

Food for Thought Part 3 - Open Letter

Appeal and Challenge to Charles Pace

At the outset of this letter, Brother Charles, I would like to express my appreciation for your ministry in presenting the revelation of the Saviour and his Righteousness — the Holy Ghost. The message has truly been a blessing, and will indeed triumph as will every other message of heavenly origin. Thank you for sharing it with us.

I would wish that all of this letter could sound the same positive note, but sadly such cannot be the case. Your recent statements and actions have left no option other than the issuance of a warning to those who come in contact with you, and an appeal and challenge to you personally. If you continue to defend the corrupt theology you presented this spring, another Waco tragedy is just around the corner. And by the way...the real tragedy of Waco was not the ATF fire, as tragic as that was; the real tragedy happened years earlier, when dozens of human beings surrendered their bodies, minds and souls to the absolute control of another human being (the "high priest" — Vernon Howell)...and the rest followed naturally. And yes, it's true; "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." Both Vernon Howell and those who followed him had the most highly spiritual-sounding explanations imaginable for discarding the "It is written" from Yahshua which says "All ye are brethren, and One is your Master." Truly, "the blind lead the blind, and both fall in the ditch."

If the Spirit of Elijah is detected here and there throughout this letter, I hope you will take it to heart and profit from it more than the priests of Baal did. Your sprinkling with the waters of separation at Passover really worked...rarely if ever have I felt the Holy Spirit move upon me as I have during the writing of this letter!

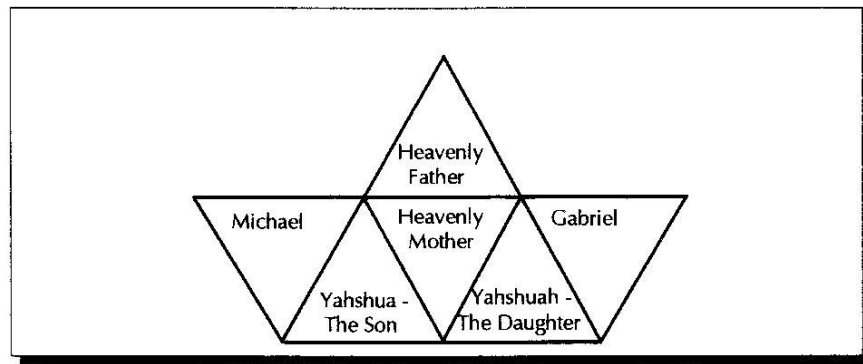
To begin, a brief review and summary of recent events may be helpful, particularly to those who have not been fellowshipping with us here in Ontario. At the Feast of Tabernacles 1993 you presented the revelation of the Saviour and His Righteousness. Much controversy occurred at the feast and afterwards, but several of us accepted the message you brought at that time. A study group was formed, more than 200 copies of your book were sent out all over North America and elsewhere, and literature was distributed to churches throughout southern Ontario, all with your support and cooperation

As the year 1994 began, however, a new and bizarre theological view entered the picture which will be commented on at length later in the letter. You stated that it was wrong to witness or share truth in the Sabbatical year, because witnessing was planting seed which was forbidden by statute in the Sabbatical year. I gently rebuked you at the time for this aberration, but my rebuke was not accepted.

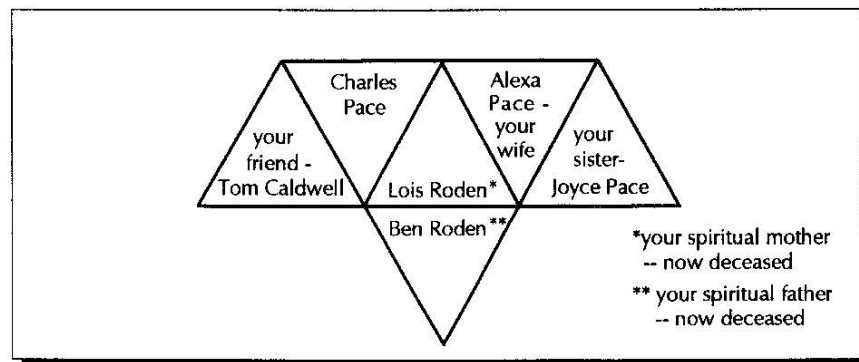
We continued to meet on Sabbath afternoons and received further blessings as we studied the revelation message. Just before Passover '94 you returned to Ontario from Alabama,

and at your first public meeting with us you declared that we would break the third commandment of the decalogue and would take the heavenly Father's name in vain if we prayed to the Heavenly Father – it was now, you stated, only acceptable to pray to the Son. Several of us reminded you of John 16 at that time, and I spoke to you at length on this view later in the week following, but you refused to acknowledge any validity in our comments. I did tell you however, that if I heard the view expressed again in public I would immediately protest against the view with an “It is written.”

