

The Mustard Seed Advent

Vegetarianism and Atonement

07-Dct-07

CAPTION:

“The MSC stands tall on its dietary reform. The irrefutable evidence which it establishes from the Bible and the SOP incontrovertibly manifest that vegetarianism, a customary practice endorsed by inspiration yesterday, is ---in the light of advancing truth--- no longer to be imposed upon the saints. Those who do not understand and accept this sophisticated finding simply do not understand the workings of the Lord. To them His ways are still as mysterious as they were at the beginning of Adventism. But the MSC ask a simple question: if this doctrine is the work of deception, then would it not be easier to continue in that which Adventist already accept, a vegetarian façade, than to go against the grain of common understanding, and challenge that highly prized tradition? ...”

Dear Brother Jose,

You sent to me a copy of Brother Accardo’s E-mail seeking a response. Sadly, he does not wish a reply from me, and I will honor his request. If you chose to do so, you may forward to him this E-mail. He wrote to you the following:

“Jose, Although I am not interested in this MSC nonsense, it amazes me that people can be so insipid as to think that the Lord would want us to take a backwards step in our growth and health reform... what Derek proposes is Health Deform...” —His E-mail, Tuesday, 02-Oct-07, 10:56:40

Thankfully, included with those sharp comments, Bro. Accardo was honest enough to quote the paragraph from my E-mail pertaining to vegetarianism. It is a portion of the MSC’s powerful argument to show that the disciplines enforced legitimately yesterday, are not necessarily wise practices for inspiration to validate today. The MSC’s E-mail statement which he included in his reply to you, reads as follows:

“Even our bread today is not real bread. It is not made to deliver health to you, but to be mass produced by machines, to be extruded into baking pans, to be readily packaged, to resist insects, and to sit on a grocer’s shelf. EGW disapproved of eating flesh, but what is her opinion on high fructose, corn syrup; monodiglycerides; datem, calcium propionate, sodium stearoyl lactylate, monosodium glutamate etc. These are just a few of the trace substances which many vegetarians consume in their substitution of flesh. I would not be so cruel to feed these lab products to animals; yet, because EGW and VTH are deceased, we think we have cart blanche to consume anything so long as it is not flesh. If the human body is at risk at overdosing from man-made mineral supplements, how much greater is the risk to eat these laboratory engineered products. Have we become the lab rats? Is there any wonder why diseases are rampant amongst us, even among the vegetarians. Yesterday, the bread we ate was more wholesome than the meat. It was made the way bread was always made, for the past 6000 years: flour, oil, water, yeast. The flour used then was more wholesome and less plastic. The sad reality is that we have stopped eating flesh and began to consume more bread. Today, the clean meat, regulated by the USDA, may not be the best, but it is more sanitary than was those portions purchased in the markets 2000 years ago discussed in Act 15 by the disciples. Then there were no regulations; yet, the saints were not compelled by the New Testament Church to remove it from their diets unless it was contaminated by idolatry. Today, a cow is still a cow and a chicken a chicken.

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These products are more wholesome than are our store brought, chemically-produced bread; yet we still make the same substitution. But caution must be taken, we must use other means such as fasting, such as eating a balance of wholesome fruits and vegetables, such as exercising, in order to keep our systems flush and detoxified. There is an added benefit: Unlike the days of EGW, fruits and vegetables from wholesome markets are available in every season. But, more than the promotion of this tactic for good health, we must consume the Bread which has come down from Heaven, the bread intended to give us everlasting life now being served by the MSA. We must believe in the fullness of Christ. The message promised to us in the last day. Without taking this advance step in maturity, our death is certain, and by trusting in diet to prolong our days, we are merely playing with numbers, for without the Lord's fountain, we have no life. This is the message of the MSA" —His citation of a prior MSC E-mail

