



## *Divine Help Needed*

**Question:** Does Derek West know anything about Ben Roden.

**Reply:** for a full year and more, back in 1979, I traveled with Brother Sidney Davis who had just left the *Branch* at that time to work under MJ Bingham. He gave me much exposure to the pitfalls of their arguments. When I met him, Ben Roden was already deceased, in disharmony with his before-hand, doctrine that the seventh seal had been opened and the church was now (1976, I believe) in the judgment of the living. His death greatly impeached that doctrine. His failure was that He extrapolated it from the *Rod* instead of from the “Greater Light”; thus, by grandfathering the *Rod*, in violation of it’s very counsel, he was misled. Maybe we will meet soon after the Special Resurrection.

**Question:** Does Derek West know anything about Lois Roden.

**Reply** their property in, I believe Waco Texas: In our travels, we visited. We spent the night. Sister Roden made for me the most delicious, bean sprout sandwich on home-made, whole-wheat bread. I have never tasted anything like it, and thoughts of it still cause me to salivate. Sister Roden was creative, to say the least. She was also apparently very gracious as she received Sidney, who had just left her affiliation, as a son. I lament that such graciousness no longer seems to prevail among Davidians. We all seem, in violation of the Lord’s command of love, to hold deep resentments towards each other. If memory serves me correctly, we had a doctrinal discourse, but it was not memorable. The doctrinal discourse which I remember the most, was that which took place in her son’s trailer. I believe his name was George. There, he and Sidney debated over which reference from the *Rod* supported their position of the “seals”, George advances the theme of his father, and pointed to the SR volumes; while, Sidney insisted on quoting later editions to show from the *Rod* that we were still in the sixth seal (therefore, none are sealed and eternally protected). My thinking then, was, this is madness, they should establish their position from the Bible first and harmonize the *Rod*’s position accordingly. As a novice then with little Davidian experience, I kept silent. If my memory is correct, the next day, Sidney and I travel west towards California. At Sister Roden’s hospitality, we lodged overnight in a property she owned in Odessa. Then we visited brother Verlis Johnson and had more doctrinal discussions.

A year later my wife, (fiancée at the time) and I met Sister Roden again. She drove up to Exeter Missouri to visit Bashan. I was part of the tour of the property which Brother Bingham arranged for her. Again, she was friendly and cordial. It was during this time, back in 1979, that she began to advance and promote her doctrine of the Female Holy Spirit. It was a subject of much study and discussion at Bashan Hill. Back then, she advanced some of the arguments that you advance and also insisted that the Bible translators being male chauvinist (a popular buzz word of the 70s) were biased. I do remember that she and her son were hotly disputing then as well. I believe it was over leadership; yet, I do not think that he accepted her teachings either. He, George, taught that since his father was antitypical David, then that made him, as the son, antitypical Solomon —they were a very creative bunch which always seemed to skate on very thin ice scripturally.

I hope that this brief historical interlude, allays your suspicion when you pondered if I know anything about the Branch.

Sincerely,

Derek