

L.E. Froom to
Dr. Gertrude M. Brown

July, 17, 1968.

[excerpt]

"Inasmuch as you were a student of Dr. Waggoner's and well knew the emphasis that he gave and his fondness for the Book of Hebrews, I have this very important question. One of the issues in our early decades was over the nature of the Godhead. There were some that denied the Trinity. Uriah Smith went so far in 1888 as to say that Christ was the first of the created beings [first edition of D&R 1862? not 1888]. He later modified that by saying that He was not a created being, really, but there was a time when He was not. He was Brought into being; He was made the creator of all other things. In other words, He was a derived being.

And Joseph Waggoner, Father of E.J., contended that He was a subordinate being. That is, subordinate to the One Supreme God the Father, the One Who alone was Eternal and Who alone had inherent life.

Now, the Waggoner presentation is preponderantly sound and true on the complete Deity, the eternal pre-existence of Christ. Did you detect any deviation from this, anything to give you an impression that He did not believe that Christ was eternally with the Father, equal with Him, of the same eternal Godhead, or Trinity? Did he make any statement deprecating the position taken by Smith, for example, and his father, holding to the Arian view of Christ? Or was that now considered a settled matter?"

[excerpt]