

# **Reply to “The question of being, ‘built up’”; Amery-1**

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- The purpose of this reply is not a comparative teaching of VT Houteff's views in contrast to EG White's on certain Bible topics. We are engaged in a discussion on the credibility of the Bible, whether or not GOD will be true to His promises made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Israel, his seed.
- I want the reader to consider himself isolated on a planet/island, where the principle of *sola scriptura* (the Bible only) is the rule to guide his or her understanding, and devoid of any other human intervention, what conclusions can be drawn from the promises given in the Word, promises of a restored Israel "in the latter days" (Isa. 2: 2,3), in Palestine, with capital in Jerusalem from whence emanates the everlasting gospel—the Law of YHWH.
- With this perspective, I will neither quote from EGW or VTH in this assessment, but to simply let the Bible speak.

# Quotes from Amery's E-mails

- “The account provided here by the White estate does a good job of providing proper historical context into the statements made by EGW in 1850 in the passage from Early Writings page 75,76”
- “What does built up mean? What does built up mean *here*? If the author of this table had utilized critical thinking skills he wouldn't have dare put this question out there for people to challenge.” — Amery's e-mail 12/ 7/12
- “This is obvious talking about **spiritually built** up. How can we know this? the clues are right in the passage.” Amery's E-mail 12/2/12

# Spiritual “built up” only?

- Observe that Ellen White clearly states: “for those who think that they are yet to go to Jerusalem will have **their minds there, and their means** will be withheld from the cause of present truth, **to get themselves and others there.**” “ Does he believe that the purpose of their “means” diverting method would simply take the m to Jerusalem only to be nomads, and peasants on the land? The author’s intention is clear, that “their means will be withheld from the cause of present truth...” We use our “means” to build up, and so the Seventh-day Adventist church, while a “spiritual” entity in America and the world has done an awesome amount of building up. We have schools, hospitals, publishing houses, universities, sanitariums, health centers, and a plethora of other things, not excluding satellites, etc.—this is what “built up” means.

- Now, let's examine the very sentence he cited in defense of the notion of a mere "spiritual" buildup of Jerusalem: "I saw that such a mission would accomplish no real good, that **it would take a long while to make a very few of the Jews believe even in the first advent of Christ**, much more to believe in **His second advent**. "
- With the test of time at our disposal, can any honest minded person (Christian, Agnostic, Atheist, Jew, Gentile, Adventist, etc.) intelligently articulate a position defending the notion "**that it would take a long while to make a very few of the Jews believe even in the first advent of Christ,**" without twisting history and reality? Have you, my brother, heard of the Messianic Jews? By your own admission, you related the experience of a Jewish man on 3ABN who reported he accepted Christ as his personal savior from sin, simply by reading the book Prophets and Kings. How hard was it to convince him, a Jew, of either the first or Second Advent? Hardly more than the completion of reading the book. So the statement: "**it would take a long while to make a very few of the Jews believe even in the first advent of Christ,**" is inaccurate for today. It has not stood the test of time. There are literally thousands of Jews who are accepting Christ on a yearly basis, and there is no arm-twisting involved, your 3ABN is proof.

# Spiritual “Build Up” of Jerusalem

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zionism#History>

Population of Palestine by ethno-religious groups

<a href="#">[32]</a>					
year	<a href="#">Muslims</a>	<a href="#">Jews</a>	<a href="#">Christians</a>	Others	Total
1922	486,177 (74.91%)	83,790 (12.91%)	<b>71,464</b> (11.01%)	7,617 (1.17%)	649,048
1931	493,147 (64.32%)	174,606 (22.77%)	88,907 (11.60%)	10,101 (1.32%)	766,761
1941	906,551 (59.68%)	474,102 (31.21%)	125,413 (8.26%)	12,881 (0.85%)	1,518,947
1946	1,076,783 (58.34%)	608,225 (32.96%)	<b>145,063</b> (7.86%)	15,488 (0.84%)	1,845,559
1950	116,100	1,203,000			

- “So, we can **clearly see** that this person who arranged this table was (A). not sure of what EGW meant (B.) Mislead by Rodian pick-a-quote/verse theology [see quote below] (C). aimed to mislead the readers.” —Amery’s e-mail; 12/?/12
- In your earlier e-mails on this chart you argued away the plain facts that Jerusalem has experienced a rapid “build up” of Christians, although the evidence shows differently. You further argued that “build up” was only in a “spiritual” context, but this could hardly be true, for EGW protested that “means would be withheld” from the cause of present truth, to get themselves and others there. They would need a place to operate from, so a physical build up would definitely follow.
- “I’d like to get into the characteristics of “old Jerusalem” and why it will **never** be, “built up” to **where it once stood.**” —Amery 12/7/12

