

PT 752
„Only God Appoints His People’s Leaders”

This short article is another proof of a total lack of understanding of the basic rules of operation of a Truth movement by the present PT and BS editor. It contains some lies, proving lack of respect on the part of the author for the Truth and his readers. Its spirit is wholly divergent from what we had to do with in all the Truth writings up to 2004, being akin to papal edicts and “literary works” of the Society’s governing body.



Lie no 1 (the very beginning)

„*Jehovah has arranged for the Movement of His choosing to continue to dispense the Truth as due.*”

Comments

1) According to the star members’ teachings, e.g. Bro. Johnson in articles such as “Society as the Channel” (and not only there), **God does not have, and does not use any movements to dispense the Truth – no more or less favorite movements of His choosing, and no more or less chosen ones.** **God dispenses the Truth solely through individuals of His choosing, not churches or movements.** Both Bros. Russell and Johnson were used by Him to give the Truth of Parousia or Epiphany before their individual movements came into being. That erroneous view was preached by Judge Rutherford, who after taking over the Society on Bro Russell’s death wanted to deceive God’s people that it was the Society that had been the channel through which the Parousia Truth had been given, and that, as a result, the Society would continue to be used in this way, from now on obviously under JFR as the editor and revelator of the progressive Truth. Here is a pertinent excerpt (PT 1956, 45):

“L.H.M.M. NOT ACTIVE IN EPIPHANY UNTIL 1920

From the facts of the case we know that Bro. Russell was "that servant" for several years before the Society was formed (E Vol. 6, pp. 111, 112, 139, 140) ; this was conclusive proof against J.F.R.'s view that the dispensing of the Truth and the work of the Harvest was done through the Society, "the one and only channel." Likewise, from the facts of the case we know that Bro. Johnson became the Epiphany Messenger in 1916 (E Vol. 10, p. vi), and dispensed the Truth and directed the Epiphany work until 1919-20 before the name L.H.M.M. ever came to he used in this work (though it had previously been used by Bro. Russell as a name before the public in publishing the B.S.M.'s and in the Extension Work—P '20, p. 197; '50, p. 42) ; and for years the Truth reached the brethren, not "through the L.H.M.M. as a channel," but through Bro. Johnson and others who cooperated with him. Until Dec. 1945 both of our magazines were published by "Paul S.L. Johnson, Publisher and Editor," without the L.H.M.M. even being mentioned at all, nor was there any necessity for it, as we pointed out in P '55, p. 81. Also, the name L.H.M.M. was not used in connection with Bro. Johnson's publication of the Parousia volumes and other literature, or the ten Epiphany Volumes; rather, these were all indicated as being published and edited or authored by Paul S.L. Johnson. It was not until 1948, when E Vol. 11 was published, that the name L.H.M.M. appeared in this connection.”

It is true to such an extent that Bro Jolly went as far as to say that the Movement’s magazines were published **not by the Movement**, but **for the Movement**, through the pertinent leaders of God’s people (PT 1952, 88):

“Since the Executive Trustee as such has only a part of the office functions necessary for all these much needed services through our magazines, it has been carefully indicated on the second and back pages of each issue, both by Bro. Johnson and the present Editor, that **it is published, not by the L.H.M.M., but for**

the L.H.M.M., and not by its Executive Trustee as such, but by the Lord's servant for His people at the time, who therefore edits and publishes it for the movement in which the Lord's Epiphany-enlightened servants co-operate in service toward people outside the Truth."

Later on, this distinction was abandoned and for the sake of simplicity the publisher mentioned was the LHMM, but it does not change the fact that from the Divine viewpoint it is the leader of His choosing that dispenses the Truth, not a movement, whatever its name might be.

- 2) If one says that "**Jehovah has arranged** for the Movement of His choosing to continue to dispense the Truth as due," it would be in keeping to say when, how and where Jehovah has done so. If all it takes is to **say** that Jehovah has done something, let me announce something, too: "**Jehovah has arranged that as of today nobody should read the PT or BS magazines**" (someone's word against mine).

