

Investigating William Branham: The Unfolding Story of Plagiarisms and Errors

Bryan H. Smalls



This book is solely dedicated to our gracious Heavenly Father for the purpose of exposing discrepancies and errors by promoting scriptural truths and the biblical gospel of salvation exclusively through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Savior said: "...the Spirit of truth ...will guide you into all truth..." He further said: "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32; 16:13; Rom. 1:16-17; 1 Cor. 1:17-18; 15:1-4,11; 2 Tim. 3:15-17).

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations in this volume are from the King James Version of the Bible. For the purpose of modernizing certain words for easier recognition, the archaic suffixes "-eth" or "-th" when omitted in scripture quotations is marked by an asterisk (*). Words in brackets are comments from the author used for clarification or explanation and are not an original part of scriptures. Bold, capitalized, and italicized words in scripture references and third parties quotes are for emphasis only.

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Preface

Someone may ask why this book was written and entitled “Investigating William Branham?” To understand this title, we should remember the scriptures caution believers to prove all things (1 Thess. 5:21). Why? Because Jesus forewarned us that many people will be deceived by false Christs and false prophets during the last days (Matt. 24:5,11,24). Therefore, 1 John 4:1 and 6 says to test the spirits by the teachings of the apostles because there are many false prophets in the world (Deut. 13:1-5; 18:20-22).

Again, in Revelation 2:2, Christ commended the church for testing and disproving some men who claimed to be apostles. Neither Christ nor Paul were above scrutiny as they had to provide scriptural and infallible proofs of their claims (John 5:39; Acts 1:3; 17:11; 2 Cor. 13:3). Likewise, Minister Branham must be independently and objectively researched to see if his claims are true.

So then, we should now ask: “Who was William Branham (1909-1965) and what were his claims?” He was a pastor and gifted evangelist from Jeffersonville, Indiana who was credited for spearheading the post World War II healing revivals of the 1940s and 50s.

But, in the 1960s, Branham began to view himself as Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6, who restores the elect to the word of God as the forerunner of Jesus’ return; the seventh angel messenger of Revelation 3:14 and 10:7, who reveals every mystery of the Bible in the end time; and the fulfillment of the Son of man of Luke 17:30, who reveals Christ to the last generation as a prophet in human flesh. Weeks before death, Branham proclaimed his message as the *shout* of Christ’s return in 1 Thessalonians 4:16 that gathers followers for rapture to heaven.

Currently, an estimated two (2) million people in various countries believe Branham’s claims, even though more than 54 years have transpired since his death, which should disqualify him as a forerunner of Christ’s second coming. Branham’s followers call themselves “Message Believers.” Their goal is to tell the world that God sent a vindicated prophet to this generation. Rather than telling people that God sent his Son Jesus Christ to be the Savior of mankind according to the great commission in Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16, and Luke 24:46-47.

Why do Message Believers consider it necessary to proclaim William Branham and proselyte their families, friends, co-workers, churches, and the entire world? Well, many among them believe there is absolutely no salvation outside of his message. Others believe some sincere, clean living Christians who never heard his message can be saved as foolish virgins, but cannot be raptured to heaven as Christ’s Bride. They believe Branham’s message is the over 1200 audio recorded sermons—often transcribed into books. They view his sermons as authoritative, while some believe these are equal or surpass the Bible.

So then, why investigate William Branham? The reason being, Branham’s followers think they personally know everything about him because they trustingly believe what he says in his recorded sermons and books. They *unquestionably* accept his messages as truth and facts *without having ever conducted a personal and critical independent research*. As a result, these people are mostly clueless, misinformed, willingly ignorant, or chose to overlook the serious errors and discrepancies that surround this man upon whom they have entrusted the eternal destiny of their souls—including their families’.

Moreover, the subtitle is thus named “The Unfolding Story” because modern technology allows Branham’s recorded sermons to be searched by means of computer software and the internet. Also, the accessibility of official documents, archived newspaper articles, and historical facts through the internet has proven his major claims, prophecies, and vindications as untrue.

For example, archived records have proven that 16 men never fell from a bridge near Jeffersonville during its 1920’s construction as Branham’s earlier vision foretold. Neither was their found any newspaper that headlined the appearing of a light and voice from heaven on the Ohio River in June, 1933 commissioning him as the forerunner of Christ’s return, as he often told audiences. Rather, a Jeffersonville’s newspaper only wrote that 14 people were converted during that time. Also, facts prove he was not present when an unusual cloud featured in Life Magazine appeared in Arizona on February 28, 1963—alleged to be seven angels commissioning him to open the seven sealed mysteries of the Bible, as often stated in his sermons.

These obvious discrepancies are only few among a vast increasing list of severe issues involving repeated plagiarisms, disproved supernatural vindications, failed visions, failed prophecies, failed “Thus saith the Lord,” failed predictions, and unscriptural doctrinal errors.

For these reasons, many followers from various countries, who spent decades believing Branham’s errors, are now leaving his alleged *message of the hour*. This list includes longtime pastors. The current exodus mostly began in 2012 when several former followers, who were once ardent believers of his message, posted documented facts on their websites after researching the above discrepancies. Although my research is based on many credible resources, these websites will also be referenced.

However, the initial focus of this investigative study presents detailed information that examines several past, well-known literatures that uncover the depths of William Branham’s plagiarisms. Although I was aware of his plagiarism in the 1990s and began gathering facts in 2010, this extensive research actually began in August 2015.

So, why should plagiarism be the initial focus of this

investigation? Well, Branham's claims as the prophet and last messenger of Malachi 4:5-6 and Revelation 10:7 are based on the assumption that he "alone" came to reveal all the mysteries of the Bible in the last days. Among these most celebrated claims, the revealing of the seven seals in the book of Revelation are considered to be the pinnacle of his teachings that sets him apart from every past, present, and future ministries. He supposedly did what the Old Testament prophets, New Testament apostles, church reformers, or any other clergy throughout history had never achieved. He "exclusively" opened the book in God's right hand (Rev. 5:1) and revealed the seven seals. He claimed that seven angels from God (cloud in Life Magazine) supernaturally revealed these hidden mysteries.

Nonetheless, Branham's plagiarized teachings of the seven seals and other lessons become apparent when examined and diligently compared with commentaries and books of several well-known biblical writers of the past.

These writers are: Clarence Larkin (1850-1924), a very distinguished and knowledgeable Bible teacher; Uriah Smith (1832-1903), an educator and theologian of the Seventh Day Adventist; Charles Taze Russell (1852-1916), a restorationist and founder of a movement that later became the Jehovah's Witnesses organization; John Gill (1697-1771), a noted biblical scholar and theologian; and Albert Barnes (1798-1870), a noted theologian. We shall also consider a few other noted biblical scholars of the same eras, such as Cyrus Scofield and Henry Halley.

Nearly 100 pages of evidences shows that Branham either extensively used information from these author's books—sometimes verbatim—without citing them as his source, or shows him not being the first to reveal these alleged hidden mysteries as he led followers to believe.

The subjects that will be investigated for plagiarism are: (1) The seven seals, (2) The seven church ages, (3) Seven human messengers to seven church ages, (4) The seventh angel of Revelation 3:14 and 10:7 reveals all the mysteries of God, (5) Papal Rome is the beast of Revelation 13, (6) United States is the lamb-like beast of Revelation 13, (7) Mystery Babylon the Great is the Roman Catholic and Protestant denominations, (8) Romanism and Catholicism is the mark of the beast, (9) Confederation of churches is the image of the beast, (10) Vicarious Filii Dei is the number of the beast (666) in Roman Numerals, (11) Satan's trinity is the dragon, beast, and false prophet (12) The four beasts of seven seals represent four periods in church history, (13) Dan and Ephraim are excluded from 144,000 Israelites, (14) The seventy weeks of Daniel, (15) Apostle John's Patmos vision, (16) Israel is the fig tree, (17) The pyramid teaching, (18) Oneness doctrine of the Godhead, (19) Water baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, (20) Two comings of Elijah, and (21) The serpent seed.

For decades Branham's plagiarized teachings were generally hidden from the public because most of the commentaries and books in question are no longer widely circulated or still in print. However, the advent of the internet has made this information readily available.

Once sincere, truth-loving people among Branham's followers grasp the depths of his plagiarism of the seven seals and twenty (20) other teachings, they will then realize there were no seven angels revealing these alleged mysteries. They will realize he was not the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7 who revealed all the mysteries of the Bible in the last days (this verse is badly misinterpreted as this study shall scripturally prove beyond doubt).

So then, if this investigative study undeniably proves the above assertions to be true, then William Branham's entire claims as being Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6 and the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7 are fraudulent and detrimental to those sincerely believing his errors.

Nonetheless, Branham often made efforts to prevent any suspicion of plagiarism and legitimized his routine of using information obtained from books of past biblical writers without citing them. How? He attempted to deny their influences on his alleged revelations by accusing them of probing at the mysteries. Or that he came to tie up all the loose ends of their teachings about these subjects.

Actually, Branham used these excuses to utilize these authors' information without having to acknowledge their contributions. But, Branham knew that he was gathering vast knowledge and insights from their books. Now, decades later, many are discovering these hidden facts.

Another significant focus of this research provides several chapters of extensive scriptural truths uncovering vast errors in Branham's major teachings, including a false gospel of salvation. For example, during the latter years, Branham regarded his message as necessary or the evidence of salvation, redemption, sanctification, baptism of the Holy Spirit, the new birth, and rapture to heaven; rather than the gospel of Christ preached by the apostles. He specifically said: "We got something different."

Also, this book examines and proves Branham's alleged seven major prophetic visions from God in 1933 were not only historically inaccurate and not mentioned on audio tapes until 1953 to 1960 (after five or six events had occurred), but were predicted and often revised based upon prior knowledge of developing trends and current events between the 1920s and 1960s. In his 1965 book on the seven church ages, the obvious errors found in earlier sermons regarding these visions were cleverly removed.

Thus, whether Branham's followers agree or oppose this factual investigation, I hope they will search out these controversial subjects rather than evade them for fear of being rejected as outcasts or called blasphemers. Why? As shown below, there's an eternal risk if Branham is wrong. So, it is imperative to examine the errors of his teachings than being eternally lost for failing to validate truth. For no one who loves and makes a lie shall enter heaven and the world to come (Rev. 22:14-15).

I've got to leave here. You've got to leave here. And **if I go as a false prophet, I'll lose my own soul and lose yours with me.** _Questions And Answers On The Holy Ghost 12-19-59, William Marrion Branham

...**All liars**, shall have their part in **the lake**, which burns* with **fire and brimstone**... the second death. Rev. 21:8

Introduction: Why Write This Book?

During a study of biblical prophecies in 1983-84, I came across a book authored by William Branham entitled “An Exposition of the Seven Church Ages.” Having a strict Pentecostal background, I already knew some teachings considered by Branham’s followers to be his exclusive revelations. These teachings pertained to the Godhead, water baptism, women’s attire and ministry, and shunning what were deemed worldly entertainments (e.g., sports, carnivals, movies, televisions, etc.)

However, after reading the seven church ages and performing an independent research of history, I was impressed, not knowing Minister Branham got his information from Clarence Larkin and other biblical writers of the past. Afterward, I began to study his book pertaining to the seven seals and other prophecy related messages (also copied from past biblical writers). Eventually, I accepted his claims of Malachi 4:5-6 and Revelation 10:7, but not Luke 17:30—which pertained to Christ.

Being a minister who believed solely in the absolute authority of the Bible, I could only accept Branham’s teachings based upon what I could see in the scriptures. For that reason, I was never accepted as being in what is called “The Message.” Nonetheless, in considering Branham’s gifted ministry of signs and wonders, I was impressed with his restoration message of Malachi 4:5-6 that the end time church would return back to the biblical teachings of the apostles and the power of first century Christianity. But, what I later discovered was different from that perspective.

During several meetings in 1984, I taught the seven church ages that led to a great revival in South Carolina. Afterward, many ministers and members from my former church left the organization. Their departure eventually led to the establishment of a flourishing church in Columbia. This revival was also occurring in a few other cities. Some of these ministers are now pastors in “The Message.”

After accepting Branham’s claims, I soon learned that he had a devout international following called “Message Believers.” They were very zealous about his recorded audio sermons and books. Although I believed Branham was a major prophet, I refused to be labeled a Message Believer, choosing rather to be called a “Christian.”

After meeting some of Branham’s followers, I became very alarmed about their cultic behaviors and attempted to warn others who were part of the revival. These people were enamored with Branham, sometimes equating him with Jesus Christ. They preached from his books and audio sermons as if they were scriptures, and constantly repeated his name during sermons, saying: “Bro. Branham said.”

However, I was neither interested in talking about or exalting Branham. There were other ministers who later introduced him to the people. Rather, I was interested in teaching others how the church will be restored to the true biblical teachings of the apostles and the dynamic spiritual gifts of first century Christians.

Therefore, seeing that Branham appeared to be a true prophet who had supernatural gifts, I was very interested in listening to his sermons to see what he had to say about this restoration to biblical truths and spiritual gifts.

Sadly, instead of finding among Branham’s followers those who exalted Jesus Christ and restored to the words of the Apostles, I mostly found a people exalting their prophet and quoting authoritatively from his books as if they were scriptures, saying: “Bro. Branham said.” I was openly against these non-biblical sermons and became wary of them. When teaching, I always attempted to do so from a biblical and historical perspective rather than his sermons or books. Actually, I can only remember reading from his book once during a sermon pertaining to the seventh seal.

During this time, the outside influence from well-known ministers in “The Message” began to pressure local pastors and their churches to fully embrace Branham’s ministry, books, and audio tapes.

For a season, I was able to deter these initiatives from penetrating a few Bible oriented churches. But, after slowly withdrawing from these churches, I could no longer prevent the inevitable from happening.

As fellow ministers and church members succumbed to the deep end of Branham’s ministry, they eventually were indoctrinated as Message Believers. By attempting to warn them, I became a lone voice in the wilderness. As a result, like other followers, they eventually began to study and preach from Branham’s audio tapes and books, while some exalted him and repeatedly used his name during sermons.

During those days something great happened in 1987. The Lord gave me a clear understanding of the biblical gospel of Jesus Christ, which became a three volume series decades later (see pages 316-318). Even though I did not grasp the gospel as I presently do, looking back I now realize that its message of salvation through faith in Jesus’ crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection redirected my steps away from self-righteousness and Branhamism.

Even though the churches where I mostly ministered enjoyed my teachings pertaining to the gospel of Christ, I later learned that the overall followers of Branham were not enthused with this biblical message of salvation. Their focus was telling people that God sent a prophet and they need his message to either be saved or raptured to heaven.

Thus, disrespect for the biblical gospel of salvation and scriptures, the cultic devotions people had for Branham, and the evangelical and missionary focus of Message churches to proclaim him rather than Jesus Christ the Savior: finally led me to withdraw from his followers.

At first, I thought these people went astray from sound biblical doctrines after Branham’s death. I now know that listening to his sermons has misled them. Actually, after having heard most of his 1960s sermons and many earlier ones, I stopped listening to them in the late 1980s since they were repetitious, contradictory, and error-prone.

By the end of the 1990s, I already knew that Branham had plagiarized Larkin and years later learned about the discrepancies relating to the cloud shown in Life Magazine. In 2010, I planned to write a book disproving his teachings, but was delayed until completing a three book series about the true biblical gospel. A few years later during further research for this book, I came across websites of former followers that had credible information exposing Branham.

Although I was glad to see others fleeing the message, I have no vendetta against Branham or elation in writing this book. But, I deem it obligatory to warn others of the vast

plagiarisms and errors found in his ministry and teachings that clearly disproves his misinterpreted claims of fulfilling end time biblical prophecies over 54 years ago. Why? Well, even though I attempted to prevent people from embracing the cult of Branhamism, I take the responsibility for some of them accepting his claims (Ezek. 33:6-9; Acts 20:26-27). Many leaders are trying to hide these disturbing facts. However, people have the right to know the truth and make their own decisions whether to follow or forsake the erroneous message of William Branham.

The Author

Scope of Investigation

This Investigative Study about William Branham:

- Disproves claim he was present when an unusual cloud featured in Life Magazine appeared in Arizona on February 28, 1963 —alleged to be seven angels commissioning him to exclusively open the hidden mysteries of the seven seals in Revelation chapters 5 to 8
- Provides scientific data that unusual cloud (alleged seven angels) in Life Magazine was possibly caused by a destroyed missile fired from an Air Force Base, which never appeared in the vicinity where he later hunted on March 7, 1963 (it appeared nearly 200 miles away)
- Provides nearly 100 pages disproving claims of revealing the alleged hidden mysteries of the seven seals, the seven church ages, and nineteen (19) major doctrinal subjects by either showing plagiarisms or similar teachings in well-known books written by Clarence Larkin, Charles Taze Russell, Uriah Smith, Cyrus Scofield, Henry Halley, and several other biblical teachers of the past
- Proves inaccuracies of visions, prophecies, predictions, discernments, and claimed healings that violate Deuteronomy 18:20-22; Jeremiah 14:14; and Ezekiel 22:28
- Proves seven (7) major visions of 1933 were not only historically inaccurate and not mentioned on audio tapes until 1953 to 1960 (after five or six events had already transpired), but were predicted and often revised based upon prior knowledge of developing trends and current events between the 1920s and 1960s
- Uncover irreconcilable discrepancies in alleged supernatural visions and experiences (e.g., angelic commissions of 1933, 1946, and 1963)
- Uncover irreconcilable discrepancies in alleged testimonies and life's story
- Scripturally disproves claims of fulfilling Elijah the prophet in Malachi 4:5-6, who allegedly restores the elect to God's word as the forerunner of Christ's return
- Scripturally disproves claims of fulfilling the seventh angel in Revelation 3:14 and 10:7, who allegedly reveals the unwritten seven thunders in Revelation 10:3-4 and all the mysteries of the Bible in the last days
- Scripturally disproves claims of fulfilling the Son of Man in Luke 17:30, who allegedly reveals Christ as a prophet in flesh to the last generation
- Scripturally disproves claims of fulfilling the shout of Christ's return in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, whose end time message allegedly gathers and prepares followers for rapture to heaven, and whose tent ministry was suppose to produce rapturing faith during his lifetime
- Disproves claim that revelation of the seven thunders in Revelation 10:4 would produce rapturing faith in his followers
- Scripturally disproves claim of opening the seven-sealed book of Revelation 5:1-14 during seven sermons preached in March 1963 by showing this event still speaks of the future
- Scripturally disproves teaching that six of the seven trumpets in Revelation chapters 8-11 occurred in the 1940s by showing these events still speaks of the future
- Scripturally disproves numerous significant teachings such as serpent seed, no eternal hell, and several others
- Exposes four contradictory teachings about the Godhead that confuses and divides followers
- Considers confused teachings about women, marriage, divorce, and polygamy
- Provides two chapters that scripturally proves teachings about salvation contrary to the biblical gospel of Christ taught by the apostles, which violates Galatians 1:6-9
- Scripturally disproves misinterpreted teachings called the three stages of redemption and rapture: justification, sanctification, baptism of the Holy Spirit, and rapturing faith
- Proves he preached a false gospel in the latter years by making his message necessary or the evidence of salvation, redemption, sanctification, baptism of the Holy Spirit, the new birth, and rapture to heaven
- Proves untimely death was predicted by others and possibly occurred due to dangerous teachings and audacious claims near the end of ministry
- Identifies 10 major sects among followers with conflicting and heretical doctrines that disproves claims of restoring the word of God as Elijah the prophet in Malachi 4:5-6
- Clearly shows how to receive scriptural salvation according to the true biblical gospel of Jesus Christ

William Branham and the 1963 Cloud Controversy

In the simplest term, plagiarism is the practice of taking someone else's words or ideas and passing them down as one's own work, which includes not citing the source of the information. Before beginning our in-depth investigation whether William Branham plagiarized his entire teachings on the seven seals, including twenty (20) other alleged revealed mysteries (accredited to him before, during, or after March 17-24 of 1963), it is important to understand the events leading up to those seven sermons.

The Cloud's Vindication

On February 28, 1963 a mysterious cloud that was 26 miles high and 30 miles wide appeared near Flagstaff, Arizona for 28 minutes after sunset. This event was reported in the May 1963 edition of Life magazine, as shown below (Life and Life Logo are registered



Trademarks of Time Inc. Used Under License).^[1]

This phenomenon was investigated by James McDonald (senior physicist at the Institute for Atmospheric Physics and professor in the Department of Meteorology at the University of Arizona).^[2] Initially, McDonald said the cloud was too high to be formed by a jet. Also, he was not aware of any rocket, rocket plane, or bombs being tested nearby and no water droplets exist that high to form the cloud.

The group who follow the ministry and message of William Branham (called "Message Believers") believe this cloud fulfilled a prophecy he foretold in December of 1962 regarding the visitation of 5 angels^[3] (later changed to seven – discussed later). Who was William Branham (1909-1965)? He was a pastor and gifted evangelist from Jeffersonville, Indiana credited for spearheading the post World War II healing revivals of the 1940s and 50s.^{[4][5]} Mostly known as "Brother Branham," some people believed him to be a prophet.^{[6][7]}

In the 1960s, Bro. Branham began to view himself as Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6, who restores the word of God as Christ's forerunner; and the angel of Revelation

3:14 and 10:7, who reveals every hidden mystery of the Bible in the last days. He also viewed himself as the fulfillment of the Son of man in Luke 17:30, who reveal Christ to the last generation as a prophet in human flesh.

The followers of William Branham believed this cloud fulfilled Revelation 10:1, where John saw a mighty angel descending from heaven in a cloud. Because Branham said his message fulfilled the "shout" of 1 Thessalonians 4:16, some followers believe this event was Jesus Christ's literal second coming, where this verse and Matthew 24:30 speak of him returning on clouds. So, why do the followers of Branham place significant emphasize on this cloud? They do so because of statements he made, as shown below:

And, now, I didn't know at the time, that **they were taking pictures** of that, scientists was, **as the Angels lowered themselves from Heaven, to bring the Message**. And you remember, I said the One on the right side of the constellation had, kind of, His chest back, and His wings. You remember me saying that, all of you? [Congregation says, "Amen." — Ed.] And how that I watched Him? He was very distinctive from the others. And **I didn't know they were taking a picture of It**, 'cause immediately I hurried East. But going back home to Tucson, there It was all through the papers that had been seen almost nationwide, or plumb into Mexico, and all the Western States, and I think the Courier over here. It was on the Associated Press. How many saw, "A mysterious cloud in the sky"? You see the hands. And now the **Life magazine picked it up**. And I have the —the article here this morning, in the Life magazine, of to show. Now here It is, **the same time I was there**. See the pyramid of the Cloud? **I was standing just below this**. _Standing In The Gap 06-23- 63M

Now, some sister here, Billy just showed me, was nice enough to go **get this Life magazine, this picture**, and blow it up, of that **of the seven Angels**, and have it taken and sent to me. That is the picture. And now if you'll notice here, **as it was leaving, ascending back, when the Angels had brought Their Message**, it was in the form of a pyramid; just exactly what I told you, three months before it happened, the way it would be. Is that right? [Congregation says, "Amen." —Ed.] _He That Is In You 11-10-63E

Later, **the Angels appeared** as was prophesied. And at the same time, a great cluster of Light left where I was standing, and moved thirty miles high in the air, and around the circle, like the wings of the Angels, **and drew into the skies a shape of a pyramid in the same constellation of Angels** that appeared. Science took the picture, all the way from Mexico, as it moved from northern Arizona, where the Holy Spirit said I would be standing, "forty miles northeast of Tucson." And it went into the air, and **Life magazine packed the pictures**. "A mystic something way in the spheres, where there could be no

moisture, where there could be no evaporations of anything; thirty miles high, and twenty-seven miles across," and coming right up from where those Angels were. *_It Is The Rising Of The Sun 4-18-65M*

Considering the above statements, William Branham said this cloud was formed after the visitation of seven angels. This happened when he was hunting javelina pigs in Arizona. Branham later said this cloud was Jesus Christ, sent to vindicate his opening of the seven seals (Revelation 5:1 to 8:5), along with the fulfillment of Revelation 10:1-7 and Luke 17:30, as shown below.

But, then, **I have the picture** laying present here, if you notice, **as Life magazine had it**. But I wonder if my audience, visible here, has ever really **looked at the picture**, see, see, in **the way it should be**. You remember, was preaching when this *vision came*, upon the subject of the Book of the Revelations, where the old judges, **where we seen Jesus** in Revelations 1. **When we started to open the Seven Seals** ... or the—or the Church Ages, rather, **just prior to the opening of the Seven Seals**. *_It Is The Rising Of The Sun 4-18-65M*

It's constantly unrolling Itself. From the very thing happening, **to the picture being Jesus standing looking at us**; and now exactly on Sunset Mountain, and the sunset Light. The evening Light has come, God vindicating Himself. What is it? It is the facts that God and Christ are one. The "white," how many seen it, the white wig upon Him, as we talked in Revelation? See, the Supreme Deity, Supreme Authority; no other voice, no other god, no other nothing! "In Him dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily." The Angels themselves was His wig. Amen. What's happened upon Mount Sunset? God confirming His Word. That's what all this noise is about. Notice, it's **God fulfilling His promised Word again, of Revelations 10:1 to 7**, "And in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel's Message, the mystery of God should be finished." **The hidden mystery of Revelations 10:1 to 7, the last Message to the last church age**. Fulfills exactly, in this age, **Saint Luke 17:30, "The day when the Son of man shall be revealed."** *_What Is The Attraction On The Mountain? 7-25-65E*

Even Branham's eldest son—Billy Paul—believed the mysterious cloud that appeared **on February 28, 1963** in Arizona fulfilled his father's prophecy. He wrote in the book cover of "The Revelation of the Seven Seals," which is the unabridged written version of Branham's recorded sermons on the seven seals preached between March 17 and March 24 of 1963:

In this Message he told of a vision that instructed him to move to Tucson, Arizona with his family. This vision foretold a blast that would take place, the force of which would shake the whole country. **This vision was fulfilled on Feb. 28, 1963** when 40 miles northeast of Tucson, **Brother Branham was caught up in a constellation of seven angels** and was told to return to his church in Jeffersonville, Indiana, **where the mysteries of the Seven Seals would be revealed to him**. *_The Revelation of the Seven Seals by William Marrion Branham*

Because of statements made by William Branham and his son pertaining to this mysterious cloud and its picture,

many Message Believers have this photograph hanging either in their churches or homes. However, the photographs usually seen are not duplicates of the original colored version featured in Life Magazine, which shows no facial features. But rather, they are altered versions that slightly has this appearance, as shown below.

Where did the altered version of the picture originate? Well, Perry Green publically admitted in a sermon that he obtained a duotone facsimile of the picture from Shirley Abbot Studios in Beaumont, Texas. ^[8] What is a duotone? Wikipedia says: ^[9]

Duotone is a halftone reproduction of an image using the superimposition of one contrasting color halftone (traditionally black) over another color halftone. This is most often used to bring out middle tones and highlights of an image. The most commonly implemented colours are blue, yellow, brown and red.



As shown above, duotones are not simple black and white renderings of photos, but requires color manipulation techniques, which can be performed using Photoshop software. ^[10] In an April 18, 1965 sermon, *"It is the Rising of the Sun,"* Branham publically attribute facial features to the cloud.

However, the picture he references was not a duplicate of the original cloud in Life Magazine obtained from a sister in 1963 (see second quote on page 11), but the duotone version (using tan and black colors) later presented by Green. ^[11]

Well, **if you'll turn the picture like this** and look, you can probably see it from the audience, **it's Christ**. See His eyes looking here, just as perfect as it could be; **wearing the white wig** of Supreme Deity and Judge of all heavens and earth. Can you see His eyes, nose, His mouth? [Congregation says, "Amen."—Ed.] Just turn the picture from this, the way they had it; this a way, the way it's supposed to be. And you... Can you see it? ["Amen."] He is Supreme Judge. There is none other but Him. And that is a perfect identification again, a vindication that this Message is the Truth. This is the Truth. It is true.... With the white, **see, you see the dark, His face, His beard, and His eyes**. And notice, He is looking... From Him comes this Light shining on the righthand side, to which He's looking to. And on the cross, that's where He looked, to the right, where He pardoned the sinner. In the Light of His resurrection, we still go forth in His Name. *_It Is The Rising Of The Sun 04-18-65M*

As William Branham had suggested above, when the duotone version of Life Magazine's picture of the cloud was turned sideways, the following facial image faintly appeared (shown on the following page).



Branham often told followers that Heinrich Hoffman's painting resembled the Christ he had seen in a vision.^[12] In the sermon "Work Is Faith Expressed," he says the cloud is perfectly Hoffman's Head of Christ.^[13] Many years after Branham's death, a follower flipped Hoffman's painting of Christ [PD-1923]^[14] and superimposed it into the picture of the cloud, as shown below.^[15] Some of Branham's followers believe this superimposed picture is the original. During a sermon, Perry Green openly denounced this belief.^[16]



The Cloud's Vindication Debunked?

As shown, William Branham and followers believed the picture of the cloud in Life Magazine was seven angels of God and the face of Jesus Christ. They believe it was proof that Branham was ordained to open the seven sealed book in God's right hand (Revelation 5:1).

Today, churches and the homes of Message B believers mostly have the altered versions hanging on their walls as the face of Christ. Nonetheless, the first question we must ask: "Was William Branham hunting javelina pigs in Arizona when this cloud appeared?" As stated above, he claimed to be beneath this cloud when it appeared.

And now the **Life magazine picked it up**. And I have the —the article here this morning, in the Life magazine, of to show. Now here it is, **the same time I was there**. See the pyramid of the Cloud? **I was standing just below this**. _Standing In The Gap 06-23-63M

So then, was William Branham hunting in Arizona and present when the cloud in Life Magazine appeared? This question was first asked, investigated, and exposed in 1977 by an ex-follower.^{[17][18]} But, more recently examined by former staunch believers who once followed his ministry.

^{[19][20][21]} During my initial research around 2010, I became aware of the issue. What is the issue? Well, the cloud in Life Magazine was photographed on February 28, 1963. Hunting season for javelina pigs for that year opened on March 1, 1963 until March 10, 1963.^{[22][23][24]}

According to recorded sermons by Branham, he was not hunting when this cloud appeared. His planned hunting trip was interrupted when he went to Houston, Texas to plead for a murderer facing the electric chair.^[25] Consider the words Branham spoke in Houston on March 4, 1963.

Good evening, to Houston. I certainly deem this a great privilege, of **being here again** tonight in Houston. It's been many years since I've had the privilege of being here. And I've been setting, listening tonight to each of these speakers. And **the other day, when I had arrangements made for something else, another place**, and I knew that those children were facing death, I thought, "If something would happen to those children, I would never forgive myself," of not coming here to give my opinion and doing all that I could, to help this mother and father, and of these children, and to do all that I could for the saving of their lives. _A Absolute 03-04-63

And my faith that I have in God, that's why I'm here tonight. **That's why I canceled out something else, and got in here. I got to drive hundreds of miles tonight, back to Tucson, Arizona**, because I come to put my faith with yours. That's a man. It's a soul laying yonder. It's someone in need. And we Christians have got to wake up to a reality, to real genuine faith. Tie it to the Word of God, and plead that promise. Yes, sir. Oh, my! "If ye abide in Me, and My Word in you, ask what you want." _A Absolute 03-04-63

So then, William Branham did not start hunting until after his returned trip from Houston. Furthermore, when Branham preached his last sermon pertaining to the seals on March 24, 1963, he mentioned that he was in the mountains *a little over a week ago*. This time is definitely not February 28, the date when the cloud appeared.

Notice, there's witnesses of three setting in here, that **a week ago (a little over a week ago)** I was up **way back into the mountains**, nearly to Mexico, with two brethren that's setting here, picking cocklebur—or sand burrs off of my trouser leg, and a blast went off that almost, looked like, shook the mountains down. Now, that's right. I never told my brethren, but they noticed a difference. And He said to me, "Now, be ready. Go east." _ The Seventh Seal 03-24-63E

Later, in sermons preached on June 23, 1963 and November 27, 1965, Branham further verified that he went hunting after the trip in Houston, Texas. Thus, confirming the fact that he was not hunting in Arizona when the cloud in Life magazine appeared on February 28, 1963.

Brother Fred Sothmann. I know he's here. And I'm pretty sure Brother Norman is here. We was up ... **I had to go to Houston about getting that little boy saved from the electric chair. And then I went back and I went hunting up there with the brethren**. And that morning, I was standing there picking cockleburs, or—or what they call goatheads there, burrs off of my trouser leg. And the blast did just exactly the way It said it.

Is that right, Brother Fred? And I—I—I must have jumped way off of the ground. And just above me was the Angels of the Lord that sent Message back, for me to come here to break these Seals. _Standing In The Gap 06-23-63

So I said, "All right, I'll come." **I come over to Houston**, had the meeting, and course the... they never killed them, they just... they give them life. And that's what they wanted them to do, just give them life. So that's about twenty-one years, I guess, in—in Texas. So then, and **going back, I went up in the mountain** and **I went with Brother Fred Sothmann** . He's here somewhere. Brother Fred, where you at? Right here. Brother Fred Sothmann, Brother Gene Norman.... _Trying To Do God A Service Without It Being God's Will 11-27-65

As proven, William Branham was not in Arizona when this cloud appeared, even though he believed it was proof that he fulfilled Revelation 10:1-7 and Luke 17:30 (these scriptures are discussed later), as shown below.

...**What's happened upon Mount Sunset? God confirming His Word**. That's what all this noise is about. Notice, it's **God fulfilling His promised Word** again, of **Revelations 10:1 to 7**, "And in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel's Message, the mystery of God should be finished." The hidden mystery of Revelations 10:1 to 7, the last Message to the last church age. Fulfills exactly, in this age, **Saint Luke 17:30**, "The day when the Son of man shall be revealed." _What Is The Attraction On The Mountain? 07-25-65

Not only was Branham not present when this translucent cloud appeared, it never appeared in the vicinity where he eventually hunted after March 4, 1963. The cloud shown in Life Magazine was photographed near Flagstaff, Arizona, which is nearly 210 miles away from Tucson; (see arrows on map – Courtesy of Nation Online Project). [26]



According to Branham and his son Billy Paul, he was hunting forty (40) miles northeast of Tucson, Arizona at Sunset Peak (or Rattlesnake Mesa). [27]

Junior Jackson listening in, you remember the dream he had that I interpreted, "going towards the setting of the sun"? And this happened on "Sunset" Mountain. It's the evening time, sunset time. The sunset Message through a setting of history, a setting of prophecy, rather, being fulfilled. And it shall be Light at the evening time, upon Sunset Mountain in the Coronado Forest, **forty miles north of Tucson** . Get on the map and see if Sunset Peak there. **That's exactly where it happened** . I never know it till the other day. _What Is The Attraction On The Mountain? 07-25-65E

This vision **was fulfilled on Feb. 28, 1963** when **40 miles northeast of Tucson**, Brother Branham was caught up in a constellation of **seven angels**. _The Revelation of the Seven Seals by William Marrion Branham

So then, when this cloud appeared on February 28, 1963, William Branham was nowhere in the area , nor was he hunting . Furthermore, Branham's claims that the cloud appeared over Phoenix and Tucson are totally misleading. Also, the claim that he, along with Fred Sothmann and Gene Norman, saw this cloud shown in Life Magazine is also incorrect.

The Life magazine packed an article of it, "Mystic circle of Light goes up in the air above Tucson and Phoenix," in the same way that I told you nearly a year before it happened, how it would be, and like a triangle. The picture hangs in the church down there. You that took that magazine has it. There it was, just exactly. They said, "It's twenty-seven miles high and thirty miles across." They don't understand yet what happened. **It appeared mysteriously** and went away mysteriously. **Brother Fred Sothmann, Brother Gene Norman and I, standing there . Three is a witness**. Like He took up on top of the mount; Peter, James, and John, to give witness. Stood there and watched it when it happened, and seen it done. There It is, hanging in the sky; so far, there is no humidity, no moisture or nothing to make a—a fog. How could they come there? It was the Angels of God returning back, after their Message. This day that prophecy has been fulfilled in our midst. _This Day This Scripture Is Fulfilled 02-19-65

I saw seven Angels come. Didn't **Life magazine pack it**, as the fog of It floated across here, twenty -seven miles high, and thirty miles across? Is not **Fred Sothmann**, these other, **Gene Norman**, them, setting back there? **Stood right there when them seven Angels appeared right there on the hill** . It shook the hills, for miles around, like that. There stood seven Angels. And threw a sword in your hand, said, "Go home and open these Seven Seals that are given." And here they are, the true mystery of marriage and divorce, and the serpent's seed, and all of these things that's been fussed about. It's **THUS SAITH THE LORD**. _The Easter Seal 04-10-65

William Branham alluded to the fact that Gene Norman witnessed the cloud pictured in Life magazine. Yet, when considering Mr. Norman's personal account of the event, he said otherwise. [28]

And when that passed away I got up and I hunted about ... I started working back and I hunted probably about a half hour and that blast went off. It sounded like it was right above my head **and I looked up and I didn't see nothing ... I didn't see**

the cloud in the form that it shows in the picture _Gene Norman's Testimony

Although Gene testified that he did not see the cloud as illustrated in Life Magazine ; nonetheless, he did testify of seeing two long streaks like a n airplane leaving a trail (contrail). Although Mr. Norman did not see an airplane, he reported seeing a spot. He assumed the great blast that shook the mountain was a sonic boom caused by an airplane.

When I looked up I seen **two long streaks like a plane** a leaving a trail. Two streaks with a great miles one way **with a spot** ... a big space in between it but I couldn't see no plane. **I thought what it was was probably a plane bust the sound barrier** but there was no planes in the area ... there just wasn't any there you know and I didn't know what it was and so I started hunting back up the hill there and I met Fred and Brother Branham.

Gene Norman's description cast doubt on what really happened because Williams Air Force Base in Phoenix , Arizona was operating F-5 Freedom Fighters and T-38 Talons in that area in 1963. Phoenix is 106 miles from Tucson, the area where Branham and company were hunting. These aircraft were responsible for sonic booms in the area. Wikipedia says: [29][30]

Pilot training continued **throughout the 1960s**. The T-33s began to be phased out **in 1962**, being replaced by the T-38 Talon as the primary jet training aircraft. T-38s were used until the **closure of Williams in 1993** along with the Cessna T-37 "Tweet." Both trainers were two-seat, dual-engine jet aircraft, **the T-38 being capable of supersonic flight**.

The Northrop **F-5A/B Freedom Fighter** and the F-5E/F Tiger II are part of a **supersonic light fighter** family, initially designed in the late 1950s by Northrop Corporation.

In 1963, Williams was selected to support the Military Assistance Program **F-5A/B Freedom Fighter** sales by providing pilots and maintenance training personnel to nations purchased the fighter under the MAP program.

Actually, the website of "Believe The Sign" posted a March 1, 1963 article in the Arizona Republic that reported multiple sonic booms in Springerville, Arizona caused by aircraft from Williams Air Force Base (shown right – Used Under License from Arizona Central). [31]. These sonic booms were so loud that they cracked windows in the city. Residents said they were accustomed to these booms, but in the previous few weeks the noise appeared to be getting closer and louder. Springerville is nearly 226 miles from Phoenix. The article's write-up is shown below.

What resident termed the **loudest sonic booms heard in this community** caused more than \$500 damage Wednesday morning. The double boom occurred at 10 a.m. **Residents here, accustomed to sonic booms**, called **Williams Air Force Base** to complain of the apparent **increase in loudness**. An investigator from the Air Force Base will be sent within a few days and the matter will be referred to the base commander, an Air Force official said. **In the last few weeks, the booms appear to be getting closer and louder** and consequently more Cox, Cox manager of the Becker Mercantile Co. Three

windows of the store were cracked, Cox said. "I thought every window in the store was going to cave in," Cox said. It's the worst blast yet.



So then, we must now ask : "Was the blast that Branham described when hunting north of Tucson caused by seven angels commissioning him to open the seven seals, or was it a sonic boom caused by an aircraft?" Remember, Gene said he heard the boom and seen what

appeared to be airplane trails and a spot (perhaps a n aircraft leaving the area). Keep in mind, when an aircraft breaks the sound barrier, it is moving faster than sound so that by the time the boom is heard, the plane is gone.

Followeres of William Branham may question why I do not accept his account of the blast being caused by angels of God. Well, as we shall study in Chapter Two, the evidence strongly suggest that Branham got his understanding of the seven seals from several well-known authors and commentaries written before he was born or a teenager. Sadly, when Branham's teachings of the seven seals and twenty (20) other major subjects are compared side by side with these writers, we can most certainly conclude that he used their information and pass it to his followeres as his personal revelations given by seven angels sent from God.

As you shall see, the evidence points to the fact that Branham got his understanding of the seven seals and other supposedly revelatory subjects spoken during those seven (7) sermons from several Bible teachers. These teachers are Clarence Larkin (1850 -1924), Charles Taze Russell (1852 - 1916), Uriah Smith (1832-1903), Cyrus Scofield (1843 - 1921), John Gill (1697-1771), Albert Barnes (1798 -1870), and Henry Halley (1874-1965). On recorded tapes, Branham admitted to reading books and commentaries written by some of these men. But, of course, he only mentions their names when appearing to disagree with their explanations.

Therefore, evidence will plainly show that Branham got his messages of the seven seals and other subject matters (followeres deem as his personal revelations) from books and commentaries written by these men, not from angels of God. For this reason, I seriously do not believe seven angels revealed these seals to him . Why? Because there was nothing new that he introduced other than the rehashed teachings of others, especially from Clarence Larkin, Charles Taze Russell of the Jehovah's Witnesses, and Uriah Smith of the Seventh Day Adventist. I will use direct quotes

from Branham and these writers to prove this fact.

Moreover, as this study shall prove, William Branham's testimonies and accounts of events are very unreliable. For example, as first noted by Believe The Sign,^[32] Branham often told the story of a man from Windsor who falsified information on his prayer card and attempted to deceive him during a prayer line. But under discernment he exposed the man's scheme. In retelling the story, he provided many versions regarding this man's outcome, as shown below.

1. In Houston, Texas: "**He fell down on the floor and begin to screaming** to the top of his voice. He said, "Brother Branham, I-I thought it was just make-up. I-I-I honestly, **is there forgiveness for me?" There was.**" _Moses 01-10-50
2. In Jonesboro, Arkansas: "**The disease** that you put on that prayer card **will be on you the rest of your life** ." **And it is.**" _God Commissioning Moses 05-08-53
3. In New York , NY : "**Far as I know, the man's in eternity today, dead.**" _South Africa, Testimony 09-02-54
4. In Chicago, Illinois: "**The man's laying bedfast to this day** " _Blind Bartimaeus 04-07-56
5. In Brooklyn, New York: "And screaming, he run from the building. There it was . **I don't know what ever happened** . See?" _Jehovah- Jireh 12-09-56E
6. In Lima Ohio: "**The man died a year later.**"_ Blind Bartimaeus _01-27-57E
7. In Chicago, Illinois: "But the last time I heard him , **I never heard no more**" just a letter from some of the people, that **he was in a serious condition**. So we're not playing church." _Thirsting for Life 06-30-57
8. South Bend, Indiana: "**He died about six months later with a cancer.**" _The Queen of the South 02-08-58
9. In Middletown, Ohio : "They took him out paralyzed, and **he's still paralyzed.**" _Christ Knocking 03-30-58E
10. Long Beach, California: "**He died about six weeks afterwards.**" _Jehovah Jireh 02-12-61
11. In Jeffersonville, In diana: "And he grabbed me by the pants leg, he said, "I didn't..." I said, "**I can't help**. You go right ahead. **That's up between you and God. You wrote your doom right on your card.**" And that got him. **That was all of it.**" _Three Kinds of Believers 11-24-63E

The above example is not an isolated case. Branham repeatedly made many serious and contradictory mistakes. They occurred even when he spoke "Thus saith the Lord," giving accounts of personal and supernatural experiences, teaching from the scriptures, or retelling testimonies. This study will present facts that can be easily verifiable, not assumptions and speculations . But, do not take my words alone; sincerely examine the facts for yourselves.

The Cloud's Origin: Natural or Supernatural?

Okay, our study have proven that William Branham was not present when the cloud in Life magazine appeared. So then, we should ask what could have possibly caused this phenomenon? Although this cloud appeared on February 28, 1963, Dr. James McDonald (senior physicist at the Institute for Atmospheric Physics and professor in the Department of Meteorology at the University of Arizona) offered his first interview in the April 19, 1963 edition of Science Magazine where he discusses the cloud's basic features and size. ^[33]

Again, Dr. McDonald offered further explanation in May 17, 1963 edition of Life Magazine where the pictures and article on page 11 appeared. Later, on May 31, 1963, he further investigated and offered the following report shown below. ^[34] The report said the detonation and aftermath of a faulty Thor missile near Vandenberg Air Force Base in California could have possibly caused the cloud.

V. A possible explanation - a Vandenberg AFB rocket explosion.

A. Thor booster explosion. A search of West Coast newspapers for the 28th disclosed a brief note on a intentional destruction of a military -satellite launch booster sometime on the 28th. Further information was found in the March 11, 1963, issue of Missiles and Rockets, which contained the following item: **◆The Air Force deliberately destroyed a secret satellite, believed to be of the Discoverer series, after launching it aboard the ◆souped up◆ Thor Feb. 28 from Vandenberg AFB.** All four motors were ignited at launch, but **deviation from the programmed trajectory forced safety officials to destroy the booster before payload separation.** The thrust-augmented Thor (TAT) is a liquid -fueled Thor with three Thiokol solid rockets spaced around the Thor case.

This was the combination ◆s first test. **◆ It became essential to find the time of this detonation and to explore further details bearing on the cloud, so both by direct inquiry and by inquiry through the Office of Naval Research in Pasadena, further information was sought. Mr. E. E. Clary, Chief Scientist at Vandenberg, has very kindly provided unclassified information on this flight. The booster was destroyed at an altitude of 146,000 ft, almost directly overhead (but a bit south) of Vandenberg AFB at 1352 PST. As soon as this information was received, it appeared to offer the first solid clue as to the Flagstaff cloud ◆s origin.** The altitude at detonation was close to the photogrammetrically estimated cloud altitude, and the time of detonation made it necessary to consider very seriously the possibility that the Flagstaff cloud was some aftermath of the detonation. A crucial question was whether the time interval between the detonation over Vandenberg and the passage of the cloud over Flagstaff would match photogrammetrically estimated cloud-drift speed and/or other independent wind-speed observations. Taking 1840 MST as the time of passage over Flagstaff, the 1452 MST (= 1352 PST) detonation time implies a hypothetical drift -time of 3 hours and 48 minutes. The airline distance to Vandenberg from Flagstaff is 510 miles , so the minimum mean drift speed required to associate these two events is very nearly 135 mph. This required drift speed is substantially larger than Schley ◆s roughly estimated 110 mph, and even further from the 7795 mph estimated from the Lordsburg photos.

Thus the agreement with respect to drift speed seemed rather poor, even though the height agreement between detonation and cloud seemed very encouraging. It was clearly necessary to seek further wind data, so inquiry was made concerning possible observational data from the Meteorological Rocket Network.

B. Rocket wind -data. The two nearest rocket -wind observation points happen to be rather well located to indicate winds along the trajectory that might have carried some explosion aftermath from Vandenberg to Flagstaff: One station is at Pt. Mugu, Calif.,

and the next nearest one is at White Sands, N. M. Queries were sent to both stations. White Sands sent a Judi sounding rocket up at 0800MST on 28 February, about 10 hours before the Flagstaff passage. At 140,000 ft. the winds were 109 mph from WSW; at 150,000 ft. the winds were 97 mph from WSW. The following day, March 1, at 1215 MST, White Sands launched a Loki II sounding rocket that indicated winds of just over 90 mph from WSW at both 140,000 and 150,000 ft. No sounding was available from Pt. Mugu on the 28th; but an Arcas launched at 0800 PST on March 1 indicated winds of 127 mph from the west at 140,000 ft. and 112 mph from the west at 150,000 at that time.

The rocket-sounding winds come tantalizingly close to fitting the hypothesis that the Flagstaff cloud was some byproduct of the Vandenberg detonation; yet the agreement is not quite close enough to be conclusive. The White Sands winds of the morning of the 28th seem significantly too low to match the required drift speed of 135 mph; but they agree rather well with the maximum cloud-drift speed estimated from the Lordsburg photos. It is regrettable that no Pt. Mugu winds were measured on the 28th. They would have shown whether the winds at that upwind location were enough higher than those at White Sands to imply a mean drift speed of around 135 mph. (A West Coast speed of something like 160 mph would be needed to yield the required mean of 135 mph, if we take the White Sands 0800 speed of 109 mph as typical of the stratosphere over Flagstaff near 140,000 to 150,000 ft. at 1840 MST on the 28th.)

Although Mr. Willis Webb of the White Sands missile Range emphasized, in phone conversation on the problem, that variations above or below measured winds at times between observations might well approach 20 per cent of the measured values at these levels, **it remains uncertain whether one may concluded that the Flagstaff cloud was due to the detonation at Vandenberg. It is necessary to seek still further crosschecks.**

C. Unsettled questions. At this writing, further inquiries are being sent to the Chief Scientist of the Pacific Missile Range, to whom I have been directed by Vandenberg AFB for further information. It is hoped that phototheodolite movie records of the detonation may exist and may yield data on the initial drift speed and drift direction of the explosion cloud. Also, the initial configuration of the explosion cloud will be sought, along with information on possible presence of a side-explosion to the west of the main explosion. The latter item bears on the interesting problem of the secondary cloud west of the main one at Flagstaff. Many photos and still more letter descriptions establish the presence of a smaller, roughly similar cloud some twenty miles west of the main ring. This cloud was definitely seen to form and to dissipate during the period of prominent visibility of the main cloud. Photos show it to have a more pear-shaped form than the main ring; and a short fish-tail formation existed at its northern extremity. It is difficult to see how a single detonation over Vandenberg could have also led to this secondary cloud. Mr. Clary, at Vandenberg, was fairly certain that no side explosions occurred; but this will be checked further.

In addition, information will be sought concerning the weight of liquid propellant still unburnt in the Thor at instant of detonation. This item of information will permit quantitative estimates to be made of the total water of combustion released in the explosion, as well as the heat release (for use in estimating buoyant circulation generation). **These points, if they can be cleared up, may finally settle the question of whether the Flagstaff cloud can plausibly be identified as an aftermath of**

the Thor detonation over the California coast.

As shown above, Dr. McDonald could not rule out the possibility that the cloud was caused by the detonation of a Thor missile because the scientific data seemed to support this view. On June 1963, Dr. McDonald continued his study regarding the origin of the unusual cloud that appeared over Flagstaff, Arizona. The report is shown below. ^[35]

WEATHERWISE

The Magazine About The Weather

Vol. 16, No. 3, June, 1963 p.99

Cloud-Ring in the Upper Stratosphere

JAMES E. MCDONALD, *Institute of Atmospheric Physics, University of Arizona, Tucson*

At sunset on 28 February 1963, observers scattered over an area of nearly two hundred thousand square miles in the Southwest witnessed a strikingly beautiful cloud display. After three months of effort to determine just what it was that caught their eyes, I am still not sure myself, though the number of pertinent clues has now grown fairly large. Many persons at first thought it just a large contrail, as I did when first viewing it from Tucson. But the clue to its extremely great height came quickly as the setting sun's rays left darkening high cirrus clouds far to the west (!), while the ring still shone with a beautiful luminescent silvery cast.

From quick computations based on the sunset geometry (the ring went dark at about 1850 MST), I estimated its altitude at over 30 km, and immediately put out an appeal through press and radio for observers' reports. In all, some 200 reports were ultimately received; and subsequent press appeals for photos has led to a total of 85 photos from 35 different localities for photogrammetry use. It is now known that the ring lay at an altitude of 43 km above sea level (to within a present uncertainty of only about one kilometer), which is far higher than the 20-30 km range of Arctic nacreous clouds. It was nearly overhead at Flagstaff, Arizona, at about 1840 MST, and many excellent photos showing the cloud's unprecedented variety of internal wave structures have been received from persons in that area. Its north-south extent was over 50 miles, and its east-west width was around 30 miles. Like a huge doughnut, its center was open.

Although, to most observers in Arizona, its color appeared silvery white in the twilight sky, most observers in New Mexico reported iridescence. It was seen in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and even northern Mexico (Juarez, about 380 miles from the southern tip of the cloud-ring). In one report after another, I read the observer's emphatic remarks to the effect that, in a lifetime of cloud-watching, he had never before seen a cloud as beautiful as this one. (*continued on p. 148*)

What was it? I'm still trying to answer that. It was far above the upper limit of contrail formation. No X-15 flights were made that day, and it lay well above my thermodynamically estimated upper limit of 27 km for the maximum altitude at which the ammonia and liquid oxygen rocket motors of an X-15 could form contrails.

No Nevada Test Site activity occurred that day, and nothing else turned up from inquiries at a number of other Southwest defense

bases. **However, a brief press account of the intentional destruction of a rocket over Vandenberg AFB, Calif., that day led to inquiries that are still continuing at this writing (6/4/63).**

The Thor booster of a military satellite -launch was detonated at 44 km at 1352 PST almost directly over Vandenberg AFB. To account for a drift of 510 miles to Flagstaff in time to have lowered the jaws of Flagstaffians looking straight up at 1840 MST, calls for a mean drift speed of 135 mph. Inquiries at the White Sands and the Pt. Mugu Missile ranges have yielded meteorological rocket winds for times about a half-day before and after the detonation event. The rocket winds are generally a bit too low to fit well; however, the Pt. Mugu 140,000 -ft winds the following morning were 127 mph from the west. My own photogrammetrically estimated cloud - drift speeds fall below 95 mph when the cloud was over northern Arizona. I am hoping that phototheodolite films from the Pacific Missile Range may finally fill the gap in wind data by showing the initial drift speed and direction of the explosion debris itself. A number of other related questions are still under study.

The ring -cloud over Flagstaff is flattened by perspective into a long thin loop in this photo by Lynne E. Cobble, taken at Albuquerque, N.M., some 280 miles from the cloud. Intense low-angle forward-scattering by the cloud particles (presumed to be water or ice) creates strong contrast against the twilight sky. Sun had set at Albuquerque almost a half hour before this photo was made at 1840 MST. Kodak Retina Reflex camera F4 1/8th of sec. with 135mm telephoto lens.

Photo courtesy Sgt. Arthur A. Francis, Kirtland AFB, who is making a study of the phenomenon. The cloud lay right at the base of the **region of exclusion** for water drops and ice particles in that layer (about 42 to 65 kms, on the average), where temperatures are so warm that saturation vapor pressures exceed ambient pressures.

If this was, in fact, the aftermath of the Thor explosion, persistence of a circulation and of condensate for nearly four hours of downwind drift will be of considerable meteorological interest. If it was not due to the explosion, then the mystery will be back where it started at sunset on 28 February.

to Winslow, Arizona, which is nearly parallel to Flagstaff, having a latitude of 35.0286° N (see map on page 25)



A video of missile launches and failures at Vandenberg Air Force Base can be viewed on YouTube under the caption “*Missile Launches, Accidents, and Failures at Vandenberg AFB 3314*” (see endnote for link) ^[37] Based on Gene Norman’s testimony, ^[38] when he and Bro. Branham saw the picture of the cloud in Life Magazine for the first time, they both admitted to having never seen it before.

I was over at my Brother in Law, Willard Weert’s and he got a phone call and I picked up that Life Magazine and I was thumbing through there and **I seen that cloud picture and I didn’t have any idea what it was** and so I asked Willard “Don’t you think that’s strange?” and he said “Sure is” And I said “Can I just take this and show Brother Branham?” and he said “Sure you can have it if you want it.” Brother Branham came over Sunday to go to Church at one of the Assembly of God Churches down on Broadway and **I showed him that picture of the cloud and I said “Did you ever see this before Brother Branham.” And he says “No, I haven’t seen it”** He looked at it and said “I guess you’ve seen that it’s in the form of a pyramid?” and I said “No I never” And he said “Do you mind if I have it Gene?” and I said “No, take it along. I don’t want it”. And he never said what it was but later on when he said what it was, why we were going to Church another Sunday morning and he said “Gene, why don’t you go down and tell that McDonald” (he was the guy at the university there that was making light of it), ”

As stated, Branham believed the cloud was vindication that he was sent by God to open the hidden mysteries of the seven seals. Nevertheless, for a person who claimed to have seen this cloud while hunting; but yet, did not recognize it when first shown to him appears to be questionable.

I saw seven Angels come. Didn’t Life magazine pack it, as the fog of It floated across here, twenty -seven miles high, and thirty miles across? Is not **Fred Sothmann**, these other, **Gene Norman**, them, setting back there? **Stood right there when them seven Angels appeared** right there on the hill. _The Easter Seal 04-10-65

Also, there were sightings of other unusual clouds in the same area in June and November of 1963. These clouds were reported by associates of Dr. McDonald at the University of Arizona. Unlike McDonald’s indecisiveness, his colleagues concluded that these clouds were caused by launched projectiles, as shown on the next page in Science magazine (reprinted with permission from AAAS). ^[39] ^[40]

After further examination, Dr. McDonald still could not find conclusive evidence to rule out the likelihood the cloud originated from a Thor missile detonation. Why? Because the wind speed needed to take it from Vandenberg AFB to Flagstaff within the allotted time was impossible. A wind speed of 135 mph was necessary to travel the distance in the allotted time. He had wind speed ranging from 95 mph to 127 mph. He was hopeful that films from the Pacific Missile Range would provide him the answer.

The air/drive route map shown right (Map data: Google, INEGI) ^[36] verifies that Vandenberg and Flagstaff are nearly paralleled. The latitudes for Vandenberg (34.7328° N) and Flagstaff (35.1992° N) also confirm this parallelization. The *noctilucent* cloud only became visible after sunset, which may explain why it was first seen in Flagstaff.

Moreover, the following map shows that the cloud never appeared near Tucson, where Branham later hunted. Although the cloud was photographed from 35 different localities, Life Magazine showed that it continued traveling

Reports

Low-Latitude Noctilucent Cloud of 15 June 1963
Aden B. Meinel¹, Barbara Middlehurst¹, Ewen Whitaker¹

+ Author Affiliations

¹Steward Observatory and Lunar and Planetary Laboratory,
University of Arizona, Tucson
Science 20 Sep 1963:
Vol. 141, Issue 3586, pp. 1176-1178
DOI: 10.1126/science.141.3586.1176

Article Info & Metrics eLetters PDF

Abstract

A bright **noctilucent cloud** was observed and photographed **north-west of Tucson on 15 June 1963**. Results of computations indicate that the cloud was at a height of 71 kilometers. **The cloud appears to have resulted from the launching of a Scout space vehicle.**

Reports

Low-Latitude Noctilucent Cloud of 2 November 1963
Aden B. Meinel¹, Carol P. Meinel¹

¹Steward Observatory and Lunar and Planetary Laboratory,
University of Arizona, Tucson

Science 3 January 1964:
Vol. 143, Issue 3601, pp. 38-39
DOI: 10.1126/science.143.3601.38

Article Info & Metrics eLetters PDF

Abstract

Measurement of the filamentary **noctilucent cloud** of **2 November 1963** yields a height of 56 km. Study of the motion and orientation of the cloud confirms the hypothesis that **these unusual clouds appearing in the southwestern states are produced by the launching of rocket vehicles from the Pacific Missile Range.**

The complete reports that appeared in *Science* magazine can be read online (see endnote for links).^{[41][42]} Also, a picture of the June 15, 1963 cloud that appeared in Arizona, which was caused by the launching of a Scout space vehicle, is shown right (Reprinted with permission from AAAS).^[43]

Dr. James McDonald was seriously involved in UFO studies and believed in extraterrestrial activities. In 1968, he testified before a U.S. congressional hearing regarding this subject.^[44] This interest in UFOs may have been the reason he studied the 1963 cloud in *Life Magazine*. Perhaps hoping the phenomenon was extraterrestrial.

In considering Dr. McDonald's studies, he never issued a final *public* report about the origin of the cloud featured in *Life Magazine*. But, Dr. Aden Meinel, Barbara Middlehurst, and Ewen Whitaker (who were renowned astronomers and his colleagues at the University of Arizona^{[45][46][47]}) did conclude that the unusual clouds appearing in Tucson and

the southwestern states: "...**have resulted from the launching of a Scout space vehicle.**" They said it was produced: "...**by the launching of rocket vehicles from the Pacific Missile Range.**"



Please notice, the report in *Science* magazine said the June 15, 1963 cloud was observed and photographed northwest of Tucson. Nearly the same mid-region of Arizona where the February 28, 1963 cloud appeared in Flagstaff. The report also said the June cloud was caused by a space vehicle launched from Pacific Missile Range, which is located at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. This was the same place where the cloud of February 28, 1963 originated from the aftermath of a destroyed Thor missile.