- I should like to know what the LORD meant when he spoke the following words:
- “In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and **Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem.**” Zech. 12: 6. The phrase “in her own place” is a direct equivalent to the expression of Amery’s: “where it once stood.” I will allow you to resolve your “never” since the Bible does not allow for it.
- Note that this statement was made after the Creator issued his resume in Zech. 12: 1
- This chapter has to be fulfilled in the Messianic age, for said the Prophet:
- “And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon **the inhabitants of Jerusalem**, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they **shall look upon me whom they have pierced**, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.” Zech. 12: 10

# Prophecies fail due to Conditionality

- This verse shows that Calvary was “behind” them, when the saints saw the hands of HIM that were “pierced” for their sins, thus placing this event of Jerusalem’s habitation post Calvary, and deep into the Christian era. It is at this time too that he pours out “the spirit of grace and of supplications”—the latter rain, upon his Church—the House of David. This clearly tells us that it is probationary time, hence pre-millennial!
- “Old Jerusalem/Israel did not fulfill their end of the bargain. **The promise made to them was conditional.** This point can hardly be argued after the proclamation that Jesus made. It was a clear sentence handed down.” — Amery 12/7/12
- It is true that the promises made to Israel were conditional, but so are every other divine promise—they are all conditional. Conditional does not mean that God will do His part as long as we do our part. This is not a quid-pro-quo, but an oath made on the authority and integrity of the Law Giver.

# Conditionality, Cont...

- The only exclusions to a conditional, is the individuals themselves may not receive the benefits of the promises, however, the promises will be fulfilled in all their bearings. The promise of Christ to take us to heaven is a real conditional promise. If every Christian will reject Christ today, and never repent, he will still come the second time in Glory. The only difference is that we will not be recipients of the “blessings” of his return, but only the curses thereof.
- The classical Adventist view of conditional promises is simply this: “they will not be fulfilled,” as long as one party (humans) defaults on their end of the contract (agreement). This is a purely legal usage of the phrase, and does respite to a Divine covenant promise
- In the legal sense: [“Conditional promise” is a term of Obligation \(read more...\)](#). **“Definition of conditional promise:** a promise to perform in the event of something else happens.” [http://law-dictionary.clearpointlaw.com/c/conditional-promise\\_Obl.aspx](http://law-dictionary.clearpointlaw.com/c/conditional-promise_Obl.aspx)
- This legal usage of the term “conditional” cannot be extrapolated to embrace the mind of God, and the teachings of Inspiration. Human conditionality is not a divine priority, they are mutually exclusive.

# “Bringing Forth the Fruits Thereof”

- On the other hand, Conditionality with YHWH means that we lose out of his promises when they are fulfilled, because if we fail to do our part, even “the stones will cry out,” so to speak, so that His part remains in force. This confirms the teachings of Christ: “Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be **taken from you**, and **given** to a nation **bringing forth the fruits thereof.**” Mat 21:43
- The expression “bringing forth the fruits thereof,” needs expanding upon: This means that because of ancient Israel’s failure as a nation, they lost the privilege of being the ambassadors of grace, to take the everlasting gospel of the Kingdom to a lost and dying world, hence, that generation and many thereafter perished without hope of eternal life in Christ, and what would have been theirs has been “given to a nation bringing forth **the fruits thereof.**” This tells us that the foundations of the Kingdom of glory had always been, and continues to be **spiritual**, and conditional, and those who did not meet the **spiritual** conditions of fruit bearing—“bringing forth the **fruits** there of” (See. Gal. 5: 19-26)—lost their privilege of entrance therein; while the promises are still in force on God’s part. Thus the anointed Apostle under the Spirit of Prophecy warns “that they which do such things [**not bringing forth the fruits thereof**] shall not inherit **the kingdom of God.**” Gal. 5: 21
- This means conditional, and only those who bear the fruits of righteousness will “inherit the Kingdom of God.”