Lie no 2 (par. 2)



"Only God has the right to appoint a leader for His people in general (see, e.g., Num. 27:18-20; 1 Sam. 2:35; Isa. 55:4; PT '48, p. 45). Being subject to His arrangements, and desiring only a leader of His appointment, we would not presume to look for a leader of our own choosing, or one chosen only by the brethren. We are glad to see that He has not left us to grope in darkness on this subject, for we believe He has clearly indicated Bro. Leon Snyder as His choice for the next general leader for His people."

Comments

Words fail to adequately comment on the underlined part of the paragraph! How can anyone distort the facts to such an extent? Let us refresh our memories with how that particular brother was appointed "leader of God's people" so that everyone may see what the connection to Jehovah is (PT 739, 2012):

„I have, in following the Lord's leading, selected two brothers here in the U.S. to be the potential leader of the Lord's People and the Executive Trustee after I am no longer able to occupy that position. It is not a matter of health that this arrangement is being made but I am now 87 and feel that this arrangement is best. Bro. Leon Snyder is the first choice to fill the vacancy when it shall arise and Bro. Daniel Herzig will operate as a back-up to the position."

Please note the underlined parts in the above:

- 1) "in following the Lord's leading" – how can anyone get to know the name of a potential leader of the Lord's People with God being completely silent on that? The previous leaders also followed the Lord's leading, but despite being Spirit-begotten, they always did so based on the Bible. Bro. Ralph Herzig knew how to do it without it, though, seemingly being in some kind of direct contact with God, maybe by analogy to Moses ("mouth to mouth"), as there can hardly exist any other way of God's passing on to man the name of his successor.
- 2) **I have ... selected** – can anyone doubt who made the selection? Please note the subject of the sentence for the verb "selected" (in bold).
- 3) *„to be the potential leader of the Lord's People"* – if he is to be the „potential leader", who will be the author of the final selection? God or man? If, as the Epiphany literature says, the selection is

made by God, man should have nothing to do with it, unless we accept that the Holy Spirit inspires the brethren in the process, as it is said to do while electing a pope.

- 4) Bro. Leon Snyder is the first choice to fill the vacancy – the office of the leader of God’s people, selected only by God, is here called a “vacancy” which should be filled, and it is to be done by people based on the recommendation from a man “following the Lord’s leading” without using the Bible!
- 5) „Bro. Daniel Herzig will operate as a back-up to the position” – if God somehow did reveal to Bro. RH the name of his successor as the leader, why “a back-up to the position”? Doesn’t God know if the first one will pass away before he assumes his office? Did any other leader before 2004 recommend two following leaders, just in case? True, something like that was done by Bro Hedman, but it was a recommendation to the office of the ET only, which Bro. Hedman made following his human way of seeing things for a human office, **without recommending either of them to the office of the leader of God’s people!**

Why didn’t he? Because **God had not shown him in the Bible that after his demise such a leader was wanted or needed by Him!** After the experiences of 2004 and the LHMM apostasy from the Epiphany teachings and arrangements, after breaking up God’s people and beating fellow servants, one can readily see that **they were not and are not leaders from God!** What was from God was Bro. Hedman’s inability to point to anyone as recommended to that office, since the Lord apparently did not want anyone in that position any more. If man insists on having a leader, even though God does not see such a need and does not show such a possibility to the outgoing leader, but despite all this men elect a leader for themselves (as the Jews did with the king), such a leader may only bring disaster, which is already taking place, as at best it is a leader from man, and at worst – from Satan.

Let us bring back the description of how Br. RH concluded he was the leader, with no indication from God, the Bible or Bro. Hedman (PT 719, 2007)!

„If we consider all of the facts relevant to the selection of a leader at the present time, it appears that God’s choice was that of Bro. Ralph Herzig, who was elected by unanimous vote as the Executive Trustee by the brethren assembled at the 2004 conventions in Florida, Massachusetts and Michigan. **We are all aware that God, in the past, has always selected the Leader of His people prior to the election by the brethren for the Executive Trustee. Therefore, the selection of the Leader of God’s people was prior to the election in Florida.** Although there has not been the abundance of Scriptural and experiential support as with the past Leaders, we have to look and ask—**who has equal or better qualifications to fill the position than the present Executive Trustee?** To my knowledge there is no other brother, who consecrated before the Fall of 1954 (a prospective Youthful Worthy) and has faithfully served the Lord under the supervision of Bro. Johnson, Bro.