Moreover, the report issued by Aden Meinel, Barbara Middlehurst, and Ewen Whitaker compared the June 15, 1963 cloud with the February 28, 1963 one that James McDonald was investigating. They categorized these events in the same group as "noctilucent clouds," which are unusual sun-illuminated clouds that becomes visible after sunset.^[48]

Sun-illuminated clouds have reportedly been seen near the end of twilight in the northwesterly direction from Tucson, Arizona, upon a number of occasions and by numerous persons, including the authors. **In particular, the ring-shaped cloud reported by McDonald (1) has been the most spectacular of the group up to date.** Since the term "noctilucent cloud" has evolved to refer to a rare type of natural cloud observed only at high latitudes, we wish to extend the use of this term to any cloud that remains illuminated by the sun near the end of astronomical twilight, regardless of latitude or possible origin of the cloud. **On the evening of 15 June 1963, another unusually bright noctilucent cloud appeared in the northwestern sky.**

The report further showed that both the February 28, 1963 and June 15, 1963 clouds were caused by the launching of space vehicles from Vandenberg AFB.^[49]

The association of these clouds with the vicinity of southern California provides a simple explanation for their appearance, as may be demonstrated by consideration of the cloud of 15 June 1963. **On each day that a noctilucent cloud has appeared, including the day on which McDonald's ring cloud was seen, there has also been a launching of a space vehicle from the Pacific Missile Range at Vandenberg Air Force Base in southern California.** The intensity of the other

noctiluent clouds was not usually comparable with the one of 15 June 1963, **but the launching during the afternoon of 15 June was of a solid -propellant "Scout" vehicle, which produces an exhaust cloud which is much more conspicuous than that produced by the more frequent Thor-Agena launches from that range.** When coupled with the drift vector shown on Fig. 3, the cloud would appear to have originated from the approximate vicinity of the Pacific Missile Range about 5 hours before the time of occultation, which was at 8:51 P.M. M.S. T. **We therefore feel that the intense noctiluent cloud of 15 June 1963 was the exhaust cloud from a Scout vehicle illuminated by sunlight after local sunset in Tucson.**

As shown, the above report by Dr. Aden Meinel, Barbara Middlehurst, and Ewen Whitaker concluded that the February 28, 1963 cloud was the same as the June 15, 1963 cloud. Both phenomena were most likely caused by exhaust clouds from launched vehicles from Vandenberg AFB.

Furthermore, the aforementioned former follower, who first uncovered the discrepancies regarding the cloud in 1977 and wrote an intriguing book exposing the errors, ^[50] said he possess a letter from the Director of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics at the University of Arizona (where James McDonald worked). The letter verified the fact that McDonald finally believed the cloud of February 28, 1963 was the aftermath of a rocket launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in southern California. ^[51]

In this author's possession is **a letter from Mr. Louis Batten, Director of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics of UA,** in Tucson, AZ. He states that **Dr. McDonald was convinced the cloud was caused by a high altitude rocket, launched from Vandenberg AFB, CA.**

Likewise, the website of a former Message Believer (who attended Perry Green's Church in Tucson, Arizona for 10 years) involved in exposing gross errors in Branham's ministry, ^[52] said Dr. Aden was personally involved with the launch of rockets from Vandenberg AFB, California. Dr. Aden wrote a letter in 1996 explaining Dr. McDonald's disillusionment when it became obvious that the cloud was a man-made occurrence caused by a rocket explosion. ^[53]

In a 1996 letter to George Greene of Christian Awareness Fellowship, **Aden and Marjorie Meinel** (authors of *Sunsets, Twilights and Evening Skies*, and **colleagues of Dr. McDonald at the University of Arizona**) said, "**Aden was involved with the launch of rockets from Vandenberg AFB, California and immediately recognized the McDonald cloud as from an explosion of a rocket the afternoon of 28 February 1963. We told McDonald of the event ...He was disappointed to learn that it was only a man-made cloud.**"

As shown, Dr. McDonald eventually became aware and disappointed that the cloud was man-made, which may be the reason he never issued a final report. Again, the same website says a 1980 letter from McDonald's colleague—Dr. Batten—clarified his conclusion regarding the cloud.

In a letter dated June 5, 1980, from **Dr. Louis Batten** (then **Director of the University of Arizona** Institute of Atmospheric Physics) wrote, "He [Dr. McDonald] convinced himself and

others here at the Institute that the **cloud was caused by the release of water into the upper atmosphere by the detonation of a rocket fired from Vandenberg.**" In the mid-2000's, I spoke with a colleague of Dr. McDonald (a professor emeritus of whom I'm not at liberty to identify) who affirmed what Dr. Batten had said.

Considering the above quotes, it appears Dr. McDonald had concluded that the cloud shown in Life Magazine was man-made. Yet, the leaders among Branham's followers continue to mislead Message Believers by referring to McDonald's initial interview in Life Magazine where he was clueless to the mysterious cloud's formation.

Sadly, to this present time, Branham's followers believe there is no scientific explanation for the ring of cloud over Arizona. Originally, on page 77 of Perry Green's 1969 book "The Acts of the Prophet" ^[54], he said there was no scientific explanation of the cloud.

Now I bring you startling news that **there has been such a cloud in this century – a cloud that cannot be explained by science.** If it could be explained by scientific principle then I couldn't believe what I do about it, **but there is no explanation.**

Nevertheless, the facts shows that since 1963 several distinguished astronomers and colleagues of Dr. McDonald had already provided scientific explanations regarding the three (3) separate appearances of clouds in that same year. Yet, during a sermon published on YouTube in 2013, Perry Green continued to tell his church that there was no scientific answer. ^[55]

Dr. McDonald even writing about it **says** there is no way even if that was caused by a rocket that had exploded could it travel in the atmosphere where there is **no wind** and move that 500 to 600 miles to be photographed that day. He gives no answer. In fact, **in the Science and Weatherwise, he says "there is no answer."**

As shown, Perry Green misinforms his congregation about Dr. McDonald's conclusion regarding the cloud. The very reports Green mentioned in the above quote in Science Magazine and Weatherwise were previously shown on pages 16-18. In those reports, McDonald never said that there was no wind. Neither did he say that there was no answer. Rather, the reports show that he was inconclusive as to the wind speed, and whether the cloud's formation was an unknown phenomenon or caused by a destroyed Thor missile launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base.

But, as shown above, McDonald's colleagues at the University of Arizona said he finally concluded that the cloud was caused by a rocket fired from Vandenberg.

Wikipedia provides a list of Thor launches between 1960 and 1969. ^[56] As shown below, record shows the launch and failure of a Thor missile from Vandenberg Air Force Base on February 28, 1963. However, the time differs from the one Dr. McDonald received by direct inquiry of the Office of Naval Research in Pasadena—from Mr. E. E. Clary, Chief Scientist at Vandenberg, who provided unclassified information on this flight (see page 16). As

stated in the inquiry, the booster was destroyed at an altitude of 146,000 ft, almost directly over head and slightly south of Vandenberg AFB at 1352 PST (1:52 pm).

1963

Date/Time (UTC)	Rocket	S/N	Launch Site	Payload	Function	Orbit	Outcome	Remarks
1963-02-28 21:48	TAT SLV-2A Agena D	Thor 354 Ager 1159	VAFB LC-75-5	OPS LC-75-3 0583	Reconnaissance	LEO	Failure	Maiden flight of Thrust-Augmented Thor Agena. One SRB separated prematurely during ascent. RSO T+100 seconds.

Furthermore, record from Encyclopedia Astronautica shows several launches from Vandenberg on February 28, 1963. As shown below, a Thor rocket launch failed. [57]

1963 February 28 - . Launch Site: Vandenberg.

First use of a Thrust-Augmented-Thor/Agena - . *Nation:* USA. *Summary:* First use of a Thrust-Augmented-Thor/Agena space booster at Vandenberg.

1963 February 28 - . 09:02 GMT - . Launch

Site: Vandenberg. Launch Complex: Vandenberg. 576A3. *LV Family:* Atlas. *Launch Vehicle:* Atlas D. *LV Configuration:* Atlas D 188D. NTMP K-10 ABM test - . *Nation:* USA. *Agency:* USAF SAC.. *Apogee:* 1,800 km (1,100 mi).

1963 February 28 - . 21:48 GMT - . Launch

Site: Vandenberg.. Launch Complex: Vandenberg SLC1E.. *LV Family:* Delta. *Launch Vehicle:* Thor Agena D SLY-2 A/D. *LV Configuration:* Thor SLV-2A Agena D 354 / Agena D 1159 (No solids). **FAILURE: Failure. Failed Stage: U.** KH-4 9052 - . *Payload:* KH-4 s/n 9052. *Mass:* 1,500 kg (3,300 lb). *Nation:* USA. *Agency:* USAF. *Class:* Surveillance. *Type:* Military surveillance satellite. *Spacecraft:* KH-4. *Decay Date:* 1963-02-28 . *COSPAR:* F630228A. *Summary:* KH-4. **Mission failed.** SRV 610 - . *Nation:* USA. *Agency:* USAF. *Spacecraft:* KH-4. *COSPAR:* F630228B.

Although strong evidence s clearly shows the cloud in Life Magazine was the aftermath of an exploded missile launched from Vandenberg AFB, William Branham said the vindication of this cloud along with his commission to reveal the mysteries of the seven seals was “Thus saith the Lord” (we shall later prove that his “Thus saith the Lord” were sometimes contradictory or did not come to pass).

I saw seven Angels come. Didn't Life magazine pack it , as the fog of It floated across here, twenty-seven miles high,

and thirty miles across? Is not Fred Sothmann, these other, Gene Norman, them, setting back there? Stood right there when them seven Angels appeared right there on the hill . It shook the hills, for miles around, like that. T here stood seven Angels. And threwed a sword in your hand, said, **"Go home and open these Seven Seals that are given."** And here they are, the true mystery of marriage and divorce, and the serpent's seed, and all of these things that's been fussed about. It's **THUS SAITH THE LORD.** _The Easter Seal 04-10-65

Minister Branham said the angels in Arizona instructed him to return to Jeffersonville to open the seven mysteries of the seven seals. Yet, sermons preached on September and November of 1962 showed that he intended to speak on this subject after the renovation of his church.

And I think, if the Lord willing, **I want to take, the next time that we start, on the Seven Seals of Revelations** , and the seven natural seals. _In His Presence 09-09-62E

And this is suppose to be the time that **I'm to speak on those seven last Seals.** And they **didn't get the church ready** . And there is something, hindrance, that's caused it. That, I think the city is giving us a rough way, because of not adequate parking room for the amount of people that we're... that the church will hold. _Blasphemous Names 11-04- 62M

As shown, Minister Branham planned to speak on the seven seals months before his vision of five angels (later changed to seven [58]) in December of 1962. Furthermore, he had already scheduled the meeting for March 17-24 and planned to return to Jeffersonville before he met any alleged angels of God instructing him to return to reveal the hidden mysteries of the seven seals on February 28, 1963. He spoke of this planned meeting in a sermon preached on February 23, 1963.

I just got through going through them at my church. And returning back now, beginning the 17th, to take the Seven Seals. _A Door In A Door 02-23-63

The Cloud's Vindication Revised

The undeniable evidences supporting the fact that William Branham was not present on February 28, 1963 when the cloud in Life Magazine appeared caused the leaders among his followers to devise another explanation . In doing so, they had to contradict and deny every statement he made about being present when this cloud appeared. The fact that Branham was so wrong about his foremost vindication, which resulted in a major revision of the story, should cast doubt among his followers regarding his claims.

A key person to lead the task of revising Branham's mistaken claims was Rebekah Branham Smith, his eldest daughter. In the final issue (June 1992) of her published magazine called “Only Believe,” she wrote an article entitled: "On the Road to Sunset." [59] In this article she acknowledged the fact that hunting season began March 1, 1963 and her father was not present when the cloud appeared on February 28, 1963.

The 1963 hunting season for hunting javelina in Arizona began the **first of March and lasted for ten days**. Normally, Brother Branham **would have been on his way to Sunset for opening day**, but unexpectedly. **He had been invited to speak at a prayer gathering on the fourth of March in Houston, Texas** and he accepted. **On the third** he drove to Houston with Billy Paul, preached the **evening of the fourth**, and **started home immediately after the service**.

The above article acknowledged the fact that Bro. Branham and company left for hunting after March 4, 1963. When Rebekah wrote about the February 28 cloud that appeared in the May edition of Life Magazine, the only explanation she provided regarding the timing of the cloud with her father's hunting expedition is shown below.

Speaking to a small group of people that had gathered in the home of Brother Tom Simpson, **he explained, "I looked to see when it was, and it was time, same, about day or two before, or, day or two after I was up there."** Several months later, in Sierra Vista, Arizona, **he clarified the event even further** by reminding his listeners **that God always shows his major events first in the heavens**. "Did you notice," he commented, "before the seven seals were revealed, the great mysterious Light showed forth in the heavens up here above Tucson, where we were?"

In the above quote, Rebekah attempts to use a statement made by her father on June 1, 1963 alluding to the fact that he may have not been present when the cloud appeared. However, Rebekah ignores all the quotes her father made after that date, where he emphatically declared being present when the cloud in Life Magazine appeared.

Furthermore, instead of simply acknowledging that her father made a mistake, Rebekah attempts to use another statement he made that allude to a speculative belief that the seven angels appeared a week ahead of his hunting trip as vindication in the heavens. Nonetheless, she offers no credible explanation why her father claimed to be present when the cloud in Life Magazine appeared.

"Did you notice," he commented, "before the seven seals were revealed, the great mysterious Light showed forth in the heavens up here above Tucson, where we were?"

Even Pearry Green, a very close friend and follower of Branham, had to acknowledge he was not present when the cloud appeared on February 28, 1963. During a sermon preached at his church, Pastor Green said he inquired of the hunting season for javelina pigs for that year in Arizona because a critic said it was between March 5 and March 14. The critic said Branham was hunting out of season if he was there in February. In attempting to prove the critic wrong, Green discovered that hunting season began in March and Branham was not present during the cloud's appearance. [60]

According to Green's sermon, Gene Norman said he and Bro. Branham left Houston on March 4th, got back to Tucson on the 5th, and went hunting on the 6th. [61] But, of course, Green recites Rebekah's excuse to justify Branham's absence when the cloud in Life Magazine appeared. [62]

Also, Green had to revise his 1969 book "The Acts of

the Prophet" in 1993 to correct the discrepancy. But, after a former follower and member of Green's church wrote a letter to him exposing the subtle changes made to the book without acknowledging the previous errors, [63] he rewrote the revision. [64]

However, in a sermon posted on YouTube in 2013, Pearry publically acknowledges his early discrepancies in the dates. [65][66] Regarding the original date of Branham's hunting in the book, Green wrote: (1) "The date was February 28, 1963." The revision said: (2) "It was the pig season of 1963." The final revision read: (3) "The date was March 7, 1963." [67][68][69]

In attempting to defend the date discrepancies, Green mentions during the same sermon that Bro. Branham never said he was present on February 28 when the cloud in Life magazine appeared. But instead, Green repeatedly quote Branham's initial response on June 1, 1963 where he says the cloud appeared two days before or after he went hunting (discussed soon). [70] This statement is untrue because in Branham next sermon on June 23, 1963 and until his death in 1965, he repeatedly told followers that he was present.

It was on the Associated Press. How many saw, "A mysterious cloud in the sky"? You see the hands. And now the **Life magazine picked it up**. And I have the —the article here this morning, in the Life magazine, of to show. Now here it is, **the same time I was there**. See the pyramid of the Cloud? **I was standing just below this**. _Standing In The Gap 06-23- 63 M

Later, **the Angels appeared** as was prophesied. And **at the same time**, a great cluster of Light left **where I was standing**, and moved thirty miles high in the air, and around the circle, like the wings of the Angels, **and drew into the skies a shape of a pyramid in the same constellation of Angels** that appeared. Science took the picture, all the way from Mexico, as it moved from northern Arizona, where the Holy Spirit said I would be standing, "forty miles northeast of Tucson." And it went into the air, and **Life magazine packed the pictures**, _It Is The Rising Of The Sun 4-18-65M

Furthermore, during the same sermon, Pearry Green briefly mentions a 1989 article in the Russian's magazine "Pravda," where cosmonauts reportedly saw seven angels in space. When listening to Pastor Green, you would think the cosmonauts saw these seven angels during Branham's 1963 hunting trip in Arizona. However, this incident occurred in the summer of 1985, nearly twenty years after Branham's death in December of 1965. [71][72]

Also, during a recorded interview, George Smith (Rebekah's husband) acknowledged that his father-in-law was absent when the cloud appeared. [73] Although some followers are beginning to accept the inescapable fact that Branham was not present when the cloud in Life magazine appeared on February 28, 1963, they continue to defend the occurrence as being seven angels and the face of Christ. They continue to defend even though their prophet could not discern this cloud was not present when he went hunting. There is no mention of it when he preached the seven seals between March 17 and March 24 of 1963.

Not only is there no mention of the cloud, but when

examining Branham's sermon on the Seventh Seal starting at paragraph 264, he seem to speak vaguely of being visited by seven literal angels while hunting in Arizona.

Branham appears to be merely recalling the visitation of seven angels seen in a vision months earlier. On December 30, 1962, he had spoken of this vision in the sermon "Is This The Sign of The End, Sirs?" Then, during his sermon on the seventh seal, he appears to be retelling that vision and interpreting the seven angels he had seen as representing the opening of the seven seals because each of them allegedly revealed the mystery behind each one.

264 Now, notice, **remember the vision of the constellation?** Charlie, I... Here you are. Something going on, I told you, this week that you... It's been all around you, but I wonder if you noticed it. **Remember the constellation of the vision of the Angels** when I left here to go to Arizona? **You remember, "What Time Is It, Sirs?" Do you remember** that? Notice, there was only one great burst of thunder, and seven Angels appeared. Is that right? One burst of thunder, seven Angels appeared. And I saw the Lamb when He had opened the First Seal, and I heard as it was a voice of a thunder, and one of the four beasts said, Come and see. Notice, one thunder, seven messages that's been sealed up and cannot be revealed until the last day, at this age. See what I mean? **Now, have you noticed the mysterious parts of this week?** That's what it is. **That's what it's been. It's been, not a human being, a man ; it h as been the Angels of the Lord.** _The Seventh Seal 03-24-63E

Therefore, when speaking of the seven angels beginning at paragraph 264, it appears that Branham is not speaking of their literal visitation while hunting in Arizona, but he is merely recalling the earlier vision in December of 1962. Did you notice how many time he used the word "remember" when referring to his vision in December?

So then, did seven angels literally appear to Branham in Arizona? He does not plainly say this in his March 24, 1963 sermon on the Seventh Seal. Instead, he kept referring to the seven angels in the December vision of 1962.

As stated, Branham appears to be interpreting the opening of the seven seals as being the fulfillment of the vision he had of the seven angels in December (originally 5 angels – discussed later). However, after Branham saw the cloud in Life Magazine in May of 1963, he began to clearly speak of the literal visitation of seven angels in his June 23, 1963 sermon "Standing in the Gap."

And now the **Life magazine picked it up**. And I have the —the article here this morning, in the **Life magazine**, of to show. Now here it is, **the same time I was there**. See the **pyramid of the Cloud?** **I was standing just below this.** _06-23-63M

Since June 23, 1963, Branham's followers believed his account of the cloud that he was present on February 28, 1963. That is, until his daughter had no choice except to acknowledge this error in 1992. However, this apparent error has recently resurfaced since 2012 because websites of former Message Believers have caused many followers of Branham to become aware of this blunder.

As a result, Branham's followers are backpedaling as they attempt to offer plausible reasons for his many

discrepancies regarding the cloud shown in Life Magazine. As stated, these followers' revised explanations have clearly contradicted the very words of their vindicated prophet.

Because the overwhelming evidences are irrefutably conclusive that Branham was not present when the cloud in Life Magazine appeared, many followers no longer try to defend that he was hunting on February 28, 1963 when it appeared. Rather, they are attempting to ignore or downplay Branham's repeated statements on recorded tapes that he was present. They are subtly shifting the debate to focus on Rebekah and Perry Green's explanation, which says the cloud was a sign in the heavens that the prophet was going to meet those angels when he went hunting a week later.

Another recent account offered by George Smith during his videotaped interview is contradictory and confusing. He believes the alleged angels in Life Magazine appeared on February 28, 1963 and Branham went hunting after departing from Houston on March 4, 1963. However, Smith said when the prophet went hunting on March 8, 1963, he saw the seven angels that appeared on February 28 in another dimension.^[74]

Furthermore, during George Smith's interview, he spoke of some followers who believe William Branham was both in Houston and Arizona simultaneously on February 28, 1963. George disagreed with this fanciful viewpoint even though his explanation is also farfetched.

The aforementioned author, who first uncovered the cloud discrepancy in 1977, mentioned in his book that he called the men (Gene Norman and Fred Sothmann) who went hunting with Branham during the alleged visitation of angels and asked if they saw anything.^[75]

Now it is stated that WMB had his 'angelic' experience on March 8, 1963, which flies in the face of what WMB himself always said. WMB tied his experience to the cloud of Feb. 28, 1963. Only Believe now has WMB saying that the cloud appeared before the actual event. 'God always shows His major events first in the heavens.' That means the 'angels' did not, on Feb. 28, 1963, pick him up into the constellation. Thus, they did not then give him the revelation of the Seven Seals. **Some of those present during these alleged events were phoned by this author and a friend. When asked if they had seen anything, they replied in the negative.**

In 1992 (the year Branham's daughter acknowledged he was not present when the cloud appeared), a woman called Gene Norman, Fred Sothman, and Lee Vayle. She had a taped interview by telephone with each one regarding the cloud controversy (see endnote for audio link)^[76] Gene and Fred were the two men who allegedly witnessed the angels and loud boom when hunting with Branham in March 1963. Lee was also a close friend of Branham and assisted him in writing a book entitled "An Exposition of the Seven Church Ages," which was published in 1965.

The woman on the tape was a Message Believer. She appeared to be concerned about the reported discrepancies that Branham was not present when the cloud appeared. She called these men in hope of finding credible answers that would relieve her fears. Instead, the only answers she got

from Gene and Fred were excuses of not remembering certain facts pertaining to that time. It was obvious from the interview that these men were trying to cover-up something. Branham's supposed two witnesses were afraid to talk and kept deflecting the woman's questions.

Lee Vayle told the woman during their interview that he tried to talk with Gene Norman about the discrepancies surrounding Bro. Branham and the cloud. But, he refused to discuss the matter. After the interviews, the audio taped closes with a portion of Vayle's sermon preached decades later where he explains that Bro. Branham was in Houston when the cloud appeared on February 28, 1963. He said this issue baffled him for 44 years. Vayle attempted to provide a probable answer to this discrepancy by quoting Branham saying God declares in the heavens before he shows it on earth. That is, before the angels appeared to him on March 7, they appeared in the sky on February 28, 1963.

Thus, Lee Vayle gave the same explanation provided by Rebekah Smith and Pearry Green, which is often used by Branham's followers. Nonetheless, the very explanation they used that *God always shows his major events first in the heaven, and then on the earth* was adopted from a woman astrologist (stargazer), who observed the stars to predict people's future. She made this statement when telling Branham he was born under a certain star. As we shall later study, this practice is clearly condemned in the Bible (see Isaiah 47:12-14 and "observer of times" in Deut. 18:10). She told Branham that God declares things in the heavens before doing so on the earth (further details later).

She said, "Well, what is a wise man?" **She said,** "The same thing that I am, an astrologist, 'stargazer' they call them." And **she said,** "You know, **before God does anything in—in the earth, He always declares it in the heaven**, and **then on the earth.**" And I said, "I don't know. _How The Angel Came To Me, And His Commission 01-17-55

Well, what about Jesus Christ? A star did appear during his birth. Yes, but this likely happened to symbolize the fulfillment of Numbers 24:17, where it says: "...*there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel...*" Nonetheless, did the scriptures show heavenly signs during the birth of Moses, Elijah, Jeremiah, or other great prophets and apostles of the Bible? No!

So then, it can be easily proven by scriptures that God do not show every major earthly event first in the heavens, as this woman astrologist falsely claimed. Actually, in Jeremiah 10:1-2, God warned his people not to be dismayed at the signs of heaven as do the heathens.

Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and **be not dismayed at the signs of heaven**; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

Once again, in Matthew 16:1-4, Jesus Christ told many religious leaders that a wicked and adulterous generation seeks for a sign from heaven.

The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting

desired him that **he would shew them a sign from heaven.** He answered and said unto them ...**A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign**; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

So then, even though scriptures warn against astrology, stargazing, and observing signs from heaven to predict the future: Branham adopted this astrologist unbiblical concept as his own revelation. Sadly, Branham's followers use it when defending his discrepancies regarding the cloud.

God always declares it by His **celestial bodies before** He makes it **known to the earth**. God writes it in the heavens. _The Great Shining Light 12-22-57

That day they took pictures all across southern United States and Mexico. There it hangs now in the Life Magazine, still a mystery to them. But **He declares it in the heavens before He does it on earth. He always does that.** He shows His signs in the heavens first. _Shalom 01-12-64

After considering the foremost explanation circulating among Branham's followers attempting to justify his cloud discrepancies, they have no credible evidence supporting their assumptions. As stated, even Dr. James McDonald, who was interested in UFOs and initially investigated this cloud, eventually lost interest in further examining the occurrence as being extraterrestrial or supernatural.

As stated, after seeing the picture of the cloud in Life's magazine, Rebekah said her father's initial statement on June 1, 1963 was that it could have appeared the same day or two days before or after his hunting trip, as shown below.

I come, one thing, was by a vision, that I was standing above Tucson up here when a—a—a blast went off. Well, Brother Fred was there when it went off. And **they took that picture now**, you know, in the sky. And I didn't think much about it, never noticed it. So it begin to impress me somehow, other day. And Brother Norman, Norma's father here, told me, said, "Did you notice this?" And just as I looked, right **there was them Angels** just as plain as They could be, **setting right there in that picture.** See? I looked to see when it was, and it was time, same, about day or two before, or, day or two after I was up there. I looked where it was at. "**Northeast of Flagstaff**, or Prescott, which is below Flagstaff." Well, that's just **where we was at, see, just exactly.** _Come, Follow Me 06-01-63

If Branham was hunting in the mountains two days before the cloud, the date would be February 26, 1963, and two days after would have been March 2, 1963. Branham clearly knew he was not present when that cloud appeared. Furthermore, in the above quote, Branham acknowledged the fact that the cloud appeared northeast of Flagstaff, but inaccurately says it appeared at the place where he was hunting. Branham went hunting nearly 200 mile away north of Tucson (Rattlesnake Mesa or Sunset Peak vicinities).

So then, our research has shown that Branham was wrong in two significant points concerning the cloud. First, he was not present when the cloud appeared on February, 28, 1963, even though he claimed to be there.

And now the **Life magazine picked it up** . And I have the —the article here this morning, in the Life magazine, of to show. Now here it is, **the same time I was there**. See the pyramid of the Cloud? **I was standing just below this** . _Standing In The Gap 06-23-63M

And science is baffled. **Standing right under where it was happening there...** Now **science took the picture** of It, you seen It, went on Associated Press. They didn't know what It was. There is a Cloud hanging, twenty -six miles high. That's fifteen miles, or twenty, above even where vapor is at. They don't know what it's all going about, and they are trying to investigate It. **And there, right under It, I was standing** . _O Lord, Just Once More 06-28-63M

Go to Tucson; foretell it before it happened. Stand north of Tucson, **witnesses standing here with it** , when a blast come, that shook the mountains off the ground, almost. And **at the same time**, a circle of Light hanging yonder in the air, **when the science took the pictures** now. _Third Exodus 06-30-63M

Like the March 17th, the March issue of the **Life magazine**, you seen that **circle of Light in the skies**, thirty miles high, twenty-seven miles across. Why, moisture is only about nine miles high, and they can't even make up what it was. And right **standing beneath that**, a man that is sitting right present now, was right **standing there by me**, when seven Angels come down from God, **visibly standing right there**, and told me about the end time, and these revelations and things of the Book of Revelation, the Seven Seals, and said, "Return home, and one by one will bring the Message." _Testimony 11-28-63

Secondly, the cloud never appeared in the vicinity where Branham later hunted. But, it appeared nearly 200 miles away in Flagstaff, Arizona after traveling west to east from Vandenberg AFB in California. This cloud continued to travel eastward to the northwest of Winslow, Arizona; which is nearly 57 miles from Flagstaff. Both cities are nearly paralleled

As stated on page 18, the latitude for Vandenberg AFB, where the cloud originated, is 34.7328° N. This latitude is nearly paralleled to Flagstaff (35.1992° N) where the picture in Life Magazine was initially photographed after traveling from Vandenberg and becoming visible during sunset. The latitude for Winslow is 35.0242 ° N, which nearly parallels the other two locations, as shown in the air/drive route map below (Map data: Google, INEGI) .



Nonetheless, William Branham said the cloud appeared over Phoenix and Tucson, which were in a southerly direction from Flagstaff. This city (Flagstaff) is 144 miles from Phoenix and Tucson nearly 200 miles away.

The Life magazine packed an article of it, "Mystic circle of Light goes up in the air **above Tucson and Phoenix,**" in the same way that I told you nearly a year before it happened, how it would be, and like a triangle. The picture hangs in the church down there. You that took that magazine has it. There it was, just exactly. _This Day This Scripture Is Fulfilled 02-19-65

Because of Branham's statement, his followers believe the cloud literally appeared over the cities of Phoenix and Tucson. Nevertheless, the cloud (evidently the aftermath of a destroyed missile in California) was traveling west to east . But, they actually believe this cloud stopped this eastward movement and left Flagstaff, Arizona traveling nearly 144 miles in a southerly direction to Phoenix, and then journeyed an additional 60 miles to where Branham later hunted 40 miles north of Tucson.

Moreover, Branham's followers may believe the cloud appeared in Tucson because Life Magazine also shows photographs of the cloud in cities south of Flagstaff, which are Prescott and Phoenix (see page 11).

These three photographs do not imply that the cloud appeared in Phoenix, but rather it was photographed from that city. As stated on page 17, Dr. McDonald said in his Weatherwise's report that the cloud in Flagstaff, Arizona was seen in an area of nearly 200,000 square miles in the southwest, which covers a few states. McDonald said he first saw the cloud *from Tucson* (not over Tucson).

At sunset on 28 February 1963, observers scattered over an area of nearly two hundred thousand square miles in the Southwest witnessed a strikingly beautiful cloud display. After three months of effort to determine just what it was that caught their eyes, I am still not sure myself, though the number of pertinent clues has now grown fairly large. Many persons at first thought it just a large contrail, **as I did when first viewing it from Tucson**.

After the cloud left Flagstaff, the three pictures shown in Life Magazine (see page 11) were photographed within 20 minutes of each other. The cloud could not travel to these three cities in that amount of time. As stated in Life Magazine, the cloud was photographed northeast of Prescott at 6:10 pm, north of Phoenix at 6:15 pm, and west -north-west (nwn) of Winslow at 6:30 pm.

Please notice, the locations given in Life Magazine shows the cloud was photographed "north" of Prescott and Phoenix, but "northwesterly" of Winslow. This projector illustrates that the cloud never appeared in Prescott or Phoenix, but located north of these cities.

The fact that the cloud was photographed northwesterly of Winslow informs us that it was traveling parallel with Flagstaff in a west to east direction. Rather than the cloud traveling a north to south direction from Flagstaff to Prescott and Phoenix, and then a south to north path as it returned to Winslow within 20 minutes . That would be the scenario if anyone think the cloud literally appeared in those three cities, rather than being photographed from those locations.

So, if the cloud left Flagstaff and travelled 144 miles to Phoenix in a southerly direction and additional 60 miles to where Branham later hunted 40 miles north of Tucson, then

it would have to travel back 200 miles in a northerly direction to Winslow to continue its easterly journey. None of the official reports on pages 16 -21 shows this happening. Branham's followers made up the hypothetical scenario that the cloud travelled from Flagstaff to Tucson in an attempt to salvage his cloud vindication.

It is difficult to believe that Branham did not know he was not present when the cloud appeared on February 28, 1963. Branham knew hunting season began on March 1, 1963 and this event occurred after leaving Houston, Texas on March 4, 1963. But yet, he still was willing to say the picture was taken during his hunting trip.

As studied, Branham put much emphasis on this cloud featured in Life Magazine. It was supposed to be the main vindication commissioning him to open the seven sealed book in Revelation 5:1 as the messenger of Malachi 4:5 -6, Luke 17:30, Revelation 3:14, and Revelation 10:1-7.

So then, how could Branham not discern these two significant errors that he was not present when the cloud appeared and it never appeared in the area where he later hunted? Two hundred miles away is a significant distant. Then, there is the likelihood Branham knew of McDonald's 1963 reports stating that the cloud may be the result of a destroyed Thor missile. How? Because after seeing the picture in May of 1963, Branham told Bro. Norman: "*Gene, why don't you go down and tell that McDonald.*"^[77]

Nonetheless, Branham never corrected the clear-cut errors about the cloud in Life Magazine and his whereabouts on February 28, 1963. So then, no matter what explanation Branham's followers offers, or excuses they present, or how far they are willing to downplay these errors, or willing to contradict their prophet to provide a feasible answers for his discrepancies: the clear evidence shows that he was wrong about "when" and "where" the cloud appeared. Also, as we shall later prove, Branham was consistently error prone and wrong in so many areas. Sadly, his testimonies are unreliable and cannot be fully trusted.

The Cloud's Origin: Does it Really Matter?

As studied, there is no credible evidence connecting William Branham to the cloud shown in Life Magazine. Does it matters? Yes! Because his main vindication to being commissioned by God to open the seven seals is disproved. But, the question perhaps lingering in the minds of many people: "Was the cloud's origin natural or supernatural?"

As stated, Dr. James McDonald was seriously involved in UFOs studies and believed in extraterrestrial activities. In 1968, he testified before a U.S. congressional hearing regarding this subject. But, his beliefs in UFOs eventually led to professional discreditation and isolation.

Again, in 1970, Dr. McDonald appeared before a U.S. congressional committee to protest the building of supersonic transport jets. However, during the hearing, he was publically mocked, humiliated, and laughed at for believing in UFOs. These circumstances, coupled with professional isolation and a divorce, may have led to his suicidal death in 1971.^[78]

However, during a sermon published on YouTube in 2013, Perry Green attempted to twist the personal issues that may have led to McDonald's untimely death by implying that his statements about the cloud as being superstition was responsible.^[79] Well, the question we must now ask: "If McDonald's rejection of the cloud as a supernatural phenomenon and vindication of William Branham caused his premature death, then why did his colleagues who also came to the same conclusion, lived very long productive lives into their eighties and nineties?" See endnotes ^{[45][46][47]}

As stated, since 1963 Dr. McDonald's colleagues had provided scientific explanations regarding the three (3) separate appearances of clouds in that same year. But now, since the discovery of discrepancies involving Branham and the cloud have been acknowledged by leaders of "The Message" since 1992, Green continued to mislead his church. How? By saying there was no scientific explanation for the cloud during his 2013 sermon, as stated on page 20.

Moreover, Green attempted to promote fear among parishioners to ignore any scientific explanation and accept the cloud as vindication of Branham's commission to open the seven seals. How? By implying that they may suffer the fate of McDonald if they speak against it. But, scriptures warn God's people not to fear a prophet or person when they are wrong (Deut. 18:20-22; Prov. 29:25; Isa. 29:13; 57:11).

Nevertheless, in providing an answer to the cloud's origin, let us say it was a supernatural phenomenon and disregard the facts that (1) Branham was not present when it appeared, (2) it never appeared in the place where he later hunted, but nearly 200 miles away, and (3) credible scientific data suggest it was the aftermath of a faulty Thor missile launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Even so, as we shall soon study, Branham practically borrowed his entire teachings on the seven seals from past biblical authors. So then, even if the cloud was supernatural, it provided no proof that he was commissioned to reveal the seals. Why? Because this information was already written in well-known books before his birth or becoming a teenager.

The Cloud: Does it Defy Warning in Matthew 24:23-28?

So then, if all the above facts were ignored, would this prove the cloud was from God? No, because Jesus Christ forewarned us that false Christs and false prophets shall show great signs in the last days to deceive many people. The Savior also warned us not to believe anyone who says he is in the desert (even the Arizona desert).

Then **if any man shall say** unto you, Lo, **HERE IS CHRIST**, or there; **BELIEVE IT NOT**. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and *shall shew great signs and wonders*; insomuch that, *if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect*. **Behold, I have told you before**. Wherefore if they **shall say** unto you, Behold, **HE IS IN THE DESERT**; **GO NOT FORTH**: behold, **he is in the secret chambers**; **BELIEVE IT NOT**. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together. Matt. 24:23-28

The main argument of Branham and his followers is that Christ supernaturally appeared in the cloud over Arizona. However, in view of the above scriptures, Jesus Christ warns his followers NOT TO BELIEVE this report.

And the other day, standing there, turned **the picture** to the right, and **there is Jesus** as He was in the Seven Church Ages, the white wig on, showing Supreme Deity. He's Alpha and Omega; He's the First and the Last; He is the Supreme Judge of all Eternity, standing there, **confirm the Message of this hour**.
_What Is The Attraction On The Mountain? 07-25-65E

And then see **those seven Angels** come down there on top of that **mountain yonder in Arizona**, when even **the magazines** across the nation's packed it. **To see Jesus Himself there in the skies, looking down**, and saying that, "In the Revelation 10:7, in the seventh angel's Message, these seals would be opened, the mysteries of God would be made known. _Modern Events Are Made Clear By Prophecy 12-06-65

Branham Misinterpreted the Eagles and Carcass

Not only did Branham say Jesus personally appeared in the sky over the mountains of Arizona, which we are told by Christ not to believe, he often misapplied the scripture in Matthew 24:28. How? Branham did so by saying the eagles represent those who believe his end time message, which he identifies as the carcass—food for eagles.

Matthew 24:28: (The person's coming right down. They never signed it; yes they did. I beg your pardon. I won't call these names, because it's not necessary. See?) **Matthew 24:28: "For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together." Who is the carcass and who are the eagles?** Now, that's a good question, nothing wrong with that. What is the carcass? The carcass is what the eagles feed on. Now, an eagle is considered in the Bible, a prophet. A prophet is the eagle. God—God calls Himself an eagle, and **we're "eaglets" then, the—the believers.** You see? And what is **the carcass that they feed on? Is the Word.** Wherever the Word is, the true nature of the bird will show itself. _Questions And Answers #1, 08-23-64M

No, sir. **We got fresh Food today;** that's **the Word that's promised to this hour** be made manifest **in this hour**. That's where the eagles are, where the carcass is. We can stay a long time on that, but I'm sure you understand what I mean. _Questions And Answers #1 08-23-64M

Wherever the Eagles are, they'll follow that Food. Whether It comes by a tape, or whether It comes by a word or a testimony, Eagles will follow It to Its headquarters. For It is written, **"Where the Carcass is, there the Eagles will gather."** Dear Jesus, we know that **Thou art the Carcass that we eat**. Thou art the Word, and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. We pray, God, that **as we scatter the Word, that the true Eagles will find It.** _Ashamed 07-11-65

As shown, Branham misinterpreted the eagle and carcass of Matthew 24:28 while inserting himself. He actually referred to Jesus and the word of God as being the carcass (dead body or corpse). By doing so, he negated the intended warning that would identify the return of the Lord Jesus and expose false Christs. Why do I say this? Well, when our

Savior returns to the earth according to Revelation 19:11-21, it will not be his alleged appearance in a disputed cloud in Arizona that happened over 56 years ago. Nor will Christ's return be an alleged prophet claiming to fulfill his Son of man coming of Luke 17:30, which pertain to his literal bodily return in 1 Thessalonians 1:7-10.

Instead, when the true Christ returns to fulfill the above scriptures, the entire world will know. How? In Matthew 24:28, Jesus said wherever the dead bodies (carcass) are located, there will the eagles (vultures) gather. This verse is referring to Armageddon (Rev. 16:14-16), the place where the Lord Jesus shall return to overthrow Satan and the world's powers, as shown below.

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and **he that sat upon him** was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war...And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.** Revelation 19:11,16

And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to **ALL THE FOWLS** [eagles, vultures] that fly in the midst of heaven, **Come and gather yourselves together** unto the supper of the great God; that **ye may eat THE FLESH** [carcass] **of kings**, and **THE FLESH** [carcass] **of captains**, and **THE FLESH** [carcass] **of mighty men**, and **THE FLESH** [carcass] **of horses**, and of them that sit on them, and **THE FLESH** [carcass] **of all men, both** free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the **remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse**, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and **ALL THE FOWLS** [eagles, vultures] **WERE FILLED WITH THEIR FLESH** [carcass]. Revelation 19:17-21

Considering the above verses, the eagles mentioned in Matthew 24:28 are vulturous birds that will eat the dead bodies of those slain by Christ during his literal return to the earth at Armageddon. Actually, Leviticus 11:13-14 listed eagles and vultures in the same family.

And these are they which ye shall have in abomination among the fowls; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: **the eagle**, and the ossifrage, and the ospray, and **the vulture**, and the kite **AFTER HIS KIND.**

Thus, Jesus warned true followers that his return will be preceded by people attempting to deceive the elect by saying he is in the desert or a secret chamber. However, the genuine Christ will return in the sky with a great display of power at Armageddon that cannot be imitated by the false signs of Satan and false Christs (Matt. 24:24).

In Matthew 24:27, Jesus says his literal return to the earth will be similar to a bolt of lightning crossing the sky from east to west (discussed later). Also, Revelation 1:7 says

when he comes in the clouds: “...**every eye shall see him...and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.**”

So then, when Jesus return the entire world shall see him and all people of the earth will mourn. During this time, Christ’s prophecy “*For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together*,” will be fulfilled. His literal physical return will be accompanied by vulturous birds gathering together at Armageddon to eat the carcasses (Jer. 16:4; 19:7; 34:20) of those slain by him. As shown below, Jesus appears to be quoting from the book of Job when speaking of the eagles as vulturous birds gathering around the slain prey. Notice the similarity.

Doth **the eagle** mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high? She dwelleth and abideth on the rock, upon the crag of the rock, and the strong place. From thence she seeketh the prey, and her eyes behold afar off. Her young ones also suck up blood: and **WHERE THE SLAIN [carcass] ARE, THERE IS SHE** [eagles be gathered together]. Job 39:27-30

For **WHERESOEVER THE CARCASS [slain] IS, THERE WILL THE EAGLES BE** gathered together. Matt. 24:23-28

Again, in comparing scriptures, Matthew 24:28 says of the vultures (eagles): “...*there will the eagles be gathered together,*” while Revelation 19:17 says of the vultures: “...*Come and gather yourselves together....*” Do you see it? One of the signs of Jesus’ literal return to the earth will be eagles gathering at Armageddon to eat the dead bodies of the slain rebellious armies of the entire world.

Therefore, until the events described above happen, Jesus warned his people not to believe anyone saying he is in the desert or on the earth. As we shall later study, many of Branham’s followers believe the cloud in Arizona to be the second coming (parousia) of Christ. Why? Mainly because Branham believed Christ was revealing himself through his ministry to fulfill Luke 17:30, where Jesus says: “*Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.*”

Branham followers believe Jesus Christ has revealed himself to them through his ministry (more details later). But, the prophecy in Luke 17:30 has nothing to do with Branham, but will be literally fulfilled in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10, as shown below. According to these scriptures, Jesus “*shall be revealed from heaven*” when he returns with his mighty angels in flaming fire to take vengeance on the rebellious people of the earth (discussed later).

But the same day that Lot went out of **Sodom it rained FIRE and brimstone from heaven**, and **DESTROYED them all**. Even thus shall it be in the day when the **Son of man is REVEALED**. Luke 17:30

And to you who are troubled rest with us, **when the Lord Jesus** [Son of man – Dan. 7:13] **shall be REVEALED from heaven** with his mighty angels, **in FLAMING FIRE taking VENGEANCE on them** that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be **punished with everlasting destruction** from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; **when he shall**

come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. 2 Thessalonians.1:7-10

As shown above, the similarities between Luke 17:30 and 2 Thessalonians 1:7 -10 are evident. Both verses use the word “revealed” to describe Christ sudden visible appearance from heaven in the sight of humanity, as Revelation 1:7 says every eyes shall see him.

Again, these verses speak of Jesus’ visible return being accompanied by fire to destroy the wicked, as God did in the days of Sodom (Gen. 19:22 -29). During this return, Daniel 7:13 calls him the “Son of man.” The horrendous destruction described in the above scriptures has not yet happened.

So then, Branham misapplied Matthew 24:28 by saying the eagles are those who believe his end time message. He told followers that they were eating the freshly revealed word (carcass or body) of Christ the Son of man (Luke 17:30) through his ministry. He falsely interpreted this verse and negated Jesus’ intended warning not to believe anyone on the earth that says he has arrived until the battle at Armageddon. As shown below, vulturous birds will gather at this battle to eat the dead bodies of those slain by him. Sadly, Branham said the opposite (more details later).

And the **remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse**, which *sword* proceeded out of his mouth: and **ALL THE FOWLS** [eagles, vultures] **WERE FILLED WITH THEIR FLESH** [carcass – dead bodies]. Rev. 19:21

Because the Lord Jesus warned us about false Christs and false prophets performing miraculous signs in the last days, supernatural phenomena cannot be the criteria by which events or messages are deemed as being from God. It is possible to manifest true gifts, do wonderful works in the name of Jesus Christ, and still be unsaved, evil, and condemned (Matt. 7:21 -23). Moreover, Satan is capable of showing false signs to deceive (Deut. 13:1 -5; Matt. 24:24; Acts 8:9-11; 13:6-12; 16:16; Rev. 13:13-14; 16:13-14).

Due to the fact that Satan can perform powerful signs and lying wonders (2 Thess. 2:8), the best safeguard against deception is believing sound biblical truths taught in the Holy Scriptures (Isa. 8:19-20; 34:16; John 5:39; Luke 24:45; Acts 13:11; 17:2; 18:28; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21).

So, if the cloud in Life Magazine is a supernatural sign, as Branham and followers believe: how can we know that it is from God? 1 John 4:1 tells believers to try the spirits to see whether they are from God because many false prophets are in the world. How? Verse 6 says we test these things by the words that God gave unto the apostles—the Bible.

Therefore, based upon Matthew 24:23-28, we are instructed by the Savior not to believe the cloud shown in Life Magazine to be him, nor his appearance, as claimed by Branham and followers. Furthermore, to conclusively prove whether Branham received the revelation of the seven seals from seven angels of God who allegedly appeared and formed Christ’s image in the cloud featured in Life Magazine, we must closely examine the authenticity of his sermons preached between March 17 and March 24 of 1963.

The Seven Seals: Did William Branham Plagiarize Several Authors?

Based upon our study in Chapter One, William Branham believed the appearance of an unusual cloud on February 28, 1963 was formed by seven angels that vindicated his opening of the seven sealed book in God's right hand. But, as our research has proven, he was not present when this cloud appeared. Nor did it appear in the vicinity where he later hunted. The cloud showed up about 200 miles away. Also, scientific evidences support the fact that it was likely formed by a destroyed missile launched from Vandenberg AFB.

But, the question we now ask: If this cloud was formed by seven angels, as Branham and his followers claim, what did they reveal? The belief is that these angels opened and revealed to Branham the mysteries of the seven seals.

We find out that, during that time, **I saw seven Angels** in a—in a form of a pyramid, that swept down and picked me up. And **I was brought East, to open the Seven Seals for God**. _Standing In The Gap 06-23-63M

I saw seven Angels come. Didn't **Life magazine** pack it, as the fog of It floated across here, twenty-seven miles high, and thirty miles across? Is not Fred Sothmann, these other, Gene Norman, them, setting back there? **Stood right there when them seven Angels appeared right there on the hill**. It shook the hills, for miles around, like that. There stood seven Angels. And threw a sword in your hand, said, **"Go home and open these Seven Seals that are given."** And here they are, the true mystery of marriage and divorce, and the serpent's seed, and all of these things that's been fussed about. It's **THUS SAITH THE LORD**. _The Easter Seal 04-10-65

"Return home. For, **THUS SAITH THE LORD**, the seven mysteries that's been hid in the Bible all these years, these denominations and everything, God is going **to open those seven mysteries to us in the Seven Seals.**" _What Is The Attraction On The Mountain? 07-25-65E

Also, Branham told his trusting audience that God only gave him the revelation of the seven seals.

And it **only** is to **be revealed** at the **last day** when this **actual Seal is broken**.. _The First Seal 03-18-63

And then I thought, "Well, what is it, Lord?" And I walked up and down the floor awhile. I'd kneel down and pray, go back and pick up the Bible, set down, and read, walk back and forth. **And then all of a sudden when I got quiet, here it just unfolded like that. Then I'd grab a pen right quick, and go to writing it down like that, whatever I was seeing and doing, watching it like that till I got it wrote down.** Then I'd take the rest of the day and go down and chase this out and see if it tied all the way down through the Scriptures. _The Seventh Seal 03-24-63

Notice, one thunder, **seven messages** that's **been sealed up** and **cannot be revealed** until the last day, at this age. See what I mean? _The Seventh Seal 03-24-63E

Now, the **Seals** had done been broke here. **We're breaking them now**. _The First Seal 03-18-63

William Branham Studied Many Commentaries

So then, did seven angels from God reveal to William Branham the mysteries of the seven seals? Did he bring any new revelation to this subject to prove that he was sent by God to Jeffersonville to open their hidden meanings? As we will now prove, Branham got nearly all of his understanding from well known Bible teachers of the past. They wrote books and commentaries about the seven seals before he was born or had become a teenager.

These men are Clarence Larkin (1850-1924), a very distinguished and knowledgeable Bible teacher; Uriah Smith (1832-1903), an educator and theologian of the Seventh Day Adventist; Charles Taze Russell (1852-1916), a restorationist and founder of a movement that later became the Jehovah's Witnesses organization; John Gill (1697-1771), a noted biblical scholar and theologian; and Albert Barnes (1798-1870), a noted theologian.

As shown below, Branham only mentions some of these men when disagreeing with their teachings, but fails to mention them when using their information, as this study shall prove. The quotes below validate that Branham may have read all of their books or familiar with some of them.

I've been reading Dr. Larkin's book, Dr. Smith's book, Dr. Scofield's notes, different commentaries from men everywhere, and yet **I cannot put theirs together to make it come out right. See?** So this week I'm planning on... Been visiting the library in Kentucky on some of the ancient astronomy of the calendars and times, and picking up from the libraries and so forth all the ancient books that I can, and to — what little I can do, and **having my trust solemnly in Jesus Christ to reveal it to me**. _ Gabriel's Instructions To Daniel 07-30-61M

And so, no doubt that down through the age there has been hundreds times hundreds of people, scholars, abled men, trying to explain what these seventy of weeks were. And **I've read many of their commentaries on it**. And I'm very grateful to **Mr. Smith** of the Adventist church for his views. I'm very grateful to **Dr. Larkin** of his views. I'm grateful to **all these great scholars** for their views on this. And in **reading them, it enlightens me** much that I can find places that looks right. **But to get the views that I—I thought that I would like to explain, I searched through the encyclopedia of time to find out what time meant**. _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61

Now, what does the white horse mean? Now, here's where the revelation comes. I'm just as positive of this as I'm standing here knowing this is the Word . **I've read every book on it I could find.** And with a... I... The last time that I was —tried to go through it, just teaching it, about thirty years ago, I took the book... Somebody had to lead me that the Adventists had more light on the second coming of Christ than any people that they knowed, so I found some of their good books to read them. **I got Smith's book on "Daniel's Revelation."** And he said this white horse that went forth was white, and it symbolized a conqueror, and in this conquering... Many of you Adventist brethren here knows the book, and many of you others also by reading it. **And others, I read two or three of... I read when the... I can't call... There's two more books read, and both men agreed that that was right.** That was fine teachers, supposed to be some of the best with the best light. So I thought, "Well, if I don't know, I'll just say what they said, try to teach it that way." And they give a very good explanation of it, what it really meant.... Now, that sounds very good, but it isn't the Truth _The First Seal 03-18-63, Par. 264-265, 267

And I hope that people are spiritual . I would've had a horrible mistake on that if it hadn't been about twelve o'clock today when the Holy Spirit came in the room and corrected me on something that I was writing down to say. I was taking it from an old context. I had nothing on it. I don't know what the Second Seal is no more than nothing, but I'd got some old contexts of something that I'd spoke on several years ago and wrote it down, and I'd gathered this context —context... And **Dr. Smith, many great outstanding teachers** that I—I'd gathered, and all of them believed that, so I'd wrote it down. And I was fixing to say, " **Well, now I'll study it from that standpoint.**" And there about twelve o'clock in the day the Holy Spirit just swept right down into the room, and the whole thing just opened up to me, and there it was ...?... of this —of this First Seal being opened. _The First Seal 03-18-63

Here is where I differ with a precious brother, a teacher. And I notice—I know I see some of his people setting here, that I realize that this was **a great teacher . He's a doctor in a — doctor of divinity, and a Ph., LL.D.,** and he's a —he's a real good man too. I think he's gone on at this time, but he was a good man and **a good writer.** And it's Brother **Uriah Smith, the author of "Daniel of Revelation."** _Fifth Seal 03-22-63

Now, I have many fine **Jehovah Witness friends** sitting here. It's all... Or have been. Maybe some of them's still Jehovah Witness. But they've always applied (Mr. Russell did) this hundred and forty-four thousand to being the supernatural Bride of Christ, See? They... It's not. It has nothing to do in the church age at all. They're absolutely Israel . _The Seventh Seal 03-24-63

Now, you Adventist know that, you know **Dr. Smith,** and the Home Bible Circle Readings and all that. **I have them all in my study, and all of Jehovah Witnesses** and so forth like that. Where—whenever they raise up, **I know their points.** _The Mark Of The Beast And The Seal Of God 02-17-61#2

That's where **Russell** got mixed up. **Russell prophesied,** seeing this coming. He prophesied "it would be the coming of the Lord Jesus," not knowing that it was the—the sealing away of the Church. See? _Questions And Answers On Hebrews #1 09-25-57

And something strange going on every day... I would be amazed to walk in the room and be there for a few minutes and

see something just turn me completely around. And here, **I'd go in there and pick up the notes. I'd pick up books of Dr. Smith, Uriah Smith , and oh, all the writers in there, and read in—and read down in their books.** I'd say, "Now, here's the Sixth Seal; here's the Fourth Seal. Now, what does this man say?" He'd say, "Well, it was this, that, or the other." **I'd look over here and get another man . He'd say that it was such - and-such. And it looked like I just... It just didn't work right** . _The Seventh Seal 03-24-63E

I had my own idea, as every minister does, of reading maybe what other man had said; and believing as much as I possible, with them, on the things that they had drawn up, their conclusion. **I had read the book of Mr. Smith, Uriah Smith,** which is the **Adventist teacher,** and I had read his —his thoughts on it. And I had read **Mr. Larkin. I had read, oh, so many different ones,** of their **commentaries** on This. But, somehow or other'n, I thought I had a— a little view of it, myself, that might be of places different . _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64

As shown, Branham read the books of Larkin, Smith, Russell, and others . As this study shall prove, he followed their understanding of the seven seals , seven church ages , and 19 related subjects often viewed as his personal revelations. As stated, Branham only mentioned their names when pretending to disagree with their teachings on the seals or other subjects regarding biblical prophecies.

Clarence Larkin wrote "The Book of Revelation" in 1919 and "Dispensational Truths" in 1920. Uriah Smith wrote "Daniel and the Revelation" in 1897 . Charles Taze Russell wrote "The Finished Mystery" a best seller that was posthumously published in 1918. John Gill published "John Gill Commentary" in 1746-1766, and Albert Barnes published "Barnes Notes" in 1834 (books still read today).

Also, we shall consider "Halley's Bible Handbook" (1962, first edition in 1924) by Henry Halley to show that Branham's revelation of the popes being the antic hrist was nothing new among past writers. Halley's book provides a succinct historical account of the papacy and the Roman Catholic Church's rise to power, from which Branham copied verbatim in his 1965 book on the seven church ages.

Moreover, we shall consider excerpts from Matthew Henry Commentary published in 1708-1710 and Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary published in 1871. Branham appeared to not only borrow information from the above authors, he likewise did the same from Cyrus Scofield (1843-1921), who published the "Scofield Bible" in 1909. He often spoke about the Scofield Bible on audio tapes from 1947 to 1965 (few examples shown below).

A little over two years ago now, I was sitting in the room. **I was reading my little Scofield Bible** . _The Angel Of God 11-02-47

Now let's note a few of these mysteries, and if you want to write them down. First, **I'll take what Scofield says here** , in Matthew 13. If you'd like to type some of them down, if you haven't got a Scofield Bible. **You might read what he thinks some of the my steries are.** Now, in the 11th verse. _Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir? 12-30-62E

For instance, this I just read , **I was reading the footnotes on Scofield.** _The Trial 04-19-64

Branham was supposedly born in 1909 (he gave three different birth dates). For this reason, Branham's followers cannot say these men plagiarized him because the books mentioned above were written either before he was born or around 16 years old. So then, let us compare his teachings of the seven seals and other related subjects taught during those seven sermons with the books of these authors. Why? To see if seven angels of God revealed these messages to him or if they were plagiarized. Before doing so, let us consider several definitions for the word "plagiarism."

Official Definitions of Plagiarism

What is plagiarism? Merriam Webster Dictionary defines plagiarism as: "To use the words and ideas of another person as if they were your own words or ideas." A second definition says: "To steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own; use another's production without crediting the source." A third definition says: "To commit literary theft; present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source." [80]

Wikipedia defines plagiarism as stealing published material while giving the author or his book no credit. The stolen material is often slightly modified to avoid suspicion. Wikipedia further says there is no universally accepted definition of academia plagiarism, but provides several different meanings often used among higher learning institutions and universities. [81]

- Stanford sees plagiarism as the "use, without giving reasonable and appropriate credit to or acknowledging the author or source, of another person's original work, whether such work is made up of code, formulas, ideas, language, research, strategies, writing or other form."
- Yale views plagiarism as the "... use of another's work, words, or ideas without attribution," which includes "... using a source's language without quoting, using information from a source without attribution, and paraphrasing a source in a form that stays too close to the original."
- Princeton perceives plagiarism as the "deliberate" use of "someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source."
- Oxford College of Emory University characterizes plagiarism as the use of "a writer's ideas or phraseology without giving due credit."
- Brown defines plagiarism as "... appropriating another person's ideas or words (spoken or written) without attributing those words or ideas to their true source."

Wikipedia also provides a list called "The Reality and Solution of College Plagiarism" that were created by the Health Informatics department of the University of Illinois at Chicago to identify plagiarism among students. [82]

1. Submitting someone's work as their own.
2. Taking passages from their own previous work without adding citations.
3. Re-writing someone's work without properly citing sources.
4. Using quotations, but not citing the source.
5. Interweaving various sources together in the work without citing.

6. Citing some, but not all passages that should be cited.
7. Melding together cited and uncited sections of the piece.
8. Providing proper citations, but fails to change the structure and wording of the borrowed ideas enough.
9. Inaccurately citing the source.
10. Relying too heavily on other people's work. Fails to bring original thought into the text.

William Branham's Secret Informational Sources

Considering the above definitions, plagiarism involves using someone else's ideas, words, phraseology, strategies, and works as one's own thoughts, which includes not appropriately crediting or acknowledging the author as the original source. As stated above, it is also "...present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source."

Since plagiarism is called literary theft; it is a form of stealing. Is God against stealing? Yes, he said, "You shall not steal" [Ex. 20:15 (NKJV)]. Is God against plagiarism? Yes, he said in Jeremiah 23:30: "Therefore, behold, **I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour.**" Considering this verse, it appears that some prophets were repeating prophecies they heard from other prophets as though it were their personal revelations and predictions (1 Cor. 4:7).

So then, the question, we must now ask: Did Branham plagiarize his teachings on the seven seals? Well, in the previous section, he admitted to reading various books and commentaries. But, he mentioned them when pretending to disagree with their views. But, when Branham disagreed with one author, he accepted the view of another one.

Branham never told the audience that nearly all of his information and understanding came from various books. Instead, he made people believe the revelation of the seven seals came from seven angels of God.

But, as we shall study, Branham appears to have gotten his teachings from seven men (rather than seven angels): 1. Clarence Larkin, 2. Charles Taze Russell, 3. Uriah Smith, 4. Cyrus Scofield, 5. Albert Barnes, 6. Henry Halley, and 7. John Gill, along with a few other commentaries.

Even if Branham's staunch followers blindly refuse to accept the documented facts that he plagiarized the seven seals, the following study will prove he was not the first to reveal these alleged seven mysteries. Why? Seeing that other authors had the very same information written in their books, which he claimed no one knew: "***And these Seven Seals was not to be opened (Revelations 10) until the sounding of the last earthly angel on earth, Revelations 10:7. See?***" _The Rapture 12-04-65

Nonetheless, before Branham began his sermons on the seven seals, he tried to legitimize borrowed (plagiarized) information from past biblical writers. How? By accusing these men of probing at God's word and saying his ministry was to clarify all the loose ends of their teachings by revealing the entire revelation (secrets) of God.

We know that this Book of Redemption will not be thoroughly understood: it's probed at through six church ages, but at the

end, when **the seventh angel** begins to sound his mystery, **he winds up all of the loose ends that these fellows probed at**, and the mysteries comes down from God as the Word of God and **reveals the entire revelation of God** . Then the Godhead and everything else is settled. All the mysteries: serpent's seed and whatevermore is to be revealed. _The Breach Between The Seven Church Ages And The Seven Seals 03-17-63E

And at the end of the Pentecostal age we are supposed to receive, according to the Word, as God help me tonight to show you through here, that we are to see—**receive a messenger that will take all those loose ends out there and reveal the whole secret of God** for the rapturing of the Church. _The First Seal 03-18-63

Due to Branham's statements, followers fail to realize the seriousness of his plagiarism. He did not reveal the loose ends of these writers' and theologians' teachings. He directly copied, modified, or paraphrased their writings and tried to pass them on to followers as personal revelations from God as the wrongfully interpreted seventh angel of Revelation 10:7. But, as the following studies will clearly show, Branham brought no new revelations. Instead, he mostly utilizes these authors' writings and understanding on the following subject matters.

1. The seven seals
2. The seven church ages
3. Seven human messengers to seven church ages
4. The seventh angel of Revelation 3:14 and 10:7, reveals all the mysteries of God
5. Papal Rome is the beast of Revelation 13
6. United States is the lamb-like beast of Revelation 13
7. Mystery Babylon the Great is the Roman Catholic and Protestant denominations
8. Romanism and Catholicism is the mark of the beast
9. Confederation of churches is the image of the beast
10. Vicarious Filli Dei is the number of the beast (666) in Roman Numerals
11. Satan's trinity is the dragon, beast, and false prophet
12. Four beasts of seven seals represent four periods in church history
13. Dan and Ephraim are excluded from 144,000 Israelites
14. The seventy weeks of Daniel
15. Apostle John's Patmos vision
16. Israel is the fig tree
17. The pyramid teaching
18. Oneness doctrine of the Godhead
19. Water baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
20. Two comings of Elijah
21. The serpent seed.