# Conditional Promises

- As already established, the legal term “conditional” cannot be used to fully comprehend the eternal promises made by our Creator, as conditional with him, simply means that the unfaithful stewards, will be denied access to the benefits of the promises when they are consummated. That they will be realized, is most definite, but not necessarily with the ones to whom the promises were originally made. This is a very clear teaching in the Scriptures, though not embraced by our Adventist theologians. Let’s now analyze:
- “For the gifts and calling of God are **without repentance.**” Rom. 11: 29. What does “repentance” in the negative here mean? Let’s see it in several Bible versions (translations):
- [English Standard Version \(©2001\)](#): “For the gifts and the calling of God are **irrevocable.**”
- [King James 2000 Bible \(©2003\)](#): “For the gifts and calling of God are **unchangeable.**”
- [New International Version \(©1984\)](#): “for God's gifts and his call are **irrevocable.**”
- The weight of evidence suggests that God cannot change (Mal. 4:6), and so He will honor his word.

# Conditional, Cont...

- [Aramaic Bible in Plain English \(©2010\)](#): “For God does not change in his gifts and in his callings.”
- When the Almighty One made a covenant with Abraham, he anchored it not on earth, as it will decay, not in the starry heavens, as they will pass away, and not on Israel, because they would apostatize, but He grounded it on Himself:
- “13 For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, **he sware by himself**, 14 Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. 16 For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. 17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise **the immutability of his counsel**, confirmed it by an oath: 18 That by two **immutable things**, in which it was **impossible for God to lie**, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us.” Heb. 6: 13-18
- YHWH cannot lie—he is the foundation of truth, and His promises are sure and secure, they are “immutable.” Conditional means that the “immutable” promises will be fulfilled in His time and at His appointment through His chosen people—the Elect—a nation who brings forth fruits of repentance—Kingdom fruits.

# Conditional Cont...

- “Old Jerusalem/Israel did not fulfill their end of the bargain. The promise made to them was conditional. This point can hardly be argued after the proclamation that Jesus made. It was a clear sentence handed down.” Amery, “Built Up”, p. 1
- I would hope that your views on the legal word “conditional” have now been updated, as illustrated above, to embrace the eternal—immutable—view of the Creator’s. In this regard, the presentation of Biblical “conditionality,” to quote you, “can hardly be argued.”
- You contend: “It's **absolutely absurd** for someone to assert that **God is bound to his promises** regardless of what WE do as a people.” Amery’s e-mail 12/23/12. In all humility, Brother Amery, I trust that you now see the futility of your arguments. They are built on a wrong premise, a premise which does not meet, or honor the “immutability” of the Promise Keeper. This is the classical Adventist seminarian theology, one which countermands the Scriptures, and makes the Creator into an Omnipotent liar.

# Conditional Cont...

- We may be zealous for the truth, but we must never, like Uzza to his demise, try to help the cart with the ark! God uses his terms and he defines them too, we must be humble enough to accept that He is the boss, and knows how to glorify Himself.
- “Jer 18:10 If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them. Notice 18:10 starts off with the word, 'if' In English Grammar, "If" starts what's know as conditionals. <http://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/conditionals.html>” Amery’s e-mail 12/23/12
- I am intentionally belaboring this point, because your concept is greatly flawed, and unless this is resolved, the Bible prophecies will be a collection of meaningless words to you, and those who share your views. For your information, the word “if” is not the ONLY conditional starter word, and though I am not a Grammarian, please permit me to develop this thought below:

- “If” is not the only conditional starter word, contrary to seminary theology. Realize too that the words “when,” “had,” “had I,” “therefore,” “before,” “after,” “because,” and “since,” to cite a few examples, are all conditional starter words. This is another primal Adventist ignorantiam theology, one which sees “if” as *the only* conditional starter, and so any expression without an explicit “if” does not qualify as a conditional. *SDA Bible Commentary, Volume 4*, pp. 18-40, is rife with this type of unbiblical tunnel-visioned argumentum.
- Since Jeremiah 18 is the one passage which Adventists appeal to with great pride for defense, when they are trying to negate the “immutable” promises of YHWH, I shall dwell on their foundation passages for a while. Let’s first get our Bible Scholars in their own words, countermanding the “irrevocable” promises of God, then expose the error therein.