Bro. Accardo does not seek to refute the fact that the consumption of flesh was a scripturally honorable practice which was mandatory for Israel ever since the Exodus. Nowhere in the Bible can any prove that abstinence from clean meat has ever been mandatory. In fact, Jesus, in His work to the seven churches of Revelation, the last book in the Bible, speaks to dietary reform by condemning the churches of Pergamos and Thyatira (Rev 2: 14-20) for consuming foods sacrificed to idols. Such would have been an excellent opportunity to advance the theme of abstinence from all flesh; yet, quite curiously, He did not. Therefore, since Bro. Accardo does not present scriptural evidence to justify vegetarianism, then not only can a concession of scriptural legitimacy and validity for the MSC's position now be safely inferred, but we can also recognize that he understands vegetarianism to be an elective and a voluntary practice, like all-night prayer sessions or special group fast, or monthly Bible studies. When the issue in this way is brought into sharper focus, it is easy to discern that abstinence from flesh, vegetarianism, is indeed a fast, legitimately orchestrated by Davidia's former leader, VTH, a fast, a self-imposed affliction, which has been honorably chosen yesterday. It cannot be a progressive idea of advancing righteousness for, as shown in the prior E-mail entitled *Disciple Drop-outs or Graduates*, Aug 13, 2007, the Lord created all vegetarians as creatures without gall bladders. Adam was given a gall bladder; his creation was pronounced to be good; therefore, Adam was not intended to be a vegetarian in spite of the diet given to him in the first moments after his creation. This being the case and realizing that VTH has been gone from us for 50 years, we must now discern the answer to the key question today: what is the medium of sacrifice, the fast, which inspiration now elects? *Isa 58*, a *Golden-bowl* text demands for Davidia, by the mouth of the Lord, to embrace the fast that the Lord has chosen. It is the Elijah commission of turning the hearts of the father's to the children, or expressed differently, a softening of our Davidian hearts to Israel, the sons of America's former slaves (see EGW, VI, 346, 347). Isaiah says the following:

"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet and shew my people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins.... Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? Wherefore have we AFFLICTED our soul, and thou takest no knowledge?... Is it such a fast that I have chosen?... Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread (to teach your gospel of Christ) to the hungry (not the satisfied Laodiceans), and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house?..." —Isa 58:1-6

Being a man called to deliver the "straight testimony", I am forced to wonder, since Bro. Accardo expressed to you great rage about the picture of the Lord in 4.1 whereby the MSC, to his disdain, depicted Jesus with a complexion divergent from the traditional image that we have been given by artists, a complexion with a darker skin tone, a tone that is more reflective of Middle-Eastern men today and even more so 2000 years ago, could this be his true objection to the MSC? Could he, knowing the socio-political incorrectness of his views, be masking his true feelings behind his disdain for men of a darker hue? Could it be that, contrary to the fast which the Lord has chosen, he insists on shooing away from the Lord's house, the church, the men who share that darker skin-toned image, the sons of America's former slaves? Instead of electing that fast which the Lord has chosen, could it be that he prefers another fast, vegetarianism?

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You well know that the reference from the MSC (printed in blue above) is not all that it has written to de-emphasize the Adventist, superfluous standard of vegetarianism. Yet, as a synopsis, it clearly expresses enough information to convince any reasonable person. Merely by reading that paragraph which Brother Accardo copied to the end of his E-mail, all can see the logic of the MSC's well-defined position. It has carefully articulated its doctrine of diet in many other places and studies as well, and if more ammunition is needed, the MSC will gladly share all of its published and unpublished evidences to honest men who seek the truth unimpeded by ugly, anti-Christian biases. If such hungry souls need more insights, the MSC will be glad to give them even more advanced arguments. One which will now be addressed is the requirement to no longer practice self affliction in the time after *the Day of Atonement*. Anciently, Israel was told, ***“Whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted •••IN THE SAME DAY ••• he shall be cut off from among his people”*** —Lev 23:29. Take great care to notice, no special or specific burden of affliction was described by the Lord; Israel was free to choose their own affliction. They could fast all day, they could deny themselves conjugal relations, they could hop all day on one leg, They could run for several miles, etc, there was no specific, preset, scriptural definition to this mandate. The only requirement was that they deny themselves, in a painful way, the benefits which they normally and legally enjoyed: this was called self affliction. Therefore, in the antitype, AKA *the Antitypical Day of Atonement*, a time beginning in 1844, the same would apply: Inspiration had the right to enforce non-scriptural standards requiring great inconvenience for the church in that day. But the day is coming to a close; this is part of the- Elijah -message. Consequently, we must discern what happens after *The Day of Atonement* is over? Clearly, with its end, so also brought an end to the requisite for self affliction —the saints could relax their extra-intense obeisance and worship. This is another angle to show why vegetarianism will not be enforced in the Kingdom.