When preaching the seven seals between March 17 and March 24 of 1963, Branham mentioned the above subjects . Even though Branham spoke on nearly all of these lessons before March of 1963, followers believe he revealed or

brought forth the correct understanding of these alleged mysteries during his sermons on the seven seals—not knowing he got this information from various books.

Branham did not clarify any loose end or revealed the entire revelation of God because he brought nothing different from the books that he had read. The reason most people have not discovered his secret cove of knowledge is because these books are mostly over a century old and no longer widely read by mainstream Christianity. However, the internet has once again made these books available.

Now, the purpose of this study is not to examine whether the interpretations of these subjects are right or wrong. There is not adequate space in this book to refute every wrong teaching. The object of this study is to prove that William Branham did not receive any new revelation from seven angels of God when preaching the seven seals.

Rather, Branham got nearly all of his information and understanding from other writers. Factual evidences will prove that Branham did not reveal the seven seals nor was he the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7 , as I shall scripturally prove later in this book.

The following quotes of William Branham are taken directly from his sermons on the seven seals (March 17-24, 1963). The book called "The Revelation of the Seven Seals" is the unabridged written version of his recorded sermons, which can also be viewed online. ^[83] Quotes of Clarence Larkin are taken from "The Book of Revelation" (1919) ^[84]. Quotes of Charles Taze Russell are taken from "The Finished Mystery" (1918) . ^[85] Quotes of Uriah Smith are taken from "Daniel and the Revelation" (1897). ^[86] Quotes of Cyrus Scofield are taken from the "Scofield Bible" (1909). ^[87] Quotes of John Gill are taken from "John Gill's Exposition" (1746-1766). ^[88] Quotes of Albert Barnes are taken from "Barnes Notes" (1834). ^[89]

Quotes of Henry Halley are taken from "Halley's Bible Handbook" (1962, first edition published in 1924). ^[90] Quotes from Matthew Henry Commentary (1708 -1710) ^[91] and Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary (1871) ^[92] are taken from these books. The books quoted in this study can be viewed online (see endnotes for links).

Please note that some online books show both the original and the online page numbers. The page numbers shown below are the original ones. The following study shall compare Branham's teachings of a particular seal with the corresponding seal of another author. That is, I shall compare Branham's first seal with the first seals of other authors, the second seal with the second seal, the third seal with the third seal, and so forth.

An asterisk (*) will be seen whenever information is taken from a different seal . A double asterisk (**) will be seen whenever information is taken from a different chapter of the books mentioned above.

So then, are you ready to investigate the teachings of William Branham? Are you ready to face convincing facts? Are you ready to face the untold truth? Are you willing to discover the source of William Branham's teachings on the seven seals; his hidden treasure of information? If so, then let us sincerely proceed.

Plagiarism of First Seal

VERSES 1-2: And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse; and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him; and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

William Branham vs. Clarence Larkin

What William Branham Said	What Clarence Larkin Said:
<p>So here stands Christ, the Lamb. We know He was the Lamb. He's standing here with the Books in His hand, and there goes the white horse rider. See? So it wasn't the Holy Spirit. And notice, Christ is not seen any more (See?) from the time there. But He is on a white horse; so if this guy is riding a white horse, he's only an impersonator of Christ. See? Page 140</p> <p><u>The Holy Spirit is Christ in another form.</u> That's right. Notice, it is a Lamb that opened the Book, and the Lamb is Christ; and Christ is not seen any more from then, but He is seen in the Book of Revelations the 19th chapter, coming on a white horse. Page 140</p>	<p>Who is the "Rider" upon this White Horse? He is not Christ, as some claim, for Christ, as the LAMB, is holding the "Seven Sealed Book" and breaking its "Seals." Christ does not appear as a White Horse Rider until chapter 19:11-16. Page 53</p>
<p>The rider has no name, but Christ is called the Word of God. That's what He is. He's called that. Now, He's got a Name that no man knows, but He's called the Word of God. This guy isn't called nothing (See?), but he's on a white horse. Page 142</p>	<p>Then He is called "Faithful and True," and on His head there is a many "Diademed Crown," and He is clothed in a vesture dipped in blood, and His name is called the "WORD OF GOD." Page 53</p>
<p>But you find out Christ had both lightning and thunder; for out of His mouth goes a sharp two-edged Sword, and He smites the nations. Page 142</p>	<p>And there is no weapon of warfare in His hand, but a sharp sword comes out of His mouth, and the effect upon His enemies will be swift and terrible. Page 53</p>
<p>The rider has no arrows for his bow. Did you notice? He had a bow, but there's nothing said about having any arrows. P. 142</p>	<p>This "Rider" has a "bow," no arrow is mentioned. Page 53</p>
<p>Editor's Note: In the above excerpts, Clarence Larkin provides a few reasons why the white horse rider of the first seal is not Christ, which are: (1) He is holding the book, not riding the horse, (2) He does not return until the 19th chapter, (3) He has a name, the rider of the first seal has none, and (4) He has a sharp sword, the rider of the first seal has a bow, but no arrows.</p>	

<p>Notice, Branham copied Larkin by using the same explanations and continued to do so in the following quotes.</p>	
<p>He had no crown to start with, but he got a crown later (See?), when that spirit become incarnate. Page 142</p>	<p>And he is not crowned at first, but a crown will be given to him later. Page 53</p>
<p>A white horse rider went out. See? Who is he? He's mighty in his conquering power, is a great fellow in his conquering power. You want me to tell you who he is? He's the antichrist. That's exactly what he is. Page 143</p>	<p>In other words this White Horse Rider is the ANTICHRIST. Page 54</p>
<p>Editor's Note: In paragraphs 262 and 266 of the First Seal, Branham said that he disagreed with some books he read because they said the white horse rider was Christ. Branham made it appear as though he had a special revelation that the rider was the antichrist. During the third seal he said: <i>"Most all commentaries and so forth, the reading of it are —are... The reading of their thoughts, and I have —and I've always believed like nearly all of them does that that first horse rider was the—was the early church."</i> However, Branham failed to tell his audience that Clarence Larkin believed this rider to be the Antichrist. Did he know that Larkin believed the rider to be the Antichrist? The following quotes will prove that Branham was familiar with information in Mr. Larkin's book (s). He practically follows Larkin's remarks in the first seal, sometimes using the same words and phrases (see underlined words).</p>	
<p>You remember it? "Nico" means "to conquer." "Laity" means "the church, the laity." "Nicolaitanes" "to conquer the laity": take the Holy Spirit out of the church and give it all to one holy man, let him be the boss of all of it. Page 143, Par. 295</p> <p>And what was the first thing happened? An organization from it. Now, is that right? Tell me where the first organized church come from: Roman Catholic church. Page 143, Par. 296</p>	<p>**Here Paul's "wolves" are called Nicolaitanes. They were not a sect, but a party in the Church who were trying to establish a "Priestly Order." Probably trying to model the Church after the Old Testament order of Priests, Levites, and common people. This is seen in the meaning of the word, which is from "Niko" to conquer, to overthrow, and "Laos" the people or laity. The object was to establish a "Holy Order of Men," and place them over the laity, which was foreign to the New Testament plan, and call them not pastors, but --Clergy, Bishops, Archbishops, Cardinals, Popes. Here we have the origin of the dogma of "Apostolic Succession," and the separation of the Clergy from the Laity, a thing that God "hates." Page 20</p>
<p>Editor's Note: In various sermons Branham made it appear that the teaching regarding the Nicolaitanes was his revelation. But, as shown, he borrowed the concept from Larkin.</p>	
<p>Now, look, let's take—go back to Daniel again just a minute. I want to read something 'fore... Whether if you don't go back, it's all</p>	<p>He is the "PRINCE WHO IS TO COME" of Daniel's Vision of the "Seventy Weeks," and who will confirm the Covenant for "ONE WEEK," the last or</p>

right. I want to read Daniel 9— Daniel 9 , and I want to read the 26th and 27th verse of Daniel 9. And watch, if he isn't the one to destroy Daniel's people . Page 148	"Seventieth Week," with Daniel's people the Jews. Dan. 9:27. Page 54
And this prince in that time is to make a covenant with Daniel's people , which is the Jews . P. 149	
Editor's Note: Branham uses nearly the same words as Larkin.	
And then the Church will be caught away . And when it's caught away, then he changes himself from an antichrist now. Oh, my, the church, the great church and... Now, he becomes the beast . Page 152	"But he does not become "THE BEAST," as described in chapter 13:1-8, until the "Middle" of the WEEK, that is, until after Satan is cast out of the Heavens and incarnates himself in him . His rise to power and the rebuilding of Babylon will take time, so the Rapture of the Church will doubtless antedate the beginning of the WEEK by some years. Page 54
*Now, but in the age after the Church goes home, he becomes a beast. He becomes the devil incarnate , the red dragon himself. The Second Seal , Page 183	
Editors Note: Like Larkin, Branham says the antichrist become Satan incarnate and the beast after the rapture of the church.	
What are we saying? Who is this rider, this horse rider? You know what it is? It's Satan's superman ... Notice, this rider is nothing but Satan's superman, a incarnate devil . Page 153	This "White Horse Rider" will be Satan's "SUPERMAN." The Scriptures clearly teach that there is some day to arise a human being who shall be the embodiment of all Satanic power . Page 54
Let's see. Second Thessalonians 2:7 . I think that's right. Now, I was writing this down, quivering and shaking. Page 116	As the "Tool of Satan" he will be endowed with wonder working powers, and when he comes, he will find the world ready to receive him, for God will send upon its inhabitants a "strong delusion" that they will believe a LIE, or "THE LIE," for that is what he will be. 2. Thess. 2:9-11. Page 54
And for this cause God has sent them strong delusion , that they should believe a—a lie:... (It should be translated there, as I looked in the Lexicon, "the lie," not " a lie "; " the lie ." Page 117	
Editor's Note: Branham claimed he used a Lexicon to look up "the lie" when he actually got the idea from Larkin.	

Comments: Did an angel of God reveal to Branham the first seal? It is obvious from the above quotes that he used some of Larkin's information and reasoning. However, as a point of difference, Larkin viewed the horse rider as the coming future world ruler (prince) in the final 3.5 years of Daniel's 70 weeks, while Branham mainly viewed him as entities (popes) of the past. But, in using Larkin's information, he also believed the rider to be a future prince foretold by Daniel. Although Larkin viewed the antichrist as futuristic, he wrote in his book about the dangers of the papal church in his teachings regarding the "Seven Church

Ages." As this study shall prove, Branham plagiarized Larkin's lessons on the seven church ages. When preaching the seals, it appears that he borrowed additional information from other chapters in Larkin's book, as we shall later see.

William Branham vs. Charles Taze Russell

What William Branham Said:	What Charles Taze Russell Said:
Notice, this rider is nothing but Satan's superman, a incarnate devil . Page 153	He that sat on him. —The Bishop of Rome , the embryo Pope , the personal representative of Satan . P.106
A white horse rider went out. See? Who is he? He's mighty in his conquering power, is a great fellow in his conquering power. You want me to tell you who he is? He's the antichrist . That's exactly what he is. Page 143	**John also saw and warned the Church against this character, saying, 'Ye have heard that Antichrist shall come .' He then advises how to escape Antichrist's Influence. (1 John 2:18-27.) These various appellations and brief descriptions indicate a base, subtle, hypocritical, deceptive, tyrannical and cruel character; developed In the midst of the Christian Church ; claiming, to the last, peculiar sanctity and authority and power from God." (B271.) " We need not look long to find a character fitting all the requirements perfectly. But when we state that the one and only system whose history fits these prophecies is Papacy , let no one misunderstand us to mean that every Roman Catholic is a man of sin. Popes , bishops and others are at most only parts or members of the Antichrist system . Page 193
You can't crown a spirit . But three hundred years later he become a pope . And then they crowned him. He had no crown to start with, but he got a crown later (See?), when that spirit become incarnate. Page 144	
Watch. Oh, what a shrewd thing he is. Here he is. Now, we got our picture and know that he's Rome . We know that he's the white horse rider . Page 149	
Editor's Note: When teaching the first seal, Branham made it appear as though he had a special revelation that the rider was initially the spirit of the antichrist, who later became incarnate in the popes. However, not only did Mr. Russell believe the rider to be the antichrist, he also identified the rider as being the historical popes. Branham did not bring any new revelation to warrant his claim of this mystery being supernaturally revealed by a literal angel. Especially after admitting to being familiar with Russell's and Jehovah's Witnesses' teachings (see page 30) and reading every book he could find regarding the subject: " I've read every book on it I could find " (The First Seal).	
You remember it? "Nico" means "to conquer." "Laity" means "the church, the laity." " Nicolaitanes "to conquer the laity": take the Holy Spirit out of the church and give it all to one holy man , let him be the boss of all of it. Page 143	And he went forth conquering , [and to conquer] AND HE CONQUERED .— Thus we see the apparent defeat of Infinite Justice in this first epoch . Apparently, God forsook His Church , having jeopardized all its interests by placing the power in the hands of a self-seeking ecclesiastical system . But worse things are coming! Page 106
And what was the first thing happened? An organization	

<p>from it. Now, is that right? Tell me where the first organized church come from: Roman Catholic church. Page 143</p>	<p>**2:6. But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes*—"Conquerors of the people"—the clergy.—Rev. 2:15. Page 26</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham believed the antichrist conquered the nominal church and became organized religion when the Holy Spirit departed. Mr. Russell wrote the same in his book . He believed the antichrist conquere d the church in the first epoch (age or period) after God forsook it. Afterward, the church became an ecclesiastical system (organized religion).</p>	
<p>Here he is. He's the antichrist. He started riding in the first church age. Now, he rides on down , on down through every age. Now, watch him. Page 146</p>	<p>REVELATION 6 SIX SEALS AND THE PAPACY Page 105</p>
<p>Editor's Note: The followers of Branham who are not familiar with other books on this subject actually think he was the only one who identified the seals with the popes in church history. This is not true. Mr. Russell identified the seals with the historical popes, as the above subtitle in his book suggest: "REVELATION 6: SIX SEALS AND THE PAPACY." Mr. Russell's entire book "The Finished Mystery" dealt with the historic al popes and the Roman Catholic Church in great details. Not only did Mr. Russell identify the seals with the popes and Roman Catholic Church throughout history, he also identified the seals and popes with seven (7) church ages. Yes, as we shall later study, Russell believed in seven church ages (epochs) and assigned men as messengers to each one nearly 42 years before Branham. Russell viewed himself as the seventh angel of the church ages and the one of Revelation 10: 7. According to his teachings they were the same messenger. This study shall later prove that it is scripturally impossible for Russell or Branham to be the angel of Revelation 10:7. This verse will be fulfilled by a literal angel in Revelation 11:15 after the coming of two prophets during the tr ibulation period (Rev. 11:1-14). It appears that Branham could have gotten this wrong interpretation from Russell. It is also to be noted that both men attempted to predict the precise coming of Christ in violation of Matthew 24:36 and 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2. Russell predicted 1914 and Branham predicted 1977. Both predictions of these alleged angels of Revelation 10:7 were wrong. A review of history has proven most of Russell's prophetic revelations to be incorrect. The same is now happening to William Branham as discrepancies are being uncovered. Yet, people continue to follow the teachings of these alleged messengers either as Jehovah's Witnesses or Message Believers. Sadly, most followers are clueless to the fact that these men's error-filled revelations has been proven wrong.</p> <p>Notice, he has no crown. The white horse rider; I'm speaking of here. See? A bow and a crown was given him afterwards. See? He had no crown to start with, but a crown was given him. Notice, later he was given a crown: yeah, three of them, three on one. That was three hundred years later at the Nicaea Council when he started out a spirit of Nicolaitia to form an</p> <p>And a crown.—Great honor and authority in the Church . Was given unto him.—"Under the reign of Constantine (who murdered his own son in the same year in which he convened the Council of Nice) the opposition of the empire to Christianity gave way to favor, and the Imperial Pontifex Masimus became the patron of the professed but really apostate Church of Christ; and, taking her by the hand, he</p>	

<p>organization among the people. Pages 143-144</p>	<p>ASSISTED HER to a place of popularity and splendor from which she was able afterward, as the Imperial power grew weak, to put her own representatives upon the religious THRONE of the world as Chief Religious Ruler—Pontifex Maxlmus." Page 106</p>
<p>*Now, after that, we find him then crowned. When he got crowned... Now, he's a very innocent, helpless; he's just a little fellow. But then in the Nicene Council, he was made... And Constantine GIVE HIM all the property. And then what did he do? Then he... See, Satan give him his THRONE and authority. The Third Seal, Page 237</p>	<p>**[Because] THAT thou sufferest that woman Jezebel.— The Roman Catholic Church. (taken fr om the Thyatira church age, P. 40) **And I saw a woman,—The Roman Catholic Church. (Mystery Babylon the Great from Revelation 17, Page 259)</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham taught that the white horse rider (popes) and Roman Catholic Church came to power (crowned) after the Nicene Council with the help of Emperor Constantine. Mr. Russell already had this belief written in his book. In the above quotes, Russell identified the Roman Catholic Church as Jezebel in the Thyatira church age and mystery Babylon the Great in Revelation 17. Furthermore, as we shall later study, he identified the daughters of Babylon to be the Protestant denominational churches. Branham later taught those same beliefs as personal revelations.</p>	

Comments: Branham brought no new revelation to warrant his claim of this seal being revealed by an angel. Rather, he appeared to have borrowed from Mr. Russell, whose book was once a best seller and translated into six languages. If not, they surely had the same teachings. Branham's revelation of the four horse riders being the historical popes seem to come from the books of Russell and Smith. He appeared to have been greatly influenced by their writings about the popes, Roman Catholic Church, and organized religion being associated with the seven seals. When preaching the seals, it appears that he borrowed additional information from other chapters in Russell's book, as we shall later study.

William Branham vs. Uriah Smith

What William Branham Said	What Uriah Smith Said:
<p>Although the actors of these Seals begin at the first church age...Page 111</p>	<p>The seven seals therefore embrace the whole of a certain class of events, reaching down perhaps to the time of Constantine... contain the history of the church from the opening of the Christian era to the coming of Christ. P. 431</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham was not the only person who originally coordinated the seven (7) seals with church history. But, similar to Russell, Mr. Smith did the same . He also believed in seven (7) church ages, as we shall later study. Branham brought no new revelation concerning these historic al applications of the seven seals and seven church ages.</p>	
<p>An announcement in the heavens first. What happened? A seal is open. What is that? A mystery is</p>	<p>The trumpets denote a series of events which transpire contemporaneously with the events of the seals, but of an</p>

unfolded. See? And when a mystery unfolds, then a trumpet sounds. It declares a war. Page 113	entirely different character. A trumpet is a symbol of war. Page 431
But trumpet denotes political disturbance, whereas seals deals with a religious disturbance. See? Page 122	The trumpets denote great political commotions to take place among the nations during the gospel age. The seals denote events of a religious character. Page 431

Editor's Note: In paragraphs 62 -68, 130, and 135 -137 of the first seal, Branham initially taught that the opening of each of the 7 seals in chapters 6-8 of Revelation were simultaneously followed by one of the 7 trumpets (chapters 8-11) and one of the 7 vials of plagues (chapters 15-16) during each of the 7 church ages (chapters 2-3). Although he claimed divine guidance during the first seal, this baffling view of concurrent events appeared to be based Smith's teaching, but was later changed in the sermon "Feast of the Trumpets" and replaced with another perplexing and incorrect teaching (more later).

Comments: In paragraph 265 of the first seal, Branham said the Lord corrected him when reading Uriah Smith's information on this seal. What was the correction? Well, Smith claimed the white horse rider was Christ during the first century. Branham admitted that he formerly taught that version. But now, he receives the revelation to believe the horse rider was the Antichrist. What Branham fails to tell his audience is that he already knew the first seal pertained to the antichrist since 1961, saying: "That's when the antichrist, this First Seal rider goes forth, when he takes place" (The Sixfold Purpose Of Gabriel's Visit To Daniel 07-30-61E, Par. 105). It appears that he misled his audience.

Furthermore, even though Branham rejected Smith's teaching on the first seal, he still used some of his information. Moreover, as this study shall later prove, Branham failed to tell his audience that Uriah Smith believed the horse riders of the second, third, and fourth seals pertained to the popes and Catholic Church throughout history. Actually, what Smith taught in the second seal and other chapters of his book is what Branham taught in the first seal. But, Branham made it appear that Smith was entirely wrong about the horse riders of these seals.

William Branham vs. Cyrus Scofield

What William Branham Said: There goes the white horse rider. See? So it wasn't the Holy Spirit. Page 140 A white horse rider went out. See? Who is he? He's mighty in his conquering power, is a great fellow in his conquering power. You want me to tell you who he is? He's the antichrist. That's exactly what he is. Page 143	What Cyrus Scofield Said: The rider on the horse is not Christ. Those who identify this rider with Him consider the passage a prophecy of conquest by the Gospel. But, no crown was given to the Lord as the proclamation of the Gospel began, and the terrible world events which accompany the other three riders (vv, 3-8) do not imply an earlier conquest by Christ. _Footnote – First Seal, P. 1357
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Comments: As stated, Branham taught the first seal as though he alone had the revelation that the first horse rider was the Antichrist, not Jesus Christ during the first century. However, the footnotes of his Scofield Bible said this rider was not Christ during the first century and refuted those who believe thus. Once

again I ask, did an angel from God reveal to Branham the hidden mystery of the first seal, or men? The evidence shows that he read other books and used the information.

Thus, Branham brought no new insight to warrant a special revelation of an angel, especially after admitting to reading footnotes in his Scofield Bible: "For instance, this I just read, I was reading the footnotes on Scofield" (The Trial 04-19-64). He also said: "Now let's note a few of these mysteries, and if you want to write them down. First, I'll take what Scofield says here, in Matthew 13." _Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir? 12-30-62E

William Branham vs. Henry Hampton Halley

What William Branham Said: A white horse rider went out. See? Who is he? He's mighty in his conquering power, is a great fellow in his conquering power. You want me to tell you who he is? He's the antichrist. That's exactly what he is. Page 143	What Henry Halley Said: Or, this horseman may symbolize the beginning of the reign of the Antichrist at the end. Or, possibly, both the world power under which Christ started his work, and the final world power under which he will finish it, typical of the other. Page 711 If the first seal refers to Antichrist , then these three seal refer to his Terrifying Wars. Page 712
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Comments: Halley presents two views about the first rider, one possibly being the end time antichrist. Once again, the notion that Branham is the only one who believed the first horse rider to be the Antichrist is debunked. Also, near the end of Halley's book is written a succinct, detailed history of the popes and the Catholic Church's ascension to power after uniting church and state. He shows how this union later became the Holy Roman Empire.

Also, Halley names each pope and shows their negative impact on the church, which includes crusades, persecutions, and deaths committed under their commands (50 million martyrs killed, page 726). This brief history (see pages 767-793) also spoke of the reformers during the reformation. These men referred to the Pope as the Antichrist before Branham.^[93] As this investigative study shows on pages 88-89, Branham clearly read Halley's book because he quoted several sentences verbatim in his 1965 book on the seven church ages. Thus, his alleged revelation of the popes being the antichrist was not new.

Plagiarism of Second Seal

VERSES 3-4: And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

William Branham vs. Clarence Larkin

What William Branham Said: Now, if Satan's trinity lays like that... Satan all the time, Satan , antichrist spirit (the antichrist spirit incarnate) false prophet , then becomes the beast. See? Page 182	What Clarence Larkin Said: ** In the " Dragon, " the " Beast, " and the " False Prophet, " we have the " SATANIC TRINITY. " Page 126
There's symbols here, and we	The time is clearly that

want to look at them real close. But to my understanding, the best that I know now (You see?), Jesus predicted the same thing in Matthew 24 . See? He said, "Now, you are going to hear of wars and rumors of wars , and just wars and rumors of wars and wars, and..." but said, "All these ain't yet. Page 186	prophesied by Christ-- "And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars . . . for nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom." Matt. 24:6-7 . Page 55
Notice the change of color of these horses: same rider . Change of color of horses... And a horse is a beast, and the beast in the Bible under a symbol represents a power. The same system riding on another color power from the innocent white to a bloody red... See? Page 189	"Come," and a " RED HORSE " appeared and went forth, whose Rider was given a "GREAT SWORD"...This seems to imply that the Antichrist will not have everything his own way. Page 55
Editor's Note: As shown, Branham used Larkin's words, terminology, and scriptural examples while identifying the second horse rider to be the same antichrist of the first seal. Thus, Branham had no special revelation regarding this matter.	
But you find out here that this man has a sword so he pertains to church political war . Page 189	The symbolism is very clear. Red, the color of the Horse, is a symbol of BLOOD, and the Sword is a symbol of WAR . Page 55
The council was held, and they elected a head bishop . And then by doing this the y united church and state together . Then he dropped his bow; he got off his white horse; he got on his red horse, for he can kill anybody that DON'T AGREE WITH HIM . There's your Seal. Page 192	**Satan shifted his capital from Babylon to Pergamos. At first he persecuted the followers of Christ, and Antipas was one of the martyrs. But soon he changed his tactics and began to exalt the Church , and through Constantine united the Church and State , and offered all kinds of inducements for worldly people to come into the Church. Page 22
*Constantine give him all the property. Third Seal, P. 237	
Was his sword red? Was he riding a red horse? What was it? The same power, the same rider . There's the Seal. They admit sixty-eight million on the martyrology besides all those put to death outside of that. Page 193	... the Antichrist will not have everything his own way, and that his Autocratic methods will lead to insubordination and civil wars among the nations under some great leader represented by the Rider of the Red Horse , whose "Great Sword" is symbolical of the awful destruction of human life that will follow. Page 55
Editor's Note: Like Larkin, Branham believed the red sword represent the antichrist's power to destroy human lives.	

Comments: Even though William Branham differs with Clarence Larkin on the time period the Antichrist appears, it is obvious from the above excerpts that he continued to use Larkin's train of thoughts when teaching the second seal.

William Branham vs. Charles Taze Russell

What William Branham Said	What Charles Taze Russell Said:
Now, he was first called antichrist . The second stage , he was called the false prophet, because that spirit among the people become incarnate. Page 175	And when He had opened the second seal.—Revealing the second period of the history of the Antichrist . Page 106
Now, <u>here's my revelation</u> of it: This is Satan again . It's the devil again in another form . Page 189	
But when this spirit become incarnate in the second work of his—of his dispensation of his mystic... The second work he become a crowned false prophet to the working of the antichrist spirit. P. 191	
Editor's Note: Russell called the second seal the second period of the antichrist. Branham called it the second stage and second dispensation of the antichrist. In the above quote, Branham said " <u>here's MY REVELATION</u> ." But, as you can see, it was Russell's revelation. <u>Again, nothing new</u> .	
Was his sword red? Was he riding a red horse? What was it? The same power, the same rider . <u>There's the Seal</u> . Page 193	And power was given to him that sat thereon.— The same rider, the Antichrist . Page 106
Notice Satan's trinity: same person coming , just incarnate from one to the other. That's the way them bugs did, them worms, one to the other (Exactly.), Nicolaitane, spiritual antichrist, Pope , false prophet; beast, the devil himself incarnate. Page 181	The pope (each pope in his turn) Is the head of the false church , which is his body, even as Christ Jesus is the Head of the true Church, which is His Body. Since the head is the representative of the body, and its mouth speaks for the body, we find, as we should expect, this feature of Antichrist prominently referred to in the Scriptures. Page 107
Editor's Note: Branham pretended as though he had a special revelation of the second seal by saying: " <u>There's the seal</u> ." But, as you can see, Russell had already identified the second seal as the same rider of the first seal. This rider was the antichrist who he had already identified as the pope. Branham had no special revelation regarding this matter.	
* Tell me where the first organized church comes from: Roman Catholic church Notice, he has no crown. The <u>white horse rider</u> ; I'm speaking of here. See? A bow and a crown was given him afterwards. See? He had no crown to start with, but a crown was given him. The First Seal, Page 143, Par. 296-297	* And a crown .—Great honor and authority in the Church . First Seal, Page 106
	**[Because] THAT thou sufferest that woman Jezebel .—The Roman Catholic Church . Page 40
	**And I saw a woman, —The Roman Catholic Church . Page 259
Editor's Note: Branham believed the antichrist being crowned	

<p>during the second seal represented the rise of the pope's authority in the Roman Catholic church as it became an organized institution. Russell believed it represented the pope's rise to power in the church. As stated, he identified the Roman Catholic church as the woman (Mystery Babylon the Great) in Revelation 17—organized religion (discussed later).</p>	
<p>*Notice, later he was given a crown: yeah, three of them, three on one. That was three hundred years later at the Nicaea Council when he started out a spirit of Nicolaitia to form an organization among the people. The First Seal. Page 143</p>	<p>*Was given unto him .—"Under the reign of Constantine (who murdered his own son in the same year in which he convened the Council of Nice) the opposition of the empire to Christianity gave way to favor, and the Imperial Pontifex Masimus became the patron of the professed but really apostate Church of Christ; and, taking her by the hand, he ASSISTED HER to a place of popularity and splendor from which she was able afterward, as the Imperial power grew weak, to put her own representatives upon the religious THRONE of the world as Chief Religious Ruler—Pontifex Maximus." First Seal, Page 106</p> <p>**Thereupon Constantine decided the matter; and the Nicene Creed, backed by the Emperor's power, was declared to be the Christian faith, and anything contrary to it heresy . Page 186</p> <p>**Constantine, a shrewd politician, discerned this and discerned the growing influence of the Christian religion. In adopting it, in forcing the adoption of the Nicene Creed, and in removing his capital from Rome, he gave the papacy its start. Page 194</p> <p>**Antichrist now finds its expression in the "Christian" governments of the world founded upon its teachings—Christendom. Page 193</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Russell taught that the crown was given to the red horse rider of the second seal when Constantine empowered the apostate church at the council of Nicaea and assisted her to a place of prominence. This rise to power eventually led to the church being able to put her own leader on the religious throne as the chief spiritual ruler in the place of Constantine. Russell is referring to the popes being crowned as chief religious rulers. Branham is basically repeating Russell. Again, the alleged revealer of the seven seals brings no new revelation.</p>	
<p>In other words, up over the Vatican (Now, I've been right there.) it's wrote Vicarius Fili Dei, and it's wrote in Roman numerals.</p>	<p>**VICARIVS FILII DEI, the Vicar of the Son of God. His thoughts, with the rapidity of lightning, reverted to Rev. 13:18. "Will you turn to it?" said Mrs.</p>

<p>Now, you just draw a line at the bottom of those Roman numerals, and it means "Instead of Son of God." In other words, he's a vicar. (You know what a vicar is. Just takes the place of something.) He is the vicar instead of the Son of God. And the Bible said, "Let him that has the gift of wisdom count the numbers of the beast , for it's the number of a man, and his number is 666." Now, if you take VICARIVS FILII DEI and draw a line (the Roman numbers of V for 5, I for 1) and add it up and see if you haven't got 666. Page 190</p>	<p>A. Alice opened the New Testament, and read: 'Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast : for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.' She paused, and Miss Emmons said, 'He took out his pencil, and marking the numerical letters of the inscription on his tablet, it stood 666.'" (Smith.) This explanation was approved by Pastor Russell, and was given by him at a Convention Question Meeting. On the pope's crown in the Vatican museum is the recognized and <u>most used title</u> '<u>of the pope, VICARIVS FILII DEI (Vicar of the Son of God)</u> .' The word VICARIVS is on the top of the threefold crown.</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>V - 5</td> <td>F - 0</td> <td>D - 500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I - 1</td> <td>I - 1</td> <td>E - 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C - 100</td> <td>L - 50</td> <td>I - 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A - 0</td> <td>I - 1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>R - 0</td> <td>I - 1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>I - 1</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>V - 5</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>S - 0</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="border-top: 1px solid black;">Total 666 (Page 215)</td> </tr> </table>	V - 5	F - 0	D - 500	I - 1	I - 1	E - 0	C - 100	L - 50	I - 1	A - 0	I - 1		R - 0	I - 1		I - 1			V - 5			S - 0			Total 666 (Page 215)		
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<p>Editor's Note: As shown, Branham was not the originator of calculating the number of the beast from a title of the pope as his followers would have people to believe. He brought no revelation regarding this subject (more later).</p>																												
<p>The council was held, and they elected a head bishop. And then by doing this they united church and state together. Then he dropped his bow; he got off his white horse; he got on his red horse, for he can kill anybody that DON'T AGREE WITH HIM. There's your Seal. Page 192</p>	<p>And power was given to him that sat thereon.—The same rider, the Antichrist To take peace from the earth.—To embroil in controversy those who were under religious restraint—in other words, the entire professed church of God. And that they should kill one another.—Depose and destroy one another as teachers, by inveighing the Roman power against all offenders. Page 106</p> <p>**Antichrist now finds its expression in the "Christian" governments of the world founded upon its teachings—Christendom. Page 193</p>																											
<p>Editor's Note: During the red horse, Russell and Branham believed the antichrist received the power to kill offenders.</p>																												
<p>Pagan Rome brought into papal Rome, when the incarnate antichrist spirit become incarnate and was crowned, he was made a crowned king of Rome, both in state and church</p>	<p>**Even in its change from Rome Pagan to Rome Papal it illustrated one of Satan's chief characteristics; for he also transforms himself to appear as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14), as Rome transformed Itself from</p>																											

<p>together. Page 196</p> <p>*Watch. Oh, what a shrewd thing he is. Here he is. Now, we got our picture and know that he's Rome. We know that he's the white horse rider. We know that he went forth as a doctrine. And then what was pagan Rome? Converted into papal Rome and crowned. _The First Seal, Page 149</p>	<p>heathenism and claimed to be Christian—the Kingdom of Christ."—A258. Which decelvehth the whole world. Page 189</p> <p>**Gave him his power.— "Ancient Pagan Rome had only a mere skeleton of sacerdotal power as compared with the complex and elaborate machinery and contrivances of doctrine and practice of Papal Rome. Page 195</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Both men believed in a Pagan and Papal Rome.</p>	
<p>They took the sword of dogma and antichrist and cut down the real true worshippers all down through the ages by the millions, and when Christ comes with the Sword (For it is His Word that proceeds out of His mouth), He will slay every enemy there is before Him. You believe it? "Kill the enemy..." Page 198</p>	<p>And there was given unto him a great sword.—As the Lord has a great and powerful sword, the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Eph. 6:17), and it is represented as coming out of His mouth, so the Papacy has a great and powerful sword. In opposition to the Sword of the Spirit, and it, too, comes out of Papacy's mouth. Pages 106-107</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Here, Branham says the popes used the sword of dogma to cut down true worshippers, while Christ uses the sword, which is the word of God that proceeds from his mouth, to slay his enemies. Russell had already written nearly the exact words and thoughts in his book.</p>	
<p>They was given this sword to kill one another. Oh, my. Notice now. Now, when he did that he did not have the ecclesiastical power yet; but he started in with a demon of a false teaching, and that teaching become a doctrine. That doctrine become car—incarnate in a false prophet, and then he went just to the right place; he never went to Israel now, he went to Rome, Nicaea, Rome. Page 192</p> <p>And the first thing started the prostitution in the church of the living God, Christ's Bride, she turned from the Word and accepted Roman dogma in the stead of God's Word. What's happened to every organization's did the very same thing. Page 181</p>	<p>And I beheld and lo there went out another horse.— A creed-horse, quite different from the Scriptures which it misrepresented</p> <p>This period, beginning with the year 326 A. D. and extending to the year 539, was the period of formation of creeds. P. 107</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham taught that the pope became a false prophet who brought dogma and false teachings into the church that turned people from the word of God. As you can see, Russell identified the horse of the second seal as a creed (dogma) horse. During this time, Russell said doctrines were</p>	

<p>introduced into the church that differed from the scriptures. Again, Branham brings nothing new to warrant his claims that an angel revealed to him this revelation; when in fact, Russell had already written this information before 1918.</p>	
<p>Was his sword red? Was he riding a red horse? What was it? The same power, the same rider. There's the Seal. They admit sixty-eight million on the martyrology besides all those put to death outside of that. Page 193</p>	<p>**In eighteen centuries they have killed fifty million adherents of Christ, and persecuted innumerable others. Page 389</p>

Comments: Did Branham bring any new information from an angel to uncover this hidden second seal and to warrant this statement: "*Now, here's my revelation of it*" (The Second Seal). As shown, it appears that he had taken notes from Russell's book. As Branham had said: "**I've read every book on it I could find**" (First Seal). He was familiar with Russell and JW's teachings, saying: "*Now, I have many fine **Jehovah Witness friends sitting here. It's all... Or have been. Maybe some of them's still Jehovah Witness. But they've always applied (Mr. Russell did.) this hundred and forty-four thousand to being the supernatural Bride of Christ***" (The Seventh Seal). Again, he said: "**I have them all in my study, and all of Jehovah Witnesses and so forth like that. Where—whenever they raise up, I know their points.**" (The Mark Of The Beast And The Seal Of God 02-17-61#2).

Again, Branham said: "**I took four outstanding prophecies of Jehovah Witness, and showed him that none of had come to pass**" (Believe From The Heart 06-23-57). Branham also used the Emphatic Diaglott (see page 113), a Greek-English translation published by Russell after obtaining the copyright (see "Emphatic Diaglott" – Wikipedia). In examining Russell's book, he had vast knowledge about the history of the popes and the Roman Catholic Church. His entire book dealt with those subjects. However, nearly all of Russell's application of historical events as the fulfillment of the book Revelation has proven to be erroneous. Remember, he believed 1914 would be the end of the world.

William Branham vs. Uriah Smith

What William Branham Said:	What Uriah Smith Said:
<p>*The <u>mystery of iniquity</u> way back in that very first church age here, here's Paul writing, saying that the mystery of iniquity... _The First Seal, Page 116</p>	<p>The <u>mystery of iniquity</u> already worked in Paul's day; and the professed church of Christ, it would seem, was now so far corrupted by it as to require this change in the color of this symbol. Errors began to arise. Page 433</p> <p>**The papacy is the most cunningly contrived, false ecclesiastical system ever devised; and it may be called a system of iniquity because it has committed its abominations and practiced its orgies of superstition in the garb, and under the pretense, of pure and undefiled religion. 10. The little horn cast the truth to the ground. Page 177</p>
<p>Notice Satan's trinity: same</p>	<p>**And this antichristian</p>

<p>person coming, just incarnate from one to the other. That's the way them bugs did, them worms, one to the other (Exactly.), Nicolaitane, spiritual antichrist, Pope, false prophet; beast, the devil himself incarnate. Page 181</p>	<p>power has "practiced," - practiced its deceptions upon the people, practiced its schemes of cunning to carry out its own ends and aggrandize its own power. Page 177</p> <p>**To show this more fully, we have but to draw a parallel between the little horn of Dan.7:8,20,24,25, and this power. From this comparison it will appear that the little horn referred to and the leopard beast symbolize the same power; but the little horn is acknowledged on all hands to be a symbol of the papacy . Page 562</p>
<p>Editor's Note: As stated, Branham criticized Smith's teaching of the first seal because he said the white horse rider was not the antichrist. But, as shown, Smith identified the antichrist foretold by Daniel as the historical papacy. Smith taught throughout his book the very things Branham claimed to reveal in the first and second seals, such as the popes being the antichrist, corruption entering into the church, the union of church and state, and the rise of the Roman Catholic Church and organized religion (ecclesiastical powers) after the Council of Nicaea in the days of Constantine. Watch the similarities.</p>	
<p>In other words, up over the Vatican (Now, I've been right there.) it's wrote Vicarius Filii Dei, and it's wrote in Roman numerals. Now, you just draw a line at the bottom of those Roman numerals, and it means "Instead of Son of God." In other words, he's a vicar. (You know what a vicar is. Just takes the place of something.) He is the vicar instead of the Son of God. And the Bible said, "Let him that has the gift of wisdom count the numbers of the beast, for it's the number of a man, and his number is 666." Now, if you take VICARIVS FILII DEI and draw a line (the Roman numbers of V for 5, I for 1) and add it up and see if you haven't got 666. Page 190</p>	<p>**The Number of His Name. - <u>The number of the beast</u>, says the prophecy, "is the number of a man;" and if it is to be derived from a name of title, the natural conclusion would be that it must be the name or title of some particular man. The most plausible expression we have seen suggested as containing the number of the beast, is the title which the pope takes to himself, and allows others to apply to him. That title is this: Vicarius Filii Dei, "Vicegerent of the Son of God ." Taking the letters out of this title which the Latins used as numerals, and giving them their numerical value, we have just 666. Thus we have V, 5; I, 1; C, 100 (a and r not used as numerals); I, 1; U (formerly the same as V), 5 (s and f not used as numerals); I, 1; L, 50; I, 1; I, 1; D, 500 (e not used as a numeral); I, 1. Adding these number together, we have just 666. Page 624</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham likely got this calculation from Smith since he openly admitted to reading his book (without giving him credit): "<i>I think he's gone on at this time, but he was a good man and a good writer. And it's Brother Uriah Smith, the</i></p>	

<p><u>author of "Daniel of Revelation."</u> Fifth Seal 03-22-63</p>	
<p>The council was held, and they elected a head bishop . And then by doing this they united church and state together. Then he dropped his bow; he got off his white horse; he got on his red horse, for he can kill anybody that don't agree with him. There's your Seal. Page 192</p>	<p>**This little horn, as we shall have occasion to notice more fully hereafter, was the papacy. The three horns plucked up before it were the Heruli, the Ostrogoths, and the Vandals. And the reason why they were plucked up was because they were opposed to the teaching and claims of the papal hierarchy, and hence to the supremacy in the church of the bishop of Rome. And "in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things," the eyes, a fit emblem of the shrewdness, penetration, cunning, and foresight of the papal hierarchy; and the mouth speaking great things, a fit symbol of the arrogant claims of the bishops of Rome. Page 134</p>
<p>That's the way them bugs did, them worms, one to the other (Exactly.), Nicolaitane, spiritual antichrist, Pope, false prophet; beast, the devil himself incarnate. Page 181</p> <p>Now, when he did that he did not have the ecclesiastical power yet; but he started in with a demon of a false teaching, and that teaching become a doctrine. That doctrine become incarnate in a false prophet, and then he went just to the right place; he never went to Israel now, he went to Rome, Nicaea, Rome. P. 192</p>	<p>Editor's Note: During the second seal, Branham said the council elected a bishop from Rome (pope) who received power afterward to kill those who disagreed. In Smith's book, he historically showed how the Bishop of Rome (pope) became powerful enough (during the time periods of the second and third seals) to overthrow three nations that opposed his teaching and claims. Branham brought no new revelation regarding the pope's ascension to power during that time.</p>
<p>The council was held, and they elected a head bishop. And then by doing this they united church and state together. Page 192</p>	<p>Of this period Dr. Rice remarks: "It represents a secular period, or union of church and state. Page 433</p>
<p>Now, we find out he unites his power. Then when he become both state and church, the ecclesiastical, then what are you going to do? He forms his own religion, and now he can do whatever he wants to. Then he has the right to put to death whosoever will not agree with him. Page 193</p>	<p>The ecclesiastical power sought the alliance of the secular. Troubles and commotions were the result. The spirit of this period perhaps reached its climax as we come down to the days of Constantine. Page 433</p>
<p>Editor's Note: During the second seal, both Smith and Branham taught that church (ecclesiastical) and state (secular) united. Again, Branham brought no new revelation.</p>	
<p>*What is he? An organizational system, the first, number one church, organized. And when he took the—the understanding of Constantine at the Nicaea</p>	<p>The spirit of this period perhaps reached its climax as we come down to the days of Constantine ...He legislated for the church, called the Council of Nicaea...</p>

<p>Council... We brought them women, last night, and showed how that Eve, the first bride, before her husband ever got to her, she fell by disbelieving God's Word in Eden. The spiritual Bride that was borned on the day of Pentecost of Christ, before He could get to her, what happened? She fell at Rome. _Fourth Seal, P. 275</p>	<p>Constantine made decrees against some errors, and was praised, and suffered to go on and introduce many other errors, and oppose some important truths. Page 433</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham said the church fell at the Nicene Council in Rome by following Constantine's understanding. Smith had already written this fact. Again, no new teaching.</p>	<p>the church fell at the Nicene Council in Rome by following Constantine's understanding. Smith had already written this fact. Again, no new teaching.</p>
<p>Pagan Rome brought into papal Rome, when the incarnate antichrist spirit become incarnate and was crowned, he was made a crowned king of Rome, both in state and church together. Oh, brother. See? It's just full of it. See? Page 196</p> <p>*Watch. Oh, what a shrewd thing he is. Here he is. Now, we got our picture and know that he's Rome. We know that he's the white horse rider. We know that he went forth as a doctrine. And then what was pagan Rome? Converted into papal Rome and crowned. _The First Seal, Page 149</p>	<p>**To this beast the dragon gives his seat, his power, and great authority. By what power was pagan Rome succeeded? We all know that it was by Papal Rome. P. 561</p> <p>**Pagan Rome was remodeled into papal Rome And the place of his sanctuary, or worship, the city of Rome, was cast down. The seat of government was removed by Constantine in A.D.330 to Constantinople. This same transaction is brought to view in Rev.13:2, where it is said that the dragon, pagan Rome, gave to the beast, papal Rome, his seat, the city of Rome. Page 177</p>
<p>The council was held, and they elected a head bishop. And then by doing this they united church and state together. Then he dropped his bow; he got off his white horse; he got on his red horse, for he can kill anybody that DON'T AGREE WITH HIM. <u>There's your Seal.</u> Page 192</p>	<p>Mosheim says of this period, "There was continual war and trouble." This state of things answers well to the declaration of the prophet that power was given to him that sat on the horse <u>"to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another:</u> and there was given unto him a great sword." The Christianity of that time had mounted the throne, and bore the emblem of the civil power. Page 433</p>
<p>Was his sword red? Was he riding a red horse? What was it? The same power, the same rider. <u>There's the Seal.</u> They admit sixty-eight million on the martvology besides all those put to death outside of that. Page 193</p>	<p>**Daniel beheld this horn making war upon the saints . Has such a war been waged by the papacy? Fifty million martyrs, with a voice like the sound of many waters answer, Yes. Witness the cruel persecutions of the Waldenses, the Albigenses, and Protestants in general, by the papal power. It is stated on good authority that the persecutions, massacres, and religious wars excited by the church and</p>

	<p>bishop of Rome, have occasioned the shedding of far more blood of the saints of the Most High than all the enmity, hostility and persecutions of professed heathen peoples from the foundation of the world. P 141</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Again Branham said : "<i>There's your seal</i>" as if he introduced new revelations that pagan Rome became papal Rome, or the pope and the Roman Catholic Church received power to kill those who disagreed with them after the union of church and state. Smith's said the same thing about pagan and papal Rome. He also said the Christianity of that time had received civil power : "to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another." Smith list 50 million ma rtyrs in his book; Branham spoke of 68 million martyrs.</p>	

Comments: After admitting to reading Smith 's book, "*I got Smith's book on "Daniel's Revelation"* (The First Seal), we can clearly see that Branham used his information. He further said about Smith's book: "*Well, now I'll study it from that standpoint*" (The First Seal). So then, did an angel reveal the second seal, or the books of men?

The answer is becoming more obvious as we realize that Branham appears to be a prolific reader of other men's teachings on these subjects. But sadly, he passed on the information as though he had supernaturall y received it from God , saying: "*And then all of a sudden when I got quiet, here it just unfolded like that. Then I'd grab a pen right quick, and go to writing it down like that, whatever I was seeing and doing, watching it like that till I got it wrote down*" (The Seventh Seal).

Also, after admitting to reading Smith's views about the first seal (on page 431), Branham dismisses his understanding, saying: "*Well, now I'll study it from that standpoint.*" *And there about twelve o'clock in the day the Holy Spirit just swept right down into the room, and the whole thing just opened up to me, and there it was...?... of this—of this First Seal being opened* (The First Seal). As stated, Branham knew since his July 30, 1961 sermon this seal pertained to the antichrist before his 1963 sermon.

Branham also knew that some Adventists were in the audience: "*Many of you Adventist brethren here knows the book, and many of you others also by reading it*" (The First Seal). Perhaps, Branham tried to hide any charge of plagiarism by dismissing what Smith said about the first seal on page 431 of his 1897 book. Branham knew that Smith's teachings on the second seal along with other sections in his book were similar to his first seal. Smith detailed teaching about the papacy being the little horn (antichrist) foretold by Daniel is found on pages 134, 141 - 162, 176-177, 180, and 281-304 (see Daniel and the Revelation).

So then, Branham did not reveal this seal nor tie up any loose end seeing that past writers presented vast historic al information pertaining to the papacy and the horse riders throughout church history. Branham did not add any new insight to this concept. Just because Mr. Smith did not assign the first horse rider as being the antichrist does negate all the detailed information in his book regarding the papacy . Throughout Smith's book, he had already written what Branham taught as his personal revelations in the seven seals pertaining to the popes' rise to power as the antichrist.

Remember, when teaching Daniel's seventy weeks in 1961, Branham admits that Smith and others had enlightened him : "*Mr. Smith of the Adventist church for his views. I'm very grateful to Dr. Larkin of his views. I'm grateful to all these great scholars for their views on this. And in reading them, it enlightens me.*"

Yet, after making this statement, he pretended to downplay their influence: "But to get the views that I—I thought that I would like to explain, I searched through the encyclopedia of time to find out what time meant." (08-06-61). Likewise, Branham downplayed their influence during his teachings on the seven seals in 1963.

Thus, throughout the years, Branham's followers have read and quoted from his sermons with a sense of arrogance as though no one else in the entire world had the revelation of the seven seals except them. They do not know the Seventh Day Adventist and the Jehovah's Witnesses had these interpretations before their alleged end time prophet of Malachi 4:5-6 was born.

After viewing Smith's book, he had vast knowledge regarding secular and church history. As this study shall prove, Branham got his understanding that the United States is the lamb-like beast in Revelation 13 from Smith. Thus, when writing about the seven seals on pages 431-457 and 475-476 of his book, it appears that Mr. Smith did not go into great details about the papacy since he had dealt with the subject in the earlier chapters of his book.

However, Mr. Smith's attempt to apply many historic events as the actual fulfillment of the book Revelation has proven to be incorrect. Remember, he was a Seventh Day Adventist. William Miller, the founder of the initial Adventist group, predicted that Jesus would come in 1844. Later, after Miller had repeated failed predictions, Ellen G. White—the founder of the Seventh Day Adventist—and other leaders spiritualized the failed coming of Christ. How? By saying he did not return to the earth, but entered the heavenly sanctuary in 1844 for investigative judgment.^[94] But, Hebrews chapters 8 & 9 said Jesus entered this place after his ascension (Heb. 6:19-20). These leaders misinterpreted Daniel 7:9-10 and 8:14 instead of admitting their errors when Jesus did not appear on March 21, April 18, and October 22 of 1844.

On page 162 of Smith's book, he believed in this investigative judgment of 1844, saying: "In 1844, the judgment of verse 10 began to sit; namely, the investigative judgment, in the heavenly sanctuary, preparatory to the coming of Christ." After this statement, Smith connected the decline of the papacy's temporal power in 1870 to support his interpretation of Daniel 7:9-10. Much time has passed since this failed interpretation of 1844. For Branham, it has been decades since his death and failed prediction that Jesus' millennial reign would begin in 1977. Yet, people continue to trust these failed forerunners of Christ's return.

William Branham vs. Albert Barnes

What William Branham Said:	What Albert Barnes Said:
<p>The council was held, and they elected a head bishop. And then by doing this they united church and state together. Page 192</p> <p>Now, we find out he unites his power. Then when he become both state and church, the ecclesiastical, then what are you going to do? He forms his own religion, and now he can do whatever he wants to. Then he has the right to put to death whosoever will not agree with him. Page 193</p> <p>Notice Satan's trinity: same person coming, just incarnate from one to the other. That's</p>	<p>**But the prophecy had declared that this horn would rise to supreme power, and that in reaching this position it would subdue three kings. Some difference of opinion has existed in regard to the particular powers which were overthrown in the interest of the papacy, in reference to which the following remark by Albert Barnes seems very pertinent: "In the confusion that existed on the breaking up of the Roman empire, and the imperfect accounts of the transactions which occurred in the rise of the papal power, it would</p>

<p>the way them bugs did, them worms, one to the other (Exactly.), Nicolaitane, spiritual antichrist, Pope, false prophet; beast, the devil himself incarnate. Page 181</p>	<p>not be wonderful if it should be difficult to find events distinctly recorded that would be in all respects an accurate and absolute fulfillment of the vision. Yet it is possible to make out <u>the fulfillment of this with a good degree of certainty in the history of the papacy.</u>" - Notes on Daniel 7 (Daniel and Revelation, Page 145).</p>
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Comments: In Barnes' writings, he referred to the rise of papal power in history as the fulfillment of the prophecy regarding the little horn (antichrist) in Daniel 7:23-25. What Branham taught in the seals as special revelations concerning the pope's historical rise to power were already known. The above excerpt came from Smith's book. I quoted from his book instead of referring back to this excerpt published in "Barnes Notes" (1834) to show that Branham may have been familiar with the writings of Barnes.

How? Well, Branham admitted to reading Smith's book, which mentions Dr. Barnes. Smith further mentions him on page 237, saying: "**Dr. Barnes, in his notes on this passage, and particularly on the words "most holy," says: ...**" and on page 696: "**Mr. "Albert Barnes, whose notes on the New Testament have been so extensively used"** Later, I will present evidence that suggest Branham may have read Barnes' book. Remember, he said: "**I've read every book on it I could find**" (First Seal).

Plagiarism of Third Seal

VERSES 5-6: And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

William Branham vs. Clarence Larkin

What William Branham Said:	What Clarence Larkin Said:
<p>*Now, let's notice the Third Seal. Now, this is famine. _The Sixth Seal, Page 370</p>	<p>When the "THIRD SEAL" was broken John heard the third or "Man-like Living Creature" say—"Come," and a "BLACK HORSE" appeared... The "BLACK HORSE" signifies famine... Page 56</p>

Comments: Although Branham draws little from Larkin's book during his third seal's sermon, he finds the key theme, which is "famine." But, in the fifth and sixth seals, he draws heavily from Larkin's writings. During the third and fourth seals, it appears that Branham got his understanding from Russell's and Smith's books.

William Branham vs. Charles Taze Russell

What William Branham Said:	What Charles Russell Said:
<p>This rider is the same one but another stage of his ministry. Page 236</p> <p>Here he comes in as the antichrist, as the false prophet,</p>	<p>And he that sat on him.— The same rider, the Antichrist. Page 112</p> <p>**And unto Pergamos- The church during the period of</p>

then the beast, then in dark age. Page 236	the rise of Antichrist . P. 17
*Three stages: first stage he's called antichrist; second stage, he's called the false prophet; third stage, he's called the beast. First Seal, Page 152	6:5. And when He had opened the third seal — Disclosing the third epoch in the history of Antichrist .
Editor's Note: Same rider and third stage were Russell's ideas.	
The Bible didn't call him a pope . The Bible called him a false prophet. Why? Yeah. Of course he must be a false prophet by his antichrist spirit that taught antichrist against the original Word . 'Cause if you taught against the original Word, it was antichrist. P. 237	And I beheld, and lo, a black horse.— Complete disregard of the Scriptures by clergy and people alike, and in their place the ugly creeds and bulls of popes and councils. Page 112
Editor's Note: False doctrine s being introduced by the rider of the black horse (Antichrist, Popes) was Russell's idea.	
His great power comes; he was made vicar of heaven and worshipped as God, ruler of the earth . Page 238	**Said Pope Innocent III — The pope holds the place of the true God . Page 187
His balances or his scales in his hand (You see?), calling out "A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny." See? Actually that is... Wheat and barley is natural staff of life. That's what bread and stuff's made from . Pages 240-241	Had a pair of balances in his hand .—"Balance joined with symbols denoting the sale of corn and fruits by weight, becomes the symbol of scarcity; bread by weight being a curse in Lev. 26:26 and in Ezek. 4:16,17." Page 112
What it means, that he was charging his subjects for the kind of the hope of life that he was sending out to them by making... he started in that very time of making them pay for prayer, charging for prayer . They still do it — novenas. "Cause, what was he doing? Capturing the wealth of the world, the scale weighing out a measure of wheat for a penny and three measures of barley for a penny. Page 241	During this period the common people could have in their own tongue only a few words or verses of the Scriptures; and for these they were obliged to pay large sums to the clergy , who alone had the ability to translate from the dead languages, or even to read at all. As the services were in Latin the people were starved spiritually. Page 113
See? So... And barley bread and wheat bread... He was charging for that kind of a life that he was giving to his subjects, charging for prayer by the priest to pray people out of purgatory. Charging... (Now, I'm taking this right out of history). Page 241	
Editor's Note: Like Russell, Branham said the 3 rd seal pertains to people paying money for religious services by the priests.	
Notice... Here's the good part now. Notice, "See that thou hurt not this wine and oil." Just a little bit of it left, brother. "Don't you touch that." Now, oil is—symbolizes the Spirit,	And see thou hurt not the oil.—The supply of the oil, the Holy Spirit of full submission to the will of God was low; the light of the true Church was feeble indeed.

the Holy Spirit . Page 241	Page 113
Now, oil typifies Spirit, and wine symbolizes stimulation of revelation . Page 242	And the wine.— Wine is a symbol of doctrine , true or false, and its accompanying Joys . In this case it refers to the true doctrines of the Kingdom. But little knowledge of the coming Kingdom was prevalent then, and the joys of the Church were proportionately small. Page 113
When the truth of a promised Word of God has been truly revealed to His saints that's filled with oil, they all get stimulated. Wine is a stimulation. Glory, I feel it right now, stimulated with joy shouts . And when it does, it has the same effect upon the m that—that wine does upon a natural man; because when the revelation has been given of a truth of God, and the true believer filled with oil, and the revelation is revealed, the stimulation becomes so great that it makes him behave hisself unnormally. Page 242	
Editor's Note: Branham said nothing different from Russell.	
Look here, "And I—and I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts..." What was it? The Lamb. Amen. It wasn't the four beasts. The Lamb said it . Why. He's going to take His own ; that belongs to Him. P. 245	6:6. And I heard AS IT WERE a voice .—The voice of the Lord Jesus, the Guardian and Caretaker of the true Church . —Matt 28:20. Page 113

Comments: Need I say anything? The similarities of words and understanding are too close; leading us to suspect that Branham gathered information from Russell's book. If not, it proves he was not the first to teach the above concepts.

Branham made it appear as his insight that Catholicism forcing people to pay money for religious services and the wine and oil, which represented the joy that comes from understanding God's word, were his revelation of the third seal. But, those interpretations appeared to come from the book of Charles Taze Russell, the founder of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Also, Branham taught another familiar Russell and Jehovah's Witnesses' doctrine that Christ was Michael the archangel, while at the same time teaching the Apostolic Oneness' doctrine that he was God. How can Jesus be both God and a created angelic being called Michael? (Heb. 1:5) As we shall later prove, Branham had many contradictory teachings, which is one reason his followers are constantly feuding among themselves over contradicting quotes. This is unacceptable for a man who claimed to be the prophet and restorer of the word in Malachi 4:5-6, the angel of Revelation 10:7, and the revealer of Christ in Luke 17:30 (these verses are misinterpreted by Branham, as this study shall prove).