# SDA Theology Examined

- “Owing to **the failure of the Jews as God’s chosen people**, many of the prophecies of the Old Testament, such as those affirming **the worldwide mission of Israel and the ingathering of the Gentiles** (see Gen. 12:3; Deut 4:6-8; Isa. 2: 2-5; 43:6; 49:6; 52:10; 56:6-7; 60:1-3; 61:9; 62:2; Zech. 2:11; 8:22,32; etc), those pointing forward to **the eternal rest in Canaan** (Isa. 11:6-9; 35; 63:17-25; 66:20-23; Jer. 17:25; Eze. 37; 40-48; Zech. 2:6-12; 14:4-11), and those promising deliverance from her enemies (Isa. 2:10-21; 24-46; Eze. 38, 39; Joel 3; Zeph. 1; 2; Zech 9:9-17; 10-14; etc.), **have never been and can never be fulfilled** to them as a nation.” *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 4, p. 34 © 1976

# Cont...

- “God’s word is sure..., and His plan for the salvation of man will ultimately prevail (Isa. 46:10). With Him there is ‘no variableness, neither shadow of turning,’ (James 1:17)...Eventually God’s purposes will prevail and the plan of salvation will succeed, irrespective of the failure of any person or group (PK, 705, 706). The plan itself never changes because God never changes. **But the manner in which it is carried out may change because man may change.** The fickle, human will is the weak, unstable factor in *conditional prophecy...The covenant with literal Israel proved faulty*, not because God failed to carry out His part of the covenant, but rather because Israel’s fair promises proved evanescent as the morning dew.” *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 4, p. 34 © 1976

# Cont...

- Let's go beyond the **double speaking above** and see the Truth of the matter. We expect to hear this from 1<sup>st</sup> day worshippers, that God's covenant was "faulty," and so he necessarily had to revise it. This "evanescent" fault in the covenant was simply this: He made a covenant promise the people could not keep! Sounds familiar? "He made a law that the people could not keep!" But this type of argument coming from an Adventist, gives much cause for concern. We must allow the BIBLE to be the basis of our faith, not through the eyes of Ellen G. White, but through the eye of the Holy Spirit. This is not to say EGW has no place in the theological construct of our beliefs, but those constructions must be anchored in Holy Writ.
- The expression, "**Eventually God's purposes will prevail and the plan of salvation will succeed, irrespective of the failure of any person or group,**" stands in stark contrast to the rest of the views surrounding it. These theologians were playing safe, and looking for a hiding place, thus they inserted this line, but the overall tenor of their theory is to countermand the scriptures, suggesting that He who scattered Israel will not gather them again to Himself. We will examine the verses shortly, after this foundation of conditionality has been securely established.

# Cont...

- 6 O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel... **I will scatter them** as with an east wind before the enemy; I will shew them the back, and not the face, in the day of their calamity." Jer. 18: 6, 17
- "6 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that this place shall no more be called Tophet, nor The valley of the son of Hinnom, but The valley of slaughter.
- 7 And I will make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place; and **I will cause them to fall by the sword before their enemies**, and by the hands of them that seek their lives: and their carcasses will I give to be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth.
- 8 And **I will make this city desolate**, and an hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished and hiss because of all the plagues thereof." Jer. 19: 6-8
- Here we see that the Almighty pre-planned to scatter Israel, thus "I will scatter them" with the east wind, but did He pre-plan to gather them together again? I will save this for later.

# Cont...

- The context of the above verses, shows that Israel's rebellion did not take the Promise Keeper by surprise: He knew ahead of time that they'd fall, and made plans to drive them out of His land. The real question now is this: will HE restore them to the land? Did He promise such a restoration? Can the Potter do with the clay what He wills? Does the clay have the last word in this pottery story, or does the Potter? Can the Potter make a new lump of clay from the old lump, and fulfill His will through them?
- "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Even so will I break this people and this city, as one breaketh a potter's vessel, that **cannot be made whole again**: and they shall bury them in Tophet, till there be no place to bury." Jer 19:11
- Some have taught that since the expression "potter's vessel.. cannot be made whole again," is made, it means that God has forever doomed all possibility of Israel's restoration through a goodly remnant. We will shortly see that the Heavenly Potter has other intentions for Jerusalem, and will honor all His words.

# Cont...

- 8 But now, O LORD, thou art our father; **we are the clay, and thou our potter**; and we all are the work of thy hand.
- 9 Be not wroth very sore, O LORD, neither remember iniquity for ever: behold, see, we beseech thee, we are all thy people.
- 10 Thy holy cities are a wilderness, **Zion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation.**
- 11 **Our holy and our beautiful house [Jerusalem]**, where our fathers praised thee, **is burned up with fire**: and all our pleasant things are **laid waste**.
- 12 Wilt thou refrain thyself for these things, O LORD? wilt thou hold thy peace, and afflict us very sore? **Isa. 64: 8-12**
- In these verses the Potter-clay relationship is seen, and the clay asked the Potter a searching question: will You “refrain” from your wrath against us and our “beautiful house” on account of our repentance? which question He answers below:

# Cont...

- “8 ¶ Thus saith the LORD, As the **new wine** is found in the cluster, and one saith, **Destroy it not**; for a blessing is in it: **so will I do for my servants’ sakes, that I may not destroy them all**. 9 And I will bring forth a **seed** out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and **mine elect shall inherit it**, and my servants **shall dwell** there. 10 And **Sharon** shall be a fold of flocks, and the **valley of Achor** a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have **sought me**.” Isa. 65: 8-10
- God has answered and declared that he will bring forth a seed—a remnant—out of Jacob (144,000), they are called his “elect,” and they “shall inherit” the land and “dwell there,” in the “mountains” of Israel. There are literal places also mentioned to establish this restoration on this earth: “Sharon” and “the valley of Achor” are literal places of Israel’s spiritual victories.
- In verse 9 he shows that “a seed of Jacob”—the 144,000 sons of Jacob (Israel, Rev. 7: 4-8), “shall dwell there”—in the “mountains” of Israel. And in verse 8 He shows that “a blessing is in it” for Israel’s sake.

# Cont....

- “Hath not the potter power over the clay, of **the same lump** to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? [What] if God, willing to show [his] wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on **the vessels of mercy**, which he had **afore prepared unto glory**, Even **us**, whom he hath called, **not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?**” Romans 9:21
- In this new piece of pottery work, the master Potter will take clay from both Jews and Gentiles to the perfection of his promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and so in this regard, the immutable promises of God will stand.

# What's In "the Promise"?

- “O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen. He [is] the LORD our God: his judgments [are] in all the earth. He hath remembered **his covenant for ever**, the word [which] he commanded to **a thousand generations**. Which [**covenant**] he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac; And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a **law**, [and] to Israel [for] an **everlasting covenant**: Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance.” Psalms 105:6-11
- This promise holds good for 1000 generations. The earth will never become 1000 generations before Christ returns, which fact suggests that His promises are secure, even with the lapse of time.

# How Long is a Generation?

- 43 years = 1 generation (Matt. 1:17)
- 1,000 generations = 43,000 years!
- The life expectancy of our earth under probation is 6000 years
- $43,000/6000 = 7.17$  times  $\sim 7$  Times!
- “Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in **no wise pass** from the law [Torah], till **ALL** be fulfilled.” Matt. 5: 18
- He’s got all the time in the world to get His kingdom work done, and still vacation the saints to heave for 1,000 years. Let’s start seeing things from His perspective, and not from Andrews Thologica or Loma Linda Theological Seminary. I have seen some of the productions from these institutions, and am hopeful that people are beginning to awake from the century plus old slumber party on this Bible-based subject. Persons such as the late Dr. Roy Allen Anderson, in his epic book —**All Eyes On Israel**, and the late Dr. HMS Richards, who wrote the forward to that book (please get a copy and check it out) are seeing the glimmerings of this light. As Adventists we’ve been living in denial of the positive Scriptures which declare the Creator’s desire to honor His promise to Abraham.

# The Church Is Rebuked

- “His promises to Abraham included much more than that narrow strip of land on the east of the Mediterranean Sea for in Romans 4:13, we read that Abraham would be “heir of the world.” That promise was fantastic, too big for him, or even for us, to fully comprehend. But we can at least try to grasp it. ***Some readers may have to lay aside a few preconceived ideas as the authors of All Eyes On Israel had to do many years ago.*** But the larger concept of God's purpose for His ancient people adds much to our understanding of God's revelation and ***in no way does it undermine the beauty of truth; it enhances it.*** ***To change one's prophetic viewpoint is not easy, but to know God's plan for the present and the future is worth everything.”*** (*All Eyes On Israel*, 1975, By Roy Allan Anderson and Jay Milton Hoffman, p. 110. Italics and emphasis added)

# Cont...

- "These challenging words, spoken nineteen centuries ago to the doctors of the law in Jerusalem could well be repeated today: "Ye do err not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God" (Matthew 22:29).
- "The re-gathering of Israel from all the lands of earth, their re-establishment in this ancient land [**Old Jerusalem**], provides not only evidence that compels deeper study for a clearer understanding of divine prophecies, but also provides an unparalleled opportunity for emphasizing in a new way the mighty truths of God's Word to **the people whose prophets wrote the great messages of God for their day and ours.**" (*All Eyes On Israel*, 1975, By Roy Allan Anderson and Jay Milton Hoffman, pp. 110-112.) [mine]

# Cont...

- "It is not flattering to think that **there may be errors in one's interpretation of Scripture and consequently of one's understanding of truth. If that be the case, the sooner we discover it and readjust our thinking, the better.** An example of some unfortunate errors on the interpretations of Scripture is the claim made by certain scholars that when the Jews returned from Babylonian captivity in the days of Ezra that the posterity of those taken of into captivity by the Assyrian conquerors two centuries earlier were also included among the returning exiles. Such a claim is contrary to both history and the Bible. The Scriptures state very clearly just who those were that returned as we have already noticed. There is therefore no need for us to guess or imagine who the exiles were." (*All Eyes On Israel*, 1975, By Roy Allan Anderson and Jay Milton Hoffman, pp. 110-112.)
- The view he berating here, is the classical Adventist theological concept; he was one of the framers of this thought.

