we have received a great response from our brethren here and abroad. We received many questions due to the rumors circulating from the Salem International camp. As workers for the Lord, we are not in the business of going back and forth. No, never should we debate or argue.

But there comes a time when we have to answer the allegations charged against us, in a timely and orderly fashion. We bear no grudge against our brethren; we only wish them to turn from their course.

We conducted two meetings to answer to members in Zambia and in the United States. Our first meeting was with the Zambian brethren. The topic of discussion was handpicked by the leaders in Zambia, Brother Obi & Brother Presley, who had attended many of Salem International's meetings. During these meetings, the leaders at Salem International released reports charging the Salem Association with illegitimacy. In response to this, we addressed these rumors and presented details about the events of the last several months and years. We also released documents which showed how Salem Association was established and allowed time for a question and answer dialogue.

We also had to address the same issue on the U.S. side, for some were shaken by the allegations here too. Our meeting with the U.S. Salem members was structured identically to the meeting in Zambia. We are happy to report that those who

were questioning now have taken their side firmly with God's Association and Headquarters, and are now encouraged and enlivened for the cause.

In all of these matters, we see the wonderous working hand of God to turn the most formidable circumstances into lessons for growth and the development of our faith. Amen.

“Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad; for great is your reward in Heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.’ Jesus here shows them that at the very time when they are experiencing great suffering in his cause, they have reason to be glad and recognize that their afflictions are profitable to them, having an influence to wean their affections from the world and concentrate them upon Heaven. He taught them that their losses and disappointments would result in actual gain, that the severe trials of their faith and patience should be cheerfully accepted, rather than dreaded or avoided. These afflictions were God’s agents to refine and fit them for their peculiar work.” Life of Christ No. 4 p. 64 (Sermon on the Mount)

All Davidians are sure to face reproach for Truth’s sake. The slander we endure can be a hard lot, but we are counseled by Inspiration to change the way we see it.

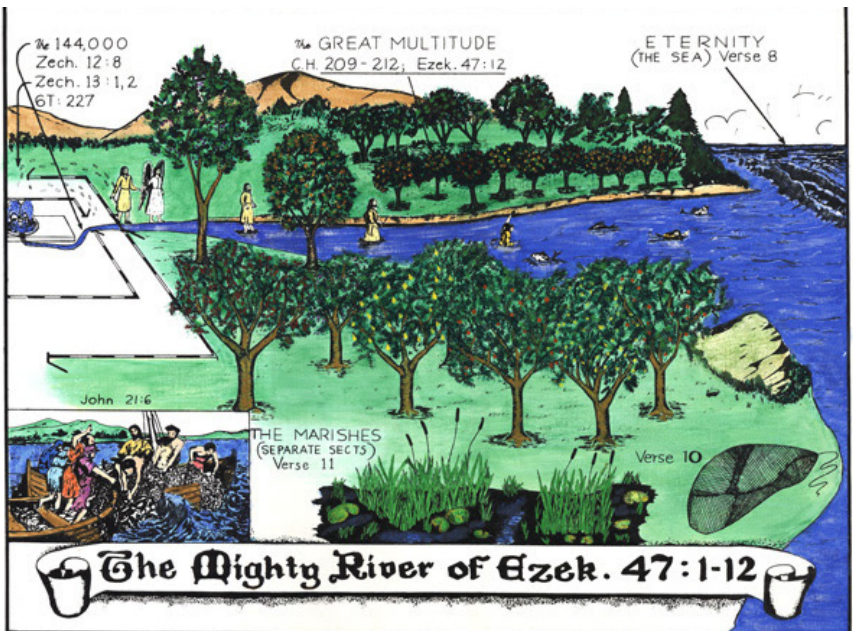
“Trampled in the mire, or exalted to heaven, the Christian’s life should be the same, and the proud consciouness of innocence is its own reward.”Life of Christ No. 4 p. 64 (Sermon on the Mount)

Everything works out for the good of them which are walking in God’s will. Everything. Do we truly believe that? As God’s soldiers, mental toughness is what we need, for it is the mind that will first start on the path to defeat.

I have been down that road and I know where discouragement

leads. There is no hope, just a loss of faith, darkness, and confusion. We must ever cling to a positive outlook. Instead of doubting whether God has led us, we should be as Nehemiah, who proclaimed to the enemies of God's work; "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?" Neh. 6:3

Summarily, we call all brethren across the globe to realize an important fact; that this Association is not founded on any one individual. Its foundation is the Truth we have believed since we came into contact with It. Separating from the movement because individual plans don't come to fruition, or because hopes are disappointed finds no justification within the doctrine, neither is the act of calling others out to a movement of your own. Jumping out of the stream (the day of small things) that will eventually become the Mighty River of Ezekiel 47, is a grave danger, as the "marishes" (separate sects) are depicted as eventually turning into salt pits. We urge you to come back to safety.



“The memory of those pioneer workers is to be *guarded*, and from their treasure of experience, the workers of today are to learn to pass from one line of advanced work to another, following the methods declared by the Holy Spirit to be in the order of God, asserting the principles enjoined in the Word, carrying the aggressive warfare into new fields.

Instead of assisting or sympathizing with those who are actively tearing down the legacy of our pioneers -pioneers who valiantly upheld the banner of truth during tumultuous times- we urge the brethren to come together to continue the work which was started so long ago. History shows that the work in Salem suffered several setbacks and rifts, but nonetheless, Truth marches on with another generation of workers. We now have the advantage of being able to look back, and upon retrospect can analyze what needs to be improved upon and how. This sacred duty we owe to the Lord and to those who went before us. What joy and what privilege do we now have, to pick up and carry the same banner!

These things being so, we find it fitting to reprint the minutes of the speech our vice president, Brother Don Adair gave so long ago at the last documented session for Salem Association in 1983:

**MINUTES OF THE RELIGIOUS AND BUSINESS MEETINGS
OF THE
1983 SESSION AUGUST 29 TO AUGUST 31, 1983
MONDAY-AUGUST 29**

On Monday morning, before the business meetings began, the Vice-President (Brother Don Adair) conducted a religious meeting, beginning with a few songs from the Davidian songbook. After prayer by Brother Adair, he gave a sermon centered around the Bible text in Zechariah 4:10 concerning people who despise “the day of small things”. He read in

1 TG 14:21 about this "day of small things," the "day in which the Lord hosts starts a reformatory work in a very small and insignificant way," to prove that though God's work does "start" small, it will eventually grow very large. Then he proved this by referring to the "stone" that is to grow into a "great mountain" in Daniel 2:34,35, and also by referring to the "stream" that is to become a "river" in Ezekiel 47: 1, 5. Next he read 7 Testimonies, page 169. "The world's way is to begin its work with pomp and show and boasting, but all will come to naught. God's way is to make the day of small things the triumph of truth and righteousness. For this reason, none need to be elated by a prosperous beginning or cast down by apparent feebleness."--7 Testimonies, page



Noah depicted with his family on the ark.