William Branham vs. Uriah Smith

What William Branham Said:	What Uriah Smith Said:
He has started riding him in the time of the dark ages . That's what the dark horse represented : the dark ages, for it was a time of midnight to the true believers that was left. Page 240	How rapidly the work of corruption progresses! What a contrast in color between this symbol and the first one: A black horse - the very opposite of white! A period of great darkness and moral corruption in the church must

	be denoted by this symbol. Page 434
See? Now, here he is on his black horse now, coming forth, dark age, that was that time, just about the time after the church got set up and got in power, they smothered out everything else and went through about hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of years is what every reader knows that was the dark ages....Page 240	<u>By the events of the second seal</u> the way was fully opened for that state of things to be brought about which is here presented. The time that intervened between the reign of Constantine and the establishment of the papacy in A.D. 538 may be justly noted as the time when the darkest errors and grossest superstitions sprang up in the church. P. 434
And then the Bible didn't call him a pope . The Bible called him a false prophet. Why? Yeah. Of course he must be a false prophet by his antichrist spirit that taught antichrist against the original Word. Page 237	...yet the Lord was not unmindful of them in this period of darkness. Page 437
Editor's Note: Smith taught that the black horse represented a period of great darkness whereby false teachings (grossest superstition) entered the church. This occurred after the pope's rise to power, which according to his writings happened after the union of church and state during the second seal. Along with Charles Russell's interpretation, Branham also appears to be following Smith's explanation regarding the third seal.	
Oh, now, his great power comes ; he was made vicar of heaven and worshipped as God, ruler of the earth. Page 238	This extract from Mosheim contains a description of the period covered by the black horse of the third seal that answers accurately to the prophecy. It is seen by this how paganism was incorporated into Christianity, and how, during this period , the false system which resulted in the establishment of the papacy , rapidly rounded out its full outlines, and ripened into all its deplorable perfection of strength and stature. P. 437
Editor's Note: Both Smith and Branham are speaking of the pope's rise to power during the third seal.	
His great power comes , he was made vicar of heaven and worshipped as God, ruler of the earth. By uniting the church and state together made him ruler on earth , give him a crown over that. He could pray the souls out of purgatory. He could also inter... He was just like God on earth: instead of God. Page 238	The Balances. - "The balances denoted that religion and civil power would be united in the person who would administer the executive power in the government , and that he would claim the judicial authority both in church and state . This was true among the Roman emperors from the days of Constantine until the reign of Justinian, when he gave the same judicial power to the bishop of Rome. " - Miller's Lectures, Page 437
Editor's Note: Smith and Branham continue to speak of the	

pope's rise in power after the union of church and state.	
The rider on a black horse (See?) he was making—stripping his subjects of their money , when the Bible predicts that he holds about the wealth of the world. As we said last night about Russia and all that, they just take all the money and just stripped the people for everything they've got, everything. So there you are. Now, notice. Do you see where that old money taken in church comes from? P 241	The Wheat and Barley. - "The measures of wheat and barley for a penny denote that the members of the church would be eagerly engaged after worldly goods, and the love of money, would be the prevailing spirit of the times ; for they would dispose of anything for money. " Page 437
Editor's Note: Smith taught that the wheat and barley for a penny (Denarius - a day's wages) denotes the church being involved in gaining money. Combine his writing with Russell regarding the third seal that the laity "...were obliged to pay large sums to the clergy :" we can plainly see where Branham likely got his understanding of the third seal pertaining to the acquisition of money by the Roman Catholic Church. It is sad that Branham said nothing new; yet, pass these interpretations to his followers as revealed mysteries from an angel of God.	
What it means, that he was charging his subjects for the kind of the hope of life that he was sending out to them by making... he started in that very time of making them pay for prayer, charging for prayer. They still do it—novenas. "Cause, what was he doing? Capturing the wealth of the world , the scale weighing out a measure of wheat for a penny and three measures of barley for a penny. Page 241	And it is well attested by all historians that the prosperity of the church in this age produced the corruptions which finally terminated in the falling away, and the setting up of the anti-christian abominations." - Id. Page 437
Editor's Note: Branham said the church captured the wealth of the world during the third seal. As shown, Smith not only held this view, but says historians did likewise. Thus, Branham brought no new revelation.	
Now, oil typifies Spirit, and wine symbolizes stimulation of revelation. Page 242	The Oil and the Wine. - These "denote the graces of the Spirit, faith and love, and there was great danger of hurting these, under the influence of so much of a worldly spirit. Page 437
Look here, "And I—and I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts ..." What was it? The Lamb. Amen. It wasn't the four beasts. The Lamb said it. Why. He's going to take His own ; that belongs to Him. He's redeemed it. See? Amen. Page 245	It will be observed that the voice limiting the amount of wheat for a penny, and saying, "Hurt not the oil and the wine," is not spoken by any one on earth, but comes from the midst of the four living creatures ; signifying that, though the under shepherds, the professed ministers of Christ on earth, had no care for the flock, yet the Lord was not unmindful

	of them in this period of darkness. Page 437
Editor's Note: Smith identified the voice from the midst of the four beasts as the voice of Christ. Branham did the same thing.	
"Don't you touch that oil." No, sir. Not the four beasts, but the Lamb was the One that said it. Now, oh, my. The Lamb, not the four beasts didn't announce this. The Lamb said Itself: When the four beasts said, "Come and see," and they went, and they seen it like that, and He said, "A measure of wheat for a penny, and a four mea -... and so much like this, and so much barley..." But then the Lamb cried out right among them, and said, "But don't hurt the wine and oil. P. 246	A voice comes from heaven . He takes care that the spirit of worldliness does not prevail to such a degree that Christianity should be entirely lost, or that the oil and the wine, the graces of genuine piety, should entirely perish from the earth. "VERSE 7. Pages 437-438
Editor's Note: Branham taught that the phrase "Hurt not the oil and wine" was Christ protecting his people during that time in history and warning the prevailing powers not to hurt them. As shown, he appeared to have gotten this interpretation from Smith. Notice, Smith shows Christ (the voice from heaven) protecting his people so that the grace and piety of true Christianity does not perish from the earth during that time.	

Comments: When considering Branham's teaching on the seven seals, he spent the majority of his sermons on a wide range of biblical and non-biblical topics. Then, he waits near the end of the sermon to reveal the supposedly hidden mystery of that seal. Sadly, when Branham teaches on the seals, he brings nothing different from the books he read.

When you look at the amount of paragraphs in Branham's sermons where he actually taught on a particular seal, you will realize that he had little to say about that subject except what was read from other writers. For example, the sermon on the third seal has 351 paragraphs. Branham actual teaching of that seal is between paragraphs 294-306 and 328-339. The remainder of the sermons are repetitions and fill-ins (more observations later).

Plagiarism of Fourth Seal

VERSES 7-8: And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

William Branham vs. Clarence Larkin

What William Branham Said:	What Clarence Larkin Said:
Is that right? Sure, a mixed color—the mixed color of the dead, pale horse of the world... Now, that's right. Mixed colors of the dead, worldly form of the pale horse. Page 285	Note the " corpse-like " color of the Horse. Page 57
Now, notice, none of the other rider... None of the other	It is worthy of note that the Riders of the first three

horses or no time that this rider ever rode, they didn't have-- that man had no name, but now he is called death. It's not mentioned. See? He's revealed now what he is --is death. Page 263	Horses are not named, but it will be very clear when the events they chronicle occur, who and what is meant. Here however the Rider is personified and called "DEATH," and his consort is called "HADES," they are inseparable companions. Page 57
*Fourth Seal, pestilence and death... _The Sixth Seal , Page 370	However the Rider is personified and called "DEATH," and his consort is called "HADES," they are inseparable companions. The reference here is clearly to some great PESTILENCE that shall come upon the earth. P. 57
* Matthew 24:7 and 8. I'm sorry. Now, that opens up the rain... or the famine, opens up the famine. All right, now the pestilences and death ... Yes, sir, now we're going to it; 7 and 8, now, that would be the Fourth Seal. _The Sixth Seal, Page 371	...and the PESTILENCE, to cut off from it man and beast."...But awful as those days will be, they will be only the "BEGINNING OF SORROWS" for those who are left. Matt. 24:6-8. Page 58

Comment: During the fourth seal, Branham draws little from Larkin's writings. But, Branham says enough to let us know that he was still reading Larkin's book during this seal.

William Branham vs. Charles Taze Russell

What William Branham Said:	What Charles Taze Russell Said
He said, "Come and see the fourth mystery of the Book of Redemption that's been hidden in this Book. Come, see." And John went to see, and he saw a pale horse and again the same rider upon this pale horse. Page 263	And his name that sat on him was Death.— Still the same rider, the Papacy; and an apt description of its chief claim to recognition <u>during the pre-Reformation period.</u> Page 114
This one mixes its colors of red, white, black. Three colors in one—represented in one, and three powers represented in one: a white horse, a black horse, red horse, and three crowns in one. See? Sure. I seen the crown myself—stood, oh, that close and looked at it. Wouldn't let me get to it on account of the glass. So there it was, a big lock on it, setting in a case, triple crown; so I know it's the truth. So there he was— triple crown. Vicar of heaven, purgatory, and earth. P. 273	And power was given unto them.— To his Holiness, the Pope, and all the cardinals, bishops, archbishops, priests, Inquisitors, kings and rulers. Page 116 ** On the popes crown in the Vatican museum is the recognized and most used title' "of the pope, VICARIVS FILII DEI (Vicar of the Son of God.) The word VICARIVS is on the top of the threefold crown. Page 215 **Hence the pope is crowned with a triple crown, king of heaven, of earth and of hell. Page 260
No wonder he could impersonate himself in the	*And I beheld, and lo, a black horse.— Complete disregard

<p>personified name of—and called death. He sure was. Now. God only knows how many he caused to spiritually die by his anti-Bible Word teaching. This is the one he put sixty-eight million to the sword and killed, and probably literally billions died spiritually on his false teaching. Page 267</p>	<p>of the Scriptures by clergy and people alike, and in their place the ugly creeds and bulls of popes and councils. Third Seal Page 113</p>	<p>Political, and—and religious, and—and demon powers mixed together. Page 273</p> <p>displeasure, were sworn to exterminate heresy, and those barons who neglected to aid in the work of persecution forfeited their estates. Kings and princes, therefore, were prompt to comply with the mandates of the Papacy, and the barons and their retainers were at their service, to aid in the work of destruction." P. 117</p> <p>To kill with sword, and [with hunger] FAMINE and [with] death.—The destruction of New Creatures by wresting of the Scriptures and their spiritual starvation are here in evidence; but there was also a literal fulfilment. "Human and Satanic Ingenuity were taxed to their utmost to invent new and horrible tortures, for both the political and religious opponents of Antichrist. Page 117</p>
<p>Fourth stage of the rider ... Watch. The fourth stage of this rider is called death. Page 274</p>	<p>6:7. And when He had opened the fourth seal. —Disclosing the history of the Papacy in its fourth stage. Page 114</p>	<p>Editor's Note: During t his seal, Branham said the popes had political and religious power, which is nothing new. Why? Because Russell said the popes had religious and political powers during this seal to torture people and remove kings.</p>
<p>Editor's Note: The pale horse being the fourth stage of the same rider (triple crowned Popes) was Russell's idea.</p>	<p>Say, Come and see. —Come and see what would seem to be the most unwise thing the Lord could possibly permit to happen to His Church. 6:8. And I looked, and behold a pale horse. —The ghastly and horrible teachings that God's true people must be "exterminated." "The ghastly green of terror and of death. The word Is used of grass in Rev. 8:7; 9:4; Mark 6:39."—Cook. Page 114</p>	<p>All right, remember, He gave her a space to repent. Thyatira Age was the dark age. The dark horse rider rode in that time, when all the masses and everything had to be paid for and the prayers and—and the novenas and so forth. P. 278</p>
<p>Notice. Now, this fellow, we find out that he's riding on a pale horse. Pale... Oh, my. After... Notice, after sixty-eight million Protestants, as we took from—from Schmucker's "Glorious Reform" of the—of the martyrology of Rome, last night... We find that up to the fifteen hundred mark (I believe it was, or eighteen, I don't remember exactly now) but there was sixty-eight million put to death to protest the first Roman church, Rome. Page 267</p> <p>The city of Beaters was stormed and taken in 1209, and the citizens without regard for age or sex, perished by the sword to the number of sixty thousand, as reported by several historians. The blood of those who fled to churches, and were murdered there by the holy crusaders, drenched the altars and flowed through the streets. It is estimated that one hundred thousand Albigenses fell in one day; and their bodies were heaped together and burned. Page 115</p> <p>Hell followed with him. —All the people killed by the pope went to hell, and he himself went there also. Page 115</p>	<p>Editor's Note: Russell taught that the pale horse rider called death was fulfilled when the popes (Antichrist) and the Roman Catholic Church brutally killed God's true people. Russell provides a couple of horrendous examples to illustrate this pale horse ride in history. Branham taught the same.</p>	<p>There you are, Thyatira Age, the dark age. His black horse now turns to death for his last ministry. See <u>how the church ages blend in with the Seals just perfect</u>, then we know it's right. Page 278</p> <p>6:7. And when He had opened the fourth seal.—Disclosing the history of the Papacy in its fourth stage, the period synchronizing with the Thyatira and Sardis epochs. See Rev. 2:18-29; 3:1-6. Page 114</p> <p>**And unto Thyatira.—The Church during the Dark Ages, the period of Antichrist's glory, and persecution by Papal Rome. Page 17</p> <p>**In defense of their liberty, and such were put to death by Papacy; it overcame the saints during its 1260 years of power." Page 199</p>
<p>So there he was—triple crown. <u>Vicar of heaven, purgatory, and earth</u>. <u>Three powers united together</u>, see, all mixed up in a color, pale. Death spoke in a whole thing.</p>	<p>And with the beasts of the earth,—The evil govern* ments. "Kings and princes who trembled for the security of their crowns, If they to any extent Incurred the pope's</p>	<p>Editor's Note: As stated, Mr. Russell taught the seven church ages in his book: "The Finished Mystery." He referred to these ages as epochs. Branham definitely got his teachings of the se ages from Clarence Larkin, and possibly from Russell, Uriah Smith, and Cyrus Scofield. As shown, Russell synchronized the fourth seal with the Thyatira and Sardis church ages, which he called. the "Dark Ages." Branham did the same with Thyatira..</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Russell taught that the pale horse rider called death was fulfilled when the popes (Antichrist) and the Roman Catholic Church brutally killed God's true people. Russell provides a couple of horrendous examples to illustrate this pale horse ride in history. Branham taught the same.</p>	<p>Jezebel is the type of the modern church today, 'cause Catholic and Protestants are joined together now. Right. There is no getting around it. They're both denominations, so it's—so it's</p>	<p>**The 'sure word of prophecy' indicates very clearly that the various Protestant sects will form a cooperative union or federacy, and that Catholicism and Protestantism will affiliate,</p>

just mother and sister. That's all. They fuss and argue with one another, but it's the same thing, both harlots. Now, I'm not saying that myself. I'm quoting from Thus Saith The Lord . Page 290	neither losing its identity. (taken from Sixth Seal). Page 121
Editor's Note: Branham's followers think he first revealed that Catholics and Protestants will joined to form an image to the beast. But, as this study shall later prove, Mr. Russell had already written that the union of these religious groups will form the image of the beast. Are you beginning to see the most likely source of Branham's revelations concerning this seal?	

Comments: It is interesting to note that Branham said the pale color of this horse was a combined mixture of the previous white, red, and black horses. But, the Greek word for pale is *Chloros*, which is actually a pale green, not a grayish pale. This word is used for grass in Revelation 8:7 and 9:4. For a man supposedly led by God's angel to make this mistake undermines his claims.

Also, Russell said all the people killed by the popes went to hell. Russell believed hell refers to the literal grave after death.^[95] He also believed those thrown in the lake of fire will be instantly consumed. Like Russell, Branham believed hell is not eternal. His entire erroneous revelation of hell is based on the words "eternal" and "everlasting." He taught that the word *everlasting* is different from *eternal*. When referring to hell in Matthew 25:41, Jesus referred to the fires of hell as everlasting.

Branham failed to realize that the same Greek word "aionios" is used for both everlasting and eternal, as shown in Matthew 25:46. A simple Greek lexicon could have prevented him from making such a major doctrinal mistake (studied later).

William Branham vs. Uriah Smith

What William Branham Said:	What Uriah Smith Said:
Notice. Now, this fellow, we find out that he's riding on a pale horse. Pale... Oh, my. After... Notice, after sixty-eight million Protestants, as we took from—from Schmucker's "Glorious Reform" of the —of the martyrlogy of Rome, last night... We find that up to the fifteen hundred mark (I believe it was, or eighteen, I don't remember exactly now) but there was sixty-eight million put to death to protest the first Roman church, Rome . Page 267	A strange state of things in the professed church must be denoted by this symbol. The rider on this horse is named Death; and Hell (the grave) follows with him. The mortality is so great during this period that it would seem as if "the pale nations of the dead" had come upon the earth, and were following in the wake of this desolating power. The period during which this seal applies can hardly be mistaken. It must refer to the time in which the papacy bore its unrebutted, unrestrained, and persecuting rule , commencing about A.D. 538, and extending to the time when the Reformers commenced their work of exposing the corruptions of the papal systems." Page 438
Editor's Note: Smith taught that the pale horse of death was the papacy persecuting and killing people. According to him, this period began in 538 AD and ended in the days of the reformers during the Reformation. Branham also taught that the pale	

horse of death was the church of Rome killing martyrs that ended in 1500's, which is the same Reformation period. Once again, Branham brought no new revelation to suggest that an angel of God revealed this seal to him. All the evidences are convincingly disproving his claims.	
He said, "Come and see the fourth mystery of the Book of Redemption that's been hidden in this Book. Come, see." And John went to see, and he saw a pale horse and again the same rider upon this pale horse . Page 263	"And power was given unto them" - him, says the margin; that is, the power personified by Death on the pale horse; namely, the papacy . Page 438
So there he was—triple crown. Vicar of heaven , purgatory, and earth. Three powers united together, see, all mixed up in a color, pale. Death spoke in a whole thing . Page 273	

Editor's Note: Before Branham, Smith believed the fourth rider was the papacy (popes). But, Branham had openly criticized him for believing the first seal was Christ (see page 36).	
No wonder he could impersonate himself in the personified name of—and called death . He sure was. Now, God only knows how many he caused to spiritually die by his anti-Bible Word teaching. This is the one he put sixty-eight million to the sword and killed , and probably literally billions died spiritually on his false teaching. No wonder he could take the name of death. Page 267	"And power was given unto them" - him, says the margin; that is, the power personified by Death on the pale horse; namely, the papacy . By the fourth part of the earth is doubtless meant the territory over which this power had jurisdiction; while the words sword, hunger, death (that is, some infliction which causes death, as exposure, torture, etc.), and beasts of the earth, are figures denoting the means by which it has put to death its martyrs, fifty millions of whom, according to the lowest estimate , call for vengeance from beneath its bloody altar. Page 438
Editor's Note: Smith says fifty (50) million or more martyrs were killed during this period. Branham says sixty-eight (68) million were put to death. Although the numbers are somewhat different, the understanding of this seal is the same.	

Comments: It is becoming more obvious that Branham is reading Smith's book, which he openly admitted: "**I got Smith's book on 'Daniel's Revelation'**". He further said: "Well, **now I'll study it from that standpoint**" (The First Seal). Are you beginning to see Branham's likely source of revelations about this seal; even though he denied being influenced by Smith (see pages 29-30)?

William Branham vs. John Gill^[96]

What William Branham Said:	What John Gill Said:
*Now, we see that the devil changing four—a— four beasts meant what power they was revealed to the — what power he revealed to the world and how they ended on this pale death	And I heard as it were the noise of thunder; a voice very loud and sonorous, exciting the attention of John: one of the four beasts saying, come and see; this was the of the four living creatures, for the word

<p>horse. Now, let's look at God's powers of these beasts to combat them. The first beast of God that He went out to meet the antichrist with, the antichrist spirit when it said it's just his teaching. Now, remember, when the antichrist first rode, he was in a teaching ministry. The antichrist rode first in a teaching ministry. And watch the one that went to meet him, the Lion, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, which is the Word. When his false teaching went forth, the true Word went to meet him. That's the reason we had an Irenaeus, and a Polycarp, and—and—and those fellows, Saint Martin. When that antichrist was riding with his false teaching, God sent His teaching out, the Word, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, which is the Word made manifest in the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit there to manifest Himself which is the Word. <u>The Fifth Seal, Page 312</u></p>	<p>one is used in the same sense as in the foregoing clause; and this creature was like to a lion. Revelation 4:7: wherefore his voice was loud, as when a lion roars, Revelation 10:3, and is fitly compared to thunder: there is no need to look out for any particular person, as intended by this living creature; or to conclude him to be Peter, as Grotius, who was dead before this seal was opened; or Quadratus, Aristides, and Justin Martyr, who courageously appeared in the Christian cause, and made very excellent apologies for it, with success, since these lived under the second seal; it is enough in general to understand the ministers of the Gospel, who, as sons of thunder, loudly and publicly preached the Gospel, and, as lions, boldly and bravely defended, and took notice of the power and providence of God in succeeding their ministry, and in weakening the kingdom of Satan in the Gentile world, and particularly in the Roman empire; and therefore are represented as calling to John to "come and see"; observe and take notice of the following hieroglyphic, representing the success of the Gospel ministry, yzx at, "come and see," is a phrase often used by the Jews, to stir up attention to what is about to be said.</p>
<p>Editor's Note: During Branham's sermon on the fourth seal, he introduced the functions of the four beasts of each seal. But, he better explains them during the fifth seal. Branham made it appear as his revelation that the four beasts (lion, ox, face of man, and flying eagle) announcing the first four seals represented God's ministry throughout church history to combat the four stages of Antichrist on the white, red, black, and pale horses. He referred to these as the lion age, the ox age, man age, and the eagle age. In the above quote, he likens the lion age as ministers who used the word of God to combat the Antichrist during its white horse's ride.</p>	
<p>But, John Gill had already written about this subject in his commentary (published in 1746-1766) nearly 200 years before Branham. Gill was a noted theologian and his commentaries were very popular. John Gill wrote in his commentary that the lion represented true ministers living during the first seal who publicly preached the Gospel. Like lions, they courageously defended God's providence. They weakened Satan's kingdom in the Gentile world. Branham basically brought nothing new.</p>	
<p>*Now, the second beast that the antichrist sent out was a red beast, which was</p>	<p>I heard the second beast say, come and see; this living creature was the ox, whose</p>

<p>a—that he rode on—was to take peace from the earth and—and war. Now, the second one that went to combat him was the ox beast. The ox means a labor, a beast of burden. <u>The Fifth Seal, Page 312</u></p>	<p>situation was on the west side of the throne, as the standard of Ephraim, on which was an ox, was on the west of the camp of Israel; no mention is made of the noise of thunder, as before, the voice of the ox being lower than that of the lion; and th is perhaps may point out a decrease in the Gospel ministry; to fix on any particular person, as, with Grotius, the Evangelist Matthew, because he says, Matthew 24:7, nation shall rise against nation, which carries in it some likeness to what is said at the opening of this seal; or, as with Brightman, Justin Martyr, whose second apology was not regarded by the emperor, is mere conjecture; the ministers of the Gospel are intended who lived under this seal, who, though they might not be strong and courageous like the lion, or their predecessors, yet were like the ox, laborious in preaching, and patient in suffering; and these are represented in this vision as inviting John to behold and observe the following hieroglyphic.</p>
<p>Editor's Note: As shown, Gill likens the ox as representing those who labored in preaching and suffered hardship during the red horse of the second seal. Branham said the same thing.</p>	
<p>*Now, the third beast that went out from the devil was this black horse. See? Now, the third beast that went out, power from God to combat him, to combat the powers of the black horse, was a man, cunning, smart, with the wisdom of God. <u>The Fifth Seal, Page 315</u></p>	<p>Verse 5. And when he had opened the third seal,.... Of the sealed book: I heard the third beast say, come and see; this living creature was that which was like a man, who was on the south side of the throne, as the standard of Reuben, which had the figure of a man, was on the south side of the camp of Israel; this was not the Apostle Paul, as Grotius thinks, to whom was made a prophecy of a famine in the days of Claudius Caesar; nor Tertullian, who made an apology for the Christians in the times of this seal, as Brightman conjectures; but the ministers of the Gospel, whose voice was neither the voice of the lion nor of the ox, but of a man, which was still lower, but yet they retained their humanity, reasoning prudence, and wisdom; and these are represented as calling upon John to come and see, and take notice</p>

	of the following hieroglyphic.
Editor's Note: In the above quote, John Gill believed the third beast like a man represented ministers of the gospel who retained their reasoning, prudence (smartness), and wisdom during the third seal. Branham taught the same thing.	
*Notice. Now, the fourth beast that was sent forth to combat the antichrist in this last beast... Are you ready? The last beast that was sent forth, or the last power to combat the antichrist (who was against the teaching of God, the antichrist) was an eagle. See? The fourth living beast was an eagle. Now, you just study the ages, study the Scriptures, it's a eagle. And in the Bible the last age was an eagle age, and God likens the eagle to His prophets. See? It... Now, watch. The last age, the eagle age—a revealer of the true Word. See? _The Fifth Seal , Page 319	Verse 7. And when he had opened the fourth seal ,.... Of the seven seals of the sealed book; that is, when the Lamb had opened it, or took it off, as in Revelation 6:1. I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, come and see; this living creature was that which was like an eagle , and was on the north side of the throne, answerable to the standard of Dan, which was on the north of the camp of Israel, and had the figure of an eagle upon it; and the opening of this seal begins with Maximinus the Roman emperor, who came from Thrace, far north. This living creature was not James, the brother of our Lord, who had been dead long ago, as Grotius imagines; nor Cyprian, as Brightman thinks, though he lived under this seal; but the ministers of the Gospel in general in the times referred to are intended: and it may denote some decline in the Gospel ministry, that they had not the courage and strength of the lion, as the first Gospel preachers; nor the patience and laboriousness of the ox, the next set of ministers; nor the solidity and prudence of the man, the ministers that followed them; and yet they retained some degree of Light and Knowledge, sagacity and penetration , and contempt of the world, signified by the eagle; these invite John in a visionary way to come and see the following hieroglyphic.
Editor's Note: Branham taught that the flying eagle represents a revealer of the word, which he applied to his ministry. As shown, Gill had already written in his commentary that the flying eagle denoted true ministers who had light, knowledge, sagacity (keen mental discernment), and penetration (insight) regarding the word of God. That is, these men had revelation during the fourth seal's era. Branham taught the same thing.	

Comments: After reading the similarities, the question we must now ask: "Is this coincidental or did Branham have access to Gill's commentary?" Remember, Branham admitted to reading every book he could find on the subject, saying : "*I'd go in there and pick up the notes. I'd pick up books of Dr. Smith, Uriah Smith, and oh, all the writers in there, and read in —and read down in their books*" (The Seventh seal). He also said: "*I've read*

every book on it I could find." (The First Seal).

He had earlier admitted in 1961: "*I've been reading Dr. Larkin's book, Dr. Smith's book, Dr. Scofield's notes, different commentaries from men everywhere.*" But, of course, he only mentions these men when disagreeing with their views, as the latter half of the previous quote says: "*and yet I cannot put theirs together to make it come out right. See?*" (Gabriel's Instructions To Daniel 07-30-61). Branham never tells his audience how much he agreed with these writers and used their information.

Although Branham may have historically applied these four beasts in different time periods than Gill, the similarities are astounding. We may never know if Branham actually copied Gill. But, one fact is certain, he basically brought nothing new in his alleged revelation about these four beasts.

As a result, it becomes more obvious that an angel of God did not reveal the hidden mystery of a seal that was already written in a popular commentary book of a well known theologian. How could Branham reveal something that was already revealed? Also, Gill compared the four beasts around God's throne with the twelve tribes of Israel surrounding the tabernacle in the wilderness. In Branham's sermon: "Revelation, Chapter Four #3 (01-08-61)," he used the same illustrations (more later).

William Branham vs. Albert Barnes^[97]

What William Branham Said:	What Albert Barnes Said:
* Now, remember, when the antichrist first rode, he was in a teaching ministry. The antichrist rode first in a teaching ministry. And watch the one that went to meet him, the Lion, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, which is the Word. When his false teaching went forth, the true Word went to meet him. That's the reason we had an Irenaeus, and a Polycarp, and—and—and those fellows, Saint Martin. When that antichrist was riding with his false teaching, God sent His teaching out, the Word, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, which is the Word made manifest in the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit there to manifest Himself which is the Word. _The Fifth Seal, Page 312	If the four living creatures be understood to be emblematic of the divine providential administration , then there was a propriety that they should be represented as summoning John to witness what was to be disclosed. These events pertained to the developments of the divine purposes , and these emblematic beings would therefore be interested in what was occurring. Page 4603 And the first beast was like a lion - A general description has been given, applicable to all, denoting that in whatever form the divine government is administered, these things will be found; a particular description now follows, contemplating that government under particular aspects, as symbolized by the living beings on which the throne rests. The first is that of a lion. The lion is the monarch of the woods, the king of beasts, and he becomes thus the emblem of dominion, of authority , of government in general. Page 4577
Editor's Note: As shown, Branham was not the first to assign characteristics and functionality to the four beasts (lion, ox, face of man, and flying eagle) announcing the first four seals. Barnes also believed they represented God's providential administration and divine purposes, even though his assigned characteristics differs somewhat from Branham. Barnes wrote	

<p>in his commentary that the lion is emblematic of kingship, dominion, authority, and government. Branham taught that the first beast, represented Christ, the lion of the tribe of Judah (referring to his kingship), who is the manifested Word..</p>	
<p>*Now, the second beast that the antichrist sent out was a red beast, which was a—that he rode on—was to take peace from the earth and—and war. Now , the second one that went to combat him was the ox beast. The ox means a labor, a beast of burden. _The Fifth Seal, Page 212</p>	<p>And the second beast like a calf - Or, more properly, a young bullock, for so the word - μόσχος moschos - means. The term is given by Herodotus (ii. 41; iii. 28) to the Egyptian god Apis, that is, a young bullock. Such an emblem, standing under a throne as one of its supports, would symbolize firmness, endurance, strength (compare Pro 14:4\$); and, as used to represent qualities pertaining to him who sat on the throne, would denote stability, firmness, perseverance: qualities that are found abundantly in the divine administration. Page 4578</p>
<p>Editor's Note: In the above quote, Barnes likens the ox as representing firmness, endurance and strength. Branham's words basically implies the same thing.</p>	
<p>*Now, the third beast that went out from the devil was this black horse. See? Now, the third beast that went out, power from God to combat him, to combat the powers of the black horse, was a man, cunning, smart, with the wisdom of God. _The Fifth Seal, Page 315</p>	<p>And the third beast had a face as a man - There is no intimation as to what was the form of the remaining portion of this living creature; but as the beasts were "in the midst of the throne," that is, under it as a support, it may be presumed that they had such a form as was adapted to that purpose - as supposed above, perhaps the form of an ox. To this living creature there was attached the head of a man, and that would be what would be particularly visible to one looking on the throne. The aspect of a man here would denote intelligence - for it is this which distinguishes man from the creation beneath him; and if the explanation of the symbol above given be correct, then the meaning of this emblem is, that the operations of the government of God are conducted with intelligence and wisdom. That is, the divine administration is not the result of blind fate or chance; it is founded on a clear knowledge of things, on what is best to be done, on what will most conduce to the common good. Page 4578</p>
<p>Editor's Note: In the above quote, Barnes likens the third beast with a man's face as representing intelligence and wisdom of God. Branham also believed this beast represented the intelligence (cunning, smartness) and wisdom of God..</p>	

<p>*Notice. Now, the fourth beast that was sent forth to combat the antichrist in this last beast... Are you ready? The last beast that was sent forth, or the last power to combat the antichrist (who was against the teaching of God, the antichrist) was an eagle. See? The fourth living beast was an eagle. Now, you just study the ages, study the Scriptures, it's a eagle. And in the Bible the last age was an eagle age, and God likens the eagle to His prophets. See? It... Now, watch. The last age, the eagle age—a revealer of the true Word. See? _The Fifth Seal, 319</p>	<p>Verse 7. And when he had And the fourth beast was like a flying eagle - All birds, indeed, fly; but the epithet flying is here employed to add intensity to the description. The eagle is distinguished, among the feathered race, for the rapidity, the power, and the elevation of its flight. No other bird is supposed to fly so high; none ascends with so much power; none is so majestic and grand in his ascent toward the sun. That which would be properly symbolized by this would be the rapidity with which the commands of God are executed; or this characteristic of the divine government, that the purposes of God are carried into prompt execution. There is, as it were, a vigorous, powerful, and rapid flight toward the accomplishment of the designs of God - as the eagle ascends unmolested toward the sun. Or, it may be that this symbolizes protecting care, or is an emblem of that protection which God, by his providence, extends over those who put their trust in him. Page 4579</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham said the eagle represents a revealer of the word, which he applied to himself. Barnes said an eagle's elevation ability distinguish it from other birds and represents the rapid execution of God's word with vigor and power.</p>	

Comments: In considering the writings of Gill and Barnes, we realize that Branham had no great revelation about the four beasts (lion, ox, man, and eagle).

William Branham vs. Matthew Henry^[98]

What William Branham Said:	What Matthew Henry Said:
<p>*The antichrist rode first in a teaching ministry. And watch the one that went to meet him, the Lion, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, which is the Word. When his false teaching went forth, the true Word went to meet him. That's the reason we had an Irenaeus, and a Polycarp, and—and—and those fellows, Saint Martin. _The Fifth Seal, Page 312</p>	<p>Rev. 4:1-8 The apostle saw four living creatures, between the throne and the circle of the elders, standing between God and the people. These seem to signify the true ministers of the gospel, because of their place between God and the people. This also is shown by the description given, denoting wisdom, courage, diligence, and discretion, and the affections by which they mount up toward heaven. Page 1404</p>
<p>*God sent His teaching out, the Word, the Lion of the tribe</p>	<p>This also is shown by the description given, denoting</p>

of Juda, which is the Word made manifest in the Holy Spirit. _Fifth Seal P. 312	wisdom, courage , diligence, and discretion. Page 1404
*The ox means a labor , a beast of burden . _The Fifth Seal, Page 312	This also is shown by the description given, denoting wisdom, courage, diligence , and discretion. Page 1404
*Was a man, cunning, smart , with the wisdom of God. _The Fifth Seal, Page 315	This also is shown by the description given, denoting wisdom , courage, diligence, and discretion.
*Now, watch. The last age, the eagle age—a revealer of the true Word . See? _The Fifth Seal, P. 319	This also is shown by the description given, denoting wisdom, courage, diligence, and discretion . Page 1404

Comments: Between 1708-1710, Matthew Henry said in his commentary that the four living creatures represent true ministers of God. Branham historically applied the roles of these four beasts differently from Henry. Nonetheless, Branham was not the first to relate these four beasts to God's ministers throughout church history.

William Branham vs. Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary^[99]

What William Branham Said	What J-F-B Said
* God sent His teaching out, the Word, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, which is the Word made manifest in the Holy Spirit. _The Fifth Seal, Page 312	The first living creature was like a lion (Re 4:7): his voice is in consonance. Implying the lion-like boldness with which, in the successive great revivals, the faithful have testified for Christ . Page 3441 (1) kingly righteousness with hatred of evil and judicial equity, answering to the " lion ." Page 3436
*The ox means a labor , a beast of burden . _The Fifth Seal, Page 312	The patient ox is the emblem of the second living creature who, at the opening of this seal, saith, "Come." The saints amidst judgments on the earth in patience "endure to the end." Page 3442 (2) laborious diligence in every duty, the "ox" P. 3436
*Was a man, cunning, smart , with the wisdom of God. _The Fifth Seal, Page 315	The "Come," in the case of this third seal, is said by the third of the four living creatures, whose likeness is a man indicative of sympathy and human compassion for the sufferers. Page 3443 (3) human sympathy, the " man ." Page 3436
*Now, watch. The last age, the eagle age—a revealer of the true Word . See? _The Fifth Seal, Page 319	The fourth living creature, who was " like a flying eagle ," introduces this seal; implying high-soaring intelligence , and judgment descending from on

	high fatally on the ungodly, as the king of birds on his prey. Page 3443 (4) the contemplation of heavenly truth, the "eagle." Page 3436
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Comments: Branham's descriptions of the four beasts have some similarities to the Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary that was written in 1871. We have no proof that Branham read this commentary other than the fact that he said: "*I've read every book on it I could find*" (The First Seal), and "*I'd go in there and pick up the notes. I'd pick up books of Dr. Smith, Uriah Smith, and oh, all the writers in there, and read in—and read down in their books*" (The Seventh seal). It is becoming more obvious that Branham was not the originator of such comparisons.

Plagiarism of Fifth Seal

VERSES 9-11: And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

William Branham vs. Clarence Larkin

What William Branham Said:	What Clarence Larkin Said:
Now, remember. What was it? They were killed for the Word of God's sake, not for the testimony of Christ . Did you understand that? But remember, the church come in. Also the martyrs of the church was for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. How many knows that here too? All right now. But these didn't have the testimony of Jesus Christ "... for the Word of God and for the testimony which they held," as Jews. Pages 325-326	When the Lamb had opened the "FIFTH SEAL," John saw under the "Sacrificial Altar," corresponding to the "Burnt Offering Altar," the "SOULS" of them that were slain for the "Word of God" and for the "testimony they held." The fact that their "SOULS" were under the "Sacrificial Altar" is proof that they had been offered as a "Sacrifice," that is that they were MARTYRS. But they were not the Martyrs of the Christian Church ... These Martyrs are those who will be killed for the "Word of God" Page 58
Now, verse 10. Notice, they asked for revenge. See? Now, if that had been the Bride, it'd been like Stephen: "Father, forgive them," you know. See? But these are Jews that just come in. See? They asked for revenge. Page 329 Yes, they held for the Word of God. They were Jews . P. 326	"How long, O Lord, Holy and True, dost Thou not judge and avenge our BLOOD on them that dwell on the earth?" The character of their cry is' further proof that they are not the Martyrs of the Christian Church, for they would not cry to be avenged, but like Stephen would say--"Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." Acts 7:60. Their cry

	<p>is that of the Imprecatory Psalms (Psa. 35, 55, 59, 94, etc.) and indicates that these Martyrs whose SOULS are seen are mainly JEWs. Page. 59</p>
<p>Now, notice. These Jews... I have to do this in order to —to let you see the revelation of this Seal, see what it is, these souls under the altar and who they are. Now, notice. In the time of Daniel, now, the second half of the seventieth week... Now, remember, Messiah was to be cut off in the midst. That's the middle. Well, what's half of seven? Three and a half . How long did Christ preach? [Congregation answers: "Three and a half." —Ed.] That's right. Now. But there's determined yet to the people what? Another three and a half year . But during this time, why, see what happens is the Gentile Bride is selected in the seven church ages and goes up, and when it does that way, all these Jews that's martyred along there, because of blindness (laying under the altar) God comes over and says, "You see what it was? Now, I'll give each one of you a robe." They said, "How long, Lord? Are we going in now?" Said, "No, no, no, no. Your fellowmen, the Jews, has got to suffer a little bit yet. They got to be martyred like you was martyred. The beast has got to get them when he breaks his covenant." Page 332</p>	<p>These martyred SOULS were comforted, and told that they should rest for a "little season," about 3½ years, until their fellow servants also, and their brethren (Jews) that should be killed, as they were, should be fulfilled. This promise is fulfilled in Rev. 20:4-6. These are the Saints of the Most High that Daniel foresaw would receive the Kingdom. Dan. 7:27. Page 59</p>
<p>Now, I realize that there's people in here that does believe that (See?), in the soul sleeping. I think that this disproves that. They're not sleeping; they are alive. Page 345</p>	<p>That there is no such thing as "Soul Sleep," and that disembodied SOULS are conscious and can speak and cry, is clear from what John saw and heard, for these "SOULS" cried with a loud voice. Page 59</p>
<p>Editor's Note: As shown, Branham copied Larkin's reasonings.</p>	

Comments: During the fifth seal, Branham departed from Russell's and Smith's teachings regarding this subject. Smith believed the fifth seal pertained to Christian martyrs before and after the Reformation period. Branham taught Smith's view of the fifth seal during his alleged revelation of the second and fourth seals. As shown below, Smith wrote about the martyrs of the fifth seal, who were true believers persecuted by the Roman Catholic Church.

The Little Season. - **The cruel work of Romanism** did not altogether cease, even after the work of the Reformation had become wide-spread and well established. Not a few terrible outbursts of Romish hate and persecution were yet to be felt by the church. **Multitudes more were to be punished as heretics, and to join the great army of martyrs**. The full vindication of their cause was to be delayed a little season. And **during this time, Rome added hundreds of thousands** to the vast throng of whose blood she had already become guilty. Page 433

Although William Branham departs from Smith's version of the fifth seal, he accepts Larkin's view and reasoning that these martyrs were Jews. Again, Branham brings nothing new other than the fact the souls under the altar were Jews killed mainly by Hitler and Eichmann during the Holocaust of World War II, including those executed by Joseph Stalin. However, he had spoken of those men persecuting the Jews since 1956. He incorporates this old teaching into his alleged revelation of the fifth seal. He also added this 1956 concept to his alleged revelation of the sixth trumpet (see page 254).

Now, notice this. Now, **these souls under the altar** was, the—the—these—these souls, understanding now that are under the altar, why **they were martyred by sinful men like Eichmann**. See? They're holding right on, millions of them (See?), **but they remain Jews** . Now, remember. What was it? **They were killed for the Word of God's sake, not for the testimony of Christ**. Did you understand that? But remember, the church come in. Also the martyrs of the church was for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. How many knows that here too? All right now. But **these didn't have the testimony of Jesus Christ** "... for the Word of God and for the testimony which they held," **as Jews**. And **Hitler hated them, so did Eichmann, so did Stalin**, all of the rest of the world (See?), but they stayed true to what they believed. And **they killed them** because they **were Jews**. _The Fifth Seal 03-22-63

And when we see that waving over Jerusalem tonight, seeing God hardening the hearts of **men like Stalin, Hitler, Mussolini**, and all those **to persecute the Jews** , and run them back to the homeland, we know the time is at hand . _The Handwriting on the Wall 09-02-56, Par. 35

Branham's concept has additional issues. First, why did he choose the souls under the altar to be murdered Jews during World War II and not include those of prior centuries who were killed since Israel's destruction in 70 AD? For example, under the title "Persecutions of Jews," Wikipedia show that Jews were persecuted and killed in Europe during the Middle Ages

During the High Middle Ages in Europe there was full-scale persecution in many places, with blood libels, expulsions, forced conversions and massacres. An underlying source of prejudice against Jews in Europe was religious. **Jews were frequently massacred** and exiled from various European countries. The persecution hit its first peak during the Crusades. In the First Crusade (1096) **flourishing communities** on the Rhine and the Danube were **utterly destroyed**, a prime example being the **Rhineland Massacres**. In the Second Crusade (1147) the **Jews in France** were subject to **frequent massacres**.

The same article in Wikipedia says Jews were persecuted and killed in the Middle East by Arabs throughout history and prior to World War II. Two examples are shown below.

In Moorish Spain, ibn Hazm and Abu Ishaq focused their anti-Jewish writings on the latter allegation. This was also the chief motivation behind the **1066 Granada massacre**, when "[m]ore than **1,500 Jewish families**, numbering **4,000 persons, fell in one day**", and in Fez in 1033, when **6,000 Jews were killed**. There were **further massacres** in Fez in 1276 and 1465.

In Palestine there were riots and pogroms against Jews in **1920 and 1921**. Tensions over the Western Wall in Jerusalem led to the 1929 Palestine riots, **whose main victims** were the ancient **Jewish community at Hebron** which **came to an end**.

Considering the fact that Jews were persecuted and killed throughout history, by what scriptural or authoritative basis did Branham choose the Jews killed by Hitler and Stalin to be souls under the altar? There is none other than Branham claimed that God revealed this seal, which cannot be substantiated because of his use of other writers' information in the prior seals.

The fifth seal said these martyrs were killed for the word of God and the testimony that they held. Sadly, many of the Jews during World War II were not killed because they were faithful to the word of God in the Old Testament. They were killed because Hitler hated all Jews. Some Jews are atheists and reckoned as such mainly because of their ancestry.

If the souls under the altar pertains to Jews rather than Christian martyrs, this seal would better describe those who were killed during the Old Testament era for the word of God. When considering this perspective, it brings to mind a ruthless dictator named Antiochus Epiphanes who killed many faithful Jews between the period of the Old and New Testaments.

In Daniel 8:10-13 and 11:21-35, Antiochus is an antitype (foreshadow or prototype) of the coming antichrist. He was responsible for killing tens of thousands of Jews because they refused to sacrifice to an idol and forsake the laws of God. Hebrews 11:36-40 speaks of faithful Old Testament saints who were persecuted and killed for God's word.

The term "under the altar" can be viewed from an Old Testament perspective that pertains to faithful Jewish believers who were kept under the blood of animal sacrifices until the arrival of Jesus Christ (Lev. 4:1-7; Hebrews, chapters 7-10). Perhaps, these may be the souls under the altar who were given white robes, which refers to faithful Jewish believers who are not identified with the New Testament church—such as Old Testament saints and the forthcoming Israelites saved during the great tribulation, as foretold in the book of Revelation.

During the fifth seal, the souls under the altar were told to wait until their brethren should be killed as they were. Who are these future Israelites to be killed? They are the one saved by accepting Jesus Christ the Savior (Rom. 11:25-27) and sealed by the Holy Spirit (Rev. 7:1-8; 14:1-5) during the upcoming great tribulation (Jer. 30:7; Dan. 12:1-13; Matt. 24:15-22).

These end time believers from Israel are persecuted and killed by the Antichrist (Dan. 7:21, 25; Rev. 11:1-13; 12:15-17; 13:7-8) somewhat similar to those Jews killed by Antiochus, the antitype of the Antichrist. The very name "Antiochus Epiphanes" means "god manifest," which describes the false claim the coming antichrist shall make during his reign (Dan. 11:36-37; 2 Thess. 2:4).

The fifth seal says there was a "little season between the two martyred groups. If the above interpretation pertains to the Jews, then the "little season" between the martyrdom of Old Testament Jewish saints and those killed during the great tribulation could very well be the time God deals with the New

Testament church during the Gentile age (Acts 28:28-29). That is, before he return to save the last day remnants among Israel, as taught by Apostle Paul in Romans 11:1-33.

The fact that white robes were given the first group after death may represent that Old Testament saints died under the protection of animal sacrifices, but was not made perfect because Jesus had not arrived (Heb. 11:35-40). However, Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross not only redeemed all future believers, he redeemed those Old Testament saints who had died believing the promise (Job 19:25-27; Matt. 8:11; 27:50-53; John 8:56; Eph. 4:8; Col. 1:20; Heb. 11:13-16, 39-40).

Hebrews 12:22-24 speaks of the present heavenly Jerusalem and the "*spirits of just men made perfect*," which could possibly refer to the Old Testament saint current condition after Jesus paid for their eternal redemption on the cross (Col. 1:20; Heb. 9:11-24). However, the fifth seal only mentioned those slain for the word of God.

The explanation that the souls under the altar are martyred Old Testament saints fits the description more than Branham's interpretation. But, of course, other interpretations says these were Christian martyrs of the past and of the great tribulation period (Rev. 7:13-14; 20:4), or foolish virgins (Matt. 25:1-13).

Branham's belief that the Jews killed during World War II were saved without believing in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior contradict Peter and Paul's teaching of the Gospel (John 17:20). Paul says the Jews need Christ to be saved (Acts 13:14-52; 17:1-6; 19:8; 20:21; 28:17-28; Rom. 1:16-17; 3:28-30; 9:1-8, 30-33; 10:1-5, 16; 11:1-32; 1 Cor. 1:22-24; Gal. 2:21).

Likewise, Peter said to the Jews in Acts 4:12: "**Neither is there salvation in any other**: for there is **none other name under heaven** given among men, **whereby we must be saved**." (see Acts 2:22-42) Also, Jesus told a prominent Jewish Rabbi and ruler (Nicodemus) that he and everyone else must be born again to see and enter God's kingdom. Christ further said no one can approach God without him (John 3:1-7; 8:24; 14:6).

Thus, Branham's revelation of this seal is contrary to the scriptures regarding salvation exclusively through Jesus Christ the Savior. Also, as Branham's quotes shall later prove, his teachings can be contradictory and very unreliable. Branham often said he was not a teacher. Sadly, this statement is true.

Plagiarism of Sixth Seal

Verses 12-17: And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

William Branham vs. Clarence Larkin

What William Branham Said:	What Clarence Larkin Said:
Now, I want you to hold your Book like this: Matthew 24 and	At this point it will be interesting to compare , as on the next three pages, Christ's

<p>Revelations 6, like this, and let's compare something here just a little bit. So watch this now, and you can find out just how --how it is. See, what the Lamb here is showing exactly in symbol what He said over here in Word, doing exactly. So that makes it right. Now, that's--that's all there is to it. Here's--here's one; He's talking of it, and here's where it happens. See? <u>It's just a perfect vindication.</u> P. 367</p>	<p>"Olivet Discourse" (Matt. 24:1-30), with the "Six Seals" of Rev. 6:1-17. <u>The similarity between them is most striking</u>, and proves that the author of the "Olivet Discourse" foreknew, in the "Days of His Flesh," in their exact order, the things that shall come to pass in the "Day of the Lord." This is indisputable evidence of the Deity of Jesus. Page 61</p>	<p>2; watch what He says now. And when he had opened the second seal, and I heard the second beast say, Come... see. And there went forth another horse that was red: and power was given to him that set thereon to take peace from the earth, and... they should kill one another: and there was given to him a great sword. <i>Perfectly—just exactly. Oh, I like to make the Scripture answer Itself, don't you? The Holy Spirit wrote It all, but He's able to reveal it.</i> Pages 369-370</p>	<p>MATT. 24:6-7 6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: Page 62</p>
<p>Now, watch, the First Seal is Revelations 6:1-2; now we read 6:1-2. And I saw... the Lamb when He had opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it was the noise of a thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that set on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer. Who did we find this fellow was? Antichrist. Matthew 24 now, 4 and 5. And Jesus answered and said unto them—unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. <u>For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.</u> See it? Antichrist. <u>There's your Seal.</u> See, see? He spoke it here, and here they opened the Seal, and here He was, just perfect. Page 369</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1-Seal False Christ's</p> <p>Rev. 6:1-2. AND I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. 2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer</p> <p>Matt. 24:4-5. And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. <u>5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.</u> Page 62</p>	<p>Editor's Note: Using the same scriptures and explanation as Larkin, Branham identifies this seal as "wars and rumours of wars." In the <i>italicized</i> words, Branham pretends to reveal this seal while copying Larkin's interpretation verbatim.</p>	
<p>Editor's Note: During this seal, Clarence Larkin compares Matthew 24:1-30 with Rev. 6:1-17. Notice how Branham using the same scriptures and explanation as Larkin, identifies this seal as "deception." Branham followed his outline, but pretends that it was his revelation, saying "There's your seal." His plagiarism of Larkin provides further proof that these seals were not revealed by angels, but by books of various biblical writers of the past. Watch the similarities shown below.</p>		<p>Now, let's notice the Third Seal. Now, this is famine. Now, Matthew 24:7 and 8. Let's get 7 and 8 in Matthew... And nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines,... pestilences,... earthquakes, in divers places. All these things are the beginning of sorrows. See, you're coming right on up now. Now, Revelation and the 6th... Now, we're going to open the Third Seal. It's found in Revelations 6:5 and 6. And when he had opened the third seal, I—I beheld the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that set on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts saying, A measure of... penny—a measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and... wine. Famine, see? Exactly the same Seal, same thing Jesus said. Page 370</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3-Seal Famines</p> <p>Rev. 6:5-6. And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. 6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.</p> <p>MATT. 24:7 and there shall be famines, Page 63</p>
<p>Now, the Second Seal: Matthew 24:6, Revelation 6:3 and 4. Now, watch. Matthew 24:6, now, let me see what it says. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. All right. Let's take the Second Seal, Revelation 6:3-</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2-Seal Wars</p> <p>Rev. 6:3-4. And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. 4 And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.</p>	<p>Editor's Note: Using the same scriptures and explanation as Larkin, Branham identifies this seal as "famine."</p> <p>. Now, the Fourth Seal, as we read it over here was... The Fourth Seal was... Begin 7th and 8th on this other now. And when he had opened the fourth seal, and</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4-Seal Pestilence and Death</p> <p>REV. 6:7-8 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. 8 And I</p>

<p>lo, the fourth beast said, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse:... Now, wait, I got this wrote down wrong. Now, now, just a minute now, 7 and 8, now let's see, Matthew 24:7 and 8, now let's see. We'll get that. That's the third opening, isn't it? Matthew 24:7 and 8. I'm sorry. Now, that opens up the rain... or the famine, opens up the famine. All right, now the pestilences and death... Yes, sir, now we're going to it; 7 and 8, now, that would be the Fourth Seal. Let's see where we get the Fourth Seal. And when he had opened the fourth seal... (Yeah, it's the pale horse rider, death. See?) And—and I looked, and behold a pale horse: and he—pale horse: and his name that set on him was called Death, and Hell followed... him. And power was given unto him over the four parts of the earth, to kill with the sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth. (Now, see, that was death.) Page 370-371</p>	<p>looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over t he fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth. MATT. 24:7-8 and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. P.63</p>	<p>watch here on the Sixth Seal, 6:9 to 11. Now, let's get that one: Revelations 6:9 to 11. And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long,... Lord, holy... true, does thou... judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? (Now...) And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren,... should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled. Now, you see, under the Fifth Seal we find—we find here martyrdom. And under the 24:9 over here we —to 13, we find also that it was martyred: "They shall deliver you up and kill you" and—and so forth (See?), the same Seal being opened. Page 371</p>	<p>ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. 11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. P.63</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Using the same scriptures and explanation as Larkin, Branham identifies this seal as "pestilence and death."</p>		<p>Editor's Note: Using the same scriptures and explanation as Larkin, Branham identifies this seal as "martyrdom."</p>	
<p>Now, the Fifth Seal, Matthew 24:9-13. Let's see if I got this right now again. See? And then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you:... (There you are)... and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And when—and then... many shall betray—many shall be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and... deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that... endureth to the end, the same shall be saved. Now, we are on t he Fifth Seal now, and that was last night. See? They would deliver you up, betray one another and so forth. Now,</p>	<p>5-Seal Martyrdoms REV. 6:9-11 9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy, and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11, And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until . their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled: MATT. 24:9-13. 9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and</p>	<p>Now, in the Sixth Seal is the one we're coming to now. Matthew 24:29 and 30—24, let's get 29 and—and 30. Here we are. Now, now, we're going to get also Revelations 6:12-17. That's exactly what we just read. Now, listen at this. Now, it's what Jesus said in Matthew 29—24:29 and 30. Immediately after the tribulation of those days... (What... When this—this tribulation, this amateur tribulation they've went through here. See?)... th e sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of... heaven shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall be all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of</p>	<p>6-Seal Physical Changes REV. 6:12-17. 12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; 1 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. 14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bond man, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; 16 And said to 'the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sittet h on the throne,</p>

<p>heaven with power and great glory. Now, read over here in Revelations now, the — the Sixth Seal the one we are on right now. And... behold when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth (See?) of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casts her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heavens departed as a scroll as it is rolled together; and every mountain and every island... moved out of their place. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondsman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens... in the rocks of the mountain; And said unto the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sets upon the throne, and from the wrath—wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come;... who shall be able to stand? It's perfectly. Turned right back over—see what Jesus said here now in Matthew 24:29. Page 372</p> <p>See, the Sixth Seal is completely an interruption of nature. Do you get it now? [Congregation says, "Amen."—Ed.] <u>There is your Seal.</u> Page 386</p>	<p>and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand? .P 63 MATT. 24:29-30 29 ¶ Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: 30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. Page 64</p>	<p>When you see these Jews... When you see these other things taking place, you know what takes place. Now, when you see these Jews... Talking to the Jews... <u>The Seventh Seal,</u> Page 495</p>	<p>generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. 35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. Page 64</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Using the same scriptures and explanation as Larkin, Branham says this seal is the "interruption of nature." Larkin believed it pertain to physical changes in nature. Yet, as shown above, Branham pretends to reveal this seal saying: "There is your seal."</p>	<p>Editor's Note: Lakin was first to reveal the Jews as the fig tree.</p>	<p>There you are. There you are. See? See how the Seals opened down there in the church age, how it showed the martyrs? And now here's these two prophets standing here with the Word of God to do anything to nature they want to, and they shake the earth. And it shows exactly who does it. It's Moses and Elijah, 'cause there's their ministry re-impersonated again: both men. Oh, my. Do you see it now? See what the Sixth Seal is? It's those prophets. Pages 386 - 387</p>	<p>*If we study carefully what shall happen during the period the "TWO WITNESSES" shall testify, which as we have seen will be the last half of the "Week," or 3½ years, we shall see that the "TWO WITNESSES" can be no other than MOSES and ELIJAH. Page 86</p>
<p>*Now, learn a parable of the fig tree; When its branches is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when you shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the door. That last—that question they asked Him: "And what will be the sign of the end of the world?"</p>	<p>THE "FIG-TREE" SIGN JEWISH RACE **MATT. 24:32-35 32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: 33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. 6 - SEAL PHYSICAL CHANGES 34 Verily I say unto you, This</p>	<p>Editor's Note: Branham taught as his special revelation that Moses and Elijah were the two prophets of Revelation 11 who opens the sixth seal. But, as shown, he likely copied the entire idea from Larkin's book. Watch further similarities below.</p>	<p>Editor's Note: Branham taught as his special revelation that Moses and Elijah were the two prophets of Revelation 11 who opens the sixth seal. But, as shown, he likely copied the entire idea from Larkin's book. Watch further similarities below.</p>
<p>See, the Sixth Seal is completely an interruption of nature. Do you get it now? [Congregation says, "Amen."—Ed.] <u>There is your Seal.</u> Page 386</p>	<p>and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come;... who shall be able to stand? It's perfectly. Turned right back over—see what Jesus said here now in Matthew 24:29. Page 372</p>	<p>Now, God was about to deliver Israel there, all right, bring them out of their enemy's hand, which was Egypt, at that time. Now, here, He is bringing them out of the Roman hand, where they had made their covenant. Same thing happens. That's the plagues, the—the time when this plagues will call. P. 384</p> <p>**Notice Revelation 8:7, if you want to write down. We notice the First Trumpet, there scattered hail, blood, fire, upon the earth; just exactly with Exodus, when God was calling His people out, of the exodus. <u>The Feast Of The Trumpets 07 - 19-64M</u></p>	<p>First Trumpet (Hail – Fire – Blood)</p> <p>**The Lord is going to repeat the "PLAGUES OF EGYPT." They were literal, why not the "Trumpet" and "Vial" Judgments? The literalness of these Judgments give us the "key" to the LITERALNESS of the Book of Revelation. No less than 5 of the 9 Plagues of Egypt are to be repeated during the Tribulation Period. This Plague is the same as the "SEVENTH EGYPTIAN PLAGUE"... And Moses stretched forth his "rod" toward heaven: and the Lord sent THUNDER and HAIL, and the FIRE ran along upon the ground; and the Lord rained HAIL upon the Land of Egypt. Page 70</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Using the same scriptures and explanation as Larkin, Branham says this seal is the "interruption of nature." Larkin believed it pertain to physical changes in nature. Yet, as shown above, Branham pretends to reveal this seal saying: "There is your seal."</p>	<p>Editor's Note: Lakin was first to reveal the Jews as the fig tree.</p>	<p>Here it is. They're the one who brings on this Sixth Seal. They uncover and open it up. It's the power of God to interrupt nature. See, the Sixth Seal, is completely an interruption of nature. Do you get it now? <u>There's your Seal.</u> Who does it? It's the</p>	<p>The difference between this Egyptian Plague, and the Plague of the First Trumpet, is, that the situation will be reversed. Then the "CHILDREN OF ISRAEL" escaped, now they will suffer. Page 71</p>

<p>prophets the other side of the rapture. Page 386</p> <p>This Sixth Seal is the tribulation period. P. 374</p> <p>Now, notice. Don't let it choke you, but watch what opened that Seal: prophets. See? Amen. There you are. Oh, we're living in the eagle day, brother, head up among the clouds. They opened that Sixth Seal. They have power to do it. Amen. There's your Sixth Seal coming open. See? P. 387</p>	<p>As the Plagues that are to accompany the pouring out of the "Vials," are four of them similar to the "Plagues of Egypt," who more likely to bring them to pass than Moses? The evidence seems conclusive that the "TWO WITNESSES" will be MOSES and ELIJAH. Page 86.</p>	<p>great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon--and the moon became as blood; Blackness, darkness: Egypt--blackness, darkness, God delivering Jesus at the cross, just 'fore He brought Him up from the resurrection. Pages 388-389</p>	
<p>Editor's Note: Even though Branham said "<i>There's your sixth seal coming open,</i>" it was Larkin who first compared the plagues poured out during the trumpets with those that Moses brought upon Egypt. Also, Like Larkin, Branham believed Moses and Elijah will once again bring forth the plagues during the Great Tribulation period. Branham brings nothing new.</p>		<p>Editor's Note: Larkin used the darkness that occurred in Egypt and at Christ's cross to describe the great darkness that will occur in the sun during the sixth seal. Branham does the same.</p>	
<p>They have power to—power to shut the heavens that it rain not in the days of their prophecy:... Elijah, he knows how to do it; he's done it before. Amen. Page 386</p>	<p>They have power to shut heaven that it rain no t in the DAYS OF THEIR PROPHECY. This can refer to no other than Elijah, who had power in the days of King Ahab to shut up the heavens for the space of three years and six months (1. Kings 17:1. Page 84</p>	<p>In Isaiah, let's take this. Isaiah the prophet seen this Sixth Seal open and spoke of it... Let's just... I like this -this of Isaiah. Let's go back here to Isaiah, the 13th chapter of Isaiah. Page 389</p>	<p>When the "SIXTH SEAL" was broken John tells us that there was a "GREAT EARTHQUAKE," and the "SUN BECAME BLACK AS SACKCLOTH OF HAIR," and the "MOON BECAME AS BLOOD," and the "STARS OF HEAVEN FELL TO THE EARTH," and the "HEAVEN DEPARTED AS A SCROLL," and "EVERY MOUNTAIN AND ISLAND WERE MOVED OUT OF THEIR PLACE." Page 60</p>
<p>What did Moses do? He—he—he turned the—the waters into blood; he done all these kinds of miracles, just exactly what's predicted here under this Sixth Seal. And here they are in Revelations 11, doing the very same things. Amen. There's three different places in the Scriptures right there blending the thing right together. That's the opening of the Sixth Seal. Right there it is. Pages 387-388</p>	<p>2. THE TWO WITNESSES. Rev. 11:1-14. P.83</p> <p>*Now we know that Moses had power to turn water into BLOOD, and to smite the earth with PLAGUES, but we are not told that Enoch had such power. Page 86</p>	<p>Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. (The land, that's all of it, brethren. See? Notice.) For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her lights to shine. Page 390</p>	<p>In Isa. 13:9–10, we read — "Behold the 'DAY OF THE LORD' cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate, and He shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall NOT GIVE THEIR LIGHT, the sun shall be DARKENED in his going forth, and the moon shall not CAUSE HER LIGHT TO SHINE." Page 60</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham is pretending that he is opening the sixth seal, saying: "<i>That's the opening of the Sixth Seal. Right there it is,</i>" when he is actually following Larkin's teaching nearly verbatim. On pages 173-174 of Charles Russell's book, he also identified these two witnesses to be Moses and Elijah.</p>		<p>Editor's Note: Branham used the same scriptures as Larkin to describe the opening of the sixth seal</p>	
<p>Matthew, 27th chapter of Matthew and the --the 45th verse, I believe it is. Now, from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. Now, notice just exactly what He did back here now in this. See? And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal,... lo, there was a</p>	<p>Such physical phenomena and changes have happened before. We must not forget the "GREAT DARKNESS" that for 3 days overspread Egypt in the days before the Exodus (Ex. 10:21–23), nor the "DARKNESS" that settled over Jerusalem and Calvary on the day of the Crucifixion of Christ. Matt. 27:45. Page 60</p>	<p>Here it is in the tribulation period, and here stands them prophets to who has the control of the Word that God gives them. Page 389</p>	<p>It is clear from the time that the Prophet Malachi said that Elijah would come again , JUST BEFORE "The Great And Dreadful Day Of The Lord, Page 84</p>
<p>He sent Elijah to Ahab, and seven thousand come out. Is that right? He sends them right back over here again in the time of the tribulation and calls out the hundred and forty-four thousand. Page 388</p> <p>And here he is with a commission from God to smite the earth whatever he wants to. Oh, my. Stop the heavens, and he does.</p>		<p>First, those who "keep the Commandments of God," that is, Orthodox Jews who observe the Old Testament Law, and second, those who "accept the testimony of Jesus Christ," that is, accept Jesus as their promised Messiah. The latter class will be converted by the preaching of the "Gospel of the Kingdom" by the "Two Witnesses." Those will be trying times for those Israelites</p>	

<p>What's the matter? He's fixing to take the hundred and forty-four thousand out for redemption, out of the Book of Redemption. And that's under the Seal of redemption, in the Sixth Seal. That's it, my dear friends. That's that Sixth Seal. Page 389</p>	<p>who will not commit idolatry by bowing the knee to the "Image of the Beast," for it will be a remorseless war of persecution that Antichrist will wage against them, and thousands will die a martyr's death. Page 102</p>
<p>Editor's Note: As shown, Branham likely got the teaching from Larkin that some Jews will be redeemed during the tribulation through the ministry of Moses and Elijah.</p>	

Comments: Branham does not hold back on this seal. He blatantly copied Larkin's teachings without crediting him. Rather, Branham passed the information to followers as his personal revelation. What is plagiarism? It is using someone's words, works, and ideas as his own without giving credit to the original author.