# HMS Richards Speaks Out

- "If you should find some things in these various chapters which you have never thought of before, **do not reject them because they are new**. Or should you find some things **directly opposite to your own views**, do not refuse to read them. Rather **study them**, and especially **pray** about them....
- "I have greatly enjoyed going over this manuscript. It has brought great blessing to me and has given me the urge to **dig more deeply into this whole question**. It has been a joy to have had a part in it." (All Eyes on Israel, pp. i-vii.) (Italics and emphasis mine)
- Dr. Richards is respected to have memorized virtually the entire Bible, yet he is gleaming "new light" on the restoration of Israel in the Father's land—Palestine, much to the chagrin of his former colleagues. It is worth noting that Dr. Richards was one of the theologians who heard Mr. Houteff articulating these points, and debunked him as a false prophet! Years later however, and before he laid to rest, Dr. Richards wrote the forward to this book, thereby exonerating Mr. Houteff's theology. The challenge is now ours to "dig more deeply into this whole question."

# YHWH'S Immutable Promises

- With a correct view of “conditional” established above, we are now better prepared to handle the core promises of the Kingdom. Let’s remember that a conditional promise does not necessarily have to contain the word “if,” this is a misnomer and *ever* leads to faulty conclusions.
- Let’s take for example the returning exiles, and the promise which was made to them for later generations:
- “Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and **Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth**; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; There shall yet **old men and old women** dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his **staff in his hand for very age**. And the streets of the city shall be full of **boys and girls** playing in the streets thereof. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If it be **marvellous [impossible]** in the eyes of the **remnant** of this people in these days, should it also be **marvellous [impossible] in mine eyes?** Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, **I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country**; And **I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem**: and they shall be my people, and **I will be their God**, in truth and in righteousness. Zech. 8:3-8, [mine]

- Note that the word “marvellous” by Strong’s Hebrew dictionary (pala’ paw-law’), carries the primal meaning of “to be beyond one’s power,” or “to do extraordinary or hard or difficult thing,” the intensive case of which we colloquially say “impossible.” So in today’s language the Almighty One is giving us the possibility test: “If it appears beyond your power or ability to conceive, amongst the **remnant**, should it also appear inconceivable to me as well?” Please remember the human impossibility of opening the Red Sea and the River Jordan! With that resume at His command, our God demonstrates that He is able to do exceeding abundantly, much more than we can ask or think, for the accomplishment of His purposes in the redemption of mankind.

# Cont...

- “Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the **sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night**, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name: **If those ordinances depart from before me**, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall **cease from being a nation** before me for ever. Thus saith the LORD; **If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath**, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD. Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that **the city shall be built** to the LORD from the tower of Hananeel unto the gate of the corner.” Jer. 31: 35-38
- When mankind can change the course of nature from the sun, moon and stars appearing in their seasons, and when he can count each grain of sand which makes up our earth, then may he approach the level of challenging the Creator’s immutable oath to Abraham and his seed, but not till then. This shows the same lesson from Zech 8:6, where He bluffs modern theologians with the question: “If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the LORD of hosts.”

# Cont...

- ["Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof."  
Matt 21:43 KJV
- The Israelites did not produce fruit and the Kingdom was taken from them. Those promises made to them where to be fulfilled based upon their obedience. It's absolutely **absurd** for someone to assert that **God is bound to his promises regardless of what WE do** as a people. ] Amery's e-mail, 12/ 7/12
- This is where years of theological training, and being mere reflectors of other men's thoughts leads us. So let's be clear: What you have not realized, Amery, a fact which is also true for the theological construct of Adventist's thought, is this salient truth that "**God is bound to his promises regardless of what WE do!**" This does not pre-suppose that the violators of His conditions will be the heirs of the promises, no! however, it does mean that **GOD is bound to his end** of the covenant, and so fulfills it through those whom have met His divine terms and conditions. YHWH is a Covenant Keeper, He is a Promise Keeper.

