

## The Location of the Headquarters: Is It Waco Today?

### **Introduction:**

One of the most troubling controversies confronting Davidia is where should God's storehouse of present truth be located today? Does the Rod message specifically identify where it should be, or does this represent another myth that the enemy has brought into our midst so as to create confusion and division among the ranks of present truth believers? Specifically, this study will first address the issue of whether the storehouse should be located in Waco, Texas today. Careful analysis of the evidences and claims presented by advocates of this position will be shown to be a mirage of half-truths, misapplied statements, hearsay, and incorrect historical information. More importantly, is there clear evidence in the *Rod* message where God's storehouse should be located today in a general sense, that is, some geographical area in America, or perhaps somewhere else? This most vital issue will be addressed as well. May God bless your sincere desire to search out the truth on this matter like a noble Berean and carefully weigh the evidences for yourselves before firing for or against this presentation. Yes, we are coming forth boldly to make the facts known. We are convicted by the authority vested in *The Shepherd's Rod* message, that this is a vital topic, which concerns the soul salvation for every Davidian. You, Brother/Sister cannot afford to brush this aside or be merely contented to follow your leaders/friends and/or cling to your own opinions no matter how deeply rooted they may be. All can afford to be fair and give this your more earnest attention. The truth will stand, come what may. Please humble yourself and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you before you begin.

### **What causes division and hinders the work?**

"the Adversary will employ every agency possible to prevent the Lord from disclosing to view His now obscure 144,000 first-fruit servants . . ."—**WHR 33:**

"With the end of the long journey in view, the work was never so great, the time in which to do it never so short, and the laborers never so few, as now. Self-evident, therefore, is the fact that Satan's supreme effort at this hour must be to cause the time to be wasted and the work to go undone."—**1 Ans 69**

"Moreover, as sure as the Devil lives, he will employ every possible agency to either add to God's Truth, or to subtract from It, aggravating and disheartening, especially capitalizing on the misfortunes and afflictions of the saints, to thus secure their down-fall if possible. Principally will he depend upon two of his most powerful and successful agencies—extremisms—one pushing to the right and another to the left: In an effort to scatter as many as possible away from the center-path of light he will endeavor to drive one class into the fires of fanaticism, and to plunge another class into the icy waters of unconcern....

The only ones that will endure to the end will be those who carefully watch their steps from being carried away either by his additions to, or by his subtractions from, the works of Inspiration."—**2 TG 46:43**

**Study in Inspired Writings from a Full Perspective of the Writer's Point of View.**

Waco's position on the location of the storehouse is built up almost exclusively from several statements contained in the Old Symbolic Codes and their failure to view them in their full and proper perspective.

"The most common cause of doctrinal confusion among Bible students lies in their so very frequently failing to view a subject in **full perspective** from the writer's point of view,—a failing which results in their seeing it from some foreign standpoint so narrowing their view that instead of gaining the writer's idea on the subject, they gain a false idea on it."—**3 Tr 91**. (See also page 94).

"Remembering, too, that the practice of comparing statements stripped of their context is fundamentally disingenuous, and leads today to as many perversions and misapplications of truth as does the deliberate wrestling practiced in Satan's challenge to Christ . . ."—**1 Ans 48**.

### **The Four Principle Old Code Statements used by Waco Advocates to Relocate to the city of Waco, Texas**

**1 SC 10:1:** "In order to fulfill the call we must build the 'fort,' cast the 'mount,' set the 'camp,' and the 'battering rams against it round about' This shall be a sign to the house of Israel.' (Ezek. 4:3). Hence, the first question to be asked is, where shall we build? The answer comes from Him who 'is taking the reins in His own hands' (Testimonies to Ministers, 300): '**In that day shall Israel be . . . even a blessing in the midst of the land.**'" (Isa.19:24).

"As no one puts a light in a corner but in the center of the room, so the wise 'husbandman' built 'a tower in the midst of 'His vineyard.' . . . Consequently, the Lone Star state, being in the midst of the land for both Americas, North and South, is the place where we must set the 'camp,' so that the light may be equally diffused east and west, north and south. Moreover, the 'camp' from where the 'battering rams' are to be sent naturally must be centrally located so that the distance between the 'rams' and the 'camp' may be cut down to one half, thus reducing the time and the cost for Transportation and supplies as well as for mailing."

**1 SC 11:1:** "Our company being composed of twelve members signifies that it is to represent the foundation of this central headquarters location of the last and everlasting spiritual government."

**1 SC 16:1:** "We are happy to announce that the headquarters office of the sealing message moved from Waco to Mt. Carmel Center on September 29, to its new and permanent home location of the proclamation of the message of the 'True Witness to the Laodiceans.'"

**1 SR Tr., p 75:** "'Set the camp also against it;' that is, make a temporary lodging place for your workers, Headquarters from which to carry on the work, and make preparation to **remain there** until you have conquered the city. This is the devout purpose in building Mt. Carmel Center, this is its given goal."

It is important to note that the first three statements were written *before* the light of the kingdom was given to Bro. Houteff in late 1937. This creates some severe inconsistencies with parts of the *Rod* that were written *after* the light of the kingdom was revealed, as will be shown. Now let us look at some other statements that Bro. Houteff wrote prior to the light on the kingdom, which show that

he clearly believed that Mt. Carmel Center (MCC) would be a theocracy established in Waco, TX where the 144,000 and the Great Multitude would be gathered.

**3 SC 2:3:** “In harmony with the foregoing command, Mt. Carmel has begun to enlarge the place other tents, by doubling her acreage as announced in ‘The Symbolic Code’ of -----; to stretch forth her curtains (organize-protect herself against all undesirable elements) by establishing a thorough organization after the pattern of the theocracy of ancient Israel . . .”

**3 SC 11:2:** “. . . Everyone who is well informed in the message that Mt. Carmel is proclaiming, knows that Mt. Carmel is in no way endeavoring to take any institutions, but rather is endeavoring to bring about that reformatory movement long-foretold by Sister White in Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9, p. 126. However, it is true that we expect ‘a 144,000’ members from the SDA denomination to join us, after which a Great Multitude from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people is to swell our membership so greatly that ‘no man could number’ it.”