When comparing the seven seals with events in Matthew 24, Branham made it appear that the information was supernaturally revealed. Branham never cited Larkin's book as the source of this seal, even though he followed his outline nearly verbatim. So then, did an angel reveal this seal to him? It is obvious from the above study that the answer is absolutely "no!" This is a travesty.

Plagiarism of Seventh Seal

VERSE 1: And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

William Branham vs. Clarence Larkin

What William Branham Said:	What Clarence Larkin Said:
<p>Notice, it's the end of the church age. It's the--the end of the Seven Seals. It's the end of the trumpets. It's the end of the vials, and even ends the ushering in of the millennium; that's on the Seventh Seal. Page 501</p>	<p>We must not forget that the "SEVENTH SEAL" includes all that happens during the sounding of the "Trumpets," and the pouring out of the "Vials," and so extends down to the ushering in of the Millennium. Page 68</p>
<p>It's just like firing a rocket into the air, and that rocket explodes here, and it goes up, then it explodes again. It puts out five stars. One of those stars explodes and blows out five stars from it; and then one of them stars explodes, blows out five stars from it (See?); it fades on out. That's what the Seventh Seal; it just ends the time for the world. It ends the time for this. It means the time for that. It ends the time for this. It ends the time... Everything just ended up on that Seventh Seal. Page 501</p>	<p>To illustrate, a rocket fired into the air may burst into "seven stars," and one of these stars into "seven other stars," and one of the second group of stars into a third group of "seven stars." So the "Seventh" Seal includes the "Seven Trumpets," and the "Seventh" Trumpet includes the "Seven Vials." Page 68</p>
<p>And the four and twenty elders that stood before God there harping with their harps, they quit playing their harps. The Angels</p>	<p>The "SILENCE" that followed the breaking of the "Seventh Seal" was preparatory to what was to follow during the sounding of</p>

<p>hushed their singing in heaven. Think, the holy Cherubims and Seraphims, that Isaiah saw it in the temple... {quote shortened by editor) they shut up. Page 502</p> <p>They were awed by it, I believe. Page 502</p>	<p>the "Trumpets," and the pouring out of the "Vials." This "SILENCE" was something remarkable. The Four and Twenty Elders ceased their harp-playing; the angels hushed their voices, and the Cherubim and Seraphim and all the host of Heaven were silent, and so great was the silence that all Heaven was awed by it. Page 68</p>
<p>Now, a half hour might not be long if you're having a good time, but in the suspense of between death and life, it seemed like a millennium. Page 502</p>	<p>Now a "half an hour" is not long when engaged in some pleasant employment, but it causes a nerve breaking tension when we do not know what is going to happen, and when a life is at stake a minute, or even a few seconds, seem to be hours. The suspense of the half hour of SILENCE in Heaven was intense. Page 68</p>
<p>Editor's Note: As shown, Branham nearly quotes Larkin verbatim in the underlined words in describing the seventh seal as: (1) the end of the trumpets and vials, (2) the firing of a multi-stage rocket. (3) a period of silence among the angels and 24 elders, and (4) the suspense of half an hour.</p>	
<p>Did you notice when the Jews asked Him that? You know when we compared the Scripture here with Matthew 24 with the six Seals, the Seventh Seal was left out; because (You see?), Christ said only God Himself knowed, not even the Angels. No wonder, it wasn't even written. You see, they hushed; nothing take place then. Angels don't know it; nobody knows when He's coming. Page 520</p>	<p>*At this point it will be interesting to compare, as on the next three pages, Christ's "Olivet Discourse" (Matt. 24:1-30), with the "Six Seals" of Rev. 6:1-17. The similarity between them is most striking, and proves that the author of the "Olivet Discourse" foreknew, in the "Days of His Flesh," in their exact order, the things that shall come to pass in the "Day of the Lord". Page 61</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham said the seventh seal pertains to Christ's second coming. The following quotes will show that Russell and Smith taught the same. However, after plagiarizing Larkin's comparison of the six seals with Christ's discourse in Matthew 24:4-30, Branham likely assumed that the seventh seal pertains to the mystery of Christ's second coming foretold in verses 30-31 and 36. Thus, his alleged revelation of the seventh seal is based upon Larkin's book.</p>	

Comment: As shown, Branham's obvious plagiarism of Larkin continues. To make matters worse, Branham claimed that angels of God sent him to Jeffersonville to reveal the mysteries of the seven seals, which could only be revealed by him in the last days: "*Notice, one thunder, seven messages that's been sealed up and cannot be revealed until the last day, at this age. See what I mean?*" (The Seventh Seal). But, before any alleged commission by angels in March of 1963, he spoke about teaching these seals since June 11, 1961^[100] and already planned on February 23, 1963 to have these meetings in Jeffersonville starting on March 17.^[101]

William Branham vs. Charles Taze Russell

What William Branham Said:	What Charles Russell Said:
It's just like firing a rocket into the air , and that rocket explodes here, and it goes up, then it explodes again. It puts out five stars. One of those stars explodes and blows out five stars from it; and then one of them stars explodes, blows out five stars from it (See?); it fades on out. That's what the Seventh Seal; it just ends the time for the world. It ends the time for this. It means the time for that. It ends the time for this. It ends the time... Everything just ended up on that Seventh Seal. Page 501	8:1. And when He. —The Lord Jesus, whose privilege It is to open them all. —Rev. 6:1. Had opened the seventh seal.—"The seal of the living God." (Rev. 7:2.) The opening of the seventh seal is progressive. The opening and unfolding of the Truth goes on as the saints are sealed. " Page 143
Editor's Note: Charles Russell believed the seventh seal was progressively unfolding. Likewise, Branham's example of continual exploding rockets (plagiarized from Larkin) conveys the idea that the seventh seal is progressively unfolding.	
Now, we're into the age of the Eagle, the revelation to be revealed, the whole thing. Now, compare this with Revelations the 10th chapter, verse 1 to 7, and we'll see here in this Revelations—the Revelations here, 10: 1-7, that in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel's message was to finish up all the mysteries of God. Page 519	God's people down through this Gospel age have been privileged to know something of the ' Secret of the Lord '—the Divine Plan. <u>But not until the last seal is broken, does the scroll fly wide open,</u> permitting the ' Mystery of God ' to be fully disclosed; as It is written: ' In the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the Mystery of God should be finished, as He hath declared to His servants the Prophets .' (Rev. 6:1; 10:7)." Page 143
Editor's Note: Russell believed the seventh seal is the secret of the Lord of unfolding truths being revealed by the him—the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7. As we shall later study, Russell believed he was this seventh angel and his books were the message. Branham taught the very same thing.	
And here when the Seventh Seal, when He opened it, He also omitted it again. See? So we see that it is a complete mystery, therefore, the hour is not yet for these mystery to be known , therefore, we're this far and the rest of it will be known right around about the time that Jesus appears on earth again for His Bride , or whatever takes place at that time. Now, until that time, let's just all pray and live good straight Christian lives, looking forward for His coming. Page 521	By the time the saints are all sealed in their hearts and minds with <u>the Present Truth</u> , the deepest features of the Truth itself will have been disclosed. The time will undoubtedly come in the near future when the number of the Elect will be complete. Page 143
Editor's Note: Russell believed that portions of the seventh seal	

has been revealed, but will be completed in the near future. Branham likewise taught three unfolding phases of this seal.

Comments: As shown, Branham basically followed Russell's understanding, even by saying the seventh seal will be revealed in the days of the voice of the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7. This verse is wrongly interpreted by Russell and Branham, as this study shall irrefutably prove later by scriptures.

During Branham's sermons on the previous six seals, he built up great expectation among his audience regarding the seventh. However, when he finally taught on this seal, he mainly brought nothing new other than attempting to connect it with (1) a vision he had in December of 1962 originally consisting of five angels conveniently changed to seven angels to match the opening of seven seals as we shall later study, (2) a vision of the final phase of his ministry called the "Third Pull," and (3) his experience in the mountain concerning a vision of a sword.

Branham brought no new revelation, but attempts to mystify this seal by his personal perplexing experiences that neither he nor his audience clearly understood. Finally, near the end of the sermon Branham admitted that he did not know the revelation of the seventh seal.

Now, what this great secret is that lays beneath this Seal, I do not know. I don't know it. I couldn't make it out. I couldn't tell it, just what it, and, just what it said. But I know that it was them seven thunders uttering themselves right close together, just banging seven different times, and it unfolded into something else that I seen. Then when I seen that, I looked for the interpretation that flew across there, and I couldn't make it out. **That's exactly right, friend. See? The hour isn't quite yet for it, but it's moving into that cycle. See? It's coming up close.** So the thing for you to do is to remember that I speak to you in the Name of the Lord: Be prepared, for you don't know what time something can happen. _The Seventh Seal 03-24-63E

William Branham vs. Uriah Smith

What William Branham Said:	What Uriah Smith Said:
You know when we compared the Scripture here with Matthew 24 with the six Seals, the Seventh Seal was left out; because (You see?), Christ said only God Himself knewed, not even the Angels. No wonder, it wasn't even written. You see, they hushed; nothing take place then. Angels don't know it; nobody knows when <u>He's coming</u> . But there'll be a... There'll be seven voices of these thunders that will reveal the great revelation at that time. So I believe, to us who... If we don't know it, and we—we—it won't be knowed till that time, but it will be revealed in that day, in the hour that it's supposed to be revealed in. So the thing for us to do is to	Silence in Heaven. - Concerning the cause of this silence, only conjecture can be offered, - a conjecture, however, which is supported by the events of the <u>sixth seal</u> . <u>That seal does not bring us to the second advent, although it embraces events that transpire in close connection therewith.</u> It introduces the fearful commotions of the elements, described as the rolling of the heavens together as a scroll, caused by the voice of God, the breaking up of the surface of the earth, and the confession on the part of the wicked that the great day of God's wrath is come. They are doubtless in momentary expectation of <u>seeing the King appear in, to them, unendurable glory.</u> But the seal stops just short of that

be reverent before God and serve Him, and do all that we know how to do, and live good Christian lives. Here now, we find that the Sixth Seal has been opened to us; we see it, and we know that this Seventh Seal cannot be broke to the public until that hour arrives. Now, there was some reason that God let this seven voices be thundered, because it must come (See?), for the... We find that Christ, the Lamb took the—the Book in His hand, and He opened that Seventh Seal. But you see, it's a hidden mystery. No one knows it. But it—it's right along with what He said: no one would know His coming; they also would not know about this seven thunder mystery. So you see, it's connected together. Pages 520-521

See Israel's gathering in its own homeland. But you notice, He omitted the revelation of this Seventh Seal. And here when the Seventh Seal, when He opened it, He also omitted it again. See? So we see that it is a complete mystery, therefore, the hour is not yet for these mystery to be known, therefore, we're this far and the rest of it will be known right around about the time that Jesus appears on earth again for His Bride, or whatever takes place at that time. Now, until that time, let's just all pray and live good straight Christian lives, looking forward for His coming. Page 521

Because, the **Seventh Seal, there was silence. "No one knew; that was the minute or hour that Christ would come," as He revealed it to us._The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64 M

event. The personal appearing of Christ must therefore be allotted to the next seal. But when the Lord appears, he comes with all the holy angels with him. Matt.25:31. And when all the heavenly harpers leave the courts above to come down with their divine Lord, as he descends to gather the fruit of his redeeming work, will there not be silence in heaven? Page 475-476

Comments: Smith taught that the there was silence in heaven during the seventh seal because Jesus Christ left heaven with his angels to gather his redeemed on the earth at the second coming. Branham taught the same. Remember, Branham said that he read Smith's and other writers' books concerning the seals.

"I'd go in there and pick up the notes. I'd pick up books of

Dr. Smith, Uriah Smith, and oh, **all the writers** in there, and read in—and read down in their books. I'd say, "Now, here's the Sixth Seal; here's the Fourth Seal. Now, what does this man say?" He'd say, "Well, it was this, that, or the other." **I'd look over here and get another man.** He'd say that it was such-and-such. And it looked like I just... **It just didn't work right.**" _The Seventh Seal.

As stated, in this quote Branham pretends to disagree with Smith and others about the seventh seal, when he actually taught their beliefs that it pertains to Christ's return and progressive revelations. Also, weeks before Branham's death in 1965, he spoke a message entitled the "Rapture," where he identified his message as the "shout" of Jesus' return in 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

Branham connected his third pull ministry with the secret return of Christ and that it would produce rapturing faith. As a result, followers believe he fulfilled Jesus' secret seventh seal coming that began in 1963 when Christ allegedly appeared over Arizona in the disputed cloud shown in Life Magazine. They believe the rapture began over 54 years ago when Branham fulfilled the Son of Man coming of Jesus in Luke 17:30 His sermons and books were the "shout." Followers often say: "Rapturing faith lies in the tapes" (audio sermons of Branham).

But, as this study shall later prove, the message of William Branham is not the fulfillment of prophecy. It is flawed and filled with major verifiable errors. Even some of his visions, "Thus saith the Lord," and experiences can clearly be proven wrong.

Similar to Russell, Branham condemned churches that did not follow his teachings; even those that believed the true biblical gospel and taught correct doctrines (see The Indictment 07 -07-63M). He considered them as belonging to apostate churches of Mystery Babylon the Great (Rev. 17:1-5), with the exception that some people among them are foolish virgins (Matt. 25:1-13) who he viewed as saved, but will miss the rapture.

However, the true Church of Jesus our Savior do not need Branham's error-filled message to be saved or resurrected. They obtained such by believing in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross (thoroughly discussed in my three volume book: "The True Biblical Gospel of Jesus Christ").¹¹⁰² Jesus said those who believe on him will be resurrected (John 11:25). Paul says we shall be resurrected by believing that Jesus died and rose from the dead (1 Thess. 4:13-14), which is the gospel's message of salvation (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:17-18; 15:1-4,11)—more later.

Plagiarism of Seven Sealed Book's Identity

Revelation 5:1. And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

William Branham vs. Clarence Larkin

What William Branham Said:	What Clarence Larkin Said:
*Now, oh, my. Now, the forfeited title deed is now in the hands of the original Owner, Almighty God. <u>The title deed to the earth.</u> 63-0317E - The Breach Between The Seven Church Ages And The Seven Seals, Page 76	**What was this " LITTLE BOOK "? Some claim that it was the " SEVEN SEALED BOOK ," now open, and therefore the " TITLE DEED to the Earth ," and that the " MIGHTY ANGEL " held it in His hand, as He stood with one foot on the sea and one foot on the earth, as His authority for claiming possession. Page 81
Is the title deed of our	The " SEVEN SEALED

<p><u>redemption, this seven-sealed Book.</u> It's the title deed. You wait till we get into those Seals! _Revelation, Chapter Five #2, 06-18-61</p> <p>And this Lamb come forth and went over to Him that set upon the Throne that held the complete Title Deed of Redemption; and the Lamb goes and takes the Book out of the hand of Him that set upon the Throne and was — took and opened the Seals and opened the Book. _The First Seal, Pages 108-109</p>	<p>"BOOK" is the "TITLE DEED" to the redeemed inheritance Page 45</p>
<p>But John wept. Here's what I think he wept for: because if no one was worthy and could open this Book of Redemption. The Breach Between The Seven Church Ages And The Seven Seals, Page 83</p>	<p>John wept because he knew what the Book was, and that if there was no one to open that "BOOK OF REDEMPTION. Page 45</p>
<p>Editor's Note: As shown, Larkin identified the seven sealed book as the book of redemption and the title deed to the earth . Branham taught the same. In the underlined sentences, he nearly quotes Clarence Larkin verbatim.</p>	
<p>When that Lamb leaves the throne yonder on His days of mediatorial work, when He leaves the throne up there and takes that Book of Redemption. _The First Seal Page 136</p> <p>The Lamb's done left the— His mediatorial work. The mediatorial work has been finished from over on the throne. _Sixth Seal, Page 364</p>	<p>When the Lamb leaves the Throne to take the Book, His Mediatorial Work ceases, and His REDEMPTIVE WORK begins. Page 46</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Clarence Larkin believed Christ's mediatorial work ends when he takes and open the seven sealed book. When preaching the seven seals, Branham nearly quotes Larkin verbatim in the underlined sentences . Nevertheless, there is a vast difference between the two men 's application of the same wordings. Larkin believed Christ's mediatorial work will end in the future before his return. Branham erroneously taught that it ended during his sermons on the seven seals in March of 1963 since Christ had left his throne to open the seals through him (discussed later on pages 219-222).</p>	
<p>It sounds so good to me; I—I like to read it. ... I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud:... a rainbow... upon his head, and his face was... the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: Now, we saw the same thing, which was Christ. And we know Christ is always the Messenger to the Church.</p>	<p>The contents of the "Book" are not disclosed. We are simply told, as the "Seals" are broken, that certain things happened. They doubtless were preliminary to the Lamb's taking possession of the Purchased Possession. It is not until chapter 10:1-6, that Christ, as the "MIGHTY ANGEL," puts His right foot upon the sea, and His left foot</p>

<p>All right. He's called a Pillar of Fire, the Angel of the covenant and so forth. And he had in his hand a little book opened:... (Now, the Seals had done been broke here. We're breaking them now; but this, the thing's opened.)... and he set his right foot on the sea, and his left... on the earth. _ First Seal, Pages 130-131</p>	<p>on the earth, and cries -- "There shall be time no longer," that is "NO LONGER DELAY," that He takes formal possession, but as the claim is disputed further steps, as we shall see, are necessary to secure possession. Page 48</p>
<p>Editor's Note: As shown, Larkin connects Revelation 10: 1-6 to Christ taking formal possession of the purchased possession after the seven seals are broken by placing his feet on the land and sea. Branham basically said the same.</p>	

Comment: As shown, Branham repeated Larkin's information nearly verbatim as his revelations. He brought no new revelation.

Seven Seals: Branham Claimed Divine Revelations

Considering the above information, William Branham's teachings about the seven seals followed the basic pattern of published books and commentaries before his time. As stated, Branham admitted to reading these literatures while denying their influence on his sermons . After pointing out the similarities, we must ask: "Why did Branham pretend not to know anything about these seals , but alluded to God opening them each night?" Consider the quotes below.

Now, the seven -seal, roll Book is **now being released by the Lamb.** We approach that place tonight. God help us. **As the Seals are broken and released** , the mysteries of the Book **are revealed.** _The First Seal, 03-18-63

And **it only is to be revealed at the last day** when this **actual Seal is broken.** Broken to who? Not to Christ, but **to the Church.** Notice, now. Oh, my, that just makes me tremble. I—I—I hope that the Church truly understands it (See what I mean?) _The First Seal, 03-18-63

Now, what does the white horse mean? **Now, here's where the revelation comes .** I'm just as positive of this as I'm standing here knowing this is the Word. I've read every book on it I could find. _The First Seal, 03-18-63

I'm grateful to the **Lord God for showing me these things.** I know that it's the Truth. **There it is, revealed right there.** Here he rides right down through the age and comes right out here and displays himself right down here just as perfect as he can be. See? That's him. Now, we're not deceived on that. **Now, you got your eyes opened.** _The First Seal, 03-18-63

There's the Second Seal. Do you love Him? Oh, my. **That's THUS SAITH THE LORD .** Praise be to God. _The Second Seal 03-19-63

We have come again tonight, Lord, to attempt this meeting and **to pray Thee to open to us, Lord, this Third Seal of this Book,** that it might be known to us that we would know what to do and how to live and how to be better Christians. _The Third Seal, 03-20-63, Page 205

Well, to the best of my understanding and the —the best that I know of, and with all that I believe in my heart, that's the true

meaning of those three Seals. I want to thank God for it. **I'll say this, that it's the revelation that He give me . He gave that to me, the revelation of it.** And I do believe that we're living in the last days. _The Third Seal 03-20-63

Now, there you are, friends . Here's the Fourth Seal open , and the riders of the four horses is revealed to the best of my knowledge. Now, this is all that took place on earth. _The Fourth Seal 03-21-63

O Lamb of God, come forward, we pray. We call on You, Lord, the great Redeemer. Come forth and show us Your plan of redemption that's been hid through the years , **breaking this Fifth Seal for us tonight, Father, and revealing what's beneath that Seal for us**, that we might go away a better Christians than we are now—might be better fit for the task that lays ahead. We ask it in Jesus' Name. Amen. _The Fifth Seal 03-22-63

And now, tonight we have assembled here to hear Your Word. And as we have been studying in this certain portion of the Scripture, that the Lamb was the only One that could open the Seals or to loose them... And we pray that tonight as we have under consideration this great Sixth Seal, **we pray, heavenly Father, that the Lamb will open it to us tonight**, that we are here to understand it. And when no man on earth or in heaven was sufficient, only the Lamb was found sufficient . _The Sixth Seal 03-23-63

Now, we notice now as we go into the Sixth Seal... **Now, may the Heavenly Father help us as we settle down now to this Sixth Seal.** Now, the 12th verse of the 6th chapter. _The Sixth Seal 03-23-63

And I thought under this Sixth Seal, when the Holy Spirit broke it forth there, I seen what it was, then I thought it'd be a good thing to give the class a little something different tonight (See?), 'cause it might be tiring you just listen to me talking all the time. So I thought th at we'd do something different. _The Sixth Seal 03-23-63

Now, heavenly Father, as this goes forward now to preach or to teach on this great mighty event that taken place in glory some two thousand years ago, and was given to the great beloved apostle, John, **and tonight we're to speak upon i, let the Holy Spirit come forward now in His mighty power of revelation, that He might reveal to us that thing which He wants us to know**, as He has in the last few nights. We commit ourselves to You with the Word, in Jesus' Name. Amen. _The Seventh Seal 03-24-63E

Now, the voice of that great thunder and the mission that was brought here has been revealed that it —and proven that it was of God. **Just think now. I knew not these Seals , and they been revealed this week.** Did anybody think of that? Of those **seven Angels**, being This, being the message that was coming forth, **them Angels bringing me back here for that** ? _The Seventh Seal 03-24-63E

In the above quotes , Branham pretended that God revealed the seven seals to him, when in actuality he copied other writers. For example, in the the sixth seal, he followed Larkin's teachings nearly verbatim, By doing so, his truthfulness must be questioned.

The facts clearly show that Branham copied multiple

writers during those sermons and passed the information unto his audience as special revelations. In the following quotes, Branham continued to misinform his audience about the source of his information on the seven seals.

And now, the Lamb is standing now tonight as we enter into this 6th chapter; He's got the Book in His hand and starting to reveal it. And, oh, I would've absolutely today... And I hope that people are spiritual. I would've had a horrible mistake on that if it hadn't been about twelve o'clock today when the Holy Spirit came i n the room and corrected me on something that I was writing down to say. I was taking it from an old context. I had nothing on it. I don't know what the Second Seal is no more than nothing, but I'd got some old contexts of something that I'd spoke on sever al years ago and wrote it down, and I'd gathered this context —context... And **Dr. Smith**, many great outstanding teachers that I—I'd gathered, and all of them believed that, **so I'd wrote it down** . And I was fixing to say, "Well, now **I'll study it from that standpoint."** And **there about twelve o'clock in the day the Holy Spirit just swept right down into the room, and the whole thing just opened up to me , and there it was ...?...** of this—of this First Seal being opened. 63-0318 - The First Seal

In the revealing of the se—of these Seals, remember, it's only really one verse. The first tells the announcing of it. The second verse... **Most all commentaries** and so forth, the reading of it are—are... **The reading of their thoughts**, and I have —and I've always believed like nearly all of them does that that first horse rider was the—was the early church. **But when the Holy Spirit revealed it, it was absolutely contrary to that.** _The Third Seal 03-20-63

As stated, Branham claimed that God corrected him from accepting Uriah Smith's and other commentaries' views of the first seal. When in fact he had accepted Clarence Larkin, Charles Russell, and Scofield's views of this seal. As studied, these men believed the first seal was the antichrist. Particularly, Russell believed it referred to the Pope. Later, in the other seals, Smith also viewed the horse riders as being the Pope and the Romish church.

So then, Branham's v iews were not new revelations. He basically taught the views of these men in all seven seals. As stated, Branham openly admits to reading many commentaries when disagreeing with them, but does not mention such fact when using their information.

And now, tonight we are studying this Second Seal. And e... For the first four Seals there is four horse riders. And I tell you today something happened again, and I —I... Something that I... I go and get the old script that I had that I talked on long ago. And just set down there, and I thought, "Well, I—I did the very best I could." **And many writers and things ...** And I thought, "Well, **I'll read a little while, and look over and see this and that,**" and the **first thing you know, something just happens, and it's altogether different. It just comes in different. Then I grab me a pencil right quick and start writing down just as fast as I can while He's there.** Oh, it's just something happened just about one-half hour ago. _The Second Seal 03-19 -63

As shown above, Branham claimed that as he studied many writers point of views, God (or an angel) would come and reveal something different. Yet, after comparing

Branham's alleged revelations of the seals with various writers, the evidence plainly shows he practically brought nothing different. Other than the souls under the altar were Jews killed by Hitler and Stalin, who never accepted Jesus. This belief is incorrect because Jesus told a Jewish Rabbi:

Except a man be **born of water** and of **the Spirit**, he **CANNOT ENTER into the kingdom of God** ... Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye MUST be born again.**" (John 3:5,7).

First Seal: Branham Knew before 1963 Sermon

As stated, during Branham's sermon on March 17, 1963, he claimed that God corrected him from accepting Smith's and other commentaries' views of the first seal.

I would've had a horrible mistake on that if it hadn't been about twelve o'clock today when the Holy Spirit came in the room and corrected me on something that I was writing down to say. I was taking it from an old context. I had nothing on it. I don't know what the Second Seal is no more than nothing, but I'd **got some old contexts** of something **that I'd spoke on several years ago and wrote it down**, and I'd **gathered this context**—context... And **Dr. Smith**, **many great outstanding** teachers that I—I'd gathered, and all of them believed that, so I'd wrote it down. And **I was fixing to say**, "Well, now I'll study it from that standpoint." And there about **twelve o'clock in the day**, the **Holy Spirit just swept right down into the room**, and **the whole thing just opened up to me**, and there it was...?... of this **—of this First Seal being opened.** _The First Seal 03-18-63

What was the correction? Branham initially believed the white horse rider of the first seal was Christ during first century Christianity. Many theologians and Bible teachers held this point of view (e.g., Matthew Henry, John Gill, Uriah Smith), while others believed it pertained to the Roman Empire.^[103] As studied, Bible teachers such as Larkin, Russell, and Scofield believed this rider was the antichrist. In 1960, Branham's statements showed that he once believed the white horse rider in the first seal to be Jesus Christ or the Holy Spirit.

And **he had a name written**, that no man knew, but... himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his **name is called The Word of God.** What went out of His mouth? What went? **The white horse rider**. And Revelation, also, 7, when... I believe 8. When the white horse... no, it's 6. When the white horse rider went forth, **He was given a— a bow, to conquer and to conquer**. _The Patmos Vision 12-04-60E

The 6th chapter deals with the—with the **white horse, which was the Holy Spirit went forth conquering, to conquer.** Then come the pale horse, Death, and Hell followed it. And each one of those riders on the horses. _The Ten Virgins, And The Hundred And Forty-Four Thousand Jews 12-11-60M

So then, in 1960 Branham did believe the white horse rider of the first seal was Christ. But, by the time Branham preached the seventy weeks of Daniel on July 30, 1961, he already believed the first seal pertained to the antichrist, not Christ. He also knew before the 1963 sermons on the seven seals that the pope was the antichrist.

And at that time Michael shall stand... the great prince which will stand for the children of thy people:... (Now, this is at the end time)... and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since... the nation... **(That's when the antichrist, this First Seal rider goes forth, when he takes place)**... even until this time:... _The Sixfold Purpose Of Gabriel's Visit To Daniel 07-30-61E

Now... And in the middle of the week, the middle of this Jewish week (See?), that's three and a half years—years—the **antichrist**, the prince, a prince that is to come... And remember, **he comes out of Rome**. The prince that is to come **(What is he? A pope, a prince amongst the people.)** that is to come. _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61

Nonetheless, during the 1963 sermon on the first seal, Branham pretended that he did not know the identity of the white horse rider until 12:00 noon, when facts show that he actually knew it since 1961.

And there about **twelve o'clock in the day** the **Holy Spirit just swept right down into the room**, and **the whole thing just opened up to me**, and there it was...?... of this **—of this First Seal being opened.** _The First Seal 03-18-63

The last time that I was—tried to go through it, just teaching it, **about thirty years ago**, I took the book... Somebody had told me that the **Adventists had more light on the second coming of Christ than any people** that they knewed, so I found some of their good books to read them. **I got Smith's book on "Daniel's Revelation."** And **he said this white horse** that went forth was white, and it symbolized a conqueror, and in this conquering... **Many of you Adventist brethren here knows the book**, and many of you others also by reading it. And others, **I read two or three of..** I read when the... I can't call... **There's two more books read, and both men agreed that that was right**. That was fine teachers, supposed to be some of the best with the best light. So I thought, "Well, if I don't know, I'll just say what they said, try to teach it that way." And they give a very good explanation of it, what it really meant. And **they said**, "**Now, here's a white horse**, and a white horse is a power, a charger." And said, "**The man that set on that was the—the white horse was the Holy Spirit** that went forth **in the early age and** conquered that age for the Kingdom of God. _The First Seal 03-18-63

Unless Branham had forgotten, his claim is untrue that God corrected him at 12:00 noon about the white horse rider being the antichrist. He already knew this information beforehand. Actually, many of Branham's supposed revelations during his teachings on the seven seals can be found in prior sermons, as later proved by this study.

Seven Seals: Branham Brought No New Revelations

When considering the actual content of information Branham gave for each individual seal and the amount of time particularly spent on the topic, we will begin to realize that he did not elaborate much on the subject. He would spend the majority of the sermons talking about biblical and non-biblical issues (often about his end time ministry and personal experiences) while repeating himself. Then, near the end of the sermon, Branham would give his alleged revelations that were copied from different writers.

As a result, he did not have much to say about these seals other than what were already written in religious books and commentaries, as summarized below.

First Seal

In transcriptions of Branham's recorded sermons, the paragraphs are numbered. The entire sermon pertaining to the first seal is 2 hours and 49 minutes consisting of 402 paragraphs. Branham read the first seal in Revelation 6: 1-2 at paragraph 40, but does not provide the actual meaning until paragraphs 293-301. What did he say in those paragraphs? He said the white horse rider is the antichrist, who later became the pope after the Nicene Council. The remainder of the sermon are repetitions and fill-ins.

We shall later show that some of Branham's fill-ins were supposedly revealed mysteries of the Bible he had copied. As studied, when Branham's sermon on the first seal is compared with past biblical writers who lived before him, he brought no new revelation to this subject.

Second Seal

The entire sermon of the second seal is 2 hours and 18 minutes consisting of 360 paragraphs. Branham read the second seal in Revelation 6:3-4 at paragraph 24, but does not provide the actual meaning until paragraphs 261-263, 269-276, 280-284, and 286-289. What did he say in those paragraphs? He said the rider is the same antichrist, who incarnate into the popes, unite church and state, and then kills 68 million people. The remainder of the sermon are repetitions and fill-ins. As studied, when Branham's sermon is compared with past writers, he brought no new revelation pertaining to this seal.

Third Seal

The entire sermon of the third seal is 2 hours and 12 minutes consisting of 351 paragraphs. He read the third seal in Revelation 6:5-6 at paragraph 22, but does not provide the actual meaning until paragraphs 294-306.

What did Branham say in those paragraphs? He said the rider is the same antichrist, who through the popes and Roman Catholic Church rode into the Dark Age and became wealthy by charging people for religious services rendered, and that the oil and wine represented the true elect who were preserved by the revelation of God's word. The remainder of the sermon are repetitions and fill-ins. As studied, when this sermon is compared with past writers, Branham brought no new revelation pertaining to this seal.

Fourth Seal

The entire sermon of the fourth seal is 2 hours and 25 minutes consisting of 394 paragraphs. Branham read the fourth seal in Revelation 6: 7-8 at paragraph 18, but does not provide the actual meaning until paragraphs 115, 152, 164-183, 194-197, 215, 221-237, and 339. What did he say in those sections? He said the rider is the same antichrist, who through the popes and Roman Catholic Church was called death because they killed 68 million people. This rider becomes the incarnate Devil in the end time, who will rule the world based upon Revelation 13, and spiritually kill people with eternal death (separation) through the

Roman Catholic Church, Protestant organized religion, and confederacy of churches. The remainder of the sermon are repetitions and fill-ins. As studied, when Branham's sermon is compared with other past writers, he brought no new revelation pertaining to this seal.

Also, as we shall thoroughly examine in Chapter Four, the very things that Branham taught in the fourth seal regarding the pope, Roman Catholic Church, organized religion, and the confederacy of churches were written extensively in Russell's book: "The Finished Mystery" (1918) and Smith's book "Daniel and the Revelation" (1897). Remember, Russell entitled the sixth chapter of Revelation as "Six Seals and The Papacy."

Fifth Seal

The entire sermon of the fifth seal is 2 hours and 42 minutes consisting of 471 paragraphs. Branham read the fifth seal in Revelation 6:9-11 at paragraph 39, but does not provide the actual meaning until paragraphs 217-276 and 286. What did he say? He said the souls under the altar were not Christian martyrs; they were Jews (who never accepted Jesus Christ) killed during the Holocaust. The future Jews who will be killed in like manner are the 144,000 Israelites in Revelation 7. The remainder of the sermon are repetitions and fill-ins. As studied, when Branham's sermon is compared with Larkin's book, he brought no new revelation regarding this seal. However, the Jews being killed by Hitler and Stalin during the Holocaust appeared to be his personal teaching.

As stated, Branham's revelation about this seal is contrary to the teaching of Paul that Jews can be saved without accepting Jesus Christ according to the gospel (Rom. 1:16-17; 3:28-30; 9:30-33; 10:1-5,16; 11:1-32; 1 Cor. 1:22-24). Also, in Acts 4:12, Peter says to Jews: "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*" Remember, Jesus told Nicodemus—a prominent religious Jew—that everyone must be born again to enter the kingdom of God. Jesus also said no one can approach God except through him (John 3:1-7; 14:6).

Sixth Seal

The entire sermon of the sixth seal is 2 hours and 40 minutes consisting of 474 paragraphs. Branham read the sixth seal in Revelation 6:12-17 at paragraph 112-113 and compares the six seals of Revelation 6:1-17 with Matthew 24:4-29 in paragraphs 154-185. He then provides the meaning of the sixth seal in paragraphs 272-317. The remainder of the sermon are repetitions and fill-ins. What did he say in those paragraphs? He said six seals were mentioned by Christ in Matthew 24:4-29. He then said the sixth seal is the great tribulation period and the natural disasters of this seal are caused by the two prophets of Revelation 11. He identified these two prophets as Moses and Elijah by means of the miracles they performed. He said God will use these prophets to call out the 144,000 Israelites during great tribulation period of the sixth seal.

Nonetheless, as studied, when Branham's sermon is compared with Clarence Larkin's book, the facts shows

that he brought no new revelation pertaining to this seal.

Seventh Seal

The entire sermon of the seventh seal is 2 hours and 33 minutes in length consisting of 415 paragraphs. In the seventh seal, Branham read the scripture at paragraph 52 and tried to provide the actual meaning at paragraphs 264 - 320, 392, and 399. What did he say in those paragraphs?

Branham basically says nothing of this seal other than attempting to mystify its interpretations with (1) a vision he had in December of 1962 about seven angels (originally 5 angels, discussed later), (2) a vision of the final phase of his prophetic ministry called the "Third Pull," (3) his experience in the mountain concerning a vision of a sword placed in his hand, and (4) a vision of trying to put a large shoe string in a baby's shoe, which he interprets as not trying to teach Pentecostals babies supernatural things.

By telling these visions, Branham is attempting to connect the seventh seal with a secret mission of his end time ministry called the "third Pull" or "tent vision." The third pull was supposed to be an unprecedented display of creative power that would produce rapturing faith in his followers. During this time seven thunders of Revelation 10:4 would reveal the hour of Christ coming. However, those visions were left unfulfilled when he suddenly died on December 24, 1965. Over 54 years since Branham's death, some followers are still looking for him to rise from the dead to fulfill those visions (discussed later).

Near the end of the sermon on the seventh seal, Branham briefly alludes to this seal as the second coming of Christ, as did Uriah Smith (pages 59-60). Branham's followers later interpreted this secret coming as him fulfilling Luke 17:30 to bring forth the "shout" of Christ's return mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 4:16 (discussed later).

As stated, some of Branham's followers believed he was the literal return of Jesus Christ in violation of Matthew 24:24-28 (studied on pages 26-28). Everything else in his sermon on the seventh seal are just repetitions and fill-ins. Then, in paragraph 301 he felt check to say no more. But, in paragraph 324, Branham finally admits that he did not know the secret of this seal, saying:

Now, I—I'd better stop right here. See? I just—I just feel checked not to say no more about it. See? So just remember, **the Seventh Seal**, the **reason it was not opened** (See?), the reason It **did not reveal it**, no one **should know about it**. _The Seventh Seal 03-24-63E, Par. 301

Now, **what this great secret** is that lays beneath this Seal, **I do not know. I don't know it. I couldn't make it out. I couldn't tell it**, just what it, and, just what it said. The Seventh Seal 03-24-63E, Par. 324

So then, it took Branham 2 hours and 33 minutes in sermon time to tell us what we already knew, which is nothing—other than what Revelation 8:1 says. But, if Branham did not know the secret of the seventh seal, other than what others had written, then how could he have claimed to open the seven-sealed book?

God's great mystery of how, it's a secret. He kept it a secret. Nobody knewed nothing about it. Even the Angels didn't

understand it. See, **He didn't reveal it**. That's the reason, under our seventh mystery, when **the seventh seal** was opened, **there was silence**. Jesus, when He was on earth, they wanted to know **when He would come**. He said, "It's not... Even the Son Himself don't know when it's going to happen." See, God has this all to Himself. It's a secret. And that's the reason there was silence in Heaven for a space of a half hour, and **seven thunders utter their voices**, and John was even forbidden to write it, see, **the Coming of the Lord**. **That's one thing He hasn't revealed yet**, of how He will come, and **when He will come**. It's a good thing that He doesn't. _Christ Is The Mystery Of God Revealed 07-28-63

Branham said the seventh seal was not opened. But, during the same time, he claimed all seals were opened.

And I was brought East, **to open the Seven Seals for God**. _Standing In The Gap 06-23-63M

The Seventh Seal hasn't opened yet, you know. That's His Coming. _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64

The **seventh angel** was **to open the six-seal mystery**. _Proving His Word 08-16-64

Also, as we shall later study, the seventh seal shown in Revelation 8:1 is not presently opened because scriptures show it taking place: (1) after the sixth seal of natural disasters struck the earth in the sixth chapter, and (2) after the great tribulation period in the 7th chapter had begun.

Again, when the seventh seal is opened, verse 2 shows seven angels unleashing unprecedented calamities on the earth during that time. Branham never read or spoke of verse 2 during his sermon, which is connected to verse 1.

So then, none of the above events have happened. They are futuristic. Therefore, Branham was wrong when he announced that the seven seals were opened. Also, the following quote at the end of Branham's sermon on the seventh seal verify the fact that his vision was wrong. Why? Because it did not happen "SOON," as he stated.

And if there's anybody that despises wrong and people saying something that's actually lies and not the truth, I hate that; but I—I do love the solid truth. No matter how much it interrupts this way or that way, if it's Truth, **God will finally show that it's Truth. And if He doesn't do that, one of these days SOON, then my vision wasn't right**. Now, you see where I just laid myself. _The Seventh Seal 03-24-63E

As shown, Branham implied that his vision is wrong if the seventh seal did not occur "soon," which speaks of the literal return of Jesus Christ. Over 54 years later, the vision remains unfulfilled. In spite of the growing evidence of facts proving Branham's plagiarisms and errors, the motto among his faithful followers is "Only Believe." Many have refused to accept the clear evidences, not knowing that faith must rest upon solid facts from God's word (Rom. 10:17) rather than unproven rhetoric and emotions.

Tell me, after considering the research pertaining to William Branham's plagiarism of the seven seals: "If you are a follower, are you still willing to entrust your soul and eternal destiny to his alleged claims as being Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6, the Son of man of Luke 17:30, and the seventh angel of Revelation 3:14 and 10:7?"

As we shall later study, Charles Taze Russell believed he was the seventh angel messenger and his followers died believing his lies. Why not entrust your soul to Jesus Christ the Savior according to the true biblical gospel (Rom. 1:16-17; 1 Cor. 1:17 -18). He sacrificially died for your sins on the cross and rose from the dead for your justification (Romans 4:24 -25; 1 Cor, 15:1 -4,11). After accepting this truth, then obey Romans 10:8-13 (discussed later).

Conclusion: Are Branham's Seals Claims Fraudulent?

So then, did seven angels of God reveal to Branham the mysteries of the seven seals? It is obvious from our study that he used information from books he read. Considering the evidences, we can only conclude that Branham's claims of revealing the hidden mysteries of the seven seals are fraudulent. That is, he made claims proven to be untrue because he brought no new revelation about this subject.

Instead, Branham repeated other authors mainly from books that are no longer widely circulated or still in print. However, the internet has made these books available, thereby exposing Branham's claims as false.

Thus, whether the cloud that appeared in Arizona was the aftermath of a destroyed missile or a supernatural occurrence is irrelevant to our discussion. Especially when considering that Matthew 24:23-28 forewarns Christians of false Christs and false prophets performing great signs and wonders. The truth of the matter is that Branham received no new revelation to justify the presence of literal angels of God commissioning him in Arizona to reveal the seven seals in Jeffersonville, Indiana. He simply taught what well-known biblical teachers of the past said in their books.

Therefore, knowingly or unknowingly, willingly or unwillingly, Branham's entire claims of opening the seven sealed book in God's right hand in Revelation 5:1 is a major deception. How could he open this book when verses 3 and 4 says *no man* could do so? As stated, how could Branham claim to open the seventh seal in Revelation 8:1 when the disasters of the sixth seal in chapter 6 and the great tribulation period of chapter 7 have not yet begun?

Furthermore, how could the seventh seal be opened when the catastrophes caused by the trumpets of seven angels has not yet occurred? According to Revelation 8:1 -6, the opening of the seventh seal unleash the blowing of these trumpets that will bring unprecedented destruction to the earth (discussed later). At first, Branham taught that these seven seals had nothing to do with the church, but pertained to the Jews. Later, those views were changed.

These Seven Seals, Seven Plagues, Seven Woes, Seven Trumpets has not one thing to do. The Gentile Church will be in glory at that time. **Don't have nothing to do with us, the Gentile Church; it only deals with Israel:** "Daniel, thy people and Jerusalem..." _Gabriel's Instructions To Daniel 07-30-61

Now, we're getting to a place where we can hit the —the—**go into the Seven Seals**, Seven Vials, Seven Trumpets, and all that it pictured together, **all dealing with the Jews** and God's judgment to the people upon the earth, and the remnant... _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61

Now, **the seventh angel's Message is to open the mystery of the Seals, calling the eleventh-hour Gentile workers** to receive the same pay that the first hour workers got. See? _Recognizing Your Day And Its Message 07-26-64M

Branham's revised view about his opening of the seven seals to call Gentile workers conflicts with his teachings on the rapture. How? Likely borrowed from Dr. Larkin (see Page 72), Branham said the Gentile church is raptured in the 4th chapter of Revelation at the end of the seven church ages shown in chapters two and three. The church does not appear again until the 19th chapter with Christ.

But the reason that He reveals, that I—as I understand, that it is because **the mystery of the Book of Redemption**, as far as the antichrist being revealed... And at the same time **the Church is gone**, and **these things don't even happen in the church age at all**. That's right. They're —they're away from the church age. **The Church absolutely is raptured at this time**. **The Church goes up in the 4th chapter of Revelation**, and **does not return until** it comes back with its King in the **19th chapter**. But these Seals here are revealing what has been, what is, and what will be. See? And now, what was to be for the church age was revealed by these Seals, and now, watch what takes it. _The Fifth Seal 03-22-63

As shown, during Branham's sermon on the fifth seal he said the church is raptured in the fourth chapter and does not appear again in the book of Revelation until the nineteenth chapter. Yet, during Branham's sermons on the seven seals, he claimed to be the seventh angel messenger of Revelation 10:7 who opens to the church the seven seals shown in the sixth to the eighth chapters, which definitely involves the great tribulation period in chapter seven.

Now, we're into the age of the Eagle, **the revelation to be revealed, the whole thing**. Now, compare this with Revelations the 10th chapter, verse 1 to 7, and we'll see here in this Revelations—the Revelations here, 10:1-7, **that in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel's message was to finish up all the mysteries of God**. _The Seventh Seal 03-24-63E

And I was brought East, **to open the Seven Seals for God**. _Standing In The Gap 06-23-63M

Notice now, exactly, the continuity of the Scripture, exactly the same. Under the Seventh Trumpet, is to Israel the same as **the Seventh Seal was to the Church**. _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M

So then, how could Branham have been the seventh angel in the 10th chapter, who opens the seven seals in the 6th thru 8th chapters to a church raptured in the 4th chapter and does not reappear on the earth until the 19th chapter? As you can see, Branham was mixed up in his teachings regarding these subjects, as this study shall further prove by his quotes and scriptures. Also, as we shall study, the opening of the seven seals has nothing to do with teaching hypothetical lessons about the subject, which Branham and others did. But rather, the opening of the seals pertains to putting those seven events literally into motion, which no human could do except Jesus Christ—the one who redeemed us and the book by his shed blood (Rev. 5:1-10).

Chapter Three

The Seven Church Ages: Did William Branham Plagiarize Several Authors?

When considering all the hidden mysteries supposedly revealed by William Branham, the seven seals are deemed by his followers as being the pinnacle of his revelations that sets him apart from every ministry throughout history. They truly believe he did what the Old Testament prophets, the New Testament apostles, church reformers, or any ministry throughout history never achieved. He opened the seven sealed book in God's right hand as the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7, even though the Bible says no man in heaven, earth, or under the earth was worthy to open the book nor to look thereon (Rev. 5:1-4, discussed later).

Branham so desperately wanted to be the alleged seventh angel who reveals all the mysteries of God in the last days that he even claimed to reveal the Apostolic Oneness' doctrine of the Godhead and water baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. But, as we shall later prove, he was only 5 (or seven) years old in 1914 when these doctrines were widely introduced in this modern era.

Nonetheless, as proven in the prior chapter, William Branham virtually brought no new revelation pertaining to the alleged hidden mysteries of the seven seals. Rather, he was heavily influenced by various writers. Nearly all of the information used during those sermons came from well known books and commentaries of the past. Branham never credited any of those authors as being the source of his information. Rather, he made followers believe they were personal revelations from seven angels.

During Branham's sermons on the seals, the borrowed information from other ministers were hidden amongst various topics, testimonies, and personal stories. He would introduce the sermon's subject and then veer off to other issues before returning to the initial topic. Then, he would follow the plagiarized information and veer off again before returning. When using Larkin's book during the first and sixth seals, we saw glimpses of this procedure. But, it was not so obvious because Branham used multiple books during his sermons on the seven seals.

However, as we shall study in the next chapter, this pattern was very noticeable during Branham's sermon on the seventy weeks of Daniel. It was fairly easy to track his plagiarism on that subject because of this obvious routine. Just read Clarence Larkin's book and follow the plagiarized information in Branham's sermon. Then, skip over the paragraphs where he veers off the subject until resuming to use the plagiarized information. He would pick up the subject right from the author's outline shown in the book.

As stated, Branham hid obvious suspicion of plagiarism

from followers who had read the books used as his secret source of information. How? By saying those authors were probing at the mysteries; or that he came to tie up all the loose ends of their teachings about these subjects.

Such comments made by Branham were excuses to utilize these writers' books without acknowledging their contributions. Nonetheless, Branham knew that he was using their information without giving them credit. Now, after 54 years, many present and former followers are discovering these once hidden facts.

In this chapter, the above patterns are very obvious as we further uncover William Branham's plagiarisms by examining his sermons and book on the seven church ages. Branham's teachings on this subject are considered by followers as being his greatest revelations after the seven seals. He preached these sermons between December 5th and 11th of 1960. The book was published in 1965.

Due to various conflicted teachings between Branham's earlier sermons and his 1965 published book entitled "An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages," some followers are trying to blame Lee Vayle for any inconsistency associated with the book by insinuating his authorship.

But, these same hypocritical followers acclaim Branham as their prophet, and his recorded sermons as the end time message and their absolute. Yet, they knowingly contradict and deny their prophet's very words where he repeatedly confirmed on audio tapes that he authored the book.

In the past, rather, **we have studied** The Seven Seals, **The Seven Churches. Brother Vayle** and those are working upon those now, faithfully, **to get them in book form**. _The Future Home Of The Heavenly Bridegroom And The Earthly Bride 08-02-64

Here's Brother **Lee Vayle writing, putting every word that I say down**, trying to **make the book**. O God, help Brother Vayle and Sister Vayle. _Questions And Answers #2 08-24-64

Now, does anyone in here know Doctor **Lee Vayle**? I don't think... maybe not. He was a Baptist preacher, Doctor of Divinity, and he has got his degrees. He was a high school teacher, to begin with, and he is a very fine, scholarly man. And **my tapes of The Seven Church Ages, I sent them to him, to grammarize them**. Because, my old Kentucky "hit, hain't, and tote, and carry, and fetch," that don't go good for people who reads the books, so he was going to grammarize it for me. And **then, after he got through, sent it back a couple times, for more statements**. Which, **the book is going to press now, after about three or four years**. _Doors In Door 02-06-65

And **Brother Vayle** here is no stranger to us. He's a very precious brother, been with me in many meetings, him and his wife. And he is also now the **writer of these sermons** and things that **goes into book form**. _Ashamed 07-11-65

Doctor **Lee Vayle** setting here. He is **grammarizing** this book of **the Seven Church Ages** . _The Anointed Ones At The End Time 07-25-65

Brother Vayle is our brother here, a writer of the books. And he's **getting the book ready now, The Seven Church Ages** , and working with The Seven Seals. And **we'll soon hope to have them** out pretty soon. All right. Brother Lee Vayle. _Christ Is Revealed In His Own Word 08-22-65M

You'll notice it **in the book**, so to save your confusion. You'll find it that way. Because, I think, **Brother Vayle**, who **put the right grammar to it** , reminded me of it today. I said, "That's right." _Works Is Faith Expressed 11-26-65

According to Branham, Lee Vayle initially assisted in transcribing and adding the proper grammar to his 1960 sermons and putting them into book form. Later, Vayle requested for more information to put in the book only writing what Branham dictated. Vayle began working on the book between 1961-1962. Thus, Branham is the author of the 1965 published book on the seven church ages that bears his name on the front cover, not Lee Vayle.

Nonetheless. during the same time , Lee Vayle wrote a book about Branham that bears his name as the author, entitled: "Twentieth Century Prophet" or "The Messenger to the Laodicean Age." [104] Texts transcribed from an audio tape from Branham showed him assisting Vayle in the manuscript of the "Twentieth Century Prophet." [105]. During a sermon in 1965, Branham acknowledged this book as belonging to Vayle.

And then, in that, I think our precious brother must have picked up a little extra inspiration, somehow, and he said **he was going to write a couple of books of his own** , off of them, like. And **so he wrote one** called, I believe, **The Twentieth-Century Prophet**, and another one, Laodicean Church, I believe, or something like that. _A Man Running From The Presence Of The Lord 02-17-65

Nevertheless, as the following study shall clearly prove, Branham was not the originator of the teachings that compares the seven churches of Asia in the book of Revelation with seven distinct periods in church history. A few biblical teachers had already written about those subjects before Branham. Among whom, he have admitted on audio tapes to reading and disagreeing with their books.

Among the authors, Branham's plagiarism of Clarence Larkin during his sermons and book on the seven church ages is very obvious. He follows Larkin's outline and plagiarizes him point by point until the end of his sermon. Sometimes using entire sentences nearly verbatim.

Before considering Branham's lessons on the seven church ages, we shall first examine his plagiarism in the introductory sermons taught a day earlier on December 4, 1960. Those sermons are "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" and "Patmos Vision," which covers the first chapter of Revelation. However, this study shall mostly use excerpts

from his 1965 book rather than those two 1960 sermons.

The following quotes of William Branham are taken from his sermons "The Seven Church Ages" (December 5-11, 1960) [106] and his 1965 published book entitled "An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages," which can also be viewed online [107]. Quotes of Clarence Larkin are taken from the "Book of Revelation" (1919). [108] Quotes of Charles Taze Russell are taken from "The Finished Mystery" (1918). [109] Quotes of Uriah Smith are taken from "Daniel and the Revelation" (1897). [110] Quotes of Cyrus Scofield are taken from "Scofield Bible" (1909). [111] Quotes of Henry Hampton Halley are taken from "Halley's Bible Handbook" (1962, original edition 1924). [112]

The books quoted in this study can be viewed online (see endnotes for links). Please remember, the original page numbers are used and not the online page numbers. Even though Branham's quotes are taken from his sermons and book on the seven church ages, additional quotes taken from other sermons will include the titles and dates in the following study.

