

April 10, 1959

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The Mount Zion Reporter
P.O. Box 568
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Dear Sir and brother in Christ:

The March, 1958 issue of The Mount Zion Reporter has been here some little time. I enjoy the magazine very much. I find it is always interesting and informative on developments in Israel. Also, your exegesis of the prophecies concerning the restoration of Israel are wonderful and to the point.

However, I find some areas of disagreement in the leading article in the March issue, entitled, "An Angel Cried With A Strong Voice." I do not doubt but what you brethren were sincere in what you wrote, but nevertheless, I feel it is at variance with the truth.

In speaking of the "everlasting gospel" of Revelation, I think it prudent to remember that the word everlasting in our King James Bible is mis-leading. It is translated from the Greek word Aionios which is the adjective form of the word Aion which means "an age." So the word Aionios would qualify the noun "gospel." And the Greek Aionios would indicate a specific age in which that gospel is to be preached. The nearest equivalent we have in the English language to the word Aionios, is the word Eonian. So, with that bit of information, a better translation would be "Eonian gospel," or the gospel of that specific age. "Age-lasting gospel," would be another good phrase to use in translating.

Now, the problem is to pinpoint the specific age in which that gospel is to be sounded. You say that this gospel began with the commission given the apostles. There is just one thing wrong with that exposition. The message of the angel was that Babylon had fallen. Babylon was not fallen in apostolic times, and in fact, is not fallen yet. Rather, we expect that event to come just prior to, or perhaps coincide with the coming of Jesus. But, this much is certain, the fall of Babylon and the coming of our Lord just precedes the Eonian gospel. So, that would pinpoint the gospel in the next, or millennial age.

You also mentioned the seven last plagues, which also precede the Eonian gospel. That they are imminent, I do not doubt. There is a gospel for this age, alright, but it is not exactly what many

people think it is. God is calling out a people for His name, His elect, who shall reign with Christ over the nations in the next age, which is really the big and important gospel age for the bulk of humanity. This age is not the testing ground of the soul as far as the majority of humanity are concerned, as we have been taught by our creeds. We have been taught for years that there is a gospel which must go to every creature in this age, and then the Lord can come, probation will close, and all who are not saved up to that point are forever lost. That doctrine has caused millions of people to fear and hate God. According to orthodoxy, only a mere handful will be saved out of the billions that have lived on the earth in all ages. Is Satan that much more powerful than God? Are the forces of evil more potent than love--God's love? But, men mistake the elect who are for a special calling, with the great multitude of Rev. 7:9.

You say that--"Some misplace the time of this message, believing it refers to the general judgment day yet future. This throws them entirely off the track, and naturally they place the next message, that of the third angel over into the millenium, which causes more confusion involving scriptural contradictions."

I think it is a question of whose side most of the contradictions be on, if there are such. What contradictions are there? You failed to mention them, specifically, one by one, but only in a vague and general way. I have already shown you a couple of glaring inconsistencies in your exegesis of the subject.

I will show you another:--You say that Babylon's fall was a spiritual fall, and that it was symbolized by the period in which church and State were united, and Romanism held universal sway over the earth. You could not say that the church at Rome had become corrupt in Apostolic times. It did not even exist then. Again let me remind you that the fall of Babylon precedes the Aprian, or as the King James translation puts it, the everlasting gospel. No, the fall of Babylon is yet future.

I have been called everything from a "futurist" to a moron because of my views, but according to the evidence I see, I feel that the Holy Spirit has revealed these things to me through diligent study and prayer, and that they come much near the truth than that which many are teaching with regards to the so-called "everlasting gospel."

As you say, people are bound by creeds and dogmas, and have little tolerance for the views of others. However, I feel that the best test of our religion is how we react to our brother with whom we disagree. I am not nearly so dogmatic as I used to be. When I was in my youth and an Adventist, I thought I knew about all there was to know about the Scriptures. But, the older I get the more I find out that I didn't know. Now, I am only sure of one thing, that I could be mistaken. I only want to discuss these things in love, in an effort to learn the whole truth. You are at liberty to disagree with me if you like. In fact, I would like to know if there are any evidences which refute this idea. Perhaps you would be good enough to show me if there are any. Best regards and Christian love, I am--

Your brother in Christ,