Jolly, Bro. Gohlke and Bro. Hedman. It is further a matter of record that Bro. Hedman named Bro. Ralph Herzig in the official documents.

One entrusted by the Lord with a special mission must not allow himself to be set aside from that mission by ambitious usurpers, regardless of how severely he is pressed by such usurpers to yield his prerogatives.”

Please read the above again, paying special attention to the parts marked in yellow. They speak for themselves! Their haughtiness and boldness are unparalleled in the Truth literature! What can one expect from such “leaders”? Truth or error? Uniting the brethren or breaking them up? The Spirit of love or the Spirit of hate, and misrepresentations?

Lie no 3 (par. 4)

“By analogy, and in harmony with Scriptures, reason and facts (power of attorney), it seems evident that the Divinely chosen leader of the Lord’s people to succeed the Youthful Worthy leader in the event of his disability or demise, not as leader of the Youthful Worthies, but rather as leader of the Consecrated Epiphany Campers, would be the one who for a considerable time had been serving faithfully as the special helper of the Youthful Worthy leader and has continued faithful to the Truth as due.”

Comments

- 1) **Leaders of God’s people do not have successors who succeed them in the event of their disability or demise!** Each and every leader is individually selected by God (should He will so and show it in the Bible) through the preceding leader, and takes his office after his predecessor’s demise. The principle is as follows: God shows a pertinent Biblical type to the outgoing leader, and he – Divinely assured that God has selected another leader to follow him – tries to recognize the same from among the brethren cooperating with him in his work and service for the Lord; in other words, he tries to identify the brother that fulfills that type. **If and when God does not indicate such a type, it should be understood (as was done by Bro. Hedman) that God does not see a need for another leader**, and the outgoing leader should not point to anyone (again, as done by Bro. Hedman, who did not recommend anyone for that office). **We should bear in mind that during the long centuries of the Gospel Age God’s people functioned without a leader most of the time, God raising someone to that office only when He had some new Truth to give to His people!**
- 2) The other sentence underlined above announces a leader for one existing class and no leader for another existing class, which in itself sounds absurd. In order to have a full picture of the hypocrisy of the present LHMM management in limiting the leader’s role to one class only, with another, higher one seemingly still walking the earth as well, and also in their approach to the Biblical rule of Heb. 7:7, let us read how the fact that a CEC candidate could not become the next ET was explained in 2004 (BS 883, 60):

„(1) After Bro. Hedman the long patterned method was changed by our great Jehovah. (2) By many accounts the Movement was in need of another cleansing as we entered into an era of some changes and unknowns. Jehovah reasoned that some lessons were needed in 2004 to bring the needs of this present time to the fore. Almost without any fear many of the prominent special helpers came forward with aspirations of leadership that could not be sanctioned by either the Lord nor the regulations that He had set forth (3) in His chosen Earthly Movement. (4) At the very inception of Bro. Ralph Herzig’s appointment there was trouble because of a lack of proper understanding of his appointment recommended by Bro. Bernard Hedman. Because it appeared there were two candidates for the position, (5) this created the need for a special business meeting; which took place with pilgrims and auxiliary pilgrims from the U.S. and representatives from foreign countries for an indepth study of Heb. 7: 7, “Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better.” This was the first time that the Movement was faced with making the determination between a Consecrated Epiphany Camper that had served at the Bible House for some time and a Youthful Worthy candidate that had not been serving at the Bible House regularly. (6) The evidence presented showed that in harmony with Heb. 7: 7 the Lord had indicated His choice was the Youthful Worthy candidate. We know that God never leaves His people to vote for a leader from among multiple choices, but He and He alone makes the choice. This was shown in part by the document, “Power of Attorney” that Bro. Hedman executed approximately 8 years prior to his death indicating that (6) the Lord had shown him the Youthful Worthy candidate as the Lord’s choice. We who were invited to this board of review concurred in favor with Bro. Hedman’s document which was then presented at three conventions for a vote of acceptance to elect Bro. Ralph Herzig, as the Executive Trustee. (7) We should always keep in mind that only God selects our leaders and we then vote for that person to the office of Executive Trustee.