Before knowing about the Kingdom in Palestine, Bro. Houteff believed that MCC would exist all the way up to the final close of probation.

**1 SC 14:5,6** (1935): “It might be interesting to Elder G. to know that the naming of our ‘camp’ ‘Mt. Carmel Center’ came about in the same way as the naming of our publications ‘The Shepherd’s Rod,’ for we did not know beforehand that it was in prophecy until after our attention was called to Mic. 7:14 and Amos 1:2. As Amos says, ‘the habitations of the shepherd’s shall mourn,’ it is obvious that Amos’s prophecy is yet future, for the word ‘habitations’ (places) is in the **plural** form which cannot be applied to one shepherd’s habitation (**denomination**) **but to all that be in existence at that time** . . .

“The prophet Jeremiah in the following words explains that this wailing by those who are thus deceived will be at the close of probation. For they shall say ‘the harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.’ (Jer. 8:20). That is, *after the harvest*, the time in which they could have been saved, they will realize that **probationary** time has **closed**. Then ‘the habitations of the shepherds shall mourn, and the top of Carmel shall wither.’ Hence, before that time the top of Carmel must have been green with much pasture otherwise there would be nothing to wither; that is, though *Carmel* has now plenty of pasture (present truth), *when probation closes* it shall be deserted (‘wither’) for says the Spirit of Prophecy: ‘In the time of trouble we all fled from the cities and villages.’—Early Writings, p. 34.

“. . . Then in their hasty, frenzied effort to acquaint themselves with present truth which went forth from the top of *Carmel*, to their surprise they shall find that *Carmel* has finished its work, its inhabitants removed, and *probation closed*. . . then it shall come to pass that ‘They shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it.’ (*emphasis ours*)

**1 SC 14:5:** “True we are establishing our headquarters on this mount that is found in prophecy, but our stay here shall be very, very short. . .”

Please note: This was *before* Bro. Houteff knew and warned DSDA’s in 1951 about the “knockout blow” to come. In reality MCC existed for about 26 years (1935-1962) until it was finally

liquidated and put into receivership. Bear in mind the following principles revealed in the SOP. These would also have to apply to Bro. Houteff.

**GC 343**—"But no man, however honored of Heaven, has ever attained to a full understanding of the great plan of redemption, or even to a perfect appreciation of the divine purpose in the work for his own time." (See also: 1 SM 66-67)

### **Comparison of Bro. Houteff's view of Isa. 19:24 *before and after the light on the kingdom.***

#### **Before 1937**

**1 SC 10:1** and **Isa. 19:24**—"In that day shall Israel be...even a blessing in the midst of the land... Consequently *the Lone Star state, being in the midst of the land for both Americas, North and South, is the place where we must set the "camp."*

**1 SC 11:1** – " . . . this central headquarters of the *last* and everlasting spiritual government."

**1 SC 16:1**—Mt. Carmel Center is to be the "permanent location . . ."

#### **After 1937**

"Thus in His infinite mercy would the Lord lift 'the burden of Nineveh' today even as He did in the ancient day. Indeed, it is for 'a blessing in the midst of the land,' *even to all nations*, that He is to effect the church's liberation from 'Assyrian Yoke.'" —**14 Tr 17**

This purified class who stand steadfast during the shaking in the midst of the land (the church—Isa. 19:24), is also brought into focus in Isaiah's prophecy, chapter 24, verse 14: "...they shall sing for the majesty of the Lord"; whereas in verse 16 is projected a subsequent purified class who are gathered "from the uttermost part of the earth," and from whom are "heard songs, even glory to the righteous." The shaking, in other words, garners first and second fruits of saints—the one from the church, "the midst of the land," and the other from the world, "the uttermost part of the earth."—**9 Tr 17**

" . . . that the law of the Lord during the judgment day of the living is to go from Zion, and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem,—not from Takoma Park, *not from Mt. Carmel Center*, and not from some other place."—**1 TG 5:5**

"From these scriptures, it is plainly seen that Mt. Zion becomes the headquarters for the last gospel work on earth, after the time the 144,000 arrive there...*no longer from the General Conference, or from Mt. Carmel Center.*"—**2 Ans 48, 49**

See above references.

**Summary:** It is clear that the references written before Bro. Houteff received the progressive light on the kingdom *cannot* be used to prove that God's storehouse must be located in Waco, Texas *today* as Mt. Carmel Center. To insist that these statements are God's clear command for us to have His storehouse there today is fundamentally disingenuous and misleading. It would require us today to go back to an application of Isaiah 19:24 that had already met its fulfillment by 1955 and to go in direct contradiction with the present application on the role of the kingdom as the last HQ for the preaching of the gospel. We should advance toward the future and complete application if the key verse in question (Isa. 19:24) where the "blessing in the midst of the land" is referring the final gospel work to be proclaimed from Jerusalem (the kingdom), *not* Waco, Texas.

### **How do we Apply 1 SR Tr., p. 75 "Remain There Until You have Conquered The City."?**

While it is true that the statement in *Shepherd's Rod*, Pocket Edition, was written after the prophet received the light on the kingdom, it too, has been grossly misapplied. Did Inspiration mean that we were to remain in the physical site at Mt. Carmel Center, Waco, Texas after 1955?

The truth is that the prophet simply meant that God has commanded us to have a "camp" and that we must remain in that "camp" until the "City" (church), has heard the message- "conquered." To prove this, let us compare 1 SR Tr., p. 75 with 1 SR 128 (the book). But keep in mind that the book was written *before* Mt. Carmel Center was established—*before* even planning to move to Texas.

**1 SR Tr., p. 75**—"Set the camp also against it"; that is, make a temporary lodging place for your workers, Headquarters from which to carry on the work, and *make preparation to remain there until you have conquered the city.*"

**1 SR 128** "Set the camp also against it": That is, make temporary lodging **places**. That thought *is—make preparation to remain there until you have conquered the city.*"

**Summary:** If by the statement, "make preparation to remain there until you have conquered the city," the prophet meant the physical site, then he should have kept the headquarters in Los Angeles, California, because the same instruction was given in California before he relocated the office to Waco. Therefore, the reference in 1 SR Tr., p. 75, could not be interpreted to mean that the headquarters were *never* to leave the physical site—Waco.

