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SHEPHERD'S ROD OPEN LETTER
TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The following is the Shepherd's Rod open letter, signed by nine members of their Executive Council, issued February 17, 1959, and addressed to the Executive Committee of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

"Realizing the shortness of the time in which the church is to prepare herself for her climaxing work on this earth, we write this letter to you who stand at the helm of the great Seventh-day Adventist denomination.

"For thirty years the church has been confronted with the teachings and work of The Shepherd's Rod. During this time The Shepherd's Rod message has faithfully proclaimed the process the Lord will use in preparing the Seventh-day Adventist denomination for the final work of spreading the gospel of the kingdom in all the world.

"At the 48th Quadrennial session of the General Conference which convened in Cleveland, Ohio last June, those who were there in the capacity of official officers and delegates were presented with the issues involved through the medium of an Open Letter published in the foremost newspapers of that city. This same Open Letter has also been widely circulated as you know in this country and other countries as well.

"Inasmuch as the issues involved as presented in that Open Letter were never answered up to this time, one can only conclude that you have no answer for them.

"It had been our sincere hope that these important points of doctrine could have been mutually agreed upon while representatives from all parts of the world were assembled there in session. Had this been done we at that time could have united in truth. As a consequence, we would now be working together in complete harmony under the truth.

"Needless to say, it was depressing to us to see you brethren leave the matter in confusion when, with the guidance of the Lord, it would have been easy to settle it at that time. For some reason, though, you chose to leave the issues unsettled to this day.

"In view of your failure to take definite action in response to all the efforts the Association in the fear of God has put forth, we have now no choice but to call upon God to make known to all His will concerning these issues.

"We firmly believe that since you are unable to disprove from the Scriptures the teachings of The Shepherd's Rod, but resort instead to character defamation and the putting forth of irrelevant and misleading ideas, the message of The Shepherd's Rod passes the Scriptural test and is God's Truth for today.

"Had you been able to answer from the Scriptures the issues involved, we believe you would have been glad to set us straight while the General Conference was in session and where you had a splendid opportunity to do so.

"In November of 1955 this Association in its official organ, The Symbolic Code, issued its stand on the prophecy of Revelation 11:1-13, which concerns the 42 months that the Gentiles tread the Holy City, and the 1260 days the Two Witnesses prophesy with power (authority) in sackcloth.

"The Code pointed out that this prophecy has its primary application in the latter days - the days following the Millerite movement and the rise of the Seventh-day Adventist movement shown in Revelation 10:8-11, and in the time of the measuring of those who are to make up the spiritual temple and the worshipers therein, excluding the Gentiles.

"During these 1260 days that they prophesy (teach), they have power (authority) to shut heaven that it rain not (cause to cease the latter rain). They also turn water into blood (give mortal life to those who respond to its life-and-death messages even as Noah's family was assured safety in the great deluge by their heeding God's warning of that destruction). The Two Witnesses also smite the earth with all plagues (bring trouble, vexation, and nuisances) as often as they will.

"At the close of the 1260 days warfare is to be waged against Them which will succeed in killing Them. They shall lie dead for $3\frac{1}{2}$ days. Afterward, they are to be gloriously raised. Then those who had rejoiced over their death will be filled with fear, and a great shaking will take place. In it the hypocrites in the Lord's part of the city will be slain. The remnant will be frightened and give glory to God.

"In the November, 1955 Symbolic Code we published our stand that we were then living in this time period. Today we believe we are approaching the end of it. In fact, we believe it will end sometime this Spring.

"God's instrumentality (the 2 candlesticks) with support of His Word (the 2 olive trees) have smitten the earth with all plagues as often as they willed during this time.

"The word plague, as you doubtless are aware, means anything very troublesome or causing misery; a nuisance; to trouble or annoy greatly, harass, torment, vex, disturb. The plagues came during this time in the form of various campaigns. To name them specifically, they were: (1) the distribution of the vast amount of The Shepherd's Rod literature to Seventh-day Adventists; (2) the door-to-door contacting of Adventists by Davidians; (3) the passing out of Rod literature at the Adventist churches; (4) the displaying of the "Hear Ye the Rod" signs before the Adventist churches; (5) the displaying of the signs and the passing out of Rod literature at all the Adventist camp meetings in the U. S. and some other countries; (6) the effort of Davidians in Cleveland, including the publishing of an Open Letter to the General Conference Session; and (7) the present radio program, "The Eleventh Hour Call," which now is being expanded to nationwide coverage.

"Our sole motive in instituting these programs was for the purpose of extending to all God's people the opportunity of hearing and understanding God's message for His people today. Inasmuch as you brethren have set yourselves in opposition to this message, these activities were verily plagues to you.

"Our announcement that the one that is now in progress is the last, may bring you great relief. Yet the knowledge that this is your last opportunity to avail yourselves of God's saving message for you should greatly disturb you. We plead with you now to repent from your Laodicean attitude that you have need of

nothing when God says you are in need of everything. Soon your opportunity to do so will have been withdrawn.

"By this letter we make it known to you that we are now leaving this entire matter with the Lord to demonstrate whether He is leading in the work at Mt. Carmel, or whether He is leading you to stop your ears to the message which Mt. Carmel has put forth in her official publications.

"This means that The Shepherd's Rod message is now on the altar. If you are positive in your position that The Shepherd's Rod is not of the Lord and that you are being led of God to resist it, you will not hesitate to put your all on the altar as well. In fact, your failure to do so will indicate a lack of faith on your part in the position you hold.

"If the message and work of The Shepherd's Rod is God's Truth as we believe it to be, the 1260 days of Revelation 11 as The Symbolic Codes have explained, will end sometime this Spring. Then will follow the war that will kill the Two Witnesses. Those whom the Witnesses had tormented will gloat over this. But after 3½ days the Two Witnesses will be exalted. At the same time will come the earthquake (shaking) in which will be slain all the hypocrites in God's part of Christendom--the Adventist Church. The remnant will give glory to God.

"This is a serious matter. We sincerely feel that if the Rod message (which we believe is the Lord's) is not His work, the sooner we know it the better it will be for the church and the world too. Likewise with you brethren. In all integrity you should be just as anxious to know where your position stands in the Lord's sight. If the Lord is not in your position, the sooner you know it, the better it will be for the church and the world too.

"We have honestly set before you the belief on which we stand. We have been led to it by our understanding of God's revelation of His Word. Therein lies our faith.

"Now is your opportunity to reveal to all the church and the world your willingness to allow God to have His way.

"All the pleas that have ever been made for you brethren in the message of The Shepherd's Rod we now bind up into one, and pray to God that your hearts be not turned from Him permanently at this crucial hour.

"Sincerely yours to witness the demonstration
of God's leading,

"THE GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF DAVIDIAN
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS,

"By THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:

(Signed) Mrs. Florence Houteff
 J. O. Conrad Mrs. Mary Alen
 J. R. Custer Jack Knipple
 Mrs. S. Hermanson Cecil W. Helman
 G. W. Saether T. O. Hermanson."