I will comment on all the sentences of the above paragraph which seem to require a comment. For better clarity, they have been numbered and underlined:

- 1) The method referred to is described in the article a little earlier on, to the effect that “special helpers usually become leaders.” The special helper to Bro. Hedman was Bro. John Davis, who also served under Bros. Jolly and Gohlke and who was promoted to the position of co-editor by Bro Hedman for the Movement’s magazines. However, before Bro. Hedman’s funeral some brethren met for a conference and after some deliberation concluded that this time it had to be done differently, i.e. that the special helper to Bro. Hedman would not become either the next ET or the next leader, since the rule of Heb, 7:7 does not allow it, after which they announced that the change had been made by “our great Jehovah.” **How easy it has become for the Movement’s present management to ascribe their actions to Jehovah! They say in so many words, and that in writing, that whatever they do or do not do is of Jehovah! Isn’t it just another facet of the Divine Right of the clergy?**
- 2) Kicking out brethren disagreeing with the Movement’s policy after 2004, misrepresenting and depriving them of the name of a “Christian”, an example of which is misrepresenting Bro. Davis by many, even to this day, and also further actions of the Movement’s leaders in other countries – by the present editor are called “a need of another cleansing.” **One day he will have much to answer for!**
- 3) **God does not have any „Earthly chosen Movement”**. The Lord’s people are everywhere, and the chosen ones are those whose hearts are consecrated to God, no matter where they are, and there are a lot more of them outside the LHMM than in it! Such a belief is a reflection of the teachings preached once by the only true Catholic Church, and now by the only true organization – The Watchtower, and recently by the LHMM – “God’s chariot”, as its present leader is wont to call it. We still remember how last year the same leader (Leon Snyder) in writing referred to the movement as “God’s chosen earthly organization” (see a scan of one of many of dismissal letters sent by LS to Polish pilgrims, in the same tab as this paper, named “LS dismisses a pilgrim brother”). When he (the leader) learned from the brethren (the led ones) that the LHMM is not an organization, he took to its synonym (“chariot) or “movement”, which still remains as “chosen by God to give the Truth” as his “organization” was. He even goes as far as to threaten that whoever stands in the way of this “chariot” will be run over by it!
- 4) **There was no problem understanding Bro. RH’s recommendation by Bro. Bernard Hedman as the next ET! There was a problem understanding his recommendation for Bro. RH as leader of God’s people simply because there was no such recommendation!** It would be in order for the present “leader” to say how those problems were solved, since the way it happened is nothing short of inspiration. I have already quoted the pertinent words above, but at this juncture they should be brought back again:

*We are all aware that God, in the past, has always selected the Leader of His people prior to the election by the brethren for the Executive Trustee. Therefore, **the selection of the Leader of God’s people was prior to the election in Floryda.***

Only one Apostle (Paul) had a similar insight into things happening in heaven, but did not use it in the way it is used today in the LHMM!

- 5) This meeting of pilgrims to examine Heb. 7:7 in order to decide which of the two candidates should be recommended to the brethren at the convention was an act of defiance against God, and transformed the Movement into an organization with a governing body, which the pilgrims gathered there then became! The Apostles did something similar when the Lord left them, and with their votes selected for God the missing apostle. God ignored that appointment, and even did not rebuke them since then they did not quite know yet what was their province, and what was God’s and God’s only. Do the brethren who are familiar with the Parousia and Epiphany Truth and arrangements not know either what their province is, what is God’s, and what is that of the brethren in general? Did they not

hear that **groups of brethren, committees have no right to make decisions for God** (if these belong to Him, as for example the selection of a leader), **or for the brethren in general** (if these belong to them, as for example the selection of an ET)?