Notice, too, that the statement in 1 SR 128, he mentioned temporary lodging *places*—plural, *not* place—singular.

All of this reveals that the word "camp" is in the generic sense, it is not to be restricted to one location, it simply indicates that we must have a "camp"—a headquarters from which to house the workers and operate (publish literature) until the message has conquered the city, it is not referring to staying at the physical site in Waco, Texas.

## Confusion of Terms: Carmel vs. Mt. Carmel Center

Carmel - spiritual pasture, Amos 1:2, Micah 7:14

Mt. Carmel Center:

a literal place whose work was fulfilled in 1955  
solitary in the woods (MCTC, 1SC 14:4)  
cannot apply Amos 1:2, Micah 7:14 to MCC

- God's people were being feed in the Carmel pasture (present truth) before Mt. Carmel Center, Waco, Texas came into existence in 1935 (1 SR 243).
- Mt. Carmel Center, Waco, Texas was only one place from which the work was to be accomplished for that time (1935-1955), not a multitude of "camps" that are in existence today that also use the name "Mt. Carmel Center."
- The startling announcement to sell off old Mt. Carmel Center to help finance the hunting campaign was a sign that its purpose had been fulfilled at that location (10 SC 1:3, 10 SC 2:18).
- None of the various camps using the title "Mt. Carmel Center" today (2010) are actually doing even a fraction of the work that old Mt. Carmel did. None, in fact, are even publishing the complete *Rod* message including the tracts in their original pocket size format using original artwork, typesetting, etc.
- Although Mt. Carmel Center finished its work and was eventually liquidated and given into the hands of a Texas lawyer in 1962, the work of the Carmel pasture continued through a succession of publishing houses who publish(ed) the original *Rod* tract literature up to the present day.
- The Universal Publishing Association, a branch of the work at old Mt. Carmel Center, is the instrument that has been used to preserve the pasture of Carmel with green grass (present truth).
- Mt. Carmel Center, Waco, Texas (1935-1955) in its provisional pre-kingdom phase seems to serve as a type of the overall work that will be fulfilled in the kingdom, after the church is purified.

### Was Mt. Carmel Center Found in Prophecy?

It is often stated that the headquarters should be located in Waco today because it was found in prophecy. The statement used to bolster this claim is given below.

**1 SC 14:5:** "True we are establishing our headquarters on this mount that is found in prophecy, but our stay here shall be very, very short. . . . It might be interesting to Elder G. to know that the naming of our "camp" "Mt. Carmel Center" came about in the same way as the naming of our publications "The Shepherd's Rod," for we did not know before hand that it was in prophecy until after our attention was called to Mic. 7:14 and Amos 1:2."

One will quickly notice that the name and work of Mt. Carmel is what Inspiration is highlighting in this passage—not primarily the physical place. Note that it clearly states, “that the naming of our “camp” “Mt. Carmel Center” came about in the same way as the “naming” of the “publications.” Furthermore, the Carmel of the Bible (Mic. 7:14) is not a physical place so much as a “*spiritual pasture.*” Of course, you must have a physical place to dispense the “publications” at any given time, but the emphasis is on the spiritual. Notice the distinction, Mt. Carmel Center—a *physical place*, and “The Shepherd’s Rod” publications representing Carmel—a *spiritual pasture*. Today, although the work of Mt. Carmel Center has been fulfilled, the work of Carmel, spreading *The Shepherd’s Rod* publications continues on independent of location.

**1 SR 243:** “Feed thy people with thy rod”: The verb feed is to be understood as spiritual food, and that feed (truth) is found in the 'Rod', therefore we again have the command to give out the book ('Feed thy [God's] people'). *Carmel, Bashan, and Gilead are used as symbols of good spiritual pasture.*”

### What do These Pastures Spiritually Represent?

“Carmel” cannot logically apply to a physical location, but rather it symbolizes the work of harvesting souls. As long as the pasture is green with present truth literature coming from the storehouse, probation is still open. When Carmel withers, the truth dries up, then logically probation closes. It is common knowledge from the Rod that probation closes first for the SDA church, so when Carmel withers probation closes for the SDA church. Bashan and Gilead would then represent spiritual pastures of present truth that will be given during the Loud Cry, after the SDA is purified. The conclusion that when the spiritual pasture of Carmel withers this culminates in the slaughter of Ezekiel 9 is shown in the following statement.

**2 TG 41:7:** “The Lord will roar from Zion, and utter His voices from Jerusalem; and the habitations of the shepherd's shall mourn, and the top of Carmel shall wither.’

“This scripture, you see, reflects the tragedy which took place on the top of Carmel in the days of Elijah. Here we are given the hint that there is to be another show-down between the prophet of God and the prophets of Baal.”

Inspiration here reveals that Carmel will not wither until the antitypical showdown at Mt. Carmel between the prophet of God and the antitypical prophets of Baal takes place. Since Bro. Houteff is dead, the prophet of God in this picture are tried and true Davidians who proclaim only the Rod without additions or subtractions. The message calls them by several identifiers, Elijah’s faithful helpers (GCS 34), Joshua’s helpers (1 TG 8:26), Zerubbabel’s helpers (builders) (1 TG 13:6, 1 TG 14:20-22, 2 SR 280, 283, 6 Tr 19), and Jezreel—the messengers (4 Tr 49); they are the ones who will finish the work. The prophets of Baal are all of the false teachers and prophets that plague Davidia today along with all other “anti-Rod teachers” (8 JL 12). They will face God’s judgment and be removed from the scene of action during Ezekiel 9. Thus, inspiration affirms that Carmel is a “spiritual pasture,” not primarily a place.<sup>1</sup> Thus the headquarters, its work and name, are called “Carmel,” *not* because of its location, but because of the nature of the message and its work.