He pointed out that all through the ages, the Lord's work has started small, and only a few at first labored to carry forward the work until it grew large. He referred to the few (8 souls) in Noah's day, the 12 apostles in Christ's day the few Seventh-day Adventists in 1844 and concluded with the few in 1935 (12 Davidians) who moved from Los Angeles, California to Waco, Texas to labor for God's cause. These examples, he said, proves that though THE GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF DAVIDIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS was moved to Salem, South Carolina in 1970, and though it was small at the beginning, yet those who may despise the day of small things, "will at last rejoice" (T.G. 14:21), and join with the Salem Association.

He also read about the parable in Matthew 13:33 which says, "the kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven," which is interpreted in 2 T.G. 11:6; then he explained that the Rod message began in a very small way in 1929, being like "leaven" that leavens the Seventh-day Adventist church.

"Another parable spake He unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened,"--- Matthew 13:33

"The Kingdom is here again shown to start with something, but that little thing is to be like yeast in a loaf of bread. What could the leaven be, but an unpopular message borne by some insignificant one and put into the church, the loaf. Well, the leaven is in the dough now. Just watch it leaven the whole." --2 T.G. No. 11 p. 6

The work of the symbolic leaven--"an unpopular message" (2 T.G. 11:6)--which is the Rod message, is like the leaven in a loaf of bread, which cannot be seen leavening the dough; and though we cannot



"The woman took and hid three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened", so it is that an "unpopular message" will leaven the church.

see how the work of getting the 144,00 and those with them is being accomplished, yet the Seventh-day Adventist church is being leavened just the same, and one day they will be all sealed. For this reason, all of the Salem Davidians do not "despise" the day of "small and insignificant (1 T.G. 14:21), but they "rejoice" to have a part in the work of the Salem Association; and by the encouragement of Matthew 13:33, they have the faith prophet's words: "The leaven is in the dough now. Just watch it leaven the whole" (2 T.G. 11:6). These Salem Davidians who have this faith, he said, are spoken of in 1 Timely Greetings, No. 2, page 22.

"As there is but one right Way and but one Door, and as all Christians do not see alike and do not walk together, could it be that we are all wrong? all going the wrong direction? -No, that could never be, as long as the Lord has not forsaken the earth. Indeed not, for He must have a people in whom to confide His truth and by whom to save those who choose to go His way. So those who choose to go some other way will in the end discover the devil, not the Lord is behind them, and hell not the Kingdom, is ahead of them." 1 T.G. 2:22

God does have a "people" (Salem Davidians) in whom He can "confide His truth, and by whom to save those who choose to go His way." They "rejoice" in the truth, and do not "despise" the day of small things," and for this reason God can trust them, Then he reminded them that always, when there is a crisis, these faithful Salem Davidians whom God can trust will come up "to the help of the Lord against the mighty" (Judges 5:23) to defend God's work at Salem, and help to see it go forward. He expressed praise and thanksgiving due to God for

the faithful Davidians who came to the 1983 2021 Session, because they could be trusted by God to be wherever He needs them at the right time in the right place. He concluded his sermon by then quoting the prophet's words: "We, therefore, must not fail in our trust. We must prove worthy of our calling."--1 Timely Greetings, No. 48, page 23.

-Reprint from the 1983 Salem Session

Pictured: Brother Don Adair with Sister Bonnie



Whom Does God Call to be Workers?

*Most quotes in this article were provided by Salem's "East Gate" members from Zambia. Thanks to the brethren abroad for sharing!

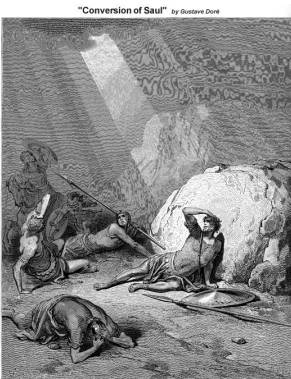
“Then saith He unto His disciples, The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest.” (Matt. 9:37, 38.) {1SC17: 9.6}

Since the laborers are few, and the harvest great, God in His great wisdom calls a variety of workers from diverse backgrounds and experiences.

From Inspiration we see that God *always* calls

Those who are Hardworking and Busy

“God never goes to the lazy or the idle when He needs men for His service. When God wants a worker He calls a worker.



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When He has work to be done He goes to those who are already at work. When God wants a great servant He calls a busy man. Scripture and history attest this truth. {1SC17: 9.7}

“Moses was busy with his flocks at Horeb. Gideon was busy threshing wheat by the wine press. Saul was busy searching for his father’s lost beasts. David was busy caring for his father’s sheep. Elisha was busy plowing with twelve yoke of oxen. Nehemiah was busy bearing the king’s wine cup. Amos was busy following the flock. Peter and Andrew were busy casting a net into the sea. James and John were busy mending their nets. Matthew was busy collecting customs.

Saul was busy persecuting the friends of Jesus. Carey was busy mending and making shoes.—Unknown.” {1SC17: 9.8}

And sometimes God will call someone who has a

Rough Exterior but is a Genuine Christian

“In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged. They are self-sufficient, independent of God, and He cannot use them. The Lord has faithful servants, who in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view. There are precious ones now hidden who have not bowed the knee to Baal. They have not had the light which has been shining in a concentrated blaze upon you. But, it may be under a rough and uninviting exterior the pure brightness of a genuine Christian character will be revealed. In the daytime we look toward heaven, but do not see stars. They are there, fixed in the firmament, but the eye cannot distinguish them. In the night we behold their genuine luster.” {ChS 49.2}



David was ruled out by his brethren but chosen by God.

In the last great work, God will call many different classes, the

Illiterate & Uneducated, Learned, Rich or Poor Workers

Fundamental Beliefs 26:3 (EN) “I will take illiterate men,” says the Lord, “obscure men, and move upon them by My Spirit, to carry out My purposes in the work of saving souls.” The last message of mercy will be given by a people who love and fear Me.” — Review and Herald, Sept. 21, 1904.