We all assembled for the Passover convocation eagerly anticipating an enlargement of the blessings we received last fall at Tabernacles. Things worked out somewhat differently, however. You repeated your view of the government of heaven, briefly summarized as in the following diagram:



Then you told us that each member of the heavenly government had a counterpart in earthly spiritual government that all human beings in the Daniel 2 stone kingdom must submit to be governed by in spiritual matters. As the week progressed, you presented your views on the identity of each member of the earthly counterpart, or shadow government, briefly summarized as in the following diagram:



As the week of Passover continued, and also immediately after Passover, you greatly enlarged on your own conception of your role and identity. You stated that you, Charles Joseph Pace, were personally all of the following:

- * the antitypical high priest Joshua in the book of Zechariah
- * the man whose name is the branch in the book of Zechariah
- * the singular earthly counterpart of the Son of Yahweh in the heavenly government
- * a "greater than Jonah"
- * antitypical King Solomon
- * the messiah (since messiah means "anointed" and you've been anointed by your spiritual mother Lois Roden)
- * the angel that the saints must wrestle with during Jacob's time of trouble...and if we wrestle with you, you said, we would get hurt!

At Passover, you told us that every one of us was sealed for the kingdom of heaven and was a part of the stone kingdom cut out from the mountain without hands.

On a slightly personal matter, I was experiencing severe pain during Passover from a health problem of several month's duration, and I asked you to pray for my healing. To my surprise, your response was to ask me if I was fully accepting of your personal claims — if I was not, you said, it would be useless for you to pray for me. I told you at that time that I was having serious trouble with your claim to be the man whose name is the branch, and that I would need to receive a supernatural sign before I could accept that claim...but you did offer prayer for my healing nonetheless, which I appreciated.

You also emphasized during Passover that you were the spiritual son of your spiritual father Ben Roden. You told us that since 1990 there has been no High Priest in the Heavenly Sanctuary, and that you personally had been called to fill the position of high priest, and plead the cause of fallen humanity. The proposed proof for this contention will be discussed later.

By the week after Passover your anger at my refusal to accept fully your claims regarding yourself could no longer be concealed. You stood up and announced that Yahshua Himself had told you to declare that very day that those who did not accept your views and your professed authority to settle any spiritual controversy...should get out of Living Waters Branch of Righteousness, because there was no room for them there. Your comments were directed specifically to myself, and you felt that no one else in the group could possibly take them personally. Unknown to you, however, several other members of the group had exactly the same questions and misgivings as I did, but due to your generally intimidating manner, they had not voiced them as I had. You were about to receive the surprise of your life as several of us were moved by the very Holy Ghost of whom you speak to deliver a strong rebuke against your blasphemous assumption of titles and exercise of authority and dominion.

Unable to silence me through threats and commands, you decided to take political measures to rid the group of my influence. At a meeting the time and place of which I was not informed of, you announced that I would have to be replaced as coordinator of the study group. My different views on certain questions, and my failure to fully submit to your authority and accept your claims meant that I was full of the leaven of the Pharisees, you said, and that leaven would have to be put out. At this juncture even your wife noted the impropriety of placing on trial and issuing judgement and sentence without the defendant present to have opportunity to make his defense...but undeterred, you carried on, and dear sister Joyce, blindly loyal to brother Charles, said that sometimes things have to be done this way...

And so, finally our review and summary of recent events brings us to the present moment. The contents of, or the need for Open Letter Part II will be determined by your response, Brother Charles, to the counsel that follows, which is offered to you by each one who has signed their name at the end of this letter. Your recent mailout indicates a keen appreciation on your part for the ministry of reproof and rebuke, and shows that you recognize a solemn duty to give reproof when required (5T 675 & 676): I trust that you will be able to receive the following in the spirit of your own mailout. The items noted in the chronological summary will be commented on, as will some other matters that did not fit into any specific spot in the chronology. Inspired references will be cited throughout this section, and will also be provided in the enclosures sent out with this letter. If anyone should receive a copy of this open letter without the enclosures written by Brother A.T. Jones and Sister White, please write for a replacement set that will be sent at no cost to you. Also available upon request are copies of Charles' and Tom's own writings that verify their positions as cited in the following section.

> MORAL CONFUSION/EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY

Your contention that witnessing and sharing truth during the Sabbatical year is forbidden by statute falls flat on its face as we examine the following pertinent points:

- * in scripture times, the Sabbatical year was a time of spiritual emphasis and agricultural de-emphasis.
- * you gave each one of us a railing to witness beginning at Passover '94 and onwards, failing to realize that exactly the same prohibitions against seed sowing apply to the Jubilee year that follows the Sabbatical year.
- * when apprised of the foregoing point, you said that "...uh...well...Ron, you weren't sent to witness earlier."
- * when reminded that , with your enthusiastic support, I had sent out 200 copies of your book and numerous articles and flyers after Tabernacles '93...you were speechless...and mad!

* and, when I remind you now that at Sabbatical year Tabernacles '93 you stated that the words you had spoken then were seed, and that they would grow and bear fruit by Passover '94 — it is hoped that you will finally acknowledge the error of your vain imaginings, and confess and forsake the groundless jealousy that you have permitted to ruin a heaven-sent opportunity.

It is interesting to note that this Pharisaical legalistic zeal not according to knowledge is nothing new -- back in Yahshua Messiah's day the Jewish leadership (bona fide Pharisees) jumped on the Saviour for healing a poor sister on the Sabbatical day! We read the story in Luke 13:10-17: And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. And when Yahshua saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified Yahweh. And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Yahshua had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day. The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering? And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day? And when he had said these things, all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him. Truly, as Solomon, the man filled with Wisdom said, The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Ecclesiastes 1:9.