Patmos Vision

REVELATION 1:9. I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

William Branham vs. Clarence Larkin

What William Branham Said:	What Clarence Larkin Said:
Now the Greek word for revelation is " apocalypse " which means " unveiling ". This unveiling is perfectly described in the example of a sculptor unveiling his work of statuary , exposing it to the onlooker. It is an uncovering, revealing what was previously hidden. <u>Now the uncovering is not only the revelation of the Person of Christ, but it is THE REVELATION OF HIS FUTURE WORKS IN THE ONCOMING SEVEN CHURCH AGES.</u> _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter One - The Revelation Of Jesus The Christ, Page 13	The word " Revelation " in the Greek is "APOCALUPSIS." Hence the title " THE APOCALYPSE ," by which it is often called. It is from the verb "APOCALUPTO," to unveil ; from "APO," away from; and "KALUMMA," a veil. Hence "Apocalupsis" means a taking away of a veil , as when a statue is unveiled , that what is behind the veil may be seen. <u>It is not so much a revelation or unveiling of the Person of Christ,</u> though it discloses His High Priestly and Kingly glory, <u>as it is the unveiling of those events that shall precede and accompany His return to the earth.</u> This is seen from the fact that what is revealed in the Book, was given unto Jesus Christ, by God the Father, to show unto His Servants the "things which must shortly come to pass. Page 1
Editor's Note: Branham begins with using Larkin's definition of the Greek word for Revelation and example of unveiling a statue. In the underline sentences, he is paraphrasing.	
Now all these expressions,	In the Benediction--"Grace be

<p>'Him Which Is', and 'Him Which Was', and 'Is To Come', and 'Faithful Witness', and 'First-born From Among the Dead', and 'Prince of the Kings of the Earth', and 'The Alpha and Omega', and 'The Almighty', are titles and descriptions of the ONE AND THE SAME PERSON, Who is the Lord Jesus Christ, Who washed us from our sins in His own blood. The Spirit of God in John expresses thusly in order to set forth the Supreme Deity of Jesus Christ and to reveal the Godhead as ONE God. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter One - The Revelation Of Jesus The Christ, Page 17</p>	<p>unto you, and peace, from Him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the Seven Spirits which are before His Throne; and from Jesus Christ, who is the Faithful Witness, etc.," we behold the Trinity. Here Jesus is distinguished from--"HIM (the Father) which Is, and which Was, and which Is To Come," but in verse 8, He claims the same Title , which only proves that Jesus was God manifest in the flesh, and that He and the Father are one. Page 6</p>	<p>is going to pour out His Spirit upon the house of Israel. It is the same Spirit that was poured upon the Gentiles in their day. "And they shall look upon Me Whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for his only son, and they shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his first-born. In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadad-rimmon in the valley of Megiddon. And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and the ir wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart..." and each one of the houses apart when He comes in clouds of glory at His Second Coming. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter One - The Revelation Of Jesus The Christ, Page 37</p>	<p>The Prophet Zechariah (Zech. 12:9-14) describes it as a time of great "BITTERNESS" and a day of great mourning in Jerusalem, when families will separate themselves from their neighbors and mourn every family apart. And not only shall the Jews mourn because they rejected Him when He came the first time, but the nations of the earth will WAIL when they realize that He has come back, not as a Saviour, but a Judge to punish them for their iniquities. Page 6</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham is su btly copying Larkin by using the same outline of information. But, instead of using Larkin's reasoning that Jesus is God manifested in the flesh and one with the Father from the Trinitarian's perspective: Branham says the same thing using the Oneness Pentecostal's view of the Godhead. Notice how Branham is following Larkin's outline in the following quotes.</p>		<p>Editor's Note: Like Larkin, Branham quotes Zechariah 12:9-14.</p>	
<p>The word "washed" is actually "loosed"—"Loosed us from our sins in His own blood." _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter One - The Revelation Of Jesus The Christ, Page 34</p> <p>Don't listen to man, listen to the Word. You are loosed by the blood. Now don't get tied down again by traditions and creeds and organizations. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages- Chapter One - The Revelation Of Jesus The Christ, Page 35</p>	<p>John also emphasizes the fact that Jesus LOVED us before He WASHED (Loosed) us from our sins in His own blood, and that He has made us "Kings" and "Priests" unto God, and that we need no human Priest to stand between us and God. Page 6</p>	<p>The visions that John received covered a period of two years, A.D. 95-96. They are the most remarkable of all visions in the Word. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter Two - The Patmos Vision, P. 43</p>	<p>When John wrote the Book of Revelation in A. D. 95 -96 the Christians were undergoing a persecution under the Roman Emperor Domitian. Page 8</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Like Larkin, Branham identified the word washed as loosed. He uses Larkin's approach that we do not need human interventions due to the blood of Jesus.</p>		<p>Now, he didn't speak of the Great Tribulation. <u>That was not the Great Tribulation, and does not come to the Church. The Great Tribulation comes to the Jew</u>, not to the Church. So it wasn't the Tribulation, the Great Tribulation. _The Patmos Vision 12-04-60</p>	<p>The Apostle John addresses the Churches as their brother and companion in TRIBULATION. <u>This does not mean "The Great Tribulation," for that is not for the Church but for Israel</u>, and is still future. Page 8</p>
<p>Editor's Note: In the underlined sentences, Branham is paraphrasing Larkin.</p>		<p>Oh, my, here is a verse that really causes some dissension. Not that it needs to, or ought to, but some just don't see what the Word really says. First of all we find some fine folks that call the Lord's Day, the Sabbath Day, which to them is Saturday. Then there are the others who call the Lord's Day, Sunday, the</p>	<p>He tells us that he was "in the Spirit on the LORD'S DAY." There has been much confusion as to what is meant here by the "Lord's Day." Some hold that the "First Day of the Week" or the Christian Sabbath is meant, others that John meant the "Day of the Lord." Page 8</p> <p>It is hardly likely that John</p>
<p>This is the revelation story of Zechariah 12:9 -14. Zechariah prophesied this about 2500 years ago. It is just about to take place. Listen. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter One - The Revelation Of Jesus The Christ, Page 36</p> <p>At that time it says that God</p>	<p>It is difficult to imagine the grief and remorse that will fill the hearts of those Jews who shall witness the return of the Lord to the Mount of Olives, when they shall see in His hands and feet the "PRINT OF THE NAILS," and He shall be revealed as the One they crucified. Like Thomas they will cry, "MY LORD AND MY GOD." John 20:24 -29.</p>		

<p>first day of the week. But how could it be either of these days, or even the two put together, for John was in the Spirit receiving those visions for a period of two years. Actually what had happened was that <u>John was caught up in the Spirit and transported into the Lord's Day,</u> which is yet to come. The Bible speaks of <u>the Day of the Lord</u> which is to be <u>in the future,</u> and John is now seeing the things of that future day.. <u>An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter Two - The Patmos Vision, Page 45</u></p>	<p>could have been caught up as Paul was into the Third Heaven and seen and heard all that he describes in the Book of Revelation on one Sabbath Day, and as the Book from chapter 5 is a description of the things that are to come to pass in the "DAY OF THE LORD," what better understanding of the "LORD'S DAY" can we have than that <u>John was projected by the Holy Spirit across the centuries into the "DAY OF THE LORD"</u> and had visualized to him the things that <u>shall come to pass</u> in that day. This is the rational solution of the question. P. 9</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham's used Larkin's view of the Lord's day and paraphrased him in the underlined sentences.</p>	
<p><u>When John turned he saw seven golden candlesticks. Actually they were lampstands.</u> And according to verse 20, they are the seven churches: "the seven candlesticks that thou sawest are the seven churches." To represent the churches they could hardly be candles. A <u>candle burns but</u> awhile and then is burned out. It dies. There would be no more to it. But <u>lampstands possess a lasting quality</u> not found in candles. <u>An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter Two - The Patmos Vision, P. 50</u></p>	<p><u>John</u> had his back turned to the speaker, and <u>when he turned around he saw</u> one like unto the SON OF MAN standing in the midst of <u>"Seven Candlesticks."</u> <u>"LAMPSTANDS" is a better translation</u> and is so given in the margin of our Bibles. A <u>candlestick</u> requires a light such as a candle, which is self-consuming, while a <u>"Lampstand" is for the support of a lamp whose wick instead of burning away is fed from the oil within.</u> Page 9</p>
<p>Editor's Note: In the underlined, Branham is paraphrasing and explaining Larkin's use of the word "lampstand."</p>	
<p>There He stands, One like unto <u>the Son of Man.</u> As the jewel is beautified by the mounting of the ring, so He is <u>glorified</u> in the midst of the churches. It is the Lord's Day; for John sees Him standing, <u>not as a priest,</u> but as the <u>coming Judge.</u> The <u>golden girdle is no longer girt around the waist where the priest must wear it</u> as he ministers to God in the Holiest Place, but it is now <u>around His shoulders,</u> for He is not now the priest but <u>the JUDGE.</u> <u>An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Two - The Patmos Vision, Page 53</u></p>	<p>When Jesus was on the earth He was, as <u>the "Son of Man,"</u> a <u>PROPHET,</u> now as the "Son of Man" <u>in Glory</u> He is a Priest, and when He comes again it will be as the "Son of Man" to reign as KING. While Jesus is now a High Priest in heaven, John <u>did not see</u> Him engaged in any <u>High Priestly work.</u> While He was clothed in a High Priestly robe, there was no mitre upon His head, nor Kingly Crown. The description of Him is more than that of a <u>JUDGE.</u> This is confirmatory evidence that John was transported into the "Day of the Lord," and that his vision of Christ is as Christ shall appear after His High Priestly work is</p>

	<p>finished and before He assumes His Kingly Office. This is seen in that <u>He was girded about the breasts, and not around the waist</u> The <u>High Priest was girded around the waist,</u> signifying service, but a girdle or sash <u>over the shoulder</u> and around the breasts is an insignia of the Magisterial Office. PP. 9 & 11</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham used Larkin's reasoning why Jesus is portrayed as a judge and not a high priest. Also, Branham often said Jesus' title as the "Son of Man" meant "a prophet." As shown, he may have gotten this concept from Larkin's book.</p>	
<p>The Sevenfold Glory Of His Person An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter Two - The Patmos Vision, Page 53</p>	<p>SEVENFOLD GLORY OF HIS PERSON page 11</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham used the same title in Larkin's book.</p>	
<p>John first notices and mentions the <u>whiteness of His hair.</u> It was white, and as bright as snow. <u>This was not because of His age.</u> Oh, no. The brilliantly white hair does not signify age but <u>experience, maturity, and wisdom. The Eternal One does not age.</u> What is time to God? Time means little to God, but wisdom means much. It is as when Solomon called to God for wisdom to judge the people of Israel. Now He is coming, the <u>Judge</u> of all the earth. He will be crowned with wisdom. That is what the white and glistening hair signifies. See this in <u>Daniel 7:9-14.</u> <u>An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Two - The Patmos Vision, Page 53</u></p>	<p>1. HIS "HEAD AND HIS HAIR." The Book of Revelation: I. The Things Which Thou Hast Seen: The Vision His "Head" and "Hair" were <u>"WHITE LIKE WOOL,"</u> as "WHITE AS SNOW." Here there is a correspondence to the <u>"Snow White Wig" worn by English judges.</u> This description of Christ reminds us of Daniel's vision of the "ANCIENT OF DAYS," "whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the PURE WOOL." <u>Dan. 7:9. Daniel refers</u> three times to the "Ancient Of Days." Page 11</p>
<p>There it is. <u>Daniel saw Him</u> with that white hair. He was the Judge opening the books and judging out of them. Daniel saw Him coming in clouds. That is exactly what John saw. They both saw Him exactly the same. They saw <u>the Judge</u> with His judgment girdle over His shoulders, standing pure and holy, full of wisdom, fully qualified to judge the world in righteousness. Hallelujah. Even the world understands this symbology, for in ancient times <u>the judge</u></p>	<p>And as the title "Ancient of Days" is applied to the "Son of Man" (Christ) at the time He assumes the <u>Judgeship (Dan. 7:9-10),</u> which is not until after the Rapture of the Church, we have here additional corroborative proof that John's Vision belongs to the "Day of the Lord." The "White Hair" of the Son of Man refers to His ANTIQUITY, to His patriarchal dignity, <u>not that His hair was made white by age, for the Eternal never grows old,</u> but it bespeaks <u>wisdom and experience,</u> and the venerableness of His character. Page 11</p>

<p>would appear and convene court, dressed in a <u>white wig</u> and a long robe that signified his complete authority (head to foot robe) to mete out justice. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter Two - The Patmos Vision, P. 53</p>		<p>enemies. The Patmos Vision 12-04-60</p>	
<p>Editor's Note: Branham not only used Larkin's explanations why Jesus' hair is white, but paraphrases him in the underlined.</p>	<p>Editor's Note: Branham continued to use Larkin's description of Christ, while paraphrasing him in the underlined words.</p>	<p>Editor's Note: Branham continued to use Larkin's description of Christ, while paraphrasing him in the underlined words.</p>	<p>Editor's Note: Branham continued to use Larkin's description of Christ, while paraphrasing him in the underlined words.</p>
<p>2. His Eyes as Fire. Think of it. <u>Those eyes that were once dimmed with tears of sorrow and pity. Those eyes that wept with compassion at the grave of Lazarus.</u> _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter Two - The Patmos Vision, Page 54</p>	<p>2. HIS EYES. "His Eyes were a FLAME OF FIRE." <u>Those eyes that had often been dimmed with human tears, and that wept at the grave of Lazarus,</u> are here pictured as burning with an "OMNISCIENT FLAME." How often when on the earth <u>those eyes read the innermost thoughts of men,</u> and even soldiers quailed before His soul penetrating gaze, so when He sits as the Judge of men <u>all things will be NAKED and OPEN before Him.</u> Page 11</p>	<p>Now, you drifting soul, you poor drifter that's <u>drifting over that great cataract</u> yonder, be careful. It'll be a horrible thing when you know that there's no saving for you then. You can't get saved then, you know your doom lays right before you. When you know within a few minutes you'll hear that <u>Voice speak out, "Depart from Me, you workers of iniquity, into everlasting fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels."</u> _The Patmos Vision 12-04-60</p>	<p>4. HIS VOICE. "His Voice as the SOUND OF MANY WATERS." There is nothing more melodious or musical than the babbling brook, or more thunderous than the <u>rush of the cataract</u> over the falls, and there is nothing more fearful to the criminal than the words of the Judge as he passes sentence; but how terrifying will be the sentence when with a strong <u>voice</u> the Son of Man shall say in the Judgment Day, <u>"Depart from me, ve cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the Devil and his angels."</u> Matt. 25:41. Pages 11-12</p>
<p>Yet behind that weeping and that sorrow there was still God. <u>Those same eyes</u> saw visions. They <u>looked deep within the hearts of men and read their very thoughts</u> and knew all their various ways. Blazing out of mortal eyes was God, Who cried to those who knew Him not for what He was. An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter Two - The Patmos Vision, Page 54</p>		<p>Editor's Note: Branham follows the same thought pattern of Larkin; along with quoting the same scripture and using a very unusual word "cataract," instead of "waterfall."</p>	
<p>There is nothing hidden that shall not be revealed, for <u>all things are naked before Him</u> with Whom we have to do. Think of it, He knows even now what you are thinking. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter Two - The Patmos Vision, Page 55</p>		<p>5. In His Right Hand Were Seven Stars. "And He had in His right hand seven stars." Now of course we already know from verse twenty what the seven stars actually are. "And the mystery of the seven stars are the <u>angels (messengers) of the seven churches.</u>" Now we couldn't make a mistake here on any account, as He interprets it for us. These seven stars are the messengers to the seven successive church ages. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter Two - The Patmos Vision, P. 58</p>	<p>5. HIS HAND. " In His Right Hand SEVEN STARS." We are told in verse 20, that the "Seven Stars" stand for the "ANGELS" of the "Seven Churches." These "<u>Angels</u>" are not angelic beings <u>but the Messengers</u> or Ministers of the churches. What a beautiful and solemn lesson is taught here. It is that the <u>ministers of Christ derive their power and office from Him, and that He holds them in His hand.</u> If they are false to Him, no one can deliver them from His power, and if they are true and loyal, <u>no one can touch or molest, or do them harm.</u> Page 12</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham continued to use Larkin's description of Christ, while nearly quoting him verbatim in the underlined.</p>	<p>Editor's Note: Branham follows the same thought pattern of Larkin; along with quoting the same scripture and using a very unusual word "cataract," instead of "waterfall."</p>	<p>And, remember, the seven stars was in His right hand. Just think, <u>they were drawing their current, their Light from Him.</u> They were <u>completely under His control, in His right hand.</u> Oh! Every true servant of God is the same way. Held in... Who can harm them? <u>Who can harm them?</u> _ 60-1204E - The Patmos Vision</p>	
<p>Those <u>feet of brass</u> will crush the enemy. They <u>will destroy the antichrist, the beast and the image</u>, and all that is vile in His sight. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter Two - The Patmos Vision, p. 56</p>	<p>3. HIS FEET. "His Feet like <u>unto fine BRASS</u>, as if they BURNED IN A FURNACE." In that day those feet that trod the Via Dolorosa of suffering will be like unto INCANDESCENT BRASS, that <u>shall tread and crush Antichrist and Satan</u> when He comes to "Tread the <u>WINE-PRESS</u> of the <u>fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.</u>" Rev. 19:15. Page 11</p>	<p>Editor's Note: As shown, Branham was not the first to identify the seven stars and seven angels as messengers to the church ages. In the underlined sentences, he is paraphrasing.</p>	
<p>... the <u>winepress of the... wrath... of the fierceness... of Almighty God.</u> 198 Someday those brass feet of justice (Glory!), when He comes as judge, He'll tread the antichrist, and all of His</p>		<p>6. The <u>Two-edged Sword.</u> "And out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword." In Hebrews 4:12,</p>	<p>Out of His Mouth went a SHARP TWO-EDGED SWORD." While the "Sword of the Spirit" is the "Word of</p>

<p><u>"For the Word of God is quick, and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Out of His mouth went the sharp two-edged sword which is the WORD OF GOD. Revelation 19:11-16.</u> _ An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter Two - The Patmos Vision, Pages 59-60</p>	<p>God" (Eph. 6:17), and <u>the "Word of God" is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any TWOEDGED SWORD, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow (the body), (Heb. 4:12),</u> that is not the sword meant here. The "Sword of the Spirit" is the Holy Spirit's SWORD, and He alone wields it. The sword meant here is the Sword of the Son of Man (Christ), and it is the "SWORD OF JUSTICE," for the Son of Man, <u>out of whose mouth this sword comes,</u> is the "White Horse Rider" of <u>Rev. 19:11-15, "out of whose mouth goeth a SHARP SWORD,</u> that with it He should smite the nations." Page 12</p>
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Editor's Note: Branham is not only using the same thought pattern of Larkin, he quotes the very same scriptures in the underlined sentences.

<p>7. His Face Like The Sun. <u>"And His countenance was as the sun shineth in its strength." Matthew 17:1-13.</u> _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter Two - The Patmos Vision, Page 61</p> <p>In <u>Revelation 21:23,</u> "And the <u>city had no need of the sun,</u> neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and <u>the Lamb is the light thereof."</u> This is the New Jerusalem. The Lamb will be in that city, and because of His presence, there will be no light needed. The sun won't rise and shine there, for He is the Sun and Light thereof, Himself. The nations that come into it will walk in His light. Aren't you happy that day is upon us? John saw that day coming. Even so, Lord Jesus, come quickly! <u>Malachi 4:1-3.</u> _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter Two - The Patmos Vision, P. 62</p>	<p>7. HIS COUNTENANCE. <u>"His Countenance was as the SUN SHINETH IN HIS STRENGTH."</u> This recalls to our memory His appearance on the Mount of Transfiguration when "His Face did shine AS THE SUN," <u>Matt. 17:2.</u> And we read of the <u>New Jerusalem</u> that the inhabitants thereof <u>have no need of the SUN,</u> for <u>the LAMB is the Light thereof.</u> <u>Rev. 21:23.</u> And when we recall that the Prophet Malachi tells us that when Jesus comes back He will be the <u>SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (Malachi 4:2),</u> we see that John's vision of the Son of Man was as He shall appear at the Second Stage of His Return, the "Revelation." Page 13</p>
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Editor's Note: Branham continued to follow Larkin's thought pattern and used the same scriptures provided in his book.

Comment: Need I say anymore? It is time for William Branham's followers to stop being misled that past biblical teachers were probing. The facts are very clear that he used Clarence Larkin's

book. How could anyone continue to believe he came to reveal hidden mysteries as the alleged seventh angel of Revelation 10:7 and to restore the word of God as Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5? This is a great deception. Thus, knowingly or unknowingly, Branham was a plagiarist. The above information is only the tip of the iceberg. The next section on the seven church ages should erase all doubts that Branham's claims are absolutely untrue.

Seven Churches Ages

Revelation 1:10-12. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

William Branham vs. Clarence Larkin

What William Branham Said:	What Clarence Larkin Said:
<p>And now as we study this; you're comparing it now... <u>The first three books of the Bible of Revelations</u> (which we have pretty thoroughly combed that) is the church ages, the—<u>the Seven Church Ages.</u> Now, there's seven church ages, seven seals, seven trumpets, and vials, and—and unclean spirits like frogs, and all this goes together. My, how I'd like to have a—a great big map and draw it all across the way I see it, you know; just how that each one takes its place. I drew it out on a little sheet of paper, but I — you know... And everything so far hit just exactly right. And with the time and the ages as they have come and gone and everything has blended in just perfectly right. So it may not altogether be right, but it's the best that I know about it anyhow. _The First Seal</p>	<p>As chapter four is a vision of the "Glorified Church" with the Lord, after it has been caught out (1 Thess. 4:13 -17), then the Second Division of the Book-- "The Things Which Are," and which includes chapters two and three, <u>must be a description or prophetic outline of the "Spiritual History" of the Church from the time when John wrote the Book in A. D. 96, down to the taking out of the Church,</u> or else we have no "prophetic view" of the Church during that period, for she disappears from the earth at the close of chapter three, and is not seen again until she reappears with her Lord in chapter nineteen. This we shall find to be the case. See Chart of the Book of Revelation. <u>This interpretation of the "Messages to the Seven Churches" was hidden to the early Church, because time was required for Church History to develop and be written, so a comparison could be made to reveal the correspondence.</u> If it had been clearly revealed that <u>the Seven Churches stood for "Seven Church Periods"</u> that would have to elapse before Christ could come back, the incentive to watch would have been absent. <u>While the character of these Seven Churches is descriptive of the Church during seven periods of her history,</u> we</p>
<p>And now, tonight, we are <u>approaching Seven Church Ages</u> which were <u>seven churches that was in Asia Minor</u> at the time of the writing of the Book. These churches at that time must have <u>had the characteristics of the church ages that was to come,</u> because that... There were more churches than that, the Colossian church and many others at that time, but <u>God picked</u></p>	<p></p>

<p>these churches because of their characteristics. _The Ephesian Church Age 12 -05-60</p>	<p>must not forget that the condition of those churches, as described, were their exact condition in John's day. So we see that at the close of the First Century the leaven of "False Doctrine" was at work in the Churches. The churches are given in the order named, because the peculiar characteristic of that applied to the period of Church History to which it is assigned. It also must not be forgotten, that, that which is a distinctive characteristic of each Church Period, does not disappear with that Period, but continues on down through the next Period, and so on until the end, thus increasing the imperfections of the visible Church, until it ends in an open Apostasy, as shown on the chart--"The Messages to the Seven Churches Compared with Church History." Page 18</p>
<p>Editor's Note: As shown, Branham borrowed Larkin's conc ept of comparing the "characteristics" of the seven churches in Asia with seven distinct periods in church history.</p>	
<p>Ephesus Church Age</p>	
<p>The Ephesian Church Age, from A.D. 53 until A.D. 170. _The Ephesian Church Age 12-05-60</p>	<p>The character of the Church at Ephesus is a fair outline of the Church Period from A. D. 70 to A. D. 170. Page 20</p>
<p>The <u>very name Ephesus means "let go, relax backslidden."</u> Called by God, "The backslidden church." _The Ephesian Church Age 12-05-60</p>	<p>The complaint that Christ makes against this Church is that it "had left its First Love." Its character is seen in <u>its very name, for Ephesus means to "let go," "to relax."</u> It had become a Backslidden Church. Page 20</p>
<p>Editor's Note: As shown in the underlined sentences, Branham nearly quotes Larkin verbatim when using the same definitions for Ephesus . Now we know where he got his inspiration. As further proof of Branham's plagiarism, please notice the similarities or closeness of time periods assigned to each age.</p>	
<p>Now what... Let's break that word down and find out what we got before we go any farther. The word Nicolaitane is kind of a foreign thing to me. I got every Greek lexicon that I—I could find. Nicolaitane come from the word of Nicko, N -i-c-k-o. Wait, I believe I wrote it down here. N -i-c-k-o, Nicko, which means "to conquer or to overthrow." Nico-laitanes, "overthrow</p>	<p>The significance of this warning is seen in the commendation of the Message, vs. 6--"But this thou hast, that thou 'hatest' the deeds of the Nicolaitanes which I also hate." Here Paul's "wolves" are called Nicolaitanes. They were not a sect, but a party in the Church who were trying to establish a "Priestly Order." Probably trying to model the Church after the Old Testament order</p>

<p>or conquer <u>the laity.</u>" What they were trying to do here was trying to take the church where God had pastors, and the Spirit of God moving by gifts in the Church of the living God, and, they were having a doctrine start that they were going to have some priests, and bishops, and popes, and so forth. That, God said, He hated! He hates it yet today. Nico -laitanes, (Nicko, "overcome") or, "overthrow the laity." The laity is "the church." How many knows that laity is the church? _The Ephesian Church Age 12-05-60</p>	<p>of Priests, Levites, and common people. This is seen in the meaning of the word, which is from "Niko" to conquer, to overthrow, and "Laos" the people or laity." The object was to establish a "Holy Order of Men," and place them over the laity, which was foreign to the New Testament plan, and call them not pastors, but--Clergy, Bishops, Archbishops, Cardinals, Popes. Here we have the origin of the dogma of "Apostolic Succession," and the separation of the Clergy from the Laity, a thing that God "hates." The Church at Ephesus was not deceived, but recognized them as. false apostles and liars. Page 20</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham uses Larkin's meaning for Nicolaitane.</p>	
<p>Smyrna Church Age</p>	
<p>The Smyrna Age come in at 170 and goes to 312. _The Smyrnaean Church Age 12 -06-60</p>	<p>This Period extended from A. D. 170 to Constantine A. D. 312. Page 21</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham uses the same date assigned by Larkin.</p>	
<p>A persecuted church, God called them "persecuted." God looked upon their persecutions, and gave grace to bear it. _The Smyrnaean Church Age 12-06-60</p>	<p>A persecuted church. Page 21</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham appears to have gotten the meaning of Smyrna from Larkin, the source of his information.</p>	
<p>The church age of Smyrna, the name of the church was Smyrna. Smyrna, rather, that means "bitterness," myrrh. It's associated with dead, 'cause they were dying. A persecuted church, God called them "persecuted." God looked upon their persecutions, and gave grace to bear it. He looked upon his tribulations, and gave them victory over death. _The Smyrnaean Church Age 12-06-60</p>	<p>Smyrna has for its root meaning "bitterness," and means "Myrrh," an ointment associated with death, and we see in the meaning of the word a prophecy of the persecution and death which was to befall the members of the Smyrna Church. Page 21</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham nearly quotes Larkin verbatim in the underlined words.</p>	
<p>God looked upon their persecutions, and gave grace to bear it. He looked upon his tribulations, and gave them victory over death. Looked upon their poverty, and give them riches in Him. The Church of Smyrna passed</p>	<p>They were told not to "fear" the things that they should be called on to suffer, but to be faithful "unto" death, not "until" death. That is, not until the end of their "natural" life. They were not to "recant" when called upon to face a</p>

through the fiery furnace of tribulations, but, was a sweet-smelling savour unto Him. That's that Remnant now, not the old Smyrnaean church; just the Remnant I'm speaking of. _The Smyrnaean Church Age 12-06-60	Martyr's death, but remain faithful until death relieved them of their suffering. The reward would be a "Crown of Life." This is the Martyr's crown. Page 21
Editor's Note: Branham is following Larkin's thought pattern of Christ's exhortation to the church.	
The great ten days of tribulation means " ten years of the bloodiest persecution. " I don't know whether I can spell this name, or pronounce it, or not. This was the emperor at that time, I believe was the bloodiest one of all of them since Nero in 67, D-i-o-c-l-e-t-i-a-n . During the year of 303 to 312 A.D. _The Smyrnaean Church Age 12-06-60	They were told that the "author" of their suffering would be the Devil, and its duration would be " ten days, " which was doubtless a prophetic reference to the "Ten Great Persecutions" under the Roman Emperors, beginning with Nero, A. D. 64, and ending with Diocletian in A. D. 310 . Seven of these "Great Persecutions" occurred during this "Smyrna Period" of Church History. Or it may refer to the 10 years of the last and fiercest persecution under Diocletian . Page 21
Pergamos Church Age	
It's the third church age, called Pergamos. And the — the date that this church existed was from 312, A.D. 312 to 606. _The Pergamean Church Age 12-07-60	This "Period" extends from the accession of Constantine A. D. 312 to A. D. 606 , when Boniface III was crowned "Universal Bishop." Page 23
Editor's Note: Branham uses the same date assigned by Larkin.	
Now, means wedded, Pergamos means "wedded." Now let's take... He said, "Thou has them among you that has the doctrine of Balaam. " Let's just take that. _The Pergamean Church Age 12-07-60	Now the word " Pergamos " means " Marriage, " and when the Church entered into a union with the State it was guilty of "Spiritual Fornication" or " Balaamism. " Page 22
Editor's Note: Branham gathers the meaning of Pergamos from Larkin, the source of his inspiration.	
Satan's seat built the great... I guess you would call him a prie-... king-priest of the Chaldeans. The hierarchy of <u>Babylon changed his seat when the Persians</u> was pursuing him, and he left Babylon. His name was A -t-a-l-u-s, Attalus, the great king-priest of Babylon. When the Persians came in and taking over Babylon, running out the Chaldeans; Attalus, their king-priest, fled and took his seat at Pergamos. "The Satan's seat	In this Message Pergamos is spoken of as " Satan's Seat. " When Attalus III, the Priest - King of the Chaldean Hierarchy, fled before the conquering Persians to Pergamos , and settled there, Satan shifted his <u>capital from Babylon to Pergamos.</u> Page 22

is where you are dwelling." Get it?_ Pergamean Church Age 12-07-60	
Then <u>changing his technique. First he was a persecutor of the Christians.</u> Oh, how he hated Christianity! And he was a priest-king himself, heathen by nature and course. Then he changed his attitude and <u>consolidated with Constantine.</u> _The Pergamean Church Age 12-07-60	At <u>first he persecuted the followers of Christ</u> , and Antipas was one of the martyrs. But soon he <u>changed his tactics</u> and began to exalt the Church, and through <u>Constantine united</u> the Church and State. Page 22
Now, so Constantine , with this in his mind to strengthen his empire (as Rome always did, to hold the keys to the world), he had to bring his pagan ideas and take the Christian ideas , and some way <u>consolidate them</u> together, to <u>weld</u> this together and make hisself an empire that would be second to none. _The Pergamean Church Age 12-07-60	But soon he changed his tactics and began to exalt the Church, and through Constantine united the Church and State, and offered all kinds of inducements for worldly people to come into the Church. Constantine's motive was more political than religious. He. wished to <u>weld his Christian and Pagan subjects into one people</u> , and so <u>consolidate</u> his Empire. Page 22
Editor's Note: As shown, Branham borrowed Larkin's teaching that Satan changed his strategy from persecuting the church to using Constantine to weld Christianity and paganism together, while consolidating church and state. In the underlined words and sentences, Branham is nearly quoting Larkin verbatim.	
In this Pergamean Age the Lord denounces two doctrines which He hates: 1. The doctrine of Balaam which brought idolatry and sinful excesses to Israel at Baal-Peor, and 2. The doctrine of the Nicolaitanes , which had been but deeds <u>in the Ephesian Age.</u> Combine this denouncement with the fact that He has been emphasizing Pergamos as the seat of Satan, and it is very easy and proper to conclude that somehow the religion of Babylon has become intermingled with Christianity. Now this is not merely an assumption but an historical fact which we will prove by going back into history to about 36 A.D. and coming up to the Nicene Council of 325. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter Five - The Pergamean Church Age	He. wished to weld his Christian and Pagan subjects into one people, and so consolidate his Empire. The result of this union was that two false and pernicious doctrines crept into the Church. The first was the " Doctrine of Balaam, " and the second the " Doctrine of the Nicolaitanes. " The latter we have already considered under the Message to the <u>Church at Ephesus.</u> And the foothold it had secured in the Church was seen in the First Great Council of the Church held at Nicaea, in A. D. 325. The Council was composed of about 1500 delegates, the laymen out-numbering the Bishops 5 to 1. It was a stormy council, full of intrigue and political methods, and from the supremacy of the "Clergy" over the "Laity" it was evident that the "Doctrine of the Nicolaitanes" had secured a strong and permanent foothold.

<p>Editor's Note: Branham's concepts regarding the doctrines of the Nicolaitanes and Balaam, and correlating them with the Nicene Council of 325 AD are the same as Larkin.</p>	
<p>If we are going to understand what the doctrine of Balaam is in the New Testament church we had better go back and see what it was in the Old Testament church and apply it to that third age and then bring it up to the present. The story is found in Numbers Chapters 22 through 25. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter Five - Pergamean Church Age</p>	<p>The "Doctrine of Balaam" is disclosed in the story of Balaam found in the Book of Numbers, chapters 22 to 25 inclusive. Page 22</p>
<p>And that is what Constantine and his successors did at Nicaea and after Nicaea. They invited the people of God to the convention. And when the church sat down to eat, and rose up to play (partaking of church form, ceremonies, and pagan feasts named after Christian rites) she was trapped; she had committed fornication. And God walked out. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Five - The Pergamean Church Age</p> <p>So Balaam got Israel to commit fornication. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages –Chapter Five - The Pergamean Church Age</p>	<p>The "Balaam Method" that Constantine employed was to give to the Bishops of the Church a number of imposing buildings called Basilicas for conversion into churches, for whose decoration he was lavish in the gift of money. He also supplied superb vestments for the clergy, and soon the Bishop found himself clad in costly vestments, seated on a lofty throne in the apse of the Basilica, with a marble altar, adorned with gold and gems, on a lower level in front of him. A sensuous form of worship was introduced, the character of the preaching was changed, and the great "Pagan Festivals" were adopted, with but little alteration, to please the Pagan members of the church, and attract Pagans to the church. Page 23</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Larkin connected the doctrine of Balaam with emperor Constantine. Branham did the same.</p>	
<p>Because the church had gotten rich; it was rich as it could be. And it was what? Powerful. It was over the state; state and church was together. _The Pergamean Church Age 12 - 07-60</p>	<p>But soon he changed his tactics and began to exalt the Church, and through Constantine united the Church and State. Page 22</p>
<p>They controlled the state. And you know what? The word went out that "that was the Millennium," that <u>all the promises to them poor Jews</u>, that, "God had forsaken them" (which He said He could never do it), and tried to bring in the Millennium before the coming of the Lord Jesus. When Jesus comes is when the Millennium sets in. That's the birthplace of post-</p>	<p>It was at this time that "Post-Millennial Views" had their origin. As the Church had become rich and powerful, it was suggested that by the union of Church and State a condition of affairs would develop that would usher in the Millennium without the return of Christ, and since some scriptural support was needed for such a doctrine, <u>it was claimed that the Jews had</u></p>

<p>millennium. And that's the reason the Catholic doesn't teach the coming of Jesus, to this day. "It's all in the church. This is the Millennium. The church owns everything. This is it." See, post-millennium (Oh, my!) without the return of Jesus Christ. _Pergamean Church Age 12-07-60</p>	<p>been cast off "forever" and that all the prophecies of Israel's future glory were intended for the Church. Page 23</p>
<p>Editor's Note: In the underline sentences, Branham is quoting Larkin nearly verbatim regarding the origin of post -millennial views of the Roman Catholic Church, along with the belief that the prophecies pertaining to Israel's future kingdom glory were given to the church because God had forever cast off the Jews.</p>	
<p>Thyatira Church Age</p>	
<p>The fourth church age, Thyatira, great church age known as the Dark Age. This church age starts in at 606 and then ended at 1520. _The Thyatirean Church Age 12-08-60</p>	<p>This Period extended from A. D. 606 to the Reformation A. D. 1520. Page 24</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham uses the same dates assigned by Larkin.</p>	
<p>But now we're going to take the 20th verse, listen to this: Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calls herself a prophetess, to teach and... seduce my servants and commit fornications, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. Now, "woman." What did we find out woman represented last night? The "church." Now, now we find out here that they were called "Nicolaitanes," "doctrine of Balaam," and now it's become to a "Jezebel." _The Thyatirean Church Age 12-08-60</p>	<p>But He had a complaint to make against them that was terrible in its awfulness. He charges them not merely with permitting a bad woman, Jezebel, who called herself a "Prophetess," to remain in the Church, but with permitting her to "teach" her pernicious doctrines, and to "seduce" the servants to "commit fornication," and to "eat things sacrificed to idols." Page 24</p>
<p>All right, this Jezebel. Now she was a daughter of Abraham, that's true, a princess of an idolater. At that time when the royal family, her royal family, was famed by cruel savage loyalty to Baalim. <u>Her father was a priest of the idol of A-s-t-a-r-t-e</u> (I don't know how you pronounce it, I just picked it up in the history). Ahab used his strategy like Constantine. _Thyatirean Church Age 12-08-60</p>	<p>Jezebel, the wife of Ahab, was not by birth a daughter of Abraham, but a princess of idolatrous Tyre, at a time, too, when its royal family was famed for cruel savagery and intense devotion to Baal and Astarte. <u>Her father, Eth-baal, a priest of the latter deity</u>. Page 24</p>
<p>Editor's Note: In the above quote, Branham is alluding to his audience that he learned of Astarte from his study of history. He refuses to give Larkin any credit as being the source of this</p>	

<p>information. In the above quote he misses Larkin's thought regarding Jezebel not being the daughter of Abraham. He probably meant to say the same thing.</p>		<p>up altars and images, and organized the hierarchy that had already been shaping up.</p>	<p>Church a number of imposing buildings called Basilicas for conversion into churches, for whose decoration he was lavish in the gift of money. He also supplied superb vestments for the clergy, and soon the Bishop found himself clad in costly vestments, seated on a lofty throne in the apse of the Basilica, with a marble altar, adorned with gold and gems, on a lower level in front of him. Page 24</p>
<p>Now, we find out that this little Jezebel, when she got over there, she was really going to cut down all of the altars of God and put up her own altars. And she had Israelites bowing before an idol. That's exactly what Constantine did when he formed the Catholic church. He brought paganism over into the—the Christian church, and had Christians bowing to idols. That's exactly the dark age again; dark age of Israel, dark age of—the church; bowing to idols. And Elijah was the star in his day. And caused all Israel to worship Baalim, and so did the Catholic church at Thyatira. Now, I want you to notice another thing striking here, <u>I was getting my history here</u>. Jesus said that she was... called herself a prophetess. "That woman Jezebel, who calls herself (calls herself) a prophetess." Now, you see, the Catholic church don't permit their people to read the Bible because they say that the priest is the only one that can Divinely divine that Word. _The Thyatirean Church Age 12-08-60</p>	<p>There is no question that, whether Jezebel was a real person or not, she typified a "System" and that "System" was the "Papal Church." When the "Papal Church" introduced images and pictures into its churches for the people to bow down to it became idolatrous. And when it set up its claim that the teaching of the Church is superior to the Word of God, it assumed the role of "Prophetess." Page 24</p>	<p>_An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Six - The Thyatirean Church Age</p>	
<p>Editor's Note: Like Larkin, Branham identified Jezebel as the Roman Catholic Church. In the above quote, Branham once again alludes to his audience that he is getting his information from a study of history. He refuses to give Larkin any credit as being the source of this information.</p>		<p>Editor's Note: Like Larkin, Branham particularly mentioned a powerful pope name Boniface III and wrote about Constantine providing the church with buildings. These facts shows he is still copying Larkin's information without acknowledging him.</p>	
<p>So has the Catholic church caused all the daughters to marry into an organization, and the whole thing's sin, like Jezebel to her daughter. All right. And in doing this when the hierarchy was set up, and Pope Boniface—Boniface III taken his seat, and they had a —a god on a throne, they had no more use for a Holy Ghost baptism in the church. That's right. They got their creeds and formal, and go on. _The Thyatirean Church Age 12-08-60</p>	<p>This "Period" extends from the accession of Constantine A. D. 312 to A. D. 606, when Boniface III was crowned "Universal Bishop." Taken from Pergamos church age, Page 23</p>	<p>Just like Jezebel who killed the prophets and priests and destroyed the people of God who would not bow down and worship Baal. And that is exactly what the Catholic Church did. They killed those that would not bow down to the popish rule. Those who wanted the Word of God instead of the words of men were put to death, usually by cruel methods. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Six - The Thyatirean Church Age</p>	<p>A careful study of the "Papal System" from A. D. 606 to the Reformation A. D. 1520, with its institution of the "Sacrifice of the Mass" and other Pagan rites, reveals in it the sway of "Jezebelism." It was also a period of "Jezebelistic Persecution," as seen in the Wars of the Crusades, and the rise of the Inquisition. Page 24</p>
<p>And when Constantine and the church married he gave the church buildings, and set</p>	<p>The "Balaam Method" that Constantine employed was to give to the Bishops of the</p>	<p>Editor's Note: In the above quote, Larkin is describing the persecution of the church by the papal system (popes and the Roman Catholic Church) during the Thyatira age. By doing so, he is revealing Branham's interpretation of the red horse rider of the second seal and the pale horse rider of the fourth seal. Those two seals dealt with persecutions and murders of true Christians during that time. Branham incorporated Larkin's views into his alleged revelations of the seven seals.</p>	
<p>Sardis Church Age</p>			
<p>And that church age began in 1520 and ended in 1750. _The Sardisean Church Age 12 -09-60</p>		<p>The "Sardis Period" extended from A. D. 1520 to about A. D. 1750. Page 25</p>	
<p>Editor's Note: Branham uses the same date assigned by Larkin.</p>			
<p>The very word Sardis, the 1st verse. The word Sardis, in the English terms, means, if you want to look it up, means "the escaped one." The true Sardis was "the escaped one." That's what Sardis means, all right, "the escaped one." Now, see, and "the escaped one." Now we're going to start on the 1st. Very... We're going to call it the age of Reformation and it's a very fitting thing for</p>			<p>The meaning of the word "Sardis" is the "escaping one," or those who "come out" and so it is an excellent type of the Church of the Reformation Period. By the Reformation we mean that period in the history of the Christian Church when Martin Luther and a number of other reformers protested against the false teaching, tyranny and claims of the Papal Church. Page 25</p>

<p>this reformation if we should call it that, because it's... The reformation was the "escaped ones" that come away and escaped out of it. _Sardisean Church Age 12-09-60</p>	
<p>Editor's Note: Branham gathers the meaning of Sardis from Larkin. In the above quote, Larkin identified the Sardis age as the Reformation period. Now, we know where Branham got his inspiration.</p>	
<p>Now, the church age begin about 1520, when the Roman, universal Catholic church had full swing. That lasted until October the thirty-first (If you're all putting it down.) <u>October the thirty-first, 1570 A.D., when Martin Luther nailed his ninety-fifth thesis on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, and from that time the Reformation was on.</u> _The Sardisean Church Age 12-09-60</p>	<p>This Period began about A. D. 1500. The condition of affairs in the realm dominated by the Papal Church became intolerable, and came to a <u>crisis when Martin Luther, on October 31, 1517 A. D., nailed his 95 Theses on the church door at Wittenberg, Germany. From that date the Reformation set in.</u> Page 25</p>
<p>Editor's Note: In the above underlined words, Branham nearly quotes Larkin verbatim in regards to Martin Luther's influence in launching the Reformation age.</p>	
<p>He protested the Catholic church, and the... that began... the little snatch -out come then. All right, the... it was on. But it was more of a—<u>a fight for political power than it was for the real true Church, for the Christian standards.</u> _The Sardisean Church Age 12-09-60</p>	<p>But it was more <u>a struggle for political liberty than a purely Christian or religious movement.</u> Page 25</p>
<p>Editor's Note: In the above underlined sentences, Branham is paraphrasing Larkin.</p>	
<p>They only fought for a political right to come out of the church and make another church. They never reformed, coming out of the Catholic church to bring back the Holy Ghost and power in the church, because they denied It. Huh? It was a political rally. That's where it would certainly fit, "<u>Thou has a name that thou livest, and are dead.</u>" In other words, he just <u>brought out the Protestant denomination,</u> that's all. He brought a daughter out of a church. _The Sardisean Church Age 12-09-60</p>	<p>It had the advantage of encouraging and aiding the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, that had hitherto been a sealed book, the revival of the Doctrine of "Justification by Faith," and a reversion to more simple modes of worship, <u>but the multiplication of sects</u> only led to bitter controversial contentions, that, while they threw much light on the Word of God, interferred greatly with the spiritual state of the Church, until it could truthfully be said, "<u>That she had a name to live and was dead.</u>" Page 25</p>
<p>Editor's Note: During this time, Larkin says there was a multiplication of sects that led to bitter contention, which caused them to be dead even though they claimed to be alive. Branham used the same approach, choosing rather to use the</p>	

<p>words "Protestant denomination" instead of "sects."</p>	
<p>The Lutheran <u>revival</u>, the second thing it done, it brought <u>the doctrine of justification</u> to light. _The Sardisean Church Age 12-09-60</p>	<p>The <u>revival of the Doctrine of "Justification by Faith,"</u> and a reversion to more simple modes of worship.</p>
<p>The Lutherans did that. And another thing, they got <u>the doctrine of "justification by faith."</u> That's what Luther taught. _The Sardisean Church Age 12-09-60</p>	
<p>Editor's Note: As shown, Branham is still following Larkin's thoughts while using the same phrase shown in the underlined.</p>	
<p>Philadelphia Church Age</p>	
<p>And tonight we're on the Philadelphian Church Age; which is John Wesley, the messenger of that day. From <u>1750 to 1906</u> A.D. _The Philadelphian Church Age 12-10-60</p>	<p>The Philadelphia Period covers the time between A. D. <u>1750</u> and A. D. <u>1900.</u> Page 27</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham nearly uses the same date assigned by Larkin to this age.</p>	
<p>It's the age of <u>"brotherly love."</u> _The Philadelphian Church Age 12-10-60</p>	<p>There is no question about the meaning of the word Philadelphia. It means <u>"Brotherly Love,"</u></p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham is still following Larkin.</p>	
<p>Now, now watch the—the time coming now, after the <u>great missionary move</u> that swept across the nations, of brotherly love, to take what they had. Nothing against it, of literature and whatever more, into the different parts, the world. _The Philadelphian Church Age 12-10-60</p>	<p>. It means "Brotherly Love," and well describes the charity and brotherly fellowship that dissipated the bitter personal animosities that characterized the theological disputants of the "Sardis Period," and made possible the evangelistic and <u>missionary labors</u> of the past 150 years. Page 26</p>
<p>We must not forget that the characteristics of all these Periods continue on in the Church down to the end. This is true of the <u>Evangelistic and Missionary movements</u> of the "Philadelphia Period." Page 27</p>	
<p>Editor's Note: Larkin identified the Philadelphia age as a period of missionary movements. Branham said the same. Now, we know where he got his inspiration.</p>	
<p>Now the great missionary age, brotherly love, the age of missions. Let me just name to you some of the great men (and then I just wrote their names down here): <u>John Wesley; George Whitfie... Whitefield,</u> he was about 1739; <u>Charles G. Finney; Dwight Moody;</u></p>	<p>It had a "little strength." It was like a person coming back to life who was still very weak. It was the "dead" Sardis Church "revived," and Revivals have been characteristic of the Philadelphia Period. These Revivals began with <u>George Whitefield</u> in A. D. 1739, followed by <u>John Wesley,</u></p>

<p>William Carey, the great missionary that went to India in 1773; David Livingstone, to South Africa. _The Philadelphian Church Age 12-10-60</p>	<p>Charles G. Finney and D. L. Moody. 2. It had set before it an "open door," that no "man" could shut. Note that this promise was made by Him, who "hath the 'Key of David,' He that 'openeth' and no man shutteth; and 'shutteth' and no man openeth." In 1793 William Carey sailed for India, where he found an "open door," and since then the Lord has opened the door into China, Japan, Korea, India, Africa and the isles of the sea, until there is not a country in the world where the missionary cannot go. Page 26</p>
<p>Editor's Note: When speaking of the great evangelical and missionary movements of the Philadelphia age, Larkin mentions some well known ministers . Branham mentions the same names. His plagiarism is very obvious.</p>	
<p>Laodicea Church Age</p>	
<p>And at 1906 the Laodicean Church Age set in, and I don't know when it'll end, but I predict it'll be done by 1977. I predict, not the Lord told me. _The Ephesian Church Age 12-05-60</p> <p>So I repeat, I sincerely believe and maintain as a private student of the Word, along with Divine inspiration that 1977 ought to terminate the world systems and usher in the millennium. _Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age</p>	<p>The Philadelphia Period covers the time between A. D. 1750 and A. D. 1900. Page 27</p> <p>The character of the Church today is Laodicean, and as the Laodicean Period is to continue until the Church of the "New-Born" is taken out , we cannot hope for any great change until the Lord comes back. Page 29</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Larkin believed the Laodicea age began at 1900 and ends at the rapture of the church. Branham believed nearly the same. However, under <i>divine inspiration</i> , he said all this would take place by 1977. As we well know, Branham's prediction under a false inspiration failed (discussed later).</p>	
<p>But He didn't commend this church. He had a complaint against it, not a commend. _The Laodicean Church Age 12-11-60E</p>	<p>Christ has no "commendation" for this Church, but much to complain of. Page 27</p>
<p>Said, "Drink you a glass of warm milk." Oh, brother! <u>Lukewarm milk, it made me sick,</u> so I just cleaned it all out what was on the inside. Now, God said, "I'd rather you'd be hot, real red hot, or freezing, be one or the other. Don't get lukewarm, 'cause you make Me sick." _The</p>	<p><u>There is nothing more disgusting or nauseating than "tepid" water.</u> So there is nothing more repugnant to Christ than a "tepid" church. He would rather have a church "frozen" or "boiling." Page 27</p>

<p>Laodicean Church Age 12 - 11-60E</p>	
<p>Editor's Note: Branham's is using Larkin's example regarding lukewarm liquid, substituting milk rather than water.</p>	
<p><u>The chilliness of the Anglican church in the days of John Wesley drove him to have meetings elsewhere.</u> because it was cold, chilly. <u>The chilliness of the Methodist church caused William Booth to become a red-hot salvationist.</u> _The Laodicean Age 12-11-60E</p>	<p>It was the "chilly spiritual atmosphere" of the Church of England that drove John Wesley to start those outside meetings which became so noted for their "religious fervor," and it was the same "chilly atmosphere" of the Methodist Church that drove William Booth in turn to become a "Red-hot" Salvationist. Page 27</p>
<p>Editor's Note: In the underlined words , Branham nearly quotes Larkin verbatim about John Wesley and William Booth.</p>	
<p><u>There's not much going on</u> then, as a—as a red-hot revival going on in them, but they had plenty of mechanical machinery in this church, you see, 'cause they was rich and, oh, my, they was getting together and making big meetings and everything. They was having a good time in this church, that's all true, but it's all mechanical machinery. But there's no warmth of the Holy Ghost. _The Laodicean Church Age 12-11-60E</p> <p>I tell you, she's loaded down, societies, and clubs, and beatings, and whatever more, but no warmth of the Holy Spirit. See, you got a big regime, but you haven't got nothing there to warm up. You're warming up to the world but not to God, that's the reason you're lukewarm. _The Laodicean Church Age 12-11-60E</p>	<p>Our churches today are largely in this "lukewarm" condition. There is very little of warm - hearted spirituality. <u>There is much going on</u> in them, but it is largely mechanical and of a social character. Committees, societies, and clubs are multiplied, but there is an absence of "spiritual heat." Revival meetings are held, but instead of waiting on the Lord for power, evangelists and paid singers are hired and soul winning is made a business. The cause of this "lukewarmness" is the same as that of the Church of Laodicea--Self-Deception. Pages 27-28</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham is following Larkin's thought pattern, and examples regarding the lukewarmness of the church . In the above underlined words, he nearly quotes Larkin verbatim.</p>	
<p>Paid soloists! Paid evangelists! Why, it comes to a place that soul-saving is a business. Soul-saving's not a business of the church, it's the power of the Holy Ghost in the church. Soul -saving is not a... you do n't buy it with money. _The Laodicean Church Age 12-11-60E</p>	<p>Revival meetings are held, but instead of waiting on the Lord for power, evangelists and paid singers are hired and soul winning is made a business. The cause of this "lukewarmness" is the same as that of the Church of Laodicea--Self-Deception. Page 28</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham continues to follow Larkin's thought pattern, and examples. In the above underlined words, he nearly quotes Larkin verbatim.</p>	
<p>They thought they were</p>	<p>They thought they were rich,</p>

<p>"rich," this Pentecostal in this last-age churches. They thought... <u>And outwardly they were.</u> Yes, sir. They are rich. Just think of the church, used to be a few years ago, stood out on the corner, cast about from place to place, had a hard time. But now they got some of the biggest buildings there is. Par. 146</p> <p>They <u>have large buildings, stained glass windows, eloquent preachers, paid singers.</u> Par 158</p> <p>See, "Rich, have need of nothing." Paid to do the things that they're doing, <u>card-playing.</u> "Oh," you say, "we got big congregations." Par. 161</p> <p>That's what He said, "You think that, but don't know that you're <u>poor, wretched, miserable, blind, naked.</u> And don't know it!" See? That's it. Par. 181_The Laodicean Church Age 12 - 11-60E,</p>	<p><u>and outwardly they were,</u> but Christ saw the poverty of their heart. There are many such churches in the world today. More so than in any other period in the history of the church. Many of these churches <u>have Cathedral-like buildings, stained glass windows, eloquent preachers, paid singers, large congregations.</u> Some of them have large landed interests and are well endowed, and yet they are poor. Many of the members, if not the majority, are worldly, <u>card playing,</u> dancing, and theatre going Christians. The poor and the saintly are not wanted in such churches because their presence is a rebuke. These churches do not see that they are <u>wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.</u> Page 28</p>	<p>money here, I believe we could convert the world. If some of the rich people in our church, Brother Branham, if we could just get them to dig out, and I believe that we could start a society that would—that would go around and—and convert the world. We could take airplanes and drop literature all over Africa, and things like that. If we just had some money!" Brother, <u>the world won't be converted by money. The world will be converted by the Holy Ghost.</u> _The Laodicean Church Age 12-11-60E</p>	<p>generation. <u>The world is not to be converted by money, but by the Spirit of God.</u> Page 28</p>
<p>Editor's Note: In the underlined sentences, Branham quotes Larkin nearly verbatim. In Paragraphs 147-183 he appears to be reading the exact wording of Larkin in his notes, along with repetitive comments and fill-in stories between the statements.</p>		<p>Editor's Note: In the above quotes, Branham is following Larkin's line of thoughts. In the underlined sentences, he nearly quotes Larkin verbatim.</p>	
<p>Oh, sure, they say, "You know what? We used to be... The little church we used to use is in the back part, this is the big one now !" And I tell you, no burden for souls, but they've got to see that all these things are taken care of. The ladies aid, and all these other things, all has to be taken care of, but no burden for lost souls. Oh, man, what—what this church has got into! They were not burdened for souls, but they were <u>burdened with wealth.</u> That's right. They had the wrong burden. They had a burden for their wealth but not a burden for lost souls. The Scripture said, "They didn't know that they were wretched," (Oh!) "miserable, blind." <u>They think that they could take money and convert the world.</u> "Oh, if we could just get a program on, that we could get a lot of</p>	<p>If we were to visit such churches they would take pride in showing us the building, they would praise the preaching and singing, they would boast of the character of their congregations, the exclusiveness of their membership, and the attractiveness of all their services, but if we suggested a series of meetings for the "deepening of the Spiritual Life," or the "conversion of the unsaved," they would say--"Oh, no, we do not want such meetings, we have need of nothing." The Church at Laodicea was not burdened with debt, but it was <u>burdened with WEALTH.</u> The trouble with the church today is that it thinks that nothing can be done without money, and that if we only <u>had the money the world would be converted</u> in this</p>	<p>I counsel thee to come buy of me gold tried in the fire ,... A different kind of gold, yeah, a gold that's tried in the fiery furnace, that went through the fire of death, that went through Calvary, come out. Lot of this gold you got now is <u>tarnishie,</u> it'll <u>canker,</u> it'll rust. If you can mark down this, James... Saint James 5:1 to 4 . _Laodicean Church Age 12-11-60E</p>	<p>The trouble with the Church of Laodicea was that its "Gold" was not of the right kind, and so it was counseled to buy of the Lord "gold tried in the fire." What kind of gold is that? It is gold that has no taint upon it. Gold that is not <u>cankered,</u> or secured by fraud, or the withholding of a just wage. What a description we have of these Laodicean days in James 5:1-4. Page 28</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham continues to follow Larkin's outline, using the same illustrations and scripture</p>		<p>Editor's Note: Branham continues to follow Larkin's outline, using the same illustrations and scripture</p>	
<p>Also, <u>they were "blind."</u> Now, that's a bad way to be. I don't think these Christians was so blind as they <u>was "nearsighted."</u> I believe they were nearsighted. The only thing they <u>could look at was their big buildings.</u> Only thing they could look at was their big congregation. _The Laodicean Church Age 12 - 11-60E</p>	<p>But the Church of Laodicea was not only poor, though rich, <u>it was blind.</u> Or to put it more accurately-- "Near-Sighted." They <u>could see their worldly prosperity,</u> but were "Short-Sighted" as to heavenly things, so the Lord counseled them to anoint their eyes with "Eye-Salve." Page 28</p>	<p>Eyesalve, open your eyes so we can look way back and see where it come from. You're just looking what the church is today; look back and see where it come from, then keep moving towards God, you'll get away from it. Yes, sir. _The Laodicean Church Age 12-11-60E</p>	<p>But were "Short-Sighted" as to heavenly things, so the Lord counseled them to anoint their eyes with "Eye-Salve." Their merchants dealt in ointments and herbs of a high degree of healing virtue, but they possessed no salve that would restore impaired Spi ritual Vision, only the Unction of the Holy One could do that. P. 28</p>
<p>All right, I noticed another thing, said, "They are naked; naked and don't know it." Sure. Oh, naked</p>	<p>But the Church was not only poor, and blind, it was naked. Their outward garments were doubtless of the finest material</p>	<p>But the Church was not only poor, and blind, it was naked. Their outward garments were doubtless of the finest material</p>	<p>But the Church was not only poor, and blind, it was naked. Their outward garments were doubtless of the finest material</p>

<p>and don't know it. Now, that person is in a miserable fix, if a man is wretched, blind, miserable, naked. Now, if he—if he knows it, he'll help himself; but if he don't know it, the poor fellow is mentally gone. Is that right? Whew! _The Laodicean Church Age 12-11-60E</p>	<p>and the latest fashionable cut, but not such as should adorn the person of a Child of God. So they were counseled to purchase of Christ "White Raiment," in exchange for the "raven black woolen" garments for which the garment makers of Laodicea were famous. Page 28-29</p>	<p>I don't believe they just up and <u>threw Him out, 'cause they hadn't missed Him.</u> They hadn't missed Him, <u>because they were still singing songs to Him.</u> The preacher was still talking about Him, so they hadn't missed Him. _The Laodicean Church Age 12-11-60E</p>	<p>How did Christ come to be outside the Church? He had been within it once or there never would have been a Church. How did He come to leave? <u>It is clear that they had not thrust Him out, for they do not seem to have missed His presence. They continued to worship Him, to sing His praise s,</u> and engage in all manner of Christian service, yet He had withdrawn. Page 29</p>
<p><u>This is one of the most outstanding statements that I have ever seen in the New Testament. I want you to notice. "I stand at the door and knock." This is generally used, a quotation for the appeal for sinners.</u> Is that right? We tell sinners, "Jesus is at the door, knocking." But here He's knocking at the church door for He once walked with them, but they (with their organization and worldliness and coldness) had excluded Him. He's on the outside of the church. Par. 223</p> <p>I stand at the door and knock." After being pushed out or ousted, then trying to get back in, crawls back and knocks at the door. <u>This is the most striking record in the New Testament.</u> I think there's nothing could be any more sadder than this, to see the Saviour of the world took out of His Own church, the Laodicean age. Par. 225_The Laodicean Church Age 12-11-60E</p>	<p><u>Then a most startling revelation was made to the Church of Laodicea, Christ said-- "Behold, I Stand at the Door and Knock." These words are generally quoted as an appeal to sinners,</u> but they are not, they are addressed to a Church, and to a Church in whose midst Christ had once stood, but now found Himself excluded and standing outside knocking for admittance. <u>This is the most startling thing recorded in the New Testament,</u> that it is possible for a church to be outwardly prosperous and yet have no Christ in its midst, and be unconscious of the fact. This is a description of a Christless Church. Page 29</p>	<p>Editor's Note In the above underlined words, Branham is paraphrasing Larkin's statement.</p>	<p><u>What does the messenger to the church... message to the church teach us</u> then, teach—teach us? Not the growth in the Spirit. No, sir. <u>Decline of the Spirit,</u> we have a decline all the time. _The Laodicean Church Age 12-11-60E</p>
<p>Editor's Note In the above underlined sentences, Branham nearly quotes Larkin verbatim.</p>		<p><u>What do these "Messages to the Churches" teach us? They clearly teach the DECLINE OF THE CHURCH.</u> That the professing Church instead of increasing in spiritual and world converting power will become lukewarm, faithless, and CHRISTLESS. Page 29</p>	<p>Editor's Note: In the above underlined words, Branham is paraphrasing Larkin's statement.</p>
<p>Excluded! What was He excluded from? Now, listen, friends. If this isn't striking! Get a picture of it, let it sink down in your heart. Our Saviour, when He was on earth, <u>He was excluded from His Own nation. He was rejected. He was excluded. The world excluded Him and crucified Him. And now, from His Own church,</u> He's excluded. He isn't wanted anywhere, have no need of Him. _The Laodicean Church Age 12 - 11-60E</p>	<p>Oh, the EXCLUDED CHRIST. <u>Excluded from His own nation, for they Rejected Him; excluded from the world, for it Crucified Him; excluded from His Church,</u> for He stands outside its door Knocking for Entrance. Page 29</p>	<p>Paul warned, the Gentiles was a branch. Now, I want some of you, if you will, to turn to Romans, 11th chapter, the 15th to the 27th verse, just so you can mark it down, you all. And then, being it's late, I will quote this to you now just before leaving, because it's a... Now, Romans, if you want to put it down, 11:15 to twenty... to 27. Paul told them, told, talking to the Gentiles there, the Romans, he said, "If God... " Now, listen as we're closing on the church ages! Paul said, "If... God did not spare the original olive tree, but cut it off because of unbelief." _The Laodicean Church Age 12-11-60E</p> <p>What caused Israel to be cut off, the original tree? Because they rejected Paul's Pentecostal Message. And do you believe this is the last church age? The Bible said so! And what say going to happen to them? They're going to be cut off because of rejecting the Pentecostal Message, and then God will return again to the Jews.</p>	<p>In Paul's Parable of the "Two Olive Trees" (Rom. 11:15-27), he shows how the "natural branches" of "Good Olive Tree," (Israel) were broken off because of UNBELIEF, that the "Wild Olive Tree" of the Church might be "grafted in," which in turn, because of UNBELIEF, would be displaced that the "Natural branches" might be "grafted back again," thus showing that the Church does not take the place of Israel permanently, but simply fills up the "Gap" between Israel's "casting off" and "restoration to Divine favor." <u>As the Laodicean Period closes the "Church Age,"</u> the Church disappears at the end of Chapter Three, and Israel comes again into view. Page 29</p>
<p>Editor's Note: In the above underlined words, Branham nearly quotes Larkin verbatim.</p>			

And all of Israel then will be saved , 'cause He'll take them as a nation, not as an individual. _The Laodicean Church Age 12-11-60E	
Editor's Note: As shown above, Branham ends his sermon on this age at the same time and same thoughts as Larkin, which pertains to Israel's restoration after the seven church ages are finished. His source of information and inspiration had ended.	

Comment: After reading the above excerpts, need I say anymore? As you can plainly see, William Branham plagiarized Larkin's information on the seven church ages and passed them on to his followers as personal revelations. When reading the church ages in Larkin's book, Branham followed his outline nearly precisely while hiding his obvious plagiarism with repetitive comments and fill-in stories between the copied statements.

Thus, Branham practically brought no new revelations regarding this subject. His claims of revealing hidden mysteries as the alleged seventh angel of Revelation 10:7 and restoring the word as Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6 are absolutely untrue. Willingly or unwillingly, Branham was a plagiarist who misled people to believe his claims. In the following sections, this study shall continue to compare Branham's quotes with other authors. In doing so, all doubts shall be erased that he was not the first to compare the seven churches in Asia to seven distinct church ages.

William Branham vs. Charles Taze Russell

What William Branham Said:	What Charles Russell Said:
And now as we study this; you're comparing it now... The first three books of the Bible of Revelations (which we have pretty thoroughly combed that) is the church ages, the—the Seven Church Ages . Now, there's seven church ages, seven seals, seven trumpets, and vials, and—and unclean spirits like frogs, and all this goes together. My, how I'd like to have a—a great big map and draw it all across the way I see it, you know; just how that each one takes its place. I drew it out on a little sheet of paper, but I — you know... And everything so far hit just exactly right. And with the time and the ages as they have come and gone and everything has blended in just perfectly right. So it may not altogether be right, but it's the best that I know about it anyhow. _The First Seal And now, tonight, we are approaching Seven Church Ages which were seven churches that was in Asia Minor at the time of the	1:4. John to the seven churches.—Not merely the seven literal congregations mentioned In Verse 11 and elsewhere, hut to the epochs of the Church as a whole, from Apostolic days until now . Page 13 Unto Ephesus .—The Apostolic Age of the Church. And unto Smyrna .—The Church during the period of persecution by Pagan Rome. And unto Pergamos — The church during the period of the rise of Antichrist. And unto Thyatira .—The Church during the Dark Ages, the period of Antichrist's glory, and persecution by Papal Rome. And unto Sardls .— The Church In the dawn of the Reformation. And unto Philadelphia .—The Church In the period of reformation by sects. And unto Laodlcea .— The Church in the time of the Lord's Second Presence. 1:12. Page 17-18 And the seven candlesticks [which thou sawest] are the seven churches —"Alas! The

writing of the Book. These churches at that time must have had the characteristics of the church ages that was to come, because that... There were more churches than that, the Colossian church and many others at that time, but God picked these churches because of their characteristics. _The Ephesian Church Age 12-05-60	Master evidently found but few good works, little glorifying light shining out from His earthly representatives In many of the seven epochs of the history of the Church."—Z. 16-344; Rev. 1:12; Zech. 4:2. Page 22
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Editor's Note: As shown, Mr. Russell provides a brief summary of the seven church ages (epochs), which are practically similar to what Branham taught nearly 42 years later. Mr. Russell dedicated 50 pages to his teachings on the church ages and provides detailed history about the papacy. Also, the reason Mr. Russell entitles the first chapter of Revelation in his book as "**The Message for this Day**," may stem from the idea that he had the revelation of every mystery as the angel of Revelation 10:7, as his book is titled: *The Finished Mystery*.

In this book, Russell does a verse by verse eisegesis of the book of Revelation; of which, hindsight has proven him to be grossly wrong in nearly all of his interpretations. Later, Branham used the same term when referring to his alleged end time message, saying: "*I believe that I have the message of the day*" (Questions And Answers 01 -12-61). He also said: "*But we, as this group of people, we have a Message for this day. We, we believe that God has given us a Message.*" (What House Will You Build Me 11 -21-65)? I question where he got this terminology. Nonetheless, like Russell, hindsight has now proven Branham's teachings to be wrong in so many areas, as this investigative study shall later prove.