Furthermore, *the Antitypical Day of Atonement*, the age of Adventism, covers many generations. It is only logical that in each of those generations, the Sharon period, the Carmel period, the Bashan period, and the last one, the Mustard Seed phase, that the standards of self affliction would adjust to meet the requirements of those periods. During EGW's generation, vegetarianism was slowly introduced. Then in VTH's generation, vegetarianism was the inspired, self-imposed affliction of choice. Later, during the MJ Bingham, Bashan generation, we were asked to fast for one day per month as well as to continue our practice of vegetarianism. But as evidenced by their passing, we have come to the last stage of the antitypical period. For this very last generation, the one which witnesses and receives His Mustard Seed Kingdom, the Lord has defined for us, the fast, the affliction of the soul, in which He has chosen. Today is the time when the disciples who are to preside over the 144,000 (see Matt 19) are on the scene, or to put it another way, today is the day when the 12 sons of Jacob, the Antitypical house of Jacob, is to emerge. Anciently, the house of Jacob included the very group of twelve men who procreated to produce the children of Israel. EGW, VTH, MJB and many other stellar saints will not be included in that number; they will not be among the “disciples” of the Lord. Their work was interrupted by death; thus, the Lord requires for this last generation, the Antitypical House of Jacob, a different affliction. As the *Day of Atonement* closes, He requires that they give birth to their figurative children, Israel, the 144,000. For this assignment a great change in the hearts of men like Brother Accardo and all other Davidians is required: they need compassion for His afflicted people. This explains why the MSC, against Bro. Accardo's presumption, is not moving “backwards” but forwards. Those of us who embrace the MSA and resultantly, who voluntarily take upon ourselves the Lord's yoke and endure the persecution, rejection, bitter hostility, and anger which brother Accardo, and many other loved ones like him seek to impose on the MSA, is in itself our very own affliction of the soul. It is integral to the fast which the Lord has chosen because we are hated for the message which demands that we declare and the new burdens which He requires of us. Enduring such antipathy, especially from family, is very distressing; yet, we willfully suffer. Thus, we need not any longer latch ourselves to superfluous,

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non-scriptural, burdens such as vegetarianism as pittance to comply with the requirements for this time. The Mustard Seed clearly defines the fast that the Lord has chosen; and those who embrace it He promises passage in this last day of Atonement. Those who reject this fast, even though they may be vegetarians, will be cut off, they will not be members of the newly cleansed sanctuary at the end of that symbolic day. A mere review of the Lord's promise to those who choose His fast, His soul affliction, will convince the honest of this fact. The following graces and blessings underlined below are things which all in Davidian, these 77 years, have longed for:

“Is not this the fast that I have chosen?...to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?...when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him: and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh...Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee;...Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer”—Isa 58: 5-9