Your recent comments reveal a character much more like that of King Saul than King Solomon...comments such as "Ron, you can do some things far better than I could ever do them" and "did Tom Caldwell phone you or did you phone him?" and "Ron, you've been fighting for my position (as high priest) since Tabernacles '93." I'm sure that with your fixation on names and family crests...my middle name David, and the Buhler family crest have bothered you greatly! Dear brother Charles, I don't acknowledge anyone other than Yahshua Messiah as my High Priest, so you can rest assured I am not contesting your claim to be the high priest of the human race. Because I insist on treating you as an equal and a brother, your corrupt branch davidian theology¹ forces you to treat me as a foe and competitor. "One is your master, even the Messiah, and all ye are brethren." Matthew 23:8 The beauty of Israel is slain upon the high places: how are the mighty fallen!" II Samuel 1:19

1 (as contrasted with mainstream davidian theology, which does not present mankind with a sinful human high priest at the end of the age)

> BLASPHEMY/EXERCISE OF DOMINION

Each of the titles and names you have assumed deserve comment, but, lest this open letter become a book, I have decided to discuss only two at length — Joshua the high priest, and the man whose name is the branch.

With reference to the antitypical Joshua the High Priest mentioned in the book of Zechariah - both Sister White (in 4BC 1178, quoted on p.4 of the enclosure entitled, The Holy Spirit - Who Will Get and How to Get) and A.T. Jones (in the enclosure entitled, The Greater Purpose) state categorically that the antitypical High Priest Joshua is Yahshua the Messiah Himself. Please read the enclosures carefully for the full scriptural proof.

It should be noted that your claim to be humanity's sole high priest is based on your own private interpretation of a time prophecy in Ezekiel which led you to conclude that Yahshua left the heavenly sanctuary in 1990 and thus could no longer offer us any high priestly ministration. You felt that since you were the only one on earth who recognized that Yahshua had left the heavenly sanctuary then you must be the one called to fill the vacant office of high priest. You and Tom sprinkled the city of Jerusalem, Tom took a picture of the sky over Jerusalem that upon development contained a mark on the negative that you concluded was Yahshua in the atmosphere above Jerusalem, and for the last four years you have lived as though the case was closed on your conclusion regarding the end of the Saviour's high priestly ministry 4 years ago.

I submit for your careful study an authentic account of events transpiring as and after Yahshua leaves the heavenly sanctuary, as recorded in Early Writing pp. 279-281:

THE THIRD MESSAGE CLOSED

I was pointed down to the time when the third angel's message was closing. The power of Yahshua had rested upon His people; they had accomplished their work and were prepared for the trying hour before them. They had received the latter rain, or refreshing from the presence of Yahshua, and the living testimony had been revived. The last great warning had sounded everywhere, and it had stirred up and enraged the inhabitants of the earth who would not receive the message.

I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven. An angel with a writer's inkhorn by his side returned from the earth and reported to Yahshua that his work was done, and the saints were numbered and sealed. Then I saw Yahshua, who had been ministering before the ark containing the ten commandments, throw down the censer. He raised His hands, and with a loud voice said, "it is done." And all the angelic host laid off their crowns as Yahshua made the solemn declaration, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still."

Every case had been decided for life or death. While Yahshua had been ministering in the sanctuary, the judgement had been going on for the righteous dead, and then for the righteous living. Yahshua had received His kingdom, having made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. The subjects of the kingdom were made up. The marriage of the Lamb was consummated. And the kingdom, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, was given to Yahshua and the heirs of salvation, and Yahshua was to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

As Yahshua moved out of the most holy place, I heard the tinkling of the bells upon His garment; and as He left, a cloud of darkness covered the inhabitants of the earth. There was then no mediator between guilty man and an offended God. While Yahshua had been standing between God and guilty man, a restraint was upon the people; but when He stepped out from between man and the Father, the restraint was removed and Satan had entire control of the finally impenitent. It was impossible for the plagues to be poured out while Yahshua officiated in the sanctuary; but as His work there is finished, and His intercession closes, there is nothing to stay the wrath of God, and it breaks with a fury upon the shelterless head of the guilty sinner, who has slighted salvation and hated reproof. In that fearful time, after the close of Yahshua's mediation, the saints were living in the sight of the Holy Almighty One without an intercessor. Every case was decided, every jewel numbered. Yahshua tarried a moment in the outer apartment of the heavenly sanctuary, and the sins which had been confessed while He was in the most holy place were placed upon Satan, the originator of sin, who must suffer their punishment.

Then I saw Yahshua lay off His priestly attire and cloth Himself with His kingly robes. Upon His head were many crowns, a crown within a crown. Surrounded by the angelic host, He left heaven. The plagues were falling upon the inhabitants of the earth. Some were denouncing God and cursing Him. Other rushed to the people of God and begged to be taught how they might escape His judgements. But the saints had nothing for them. The last tear for sinners had been shed, the last agonizing prayer offered, the last burden borne, the last warning given.

May I also strongly urge you, brother Charles, to study again all of *The Greater Purpose* by A.T. Jones, and especially pp. 19 & 20, for an in-depth discussion of the real nature of what you have endeavoured to do in establishing yourself as the high priest of the human race.