“He will use men for the accomplishment of His purpose whom some of the brethren would reject as unfit to engage in the work.” — Review and Herald, Feb. 9, 1895. {FB: 26.3}

In this last call for laborers, all — small or great rich or poor, learned or illiterate — have the high and exalted privilege of becoming ministers of Christ.-Fundamental Beliefs 26:4 (EN)

God may even use a:

Backslider at First, yet Firmly Takes Stand with the Truth

“There was one man whom with his whole family, we highly prized. He is a reading man, and has a large farm, on which grow the choicest of oranges and lemons, with other fruit. But he did not in the beginning fully take his position for the truth, and went back. They told me about this. In the night season the angel of the Lord seemed to stand by me, saying, “Go to Brother ----, place your books before him, and this will save his soul.” I visited with him, taking with me a few of my large books. I talked with him just as though he were with us. I talked of his responsibilities. I said, ‘You have great responsibilities, my brother. Here are your neighbors all around you. You are accountable for every one of them. You have a knowledge of the truth, and if you love the truth, and stand in your integrity, you will win souls for Christ.’

He looked at me in a queer way, as much as to say, “I do not think you know that I have given up the truth, that I have allowed my girls to go to dances, and to the Sunday-school, that we do not keep the Sabbath.” But I did know it. However, I talked to him just as though he were with us. ‘Now,’ I said, ‘We are going to help you to begin to work for your neighbors. I want to make you a present of some books.’... But suffice it to say, he took his position firmly for the truth. His whole family united with him, and they have been the means of saving other families.”—Evangelism, 451, 452

Sometimes, it may be brethren, “The Lord often works where we least expect him; he surprises us by revealing his power through instruments of his own choice, while he passes by the men to whom we have looked as those through whom light should come. God desires us to receive the truth upon its own

merits,—because it is truth.” {Gospel Workers 92 126.1}

Furthermore, God is especially calling

Young Men & Women, Consecrated to God

“We must manifest confidence in our young men. They should be pioneers in every enterprise involving toil and sacrifice, while the overtaxed servants of Christ should be cherished as counselors, to encourage and bless those who strike the heaviest blows for God. Providence thrust these experienced fathers into trying, responsible positions at an early age, when neither physical nor intellectual powers were fully developed. The magnitude of the trust committed to them aroused their energies, and their active labor in the work aided both mental and physical development. {CE 206.2}

“Young men are wanted. God calls them to missionary fields. Being comparatively free from care and responsibilities, they are more favorably situated to engage in the work than are those who must provide for the training and support of a large family. Furthermore, young men can more readily adapt themselves to new climates and new society, and can better endure inconveniences and hardships. By tact and perseverance, they can reach the people where they are.—Gospel Workers, 84. {CE 206.3}

Now, knowing that God calls for a diversity of brethren to labor for His cause, we should seek to know:

How are We Counseled to Work Together?

“No one man’s ideas, one man’s plans, are to have a controlling power in carrying forward the work. One is not to stand apart from the others and make his plans and ideas the criterion for all the workers. There is to be with the individual members sent forth together, a board for counsel together. One is not to stand apart from the others and argue his own ways and plans, for he may have an education in a certain direction and possess certain traits of character which will be detrimental to the interests of

the work if allowed to become a controlling power.” Testimonies to Southern Africa 8.1

Fundamental Beliefs 25:2 (EN) “A great work of saving souls remains yet to be done. Every angel in glory is engaged in this work, while every demon of darkness is opposing it. Christ... expects corresponding self-denial and sacrifice on the part of those whom he came to bless and save. Every one is required to work to the extent of his ability. Every worldly consideration should be laid aside for the glory of God.” — Testimonies, Vol. 5, p. 204.

“God’s workmen must be many-sided men; that is, they must have breadth of character, not be one-idea men, stereotyped in one manner of working, getting into a groove, and being unable to see and sense that their words and their advocacy of truth must vary with the class of people they are among, and the circumstances they have to meet. All should be constantly seeking to develop their minds evenly and to overcome ill-balanced characteristics. This must be your constant study if you make a useful, successful labourer. God would have you, old as you are, continually improving and learning how you can better reach the people.... TSA 17.3

For Whom are We to Work?

Everywhere there is a work to be done for all classes of society. We are to come close to the poor and depraved, those who have fallen through intemperance. And, at the same time, we are not to forget the higher classes—the lawyers, ministers, senators, and judges, many of whom are slaves to intemperate habits. We are to leave no effort untried to show them that their souls are worth saving, that eternal life is worth striving for. {CH 218.4}

As we can see, Brethren, God is calling all who may be used for His glory, to reach all. May we work on our own salvation “with fear and trembling”, so we will be ready when He calls!

A Letter Included With The Certificate of Fellowship

Dear Fellow Member:---In sending your Certificate of Fellowship for this year, we should like to share with you a few Scripture thoughts which we have found very helpful from day to day as we travel the Christian way. --{CL 1.1}

Each of us, you know, in our material being naturally pass through three periods: (1) infancy, (2) adolescence, and (3) maturity. Likewise, in our spiritual being, as seen in “Timely Greetings”, Vol. 2, No. 39, and Tract No. 14, “War News Forecast”, pp. 31-39, we pass through three such growing periods: (1) Righteousness by Grace, the equivalent of which is spiritual infancy (being born again), (2) Righteousness by Faith, the equivalent of which is adolescence, and (3) the Righteousness of Christ, which in fact is our spiritual maturity. And since the “infancy” period, the righteousness by grace is now in the past according to “Timely Greetings”, Vol. 2, No. 39, and we have now come to the time of the righteousness by faith period of “adolescence,” in which our safety and eternal interest lie, we must not neglect to attain to full Christian “maturity,” the righteousness of Christ, if we expect to be rewarded with life eternal and with a home in His Kingdom. We would therefore do well to carefully note some of the earmarks of a mature Christian -- the true Davidian. Such a one cannot help but---**Contribute Something Worthwhile to the World.** --{CL 1.2}

The mature Christian well knows that he was born into the world to improve it, both spiritually and materially, that he did not come simple to selfishly live in it and depart from it with a big “thank you,” but to bless it, to leave a memorial of what God has been able to accomplish through him for mankind, both spiritually and materially; that he is like a fruitful bough

in a desert land, for he knows that “every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.” Matt. 3:10. Then, too, such a fully matured Christian---**Has a Vision and an Aim.** --{CL 1.3}