Ephesus Church Age	
The Ephesian Church Age, from A.D. 53 until A.D. 170 . _The Ephesian Church Age 12-05-60	Of the church [of] IN Ephesus.—The first age of the Church began at Pentecost In the spring of A.D. 33 , and ended In the spring of A. D. 73 . Page 23
The angel of the church of Ephesus was Saint Paul . _The Ephesian Church Age 12-05-60	2:1. [Unto] BY the angel' — 'The special messenger in the Harvest of the Jewish Age was St Paul . Page 23
The very name, Ephesus, has a strange compound meaning, " Aimed at ", and "Relaxed". The high aspirations of this age that had begun with the fullness of the Spirit, "the depth of God", whereby they were aiming at the high calling of God, began to give way to a less watchful attitude. _ An Exposition of The Seven Church Ages The Ephesian Church Age	The meaning of the word Ephesus Is "permission," which, understood as "approval," harmonises well with the tradition that the meaning Is " desirable ." Anything that has approval is desirable . Page 24
Editor's Note: In the above quotes, Russell and Branham chose the same messenger for the first age, but used different dates and meanings for the word "Ephesus." Nonetheless, the quotes	

further prove that along with Larkin's information, the teachings about the seven churches ages were well known and already written in books either before Branham was born or no more than nine years old.	
Revelation 2:4, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." To understand this you must realize that the Spirit is not speaking to the original saints of Ephesus alone. This message is to the entire age which lasted about 120 years. Its message, then, is to all the generations in that span. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Three - The Ephesian Church Age	2:4. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee. —The Lord's nominal people of the Apostolic Age. Because thou hast left thy first love,—“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel.” —Gal. 1:6. Page 26
Editor's Note: Both Russell and Branham believed the Lord was not only speaking to the church at Ephesus, but to all his people during early Christianity.	
Wait, I believe I wrote it down here. N-i-c-k-o, Nicko, which means "to conquer or to overthrow." Nicolaitanes, "overthrow or conquer the laity." What they were trying to do here was trying to take the church where God had pastors, and the Spirit of God moving by gifts in the Church of the living God, and, they were having a doctrine start that they were going to have some priests, and bishops, and popes, and so forth. That, God said, He hated! _The Ephesian Church Age 12-05-60	2:6. But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes—"Conquerors of the people"—the clergy. —Rev. 2:15. Which I also hate.—When the Lord's people hate the Idea of a class that seeks to be "lords over God's heritage." Page 26
Editor's Note: Like Russell, Branham said the Nicolaitanes pertained to the clergy eventual dominance over the church.	
Smyrna Church Age	
The Smyrna Age come in at 170 and goes to 312. _The Smyrnaean Church Age 12 - 06-60	Applied to the history of the church from A. D. 73 to 326, Is peculiarly appropriate. Page 27
The church age of Smyrna, the name of the church was Smyrna. Smyrna, rather, that means " bitterness, " myrrh. _The Smyrnaean Church Age 12-06-60	Of the church in Smyrna —Greek, myrrh. The word means " bitter. " Page 27
The great ten days of tribulation means " ten years of the bloodiest persecution. " I don't know whether I can spell this name, or pronounce it, or not. This was the emperor at	This era comprised persecutions under Nero, when Christian women were soaked with tar and burned as torches to light the path of his chariot; under Domitian, in the year 95, when 40,000 suffered

that time, I believe was the bloodiest one of all of them since Nero in 67, D-i-o-c-l-e-t-i-a-n. During the year of 303 to 312 A.D. _The Smyrnaean Church Age 12 - 06-60	martyrdom; under Trajan In the year 100; under Antoninus; under Severus in the year 127, when beautiful and amiable young women were stripped naked before insulting mobs and gored to death by wild cattle; under Maximlnus in A. D. 235; under Dedus In 260, when all Christians were driven from their estates; under Valerian in 267; under Aurelian In 274; and under Diocletian in A. D. 303. P. 27 And ye shall have tribulation ten days.—" The ten symbolic days refer to the last and most severe persecution under the Roman Emperors—that of the reign of Diocletian, A. D. #03 - 313." (Z. 16-346.) "This persecution continued from February 28, A. D. 303, to June 13, A. D. 313. Page 28
Editor's Note: Did you see the similarities between Branham and Russell's teachings? Branham brought no new revelation.	
Pergamos Church Age	
It's the third church age, called Pergamos. And the — the date that this church existed was from 312, A.D. 312 to 606. _The Pergamean Church Age 12-07-60	From the witness by Arras in 326 to the witness by the next special messenger of the Church was the long period of 836 years; and during all that time the Papacy was slowly rising, pushing itself higher and higher. "The first ecumenical council of Nice (326), Page 31 The Pergamos ("earthly elevation") era ended in A. D. 1160, as will be shown. P.32
Not denied my faith, even as those in the days wherein... (I guess you pronounce that A-n-t-i-p-s)... Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. I'm going to stop there just a minute. " Satan's seat. " We want to kind of exercise on these things, I want you to catch it. Be sure you do, now. "Satan, seat." Now, God pronounced in Genesis where Satan's seat was, and that was in Babylon. It's always been Satan's seat, and in Revelation it was the same thing. But, if you notice, Babylon changed itself from	I know [thy works, and] where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is.—"During this period, the true Christians were tested and proved by the Introduction and development of Pagan and Papal ideas. The Pagan priests, unwilling to lose their positions of honor and influence among the people, while nominally professing Christianity, brought their former ideas with them into the Christian Church." (Z.'16-346.) The word seat is rendered throne in Lu. 1:82, and refers to Satan's "hellish parody of the Heavenly Kingdom."—Cook. Page 32

<p>pagan to "papal." _ The Pergamean Church Age 12-07-60</p>	<p>And thou boldest fast My name, and hast not denied My faith, [even] in those days wherein Antipas was My faithful martyr—Throughout all the western part of Europe the Bishop of Rome finally came to be called the papa, or pope, or Father of the church. "Whoever denounced this attempt to disobey the direct command of Jesus (Matt. 23:9), received the promised persecution. (2 Tim. 3:12.) This class in Pergamos is commended by our Lord under the symbol of 'Anti -pas, My faithful martyr.' In Greek, anti means a gainst, and papas signifies father." Who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth—We can give but a partial list of the popes who served from the condemnation of Arius to the end of the Pergamos epoch. Page 32</p>	<p>trapped; she had committed fornication. And God walked out. An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Five - Pergamean Church Age</p> <p>Because the church had gotten rich; it was rich as it could be. And it was what? Powerful. It was over the state; state and church was together. _The Pergamean Church Age 12-07-60</p>	
<p>Editor's Note: Like Russell, Branham believed Satan's seat evolved from paganism to the papacy's control of the Roman Empire. Russell's book gives detailed history about the popes.</p>		<p>Editor's Note: Russell believed the doctrine of Balaam seduced the church to unite with the state (the Roman Empire). He also identified the doctrines of Nicolaitanes and Balaam with corrupt money and power loving clergies who conquered the laity and forged the union of church and state that led to spiritual fornication. Branham's alleged revelation about this church age is basically similar to Russell.</p>	
<p>So Balaam got Israel to commit fornication. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages -Chapter Five - The Pergamean Church Age</p> <p>Now watch this doctrine of Balaam most carefully. Notice above all, that it is the deliberate maneuver of a corrupt clergy to bind the people to them, by leading the people deliberately into the sin of unbelief. The Nicolaitane doctrine was the corruption of the clergy as they sought political power amongst themselves. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Ten - A Resume Of The Ages.</p> <p>And that is what Constantine and his successors did at Nicaea and after Nicaea. They invited the people of God to the convention. And when the church sat down to eat, and rose up to play (partaking of church form, ceremonies, and pagan feasts named after Christian rites) she was</p>	<p>Because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam.—Balaam was a mouthpiece of the Lord, but unworthy. He desired to curse God's true people, because of the money there was In It, and finally seduced them by fornication (symbolical of union of church and state). The name Balaam means the same as "Nicolaitanes" (conquerors of the people), and refers to the money-loving, power-loving clergy. We have already noted the efforts to obtain worldly power (spiritual fornication) which characterized the Pergamos epoch. Its history also shows that the clergy of that time were quite as fond of money as ever Balaam was. Page 36</p>	<p>Christianity, which was leaning towards a priesthood, and wanted it in their church, that we have taken in future studies of the church of Ephesus, and so forth, and —and of Smyrna; those Nicolaitanes. Now the Nicolaitanes had become a... not a "deeds" like it was back at the beginning here, but here it's a "doctrine." Here it was a "deeds," they were just trying to get it in; but over here in the third church age it's become a "doctrine," high priests, great fellows. Hadn't called them popes yet, now; but they were called, like, archbishops, great fellows, you know, renown. _The Pergamean Church Age 12-07-60</p>	<p>"The 'doctrine of the Nicolaitanes' (conquerors of the people) seems to be the theory of lordship or headship In the Church. (1 Pet 5:3.) At their councils there was a bitter fight for supremacy. It was settled only by a division of the Church; the Eastern, or Greek Church, accepting the Patriarch of Constantinople for its head; and the Western, or Papal Church, acknowledging the Bishop—Pope or Father—of Rome." (Z/16-346.) "The sins to which Balaam allured Israel were a type of the sins to which the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes now seduce thee."—Cook.</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Russell continued his teachings on how the doctrines of the Nicolaitanes and Balaam was the seduction of the laity to accept the clergy's headship of the church. Branham's alleged revelation is basically similar to Russell.</p>		<p>Editor's Note: Russell continued his teachings on how the doctrines of the Nicolaitanes and Balaam was the seduction of the laity to accept the clergy's headship of the church. Branham's alleged revelation is basically similar to Russell.</p>	
<p>And that is what Constantine and his successors did at Nicaea and after Nicaea. They invited the people of God to the convention. And when the church sat down to eat, and rose up to play (partaking of church form, ceremonies, and pagan feasts named after Christian rites) she was</p>		<p>And that is what Constantine and his successors did at Nicaea and after Nicaea. They invited the people of God to the convention. And when the church sat down to eat, and rose up to play (partaking of church form, ceremonies, and pagan feasts named after Christian rites) she was trapped; she had committed fornication. And God walked out. _Exposition</p>	<p>"From the time the Nicene Creed was promulgated and accepted, A. D. 325, there was practically no more Bible study for over twelve centuries. During all that time Bible study was considered unnecessary, because the Apostolic Bishops had formulated the creeds as proper statements of the Church's faith. To study the Bible would have meant the studying of how to fight against the</p>

Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Five - Pergamean Church Age	Emperor and the bishops." page 30
Editor's Note: Like Russell, Branham believed the Nicene Council was detrimental to the true church.	
They controlled the state. And you know what? The word went out that "that was the Millennium," that all the promises to them poor Jews, that, "God had forsaken them" (wh ich He said He could never do it), and tried to bring in the Millennium before the coming of the Lord Jesus. When Jesus comes is when the Millennium sets in. That's the birthplace of post-millennium. And that's the reason the Catholic doesn't teach the coming of Jesus, to this day. "It's all in the church. This is the Millennium. The church owns everything. This is it." See, post-millennium (Oh, my!) without the return of Jesus Christ. _The Pergamean Church Age 12-07-60	And to commit fornication.— "Papacy perceived its own great power over the peoples of Europe, all of whom at that time ignorantly and blindly acknowledged the Roman Catholic faith. While the kings of Europe were comparatively weak, the suggestion came, 'Now It must be God's time tor setting up the Messianic Kingdom, because now we have the power.' The answer of others was, 'Not so. The Bible teaches that Jesus will set up His own Kingdom at His Second Advent in power and great glory, and that the virgin Church will become His Bride and Joint-heir by the power of the First Resurrection.' The answer to this was, 'So once we thought But we have waited for the coming of Messiah for over 800 years; and now we have the thought that He probably wishes us to set up His Kingdom for Him, and in His name to reign over the kings of the earth.'" Pages 35-36
Editor's Note: Like Russell, Branham believed post-millennial views of the Roman Catholic Church developed during this age. As studied, Larkin stated the same (pages 74-75). This concept said the future 1,000 reign of Jesus Christ's earthly kingdom foretold in Revelation 20:1 -7 had begun during that time period in church history.	
Thyatira Church Age	
The fourth church age, Thyatira, great church age known as the Dark Age. This church age starts in at 606 and then ended at 1520. The Thyatirean Church Age 12-08-60	*And unto Thyatira.—The Church during the Dark Ages, the period of Antichrist's glory, and persecution by Papal Rome. Page 17 It was the period of Papal persecution." (Z/16-347.) From the time of Peter Waldo's witness in 1160 until the next special messenger to the Church appeared, 1378, was a period of 218 years Page 39
Editor's Note: In the above quote, Russell says the Thyatira age was the Dark Age and a period of Papal persecution. By doing so, he is revealing Branham's interpretation of the red horse rider of the second seal and the pale horse rider of the fourth seal, which dealt with persecutions and murders of true Christians during this age. Branham also said the black horse	

rider of the fourth seal represents the Dark Age. Many of Russell's views of the church ages were incorporated into Branham's lessons on the seven seals.	
Now, we find out that this little Jezebel, when she got over there, she was really going to cut down all of the altars of God and put up her own altars. And she had Israelites bowing before an idol. That's exactly what Constantine did when he formed the Catholic church. _The Thyatirean Church Age 12-08-60	2:20. Notwithstanding I have [a few things] MUCH against thee.—The fourth epoch of the church nominal. [Because] THAT thou sufferest that woman Jezebel.— The Roman Catholic Church . Pages 39-40
Editor's Note: As shown, Branham was not the first to identify the Roman Catholic Church to be the Jezebel of the Thyatira age. Russell's 1918 book had already concluded thus.	
Just like Jezebel who killed the prophets and priests and destroyed the people of God who would not bow down and worship Baal. And that is exactly what the Catholic Church did . They killed those that would not bow down to the popish rule. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Six - The Thyatirean Church Age	"The principal persecutor was the apostate Church of Rome, which claims to be a 'queen' and ruler over Spiritual Israel.—Rey. 18:7. Page 40 "Papacy's _ power was exercise through the Roman Empire, to which she was joined. Page 40
Now, I want you to notice another thing striking here, I was getting my history here. Jesus said that she was... called herself a prophetess . "That woman Jezebel, who calls herself (calls herself) a prophetess." Now, you see, the Catholic church don't permit their people to read the Bible because they say that the priest is the only one that can Divinely divine that Word. The Thyatirean Church Age 12-08-60	Which [calleth herself] SAI TH SHE IS a prophetess Claims to be an infallible teacher, but really has no right to teach at all. Page 40
Because the church had gotten rich; it was rich as it could be. And it was what? Powerful. It was over the state; state and church was together. _The Pergamean Church Age 12-07-60	[To teach and to seduce] AND TEACHETH AND SEDUCETH My servants to commit fornication.— Union of church and state .—Rev. 2:14; 2 Kl. 9:22; 1 Cor. 14:34. And to eat thins sacrificed unto Idols*—Reverence the creed-idols set up by the various ecumenical councils.— Rev. 2:14. P. 41
Revelation 2:21; "And I gave her space to repent of her fornications; and she repented not." Do you know that this church was actually more wicked than Ahab? Do you know that he	And she [repented not] WILL NOT REPENT OF THIS FORNICATION.— The Lord foreknew that after 360 years more of living with the kings of earth, and endeavoring to gain dominion

repented for a while and walked softly before God? You can't say that of the Roman Catholic Church . No sir. She has never repented but has stubbornly destroyed any and all who tried to help her repent. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Six - The Thyatirean Church Age	over them, the Roman Catholic Church would be unrepentant The 360 years from Waldo's message In 1160 ended in 1520. Luther's 95 theses were placed on the church doors at Wittenberg October 31, 1517. Page 41
Now it said here that this whore had children . Now what were they? They were daughters, for they were churches just like her . _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Six - The Thyatirean Church Age	2:83. And I will kill her children —"Both Romanists and Protestants now freely own the relationship of mother and daughters, the former continually styling herself the Holy Mother Church, and the latter, with pleased complacency, endorsing the idea."—D28; Isa. 57:3, 4. See p. 111. Pages 42-43
Editor's Note: Did you see the similarities between Russell and Branham Both believed Jezebel the false prophetess to be the Roman Catholic Church who taught false doctrines, killed those who opposed, and did not repent when God gave her the opportunity to do so. Also, Branham was not the first to believe the children of Catholicism are Protestant denominations.	
Sardis & Philadelphia Church Ages	
And that church age began in 1520 and ended in 1750 . _The Sardisean Church Age 12-09-60	The year 1378 marked the turning-point in Wycliffe's career. Page 45
	Of the church In Sardis . Page 45
From 1750 to 1906 A.D. _The Philadelphian Church Age 12-10-60	The exact point of time at which the Philadelphia epoch of the Church began was at midday, October 31, 1617 . Page 48
The very word Sardis, the 1st verse. The word Sardis , in the English terms, means, if you want to look it up, means "the escaped one." The true Sardis was " the escaped one ." That's what Sardis means, all right, "the escaped one." Now, see, and "the escaped one." Now we're going to start on the 1st. Very... We're going to call it the age of Reformation and it's a very fitting thing for this reformation if we should call it that, because it's... The reformation was the "escaped ones" that come away and escaped out of it. _The Sardisean Church Age 12-09-60	Of the church In Sardis — " Sardis is said to mean that which remains , as if it signified something out of which life or virtue had gone. The nominal church during this period had a form of godliness without its power. Page 45
	And heard.—Wycliffe was the author of more than 200 works, chiefly tracts, on the Ransom. And hold fast, and reform.—(Dlaglott) Had Wycliffe's labors been properly appreciated, the Reformation would have been set forward 150 years . Page 46

Now, the church age begin about 1520, when the Roman, universal Catholic church had full swing. That lasted until October the thirty-first (If you're all putting it down.) October the thirty-first, 1570 A.D., when Martin Luther nailed his ninety-fifth thesis on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, and from that time the Reformation was on . _The Sardisean Church Age 12 - 09-60	Of the church In Philadelphia.—"Philadelphia means brotherly love. This stage of the Church's history began at the Reformation ; and there are many still living who possess the characteristics described." (Z.'16-347.) The exact point of time at which the Philadelphia epoch of the Church began was at midday, October 31, 1517. It was at that hour that Luther nailed his ninety-five theses on the church door at Wittenberg. "Nailing up that paper was the beginning of a great division in the Church. P. 48
Now we're going to start on the 1st. Very... We're going to call it the age of Reformation and it's a very fitting thing for this reformation if we should call it that, because it's... The reformation was the "escaped ones" that come away and escaped out of it. _The Sardisean Church Age 12-09-60	And shutteth and no man [openeth] SHALL OPEN.— The door of opportunity for the Roman Catholic Church to repent swung shut the day Luther was excommunicated. (Rev. 2:21.) " Luther was not In the least disconcerted by this sentence, which he had for Borne time expected. He renewed his appeal to the general council; declared the pope to be that Antichrist, or Man of Sin whose appearance is foretold in the New Testament ; declaimed against his tyranny with greater vehemence than ever; and at last having assembled the University he cast the canon law, together with the bull of excommunication, Into the flames."—Buck. Page 49
	He was pastor of a church. He seemed to receive Present Truth with a great deal of joy and spoke it forth with much zeal But he was surrounded with so much exposition at home. Page 50
Editor's Note: In the above quotes, Russell identified Sardis as the pre-reformation age and Philadelphia as the reformation age. Branham followed Larkin's views that the Sardis was the reformation age and Philadelphia was the missionary age. In the underlined, did you notice how close Branham's words concerning Martin Luther matches Russell's? The above quotes further confirm that the seven church ages was a well known teaching when Branham was about nine years old. Remember, Russell's book was a best seller translated into 6 languages.	
Laodicea Church Age	
And at 1906 the Laodicean Church Age set in, and I don't know when it'll end,	The Laodicean period of the Church extends from the fall of 1874 to the spring of 1918 ,

but I predict it'll be done by 1977 . I predict, not the Lord told me. _The Ephesian Church Age 12-05-60	three and one-half years of preparation, and forty years of Harvest. Page 58
So I repeat, I sincerely believe and maintain as a private student of the Word, along with Divine inspiration that 1977 ought to terminate the world systems and usher in the millennium. _ Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age	
Editor's Note: Both men placed time limits for the end of this age and Christ's return, but did not live to see their failures.	
Notice the name, Laodicea , 'the people's rights', or 'justice of the peoples . _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age	Of the church [of the Laodicean*] IN LAODICEA.—It is significant that in the first epoch of the Church there were Nicolaitanes (nikon ton loon), "vanquishers of the people," a clergy class who succeeded In pulling the wool over the eyes of the common people; but that the last age of the Church 1B Laodicean (Hos dike), "justice for the people." P. 58
Editor's Note: Both men had the same definition for Laodicea.	

Comment: In the above quotes, Branham's revelation is nothing new. Russell already had written in his 1918 book what Branham claimed to reveal in his 1960s sermons and a book published about the seven church ages in 1965.

William Branham vs. Uriah Smith

What William Branham Said:	What Uriah Smith Said:
And now as we study this; you're comparing it now... The first three books of the Bible of Revelations (which we have pretty thoroughly combed that) is the church ages, the— the Seven Church Ages . _The First Seal	For these reasons, " the seven churches " are doubtless to be understood to mean not merely the seven literal churches of Asia which went by the names mentioned, but seven periods of the Christian church, from the days of the apostles to the close of probation. (See on chapter 2, verse 1.) Page 357
And now, tonight, we are approaching Seven Church Ages which were seven churches that was in Asia Minor at the time of the writing of the Book. These churches at that time must have had the characteristics of the church ages that was to come, because that... There were more churches than that, the Colossian church and many others at that time, but God picked these churches because of their	

characteristics. _The Ephesian Church Age 12-05-60	
Editor's Note: Smith knew the 7 church ages before Branham.	
Ephesus Church Age	
The Ephesian Church Age, from A.D. 53 until A.D. 170 . _The Ephesian Church Age 12-05-60	The time covered by this first church may be considered the period from the resurrection of Christ to the close of the first century , or to the death of the last of the apostles. Page 379
The very name, Ephesus, has a strange compound meaning, " Aimed at ", and "Relaxed". The high aspirations of this age that had begun with the fullness of the Spirit, "the depth of God", whereby they were aiming at the high calling of God, began to give way to a less watchful attitude. An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter Three - Ephesian Church Age	The definition of the word Ephesus is desirable , which may well be taken as a good descriptive term of the character and condition of the church in its first state. Those early Christians had received the doctrine of Christ in its purity. They enjoyed the benefits and blessings of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Page 375
Revelation 2:4, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." To understand this you must realize that the Spirit is not speaking to the original saints of Ephesus alone . This message is to the entire age which lasted about 120 years. Its message, then, is to all the generations in that span. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Three - The Ephesian Church Age	The Cause of Complaint. - "I have somewhat against thee," says Christ, "because thou hast left thy first love." " Not less worthy of warning than departure from fundamental doctrine or from Scriptural morality, is the leaving of first love. The charge here is not that of falling from grace, nor that love is extinguished, but diminished. No zeal, no suffering, can atone for the want of first love." - Thompson. Page 375
Smyrna Church Age	
The Smyrna Age come in at 170 and goes to 312 . _The Smyrnaean Church Age 12-06-60	According to the foregoing application, the date of the Smyrnan church would be A.D.100-323 . Page 383
The church age of Smyrna, the name of the church was Smyrna. Smyrna , rather, that means " bitterness ," myrrh . _The Smyrnaean Church Age 12-06-60	Smyrna signifies myrrh , fit appellation for the church of God while passing through the fiery furnace of persecution , and proving herself a "sweet-smelling savor" unto him. But we soon reach the days of Constantine, when the church presents a new phase, rendering a far different name and another message applicable to her history. Page 383
A persecuted church , God	It will be noticed that the

<p>called them "persecuted." God looked upon their persecutions, and gave grace to bear it. The Smyrnaean Church Age 12-06-60</p>	<p>Lord introduces himself to each church by mentioning some of his characteristics which show him to be peculiarly fitted to bear to them the testimony which he utters. To the Smyrnanian church, about to pass through the fiery ordeal of persecution, he reveals himself as one who was dead, but is now alive. If they should be called to seal their testimony with their blood, they were to remember that the eyes of One were upon them who had shared the same fate, but had triumphed over death, and was able to bring them up again from a martyr's grave. Page 379</p>	<p>was, and that was in Babylon. It's always been Satan's seat, and in Revelation it was the same thing. But, if you notice, Babylon changed itself from pagan to "papal. _The Pergamean Church Age 12 - 07-60</p>	<p>doctrine of Christ was being corrupted, the mystery of iniquity was working, and Satan was laying the very foundation of that most stupendous system of wickedness, the papacy. Here was the falling away foretold by Paul in 2Thess.2:3. Page 384</p> <p>"It is supposed that Antipas was not an individual, but a class of men who opposed the power of the bishops, or popes, in that day, being a combination of two words, anti, opposed, and papas, father, or pope; and at that time many of them suffered martyrdom in Constantinople and Rome, <u>where the bishops and popes began to exercise the power which soon after brought into subjection the kings of the earth, and trampled on the rights of the church of Christ.</u> Page 384</p>
<p>The great ten days of tribulation means "ten years of the bloodiest persecution." I don't know whether I can spell this name, or pronounce it, or not. This was the emperor at that time, I believe was the bloodiest one of all of them since Nero in 67, D-i-o-c-l-e-t-i-a-n. During the year of 303 to 312 A.D. _The Smyrnaean Church Age 12-06-60</p>	<p>Tribulation Ten Days . - As this message is prophetic, the time mentioned in it must also be regarded as prophetic, and would denote ten years. And it is a noticeable fact that the last and most bloody of the ten persecutions continued just ten years, beginning under Diocletian, from A.D.303 to A.D.313. Page 380</p>	<p>Now watch this doctrine of Balaam most carefully. Notice above all, that it is the deliberate maneuver of a corrupt clergy to bind the people to them, by leading the people deliberately into the sin of unbelief. The Nicolaitane doctrine was the corruption of the clergy as they sought political power amongst themselves. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Ten – A Resume Of The Ages.</p> <p>And that is what Constantine and his successors did at Nicaea and after Nicaea. They invited the people of God to the convention. And when the church sat down to eat, and rose up to play (partaking of church form, ceremonies, and pagan feasts named after Christian rites) she was trapped; she had committed fornication. And God walked out. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Five -Pergamean Church Age</p> <p>Because the church had gotten rich; it was rich as it could be. And it was what? Powerful. It</p>	<p>Hence they were censured for harboring among them those who held the doctrines of Balaam and the Nicolaitanes. Page 385</p> <p>The doctrines complained of in the church of Pergamos were of course similar in their tendency, leading to spiritual idolatry, and an unlawful connection between the church and the world. Out of this spirit was finally produced the union of the civil and ecclesiastical powers, which culminated in the formation of the papacy. Page 385</p>
<p>Editor's Note: In the above quotes, did you notice the similarities between Smith and Branham? Both men identified Smyrna's definition as myrrh, which represented an age of persecutions for Christians that culminated with ten years of oppression by Diocleatian.</p>			
<p>Pergamos Church Age</p>			
<p>It's the third church age, called Pergamos. And the — the date that this church existed was from 312, A.D. 312 to 606. _The Pergamean Church Age 12-07-60</p>	<p>The period covered by this church may be located from the days of Constantine, or perhaps, rather, from his professed <u>conversion to Christianity</u>, A.D.323, to the <u>establishment of the papacy</u>, A.D.538.) Page 383</p>		
<p>Not denied my faith, even as those in the days wherein... (I guess you pronounce that A - n-t-i-p-s)... Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. I'm going to stop there just a minute. 'Satan's seat.' We want to kind of exercise on these things, I want you to catch it. Be sure you do, now. "Satan, seat." Now, God pronounced in Genesis where Satan's seat</p>	<p>Where Satan's Seat Is. - Christ takes cognizance of the unfavorable situation of his people during this period. The language is not probably designed to denote locality. As to place, Satan works wherever Christians dwell. But surely there are times and seasons when he works with special power; and the period covered by the church of Pergamos was one of these. During this period, the</p>		

was over the state; state and church was together . _The Pergamean Church Age 12 - 07-60	
Editor's Note: In the above quotes, did you notice the similarities between Smith and Branham ? Both men had near assigned dates for the age, believed Satan's seat was the papacy, and that the doctrines of Nicolaitanes and Balaam brought spiritual idolatry (pagan feasts) into the church and led to the union of church and state.	
Thyatira Church Age	
The fourth church age, Thyatira, great church age known as the Dark Age. This church age starts in at 606 and then ended at 1520 . The Thyatirean Church Age 12 - 08-60	If the period covered by the Pergamos church has been correctly located, terminating with the setting up of the papacy, A.D. 538, the most natural division to be assigned to the church of Thyatira would be the time of the continuance of this blasphemous power through the 1260 years of its supremacy, or from A.D. 538 to A.D.1798 . Page 387
Now, we find out that this little Jezebel , when she got over there, she was really going to cut down all of the altars of God and put up her own altars. And she had Israelites bowing before an idol. That's exactly what Constantine did when he formed the Catholic church . The Thyatirean Church Age 12-08-60	Thyatira signifies "sweet savor of labor," or "sacrifice of contrition." This would well describe the state of the church 388 of Jesus Christ during the long period of papal triumph and persecution . This age of such dreadful tribulation upon the church as never was (Matt.24:21), improved the religious conditions of believers. Page 387
Just like Jezebel who killed the prophets and priests and destroyed the people of God who would not bow down and worship Baal. And that is exactly what the Catholic Church did . They killed those that would not bow down to the popish rule . _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Six - The Thyatirean Church Age	" "Jezebel is a figurative name , alluding to Ahab's wife, who slew the prophets of the Lord, led her husband into idolatry, and fed the prophets of Baal at her own table. A more striking figure could not have been used to denote the papal abominations . (See 1 Kings, chapters 18, 19, and 21). Page 387
	The judgments here threatened against this woman are in harmony with the threatenings in other parts of this book against the Romish Church under the symbol of a corrupt woman , the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth. (See chapters 17 -19.). Page 388
Editor's Note: In the above quotes, did you notice the	

similarities between Smith and Branham ? Both men had near assigned dates for the age and believed Jezebel represented the Roman Catholic Church under the pope's rulership.
Sardis, Philadelphia, & Laodicea Church Ages
Editor's Note: Because Smith believed 1844 was significant day regarding Investigative Judgment and the return of Christ, he interpreted the last three church ages different from others to fit his prescribed Adventist theology.

Comment: In the above quotes, Branham's revelation is nothing new. Smith already had written in his 1897 book some of the events that Branham claimed to reveal in the 1960s.

William Branham vs. Cyrus Scofield

What William Branham Said:	What Cyrus Scofield Said:
And now as we study this; you're comparing it now... The first three books of the Bible of Revelations (which we have pretty thoroughly combed that) is the church ages, the— the Seven Church Ages . _The First Seal	It can be seen that Ephesus (2:1-7, though a local church in the apostle's day, is typical of the first century church as a whole; Smyrna (2:8-11) characterizes the church under persecution , e.g. from A.D. 100-316; Pergamum (2:12-17, "where Satan' throne is" (2:13; cp. 2:14-15, and notes), is suggestive of the church mixing with the world , e.g. in the Middles Ages; Thyatira (2:18-29) reveals how evil progresses in the church and idolatry is practiced; Sardis (3:1-6) is representative of the church as dead, yet still having a minority of godly men and women, as during the Reformation ; Philadelphia (3:7-13) shows revival and a state of spiritual advance , and Laodicea (3:14-19 is illustrative of the final state of apostasy which the visible church will experience. _Scofield Bible, Footnotes on Page 1353
And now, tonight, we are approaching Seven Church Ages which were seven churches that was in Asia Minor at the time of the writing of the Book. These churches at that time must have had the characteristics of the church ages that was to come, because that... There were more churches than that, the Colossian church and many others at that time, but God picked these churches because of their characteristics. _The Ephesian Church Age 12-05-60	

Comment: Even the Scofield Bible, which Branham admittedly possessed, spoke of seven church ages before he did.

William Branham vs. Halley's Bible Handbook

What William Branham Said:	What Henry Halley Said:
Now as we have already said, this age is called the Dark Ages because it was indeed the darkest period of all history. It was the age of Pope Innocent III who claimed that he was the "vicar of Christ — supreme sovereign over the	Innocent III (1198-1216). most powerful of all the Popes, claimed to be Vicar of Christ, Vicar of God, "Supreme Sovereign over the church and the world. Instituted the Inquisition.

<p><u>church and the world," who instituted the INQUISITION which under his direction shed more blood than at any other time except in the Reformation.</u> _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Six - The Thyatirean Church Age, Page 224</p>	<p>ordered the Massacre of the Albigenses, <u>More Blood was shed under his discretion</u>, and that of his immediate successors, <u>than in any other period of church history, except</u> in the Papacy's effort to crush the <u>reformation.</u> Page 776</p>
<p>Editor's Note: In the underlined sentences, Branham's plagiarizes Halley's Bible Handbook (1962, First Edition, 1924) nearly verbatim without citing the author or his book.</p>	
<p>It was the age of Pornocracy, <u>the rule of harlots.</u> Sagarius III had a mistress and <u>"filled the papal choir with paramours and bastard sons and turned the papal palace into a den of robbers."</u> <u>Anastasius III was smothered to death by Marozia</u> who was mistress to Sagarius. <u>John XI was Marozia's illegitimate son, John XII was the grandson of Marozia and he "violated widows and virgins and was killed while in the act of adultery by the woman's enraged husband."</u> _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Six - The Thyatirean Church Age, Page 224</p>	<p>Sergius III (A.D. 904-911). Said to have had a mistress, Marozia .She, her mother, Theodora, and her sister, <u>"filled the Papal chair with their, and bastard sons, and turned the papal Palace into a den of robbers."</u> Called in history <u>The Rule of Harlots</u> (904-963). <u>Anastasius III</u> (911-913), Lando (913-914), John X (914-928) was brought from Ravenna to Rome and made Pope by Theodora for the more convenient gratification of her passion. <u>He was smothered to death by Marozia</u>, who, then, in succession, raised to the Papacy Leo VI (928-929), and Stephen VII (929-933), and John XI (933-936), <u>her own illegitimate son.</u> Another of her sons appointed the four following Popes, Leo VII (936-955), Stephen VIII (939-942), Martin II (942-946), and Agapetus II (946-955), John XII (955-963) <u>John XII</u> (939-963), <u>a grandson of Marozia</u>, was "guilty of almost every crime, <u>violated virgins and widows</u>, high and low; lived with his father's mistress; made the Papal Palace a brothel; <u>was killed while in the act of adultery by the woman's enraged husband."</u> P. 774</p>
<p>Editor's Note: In the underlined sentences, Branham continued to plagiarize sentences from Halley's Bible Handbook nearly verbatim without citing the author.</p>	
<p>It was the age of <u>Papal Schism for two lines of popes (one ruling from Avignon and the other from Rome) cursed and fought each other.</u> These popes were not only guilty of immoral sex acts (fathering scores of illegitimate children,</p>	<p><u>The Papal Schism</u> 40 years (1377-1417), in which there <u>were two sets of Popes, one in Rome and one in Avignon, each claiming to be "Vicar of Christ," hurling anathemas, and curses at each other.</u></p>

<p>committing sodomy etc.) but were guilty of selling priestly offices to the highest bidders. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Six - The Thyatirean Church Age, Page 224</p>	<p>Page 778</p>
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Comment: As shown, Branham's 1965 book on the church ages used sentences from Halley's book without citing it as a source.

Seven Church Age Messengers

Revelation 1:20. The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

William Branham vs. Charles Taze Russell

What William Branham Said:	What Charles Said Said:
<p>Seven eyes are the <u>seven messengers of the Seven Church Age</u>: seven eyes, seven seers. _The Breach Between The Seven Church Ages And The Seven Seals 03-17-63E</p> <p><u>These seven stars are the messengers to the seven successive church ages.</u> They are not called by name. They are just set forth as seven, one to each age. From the Ephesian Age on down to this Laodicean Age <u>each messenger brought the message of truth to the people</u>, never failing to keep it the Word of God <u>to that particular church age.</u> _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Two - The Patmos Vision</p>	<p>The <u>seven stars</u> which the Lord holds in His right hand seem to <u>represent special light-bearers</u> in the Church — in <u>each of its seven phases, or stages, of development</u> it will be noticed that the <u>messages</u> to the various Churches are <u>sent by these stars, messengers, angels</u>, as though our Lord would have us understand that the <u>appropriate message for each appropriate epoch</u> In the Church's experience, would be sent by the Lord through a <u>particular star, or messenger</u>, whom He would <u>especially commission as His representative</u>. Our Lord Himself is represented by the great light of the sun; and <u>His special messengers</u> in the <u>Church throughout the entire period of the Gospel Age</u> are consistently enough represented as stars."</p>

Editor's Note: As shown, Russell and Branham were engaged in choosing men who they deemed as messengers to the church ages. Who gave them the right to do so? They failed to realize that the angels to the seven churches could have been literal angelic beings since they often brought messages from God to his people (e.g., Dan. 8:16-19; 9:20-24; 10:20-21; 11:1; Zech. 4:1,5; Luke 1:19; 26; 24:4,23; Acts 5:19; 8:26; 10:3; 11:78; 27:22-25; Gal. 3:19; Heb. 2:2, Rev. 1:1; 22:16).

Actually, Revelation 8:2 speaks of seven literal angels before God's Throne: "And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets." Notice, John did not say he *saw seven angels*, but rather "THE seven angels." "The" is a definite article specifically referring to something that has been previously mentioned.

Thus, John is speaking of the seven angels as if he had previously referred to them. In view of this verse, these seven

literal angels, who stood before God's throne, were mentioned in the first, second, and third chapters in the book of Revelation. They have special missions to the New Testament church (Rev. 1:20) and end time events. The Lord Jesus uses them to bring messages to the church (Rev. 2:1,8,12; 18:3,1,7,14). How? Perhaps through a five-fold ministry of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (Eph. 4:11-13).

To the contrary, Russell and Branham each wanted to be a one man ministry as the last angel messengers whereby every church must obey them. But, as we shall later study, the New Testament church does not consist of an Old Testament's style of ministry with just prophets alone. That type of ministry ended with the coming of Christ (Luke 16:16; Heb. 1:1-2).

Nonetheless, Branham conditioned followers to believe the error that God only uses one major prophet at a given time. But, as this study shall later prove by scriptures, this belief is utter error. Major prophets such as Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel existed at the same time. Also, Christ and John the Baptist existed at the same time (John 3:22-35; 4:1). Two end time prophets will exist at the same time (Rev. 11:3,10). Even twelve apostles of Christ existed at the same time (Acts 15:6).

In Revelation 8:2 and 6, these same angels to the church are now given seven trumpets. Later, they are given seven vials of plagues (Rev. 15:1,6-8; 16:1). Actually, one of the seven angels personally instructed the Apostle John regarding several revelatory truths (Rev. 17:1,3,7, 15; 21:9-10,15,17; 22:1,6).

Nonetheless, for sake of this study, let's consider these seven angels from Russell and Branham's perspective that they were human messengers for each church age. By doing so, both men were able to include themselves into this special class and persuade followers to believe they were the last messenger, even though over 54 years and over 103 years have passed since their deaths. Sadly, these men wanted to be in a position where no one could correct them. As a result, Branham (like Russell) went off into great errors because he refused to be accountable and teachable, as we shall later study. But, in considering the messengers they chose, other than themselves, Russell's selection of men seem to fit the profile of those who attested the Roman Catholic Church. Branham chose some men who were actually leaders in the Roman Catholic Church.

Ephesus Church Age

The angel of the church of Ephesus was Saint Paul. _The Ephesian Church Age 12-05-60	2:1. [Unto] BY the angel' — 'The special messenger in the Harvest of the Jewish Age was St Paul . Page 23
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Editor's Note: Russell and Branham chose the same messenger for this age.

Smyrna Church Age

Using our God given rule of choosing the messenger for each age, we unhesitatingly declare that Irenaeus was exalted by the Lord to that position. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Four - The Smyrnaean Church Age	2:8. And [unto] BY the angel.—The mouthpiece of the Lord to the second epoch of the Church was St John himself. He was the one whom Jesus specially loved (John 13:28; 20:2; 21:7, 20); Page 27
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Editor's Note: Branham said he did not choose Polycarp as the messenger to this second age because he was leaning toward organization of the church. Regarding Irenaeus, Branham said:

“With Irenaeus this was not so. He was militant against any form of organization” (An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Four - The Smyrnaean Church Age).

In Branham's attempt to present Irenaeus as the idealistic messenger he envisioned, he incorrectly says this man was against any form of organization. Historically, this statement is incorrect. True history says Irenaeus promoted organization and apostolic succession in an attempt to counteract the influence of the Gnostics. This group claimed they had revealed mysteries of the original Apostles that other churches did not possess (Branham believed the same). Irenaeus wrote in his book:^[113]

1. It is within the power of all, therefore, in every Church, who may wish to see the truth, to contemplate clearly the tradition of the apostles manifested throughout the whole world; and we are in a position to reckon up those who were **by the apostles instituted bishops in the Churches**, and [to demonstrate] **the succession of these men to our own times**; those who neither taught nor knew of anything like what these [heretics] rave about. For if the apostles had known hidden mysteries, which they were in the habit of imparting to "the perfect" apart and privily from the rest, they would have delivered them especially to those to whom they were also committing the Churches themselves. For they were desirous that these men should be very perfect and blameless in all things, whom also they were leaving behind **as their successors, delivering up their own place of government to these men**; which men, if they discharged their functions honestly, would be a great boon [to the Church], but if they should fall away, the direst calamity.
2. Since, however, it would be very tedious, in such a volume as this, to reckon up the successions of all the Churches, we do put to confusion all those who, in whatever manner, whether by an evil self-pleasing, by vainglory, or by blindness and perverse opinion, assemble in unauthorized meetings; [we do this, I say,] by indicating **that tradition derived from the apostles**, of the very great, the very ancient, **and universally known Church founded and organized at Rome by the two most glorious apostles, Peter and Paul**; as also [by pointing out] the faith preached to men, which **comes down to our time by means of the successions of the bishops**. For it is a matter of necessity that **every Church should agree with this Church**, on account of its **pre- eminent authority**,⁽³⁾ that is, the faithful everywhere, inasmuch as the **apostolical tradition** has been preserved continuously by those [faithful men] who exist everywhere [a list of successors to Peter as bishops of Rome follows in #3] (Against Heresies 3:3:1-3).

As shown in the above quote, Irenaeus was not militant against organization as Branham attempted to make readers believe. Irenaeus promoted organization in an attempt to curtail the growing influence of Gnosticism among churches. In doing so, he encouraged believers to follow the tradition and faith of the church in Rome because it was founded and organized by both Peter and Paul. However, Irenaeus did rebuke Victor I — Bishop of Rome — because he attempted to dictate to eastern churches the day they should observe Christ's resurrection.^[114]

Because Branham was against organized religion he had this fancy that the elect of each age was called out of such by the messenger for that period. However, when examining true history, this distorted view is not true. Also, as stated, I do not believe Branham's or Russell's teachings regarding those men as messengers to a church age. But, if given a choice, A postle

John would be a better selection than Irenaeus (even though he was indirectly a student of John through Polycarp, an astute apologist, and defender of the Christian faith during a time of swarming heresies – see Polycarp and Irenaeus in Wikipedia).	
Pergamos Church Age	
We unhesitatingly declare the Pergamean messenger to be Martin . _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter Five - The Pergamean Church Age	2:12. And [to] BY the angel.—The messenger whose testimony was of special value to the Church while the Papacy was rising into power was Arius . Page 30
Editor’s Note: As stated, Branham was against denominational/organizational structure among churches and attempted to make his chosen messengers for each age to have the same demeanor. But, the truth of the matter concerning Martin is that he was the Bishop of Tours (unto death), which is a well known Roman Catholic Archdiocese in France . An archdiocese is the district of an Archbishop, who oversees multiple churches. Martin was a part of the organizational structure. Among the long list of Roman Catholic Bishops starting from 249 AD to the present, Martin was the third person to hold this position, as listed in Wikipedia . ^[115] Every year, the Roman Catholic Church holds a feast day for Martin on November 11. ^[116] Branham fails to tells his gullible readers who believe his distorted rendition of history that Martin was a full fledge Roman Catholic; even though he appeared to be a man of admirable qualities. Martin believed in the trinity and other Roman Catholic’s doctrines that Branham had declared as false. Yet, he made a Roman Catholic Bish op the messenger of that age. Branham got his followers to believe that Martin was calling people out of the papal system. Unbelievable! Actually, Russell’s choice of Arius better fits the description of a person who protested the Catholic Church and had gr eat influence during that time. However, I do not accept this man’s views about the Godhead, from which the Jehovah ’s Witnesses derived their false teachin gs that Jesus Christ is a minor god (Isa. 9:6; 44:6,8; 45:5-6; 46:9; 48:12; Phil. 2: 6; Rev. 1:8,11,17-18). They believe he is Michael the archangel. Once again Branham’s view regarding a messenger is historically distorted.	
Thyatira Church Age	
The angel of the church of — of Thyatira was Columba . _The Ephesian Church Age 12-05-60	2:18. And [unto] BY the angel.—The messenger to the fourth epoch of the Church was Peter Waldo . Page 37
Editor’s Note: Once again , Branham distorts history due to his personal dislike of organizational structure among churches and attempts to make Colum ba of like passion. Perhaps Branham’s followers would have been better off if they were organize to better control the mass flow of strange doctrines that has plagued this sect since his death in 1965 (discussed later). But, history tells us that Columba was a monk , ordained priest, and missionary of the Roman Catholic Church, even though he appeared to be a remarkable man . Branham fails to tell his unsuspecting followers this fact , but would have them believe Columba was calling people out of Catholicism. Actually, Russell’s choice of Peter Waldo better fits the description of a person who protested the Roman Catholic Church and had great influence during that time. Peter appears to be an outstanding person who preached from the Bible and proclaimed the gospel. He strongly condemned abuses by the	

popes and the false doctrines of Catholicism, which included mass, purgatory, prayers for the dead, and transubstantiation. Moreover, Peter declared the Roman Catholic Church to be the harlot of Revelation 17. He even had the New Testament translated in the language of the people. His followers adhere d closely to the Bible. Eventually, Waldo was excommunicated, and his followers were later persecuted to death. ^[117] ^[118] Thus, Russell’s selection of a messenger appears to fit the description of Branham’s ideal messenger. However, Branham based his selection of messengers mostly over claims of miraculous signs performed by them rather than adherence to biblical truths. Remember, Jesus warned us that signs and wonders cannot be the criteria by which we deem a person and doctrine as correct (Matthew 24:24-26). They must be tested by the word of God (Deut. 13:1-4; 2 Thess. 2:9-12; 1 John 4:1-6). Another apparent flaw in Branham’s selection of Columba as the messenger of the Thyatira age (606 AD to 1520 AD) is that he died in 597 AD. Columba never lived during the time he was suppose to be the messenger. Once again, Branham’s choice of a messenger is historically inaccurate.	
Sardis Church Ages	
Now, tonight, we're beginning on the fifth church age, which is the church age of Sardis, S -a-r-d-i-s, Sardis. And the messenger to this church age was Martin Luther . _The Sardisean Church Age 12-09-60	3:1. And [unto] BT the angel*—The next important messenger to the Church was John Wycliffe . Page 45
Editor’s Note: Since first century Christianity, Martin Luther is the first messenger chosen by Branham that actually protested the Roman Catholic Church after its formation . Luther was an ordained priest in Catholicism. But, unlike Martin and Columba, he did not remain in the system. Regarding John Wycliffe, he was a reformist who died nearly 135 years before the Reformation. He protested the Catholic church and compared the papacy to the antichrist. He helped translate the Bible into English.	
Philadelphia Church Age	
And tonight, the church age is called the Philadelphian Church Age. And the star or the—the messenger, angel-messenger to that church age, we believe, solemnly, with all of our heart, to be John Wesley . _The Philadelphian Church Age 12-10-60	8:7. And [to] BY the angel. — The next messenger to the Church was Martin Luther . Page 48
Editor’s Note: Russell chose Martin Luther as the messenger for this age. Remember, his choice of Luther was written in his book nearly 42 years before Branham’s sermon in 1960.	
Laodicea Church Age	
Now the age in which we are living is going to be a very short one. Events are going to transpire very rapidly. So the messenger to this Laodicean Age has to be here now ,	3:14. And [unto] BY the angel.— The special messenger to the last Age of the Church was Charles T. Russell , born February 16, 1862. He has privately

though perhaps we don't know him as yet. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

First of all, that messenger is going to be a **prophet**. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

The proof that he is a **prophet** is found in **Revelation 10:7**. An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

Before the coming of our Lord, **Elijah** must come back for a work of restoration in the church. This is what **Malachi 4:5** says. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

And said, "The Seven Seals of the hidden mysteries of the entire Bible will be opened, and **fulfill Revelations 10** , that in the seventh angel's Message these things should come to pass." **This day this Scripture is fulfilled before our eyes**. This day this Scripture is fulfilled. _This Day This Scripture Is Fulfilled 02-19-65

According to Malachi 4, a Scripture, there is to rise a Message that will shake the hearts of the people right back to the apostolic fathers again. There is to rise one on the scene, in the power of **Elijah**, that'll rise on the scene; a wilderness man that'll come out, and will have a Message that'll run right straight back to the Word again. **That's the hour that we're living in...** A Voice said, "As John the Baptist was sent to forerun the first coming of Christ, your Message shall forerun His second Coming, into all the world." **This day this Scripture is fulfilled**. This day this Scripture is fulfilled.

admitted his belief that he was chosen for his great work from before his birth. Page 53

In 1881, **1,400,000 copies of Food for Thinking Christians were distributed free at the doors of the Protestant churches** in the United States, Canada and Great Britain on three consecutive Sundays, by A. D. T. messenger boys." — Obituary. Page 55

_This Day This Scripture Is Fulfilled 02-19-65, Paragraphs 152 and 154

Editor's Note: Russell openly believed he was the messenger to the Laodicea age, while Branham subtly proclaimed himself to be thus. In describing this last messenger during a sermon on the Laodicea age (12-11-60E, paragraphs 89-104), Branham said this person will be the Elijah of Malachi 4:5 who will hate denominations, hate fancy women (whom he called Jezebel), love the wilderness, be an unlearned man, and will have a moody disposition.

In describing the last messenger, Branham was actually speaking of himself. In the message "This Day This Scripture is Fulfilled," Branham once again subtly plants in followers' minds that he was Malachi 4:5-6 without having to say it directly. To this very day, some followers think Branham was humble and never openly declared himself to be Elijah.

In the sermon "Standing in the Gap," Branham was torn between the ministries of an evangelist and a prophet. The angel that supposedly guided his ministry told him to do the work of an evangelist. Branham did not take heed and may have died prematurely by claiming to be the fulfillment of Malachi 4:5-6, Luke 17:30, and Revelation 3:14 and 10:7 (discussed later).

Since Branham's death in 1965, time has proven that he did not fulfill biblical prophecies that are supposed to happen immediately before Jesus' return to the earth. Perhaps, for this reason, so many of Branham's followers hold to the 1963 cloud in Life Magazine as being the second coming of Jesus. Why? So that his ministry as Christ's forerunner might be valid.

But, as proven in chapter one, the cloud in Life Magazine had nothing to do with William Branham. It was most likely formed by a wayward destroyed missile. But, if this cloud was a supernatural occurrence as Branham and followers believe, then we must seriously consider Matthew 24:24-26. Why? Because they believed the 1963 cloud in Life Magazine that appeared in Arizona to be Jesus Christ.

And the other day, standing there, turned **the picture** to the right, and **there is Jesus** as He was in the Seven Church Ages, the white wig on, showing Supreme Deity. He's Alpha and Omega; He's the First and the Last; He is the Supreme Judge of all Eternity, standing there, **confirm the Message of this hour**. _What Is The Attraction On The Mountain? 07-25-65E

As studied, in Matthew 24:24-26, the Lord Jesus warns of false Christs and false prophets showing great signs and wonders, and told his people not to believe anyone who say he is in the desert or a secret chamber. Also, Branham believed the cloud was God's vindication that he was to open the hidden mysteries of the seven seals, which were never before revealed.

And **it only** is to **be revealed** at the **last day** when this **actual Seal is broken**. Broken to who? Not to Christ, but **to the Church**. Notice, now. Oh, my, that just makes me tremble. I—I—I hope that the Church truly understands it (See what I mean?) _The First Seal

Notice, one thunder, **seven messages** that's **been sealed up** and **cannot be revealed** until the **last day, at this age**. See what I mean? _The Seventh Seal

And, remember, the Third Pull was **the opening of them Seven Seals, to reveal the hidden Truth that's been sealed**

in the Word. Do you see it?" _The Anointed Ones At The End Time 07-25-65M

"Return home. For, THUS SAITH THE LORD, the seven mysteries that's been hid in the Bible all these years, these denominations and everything, God is going **to open those seven mysteries to us in the Seven Seals."** _What Is The Attraction On The Mountain? 07-25-65E

But, as proven by this investigative study, these purported never revealed hidden mysteries were found in books that Branham read and clearly plagiarized, as shown in Chapter 2.

Comment: Even though William Branham chose only two messengers that were similar to Russell, we should realize that assigning and identifying certain men in history as so-called angels to church ages did not originate with him. As this study has proven, Branham consistently used other writer's information and passed them to his followers as personal revelations from God.

Also, it is contradictory that Branham said: "*Trinitarianism is of the devil!*" I say that **THUS SAITH THE LORD!**" (Revelation, Chapter Four #3, 01-08-60); but yet, chose messengers who believed this doctrine. These men were opposed to his Oneness belief of the Godhead (historically called Modalism). He also referred to trinitarianism as the mark of the beast and viewed it as three unclean spirits like frogs that came out of the mouths of the dragon, beast, and false prophet in Revelation 16:13.

A trinity of frogs! A frog is an animal that always looks backward. He never looks where he's going; he looks where he's come from. See? **Don't you see? Where was trinitarianism born at?** _The Anointed Ones At The End Time 07-25-65M

This mark in the head means that they will have to **take the doctrine** of the world church system which **is trinitarianism**, etc., and the mark in the hand which means to do the will of the world church. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Ten - A Resume Of The Ages

By Branham choosing messengers who believed the trinity doctrine that he ridiculed and damned, he followed the footsteps of Russell who had done the same. Russell held the belief that Jehovah was God and that Jesus was a created being, notably Michael the archangel. On page 252 of "The Finished Mystery," Russell refers to Michael as Christ (Messiah). Likewise, Branham and Uriah Smith (in Daniel & Rev.) believed the same doctrine.

'At that time **shall Michael** [the Godlike One—**Messiah**] stand up.' (Dan. 12:1) He will as same authority. He will **take possession of His Kingdom**.... Charles Taze Russell

Who, then, is Michael?... The voice of our **Lord Jesus Christ** ... hence also Michael **is the Son of God**. Smith Page 162

"And at that time Michael shall stand, the great prince." **Michael was Christ**, of course, Who fought the angelic wars in heaven with the devil. _Beginning And Ending Of The Gentile Dispensation 01-09-55E William Branham

Russell's belief on the Godhead was based on a historical teaching called Arianism (the teachings of Arius, the third messenger chosen by Russell).^[119] Russell also believed the Holy Spirit was not an actual being, but was a term referring to God's power. Throughout Russell's book—"The Finished Mystery"—he opposed the trinity doctrine,^[120] only to choose messengers who specifically believed this teaching since the Nicene Council in 325 AD (John Wycliffe, Martin Luther, and possibly Peter Waldo).

It is interesting to note that Branham and Russell had many similar doctrines such as the seven seals, seven church ages and human messengers, Christ being Michael the archangel, a non-eternal hell, adoptionism view of the Godhead, views about the Great Pyramid, and many others teachings discussed later.

Furthermore, as we shall later study, both Charles Russell and Branham believed they were the seventh angel messenger of Revelation 3:14 and 10:7 who revealed all the secret mysteries of God in the last days. They believed Jesus was revealing himself through their ministries and books. So then, Branham was not the originator of the seventh angel's concept.

Moreover, as we shall study in the following chapter, Branham was not the first to believe the mark of the beast is associated with accepting what he viewed as false doctrines. Nor was he the first to believe the three unclean spirits like frogs pertained to false doctrines. In "The Finished Mystery," Russell believed the mark of the beast involved accepting false teachings from the world churches, while the frogs represented false doctrine, as shown below.

Or the **number of his name**—**Consent to the principle of clergy rule** in matters of faith, order and war (murder.) — Rev. 16:2. Page 214

To [receive] GIVE HIM a **mark in their right hand** or in their [foreheads] **FOREHEAD**.—By contrast with Ex. 13:9; 28:26 - 38; Dent 6:8; Z/07 -265; Rev. 7:3; 14:1; Ezek. 9:4 -6. "Consecration to the service of the beast is what is signified here." (Cook.) (Lev. 19: 28.) "**All classes of Christians must bow**; all must. In some way, **give evidence of their support of the Image** and consecration **to its interests and laws**. P. 214

'**Three unclean spirits like frogs** came out of the mouth of the Dragon, and out of the mouth of the Beast, and out of the mouth of the False Prophet.' In this passage, **the spirit is a doctrine—an unclean doctrine—a false doctrine**. Pages 249-250

By condemning the doctrine of the trinity, Russell and Branham condemned the very men they had chosen as the stars in Christ's hand (Rev. 1:16), who were messengers to the seven church ages. It appears that both Russell and Branham had contradictory views about this subject.

Conclusion: Branham Did Not Reveal Church Ages

After examining the facts, what more can I say? The evidences has proven Branham to be a plagiarist. He used books and commentaries of well known authors of the past, and then passed the information to his followers as revealed mysteries given to him by God.

As proven, Branham was not the originator of the seven church ages. Actually, the first person to promote this concept may have been a Roman Catholic's Priest named "Bartholomew Holzhauser." Wikipedia says he was both a visionary and writer of prophecies.^[121]

Venerable Bartholomew Holzhauser (August 24, 1613 – May 20, 1658) was a German Priest, a founder of a religious community, and a visionary and writer of prophecies.

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, Holzhauser's last writings contained ten visions. These visions were later printed in 1864, accompanied with a commentary that showed how they were partially fulfilled.^[122]

The last-mentioned work contains the ten visions of Holzhauser presented by him to emperor Ferdinand III and to Maximilian of Bavaria together with the explanations given to Vairvaux, confessor of Maximilian... These visions, with a commentary showing their partial fulfillment, were published in German in 1864 by Ludwig Clarus.

Like Branham, who saw visions and spoke of seven major ones in 1933 (which had partial or no fulfillment – discussed later), Holzhauser saw visions and spoke of ten major ones that were partly fulfilled. In addition, his commentary contained writings pertaining to the seven churches in Asia representing seven church ages. The Catholic Encyclopedia further says:

Holzhauser's idea is: The **seven stars** and the **seven candlesticks** seen by St. John **signify seven periods of the history of the Church from its foundation to its consummation** at the final judgment. To these periods correspond the seven churches of Asia Minor, the seven days of the Mosaic record of creation, **the seven ages** before Christ, and the seven gifts of the Holy Ghost. Since, he says, all life is developed in seven stages, so God has fixed seven periods for regeneration.

Again, this encyclopedia says of Holzhauser's writings:

The central features of this commentary — the strong ruler and the holy pope., a favourite subject of medieval prophecy, as well as **the division of church history into seven periods**; the idea that the Holy Roman Empire is to be the last on earth....

Both Wikipedia and the Catholic Encyclopedia listed Holzhauser's version of the seven church ages. Wikipedia says:^[123]

Interpretatio Apocalypsis usque ad cap. XV, v. 5, 1784, Bamberg. It includes the seven ages of the Church

- the status seminativus or the **first age** of the Church, from Christ and the Apostles to Pope Linus and Emperor Nero,
- the status irrigativus or the **second age** of the Church, the days of persecution,
- the status illuminativus or the **third age** of the Church, from Pope Sylvester (314-335) to Leo III (795-816),
- the status pacificus or the **fourth age** of the Church from Leo III to Leo X (1513-521),
- the status afflictionis et purgativus or the **fifth age** of the Church, from Leo X to a strong ruler or grand monarch and a holy pope,
- the status consolationis of the **sixth age** of the Church, from that holy pope to the birth of Antichrist,
- the status desolationis are the **seventh and last age** of the Church, from the Antichrist to the end of the world.

So then, as proven in this chapter, William Branham was not the first to teach the seven church ages. However, his use of other writer's information does not end here. In the following chapter, we shall present facts showing

seventeen additional subjects from other biblical writers that may have influenced Branham's teachings.

These seventeen teachings are mostly viewed by Branham's followers as his exclusive revelations from God. Branham's use of copied information will further disprove his wrongful claims as being the fulfillment of Malachi 4:5-6, Luke 17:30, Revelation 3:14 and 10:7, and the shout of Christ's return in 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

Evening Light of Zechariah 14:6-7 Misinterpreted

Before proceeding, it is important to understand that Branham often used the prophecy of Zechariah 14:6-7 as one of the bases for his end time role as a messenger.

And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the light shall not be clear, *nor* dark: but it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: **but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.** Zech. 14:6-7

But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: **but it shall come to pass, that in the evening time it shall be light.** Now I wish to draw from this, **The Evening Messenger.** _The Evening Messenger 01-16-63

Considering Zechariah 14:6-7, Branham believed it spoke of his coming and the evening time message.

Now we're going **to speak about evening Lights**, just for a few moments. **The Bible predicts that there would come a time, right at the closing time**, that the sun would come out, and there **would be an evening Light.** _Christ Is Revealed In His Own Word 08-22-65M

So we see **the evening Light's here.** _Christ Is Revealed In His Own Word 08-22-65M

And then when that come, **He opened the Seven Seals and revealed the evening Light**, taking all the mysteries that's been hid down through these church ages, and now revealed them as He promised to do in Revelations 10:1 to 7. _Christ Is Revealed In His Own Word 08-22-65M

It's happening right before you, in the Name of the Lord, and that's by the original Word! **The evening-time Message is here.** _Trying To Do God A Service Without It Being God's Will 11-27-65B

Considering Zechariah 14:1-5, Branham based his end time message on a prophecy that does not happen until after (1) the great tribulation and the day of the Lord – vs. 1, (2) all the nations of the earth gathers against Israel and Jerusalem taken captive – vs. 2, and (3) the Lord Jesus literal return to the earth on the mount of Olive with his saints to fight the nations of the earth – verses 3-5.

After these events occur, then verse 6 says there shall be light in the evening time when Jesus the Sun of Righteousness (Mal. 4:1-2) and Light of the world (John 8:12) literally returns to the earth and set up his millennial kingdom. Then, all nations will come to Jerusalem to worship him (vs. 16). Thus, Branham entire concept of the evening light being his end time message is based on misinterpreted scriptures and falsehood.