In your writings you rephrased "living without an intercessor" and you made it read — living without one of two intercessors. This editorial liberty...or license...was taken in order to construct a scenario that would ultimately require your services as high priest. Please note, however, that in the preceding reference living without an intercessor is equated with living with no mediator, rather than living without one of two mediators. Sorry, brother Charles, but there's no room here for a sinful human high priest at the end of the age. Instead, the saints live in the sight of a holy Almighty One with no external mediator...because the Latter

Rain of the Holy Spirit has already fallen, and they have each individually been filled with the Holy Spirit of Intercession!

The history of the Advent Movement is filled with sad tales of many who claimed to be prophets, high priests, angel messengers, and/or kings. Ben Roden, Vernon Howell, Verliiss Johnson, Fred Wright and Mervyn Jordan, to name a few, have each made one or more of these claims and have each developed their own peculiar way to exercise dominion. One technique that seems to be used by many of these brethren, however, is targeted and spiritually justified violation of the seventh commandment. After all, if a man is prophet, priest, and king it might seem a little selfish for him to keep all his seed for just his wife...so why not spread the blessing around a bit? Those sisters that he has already persuaded of his uniqueness and divine authority usually get "blessed" first, and then the "witnessing" program of that brother degenerates into a recruiting campaign that will enable the "kingdom" to enlarge. Brother Charles, I hope and pray that none of this particular form of exercise of dominion has yet marked your career as prophet, priest, and king, but I would like to warn you that if your claims are not repented of, the door will be wide open for you to repeat the immoral excesses of Vernon Howell, Fred Wright, Mervyn Jordan and others.

Mervyn Jordan, being close to home for us here in Ontario, deserves special mention. He makes all the same claims you do, with one interesting difference in style: the sheepishness that makes you wait weeks or months after meeting someone before you press your claims on them is totally lacking! He boldly signs his newsletter "Ben David - Prophet, Priest, and King." Instead of merely creating graven images of deity he went one step further and added insult to injury/disobedience: he created an image of his own face (commonly called a portrait), posted it in the school room of his "ministry" school, and required students to stand at attention, face his portrait and pledge allegiance to "King David" (himself, of course). Instead of merely telling his followers that they must crown him, as you told us that we must crown you, Mervyn Jordan actually staged his own coronation, complete with choral processions, trumpet blasts, anointing with oil and crowning! Several members broke with the group after the coronation, their eyes opened to the egotistical and selfishly ambitious nature of their high priest and King David, as our eyes were opened to your real agenda when you required that we crown you after Passover. Several others were ejected from the compound amidst allegations of adultery « hardly befitting the "prophet, priest, and king" image that Mervyn Jordan had so carefully cultivated for several years, but totally predictable as the inspired commentary at the end of the letter will reveal.

It is my prayer, brother Charles, that you will learn from the mistakes and misinterpretations of history, so that you do not need to repeat those same mistakes and reap the same tragic consequences for yourself and those who follow you.

You have also boldly styled yourself "the man whose name is the branch." Through your own speculative and perverted mis-interpretation of Scripture you have endeavoured to

create an artificial distinction between "the BRANCH" and "the man whose name is the branch," but Zechariah 6:12 & 13 tells us that "the man whose name is the branch" will:

1. build the temple of Yahweh
2. bear the glory
3. sit and rule upon his throne
4. be a priest upon his throne

I refer you again to The Greater Purpose for a clear and concise discussion of Who only can accomplish each of these tasks. As well, Isaiah 42:8 tells us unequivocally that Yahweh will not give his glory to another. Victor Houteff also, whom you quote continually and profess to believe is inspired, states clearly that each of these tasks belongs to the Son of Yahweh, "the Branch"...but by proclaiming yourself as the man whose name is the branch, you have intercepted and misappropriated heaven's delegation of duty, glory, and authority, and have claimed that which belongs to the Son of Yahweh as your own. Surely, the lessons of Scripture history taught by Moses (striking the rock the second time), Nebuchadnezzar ("Is this not great Babylon that /have built!?") and King Herod (accepting adulation deserved only by deity) should show you clearly the result of taking Yahweh's glory to yourself.

For the record, it should be noted that if any of your blasphemous claims or titles are challenged, your response is "Get thee behind me, Satan." A worthy wish, indeed, for each one of us who are striving for victory over sin— but close to the unpardonable sin when uttered to defend your self-image of "the man whose name is the branch" in the face of a rebuke sent to you by the Holy Ghost Herself.

> LIE

In the face of mounting dis-ease after Passover over your claims and exercise of spiritual authority, you told me verbally that you had no plans to rule over me. Your true aspirations, however, became transparently clear when shortly thereafter you informed me that my, and our, problem vis a vis yourself could be summed up in one phrase — "We will not have this man to rule over us." This diabolical duplicity prompts me to ask the question, "Will the real Charles Pace please stand up?!" The Man Whose Name is the Branch rules and makes no bones about it (see Zechariah 6); your undeniable political waffling should prove to yourself as it has proved to me, and us, that your claim to be the man whose name is the branch is total pretension and self-deception!