- I have said it before, but it cannot overstated in this regard: If Christianity as a whole abandons Christ, Heaven will still be a reality, the New earth will still be a reality, the Second Advent of our Saviour will still be a reality! The only difference being that we will not be the recipients of that eternal reality. The reality of Heaven does NOT depend on human's acceptance or rejection of Christ, it depends on his divine integrity—his character, one which changes not.
- 13 For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, **he sware by himself**,
- 14 Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.
- 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.
- 16 For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife.
- 17 Wherein God, willing **more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel**, confirmed it by an oath. Heb. 6: 13-17

- The Mighty God, the everlasting YHWH, the Creator of the Universe, made an oath to Abraham and swore by his majestic self—the Highest Appellate court in the universe, that he would give the land of Canaan to his posterity for a righteous and holy habitation, wherein YHWH will also dwell in the midst of them forever. He could not swear by an Angel, He did not swear by Abraham, in vain do we look for His swearing to Isaac, futile would it have been for Him to swear to Jacob, neither did He to Israel either, rather he swore by his Omnipotent self. And as the Scriptures declare: Heaven and earth will long have passed away before “one jot or tittle” of His word goes unfulfilled, in the consummate sense of the word.

# He Who Scatters Also Gathers!

- “Furthermore: if you turn to Deut 28, 29 You'll find two chapters full of conditionals. "Blessings for Obedience and Curses for Disobedience" are how these chapters are labeled.” Amery’s e-mail, 12/7/12.
- My Brother Amery, this is what they taught you in Seminary, but this is not the way the Bible works. Let’s take a Journey to see the actual foreknowledge of the Eternal One. Yes, the chapters cited do present the conditions of “blessings and curses,” but this is as far as most Adventists read in the book of Deuteronomy, ideas which appear only support our worldview.

# He Who Scatters Also Gathers!

- When it comes to the complete thought, I mean the foreknowledge of God to “restore” his people to Divine favor in Palestine, we cast a blind eye. This has been true throughout our history as Adventists, and the examples are many, but that’s not the object here. I will show in succeeding slides that restoration was also promised **after**.
- Yes, the chapters cited (Deut. 28, 29) do present the conditions of “blessings and curses,” but this is as far as most Adventists read in Deuteronomy, they make it seem as though Moses had not written chapter 30 as well. So let’s see if God saw beyond the blessings and curses and also saw the restoration...
- 26 For they went and served other gods, and worshipped them, gods whom they knew not, and whom he had not given unto them:
- 27 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against this land, to bring upon it **all the curses that are written in this book**:
- 28 And **the LORD rooted them out of their land** in anger, and in wrath, and in great indignation, and **cast them into another land**, as it is this day.  
Deut. 29: 26-28

# Cont...

- My friend, this is NOT how the story of Israel's intransigence ended, for you see, He looked way down the stream of time, and He saw the blessings; He also saw the cursings; He saw their apostasy, He saw their rejection of His Son, He saw the terrible crucifixion; He saw the glorious resurrection; He saw the "blindness in part"; He saw the gospel given to the Gentiles; He saw the years of wandering like nomads without a homeland, and he further saw their restoration to Divine Favor in Palestine. Pardon the parallelism, but it makes an important point for the next slide.

# Cont...

- 1 ¶ And it shall come to pass, when **all these things** are come upon thee, **the blessing and the curse**, which I have set before thee, and **thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations**, whither **the LORD thy God hath driven thee**,
- 2 And shalt **return unto the LORD thy God**, and shalt **obey his voice** according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul;
- 3 That then **the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity**, and have compassion upon thee, and **will return and gather thee from all the nations**, whither **the LORD thy God hath scattered thee**.
- 4 If any of thine be driven out unto the **outmost parts of heaven**, **from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee**, and from thence will he **fetch thee**:
- 5 And the **LORD thy God will bring thee into the land** which thy fathers **possessed**, and thou shalt possess it; and **he will do thee good**, and multiply thee above thy fathers. Deut. 30: 1-5

# Cont...

- “6 And the LORD thy God will **circumcise thine heart**, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live. 7 And the LORD thy God will **put all these curses upon thine enemies**, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee. 8 And thou shalt **return** and obey the voice of the LORD, and do all his commandments which I command thee this day. 9 And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for **the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers:**” Deut. 30: 6-9
- I believe the verses are so plain, they need no explanation. I wish to highlight the fact that the restoration will come in an age when “the LORD thy God will **circumcise thine heart.**” This is what we, in Christianity call, “the New Birth,” when God gives us a new heart, as mentioned in Jer. 31, and Ezek, 36.

