

TEXICO OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Conference

TERRITORY:

New Mexico and Seventy-Eight
Counties of West Texas

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HOME MISSIONARY AND
SABBATH SCHOOL DEPARTMENTS

April 21, 1955

Miss Bessie Mount
General Conference of S. D. A.
Takoma Park, Washington 12, D. C.

Dear Miss Mount:

While visiting in the homes of some interested people I was confronted with a problem which is being stressed in many of the Baptist churches throughout the Texico Conference. I am passing on this little problem to your office for study, and would appreciate a clear-cut answer. To us as Adventists the problem is very insignificant, it does not disturb our thinking whatsoever. Nevertheless, we would appreciate having a statement or two on the subject which would help us in meeting our Baptist friends.

On page 87 of DESIRE OF AGES, Trade Edition, we find the statement that Jesus had older brothers. On page 86 the brothers of Jesus were called the sons of Joseph. These two statements taken together would infer that these boys were the sons of Joseph by a former marriage. Now some of the Baptists are anxious to return their copies of DESIRE OF AGES because they claim that such statements are unscriptural. They claim that such a belief is definitely Catholic. The insinuation was that Adventists teach that Christ was not born of a virgin.

In my brief explanation to the folks I pointed out that Sister White, in DESIRE OF AGES, refers to Jesus as being the firstborn of Mary, but that did not satisfy their questioning. Of course, I am aware of the fact that some people are anxious to find a way out of joining the remnant church by trying to find little points to squabble over.

In your reply I would appreciate it very much if you would just omit some of the common expressions, such as, "This point is not vital to salvation." We know that, but what we are interested in is an explanation to these folks, showing that the statement made regarding the brothers of Jesus is in harmony with the Holy Scriptures.

Thanking you in advance for your kindness in giving study to this small matter, I remain with Christian greetings,

Sincerely your brother,

A. R. Mazat

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