He sees that he gets a vision of what God would have him do. He never moves on in a butterfly fashion; he knows what is to be done and does it. He gives no place to any beckoning that would detract his attention and energies from reaching his goal. He well knows that “where there is no vision, the people perish.” Prov. 29:18. He is, moreover,---**Considerate of Others.** --{CL 1.4}

His eye is sensitive to the needs of others, and he does all he can to relieve those needs regardless what personal inconvenience and effort may be required of himself. He is considerate of others' time, feelings, age, reputation, and capacities, especially of other people's property, for “love worketh no ill to his neighbor.” Rom. 13:10. “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.” Phil. 2:3, 4. He is altogether---**Unselfish.** --{CL 2.1}

He rejoices over the good fortune of others, and loves to have others receive credit for something he himself may have accomplished. He expects his credit from the Lord only. What his right hand does his left hand is kept in the dark about (Matt. 6:3, 4). He is also---**Courageous and Fearless.** --{CL 2.2}

He knows no fear but the fear of God. He has courage to stand firmly but tactfully for right principle regardless of the consequences to himself. He knows that no one can do him harm if God does not permit. Moreover, he knows that though men may kill his body, they cannot touch his soul (Matt. 10:28). God alone is his defense. He is, further,---**Charitable.** --{CL 2.3}

He is honest in his personal appraisal of himself and charitable with all others, realizing that if his own background were

the same as theirs he himself would precisely be like them; that while others offend in one thing he himself may offend in another. He knows that God is able to correct His own servant (Rom. 14:4-7), and he keeps his hands off. He is---**Master of Circumstances.** --{CL 2.4}

He is thankful in the face of the most disheartening difficult situations or environment. He does not dissipate his energies in complaining and repining, and he does not seek to escape responsibility and unpleasant facts. Nor does he allow himself to be beaten down in time of crisis, but he is ever on hand to “stand his post,” and he draws on his spiritual resources to attain a mastery of his circumstances. He does not fall behind ancient Joseph, he is even ahead of him for he knows that he is living in an advanced season. Still further, he is---**Never Sensitive.** --{CL 2.5}

Foolish accusations never trouble him. He does not get upset about them. He never needs to be handled with gloves. His mind never dwells on anything that would make him feel hurt. If something is said against him, he never gets hurt over it, especially if he is not guilty of the thing. He does not retaliate, he lets the vain thing die of itself. He lets no discouragement come into his thoughts, not even if all forsake him. He well remembers that even the Lord Himself was forsaken by His own followers, and that out of several million people there were but two persons one hundred percent for Moses -- only Caleb and Joshua. He is ever mindful of the scripture which says: “Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.” Zech. 4:6. He therefore---**Seeks Not Praise or Pity.** --{CL 2.6}

He does not seek pity from others, neither does he pity himself; he refuses to waste time blaming others for unpleasant situations or reverses or limitations; neither does he expect praise for his deeds of worth. He never blows his own horn. It is enough for him to know that he is serving God, that God will reward him openly. In addition, too, he is always ready to hear; he is---**Open Minded.** --{CL 3.1}

He is ever searching to know more of God and of what He would have him do, regardless of the channel through which the light comes. He never condemns anyone's idea before an honest, prayerful, investigation of it. He never runs away from anything, for he depends on God's Spirit of Truth to keep him from all error, fanaticism, and presumption. He never makes flesh his arm of Truth. He depends on the Spirit of God to show him what is Truth and what is error. He is indeed a Berean (Acts 17:10,11). The keeping of the commandments and the Testimony of Jesus Christ (Rev. 12:17) is his map to the Kingdom. Besides, he is a---**Logical and Sound Reasoner**. --{CL 3.2}

His decisions in all matters are liberal, based on sound logic and reason, not on emotions, partiality, or on "respect of persons," nor on selfish gain. God's way is always his measuring rod. He therefore never lives in regret of anything but his sins. Along with these, he is---**Constant**. --{CL 3.3}

He is not known to vacillate. He changes his mind only when he finds himself wrong or mistaken. He is indeed the David of the day. He is steady and dependable in whatever he is given to do, and ever---**Accepts Correction**. --{CL 3.4}

He does not resent criticism, but is grateful for it and puts into use all that is constructive. He makes no excuses for his blunders, but uses them as stepping stones to improvement. He has---**Unshakable Courage**. --{CL 3.5}

He forgets the past, and is always pressing for the high mark ahead. He therefore does all he can to remedy the cause of his troubles, and what cannot be remedied he accepts and adjusts himself to. He is the Moses of the day. He may fall seven times a day, but he quickly arises and runs ahead, and is ever hoping and---**Watching God's Providence**. --{CL 4.1}

Through faith and experience he is confident that God is leading him and that He will freely give the wisdom and strength needed to cope with even the most trying of life's problems. In this respect he is like Ruth, the Moabitess. He never lets an

opportunity slip by, and he has---**Perfect Peace of Mind.** --{CL 4.2}

His mind is set to win and advance the Kingdom of God and, therefore, he fears neither hunger nor death. He is not at all anxious for the future. He never complains in his infirmities; he is ever thankful and conscious that there are thousands of cases worse than his. He knows that he cannot die if God wants him alive, and that he cannot live if God wants him dead. He is the Job and he is the Paul of the day. He patiently waits, knowing that “all things work together for the good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.” Rom. 8:28. He perfectly knows that every dark, gloomy, and stormy cloud has also a bright silver-lined side, and ever looks on the bright side. He is very---**Careful of What He Does and How He Does It.** --{CL 4.3}

He searches and finds the beauty that is in all God’s creation, and he seeks to put art into all he does. He is---**Very Discriminating.** --{CL 4.4}

He never sits with the scornful (Ps. 1:1), never eats where the drunkards do, is particular in choosing his company. His reading material, music, art, etc., are unquestionable. He therefore finds himself---**In Great Demand.** --{CL 4.5}

He never makes enemies, and always seeks to make friends. He thinks positive, helpful thoughts, and so he is a serene, useful, happy man, in great demand. Even his enemies have certain respect for him. Yet he is very---**Modest.** --{CL 4.6}

He does not try to attract attention to himself, but rather to his cause. He is modest in dress, speech, and manners, and he refuses to bask in the reflection of another’s glory. In success he is truly humble and thankful He gives God the glory for all his deeds and accomplishments, and if there is any human glory, he shares it with his fellowmen. And above all, he is mindful of and---**Obedient to the Laws of God.** --{CL 4.7}