# Cont...

- “The LORD thy God will **circumcise thine heart.**” Deut. 30: 6. This is not a “New Testament” concept as some have theorized, but from the earliest of times our God was decided on restoring the “Divine Nature” in mankind, which was lost to sin, in the Edenic Kingdom, where Adam and Eve dwelt.
- 26 A **new heart** also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.
- 27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.
- 28 And **ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers**; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God. Ezek. 36: 26-28.
- There are theological seminaries today, who teach only verse 26, and throw away the rest of the chapter, and in their own strength declare that they will not be fulfilled on earth, because Israel failed. For this they are willingly ignorant that the Covenanter does this on the merits of His own Name—His integrity—His character.

# Cont...

## • He Who Scatters

- 27 And **the LORD shall scatter** you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number **among the heathen**, whither the LORD shall lead you. Deut. 4: 17
- 3 That then **the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity**, and have compassion upon thee, and **will return and gather thee from all the nations**, whither **the LORD thy God hath scattered thee**. 4 If any of thine be driven out unto the **outmost parts of heaven**, **from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee**, and from thence will he **fetch** thee. Deut. 30: 3-4
- De 32:26 ¶ I said, I would scatter them into corners, I would make the remembrance of them to cease from among men:

## • He Who Gathers

- “10 Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, **He that scattered Israel will gather him**, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock. 11 For the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he. Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all.” Jer. 31: 10-12
- “And it shall come to pass in that day, that **the LORD** shall beat off from the channel of the river unto the stream of Egypt, and ye shall be **gathered** one by one, O ye children of Israel.” Isa 27:12

- The juxtaposed verses above, convincingly declare that He Who scattered Jacob's seed from the Promised Land, is the same One Who gathers Jacob to his fathers' tents in Palestine. And this One is the Almighty YHWH. The question now is this: Why does God feel **duty bound** to gather Israel together again, not as unbelieving Jews, but as born-again Christians (Gal. 3: 29)? The short answer is simply this: He cannot lie.

# Passages to Consider

- Ezek. 36:23-37
- Jer. 23:3-8
- Jer. 31:27-28;35-37
- Daniel 2: 28, 34-35, 44-45
- Jer. 30:3-10, 23-24
- Ezek. 34:20-26
- Micah 3:10-12
- Micah 4: 1-8

- [“Now on to the ONE promise of God that is NOT conditional. Even though I feel this question was asked out of sarcasm, I'll gladly take up the challenge. Rev 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.”] Amery’s e-mail 12/23/12.
- Contrary to your suggestion, this question was not asked out of sarcasm, but I really wanted you to take time to pause and see how wrong-headed your views are of the Almighty and His words. I hoped that you would have reflected on the question sufficiently to realize that it does not take an “if” statement to make a promise conditional. I have already dealt with this concept with sufficient depth above to warrant little discussion here, however, I want you to see again, how narrow you have held the Divine promises. Look, for example at this above verse: Why is He coming quickly? To gather those “that keep the sayings of the prophecy of this book;” those who do not will be ashamed. This means they did not meet His **conditions**.

- Respecting the fact that I've used up 46 slides, I will not answer any more of your 3 bullet points (shown below) of the kingdom, till another discourse, if need be.
- **[Characteristics of OLD Jerusalem**
- **1. Had a temple and it's services**
- **2. God's presence was with Israel {The Lord tabernacled with Israel}.**
- **3. The Jews were not scattered. They had a thriving theocracy.] Amery's "Built-up" Reply-1**
- I will attempt a short answer here with proofs to follow, if deemed to be necessary: For Point-1, see Ezek. 40-48;
- For point-2, read Isa. 4 and 12;
- For point-3 read Jer. 30 and 31.
- I remain encouraged that your are willing to keep the Bible in its place in all our discussions, and establish cogent reasoning in support of the position we advocate. After all, this for me is not a popularity contest, or who can score the most points; my motivation is to simply know the Truth and follow Him wherever He leads. I trust the same is true for you. Shalom in Messiah.

# Extra! Extra! Extra!...

- “Some few of this once-favored people will receive the Jesus whom their forefathers rejected and slew; but, as a people, they have long since ceased to have any significance. For the same reason, Palestine *will never* become the home of the Jews; there would be *no purpose in it.*” --*Signs of The Times*, November 7, 1939, p. 7, Col. 1, paragraph 3, italics added.