Late Note: In heaven's providence your latest group letter and article on "Doubt" arrived just as this Open Letter was going to press. In this mailout you finally drop your mask, and cease from your futile and at times almost comical efforts to explain how you are our brother at the same time as you exercise spiritual authority and mastery over us. You state that as the self-proclaimed "man whose name is the branch" and "high priest Joshua" you

are exempt from the Messiah's specific injunction that "All ye are brethren and one is your Master" because...you are appointed to be "one" with the Master, and thus are not included in the all of Matthew 23: 8-12. My Webster's Dictionary defines "all" as "the whole of; every member; every; any" — what does your dictionary say? In any case, thank you for publicly clarifying this issue for others, as your private arguments with myself clarified the issue for me after the feast this spring. Your actions of spiritual mastery have been speaking to me much louder than your words of spiritual brotherhood for some time now, and I believe this latest convergence of words and actions should make things clear to any of those who still had questions. Also interesting to note is that because you are "the man whose name is the branch"...all those who maintain differing convictions than yours or who question or spread doubt regarding your authority are following in the footsteps of Lucifer and will meet his fate unless they repent. Oh, my dear brother, "who hath bewitched you?" indeed; I do not know if it is your prior (and, I understood, repented of) dabbling in the occult, or your experience with hallucinogenic drugs, or maybe your experience under Ben Roden's "King David" rule that have created your present mind warp, but whatever it was, I do sincerely pray, that, heaven willing, you may be healed of whatever ails you, and that you may rejoin forces with us as a brother.

And by the way, I do not doubt or spread doubt regarding your right to claim the title or authority of the "man whose name is the branch": I absolutely reject and ignore that claim and openly challenge it! Brother A.T. Jones, in his treatise, Individuality In Religion, puts it this way: "it is incumbent on the individual never to allow any other than God to assert authority or jurisdiction in religion without being openly challenged and absolutely ignored: that in true allegiance to God and perfect loyalty to the right, the divine right of individuality, in religion, shall be maintained. This every individual owes absolutely to God, to the right, and to himself in God and for the right. This principle each individual must maintain or else prove disloyal to God, to himself as a man before God, and to consent that the wrong shall prevail instead of the right: in other words, to consent that the wrong shall be the right."

"As for me and mv house... we will serve Yahweh."

> LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN YAHWEH'S POWER

When you observed your support dwindling after the feast as the floodlight of inspiration was focused on your claims of position and authority, you told me that if I persisted in challenging the legitimacy of your claims the group here in Ontario, which you stated was the nucleus of the Daniel 2 stone kingdom of heaven, would disintegrate!

May I humbly remind you, brother Charles, that the real Man Whose Name is the Branch does not require the support of yourself, brother Buhler, or any other brother to establish

or maintain the integrity of the kingdom of heaven. His Father's greater purpose, which knows no haste nor delay, will establish that kingdom at the appointed time and nothing will stop it. Halleluyah!

> LIE

You told me that you had no problem having people around you who differ with you — but in reality as soon as someone expresses a differing conviction in your presence, that person becomes a leavening rebel who must be put out. You stated this clearly to others with reference to myself personally, but in conversation with me personally, both you and Joyce denied you were putting me out. When confronted with the absolutely contradictory statements made to others, which you did not know I was aware of, you were both speechless.

> MORAL CONFUSION

As mentioned earlier, you told us at Passover '94 that every one of us present there was sealed for the kingdom of heaven, and was in fact already a part of the stone cut out without hands in Daniel 2...but within days after the feast, several of us who were moved by the Holy Ghost to challenge your blasphemous personal claims were classed variously as

- * rebels
- * leaven of the Pharisees
- * Korah, Dathan and Abiram
- * similar to Lucifer who had to be cast out of heaven
- * similar to the money changers who had to be thrown out of the temple.

Brother Charles, you can't have it both ways — in light of your performance this spring, I would be most interested in hearing you articulate your conception of the sealing, so I could compare it with Sister White's inspired description of the sealing as "a settling into the truth so that you cannot be moved."

> LIE

You reported to us that Vernon Howell's split with yourself involved his failure to accept your message of the Holy Ghost Daughter.

However, those who lived and worked with the man report that not only did he accept Lois Roden's message of the Heavenly Mother, but he also accepted your message of the Heavenly Daughter! This casts your bitter dispute with Vernon in an entirely different light: it was not truth vs. error, or right vs. wrong, but rather a turf war over authority, dominion, titles, and "high priestly" office. What a pathetically sad result of ignoring the real Messiah's unequivocal instruction — "all ye are brethren, and One is your Master."

> MORAL CONFUSION/LOSS OF VIGOR

You may recall that after a particularly heated telephone defence of your claims and absolute refusal to acknowledge any of your blatant doctrinal errors — you told me that you felt the Holy Spirit had totally left you! I would urge you to recognize that your adamant and persistent striving over who is the greatest brought upon you exactly the same condition which that striving brought upon the Messiah's disciples 2,000 years ago, namely a lack of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the life! The finely spun web of branch davidian doctrinal error has held you so firmly that until now you have seemed unable to free yourself and acknowledge the error of your claims and pretensions, but it is my sincere prayer that this letter and the accompanying resource materials will help you to re-orient yourself and recognize that the grand and glorious message of the Man Whose Name is the Branch, and the revelation of His Righteousness, can and must be presented on a solid scriptural foundation rather than a foundation based on human speculation and wild imagination.

> MORAL CONFUSION

As mentioned earlier, my personal problems provided me with a fair level of discomfort during the spring convocation. Your apparent sympathy for my plight changed radically right after the gathering, as you correctly sensed that not all your contentions and claims were being accepted with unqualified, unquestioning faith. You then told me that you had a message for me directly from the Holy Ghost Herself — my health problems were the result of my unclean, rebellious, leavened, attitude, which did not accept your every claim.