Waco advocates can be very misleading on this point. When asked if Carmel has a spiritual meaning or a literal physical one, they will say that Carmel is both spiritual and literal. Such inconsistency amounts to speaking out of both sides of the mouth, little wonder of the confusion that abounds over this doctrine. Perhaps they have forgotten that this was the very type of argument that M. J. Bingham used to break away and form his own Association under the title of Bashan Hill. Ask these spiritual/literal dichotomists for proof from the Holy Bible where a word that means something is both spiritual and literal *at* the same time? For example, take the stone in Daniel 2 is it spiritual or literal? Think about it

One final point regarding Mic. 7:14, Waco advocates try to emphasize that because the verse says “*in the midst of Carmel*” that God’s storehouse must be in the middle of the Americas (1 SC 10:1). As we showed earlier, this was based on the application of Isa. 19:24, *before* Bro. Houteff had the light on the kingdom. In addition, another reference from the Old Codes invalidates this presumption.

**1 SC 10:3** “...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.”

The word “midst” in Mic. 7:14 cannot be literal as Southern California was once considered “the center” of God’s work for the church, but it was not literally in the “midst” of the land. Later, as announced in 1 SC 11:1.1 Waco Texas became the “*central location* for our future work in behalf of our S.D.A. brethren.” This applied from 1935 to 1961 when God reorganized the storehouse back in Southern California due to the apostasy of Sis. Houteff and her Council. Clearly, the words “center,” “central,” and “midst” spiritually mean the temporary place where the present truth (the green pastures) came from at that particular time period, *not* one fixed permanent physical location. As the facts of history bear out, God has had six contiguous storehouses where present truth has been broadcast from 1930 to the present, all in different physical (geographical) locations (three in Southern California and one each in Texas, South Carolina, and New York)<sup>2</sup>.

## The Prediction of the Knockout Blow

In 1951 Inspiration announced the coming of a “Knockout Blow.” This reveals, that whereas in the beginning the early believers thought that Mt. Carmel would be the “last everlasting government,” later on, just a few years before Bro. Houteff’s death, they came to realize that the Davidians would have to experience a great disappointment; very different from their earlier understanding. Sadly, Mt. Carmel Center would be completely liquidated as a result.

**White House Recruiter, p. 33:** “Unparalleled, therefore, is the urgency that every eleventh-hour church member now quickly and solidly brace himself against the Enemy’s effort to deliver a knockout blow. We must be alert, too, to realize that the blow is to come from surprisingly unsuspected foes—from professed friends of the gospel . . .”



## The Selling of Mt. Carmel Center

The following references will show that Mt. Cannel Center had "fulfilled" its purpose, and it was in God's plan to dispose of the property.

**10 SC 1:3:** "Now again, with even greater emphasis toward her goal, Mount Cannel 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 Spirit of Prophecy . . ."

**10 SC 2:13:** "Yes, with the *City coming* to our very doors, the peach orchard must go . . ."

**10 SC 2:17:** "I am greatly impressed by the things I have seen and heard about the building up of Mt. Cannel in the early days and the progressive selling off of land tracts as its purpose is fulfilled."

In June of 1956, Sis. Houteff published a discourse she gave to the residents of the Mt. Carmel rest home. The presentation reveals some historical facts that are in perfect harmony with the inspired instructions above. As these facts were documented and published in the "New Codes" does not mean they must be disregarded because she lead the Association into apostasy with her private teaching on the 42 months and other erroneous doctrines. Please note, this statement contains only historical facts, not private interpretation(s) of scripture. To be in complete harmony with this line of faulty reasoning we should also reject the 1888 message brought by Jones and Waggoner since they later apostatized from the SDA message by following Kellogg and his pantheistic teachings. For that matter, should we also reject all of Kellogg's health reform principles and practices because he strayed into the path of error?

**11 SC 8:20, 22:** "In discussing this new undertaking with some of us, Brother Houteff emphasized the urgency of carrying out his part of the work (*the selling of the excess property*)\_without delay and as quickly as possible. . . . And so it was that before Brother Houteff's death, Mt. Carmel successfully got under way the subdividing of about 35 acres. **It was Brother Houteff's deep concern at the time of his death, however, that the subdividing of the rest of the land** would require a great many customers which Waco may not have unless some new industries or other installations were brought into Waco, thus causing a need far more housing. And as I related to you in detail a few evenings ago, many changes later did take place in Waco, which materially altered our situation in regard to the selling of the land. Those changes were brought about by a variety of factors, chief among which were (1) increasingly sharper competition and (2) the *new regulations and requirements of the city incident to our being taken into the city limits*."

It is clear that the Council was merely carrying out the wishes of the prophet and not setting off in their own agenda on this issue. God saw to it the His purposes were to be carried out, that is, Old Mt. Carmel Center was to be completely liquidated, despite this very Council's major apostasy that later lead to the knockout blow. In fact, the knockout blow and events ensuing shortly thereafter accomplished just this result, the complete liquidation of old Mt. Carmel and all of its assets. All that remained was for the apostate Branch usurper, Ben L. Roden, to move in and gather up the fragments like food for the bats and moles. This was not the moving of man

as some may suppose, the historical facts confirm the reality of what actually happened. Furthermore, this is substantiated by the understanding that

## God's Headquarters Cannot be within the City Limits

**1 SC 10:3:** "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."

NOTE: The Holy Spirit instructed the prophet to sell the property because the City was coming to Mt. Carmel Center (10 SC 2:13, 11 SC 8:20, 22). In fact, shortly after the sale of the property began, the City engulfed the site, and is still that way today. The property is now filled with high-class residences, just as Inspiration had predicted (10 SC 1:6).

**10 SC 1:6:** "Be it, therefore, known that part of Mount Carmel property is being subdivided for *high class residences* . . ."

*Why* should we press to return there when GOD emphatically instructed His people to sell it because the City was coming? *Why* should we return when GOD emphatically instructed us not to have our institutions in the city? Would God go contrary to His own Word? Would He tell us to do one thing and then something else?