He maintains faith in a better future. He does all to live and

serve, and so he eats for strength, not for drunkenness. He keeps his hands off that which God has pronounced unclean. He is never fanatic, neither is he lax. He walks in the middle of the road where the light shines brightest. He is not carried with every wind of doctrine; he minds authority, and shuns quackery. Before he gets into the “guest” chamber (Matt. 22: 11), he makes sure that he--**Has on the Wedding Garment.** --{CL 5.1}

He is aware that God’s Kingdom is made up of “mature” Christians, “not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.” He therefore never wastes his time looking for specks or beams in another’s eye (Matt. 7:1-5). If anything, he searches to see that there is nothing in his own eye. He knows that God has not made him a judge of His people, or corrector of heretics. He does what Truth says, and those who wish to fall in line may do so, but he never tries to push them over to his side. --{CL 5.2}

I hope in prayer that these thoughts on the Scriptures will be of great help and encouragement to you and to all around you. May God bless you. --{CL 5.3}

Sincerely yours in faith and good courage,

V.T. Houteff



THE ROD SPEAKS

REPRINT FROM THE ORIGINAL SYMBOLIC CODE SERIES

[WHO DOES MOUNT
CARMEL NEED?]

QUESTION NO. 195:

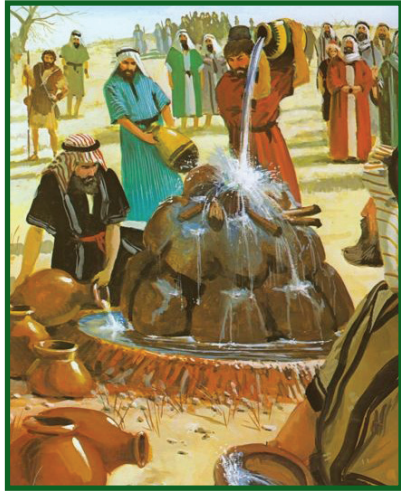
**“Should all Present Truth
believers come to Mt. Carmel?
If not, then who should, and
who should not?”** { 5SC1-5: 8.1.1
}

ANSWER:

Never greater task has been assigned to any religious institution than the one which has been entrusted to Mt. Carmel.

Therefore the enemy will now, as in times past, do everything possible to hinder the work and prevent the 144,000 from receiving “the seal of the living God.” Says the Spirit of Prophecy: { 5SC1-5: 8.1.2 }

“The institutions established there are God’s instrumentalities for accomplishing his work in the earth. For this reason, Satan is on the ground, exercising his ingenuity to embarrass and hinder. He comes with his temptations to men and women connected with these institutions, whether in responsible positions or doing the humblest work, and if possible he so ensnares them with his devices that they lose their connection with God, become confused in judgment, and are unable to discern between right and wrong. He knows that the time will surely come when the spirit that has controlled the life will be made manifest; and he is glad to have the lives of these persons testify against them, that they are not coworkers with Christ. { 5SC1-5: 8.1.3 }



A depiction of Elijah at Mount
Carmel

“Many who have grown to the years and stature of manhood, are deficient in the elements that constitute a noble, manly character. God does not regard them as men. They are not reliable. Some of these are connected with our institutions. They have influence; but it is of a pernicious character, for it is seldom on the side of right. While they profess godliness, their example constantly tends to encourage unrighteousness. Skepticism is interwoven with their thoughts and expressed in their words, and their powers are used for the perversion of righteousness, truth, and justice. Their minds are controlled by Satan, and he works through them to demoralize and bring in confusion. The more pleasing and attractive their manners, the more richly they are endowed with brilliant talents, the more effectual agents are they in the hands of the enemy of all righteousness to demoralize all who come under their influence. It will be found a hard and thankless task to keep these from becoming a ruling power, and carrying out their own purposes in encouraging disorder and loose, lax principles. { 5SC1-5: 8.1.4 }

“The youth exposed to their influence are never safe unless those under whose care they are placed exercise the greatest vigilance, and they themselves have right principles firmly established. But it is a sad fact that in this age many of the young yield readily to the influence of Satan, but resist the Spirit of God; and in many cases wrong habits have become so firmly fixed that the greatest effort on the part of the managers would not result in molding their characters in the right direction.”—“Testimonies for the Church,” Volume 5, pp. 407, 408. { 5SC1-5: 8.1.5 }

The enemy is working in numerous ways. Therefore Mt. Carmel is not accepting all who profess to believe in Present Truth. { 5SC1-5: 8.2.1 }

First, there are a number of Present Truth believers who, while pretending to believe in the message and to be working in favor of it, are in fact throwing rocks at it, thereby upsetting those who are not firm in the truth. { 5SC1-5: 8.2.2 }

Second, of those feeling urged to come to Mt. Carmel, many can but overburden the institution and thus sidetrack the real object of its endeavors. Mt. Carmel is not being built with the purpose

in view of making a home there for Present Truth believers, but rather with the purpose of a training center to fit up workers to go out and teach the message. { 5SC1-5: 8.2.3 }

As the institution is not yet built and equipped for service, those who come now, and who are not able to fill a place which needs to be filled, can only overburden the institution and retard its progress and completion. Only consecrated, able-bodied men are what Mt. Carmel really needs at the present time. If any others should come, then instead of their helping the workers of Mt. Carmel, the workers will have to help them, and instead of the treasury's carrying on the work at Mt. Carmel and in the field, it will have to carry on the expenses of those who should care for their own. { 5SC1-5: 8.2.4 }

If ever all Present Truth believers ought to come, Mt. Carmel will let them know. The institution is now accepting only those who are experienced in some line of work, and for whom it has an opening. At the present time only such need apply for admittance. { 5SC1-5: 8.2.5 }

QUESTION NO. 196:

“In view of the greatness of the work and the shortness of the time, why is the work of the sealing message going as slowly as it is?” { 5SC1-5: 8.2.6 }

ANSWER:

The reason that the work of the sealing message is moving as slowly as it is, is to be found in the fact that a “mixed multitude” of laborers has evidently come into the message, as God's people travel on toward the path of holiness leading to His kingdom. Thus it has been with every message, and thus it must be now. { 5SC1-5: 8.2.7 }

Had there not come out of Egypt in Moses' time a mixed multitude, the Exodus movement would have gone into the promised land in less than two weeks, but because there were many following the

movement who were possessed of a spirit different from that of Caleb's and Joshua's the movement fell forty years behind schedule in entering the promised land! { 5SC1-5: 8.2.8 }