This ex cathedra pronouncement was followed by a touch of divine irony that would be humorous if it wasn't so painful! Within a couple days I experienced almost complete relief from discomfort...but your own eye infection worsened to the point of eventually becoming nearly intolerable. You felt that the devil was trying to destroy you, you said, and you asked for special prayer...If, brother, I was as thoroughly leavened by the leavening of the Pharisees as you have made me out to be, I might be tempted to ask "Who sinned — this man or his parents?" — but instead I would sincerely like to wish you complete healing, heaven willing, and I would like to think that you could wish me the same!

> LOSS OF PURITY

The cover of your book, *The Revelation of the Saviour and His Righteousness*, contains a picture of two attractive women in a mystical spiritual pose. You told us that these women represent the Heavenly Mother and the Heavenly Daughter, and that you placed the picture

on the cover of your book to shock readers into recognizing the reality of feminity in the Heavenly Family.

When reminded of the second commandment which specifically forbids making images of deity, you agreed last fall that the cover of the book should be changed. This spring, however, as you have laid claim to high priestly and finally kingly authority, you have repented of your repentance for making those graven images of deity, and have declared that you intend to leave the book cover exactly as it is. You obviously feel that continued acknowledgement of this blatant error would constitute self-incrimination and defacto admission that you do not have the position and authority you claim to have. You have thus sacrificed your spiritual purity in a futile attempt to support your many and varied claims.

> MORAL CONFUSION/FALSE DOCTRINE

On page 37 of your book "The Revelation of the Saviour and His Righteousness" you teach the Catholic false doctrine of original sin. This deadly false doctrine is totally refuted by Yahweh Himself in Ezekiel 18 and brother Ruhling, brother Robyn Stephan and I have all brought this error to your attention. Some months ago you acknowledged to me your error on this point and stated that when the book was re-published you would correct the error.

Now, however, your position has diametrically changed. You told me that you asked brother Tom Caldwell, your sister Joyce, and your wife Alexa (your shadow government cabinet) if they could see any error on this matter in the book. They told you they couldn't, so, you said...all was well, and no change would be made. You the high priest, and your shadow government cabinet had pronounced a false doctrine to be the truth, and we were to accept your word as heaven's communication to us of its will. Listen carefully, please, as Inspiration sets the record straight on your blasphemous exercise of spiritual authority:

We are not to place the responsibility of our duty upon others, and wait for them to tell us what to do. We cannot depend for counsel upon humanity. The Lord will teach us our duty just as willingly as He will teach somebody else. If we come to Him in faith, He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Our hearts will often burn within us as One draws nigh to commune with us as He did with Enoch. Those who decide to do nothing in any line that will displease God, will know, after presenting their case before Him, just what course to pursue. And they will receive not only wisdom, but strength. Power for obedience, for service, will be imparted to them, as the Saviour has promised. —The Desire of Ages, p. 668

> LIE

You told me emphatically that both Victor Houteff and Ben Roden taught that the new year begins with the new moon closest to the vernal equinox. You told me this is in an effort to

justify your calculations regarding the beginning of the new year this spring, knowing full well that only Ben Roden had taught this view. Victor Houteff taught that the new moon at or after the vernal equinox began the new year, which is essentially what Luis Munilla presented in his paper, and quite different than that taught by Ben Roden. As I pointed out this deception in our conversation, you were once again without an answer. And I ask you now — Charles, do you believe Victor Houteff was inspired? If you do, why don't you teach what he taught? If you don't, why don't you clarify your position for your followers? It may be of interest that you asked me if I believed Victor Houteff was inspired...a week after you informed your followers that I did not believe he was inspired! Talk about getting the cart before the horse!

> EXERCISE OF DOMINION/EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY

As referred to earlier and as you teach in your book *The Merkab*, you boldly state that Ben Roden is your spiritual father. You state that he is (was...) the counterpart of the Heavenly Father, and you are the counterpart of the only begotten Son. May I kindly remind you that your assertion, along with the reasoning that led to it, and the reasoning that flows from it, are directly forbidden by the Messiah Himself: it is written "Call no man father upon the earth; for One is your Father, which is in heaven." Matthew 23:8

"Consistency, thou art a jewel" — it should be noted that logic and reason demand, by extension, that if you are the singular earthly counterpart of our Everlasting Father (Isaiah 9:6), then you are our earthly spiritual, or holy, father. Truly, it is easier to get a man out of Catholicism than it is to get Catholicism out of a man!

Speaking of Catholicism, both your sister Joyce and Ted Graham stated that you occupied the seat of Peter as the head of the true church, and thus you had authority to represent your views as the final word on matters of prophecy and spiritual controversy. Surely, brother Charles, they were not presenting this reasoning with your knowledge or approval, but if they were, I would urge you and them to study carefully the following inspired references to the role of Peter in the early church:

- DA pp. 413-14, 817
- SRp. 287
- AApp. 194-95, 198-99.

In summary these references tell us that: Peter was content to remain on equality with his brethren; that he was erring and fallible; that the Heavenly Father foresaw the erroneous doctrine of the Roman Church regarding Peter's ecclesiastical authority and office; that the gates of hell did prevail against him; that he was not appointed head of the church, nor

elevated above his brethren, nor elevated as vicegerent of Yahweh; that he was not given supremacy over his brethren, nor honored as the head of the church; that he stood in no way above the level of other apostles; and that so-called successors of, claim exalted prerogatives belonging to Yahweh alone.