## Doors Closed, Old Mt. Carmel Center Liquidated

When we look at the following historical and Biblical facts, they there is no clear evidence that God purposed for His headquarters to be reestablished in Waco.

1. The Lord instructed His people to sell the property and it was sold.
2. The site is no longer rural.
3. The prophet predicted that there would be a "knockout blow"—an event that involved the closing down of the Mt. Camel Center;
4. God did not prevent the closing down of old Mt. Carmel Center, He allowed it.
5. Mt. Carmel become an area for high-class residences. Unbelievers now fully occupy what was the vast majority original site; this can never be reclaimed in its entirety, or even in part.
6. The graves of the pioneers, (including V.T. Houteff), were unearthed and relocated off the original property of Mt. Carmel Center.
7. Instruction from the prophecy of Ezekiel's river reveals that God's storehouse should move in an overall eastward course.

## There are No Clear Instructions to Return

When God told Judah that the temple and the City would be destroyed by the Babylonians, and the people would go into captivity. He also told them that the land would remain desolate, but after seventy years they would return. From this example, as well as many others, we see that God always advises His children ahead of time and gives them clear-cut instructions on what they are to do.

In our time, God told our forerunners to sell the property, and that there would be a knockout blow which ultimately caused the original Mt. Carmel Center to close down. If He encouraged unbelievers to take over the property, *then there should be instruction or a prediction that we are to return from God*, not from man-made reasoning's based on a part of the work that had fulfilled its mission by 1955. But there are no such instructions found in the Rod.

We can remember, how God told Israel to take the promised land, but when the spies returned, ten of them gave a discouraging, faithless report. (Deut. 1:41, 42; Num. 13, 14) After God told them that they would have to wander forty years longer before entering Canaan, then a host of them "determined to seize upon the hind and possess it . . . the Lord had never commanded them to 'go up and fight'" As a result, the rebellious host were "fiercely repulsed, and driven back with great loss . . . the army of Israel was utterly defeated." (See PP 393, 394). Is it possible that the Waco issue is the same? That God has closed the door, yet some people want to insist that we still return?

## The Conditions That made Waco Ideal Then, are Different Today

The following Inspired statement reveals why Waco was ideal for its time.

**1 SC 10:1:** "Consequently, the Lane Star State, being in the *midst* of the land for both Americas, North and South, is the place where we must set the "camp," so that the light may be diffused east and west, north and south . . . thus reducing the *time* and the cost for *transportation* and *supplies* as well as for *mailing*."

Waco was ideal because it was:

1. In the *midst* of the Americas.
2. Being centrally located it saved on time, transportation, supplies, and mailing.
3. But you will notice that these conditions no longer apply to Waco today. In the days of Mt. Carmel—between 1930-1950's, most SDA's were located in the Americas—primarily the USA and Canada. As time went on, SDA populations grew in Central and South Americas, and the West Indies. Thus Texas was then the ideal place to be to reach most SDA's.
4. But now, the vast majority of SDA's are across the Atlantic-east of the Americas. (2 SR 297, see current SDA yearbooks). Yes, a large concentration of SDA's are in the Inter-American Division, but the majority are across the Atlantic in Africa, Europe and Asia. Note, too, that even the Inter-American Division, is readily accessed from the *Eastern*

*Sea Board.* Thus, to be centrally located today, is to be located from the Eastern Sea Board, where one centrally can reach peoples all over the world, thus saving on time, transportation, supplies and mailing.

## **Inspiration Prophesied that “the East” Would play an Important Role in the Closing of the Work.**

**1 T 414:** "According to the light which God has given me, there will yet be a large company raised up in the east to consistently obey the truth."

Furthermore, the proper study of the river in Ezekiel 47 reveals the history of God's storehouse of present truth from 1844 all the way to the present day. This is one area that the Waco advocates fight especially hard to keep their adherents in darkness and under the cloud of Satan's deception. They emphatically insist that the fountain in this prophecy is completely closed today and will not be opened until the kingdom is established. Why is this the case you may wonder? Because a examination of the topic of this prophecy from its full perspective will be seen to have a clear cut present truth application to the location of God's storehouse today and will clearly expose the refuge of errors that come from this camp.<sup>3</sup>

### **Where in the East?**

To our knowledge, the message does not specify an exact location for God's headquarters today other than it should be on the eastern seaboard of the United States. Considering the issue further using common sense coupled with a fair knowledge of the history of how God lead in the establishment of the Seventh-day Adventist church, one can glean a clear-cut clue. Where did the message of the third angel arise in its beginning? Revelation 7 verse 2 says that John "saw another angel ascending from the east having the seal of the living God." Inspiration mentions the work of the third angel that began "in the East."

"In 1844, as all Seventh-day Adventists know, Sister White was given a vision of the 144,000, signaling the sealing angel's starting his ascent for the east (Rev. 7:2-4)."—**1 SR Tr 10.**

"Brother Lunt of Portland, Maine, has suffered much in his feelings. He has felt that the spirit which often ruled in their meetings was not in harmony with the message of the third angel. He has had an experience in the fanaticism which has left desolation *in the East* . . ."—**1 T 412.2**

No one questions and historical facts confirm that the Seventh-day Adventist church has its historic roots in the East, especially upper the upper New England states of Maine, New Hampshire, and to a lesser extent Vermont.<sup>4</sup> The third angel that ascended from the East in 1844 latter landing in California in 1929 as Inspiration confirms.

