



RELIGIOUS HARDTALK

Andrae Hill vs. the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It sort of reminds me of Kinshasa, Zaire, October 30th, 1974, the Rumble in the Jungle, Muhammad Ali Vs. George Foreman. Remember who won the early rounds?

Talk about bombs exploding! Thanks to **Ian Boyne** and **Andrae Hill**, April 16th and 23rd, 2013, will go down as pivotal days in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. On those two episodes of *Religious Hardtalk*, the venerable prophetess of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, **Mrs. Ellen G. White**, was ripped to shreds – she, one of the pillars of the ‘remnant’ church, having been unceremoniously ripped out of the earth by an incessant stream of yokers that left her bloodied and in a crumpled heap on the floor.

Whatever the metaphors evoked by these blasts, the repercussions were quite devastating. One brother called me in Florida to relate the story of a young Church member who, within days of the telecast, was accosted in a supermarket by three men who publicly ridiculed him about his faith in the Church’s “*false prophet*,” Mrs. White. Another member, reeling in shock over what she’d heard on *Hardtalk*, insisted the Church had been lying to its members about Mrs. White for years. It’s a tale that’s being repeated over and over.

Now let’s get something straight right here. My faith as a Seventh-day Adventist revolves around what Christ did and continues to do for me. My love affair is with Him. He died for me, not Mrs. White, but as our upcoming telecast on TVJ will show, her role as a prophetess was very much predicted in scripture. Here are the two verses that clearly identify the prophetic gift as one of the two identifying marks of the “remnant” church – i.e., that church which will be upon the earth at the time of Christ’s 2nd coming. “And the dragon (i.e., *the devil*, see Revelation 12:9) was wroth with the woman (i.e., *the church*, see 2 Corinthians 11:2) 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. The testimony of Jesus Christ – what’s that? The Bible doesn’t leave that up to guesswork, the KJV clearly defines this phrase in Revelation 19:10. “And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have *the testimony of Jesus*: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” The remnant church, therefore, will (i) keep the commandments of God, and (ii) have, possess, or be possessed by, the spirit of prophecy.

Cut it any way you want, what the scripture is saying is that the prophetic gift will be alive and well (and obvious) in the remnant church. Notwithstanding Andrae Hill’s charges, I believe Ellen White fulfills that role and by the grace of God we intend to prove it on our two telecasts, due to be aired in September just before the next season for *Religious Hardtalk* begins.

No doubt that will be good news to some, but to my mind there’s one vex-

ing problem with this scenario and it’s this – why has the leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church not responded to Hill’s charges? One retired Conference President called me recently to opine that the thinking among the clergy is this: “if we respond to Andrae Hill publicly, it only gives notoriety to his claims.” Implied: the best course is to do nothing.

Really? Are you saying, my brother, that Seventh-day Adventist ministers shouldn’t even issue a public call in our churches for several days of fasting and prayer? Is this really what Christ would do – i.e., remain silent? No it’s not! If ever there were a time for rallying the troops in fasting and prayer it’s now. Let me tell you something: I was baptized as a Seventh-day Adventist in 1972 and I’ve never witnessed an attack like this in my 41 years in the Church. And you’re telling me to stand still? Never! “Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD.” “Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.” Joel 1:14; 2:14-16.

The following sentiments were aptly expressed by a brother whom I’ve never met, but who nonetheless got hold of my e-mail address and wrote me.

“To me Bro David, the silence of the leadership of our church here in Jamaica in responding to Andrae Hill is more embarrassing than the scathing broadside that was made against E G White and our church.”

I don’t know what our ministers are thinking, but every day they delay in framing a response is a day in which the faith of some Seventh-day Adventist gets forever snuffed out. Nor am I exaggerating. Like **Muhammad Ali** after the early round pummeling given him by **George Foreman** in Zaire (the *Rumble in the Jungle*,



October 30th, 1974) some Seventh-day Adventists are still urinating blood – a full month after that telecast! I read their e-mails. I take their phone calls. I know what I’m saying. They’re hurting. If I can stay here in Florida and feel the pulse of my brethren, then what about those who are supposed to be the shepherds, the clergy, those who went to school to study for the ministry? I, after all, am only a layman, a regular church member without title or office. The only reason you’re reading this is that as a layman I am not employed by the Conference and therefore do not need their permission to run ads in the Gleaner. Besides, I simply love Jesus too much to keep my mouth shut. Frankly, wild horses couldn’t keep me out of this race. So what shall we say about the clergy? Why are they so silent? I’d like to venture 6 reasons.

THE SILENCE OF THE CLERGY

1. Lack of leadership. The Seventh-day Adventist Church as an organization doesn’t lend itself to rapid responses in times like these. We’re hamstrung by committees.
2. Lacking the shepherd’s instinct, many among the clergy are simply out of touch with the rank and file members for whom they ostensibly exist.
3. Lack of scholarship. Unfamiliar with many of the points made by Brother Hill, these lack the knowledge and confidence to oppose him.
4. Awestruck by the size of Goliath’s biceps, triceps, shield and spear, these retreat to the same pomegranate tree as did Saul (1 Samuel 14:2). There they quietly pee.
5. Lack of vision. My brethren fail to see that Andrae Hill’s attack is perhaps the greatest *opportunity* for evangelism ever handed to the Church. I’ll show you what I mean when we respond on those two telecasts in September.
6. Lack of honesty. Truth be known, some among the clergy wholeheartedly *support* Andrae Hill, whose arguments reflect the thinking of former Adventist theologian, **Des Ford**. What’s shocking is just how far this movement has gone.

Telecasting our response is slated to cost us **\$9,074.74 (U.S.)** just for the television time – in short, **TVJ gets that money**. We could use your help in paying that bill, plus the cost of cameras, cameramen and equipment to shoot and edit the response. You can donate on-line immediately at our website: www.lrltv.org. **We’ll also be conducting public meeting at a location to be announced shortly**. Meantime we continue fasting, praying – and studying! Be encouraged, brethren, rounds #3 & #4 are up next.