In conjunction with your own on-going and ever-expanding claims for prophetic, priestly and finally kingly authority (to rule — see Zechariah 6 regarding the man whose name is the branch), it should be noted that at Passover this spring you went through a special service to appoint Tom Caldwell to the position of the earthly counterpart of Michael, and your sister Joyce to the position of the earthly counterpart of Gabriel. These positions, you explained, were on the right and left hand, respectively, of the seat of power and authority in the Kingdom. I would like to remind you that Yahshua Himself, whom you say you are the earthly counterpart of, declared that it was not even given to Him to appoint to the positions on His right hand and his left hand in the kingdom (Matthew 20: 20-28). Your presumptuous personal claims and appointments are the antithesis of the Saviour's own description of the proper relationship between each and every one of us — "All ye are brethren, and One is your Master." (Matthew 23:8)

> MORAL CONFUSION/WINE OF BABYLON/ROMAN CATHOLICISM

In your last mailout you state that even if an individual is sincerely convicted that he is in the right, he must relinquish his stand and become neutral in order to have peace, harmony, and unity in the group. Then you pose the question "What is lost if you do this?" and you answer your own question by saying "Nothing is lost!"

I, and we, answer your question this way ~ everything is lost through the behaviour you have described as ultimate virtue and self-denial. Sister White, speaking under the inspiration of the Spirit of the Spirit of Prophecy, has this to say about the matter in GC pp. 45 & 46:

It required a desperate struggle for those who would be faithful to stand firm against the deceptions and abominations which were disguised in sacerdotal garments and introduced into the church. The Bible was not accepted as the standard of faith. The doctrine of religious freedom was termed heresy, and its upholders were hated and proscribed.

After a long and severe conflict, the faithful few decided to dissolve all union with the apostate church if she still refused to free herself from falsehood and idolatry. They saw that separation was an absolute necessity if they would obey the word of God. They dared not tolerate errors fatal to their souls, and set an example which would imperil the faith of their children and children's children. To secure peace and unity they were ready to make any concession consistent with fidelity to God; but they felt that even peace would be too

dearly purchased at the sacrifice of principle. If unity could be secured only by compromise of truth and righteousness, then let there be difference, and even war.

Brother A.T. Jones comments extensively on this matter also — especially recommended for diligent study is his excellent work entitled "Individuality in Religion1" (attached). You, right along with the pope of Rome, term the doctrine of religious freedom to be heresy, and you, along with the pope of Rome, are both about to learn that the divine right of individuality in religion will prevail over any and every false doctrine, claimed privilege, usurped authority or misleading appeal for contrived "unity" so the "spirit" can work.

> MORAL CONFUSION

"An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign," you said, with reference to my position that I could only accept your claims if I had supernatural confirmation of their validity. When I reminded you of Gideon who required, and received, not just one but two signs to confirm a matter of far less consequence than the identity of the man whose name is the branch, you grudgingly conceded that seeking a sign was my privilege.

It will be instructive to point out to other readers of this letter that you represented to those who attended Passover this spring that a snowfall which occurred during the feast was a sign from heaven that your selection of dates for Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread was correct; that a newspaper account of Ben Roden levitating off his autopsy table was a sign from heaven that Ben was the antitypical King David (Why? because a text in Psalms speaks of King David being "lifted up on high"); and that when you offered a two turtle-dove offering in Texas, and when a dog killed one of the two turtle doves some time after it was released, it was a sign from heaven that you and Joyce were called to the ministry. Could it be that your theology allows you, but not others, to seek a sign, or maybe many signs?

And before we consider some inspired commentary, Brother Charles, could you explain to us why you feel that using animals -- live or dead -- or using dead animal parts, such as the shankbone of a sheep that you used at Passover, has any role whatsoever in true new testament worship? My Messiah has "caused the sacrifice and oblation to cease" (Daniel 9:27) — how about yours?

> "HE THAT HATH AN EAR TO HEAR, LET HIM HEAR"

"...To place men where God should be placed does not honor or glorify God...The Lord has a controversy with His people over this matter.... Just as soon as man is placed where God should be, he loses his purity, his vigor, his confidence in God's power. Moral confusion results, because his powers become unsanctified and perverted. He feels competent to

judge his fellow men, and he strives unlawfully to be a god over them. "TM pp. 375-376. July 5, 1896

"...Men have taken unfair advantage of those whom they supposed to be under their jurisdiction. They were determined to bring the individuals to their terms; they would rule or ruin...The high-handed power that has been developed, as though position has made men gods, makes me afraid, and ought to cause fear. K is a curse wherever and by whomsoever it is exercised. This lording it over Yahweh's heritage will create such disgust of man's jurisdiction that a state of insubordination will result. The people are learning that men in high positions of responsibility cannot be trusted to mold and fashion other men's minds and characters... "The spirit of domination is extending to the presidents of our conferences...Satan exults, for he has inspired them with his attributes. They are following in the track of Romanism.... Rule, rule, has been their course of action. Satan has had opportunity of representing himself....They exalt themselves as men of superior judgement, and they have stood as representatives of God. These are false gods....Humanity is hailed as God. TM pp. 359-365. September, 1895