Please note, your health will not come from a non-scriptural diet, from vegetarianism, it comes from abandoning bigotry and receiving the Lord's burden, His affliction as the *Day of Atonement* comes to its close. This change of heart is that which the Lord promises will give you health! Thus, any Davidian who worries about sickness from the consumption of biblically-defined clean flesh is not true to his profession: like Judas, he is a phony and pretentious disciple. Did not the Lord show us to ask Father's blessing on our food? Why then do any fear “mad-cow disease” from the consumption of foods which He, Himself proclaimed to be wholesome and clean? Many today have great reason to fear sickness and death from all the hazards which surround us, but not the true Davidian, the one who is shepherded by the Lord and comforted by His *Rod*. For ancient David professes his confidence in the Lord's protection. He said, I am led by Christ; the Lord is my Shepherd. He also gave recognition to the many dangers and life-threatening hazards which concerns the world; even still, David said such hazards do not trouble him. He said, **“yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear not evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”** —Ps 23 . If the hazards of contaminated foods worry Bro. Accardo or any other Davidian, then I recommend that he increase his faith by claiming the righteousness of Christ. In so doing, He will have the mind of Christ. This will cause him to have the peace of David as he fully submits to the Lord's guidance and as he allows Him to be his Shepherd, to lead and direct his path. Then, comforted by the Lord's care for him, he will do as did Christ by asking Father in a non-presumptuous way to bless his food. For a Davidian to do otherwise is to nullify *the 23rd Psalm*, David's life directive, and to consequently become recognized as a phony Davidian.

There are also many other arguments which explains why the Lord's church could have embraced a practice yesterday, at the promptings of inspiration, and have abandoned it today without going backwards. Consider the “Impressive Dream” by EGW expressed in Vol 2, 594. It showed the SDA church's path from the beginning unto the end. It started out broad; it ended with the saints holding on to the cords from heaven, an obvious reference to the Bible. With both hands clinging tenaciously to the cords and with the path so narrow, then, at that stage, we cannot retain the luggage which we thought was so important to us yesterday. Thus it needs to be discarded. Remember, the luggage we packed in the beginning of the journey was the luggage which we discarded while on our way. Both the packing and the disposal of our baggage were directed by our need for progression and by inspiration. What else could luggage represent except those things which, in the beginning of Adventism, we felt to be necessary to finish the journey, our non-scriptural doctrines.

The MSC stands tall on its dietary reform. The irrefutable evidence which it establishes from the Bible and the SOP incontrovertibly manifests that vegetarianism, a customary practice endorsed by inspiration yesterday, is ---in the light of advancing truth--- no longer to be imposed upon the saints. Those who do not understand and accept this sophisticated finding simply do not understand the workings of the Lord. To them His ways are still as mysterious as they were at the beginning of Adventism. But the MSC ask a simple question: if this doctrine is the work

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of deception, then would it not be easier to continue in that which Adventist already accept, a vegetarian façade, than to go against the grain of common understanding, and challenge that tradition? While all ponder upon that question, consider yet another MSC justification for non-enforcement of vegetarianism: consider that it is Lord's desire to remedy Laodicea from her misery or suffer her to be spued out of His mouth. She is miserable; she doesn't know it; and the Lord desires for the victorious saints to be made merry as He closes His work for the seven churches. This desire will come, only when the prodigal, one who is now outside the house, is brought back home. When this glorious episode occurs, the Lord will command His servants saying "***bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry***"—Luke 15:23. Obviously, according to the Lord, merriment comes with eating delicacies such as the "fatted calf". Careful analysis would suggest that, to induce the emotion of merriment, the Lord would include wine; such, was an acceptable beverage historically in Israel. However, the consumption of intoxicating drinks, was prohibited by the Lord's Testimony. He commanded His disciples in this regard as follows: "***Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with ...drunkenness...so that day come upon you unawares***"—Luke 21:34. Plainly, the Lord, proving that His words are carefully chosen, does not include wine as a source of merriment. Had He done so, then He would be doing the impossible: making a proverbial promise which violates His very own Testimony. Yet, the men who now see the prodigal, as he lingers outside of the SDA Church, living like the pig in his sty, who celebrate his continued humiliation, will never joy in that sons return home. Consequently, such hard-hearted Davidians, men whose charity does not suffer long and is unkind will, unless they immediately change, be condemn to eternal misery. Their strict vegetarian diets will not help them.

Sincerely,

Derek