Though Jesus' work at His first advent was not so extensive as now, yet it was of even greater importance and of shorter duration than the work of today, yet seemingly it made no progress whatsoever when we consider that all forsook Him at His trial, and that Peter, the most zealous of the apostles, even cursed and swore that he was not Christ's disciple. Yet, contrary to all appearances, Jesus declared while hanging on the cross, that His work was finished, and thus He gave up the ghost. Then, too, after His resurrection, He took His journey upward, and left but a dozen half-converted apostles to carry on the work. Such were the results of John the Baptist's and Jesus' untiring efforts. Hence, out of the multitudes that were baptized by John and Jesus, there were, on the day of Pentecost, but a hundred and twenty disciples of one accord to receive the outpouring of God's Spirit. { 5SC1-5: 9.1.1 }



Even among present-truth believers there are those who hinder the outpouring of God's spirit like the mixed multitude of old. Some have yet to be fully converted like Peter, and after Christ's ascension, there was only "but a hundred and twenty disciples of one accord to receive the outpouring of God's Spirit." 5SC 1-5: 9

Indeed, not only small and insignificant did the work then appear to be, but also impossible to carry forward. Nevertheless, as the doubting ones among the great multitude saw an open door in Jesus' crucifixion, they separated themselves from among the faithful. And as the remaining ones of His followers lost confidence in themselves, renounced self, and sought the Lord earnestly at a time when there was not in themselves even the least hope of continuing the work, they gave the Lord an opportunity to manifest His great power and to advance the cause of God with such rapidity that in one day, with one sermon, there were converted three thousand souls. Then daily

after that were added “only such as should be saved”—such as never backslid. Thus did the work of the gospel begin to grow rapidly, once the Lord got a group of people that He could trust and use. { 5SC1-5: 9.1.2 }

Likewise, the 1844 movement, right after the Minneapolis Camp Meeting in 1888, would have begun the work of the Loud Cry angel, but as the result of the unbelief of many in the Testimonies of the Spirit of God, the “cry” was silenced for forty years while the movement retreated “toward Egypt.” (“Testimonies for the Church,” Vol. 5. p. 217. { 5SC1-5: 9.1.3 }

In the year 1930, God spoke to His people, as He spoke to Israel in the days of Joshua, but now, as then, there are among us, to discourage and dishearten, the ten spies, Korah, Dathan, and Abiram (Num. 16:1-3), and also those who covet the Babylonish garment, the silver, and the wedge of gold. And as a result, we also are held back, and will continue to be until the Lord manifests His power and takes away from among us the pretending ones, makes us free from sin and sinners as in the time of Korah, (Num. 16:32, 33), and as in the time of Achan, Josh. 7:24-26), and says to us as He said to Joshua, “Go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.” (Josh. 1:2.) “Take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land.” (Josh. 8:1.) { 5SC1-5: 9.1.4 }

Therefore, though at times we are greatly disappointed as we see the unfaithful, doubting, fault finding multitude among us; as we think of those who have forsaken the Lord; as we hear some when on trial even cursing and swearing that they are “not followers of The Shepherd’s Rod;” and as we come in touch with those who apparently believe and who declare that they stand strongly for the message, but who are throwing rocks at us and at our work, we are not at all discouraged but rather made glad to stand alone for truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us. Hence, we cannot but exclaim: { 5SC1-5: 9.2.1 }

Lord, help us to stand true unto Thee though the whole world

forsake Thee, even though we must die like the apostles if needs be, that we may be as Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—standing true at the peril of our lives, so that Thou canst have the opportunity of delivering us from the lion’s den, and from the fiery furnace, making Thyself known to all the world through our faithfulness. May we, as Noah, be zealous in the building of the ark while our professed brethren in the message question and criticize the work and position of others (“Testimonies for the Church,” Vol. 5, p. 690)—retard the progress of the message—and while others make fun of us, and accuse us of taking too much upon ourselves. May we never say: The Lord delayeth His coming; nor, “We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. . . . The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.” (Num. 13:31-33.) { 5SC1-5: 9.2.2 }

*text with brackets [] added

DIY Food Growing: Suspended Hydroponic Food Production

Dear Brethren,

We recently had a study on healthy eating from Brother Carlos, which was originally given to us from Sister White writings, and also a proper diet is written in *The Entering Wedge* authored by Brother Houteff. We know as DSDAs that it is important to stay healthy by keeping the 8 laws of health, which are as follows:

Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunshine, Temperance, Air, Rest, Trust In God's Word Interestingly, with each beginning word it spells: N E W S T A R T!

Let us now especially be wise and prepare for the time we are soon approaching where there will be shortages in energy, daily living needs, water and food. Indeed, God promises that our water and food will be sure.

“He shall dwell on high: his place of defense shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure,” Isaiah 33:16

Until such a time when we cannot provide for ourselves any longer, the Lord will carry us through. In the meantime, while we yet have time to take care of ourselves, we can stock up on these necessities and grow a garden. We have been admonished to live in the country and grow our own food.

“Get out of the cities as soon as possible and purchase a little piece of land where you can have a garden, where your children can watch the flowers growing and learn from them lessons of simplicity and purity.” 2SM 356

Now is the time. We need to get out of the cities and be able to sustain ourselves as much as humanly possible. Rural life is best, but do the best you can. If you own land, that's a good start, but it's even better if you have a home or some sort of dwelling on it.

There are many different ways to grow a garden so you can be creative. Here is one that is pretty easy if you understand science and math somewhat

to make sure the nutrient solution is up to par. This system doesn't require soil and uses very little water. The startup of it can be expensive, but when water becomes scarce it will be easier to keep your garden alive and in turn give you nutritious food.



This system is called a Suspended Net Pot Non-Circulating Hydroponic Food Production System. Some of the items below can be found at your local gardening store and others you may need to find online.

Supplies:

- Non GMO organic seeds
- 3-4 inch net pots
- Compressed coconut coir
- 9-inch-tall bins with lids
- Hydroponic nutrients – ask your local nursery
- LED spider farmer lights or similar for indoor growing or
- Natural sunlight
- Shelving for indoors
- Plastic straw for each bin drill a hole in each bin for the straw; this is a way to test your water level
- Small vial to test your PH and solution and a TDS meter to test the water

Instructions to build the system:

1. Cut out circular holes on the lids for the size of net pots and a hole

- for the straws
2. Fill the net pots with compressed coconut coir and plant your seeds then water.
 3. When first planting, fill the bin with water and measured nutrient solution to come up to half of the net pot when suspended.
 4. Place each net pot in the holes on the lids and cover the bins.
 5. Then let the water go down and keep the nutrients and water level at about 3-4 inches of water in the bin at all times. Check PH in a vial – should be 6 – 6.5.