"From then on he (the third angel) was ascending , and the saints were awaiting his arrival. Finally, in 1929, through the Sabbath School Lessons the Lord announced throughout the Seventh-day Adventist Denomination that the angel had arrived."—**1 SR Tr 10.**

Later, both history and fact collaborate that this angel moved eastward to Waco, Texas in 1935 on the basis of the river flowing eastward in Ezekiel's vision (1 SC 10:3). As the work was not finished at this location as this study has shown, God's storehouse continued to move in an eastward course, the first attempt being Salem, South Carolina in 1969-70, after an initial reorganization back in southern California in 1961. But due to apostasy as Salem, God's storehouse was reorganized back west in Yucaipa, California in 1974. Later this group of California Davidians merged with the fledgling group in Mountain Dale, New York in 1986. This served as God's storehouse until recently (2002-2005), apostasy has grown to such proportions in this camp, that out of sheer necessity, faithful Davidians have begun to reorganize a new storehouse which will follow the Bible, SOP, and SRod completely as it is written, without adding or subtracting one jot or tittle. They will be those who stand boldly for the truth and will not compromise with error, follow worthless traditions, or the arm of flesh such as blatantly characterizes all of the Davidian Associations today. And where will this new storehouse be located you may be asking with urgent expectation? We believe it to be both logical and historically sound that the seventh and final storehouse this side of the kingdom will be relocated somewhere near the area where the third angel ascended from the east in 1844. By coincidence, or perhaps Divine providence, the state which was the birthplace of both Ellen and James White just happens to be the farthest "east" of any state in America. Has God once again moved His storehouse? Only time will tell, seek and ye shall find.

## **CONCLUSION:**

In this study we have seen that:

1. The statements from the Codes (1 SC 10, 1 SC 11, 1 SC 16) were written before the light on the kingdom truth, and as such, this prophet believed that Mt. Cannel Center would exist up to the final close of probation and would gather in the 144,000 and the Great Multitude. Therefore, they *cannot* be used to prove that we *must* be in Waco, Texas, *today*.
2. The statement form 1 SR Tract, p 75, does not mean that we must remain in Waco, Texas. But that we must have a "camp"—a headquarters from which to carry on the work of reformation.
3. That originally, before having light on the kingdom, the early *Rod* believers had expected their stay in Waco to be "very, very short." They *did not* envision remaining there for twenty-seven years, selling the property, or a knockout blow.
4. That God, through His prophet, instructed His people to sell the entire property as quickly as possible. One reason being, that the City was encroaching upon the site. Thus, we cannot go back, when God has specifically told us to leave and the area is now fully engulfed by the City limits when it is no longer in a rural setting.
5. God predicted the knockout blow, which led to the closing down of Mt. Carmel Center, and God allowed this to take place.
6. There is no inspired record or command to return.
7. The conditions that made Waco, an ideal location for the work in the 1930's-1950's, are far different today.

"And though they hide themselves in the top of Carmel, I will search and take them out hence; and

though they be hid from my sight in the bottom of the sea, thence will I command the serpent, and he shall bite them: And though they go into captivity before their enemies, thence will I command the sword, and it shall slay them; and I will set my eyes upon them for evil, and not for good.”—Amos 9:3, 4

## Appendix:

### Refuting Other Dubious Claims That 2500 Mt. Carmel Drive, Waco Texas is the place:

**Claim:** “It appears as if you are still in darkness concerning God’s divine providence in having us here in Waco just prior to the David Koresh crisis. You seen not to understand that we were at the right place at the right time to vindicate the Lord’s message in a time of crisis.”<sup>5</sup>

**Response:** This is a classic fallacy of logic known as *post hoc ergo propter hoc* (Latin for “after this, therefore on account of this”). The argument goes that if two events occur in sequence then the former must have caused, or be related to, the latter. Logical thinking will demonstrate that the mere fact that two events occur one after the other does not mean they are related. Beyond mere coincidence, one must prove that there is some type of connection between the two events by being able to show what the connection is and how it operates.

In the case of the move to Waco in 1991 followed by the burnout at new Mt. Carmel in 1993, time has now provided ample opportunity to prove the case. So the question must be asked, did the group at 2500 Mt. Carmel Drive in fact “vindicate the Lord’s message” as a result of the world-wide attention placed on the Koresh episode, or did it bring reproach to the authentic *Shepherd’s Rod* message? Based on the almost overwhelming flood of information coming from the popular media and the Adventist world, the answer is a resounding NO! Is the world, or more importantly the SDA church, any better informed on the difference between God’s true message, the *Shepherd’s Rod* versus the counterfeit Branch teachings? We are all too familiar with the refuge of lies that mischaracterized the material that comes from these outlets. They all categorically fail to distinguish between the two groups. The lies are repeated in every venue especially within the circles of Adventism<sup>6</sup> so as to discredit God’s true message and keep the flock from giving it a fair investigation. This we are all too painfully aware of when attempting to share the message and have to battle against this almost insurmountable wall of prejudice that arises when those two little words are whispered “David Koresh.” And what was Waco’s contribution to combat this almost universal deception that exists today? Do we find any well-written materials (tracts, books, websites, etc.) produced from this band of “believers?” Have they lifted up the truth “by pen and by voice” so that the record could be set straight and the honest hearted could see for themselves? Have there any substantive interactions with the media (interviews, letters to the editor, ads in newspapers, etc.) to “vindicate the Lord’s message?” If so, where are the results after over 14 years of opportunity?

In contrast, the Associations at Mt. Dale and Bashan Hill *at least* made some effort to vindicate the message of the *Shepherd’s Rod* in contrast to that of the Branch teachings. The New York Times interviewed<sup>7</sup>two Mountain Dale ministers and shortly thereafter one of them published a

book to address the history of the Rod movement and the rise of David Koresh following the 1993 burnout.<sup>8</sup> Later in 1997, Bashan Hill published a high quality magazine format document analyzing the two movements, although it was primarily as a vehicle for promotion of their peculiar view of things.<sup>9</sup> In the same year Don Adair published a highly personalized account that does cover a fair amount of Davidian history, albeit from a similarly biased perspective to justify his Salem publishing operation.<sup>10</sup> To this day no complete documented, unbiased history of the authentic *Shepherd's Rod* message (storehouses) from 1930 to the present has appeared anywhere in the printed media.<sup>11</sup> Although recently (2006), an academic researcher from England did make some attempt to explain the history of the various Davidian groups outside the fold of the Branch.<sup>12</sup> What a shame that an outsider has to attempt to give the history of this message when the so-called storehouse at 2500 Mt. Carmel Drive has had over 14 years, many able-bodied educated followers, ministers, and resources to do the job, yet nothing but remodeled, man-made compilations of the original *Rod* literature have come forth from their presses.

