

Interoffice

AC 1048-2

*Copy to Russ Herrmann*

To: MR. DEAN BLACKWELL

DEPT CHURCH OFFICES

DATE JUNE 12, 1984

From: KEN HERRMANN

DEPT.

Subject: THE UNUSUAL BELIEFS OF PASTOR RUSSELL AS CONTRASTED WITH THE J.W.S.

YOUR LECTURE ON CHURCH HISTORY AT THE REFRESHING COURSE PROMPTS THE ATTACHED MATERIAL. GOOD MANY YEARS BACK I RAN ONTO 30 YEARS OF HIS WORK AND WAS BAFFLED HOW MANY OF "OUR BELIEFS" HE HELD, BELIEFS WHICH THE J.W.S UNDER RUTHERFORD DROPPED. YOUR EMPHASIS ON THE WORK OF WILLIAM MILLER AND THE DATE 1831, I BELIEVE, AND THE FACT THAT IT WAS 1931 WHEN THE NAME CHURCH OF GOD WAS CHANGED TO J.W.S AND THAT WAS AN IMPORTANT YEAR IN MR. ARMSTRONG'S CONVERSION, AND ITS RELATION TO THE YEAR 31, ALL THESE MAKE A PERSON QUESTION. IS THE WORK OF PASTOR RUSSELL ALSO PART OF THE SARDIS ERA?

I SENT THE ATTACHED MATERIAL TO MR. ARMSTRONG VIA MR. HULME BACK ABOUT A YEAR AGO BUT HAVE HEARD NOTHING. AND I HAVE SENT THE MATERIAL PIECEMEAL TO DR. HOEH OVER THE YEARS AS I RAN ONTO IT.

MY EARLY QUESTION WAS WITH REGARD TO THE DIFFERING PASSOVER DATES USED BY THE J.W.S TODAY, AND IN SEARCHING BACK FOR 100 YEARS FOUND THAT UNDER RUSSELL THEY KEPT THE RIGHT DATE ABOUT 80% OF THE TIME, WHILE UNDER RUTHERFORD THEY KEPT THE WRONG DATE ABOUT 80% OF THE TIME.

ANOTHER ODDITY THAT I RAN ONTO WAS THE EMPHASIS ON THE NUMBER 5. TITLES WERE CHOSEN THAT WOULD HAVE MULTIPLES OF 5 LETTERS, JUST AS BIBLE AND JESUS AND MAYBE CROSS HAVE 5 LETTERS. SARDIS WAS ERA NUMBER 5! LOOK AT "ZION'S WATCH TOWER". THEN ADD "AND BIBLE TRACT SOCIETY" FOR A TOTAL OF 35 OR 7 x 5 LETTERS. AN ODDITY.

THEN FOR FUN LOOK AT THE GROUP MRS. E.G. WHITE LED ASTRAY. THEY PUT OUT "SIGNS" AND "SIGNS OF THE TIMES" FOR 15 LETTERS. SARDIS?

*Ken Herrmann*