Helpful Tips:

- Combined water and nutrient solution should be 800, 900, to 1000 when testing with the TDS meter.
- You will need to adjust the water and nutrients to keep the PH and water at the levels stated above every day.
- As the plants grow, roots will later be suspended in the air and water, which is very good.
- This system uses very little electricity and since there isn't any soil, water is minimally needed.

The following link will give you a video demonstration of how this system works

<https://www.brighteon.com/161971aa-a0a5-4715-a483-e847e801724f>

Keep praying daily without ceasing for the Lord's direction through His Holy Spirit to guide your footsteps, while putting on the Righteous of Christ "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints..." Ephesians 6:14-18
Amen

~Sister Brenda

Why East? South Carolina's Subtropical Climate, the Mega-Drought, plus the Inspired Counsel of the Prophets

Many of us have heard Davidian pioneers such as Brother Adair & Sister Bonnie Smith tell the story of Brother Houteff saying to the brethren in Salem, SC that eventually the Shepherd's Rod movement would move in its entirety to the Salem area subsequently fulfilling the "solitarily in the woods" prophetic scripture. See Micah 7:14. For your benefit, we will provide various versions of the Bible to provide greater insight on the context of what this verse means. Of course, the only authorized version is the King James Version.

English Standard Version

Shepherd your people with your staff, the flock of your inheritance, who dwell alone in a forest in the midst of a garden land; let them graze in Bashan and Gilead as in the days of old.

Berean Study Bible

Shepherd with Your staff Your people, the flock of Your inheritance. They live alone in a woodland, surrounded by pastures. Let them graze in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old.

King James Bible

Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thine heritage, which dwell solitarily in the wood, in the midst of Carmel: let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old.

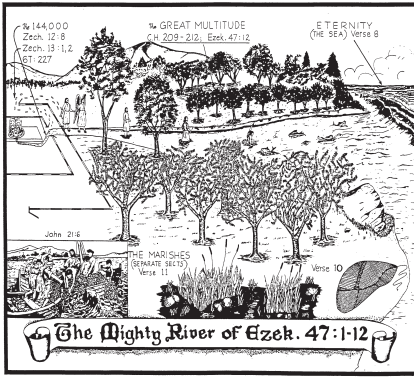
New King James Version

Shepherd Your people with Your staff, The flock of Your heritage, Who dwell solitarily in a woodland, In the midst of Carmel; Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, As in days of old.

New American Standard Bible

Shepherd Your people with Your scepter, The flock of Your possession Which lives by itself in the woodland, In the midst of a fruitful field. Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead As in the days of old.

Brother Houteff did not live to see his prediction, but it would come true in 1970, when a small company of believers from the original Mount Carmel joined fellow believers at the Salem rest home.



This record of the intent to move the movement eastward is both recorded in the Symbolic Code and in the symbolism of Ezekiel's River:

“...the Lord finally indicated definitely that beautiful Southern California was no longer to remain the center of His work

for the “lost sheep of the house of Israel,” but an eastward course was to be seen in the stream from that “fountain” which is to swell into the great river of Ezekiel’s prophecy... {1SC10: 3.1}

“One thing was clear in our minds concerning the new home for our work, and that was that we should have a rural base from which to operate—one with room enough to demonstrate that the Lord made no mistake when He told us through His messenger that we should be out of the city, and in an environment conducive to health, and one where we could care for the needy among us, and furnish employment to those who are learning how to give the message. {1SC10: 3.3}

Later Brother Houteff explicitly stated his intention for the selling of Mount Carmel Center in Waco, TX.

“Now again, with even greater emphasis toward reaching her goal, Mount Carmel Center makes the following announcement to all faithful Davidians who will realize that this good news is perhaps nothing short of a sign. Mount Carmel Center, by commencing to first sell its excess property, then the whole, is symbolically leading the way to the program that is outlined by

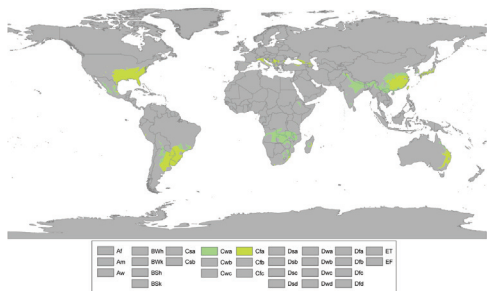
the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy... The Lord himself is leading the way."{10SC1: 3}

I often wondered as a young believer in the message why God would move on His people to move eastward. Now that I am here, I affirm that I do see an advantage as I have come to reside in this blessed area. This part of the country is a rich land, green with God's bounty.

After about a week of being in the foothills of South Carolina, I was amazed that the weather somewhat reminded me of the time I spent living on a tropical island in the South Pacific during my teens. The air was moist, it rained almost daily, but the sun would make an appearance as well.

At the end of the week, as my husband and I endeavored to take a Sabbath walk, a local historian and guide approached us to tell us the history of this place. It was then that I learned this entire region of South Carolina is a subtropical climate which receives an average of 65 in. of rain per year! To put this in perspective, tropical climates receive 70 inches or more a year. Indeed, the water seems to be flowing everywhere one looks. Since our stay we have visited four different waterfalls, and there are many more which we have not yet seen.

Subtropical Climates Across the World



Interestingly, subtropical climates are mostly found on the southeast corner of each continent. See Map.

To provide you with more information about the subtropical climate, we provide an excerpt from the article, What are the Economic Uses of the Humid Subtropics?:

“A subtropical climate typically experiences hot, humid summers and cool, mild winters. Subtropical zones generally lay between 25 to 40 degrees latitude and are located closer to the poles than their adjacent tropical climates.