**Claim:** When the Lord was ready for us to return to Waco, the Old Codes surfaced.

**Response:** This is another variation of the *post hoc ergo propter hoc* causal fallacy. Because the Old Codes surfaced then God was signaling for the storehouse of present truth to return to Waco. As this study has exposed this fallacy by showing that the key underlying reasons to justify such a venture are based on statements which are placed severely out of context from their original understanding before the light of the kingdom was revealed. The long-winded 147 page document offered by the leaders at Waco amount to a refuge of justifications that have not proven the connection between key statements in the Old Codes and a clear instruction from God provided in the latter writings of the *Shepherd's Rod* literature for God's people to return to the original Mt. Carmel property today, especially in view that the entire original estate was liquidated and the once rural location has become fully enveloped within the city limits of Waco and buildup as a high class residential neighborhood occupied by non-believers. In reality, Inspiration's final say about this property was to "first sell its excess property, *then the whole*," published just months before his death (10 SC 1:3).

**Claim:** The majority of card-holding members of Mountain Dale called for a Special Session in 1991. At this session the decision was authorized to move the headquarters to 2500 Mt. Carmel Drive, Waco Texas.

**Response:** The foundation of this argument is the claim that this majority of members somehow represented the voice of God in the controversy. This is a logical fallacy that bases its appeal to motives in place of support, in this case popularity (*argumentum ad populum*). However, this presumption has not been proven, merely assumed on the basis of a quotation from AA 95-96 specifying that "a general council of the entire body of believers, made up of appointed delegates from the various local churches, with the apostles and elders in positions of leading responsibility" would serve as the voice of God. In fact, the same document plainly stated "the voice of God, through the card-holders in the field had said "YES FOR AN EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION."<sup>13</sup> The problem herein arises, these individuals, which only comprised a slight majority (59 votes vs. 53 votes), does not automatically mandate them as the voice of God and the minority voting card holders as the voice of Satan. It could just as well be argued that

the majority represented the voice of Satan. Ironically, the General Conference uses the same reference (AA 95-96) to base their claim that they are the voice of God to the church today. No level-headed Davidian would acknowledge such a claim on a knowledge of what this very body of delegates does as far as following the Bible and the SOP which they claim to follow, so why would we be foolish enough to blindly accept the leaders of Waco similar claim to said authority? Even a cursory knowledge of the Bible shows that in the case of a religious controversy, almost without exception, the majority were on the wrong side in direct opposition to God. Just consider the cases of the response to each of the three Pentecosts; the Noatic, the apostolic, and the last (yet future) where in each saved alive was or will be eight vs. an unnumbered multitude, 120 vs. millions, and 144,000 vs. 14 million plus, respectively. Or more specifically relevant to this case is the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram against the leadership of Moses and Aaron (3T 339-62). The Spirit of Prophecy calls the trust in numbers “a great mistake.”

“It is a great mistake to trust in human wisdom or numbers in the work of God.”—**DA 370**

The only way to sort out who is following who is by examining the case that each side presents for making their stand on the basis of what is found in the golden bowl. The move to Waco was specifically based on certain key statements that surfaced from the old Codes that were reintroduced into Davidia in 1987. As we have clearly pointed out in the body of this study, the pillar statements used have all been applied severely out of their proper context and in a fundamentally disingenuous manner. On this basis alone the assumption that the majority of voting card-holding members represented the voice of God at the 1991 Special Session has proven to be false.

### **Was the 1991 Special Session Legal?**

Another perspective that needs to be considered in this controversy is whether the Special Session called for in 1991 was done so on legal grounds according to the *Leviticus*. Sessions can only be called by the Executive Council the notice sent to the field in two consecutive issues of the Symbolic Code, as stated in Article V, Section 1.

“This Association shall hold regular sessions at such time and place as the Executive Council shall designate by a notice published in *The Symbolic Code*, the official organ of the organization, in two consecutive issues before the date of the opening of the session. . . . **Special sessions may be called in the same manner** in which a regular session is called.”—**Lev. p. 7**

Now let us review a couple of key historical facts. According to the 1990 Session business meeting minutes for Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, the following was reported in the *Symbolic Code*.

“We then engaged in a lengthy climatic and perplexing discussion on the relocation of the headquarters. A prayer meeting was planned for that evening to ask the Lord for guidance in deciding where His headquarters should be located.” The next day, Thursday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the following was reported. “The business discussion continued with the relocation of the Headquarters, however by the guidance of the Holy Spirit and through the casting of ballots, the Session voted for the Headquarters to remain at Mountindale.” So here we see that the voice of God speaking through the delegates assembled for 1990 Session said **no** for relocation to Waco.



Bear in mind that all of the issues had been thoroughly investigated by a special appointed committee to examine the feasibility of relocating to Waco and the results were published and available to all.<sup>14</sup> During Session all of the arguments of both sides were presented so no one can claim that all who voted on this monumental decision did so out of ignorance, or of not knowing all of the facts.

So this represented the official and legal decision of the 1990 Session. Later, the rebellious faction lead by Norman Archer, Peter Nosworthy, and others continued to agitate for relocation to Waco. To circumvent the legality of the 1990 Session decision they proceeded to gather a petition list of sympathetic followers and used them to agitate the Executive Council to call for a Special Session. Their appeal to authority for such a move rested solely on a 1990 Session by-law which stated.<sup>15</sup>

“(c) In the case of calling a special session, the card-holder(s) should send a written request and reasons to the Council and after due consideration, the Council shall send the request and reason plus their response to the card-holders for their vote. This must be done after proper dialogue between the Council and the party involved.”—1990 Sesssion Code, p. 18, Art. III, Sect. II, part (c).

