

MY CANDID COMPARISON

I have been following the unrest and protests in Libya until finally seeing the variance erupt into a blood-bath of war between the ruling Gadhafi regime and the so-called rebels. I am reminded of two Scriptures that apply to this confliction.

Luke 21:10, “Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:” and “because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” (Matt. 24:12) In another way of speaking, one might say “people shall rise up against their own people, and because wickedness shall be so common, the love of most people shall turn cold.” It is written in the Spirit of Prophecy:

As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position, and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. (*The Faith I Live By*, p. 336)

As I observed the progression of division in Libya, I read about the attitudes of the Gadhafi regime. For example, Gadhafi stated that he would not offer mercy to anyone, including civilians. He threatened to make house-to-house searches for those opposing his rule. He vowed to crush the opposition at all costs. Gadhafi, sitting as a monarch for four decades, refused to allow the people a voice or platform for arbitration. “Judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.” (Isa. 59:14)

Unfortunately, there is a parallel scenario in the religious world. Thus, I have been inspired to share *MY CANDID COMPARISON* briefly.

The General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists is a religious organization created by law to represent the interests of the Seventh Day Adventist Church around the world. The Church has decided to use this “legal fiction” as a “protector-head” instead of trusting Almighty God for said protection and leaning upon the sure Word of Christ, the true Head of the true Church. By doing this, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists has in effect set up a monarchy whereby the General Conference Corporation virtually controls the world church. The Corporation is connected sufficiently with the kingdoms of the earth in order to dictate its will as a monarch would.

In the trademark lawsuit styled as *General Conference Corporation v. McGill, et al*, we have witnessed a wide range of the activities of the “SDA monarch.” Since circa 1985, the Corporation has been disrupting the religious lives of various break-away congregations by demanding them to cease and desist use of the name SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST. After prevailing against McGill at the District Court level, the Corporation has continued a civil inquisition that parallels the efforts of the Libyan monarch, Gadhafi.

As you recall the events associated with the recent conflict in Libya, beginning February 15, 2011, it is recorded that there were protestors taking to the streets seeking a redress of grievances. Very soon this escalated into more heated protests, until finally it was obvious that a split in the country had taken place. It was the purpose of the regime to squelch the protest as if given *carte blanche* by the Muslim god.

Those who have followed the recent history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will recall protests began to surface noticeably after the SDA leaders compromised with American evangelicals in the 1950s. More and more “independent ministries” “took to the streets.” As time passed, there was an escalation of confusion in the ranks of Adventism. During the 1980s, many, maybe more than 150 splinter groups and congregations, had formed separate worship centers antagonistic to the will of the mainline SDA Church. All of these protestors were inclined to employ the name God had given to His people – SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST, as a part of their name.

The General Conference Corporation went to work in due time seeking to crush all opposition “in the bud.” And it employed the “strong arm of civil power” with intentions of disfranchising every breakaway group of Adventist believers from their use of the name SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST. This “civil inquisition” was facilitated by invoking federal trademark law and initiating lawsuits that few congregations could afford to litigate. “The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” (Revelation 12:17)

After more than two decades of steam-rolling various splinter groups via the court systems around the world, the General Conference Corporation attacked the Creation Seventh Day Adventist Church by filing a federal lawsuit against Pastor Walter “Chick” McGill in 2006.

Just like Gadhafi, the Corporation took a stand of no mercy allowed. It even sought court-ordered “house-to-house” “limited discovery” to inquire into the names, addresses, and bank-account information of all parties that might be deemed in some way supportive of the Defendant, Walter McGill. In order to secure compliance with the court-ordered permanent injunction, the Corporation willfully resorted to deception, gross misrepresentations, and calumny. It was evident that the Scripture, “as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed” was being fulfilled. (see Revelation 13:15)

With time, the Corporation has advanced beyond the jurisdiction of the permanent injunction and issued potential threats to web-hosting companies beyond the mandates of the United States District Court. The “mad-monarch behavior” has closed in on Creation Seventh Day Adventists to the degree that some might say, “the church [...] appears as about to fall.” Most members have been forced to relocate outside of the United States and have not convened for worship since 2009.

The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out—the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place. (*Selected Messages, Volume 2*, p. 380; 1886)

Just as the Libyan “rebels” cried out to the watching international community, the saints have called upon the name of YAHWEH for deliverance from the hand of the “mad-monarch of Adventism.”

Soon I saw the saints suffering great mental anguish. They seemed to be surrounded with the wicked inhabitants of earth. Every appearance was against them. Some began to fear that God had left them at last to perish by the hand of the wicked. But if their eyes could have been opened, they would have seen themselves surrounded by angels of God. Next came the multitude of the angry wicked, and next a mass of evil angels, hurrying on the wicked to slay the saints. But as they would attempt to approach them, they would first have to pass this company of mighty, holy angels, which was impossible. The angels of God were causing them to recede, and also causing

the evil angels who were pressing around them, to fall back. It was an hour of terrible, fearful agony to the saints. They cried day and night unto God for deliverance. (*Spiritual Gifts. Volume I*, pp. 202, 203)

And “God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape,” (1 Cor. 13:10) It is YAHWEH who hears the cry of His people.

To outward appearance, there was no possibility of their escape. The wicked had already begun to triumph, crying out, “Why doesn't your God deliver you out of our hands? Why don't you go up and save your lives?” But the saints heeded them not. Like Jacob, they were wrestling with God. The angels longed to deliver them, but they must wait a little longer; the people of God must drink of the cup and be baptized with the baptism. The angels, faithful to their trust, continued their watch. God would not suffer His name to be reproached among the heathen. The time had nearly come when He was to manifest His mighty power and gloriously deliver His saints. For His name's glory He would deliver every one of those who had patiently waited for Him and whose names were written in the book. (*Early Writings*, pp. 283, 284)

Yes, the people of YAH never give up while patiently waiting. They press the battle to the gates and finally wrestle victoriously with the Mighty Angel who is to rescue them.

And as the coalition airstrikes in Libya came just in the nick of time to deliver those oppressed by the merciless regime of Gadhafi, the final “Heavenly Coalition airstrike” appears with full manifestation of YAH's mighty power, and the saints of YAHWEH are delivered from the hand of their oppressors forever.

The sun came up, and the moon stood still. The streams ceased to flow. Dark, heavy clouds came up and clashed against each other. But there was one clear place of settled glory, whence came the voice of God like many waters, which shook the heavens and the earth. The sky opened and shut and was in commotion. The mountains shook like a reed in the wind, and cast out ragged rocks all around. The sea boiled like a pot and cast out stones upon the land. And as God spoke the day and the hour of Jesus' coming and delivered the everlasting covenant to His people, He spoke one sentence, and then paused, while the words were rolling through the earth. The Israel of God stood with their eyes fixed upward, listening to the words as they came from the mouth of Jehovah, and rolled through the earth like peals of loudest thunder. It was awfully solemn. And at the end of every sentence the saints shouted, “Glory! Alleluia!” Their countenances were lighted up with the glory of God; and they shone with the glory, as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai. The wicked could not look on them for the glory. And when the never-ending blessing was pronounced on those who had honored God in keeping His Sabbath holy, there was a mighty shout of victory over the beast and over his image. (*Early Writings*, p. 34)

While on earth, we shall not expect peace among peoples and kingdoms. However, *MY CANDID COMPARISON* describes one perfect and glorious ending for the people of God who remain faithful. Hallelu-YAH!

Writing from Africa
Pastor “Chick” McGill
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