L. E. Froom

to

Pastor A. K. Armstrong

Oct. 17, 1961.

[excerpt]

I teach periodically at our Andrews University, that is, the Seminary Division of the University. I have done so for many years here in Washington, and go each summer over there to teach special courses. A new course I am to give is The Historical Development of Seventh-day Adventist Doctrine. I trace this from 1844 to the present.

But the first 44 years, from 1844 to 1888, were largely devoted to building up the distinct, separate doctrines of Seventh-day Adventists, the Sabbath, sanctuary, Conditional Immortality, and the like. Little attention was paid to a person's views on the Godhead, the eternal pre-existence and Deity of Christ, the personality of the Holy Spirit, righteousness by faith, and the like. Men held variant views on these points, and some of our forefathers came out of what was called the Christian Connection.

This religious body was Arian in its belief—that is, that Christ was not eternal, but was either the first created being, or at least He was not, and was brought into being, being made the Creator, and given the power of restoring immortality in His Second Advent.   they also believed that the atonement had nothing to do with the cross, and denied the personality of the Holy Spirit.

Now, a small group held these views, but in 1888 a crisis came and two men, in particular, E. J. Waggoner and A. T. Jones brought the message of the fulness of the Godhead in Christ. The eternal pre-existence and complete Deity, and Mrs. White strongly endorsed the position that was presented, despite the opposition of some. Mrs. White said these men brought a message from heaven. She called them God's messengers, but she warned that if the opposition caused discouragement, and they lost their way, God would hold those accountable who brought that discouragement.

Now, what I am trying to do is to find out exactly what these men were teaching following 1888 and in the years, from say 1888 or 90 onward to the death of these men.

[end of excerpt]