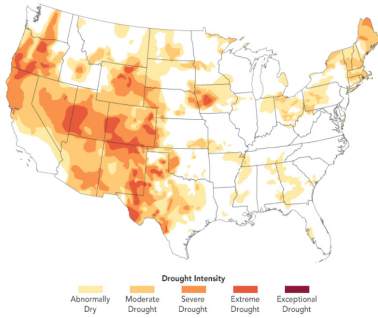
“While the summers in humid subtropical regions can be humid and hot, winter months often bring temperatures down to around 40 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Due to the mild winters, many people find wintering in subtropical locations to be more pleasant than in areas where the weather can get below zero degrees Fahrenheit. Year-round precipitation in this sort of region can typically be anywhere from 40 to 65 inches. These regions also tend to experience direct sunlight throughout the entire year. The most humid of subtropical climates are in coastal regions, such as the ones in Brazil and Argentina.

However, many inland southern parts of the United States and China can experience subtropical weather as well. Farming is more natural in these climates because of the extended growing season, which lasts for around eight months out of the year.

“Due to the humidity, much of the vegetation in the humid subtropics is comprised of small-needled trees, shrubs and bushes. Subtropical climates lend themselves well to evergreen trees that are able to endure the rainy season and general warmth. Ferns and palm trees are also common in humid subtropical climates. Delicate, broad-leafed plants that require extreme amounts of rain also thrive in subtropical climates.

“Crops such as rice and other grains grow extremely well in this sort of environment for the same reasons as a variety of trees and plants. The lack of a true frost and high humidity allow crops that thrive in moist environments plenty of growth.”

A Third of the U.S. Faces Drought



Scientists are Worried: The Western Drought Will Affect Entire U.S.

As the global temperature heats up, droughts are increasing across the land and around the world. In California, houseboats were removed from Lake Oroville, the largest reservoir in the state because of

low water levels.

According to Farm Progress, a website which actively monitors the national drought data with a farmer/crop focus, three-fourths of the country is plagued by drought. Scientists predict that these drought conditions will not improve any time soon:

“Almost three-fourths of the western U.S. is gripped by drought so severe that it’s off the charts of anything recorded in the 20-year history of the U.S. Drought Monitor.

“Mountains across the West have seen little precipitation, robbing reservoirs of dearly needed snowmelt and rain’, said Brad Rippey, a meteorologist and Drought Monitor author with the U.S. Department of Agriculture...

“Water supply is the big story for the West, and we are getting in trouble with all the interests that try to compete for a slice of that water,” Rippey said by telephone. “There is not a lot to go around this year.”

Unlike the eastern U.S., in the



In Bakersfield, which is home to some of the country’s most productive lands, farmers are irrigating just-budding nut trees and hoping for the best.

West most water comes in winter months in the form of rain that gushes into reservoirs or snow that piles up on mountainsides. Last year, drought cost the nation \$4.5 billion, according to the U.S. National Centers for Environmental Information. This year, what little snow that fell soon melted away and seeped into dusty ground rather than rivers, streams and reservoirs.



So what does a drought in the western states have to do with the rest of the country? Should we be worried about California?

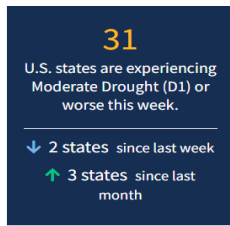
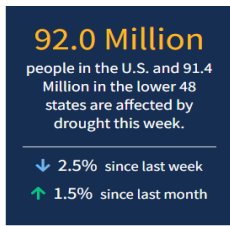
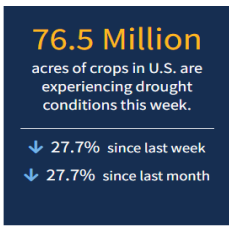
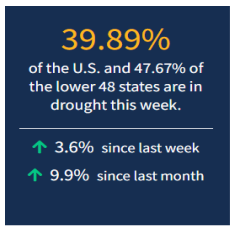
According to the California Department of Agriculture & Farming, we should. California is integral to our food supply chain in the United States.

Lake Oroville, California's largest water reservoir before (2017) and after (2021).

California's agricultural abundance includes more than 400 commodities. Over a third of the country's vegetables and two-thirds of the country's fruits and nuts are grown in California." If we heed the counsel given in the Spirit of Prophecy, we know that God's people should get out of the city and make our dwelling in the country where we can grow a garden. The servant of the Lord says,

"I urge our people to make it their lifework to seek for spirituality. Christ is at the door. This is why I say to our people, Do not consider it a privation when you are called to leave the cities and move out into the country places. Here there await rich blessings for those who will grasp them..."—Manuscript 85, 1908.

"The Protestant world have set up an idol Sabbath in the place



Source: National Integrated Drought Information

where God’s Sabbath should be, and they are treading in the footsteps of the Papacy. For this reason I see the necessity of the people of God moving out of the cities into retired country [places,] where they may cultivate the land and raise their own produce. Thus they may bring their children up with simple, healthful habits. I see the necessity of making haste to get all things ready for the crisis.—Letter 90, 1897.

It’s no wonder that Brother Houteff foresaw location of headquarters in Waco, TX would no longer be suitable for the people and the work. If we understand Micah 7:14 correctly, that the “Rod” will be taught “solitarily in the woods” and, according to other versions, “surrounded by pastures”, the current location of Salem headquarters fits the bill.

Additionally, with mounting evidence that we are already in the middle of a nationwide drought and headed for a “mega-drought” -which will likely bring food shortages if it continues, it becomes imperative that the headquarters is located in a region that will remain well-watered, fertile, and able to sustain God’s people. We know we are going to the kingdom, and our home in the east is temporary, yet we know we are supposed to be here for this time.

-The Editor

Read more at: <https://www.bloombergquint.com/business/california-s-epic-drought-is-parching-reservoirs-and-worrying-farmers> Copyright © BloombergQuint

Smyth, Danielle. “What Are the Economic Uses of the Humid Subtropics?” bizfluent.com, <https://bizfluent.com/13659236/what-are-the-economic-uses-of-the-humid-subtropics>. 27



Calling all Salem Davidians!!

2021 Winter Session

December 5th, 12th, & 19th

- 8:00 AM Pacific Time
- 10:00 AM Central Time
- 11:00 AM Eastern Time
- 6:00 PM African Central Time

Session Agenda:

- 2021 & Beyond Rebuilding Plan & Fiscal Report
- Review & Revision of Bylaws
- Salem International
- Candidacy of & Voting in of Officers and Roles
- Volunteer Drive

Next Issue:

- Spiritual Pastures: Bashan, Gilead, & Carmel
- Ezekiel's River: Where Does It Go?
- Health & Wellness

Contact Salem for:

- Studies
- Books
- Questions about the Shepherd's Rod Message
- Prayer Requests
-

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