- 6) The result of their deliberation and of the vote was that the Lord's choice was the YW candidate, for which the Biblical justification was said to be Heb. 7:7. What they had ignored in the process is the fact that **this Scripture** (about blessing coming from the greater to the lesser) **does not pertain to the office of an ET at all!** **It is the leader of God's people that cannot be from a lower class than the brethren whom he serves**, as then the lesser would bless the greater with the Truth and privileges of service, which is not in harmony with God's order and the unchangeable rule of the Bible! Please note that **Bro. Hedman recommended two candidates only to the office of an ET, to which the rule of Heb. 7:7 does not apply!** Wanting to get rid of the CEC candidate (JD) and wishing to recommend only one of the two (RH), they used a Scripture that was not applicable to the situation which the Lord's people found themselves in then.

Another confirmation of the hypocrisy of the above stand on Heb. 7:7 is the fact that when ten years later, in 2014 the same situation repeated itself (a candidate from a lower class [LS], with higher class candidates still around [YWs]), the same Scripture of Heb. 7:7 **was not any obstacle at all!** Not wanting to let any living YW candidate become the ET or the leader (e.g. someone from Poland, where there are at least a few YW hopefuls, and that in much better health than RH), they came up with the idea (to be more precise and following the new way of explaining the roots of novelties, I should say that "our great Jehovah" did so) that from now on there would be a leader from a lower class, but he would be such only to the CECs, with YWs remaining without a leader, most probably because for quite a while they had been without a leader from their own class anyway, since despite the fact that in theory there was one, in practice there was none, since the one who was was not, having been ill for a few years before his demise!

If it is claimed that there are still YW hopefuls alive (assuming, as does the LHMM, that there must be a leader now), he should come from that higher class, seeing that there are suitable candidates for that office. Power grasping brethren from the USA decided, however (or better, it was planned by "our great Jehovah", who somehow told them about it) that a leader of God's people must necessarily be a citizen of the USA, and not a Pole for instance, even if he did consecrate before 1954, and even if he does know the Truth and its arrangements much better than the US brethren, who praised the previous German representative for attacking the ransom at one of the US conventions, and even if he is in good health to act in this position; **he is out only because he is not American!**

- 7) **If and when God does not point to anyone as leader, how can man know who He has chosen for this position so as to vote for that person to the ET office?** The recent examples of two brethren (RH and LS), one of whom self-appointed himself leader, and the latter was appointed by the first, with God remaining completely silent as to His will in the matter, shows what great manipulation was allowed, first of all by RH, who first raised himself to the position of leader, and then did the same with one of his supporters.

Lie no 4 (par. 5)

„The Lord seems to have indicated to us, that due to the length of Bro. Ralph Herzig's disability, that it is His will for us to move forward with a special business meeting to be held at the Florida Convention, Friday, March 11, 2016.”



Comment

Both brethren (RH and LS) often use expressions like „following the Lord's leading“, „Jehovah seems to have indicated“, „Jehovah has put a hand on my shoulder“, „Jehovah God has drawn our attention to“ etc. It

is a very haughty and proud way of talking about one's relations with Jehovah God, totally different from that used by previous leaders, including Spirit-begotten star members.

It is a downright lie to say that God (and that aside from the Bible) indicates to anyone the names of one's successors for any offices among God's people, or does it with the names of the brethren to be kicked out of the Movement. It is an impossibility since to know such things, one would have to be inspired or possess gifts of the Spirit. Both passed away a long time ago, at the very beginning of the Gospel Age, and today only Pentecostal groups are said to possess them. Such expressions bring to mind "great words" spoken by infamous characters in history.

Again, **God surely does not give error to His people** through His leaders on questions like justification (the time of acquiring it and the terms of its retaining or losing), or on the embargo on the merit from those who do not have the merit imputed to them, or to be precise, who have the merit imputed to them reckonedly only; also, God does not take away the privilege of prayer from anyone wishing to do so, as has recently been done by the present LHMM "leader", but is waiting for a sincere prayer from each and every man – from the sinner to the consecrated.