But be not ye called Rabbi' for one is your Master, even the Messiah; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even the Messiah. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted. Matthew 23: 8-12

Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. But Yahshua answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able. And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father. And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren. But Yahshua called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. Mat 20:20-28

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it John 8:44

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. Rev 21:8

God has not appointed any man guide, nor made any man conscience for another; therefore let human hands be withheld from restraining his servants who feel the burden to enter his vineyard to labor. Let the Savior work with his own chosen agents by his Holy Spirit. No human being is to sit in judgement upon his brother. Neither are any to feel that they can handle roughly the precious pearls for which Yahshua gave his life. The pearl, the precious human pearl, was found by the Messiah. Let man be warned; be careful how you treat His "peculiar treasure." All discourtesy, all pain, all neglect which these souls suffer at your hands is charged against you as inflicted upon Yahshua. They are not to be treated in a lordly, commanding manner. Laws and rules are being made at the centers of the work that will soon be broken into atoms. Men are not to dictate. It is not for those in places of authority to employ all their powers to sustain some, while others are cast down, ignored, forsake, and left to perish....If men will not come to the terms made by the leading workers, they will not entertain them, they do not care what results may follow their injustice. With them it is rule or ruin. Yahweh has not appointed any man to do such work. And no human being shall be permitted to prescribe my liberty or intrench upon the perfect freedom of my brethren, without hearing my voice lifted in protest against it....Our people have had great light, and yet much of our ministerial force is exhausted on the churches, in teaching those who should be teachers; enlightening those who should be "the light of the world;" watering those from whom should flow springs of living water; enriching those who might be veritable mines of precious truth; repeating the gospel invitation to such as should be scattered to the uttermost parts of the earth communicating the message of Heaven to many who have not yet had the privileges which they have enjoyed; feeding those who should be in the byways and highways heralding the invitation, "Come; for all things are now ready." Come to the gospel feast; come to the supper of the Lamb; "for all things are now ready." Now is the time for earnest wrestling with God. Our voices should join with the Saviour's in that wonderful prayer: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven." Let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Many may ask, "Who is sufficient for these things?" The responsibility rests upon every individual. "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God." The scheme of salvation is not to be worked out under the laws and rules specified by men. There must be no fixed rules; our work is a progressive work, and there must be room left for methods to be improved upon. But under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, unity must and will be preserved. All the revelations of the past are linked together. We must learn lessons from the experiences of other ages. If there are any of our brethren who think that they have devised plans by which they can secure a monopoly of any line of God's work, they are released from all such burdens. Individually we form a part of the great whole, fulfilling our part in the scenes foreseen long ages ago. In the counsels of God a place was assigned to every person, and each one is to devote his entire ability, his

influence, the energy of his whole being, in an earnest endeavour to discharge the responsibility laid upon him. RH July 23, 1895, "The Great Need of the Holy Spirit" – E.G. White

And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall show you plainly of the Father. At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God. I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father. John 16:23-28

For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. Mark 13:22

For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad. Mark 4:22

> THE CONCLUSION OF THE WHOLE MATTER

Dear Brother Charles, heaven has given you great light, and the devil has tempted you with great error! I, and we, urge you to repudiate the error, so that your influence will help, not hinder, the presentation of the revelation of the Saviour and His Righteousness. Martin Luther had no intention of leaving Catholicism when he began his call for reformation, but he finally found it necessary to disown Catholic dogma in order to preach and live with consistency his message that "the just shall live by faith": likewise, you have had no intention of leaving your Branch Davidian dogma as you have entered into your proclamation of the revelation of the Holy Ghost...but you are finding that that dogma, which led the followers of Ben Roden to give him adulation and obedience that belong to Yahweh alone, and which led Vernon Howell and Lois Roden to end up in the same bed together in an effort to produce the Saviour of planet earth, must fall by the way, and we must indeed all be brethren, before the Holy Ghost will feel free to do Her work through us. If Vernon Howell's work, which you feel was associated with the slain goat on the Day of Atonement, resulted in crucifying the Messiah afresh, then your work, which you feel is associated with the scapegoat, has deeply grieved the Holy Ghost afresh as you have proclaimed yourself to be the man whose name is the branch, when in reality that individual is Her betrothed Husband! I, and we plead with you to repudiate this doctrine of devils before it is too late!

If you accept the position of brother which the real Messiah Himself has given to every one of us, I, and we, would be delighted to hear from you! If you don't accept, rest assured that Heaven will find other brothers and sisters who will share the revelation of the Saviour and

His Righteousness, instead of hoarding it as the Jews did with the truths they were given, in their vain effort to corner the market on heaven's gift of grace.

Protestant!
Sincerely, your [^] brother in Yahshua,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Buhler". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the word "Buhler".

Ron Buhler

Seconded by the following brothers and sisters:

Seconded by the following brothers and sisters:



Doris Buhler



E. Pulido



Lewelyn Pulido



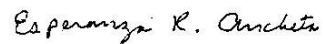
Lilly Sathianathan



Joshua Buhler



Rachel Buhler



Esperanza Ancheta

P.S. I recently heard that you and Alexa are expecting your third child. Being the father of four children myself, my first impulse was to offer you both my congratulations...but on second thought, when I realized that the seed was planted during the Sabbatical year, I felt you might be more comfortable with a rebuke....Either way, I do wish Yahweh's blessings on the new offspring, and a long and healthy life.