Two problems arise with this procedure. First, this 1990 bylaw contradicts the *Leviticus* on the procedure for calling special sessions, which states on p. 7, Art. V, Sect. 2(a) “Special sessions may be called in the same manner in which a regular session is called.” That is, only the Executive Council can call for session or special session, which then has to be announced in two consecutive issues of the *Symbolic Code*. None of this happened with the so-called 1991 special session. Card holding members have no authority to call for or announce a special session no matter how many of them sign a petition. Furthermore, this by-law is further rendered illegal and therefore should have been declared null and void according to the *Leviticus*, p. 8 Art. VI. Sect. I. which states; “By-laws may embrace any provision not inconsistent with the Constitution.” Tragically the Waco rebellion architect (N. Archer) makes his appeal for authority, not based on the *Leviticus* published by God’s prophet in 1943, but rather to a man altered by-law published in 1990 which is in direct contradiction with the Constitution the Association is supposed to follow.

The initial response to this agitation for a special session from the Mountindale Executive Council in a letter to the field dated March 21, 1991 was summarized as follows.

“We are informing you, the World Field that THERE WILL BE NO SPECIAL SESSION FOR the purpose of discussing Waco, Texas. We are not saying that no one has the right to call for an emergency special session however, the Waco, Texas issue is NOT AN EMERGENCY, therefore, there will be NO SPECIAL SESSION to deal with this issue.”

This response was perfectly appropriate and in complete harmony with the decision of the 1990 Session not to relocate to Waco. There was nothing that rendered this situation an emergency less than one year latter. By pressing the issue and trying to force the Council to call for a special session, which they unfortunately relinquished to a short while latter, only proves that Archer and his followers were rebelling not against what they perceived as a unresponsive and derelict

Council, but against God and His organizational instructions provided in the *Leviticus*. In essence, the actions of this group shows that they did not respect the authority of the Executive Council alone to decide whether or not to call a special session, but took the matter into their own hands.

— End of Study —

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## Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> An undocumented statement used by many Davidians from the New Codes published by Sis. Houteff also affirms this conclusion although it should not be viewed as authoritative or inspired.

"Thus shall the top of *Carmel wither* and those who do not take heed to the word, 'To day if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts,' at length will be alarmed that their opportunity for accepting the truth has slipped away. Then in their hasty, frenzied effort to acquaint themselves with present truth which went forth from the top of Carmel, to their surprise they shall find **that Carmel has finished its work**, its inhabitants removed, *and probation closed*, at which time the inhabitants of 'Carmel' can but repeat, 'the harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we have nothing for thee.'" —**11 SC 12:32**

<sup>2</sup> For a detailed study, which documents the history of God's storehouse of present truth from 1930 to the present and proves that there have been six contiguous headquarters up until somewhere around 2005, please request a copy from the address at the end of this study.

<sup>3</sup> Please request a copy of our systematic study on Ezekiel 47 that will prove that the fountain of present truth is indeed open today, albeit as a tiny rivulet, and that it shows that God's storehouse of present truth is to move in an overall eastward direction (flow) across the United States from its inception in California in 1929.

<sup>4</sup> For a nice review of early history of the SDA church in New England, New York, and Quebec, see: *In the Footsteps of the Pioneers*, (Ellen G. White Estate, 1990 Ed.).

<sup>5</sup> Private letter from Norman Archer to the Executive Council of GADSDA, Mt. Dale, August 28, 1997.

<sup>66</sup> a) For a grossly misleading, yet tragic attempt to explain the Waco episode from a Seventh-day Adventist perspective, see: Cari Haus and Madlyn Hamblin, *In the Wake of Waco: Why Were Adventists Among the Victims?* (Review and Herald Publ., Hagerstown, MD, 1993). b) The Biblical Research Institute (BRI) supported by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists has made a highly disingenuous attempt to discredit the Shepherd's Rod message to the Adventist world by relying on the "expert" testimony of a one Mark Breault, a former disaffected Koresh follower with a known personal vendetta to destroy the Branch Davidians.

(<http://www.adventistbiblicalresearch.org/Independent%20Ministries/branchdavidian.htm>).

For an expose on Mr. Breault's motives, see: Carol Moore, *The Davidian Massacre* (Legacy Comm., Franklin, TN, 1996, pp.19-22). To examine Breault's views and credibility as an authority on the Shepherd's Rod, see: the BRI website (above) and his book. Mark Breault and Martin King, *Inside the Cult: A Member's Chilling, Exclusive Account of Madness and Depravity in David Koresh's Compound*, (Signet, New York, 1993).

<sup>7</sup> Peter Steinfells, New York Times, March 6, 1993.

<sup>8</sup> Anthony Hibbert, *Before the Flames* (New York, Seaburn Publishing, 1996).

<sup>9</sup> The Universal Publishing Assn., *Conflict in Texas: A Report and Analysis of the Koresh Movement*, Bashan Hill, Exeter, MO, 1997.

<sup>10</sup> Don Adair, *A Davidian Testimony*, (Mt. Carmel Center, Salem, SC, 1997).

<sup>11</sup> To date there are 51 published books, reports, videos, and B.S./M.S. Theses directly related to the Waco issue (<http://www.kkcomcon.com/KellKoll/koresh.htm>) from which *only* two (see refs. 7 and 9) are from practicing Carmelite Davidian believers.

<sup>12</sup> Kenneth G.C. Newport and Crawford Gibbon, Eds. *Expecting the End: Millennialism in Social and Historical Context*, (Baylor University Press, Waco, TX, 2006), chapter 8.

<sup>13</sup> “*Mt. Dale Supplement*” (GADSDA, Waco, TX, ), p. 000066. This is part of a large case document (146 pgs) that was given to the author upon request from the Waco leadership giving all their reasons for moving back to Waco.

<sup>14</sup> “*Report of the Waco Fact-Finding Committee: January 29 – February 3, 1989*” (Mt. Carmel Center, Mountaindale, NY, 1989). This 28 page document discussed the history of the sell-off of Old Mt. Carmel Center, the current demographics and zoning of Waco in 1989, the status of the original building held by the Vanguard school, the Presbyterian church, the willingness to sell and the price wanted, and the functionality of the area to the needs of the Association. A nice photographic essay was included to illustrate the current status of important historical areas from the original Mt. Carmel days.

<sup>15</sup> “D.S.D.A. H.Q. Location: A Blessing in the Midst of the Land.” (Mt. Carmel Center, Waco, TX), pp. 000066-000069.