Lie no 5 (par. 6)



„As a further confirmation of the Lord's will regarding our Movement, this vote will be ratified at two additional business meetings to be held at the Muskegon Convention, May 20, 2016 and at the Chester Springs Convention, July 15, 2016.”

Comment

The words above show the way the brethren are treated by LS – his selection “will be ratified at two additional business meetings” – a simple statement of fact, the brethren's obligation, their role they are to play, as that is their duty towards the leader who has already been chosen by God in heaven, since – as everyone knows – according to the present view, God first has selected him in heaven to be the leader of God's people, which He assuredly did before the date of the first vote, and now all that remains for the brethren to do is to ratify this heavenly selection by voting him into the ET office.

According to the Movement's arrangements, **the office of ET is elected by the brethren, who can elect anybody, including someone who is not the leader of God's people**, even if that leader comes from God. Let us have a look at Bro. Jolly's reply to a pertinent question: (PT 1952, 86)

Question: Suppose that the brethren associated in their public work in the L.H.M.M. (P '50, p. 42) had not elected antitypical Baanah as its Executive Trustee, but had elected another to said business office—what would then have been the status of affairs?

Answer: The one who is antitypical Baanah, having been appointed by God as leader of the good Levites and good Youthful Worthies, would, of course, by God's assisting grace have performed his office functions. **The Executive Trustee of the L.H.M.M., whoever he might have been**, would have had charge of all of the property, books, copyrights and monies of the L.H.M.M." and of publishing and distributing books, magazines, *etc.*, for the L.H.M.M.; and as such he could call L.H.M.M. conventions, "but only for business matters"—and that because of its being a business office merely.”

From the above it follows that the brethren are in no way obligated to ratify anybody for the ET office, even if the candidate should be leader of God's people, but are free to elect any other brother they might find

suitable. God's servants always suggested, however, and rightly so, that in order to avoid any possible misunderstandings, it is the leader of God's people that should be voted to the ET office.

Please note that until 2004 **the outgoing leader FIRST pointed to the Divine choice for the next leader, using the Bible as the basis, not human speculation, and ONLY THEN did the brethren vote for such a Divinely shown leader as ET.** When in 2004 Bro. Hedman passed away (as the last Biblically shown leader), without having pointed to anyone as the Divine selection for the next leader, the brethren elected RH as the ET, having voted the CEC candidate out by a misapplication of Heb. 7:7 to the ET office; then, on being elected in 2004, RH was regarded as the next ET only, with his leadership office hanging in the balance until in 2007, for the next three years, after which the humanly elected ET concluded he was the leader as well, announcing it to the brethren at large in the PT.

What happened was a reversal of the sequence of events: **up to 2004, God had FIRST shown the leader, AND THEN the brethren elected him to be the ET, but in 2004 the brethren FIRST elected the ET, AND THEN, three years later, that ET proclaimed himself the leader!** Who is it then that has been selecting the leader of God's people since 2004? Is there any place here for God? It turns out that ever since 2004 it is man that elects for God the leader, since first man elects a brother as the ET, and then **assumes** that God must have chosen him leader before! **In this way, anyone elected by the brethren becomes the leader, the proof being that no matter who is chosen by men, God surely has selected him FIRST to be the leader!** Thus, the decision as to who should be the leader has passed to man!

At the moment, we are after the first vote of March 11, during which the "leader" barely got the required 75% of votes. Out of the 65 brethren present, 51 raised their hands, with 40 being in favor and 11 against; the 14 abstaining ones probably means (at least in most cases) lack of courage to vote against. Only two votes against more and the already Divinely chosen "leader" would have been rejected as the next ET in the first vote! What then? Finding another one for God? Kicking another group of "unfaithful brethren" out of the Movement as part of the "cleansing" process seemingly in operation since 2004 so that only LS and his supporters remain and vote as he pleases? Time will show where such a leader will lead his sheep, but surely it will not be "green pastures" or "still waters." (Psa. 23:2).