Chapter Four

Seventeen Subjects: Did William Branham Plagiarize Several Authors?

The followers of William Branham unquestionably believe the revelation of the hidden mysteries of the seven seals is the apex of his prophetic office that supposedly separated him from every past, present, and future ministries. However, as proven in the previous chapters, Branham brought no new insight regarding the seven seals or the seven church ages to warrant his claims. What claims? That he revealed these hidden truths sealed until the last days, which could not be known in time past.

And it **only** is to **be revealed** at the **last day** when this **actual Seal is broken**. _The First Seal 03-18-63

Notice, one thunder, **seven messages** that's **been sealed up** and **cannot be revealed** until the **last day, at this age**. See what I mean? _The Seventh Seal 03-24-63E

And, remember, the Third Pull was **the opening of them Seven Seals, to reveal the hidden Truth that's been sealed** in the Word. Do you see it?" _The Anointed Ones At The End Time 07-25-65M

And these **Seven Seals** was **not to be opened** (Revelations 10) **until** the sounding of the **last earthly angel on earth**, Revelations 10:7. See? _The Rapture 12-04-65

As studied, Branham admittedly read this purported hidden information in many books and commentaries. He consistently used this information during sermons on the seven seals. But, Branham only mentioned these writers to his audience when claiming to disagree with their point of views regarding the seals. He never gave them credit as being the source of the interpretations. Rather, Branham boldly claimed that God revealed the seven seals to him through seven angels. In Chapter Two, this claim was proven to be absolutely untrue.

Nonetheless, if some among Branham's followers were familiar with the books where he obtained information on the seven seals, they were conditioned to believe he came to tie the loose ends of the mysteries that these writers had probed. But, as this study have proven, what Branham called hidden mysteries were not hidden, and what he called tying the loose ends was actually taking the information of other ministers and passing them to his followers as his personal revelations from angels of God.

But, even if Branham had never obtained information from other writers, the very fact their books already had the very interpretations of the seals and church ages that he later preached prevents him from saying he revealed those mysteries. These alleged mysteries were already made known to the general public in books before Branham.

To further prove that Branham did not reveal hidden mysteries of the seals and church ages, but either copied or

paraphrased books of well known authors before him, we shall now consider additional biblical subjects he taught during the seven sermons in March of 1963. His followers deemed these subjects as being part of the hidden mysteries that were revealed during the opening of the seven seals.

Although Branham may have preached these alleged revealed mysteries in prior sermons, followers believe the correct understanding came forth during the opening of the seven seals. For that reason, some of them believe that if given a choice between the Bible and Branham's book "The Revelation Of The Seven Seals," they are conditioned to choose his book.

As mentioned, during Branham's sermons on the seven seals, he appears to have borrowed multiple subjects from various chapters of these same books. Why do I say this? Because the similarities between these books and his teachings are too close to ignore. The only subjects not found in these books are serpent seed, the oneness of the Godhead, and water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ.

However, Branham's exact teaching on the serpent seed is found in a 9th or 15th century book called "Zohar,"^[124] which is sacred among a Jewish mystic religion called Kabbalah. It is also found in other early literatures, as we shall later study. He borrowed the Godhead and water baptism from the Apostolic Oneness movement that began in 1914. The subjects studied during this chapter are shown below. Branham already had knowledge of these subjects before preaching the seals in 1963.

1. Papal Rome is the beast of Revelation 13
2. United States is the lamb-like beast of Revelation 13
3. Mystery Babylon the Great is the Roman Catholic and Protestant denominations
4. Confederation of churches is the image of the beast
5. Satan's trinity is the dragon, beast, and false prophet
6. Romanism and Catholicism is the mark of the beast
7. Vicarious Filii Dei is the number of the beast (666) in Roman Numerals
8. The seventy weeks of Daniel
9. Israel is the fig tree
10. Dan and Ephraim are excluded from 144,000 Israelites
11. The serpent seed
12. Water baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
13. Oneness doctrine of the Godhead
14. Two comings of Elijah
15. The seventh angel of Revelation 3:14 and 10:7 reveals all the mysteries of God

- 16. Four beasts of seven seals represent four periods in church history
- 17. The pyramid teaching

The quotes of William Branham are taken directly from his sermons on the seven seals (March 17-24, 1963). The book called "The Revelation of the Seven Seals" [125] is the unabridged written version of his recorded sermons, which can be viewed online. [52] Quotes of Clarence Larkin are taken from "The Book of Revelation" (1919). [126] Quotes of Charles Russell are taken from "The Finished Mystery" (1918). [127] Quotes of Uriah Smith are taken from "Daniel and the Revelation" (1897). [128] Quotes of Cyrus Scofield are taken from "Scofield Bible" (1909). [129] Quotes of John Gill are taken from "John Gill's Exposition" (1746-1766). [130] Additional information will be referenced.

The books quoted in this study can be viewed online (see endnotes for links). Please remember, the original page numbers are used and not the online page numbers. Although Branham spoke these various subjects during his sermons on the seven seals, additional quotes taken from other sermons will include the names and dates.

Papal Rome: The Beast of Revelation 13

VERSE 1: And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

William Branham vs. Charles Taze Russell

What William Branham Said:	What Charles Russell Said:
<p>Now, we find out in Revelation 13:1-8... And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up... _The Fourth Seal</p> <p>And power was given him over all kindreds,... tongues, and nations. It never did become that way in Rome until pagan Rome was converted into papal Rome and the Catholic power spread the world ; made the universal Catholic church. _The Fourth Seal</p>	<p>" REVELATION 13 THE PAPAL AND PROTESTANT BEASTS.</p> <p>13:1. And [I] HE stood upon the sand of the sea... And I saw a beast. Page 193</p> <p>Gave him his power. — "Ancient Pagan Rome had only a mere skeleton of sacerdotal power as compared with the complex and elaborate machinery and contrivances of doctrine and practice of Papal Rome, the triumphant successor to their scheme, who now, after centuries of cunning and skill, has its power so entrenched that even today, when its power is outwardly broken and it is shorn of civil dominion, it rules the world and controls kingdoms secretly, under cover, more thoroughly than the Roman emperors ever ruled the kings subordinate to them." .P. 195</p>

	The great Antichrist, Papacy , symbolically the 'beast' of Rev. 13. Page 204
Editor's Note: During the fourth seal, Branham identified the beast of Revelation 13 as Papal Rome. The fact that Russell entitled this chapter as "The Papal and Protestant Beasts" tells us that he believed Papal Rome to be the beast, which pertains to the popes and Roman Catholic Church control of the empire. Did Branham bring any new mystery regarding this beast? No.	
When Jesus was born, the red dragon in heaven stood at the woman to devour her child as soon as it was born. Is that right? Who was it tried to devour the child when it was born? [Congregation says, " Rome. "—Ed.] See? There's the red dragon. Here's your prince. Here's your beast. See? There they are, every one of them, just the same. See? _First Seal	And behold a great red dragon—The Pagan Roman Empire, Page183 And the dragon.—Imperial Rome, represented by Constantine. Page 195 13:4. And they worshipped the dragon.—" Dragon means civil power, Papal Rome. "— Z.'79-12-2. Page 196
Editor's Note: During the first seal, Branham speaks of the red dragon being Rome as though it was a great revelation. But, as you can see, Russell already had this view. There is no mystery being revealed. The following information includes quotes taken from other sermons of Branham.	
And right in this age is when the "beast" of Revelation 13:3 that was wounded to death: (the pagan Roman Empire) came back to life and power as the "Holy Roman Empire. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages –Chapter Five - The Pergamean Church Age And it had a head wounded unto death, and then live, pagan Rome to papal Rome. _The World Is Again Falling Apart 11-27-63	And I saw one of his heads. — One of the dragon's heads— Papacy. As it were wounded to death. Page 195
And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet... (Oh, if we just had time now, we'd take the rest of the night right on them symbols there and show, bring it right straight to him again. Any... Most all of you know that from other lessons.)... _The Fourth Seal	13:2. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, —"The body of the Papal beast was like a Leopard. Page 194
Editor's Note: Branham boasted that he could expound on the leopard and other symbols of the beast. Russell had already attempted to do so in his book (pages 194 -195). If Branham had done so, would he have used Russell's interpretation?	

Comment: Russell identified the beast of Revelation 13 as being Papal Rome, which is the union of the Roman Catholic Church and civil government under the leadership of the historical popes. When speaking of this subject during the fourth seal, Branham brought no new revelation as his followers are made to believe.

William Branham vs. Uriah Smith

What William Branham Said:	What Uriah Smith Said:
<p>Now, we find out in Revelation 13:1-8... And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up... _The Fourth Seal</p> <p>And power was given him over all kindreds,... tongues, and nations. It never did become that way in Rome until pagan Rome was converted into papal Rome and the Catholic power spread the world; made the universal Catholic church. _The Fourth Seal</p>	<p>13 Persecuting Powers</p> <p>"VERSE 1. And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, Page 558</p> <p>To this beast the dragon gives his seat, his power, and great authority. By what power was pagan Rome succeeded? We all know that it was by Papal Rome. It matters not to our present purpose when or by what means this change was effected; the great fact is apparent and is acknowledged by all, that the next great phase of the Roman empire after its pagan form was its papal. Page 561</p>
<p>When Jesus was born, the red dragon in heaven stood at the woman to devour her child as soon as it was born. Is that right? Who was it tried to devour the child when it was born? [Congregation says, "Rome."—Ed.] See? There's the red dragon. Here's your prince. Here's your beast. See? _The First Seal</p>	<p>By the dragon of the previous chapter, and the beast first introduced in this, we have the Roman power... Page 559</p>
<p>And right in this age is when the "beast" of Revelation 13:3 that was wounded to death (the pagan Roman Empire) came back to life and power as the "Holy Roman Empire. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter Five - The Pergamean Church Age</p> <p>And it had a head wounded unto death, and then live," pagan Rome to papal Rome. _The World Is Again Falling Apart 11-27-63</p>	<p>By the dragon of the previous chapter, and the beast first introduced in this, we have the Roman power as a whole brought to view in its two phases, pagan and papal; hence these two symbols have each the seven heads and ten horns. (See on chapter 17:10). Page 559</p> <p>The head that was wounded to death was the papal head. Page 563</p> <p>But the deadly wound was healed when the papacy was re-established, though with a diminution of its former power, by the election of a new pope, March 14, 1800. (See Bower's History of the Popes, pp. 404 -428; Croly on the Apocalypse, London edition, p. 251.) Page 564</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Similar to Smith, Branham believed the beast of Revelation 13 was Papal Rome, even though they differed about when and how the wounded beast was healed,</p>	
<p>And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and</p>	<p>But it may be said that it takes the leopard beast and two-</p>

<p>his feet... (Oh, if we just had time now, we'd take the rest of the night right on them symbols there and show, bring it right straight to him again. Any... Most all of you know that from other lessons.)... _The Fourth Seal</p>	<p>horned beast together to constitute the papacy, and hence it is to these that the dragon gives his power, seat, and great authority. Page 561</p> <p>The leopard beast alone, therefore, symbolizes the Roman empire in its papal form, the controlling influence being ecclesiastical. Page 562</p>
<p>Editor's Note: In the above quote, Branham boasted he could expound on the leopard and other symbols of Revelation. Smith had already attempted to do so. If Branham had done so, would he have used Smith's interpretation?</p>	

Comment: Smith and Branham identified the beast of Revelation 13 as the popes and Papal Rome. But, Branham believed the beast was wounded and healed when Pagan Rome converted to Papal Rome. Commentaries by John Gill, Albert Barnes, and Matthew Henry said the same (see Rev. 13 in their books listed on page 32, see also <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/revelation/13-3.htm>). Smith believed the beast was healed after being wounded during the Reformation Age. Nonetheless, when preaching the fourth seal, Branham brought no new revelation regarding this subject.

United States: The Lamb-like Beast of Revelation 13

VERSE 11: And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

William Branham vs. Uriah Smith

What William Branham Said:	What Uriah Smith Said:
<p>Now, he gets into a place till he's going to make a universal church power, taking religious power. And do you not understand, my brothers, that in—when this nation appears in the 13th chapter of Revelation, this little animal raised up like a lamb and it's got two horns: civil and ecclesiastical power. But he done the same thing the beast did before him. It's strange, America is number thirteen and a woman. And strange it appears even in the 13th chapter of Revelation. We started out with thirteen stripes in the flag, thirteen stars, everything's thirteen, thirteen.... _The Second Seal</p> <p>Just like America is number thirteen: thirteen states it started with, thirteen stars in the flag, thirteen colonies, thirteen stripes; everything's thirteen, thirteen, and appears right here in the 13th chapter of Revelations. That's right.</p>	<p>All the symbols but one are applied, and all the available portions of the Eastern Hemisphere are covered by the applications. Of all the symbols mentioned, one alone, the two-horned beast of Revelation 13, is left; and of all the countries of the earth respecting which any reasons exists why they should be mentioned in prophecy, one alone, the United States government, remains. Page 573</p> <p>But one conclusion can be drawn from these arguments, and that is that the two horned beast must be located in the Western Hemisphere, and that it symbolizes the United States. Page 573</p>

<p>She's thirteen and a woman. _The Sixth Seal</p>	
<p>Editor's Note: During the second and sixth seals, Branham said the two-horned lamb-like beast was America in prophecy. But, this teaching is found in Smith's book, which he admittedly read. The following information includes quotes taken from other sermons of Branham. Notice how he copied Smith.</p>	
<p>Did you notice this United States is number thirteen in everything it does? You know it was established the thirteen colonies? You know the flag had thirteen stars in it first? You know everything that the United States does is in a number thirteen? Did you know it appears in the Bible in Revelation 13? Certainly does. The little beast, the lamb that come up out of water, not thickness and multitudes of people,... not out of the water, but out of a land where there's no one. _Hebrews, Chapter Four 09-01-57E</p> <p>Did you notice in Revelation 13? All the other beasts had come up out of the sea, waters; Revelation 17:17 said, "The waters which thou sawest is thickness and multitudes of people." All the other beasts, they come up out of the water, thickness and multitudes of people. But when the United States come up, "It come up out of the earth where there was no people." And remember, when it come up, it looked like a little lamb. _Jezebel Religion 03-19-61</p>	<p>5. The Manner of Its Rise - The manner in which the two-horned beast was seen coming up shows, equally with its location, age, and chronology, that it is a symbol of the United States. John says he saw the beast coming up "out of the earth." And this expression must have been designedly used to point out the contrast between the rise of this beast and that of other national prophetic symbols. The four beasts of Daniel 7 and the leopard beast of Revelation 13 all arose out of the sea. New nations generally arise by overflowing other nations, and taking their place. But no other nation was overturned in order to make room for the United States, and the struggle for its independence was already fifteen years in the past when it came into the field of prophecy. The prophet saw only peace. Page 573</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Like Smith, Branham believed the lamb beast coming out of the earth signified new uninhabited land from which America arose. Whereas the four beasts (Babylon, Medes and Persia, Greece, Roman empires) in Daniel 7 came out of the sea, which represents multitudes of people.</p>	
<p>Just like America is number thirteen: thirteen states it started with, thirteen stars in the flag, thirteen colonies. _The Sixth Seal</p>	<p>In 1776, they declared themselves a free and independent nation. In 1777, delegates from the thirteen original States. Page 577</p> <p>In 1787, the Constitution was framed, and ratified by the foregoing thirteen States; and on the 1st of March, 1789, it went into effect. Then the American ship of state was fairly launched, with less than one million square miles of territory, and about three million souls. Thus we are</p>

	<p>brought to the year 1798, when this government is introduced into prophecy. Page 577</p>
<p>It had two little horn: civil and ecclesiastic powers. And he was a lamb: freedom of religion. And after while, they went together and he spoke like the dragon, and exercised all the power that Rome did before him. That's coming to our nation. You mark it down. _Hebrews, Chapter Four 09-01-57E</p> <p>Now, a lamb has two horns, and that's civil and ecclesiastical powers. But when they've united, remember, then that lamb spoke like the dragon did before him; and the dragon was Rome. _Jezebel Religion 03-19-61</p>	<p>6. Character of the Government Symbolized by the Two-Horned Beast. - Under this division of the subject we find still further evidence that the symbol represents the United States government. In describing this power, John says that it had "two horns like a lamb." Page 578</p> <p>In other words, this would be a government in which the ecclesiastical should be separate from the civil power, and civil and religious liberty reign supreme. Page 579</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Like Smith, Branham believed the two horns of the Lamb-like beast represented civil and ecclesiastical powers.</p>	
<p>And he... made a image unto the beast, and the image of the beast should both speak, and cause... as many as would not worship the image of the beast... The image of the beast, the "Protestant denomination," not the Catholic. This is America He's speaking of here, you see, 'cause this 13th chapter is on the American, the beast that come up out of the... See, all the other beasts come up out of water, which means "thickness and multitudes of people." _The Ten Virgins, And The Hundred And Forty - Four Thousand Jews 11 -11-61M</p>	<p>8. A Protestant Nation. - The two-horned beast also symbolizes a government which is Protestant in religion, or which, at least, is a non-Catholic power. It has been shown that the preceding beast symbolized the papacy; and of the two - horned beast we read that he causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast. But in all Catholic countries, the people voluntarily worship the beast, or obey the dictates of Catholicism, without being "caused," or compelled, to do so by the government. The fact that the people of this government do not render this worship till caused to do so by the civil power, shows that the religion they entertain is not Catholicism. As an almost inevitable consequence, it follows that it is Protestantism! for these are the only two religions of any consequence in Christendom. The United States is a Protestant Nation, and meets the requirements of the prophecy admirably in this respect. Thus again the prophecy points directly to this government. Page 580</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Like Smith, Branham believed the Lamb-like</p>	

<p>beast is a Protestant nation (America), not Catholic.</p>	
<p>And don't the Bible say, in Revelation 13? This nation is number thirteen. It's got thirteen stripes and thirteen stars in the flag. Thirteen stripes in the flag. Thirteen, everything in it is thirteen; thirteen colonies, thirteen everything. And it's found in the 13th chapter of Revelation. And the Bible said, that, "She come up like a little lamb," freedom of religion; "two little horns," civil and ecclesiastical. And after while, they united, "And he spoke like the dragon did, and done everything the dragon did before him." And the Bible said, "They made a image unto the beast," the confederation of church, just what they got in right now, here in New York City. _The Restoration Of The Bride Tree 04-22-64</p> <p>It had two little horn: civil and ecclesiastic powers . And he was a lamb: freedom of religion. And after while, they went together and he spoke like the dragon, and exercised all the power that Rome did before him. That's coming to our nation. You mark it down. You watch to the Confederation of Churches and the Catholic unite together. Watch what takes place. _Hebrews, Chapter Four 09-01-57E Then again other</p>	<p>This great federation , which now has more than two million members, can swing its vote and its influence solidly against any political or governmental action to which it is opposed; and as between the political parties which are contending for the mastery in this country, it easily holds the balance of power, and can dictate terms to either; so that no matter how an election turns, it is sure to go in favor of the papacy. Already this organization has boasted of its power over Congress. P. 582</p> <p>And not only does the federation aim to control legislation, national and state, but it is conducting an active campaign for the suppression of all anti-Catholic literature in public libraries, and even from circulation in the mails. Page 583</p> <p>This incident, coming unexpectedly into the proceedings of the conference, clearly revealed the fact that this great federation of churches stands ready to coerce the religious minority in matter of religious teaching and practice. And this is so not because of any purpose or desire on the part of its members to be intolerant toward others, but because intolerance is inherent in the very nature of the movement they have inaugurated. To obtain power was the primary idea of federation; and the power thus obtained, - the power of numbers, -- is not exercised to persuade, but to coerce. Page 593</p> <p>The avowed purpose of the federation, officially stated, was to express "the fellowship and Catholic unity of the Christian church." page 593</p> <p>In answer to the question, then, whether anything like an "image" to the papal beast can be set up in this country, we have before us a gigantic</p>

	<p>ecclesiastical organization of Protestants, with power to bend the government to its will. Page 594</p>
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Comment: Smith wrote in his book that the Protestant United States, which is the two horned lamb -like beast of Revelation 13, will unite with the papal beast through a confederation of churches to force the mark of the beast upon the citizens of this country. Now, do you see where Branham got this teaching s? He brought nothing new about these subjects. More details follows.

Mystery Babylon the Great: Roman Catholics and Protestant Denominations

REVELATION 17:5. And upon her forehead *was* a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

William Branham vs. Charles Taze Russell

What William Branham Said:	What Charles Russell Said:
<p>Remember, this prostitute of Revelation 17, she is a mystery, Mystery Babylon, the mother of harlots. And John admired her, just like this man... (Look, wait till we get here and watch him watching this horse here.) See, but you noticed he was... What happened was this: that he admired her with great admiration, but the mystery was that she drank the blood of the martyrs of Christ. A beautiful church, set there decked in purple and gold, and she had a cup in her hand of filthiness of her fornications. What is "fornication?" Is "unrighteous living." That's her doctrine she was giving out, taking the Word of God and making it of none effect by some, "Hail, Marys," and all this other kind of stuff and giving it out, and the kings of the earth committed fornications with her. Well, you say, "That's the Catholic church." _The First Seal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">REVELATION 17 THE PAPACY'S LAST STAND .</p> <p>The Judgement of the great whore—Papacy, the "beast." —Rev. 19:2. That sitteth upon many waters.—The peoples of the earth.—Jer. 51:13; Rev. 17:15. 17:2. With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication.—"The kingdoms of Europe today claim to be Christian kingdoms, and announce that their sovereigns reign 'by the grace of God,' i. e., through appointment of either Papacy or some of the Protestant sects."—A268; Rev. 18:3; Isa. 1:21; Jer. 2:20 -24; 3:6; Ezek. 16:15. And the Inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk. — "So great an institution as made all nations drunk with her false doctrine must be very prominent, indeed, to those who were made so under the Influence of the stupefying draft from her cup." —Pastor Russell. With the wipe of her fornication.—The mixed doctrines, part truth and part error, that originally led to the union of church and state ,— the spiritual harlotry. —Jer. 51:7; Rev. 2:20; 17:5; 18:3;</p>

	19:2. Page 259
Editor's Note: During the first seal, Branham speaks of Mystery Babylon as being the Catholic church. But, as you can see, Russell already had this view. There is no mystery being revealed. The following information includes quotes taken from other sermons of Branham.	
And remember, she was called " Mystery, Babylon, " we know that's the Catholic church. _Five Definite Identifications Of The True Church Of The Living God 09-11-60E	And I saw a woman,—The Roman Catholic Church. Page 259
Well, you say, " That's the Catholic church. " But she was a mother of harlots, same thing that she was. There you are. What happened? When the reformer died and his message died out, you — you organized it. _The First Seal	Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth. — "Since Papacy, the mother, is not a single individual, but a great religious system, in keeping with the symbol we should expect to see other religious systems answering to the illustration of daughters of similar character. To this description the various Protestant organizations fully correspond. Page 261
Read Revelation 17 , and the Bible said that he would burn her with fire and all of her children with her. That's right. That means every organizational system will burn with the whore. Now, that sounds flat but... And I—I know you'll hear from it, and I—I want to hear from it. And I—I... That's right though. The Bible said so, so that makes it right. Yes, sir. _The Third Seal	...Other Protestants understand that the Scriptures which refer to the mother and daughters refer to the papacy, and these denominational daughters, or systems, which sprang from her, and have more or less of her nature, disposition and characteristics. Page 218
Editor's Note: Branham was not the first to condemn organized religion as the daughters of Babylon. The Jehovah's Witnesses, who follow Russell's teachings, continues to hold this viewpoint. Branham brought no new insight regarding this supposed revealed mystery as the angel of Revelation 10:7.	
And we Protestants, as we find, and as <u>Revelation 17</u> , that all of them heaped up together, and that the Catholic church was "the mother" of all organizations. And we see that the Protestant organization, yet blindly, blindly, has the same nature of the Catholic church. The Bible calls the Catholic church a "whore," and calls the Protestant church "harlots," said that the whore was "the mother of harlots." _The Indictment 07-07-63M	Because] THAT thou sufferest that woman Jezebel. — The Roman Catholic Church. Page 40 " Jezebel today has daughters—systems termed Protestant --whlch, nevertheless, copy largely the mother's spirit. It is through the influence of the daughters that the antitypical Elijah may expect future persecutions, Instigated by the mother, accomplished through the daughters, Page 262
<u>Revelations the 17th chapter</u> said that the Catholic church was a whore and the Protestant churches was	18:4. And I heard another voice from heaven—lie WATCH TO WEB BIBLE AND TBACT SOCIETY, the

prostitutes. But God's people was the called out of that, of the whole thing. " Come out of Babylon. " said the last warning angel's message. "Be not partakers of her sins. Come out." Separate yourself and be different, not from just a logical standpoint, not because you think it's right to do, but pray until that thing's in your heart. _The Mark Of The Beast 07-15-56	corporate body which Pastor Russell personally organized to conduct the Harvest work (Rev. 8:3; 14:18). This voice has been exerted continuously since 1884. "Our thought is that it is the Lord who calls His people out of Babylon; the call to be recognized especially as a Voice from Heaven. Apparently, the Voice is Present Truth."—Z.'14-180. Saying, Come out of her. — "This call applies not only to those in Babylon the Great, but to those in other denominations—mother and daughters. Page 276
Editor's Note: Russell believed he was sent to call people out of organized religion. As followers of Russell, the Jehovah's Witnesses believe their mission is to call people out of Babylon, which they identify as Catholic and Protestant denominations. Branham and his followers are not the only sect that has this interpretation. In calling people out of Babylon, these two sects try to persuade people to join their groups and accept their false teachings.	

Comment: Need I say anymore? When preaching the seven seals, Branham brought no new revelation regarding Mystery Babylon.

William Branham vs. Uriah Smith

What William Branham Said:	What Uriah Smith Said:
Remember, this prostitute of Revelation 17, she is a mystery, Mystery Babylon, the mother of harlots. And John admired her. What happened was this: that he admired her with great admiration, but the mystery was that she drank the blood of the martyrs of Christ. A beautiful church, set there decked in purple and gold, and she had a cup in her hand of filthiness of her fornications. _The First Seal	17 BABYLON THE MOTHER Church and State. - This prophecy is more definite than others applicable to the roman power, in that it distinguishes between church and state. We here have the woman, the church seated upon a scarlet-colored beast, the civil power, by which she is upheld, and which she controls and guides to her own ends, as a rider controls the animal upon which he is seated. Page 702-703
And remember, she was called " Mystery, Babylon, " we know that's the Catholic church. _Five Definite Identifications Of The True Church Of The Living God 09-11-60E	That this apostate woman, as presented in this chapter, is a symbol of the Roman Catholic Church, is generally believed by Protestants. Page 702
Well, you say, " That's the Catholic church. " But she was a mother of harlots, same thing that she was. There you are. What happened? When the reformer	This woman is explicitly called Babylon. is Rome, then, Babylon, to the exclusion of all other religious bodies? - No, from the fact that she is called the mother

<p>died and his message died out, you—you organized it. _The First Seal</p> <p>And we Protestants, as we find, and as Revelation 17, that all of them heaped up together, and that the Catholic church was "the mother" of all organizations. And we see that the Protestant organization, yet blindly, blindly, has the same nature of the Catholic church. The Bible calls the Catholic church a "whore," and calls the Protestant church "harlots," said that the whore was "the mother of harlots." _The Indictment 07-07-63M.</p>	<p>of harlots, as already noticed, which shows that there are other independent religious organizations that constitute the apostate daughters, and belong to the same great family. Page 703</p>
<p>Revelations the 17th chapter said that the Catholic church was a whore and the Protestant churches was prostitutes. But God's people was the called out of that, of the whole thing. "Come out of Babylon." said the last warning angel's message. "Be not partakers of her sins. Come out." Separate yourself and be different, not from just a logical standpoint, not because you think it's right to do, but pray until that thing's in your heart. _Mark Of The Beast 07-15-56</p>	<p>Suddenly another voice rings out from heaven, "Come out of her, my people!" The humble, sincere, devoted children of God, of whom there are some still left, and who sigh and cry over the abominations done in the land, heed the voice, wash their hands of her sins, separate from her communion, escape, and are saved, while Babylon becomes the victim of the just judgments of God. There are stirring times before the church. Let us be ready for the crisis. Page 718</p> <p>The fact that God's people are called out so as not to be partakers of her sins, shows that it is not till a certain time that people become guilty by being connected with Babylon; and this explains how it can be said of 144,000 (Rev.14:4), many of whom are the very ones here called out, that they were not defiled with women. Page 718</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Smith believed the Roman Catholic Church was Mystery Babylon and organized religion to be her daughters.</p>	

Comment: As shown, when teaching the seven seals, Branham brought no revelation regarding the identity of Mystery Babylon, but most likely got his interpretation from reading books of various writers such as Russell and Smith. Also, like Russell and Smith, he condemned all Protestant churches and accused them as being the daughters of Babylon. This included churches that preached the true biblical gospel of Jesus Christ and taught sound scriptural doctrines. Who gave these men the right to condemn true Bible believing Christians (Rom. 8:33-34)?

As we shall later study, Russell, Smith, and Branham had the

same deceived mentality to believe their groups were the only ones right and every other church was wrong. They believed people had to accept their teachings to escape Babylon the Great and be God's elect. What arrogance! What a deception!

But, after examining Russell's and Smith's teachings about the book of Revelation, history has clearly proven many of their interpretations to be incorrect. Likewise, history is doing the same to Branham as many of his visions, experiences, prophecies, and teachings are being proven wrong (discussed later).

For example, facts were presented in the first chapter proving Branham failed to accept the truth that he was not present when the cloud shown in Life Magazine appeared on February 28, 1963. Even when Branham was alive he did not acknowledge James McDonald's reports on May 31 and June of 1963, and his colleagues reports in 1964 that concluded the cloud was the result of a destroyed missile (pages 16-21). Yet, Branham kept referring to McDonald's initial report in Life magazine on May 17, 1963

As stated, it is difficult to believe Branham did not know that he was not present when the cloud appeared on February 28, 1963. He knew hunting season began on March 1, 1963. He knew that he did not go hunting until after leaving Houston, Texas on March 4, 1963. Yet, he still was willing to be untruthful about that picture being taken when he was hunting as vindication of his commission to open the seven seals. But, as our study is proving, Branham did not bring the revelations of the seals; he plagiarized other books and writers. Likewise, this study will present further facts that disproves his most prominent claims and vindications.

Furthermore, after more than 54 years since Branham's death, the churches that believe his message are splintered into ten or more opposing groups and worse off than the denominations he condemned. As we shall later study, to fully embrace Branham's so-called end time message, the Bible cannot be the absolute and the biblical gospel of Jesus Christ can no longer be the means of absolute salvation (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:17-18; 15:1-4,11).

Some followers of Branham believe no one can be saved without accepting his message of the hour. Others believe some people can be saved as foolish virgins and tribulation saint, but cannot be raptured to heaven. That is, if they have never heard the message of Branham. The people who have heard and rejected his message cannot be saved, even if they have accepted Jesus Christ according to the true biblical gospel shown in the scriptures. Nonetheless, this study shall present facts that Branham's so-called message has many serious unscriptural teachings.

Confederation of Churches: The Image of the Beast

REVELATION 13:4-15. And deceives* them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

William Branham vs. Charles Taze Russell

What William Branham Said:	What Charles Russell Said:
Oh, my. And notice. Yet, He gave her a space to repent, but she didn't do it. He's done it again; she won't do it. Her rejection away, makes her... Her rejection makes a	13:11. And I beheld another beast.—"If the preceding wild beast represented an ecclesiastical power, as we have just seen, then this or... beast called another should

<p>perfect way for <u>Satan to come into her and be incarnate</u> (That's right.), incarnate himself right in her <u>because she rejected the Word</u>, and that's exactly the same thing that the Protestant church becomes a harlot is because she rejects the vindicated Truth of the Word of God, and that gives the devil a place to come right in and incarnate himself, and he will make an image unto the beast when they can consolidate together, right yonder now, and go on and do just exactly what he said. That's right. Amen. _The Fourth Seal</p>	<p>be under* stood to represent a similar ecclesiastical or church power. Page 199</p> <p><u>Satan</u> is the inspirer and supporter of every Antichrist; and as he <u>led those who had pleasure in error rather than the truth to the organization of the great Antichrist, Papacy, symbolically the 'beast' of Rev. 13</u>, and as he is now operating to produce a Protestant 'image of the beast' with life, which will cooperate with the chief Antichrist, so in combination with these will be the powers of darkness, the powers of the air, the lying and seducing spirits, operating In some manner or in a variety of ways... Page 204</p>
<p>This is the Satan's superman with education, with wisdom, with church theology of his own word, of his own making, and he rides his white denominational horse to deceive the people. And he will conquer every religion of the world, 'cause they've all going into the confederation of—of the—of churches and the world confederation of churches. And they already got their buildings built and everything setting right in line. There ain't one thing left. Every denomination's stuck right into it, the federation of churches. And what's backing it? Rome. And the pope's now crying, "We're all one. Let's come together and walk together. _The First Seal</p>	<p>Unto the Image of the beast—"The vitality of the Image Is to come from the two-horned Beast; the Church of England. A few years ago the Episcopal Church took an important step toward vitalizing the Church Federation movement. That Important step was the recognition of the ministers of the denominations represented In the Evangelical Alliance. Page 210</p>
<p>Editor's Note: During the first and fourth seals, Branham said the image of the beast was Satan's creation of the confederation of Protestant churches. Russell already had this view. Thus, there is no mystery being revealed. The following information includes quotes taken from other sermons of Branham.</p>	
<p>The false church groups will come together in a world council of churches. This world council of churches is the IMAGE ERECTED TO THE BEAST. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Ten</p>	<p>According to the Scriptures, this Image is a very exact representation of the Beast. The False Prophet, or Image of the Beast, we understand to mean the Protestant Federation of Churches. Page 249</p>
<p>What are they doing? Going up here today, and all going in this Council of Churches. Catholicism and Protestantism uniting</p>	<p>Save he that had the mark [or the name] of the beast Protestants affiliated with the Federal Council of Churches *—already</p>

<p>together, making the mark and the image of the beast . And Protestants falling right for it, Pentecostals everywhere. _Why Little Bethlehem 12-14-63</p>	<p>"marked," stamped O. K. by the papacy. Or his name.— Roman Catholics. Or the number of his name.— Consent to the principle of clergy rule In matters of faith, order and war (murder.)— Rev. 16:2. Page 214</p>
<p>And the first thing you know, we are right now asking the Protestant church to consolidate with it, and every organization will go right into the federation of churches, and there you are trapped. _O Lord, Just Once More 06-28-63M</p>	<p>According to the Scriptures, this Image is a very exact representation of the Beast. The False Prophet, or Image of the Beast, we understand to mean the Protestant Federation of Churches. "Three unclean spirits like frogs came out of the mouth. Page 249</p>
<p>The hour that we're living, the ecclesiasticals, of spirits uniting together now and bringing them all to this big one slaughter, to blot out. <u>It's already in writing here, in this nation now, that these churches has to be closed unless you're with the organization. It's a union</u>, it's a boycott, just like the mark of the beast. _ The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M</p> <p>And that's what it's finally coming to, because the mark of the beast has to come <u>by union</u>, we know. So we — we... Cause, it's a boycott, "no man can buy or sell, save him that ha ve the mark of the beast._ Ashamed 07-11-65</p>	<p>[Rich and] Poor AND RICH.—"So popular will Federated Churchianity become that to <u>even criticize it will be a 'crime' worthy of crucifixion in some form — socially and financially, if not physically</u>. Politicians will quickly realize that their bread is buttered on that side, and be ready to enact legislation of any kind desired by the Federation. Mammon-worship will take on new forms temporarily, but power will soon debauch the unregenerate mass and drive out the regenerate faithful who may temporarily be misled by the great 'Union' movement in the name of Christ, but without His Spirit or authority. P. 213</p> <p>Should be killed. —"Soon we shall have their 'Union' or 'Confederacy' (Isa. 8:12), and the bitter fruits of Union In error will speedily manifest themselves In tyranny, as during the Dark Ages." (Z:04-212.) "To us the Scriptures Indicate that the prosperity of the Federated Protestant 'Image' will for a little time be so great, so pronounced, and Its arrogance become so great that the sympathy of the masses will be entirely alienated and turned Into bitterness." Page 212</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Did Branham.get the word <i>union</i> from Russell?</p>	

Comment: Near the end of William Branham's ministry, he often warned people not to join the confederation of churches because it was image of the beast . He spoke as though t his was a personal

revelation from God. But, after considering what Russell wrote in his 1918 book, need I say anymore? Thus, when preaching the seals, Branham said nothing new about this image's identity.

William Branham vs. Uriah Smith

What William Branham Said:	What Uriah Smith Said:
And that's exactly the same thing that the Protestant church becomes a harlot is because she rejects the vindicated Truth of the Word of God, and that gives the devil a place to come right in and incarnate himself, and he will make an image unto the beast when they can consolidate together , right yonder now, and go on and do just exactly wh at he said. That's right. Amen. _The Fourth Seal 03-21-63	<u>The dragon, pagan Rome, and the leopard beast, papal Rome, present before us great organizations standing as the representatives of two great systems of false religion.</u> Analogy would seem to require that the remaining symbol, the two -horned beast, have a similar application, and find its fulfilment in some nationality which is the representative of still another great system of religion. But the only remaining system which is exercising a controlling influence in the world to-day is Protestantism. Page 573
And the first thing you know, we are right now asking the Protestant church to consolidate with it, and every organization will go right into the federation of churches , and there you are trapped. _O Lord, Just Once More 06-28-63M	Let, now, an ecclesiastical organization be formed by these churches, let the government legalize such organization, and give it power (a power which it will not have till the government does grant it) to enforce upon the people the dogmas which the different denominations can all adopt as the basis of union, and what do we have? -- Just what the prophecy represents, -- an image to the papal beast , endowed with life by the two -horned beast, to speak and act with power. And behold, just such an organization as this, a colossal union of the leading churches of this country, constituting the greatest and most powerful federation ever formed in the history of this nation, has within the last few years come into existence. Page 588
The false church groups will come together in a world council of churches. This world council of churches is the IMAGE ERECTED TO THE BEAST. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Ten - A Resume Of The Ages What are they doing? Going up here today, and all going	What would be an image of the papacy? -- Another ecclesiastical establishment clothed with similar power. How could such an image be formed <u>in the United States?</u> Let the Protestant churches be clothed with power to define and punish heresy, to enforce their dogmas under the pains and penalties of the civil law, and should we not have

in this Council of Churches. Catholicism and Protestantism uniting together, making the mark and the image of the beast. And Pr otestants falling right for it. _Why Little Bethlehem 12-14-63	an exact representation of the papacy during the days of its supremacy? Page 587
Editor's Note: When teaching the seals, Branham identified the image of the beast as being the confederation of Protestant churches. Smith already had this view written in his book first published in 1897, which Branham had admittedly read.	
The beast had power, authority, to give the image life, to speak, and it did. And that's the Confederation of Churches, when they confederate themselves together. _The Spoken Word Is The Original Seed 03-18-62	The mere formation of such a confederacy, apart from any question of what is to come from it, is one of the greatest events of modern times; and indeed is hailed by its advocates as the greatest religious movement since the Reformation. And this great federation, it is to be noted, has been formed for the express purpose of controlling the politics and the legislation of the country, in the interests, as they view it, of Christianity. Page 588 In December, 1908, the first session of the federation, which took the name, "Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America," was held in Philadelphia. Page 591
Cause they've all going into the <u>confederation</u> of—of the—of churches and the world confederation of churches. And they already got their buildings built and everything setting right in line. There ain't one thing left. Every denomination's stuck right into it, the federation of churches. And what's backing it? Rome. And the pope's now crying, "We're all one. Let 's come together and walk together." _The First Seal	Let us note briefly the leading facts pertaining to the formation and present working of this mighty federation. In the year 1900, a meeting of Protestant ministers was held in New York City, at which was organized the "National Federation of Churches." This was followed by the formation of state and local federations throughout the country. Two years later, at a meeting of the organization in Washington, D. C., a committee of correspondence was chosen, which sent to all the leading Protestant churches in the United States, an address on "The Co-operative Relationship of the Churches...." Page 599

Comment: As stated, in the 1960's Branham's repeatedly warned people not to join the confederation of churches because it was the image of the beast. He taught this concept as a personal revelation from God. But, after considering what Smith wrote in his book, need I say anymore? When preaching the seals, Branham brought no new revelation regarding this subject.

Satan's Trinity: Dragon, Beast, False Prophet

REV. 16:13. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet."

William Branham vs. Clarence Larkin

What William Branham Said:	What Charles Russell Said:
Now, finally he becomes a beast. Now, wait; we'll get in that in a—after while. See? All right. Now, if Satan's trinity lays like that... Satan all the time, Satan , antichrist spirit (the antichrist spirit incarnate) false prophet , then becomes the beast . See? _ The Second Seal	In the " Dragon ," the " Beast ," and the " False Prophet ," we have the " SATANIC TRINITY ." Page 126

Comment: By saying "Satan's trinity," Branham reminds us that he is still reading Larkin's book during his sermons on the seals.

Romanism and Protestantism: Mark of the Beast

REVELATION 13:16-17. And he causes* all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

William Branham vs. Charles Taze Russell

What William Branham Said:	What Charles Russell Said:
Then the mark of the beast of Revelation 13 will set in , 'cause he holds all the commerce, trade and everything of the world. And what will take place then? The mark of the beast will come in that no man can buy or sell except him that has the mark of the beast . Thank God, the Church will be enjoying a great three and a half years in glory. Don't have to go through that. _The First Seal 03-18-63 Now, watch what Jesus said: "And he would throw her to the fires and even kill her children." That's death riding. That's both Protestants and Catholics: mark of death on each one of them (See?), her and her children be destroyed. So if you're depending on your denomination, you bet ter get away from it right now. _Questions And Answers On The Seals 03-24-63M	To [receive] GIVE HIM a mark in their right hand or in their [foreheads] FOREHEAD.—By contrast with Ex. 13:9; 28:26-38; Dent 6:8; Z/07 -265; Rev. 7:3; 14:1; Ezek. 9:4 -6. "Consecration to the service of the beast is what is signified here." (Cook.) (Lev. 19:28.) " All classes of Christians must bow ; all must. In some way, give evidence of their support of the Image and consecration to Its interests and laws; either a public, open profession of being members of the Alliance , and hence supporters (mark in forehead), or at least a giving of some assistance and Influence to the principles of Image organization —(the right-hand support)." (Z.'80 -I-2.) This Implies a re-establishment of the Inquisition soon—in some form of house-to-house "investigation" or public enrollment. Page 214

What are they doing? Going up here today, and all going in this Council of Churches . Catholicism and Protestantism uniting together, making the mark and the image of the beast . And Protestants falling right for it. _Why Little Bethlehem 12-14-63	
Editor's Note: During Branham's sermon on the seven seals, he identified the mark of the beast as being members of the Protestant and Catholic churches. But, as you can see, Russell already had this view. He believed everyone will have to be a member in the alliance and hold to the principles of the image's organization, which as shown below is belonging to Roman Catholic and Protestant denominations. Thus, Branham brought no new revelation to this subject. The following information includes quotes taken from other sermons of Branham.	
The Bible said that there would be a boycott, even to such a way it would 'cause people to not buy or sell unless they had received this: the mark of the beast, which is Romanism ; and the image of the beast, which is Protestantism . That the image... The beast had power, authority, to give the image life, to speak, and it did. And that's the Confederation of Churches , when they confederate themselves together . _The Spoken Word Is The Original Seed 03-18-62	Upon the men which had the mark of the beast ,— Roman Catholics . And upon them which worshipped his Image .— Protestants affiliated with the Federal Council of Churches . Page 237 If any man worship the beast .— The Papacy . And his Image .—The Evangelical-Alliance-Sprlrltism combination.—Rev. 13:11, 13, 14, 15; 14:11; 15:2; 16:2, 18; 19:20; 20:10; Matt. 24:24. Page 22
Editor's Note: Russell believed the mark of the beast was Catholicism, and the image of the beast Protestantism affiliated with the federation of churches. In the underlined words, Branham nearly follows Russell's interpretation verbatim.	
I believe according to Revelation 13:16 that the bride will have to stop preaching for the beast is demanding the mark in the hand or forehead if permission to preach be granted. Denominations will take the mark, or be forced to quit preaching . Then the Lamb will come for His bride and judge the great harlot. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Five - The Pergamean Church Age It's already in writing here, in this nation now, that these churches has to be closed unless you're with the organization. It's a union, it's a boycott, just like the mark	13:17. [And] That no man might buy or sell .—"The •buying and selling,' like the other features, Is symbolic, and refers to dealing In spiritual things. [But it may be literally fulfilled as well In the year of prospective famine now at hand.] None may be recognized as having any right to teach or preach or baptize or administer the emblems of our Lord's death, except those licensed by some orthodox member of the Image, and acts of such persons ('unlicensed') are not counted valid ." Page 214 Save he that had the mark [or the name] of the beast Protestants affiliated with

<p>of the beast. _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M Thus all the people have to belong to the world church system or be at the mercy of the elements for they cannot buy or sell without the mark of the beast in the hand or head. This mark in the head means that they will have to take the doctrine of the world church system which is trinitarianism, etc., and the mark in the hand which means to do the will of the world church. With this great power the church systems will persecute the true bride. This image will try to keep the bride from preaching and teaching, etc. Her ministers will be forbidden to give comfort and truth to the people who need it. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Ten - A Resume Of The Ages</p>	<p>the Federal Council of Churches *—already "marked," stamped O. K. by the papacy. Or his name.— Roman Catholics. Or the number of his name.— Consent to the principle of clergy rule In matters of faith, order and war (murder.)--Rev. 16:2. Page 214</p> <p>And them that had gotten the victory over the beast* and [over] his image.—Who understand and live in harmony with the knowledge that both Papacy and Protestantism, and the governments under their Influence, are of Satanic spirit.—Rev. 13:11, 13, 14, 15; 14:11; 16:2, 13., 19:20; 20:10; Matt. 24:24. 83 Page 231</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Russell taught that the mark of the beast was to consent to the teachings of the pope and Catholicism through the Protestant federation of churches. Churches that refuse will be forced to shut down. Branham taught the same concept.</p>	

Comment: Branham's teachings on the mark of the beast are so close to Russell that one could only surmise it came from "The Finished Mystery." Thus, when preaching the seals, Branham brought no new revelation about this mark. Also, Branham believed people received the mark of the Satan when they rejected his end time revelations, which he basically copied from Clarence Larkin, Charles Taze Russell, and Uriah Smith.

What is the **mark of the beast?** Unbelief. _The Oneness Of Unity 01-28-58

Don't take Satan's unbelieving mark. Now, he will put it on you tonight if he can do it. He will poke you up against the wall and **you'll walk out and say, "Aw, I don't know about that." You go home and study it.** And then be sincere and pray, 'cause everything's too —is **too perfectly Scriptural at this very hour,** this sacred hour of time . **It's done been for years, proved.** Come right up to it and this is the hour. This is the time. And now, **don't let him poke that in your ear , his unbelieving mark.** See?. _The Second Seal 03-19-63

William Branham vs. Uriah Smith

What William Branham Said:	What Uriah Smith Said:
The Bible said that there would be a boycott , even to such a way it would 'cause people to not buy or sell unless they had received this: the mark of the beast, which is Romanism ; and the image	12. The Mark of the Beast. -- The two-horned beast enforces upon its subjects the mark of the first beast. We have now in the prophecy three agents introduced, which we must carefully

<p>of the beast, which is Protestantism. That the image... The beast had power, authority, to give the image life, to speak, and it did. And that's the Confederation of Churches, when they confederate themselves together. _The Spoken Word Is The Original Seed 03-18-62</p>	<p>distinguish from one another to avoid confusion. (1) The papal beast. This power is designated as "the beast," "the first beast," "the beast which had the wound by a sword, and did live," and "the beast whose deadly wound was healed." These expressions all refer to the same power; and wherever they occur in this prophecy, they have exclusive reference to the papacy. Page 595</p> <p>1. The "beast" is the Roman Catholic power. 2. The "mark of the beast" is that institution which this power has set up as proof of its authority to legislate for the church, and command the consciences of men under sin. Page 668</p> <p>3. The "image of the beast" is some ecclesiastical combination, which will resemble the beast in being clothed with power to enforce its decrees with the pains and penalties of the civil law. 4. The two -horned beast, by which the image, after being made by the people, is given power to speak and act, is the United States; and all but the final steps toward the formation of the image are already seen. Page 668</p>
<p>Then the mark of the beast of Revelation 13 will set in , 'cause he holds all the commerce, trade and everything of the world. And what will take place then? The mark of the beast will come in that no man can buy or sell except him that has the mark of the beast. _First Seal</p>	<p>When the application of Rev.13:11-17 to the United States was first made, as early as the year 1850, these positions respecting a union of the churches and a grand Sunday movement were taken. Page 609</p>
<p>I believe according to Revelation 13:16 that the bride will have to stop preaching for the beast is demanding the mark in the hand or forehead if permission to preach be granted. Denominations will take the mark, or be forced to quit preaching. Then the Lamb will come for His bride and judge the great harlot.</p>	<p>The acts ascribed to the image are, speaking and enforcing the worship of itself under the penalty of death; and this is the only enactment which the prophecy mentions as enforced under the death penalty. The mark of the beast is enforced by the two-horned beast, either directly or through the image. The</p>

<p>_An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter Five - The Pergamean Church Age</p> <p>Thus all the people have to belong to the world church system or be at the mercy of the elements for they cannot buy or sell without the mark of the beast in the hand or head. This mark in the head means that they will have to take the doctrine of the world church system which is trinitarianism, etc., and the mark in the hand which means to do the will of the world church. With this great power the church systems will persecute the true bride. This image will try to keep the bride from preaching and teaching, etc. Her ministers will be forbidden to give comfort and truth to the people who need it. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages –Chapter Ten - A Resume Of The Ages</p>	<p>penalty attached to a refusal to receive this mark is a forfeiture of all social privileges, a deprivation of the right to buy and sell. The mark is the mark of the papal beast. Against this worship of the beast and his image, and the reception of his mark, the third angel's message of Rev. 14:9 -12 is a most solemn and thrilling warning. This, then, is the issue, which, according to this prophecy, we are soon to be called upon to meet; namely, human organizations, controlled and inspired by the spirit of the dragon, are to command men to do those acts which are in reality the worshiping of an apostate religious power and the receiving of his mark; and if they refuse to do this, they lose the rights of citizenship, and become outlaws in the land; and they must do that which constitutes the worship of the image of the beast, or forfeit their lives</p>
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Comment: Smith believed the mark of the beast was a union of apostate Protestant churches empowered by the Roman Catholic Church as the image of the beast. They will be able to legislate and enforce their decrees upon the people under the penalty of death. Branham appeared to have gotten his interpretation of the mark of the beast from Smith and Russell.

Vicarious Filii Dei: The Number of the Beast (666) in Roman Numerals

REVELATION 13:18. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

William Branham vs. Charles Taze Russell

<p>What William Branham Said: In other words, up over the Vatican (Now, I've been right there.) it's wrote Vicariivs Filii Dei, and it's wrote in Roman numerals. Now, you just draw a line at the bottom of those Roman numerals, and it means "Instead of Son of God." In other words, he's a vicar. (You know what a vicar is. Just takes the place of something.) He is the vicar instead of the Son of God.</p>	<p>What Charles Russell Said: **VICARIVS FILII DEI, the Vicar of the Son of God. His thoughts, with the rapidity of lightning, reverted to Rev. 13:18. "Will you turn to it?" said Mrs. A. Alice opened the New Testament, and read: 'Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.' She paused, and Miss Emmons said, 'He took out his pencil,</p>
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<p>And the Bible said, "Let him that has the gift of wisdom count the numbers of the beast, for it's the number of a man, and his number is 666." Now, if you take VICARIVS FILII DEI and draw a line (the Roman numbers of V for 5, I for 1) and add it up and see if you haven't got 666. _The First Seal</p>	<p>and marking the numerical letters of the inscription on his tablet, it stood 666." (Smith.) This explanation was approved by Pastor Russell, and was given by him at a Convention Question Meeting. On the pope's crown in the Vatican museum is the recognized and most used title 'of the pope, VICARIVS FILII DEI (Vicar of the Son of God.) The word VICARIVS is on the top of the threefold crown.</p> <p>V – 5 F – 0 D – 500 I – 1 I – 1 E – 0 C – 100 L – 50 I – 1 A – 0 I – 1 R – 0 I – 1 I – 1 V – 5 <u>S – 0</u> Total 666 (Page 215)</p>
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Comment: As shown, Branham could have gotten his teaching and interpretation of the number of the beast from Russell.

William Branham vs. Uriah Smith

<p>What William Branham Said: In other words, up over the Vatican (Now, I've been right there.) it's wrote Vicariivs Filii Dei, and it's wrote in Roman numerals. Now, you just draw a line at the bottom of those Roman numerals, and it means "Instead of Son of God." In other words, he's a vicar. (You know what a vicar is. Just takes the place of something.) He is the vicar instead of the Son of God. And the Bible said, "Let him that has the gift of wisdom count the numbers of the beast, for it's the number of a man, and his number is 666." Now, if you take VICARIVS FILII DEI and draw a line (the Roman numbers of V for 5, I for 1) and add it up and see if you haven't got 666. _The First Seal</p>	<p>What Uriah Smith Said: **The Number of His Name. - The number of the beast, says the prophecy, "is the number of a man;" and if it is to be derived from a name of title, the natural conclusion would be that it must be the name or title of some particular man. The most plausible expression we have seen suggested as containing the number of the beast, is the title which the pope takes to himself, and allows others to apply to him. That title is this: Vicarious Filii Dei, "Vicegerent of the Son of God." Taking the letters out of this title which the Latins used as numerals, and giving them their numerical value, we have just 666. Thus we have V, 5; I, 1; C, 100 (a and r not used as numerals); I, 1; U (formerly the same as V), 5 (s and f not used as numerals); I, 1; L, 50; I, 1; I, 1; D, 500 (e not used as a numeral); I, 1. Adding these number together, we have just 666. Page 624</p>
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Comment: Branham appeared to have gotten his teaching on the number of the beast either from Russell or Smith.

Seventy Weeks of Daniel

DANIEL 9:24. Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

William Branham vs. Clarence Larkin

What William Branham Said:	What Clarence Larkin Said:
Now, just seventy weeks was determined, perfectly, as Daniel said that Messiah would come and would be cut off in the midst of the week. And Jesus prophesied three and a half years. Now, in the middle of this, three and a half years of Daniel, in the middle of it, He was cut off. And now the last part is the tribulation period where the Gentile church is... Oh, this is great. Now, don't...?... The Bride goes in with the Groom, then after the Millennium, walks out upon the ashes of the wicked. <u>The First Seal</u>	This Vision of the " SEVENTY WEEKS " is the most important revelation, in many ways, made in the Scriptures. We are here told that this Period of " SEVENTY WEEKS " was determined upon Daniel's PEOPLE (the Jews), and upon the HOLY CITY (Jerusalem). This is very important. It discloses the fact that the " SEVENTY WEEKS " have nothing to do with the Gentiles, or the Church, but only with the JEWS and JERUSALEM. It also discloses another important fact that the " SEVENTY WEEKS " only cover the period when the Jews are DWELLING IN THEIR OWN LAND, and does not cover the present period of their Dispersion. We are told in verse 24 that these " SEVENTY WEEKS " were determined for a SIX -FOLD purpose. Page 49
Editor's Note: During the first seal, Branham referenced the seventy weeks of Daniel. But, as you will see, he got his information from Clarence Larkin, nearly quoting him verbatim during his 1961 sermon. Branham brought no revelation to this subject as his followers are made to believe. He hid the source by mixing various subjects, testimonies, and personal stories between the plagiarized information. As stated, Branham would be speaking on the sermon's subject and then veered off to other issues before returning to the original topic, where he resumes following the outline of the plagiarized authors. It was fairly easy to track him during this sermon because of this obvious habit. Just read Larkin's book and follow the plagiarized information in Branham's sermon. Then skip over the paragraphs where he veers off the subject until resuming to use the plagiarized information. He would pick up the subject from the author's outline shown in the book. The quotes of Larkin are taken from the "Book of Revelation" (1918). An asterisk (*) will signify that the quote is taken from his other book "Dispensational Truth" (1920).	
Daniel was B.C., in that time was B.C. 538 : 538 years before Christ when he spoke this for time, time, and dividing of time and seventy weeks. Look where seventy	*The first verse of the chapter locates it in the "First Year" of Darius the Median, or the same year as the "Fall of Babylon," B.C. 538 . Daniel had been studying the

weeks would take him. Why, he was still in Babylon in seventy weeks, and yet God told him that that was all the time that was determined upon the people. <u>The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61</u>	Prophecy of Jeremiah, and learned from it that the 70 years of "Captivity" of his people were drawing to a close. <u>Dispensational Truth, Page 153</u>
Now, I might repeat here again: Ministers of the Gospel, if you disagree with this, all right. They are divided in three periods , as we find out in Daniel 9 — three periods: First, a seven week period; then a threescore and two, which is sixty-two ; and then a one week period. They're divided in three different periods. <u>The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61</u>	The "Seventy Weeks" are divided into "THREE PERIODS" of 7 Weeks , and 62 Weeks , and 1 Week . Page 50
Now, I've got <i>some writing here that I'd like to read</i> to you as we go by. Now, the going forth of the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem, which was on the 14th day of March . If any of you want to put that down, in the Hebrew you'll find it called N-i-s-a-n-Nisan , which means "March." The issue was given on the 14th day of March, B.C. 445 —the issue went forth to build—rebuild the temple. <u>The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61</u>	They cover the time from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem, which was the 14th day of the month Nisan (March) B. C. 445 , to the Second Stage (The Revelation) of the Second Coming of Christ. Page 50
Editor's Note: In the underlined words, Branham appears to be reading notes copied from Larkin's book without citing him.	
Now, we got two —three different calendars. We go back to the old astronomy calendar, and we find out that in the Julian calendar there is 365 1/4 day in a year. They timed that by the passing of Sardis and the different stars and so forth, they timed it. Now, we find in the Roman calendar, that we live under now, 365 days in a year by the calendar. But in the Christian or prophetic calendar we find there's only 360 days in a year. <u>The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61</u>	*We must not forget that there are years of different lengths. The Lunar year has 354 days. The Calendar year has 360 days . The Solar year has 365 days . The Julian , or Astronomical year, has 365 1/4 days , and it is necessary to add one day every 4 years to the calendar. <u>Dispensational Truth, Page 154</u>
Now, if there was seven... Look, there's exactly forty - nine days— forty-nine years , rather, in the time of the building of the temple, the	The "First Period," 7 WEEKS , refers to the time required to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, which was 49 years , thus giving us the

seven—or seven prophetic weeks, seven weeks, 'cause there's was seven weeks determined to the temple, to rebuild the temple ; and it was built in exactly forty - nine years. _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61	"Key" to the meaning of the word "WEEK," for if 7 WEEKS are equal to 49 YEARS, then 1 WEEK is equal to 7 YEARS. Page 50
What do we get? For if seven weeks means forty - nine years, then one week equals seven years, and seven times seven's forty-nine just exactly. There you are. _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61	Which was 49 years , thus giving us the "Key" to the meaning of the word "WEEK," for if 7 WEEKS are equal to 49 YEARS, then 1 WEEK is equal to 7 YEARS. Page 50
Editor's Note: In the underlined words, Branham continues to read from his notes as he quotes Larkin nearly verbatim.	
Now, Gentiles was not 'lotted any certain time, just said, " Time of the Gentiles. " And we find out even Jesus didn't 'lot them a time, for we find out here in Luke 21:24 ; He said, "They shall trod down the walls of Jerusalem until the Gentile. _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61	*In Luke 21:24 Jesus says that Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the " Times of the Gentiles " be fulfilled. _Dispensational Truth, Page 156
<u>Now, we are told from the going forth of the commandment to rebuild the city to Messiah</u> (and Messiah was Christ, of course) <u>shall be seven weeks and threescore and two weeks, making sixty-nine weeks.</u> See? All right. And <u>seven times sixty-nine</u> makes 483 years. _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61	<u>Now we are told that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem (B. C. 445) unto the "MESSIAH THE PRINCE," shall be 7 WEEKS, and THREESCORE AND TWO WEEKS, or 69 WEEKS, or, if 1 WEEK is equal to 7 YEARS, 7 x 69 or 483 YEARS.</u> Pages 51-52
Editor's Note: Once again in the underlined words, Branham changes a few words as he nearly quotes Larkin verbatim.	
Now, <u>now, Jesus, Messiah, rode into the city of Jerusalem, triumph, on the back of a white mule on Palm Sunday, April the 2nd, A.D. 30.</u> Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, A.D. 30. And now, now, from B.C. 445 to A.D. 30 is exactly 475 years. <u>But as we have already seen that the sixty-nine weeks makes 483 years...</u> Now, there's where the trouble comes, right there. See? We've got only with the marking of the Bible here, time, only 475 years, and actually it's 483 years, a difference of eight year. _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61	Now Jesus, as " <u>MESSIAH THE PRINCE,</u> " rode in triumph into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, April 2, A. D. 30. The difference in time between B. C. 445 and A. D. 30 is 475 years, but, as we have seen, 69 WEEKS equal 483 years, a difference of 8 years. How are we to explain this difference? Page 52
Editor's Note: Once again in the above underlined words,	

Branham nearly quotes Larkin verbatim.	
Now, God can't make it miss. If He said it would be so many days, it's so many days. If He says it's so much, it's so much. So what are we going to do? Now, the B.C. 475 to A.D. 30 are Julian or astronomy years, which are 365 1/4 day in—in each. But when we reduce them days to our prophetic calendar... Par.82	<u>The 475 years between B. C. 445 and A. D. 30, are Julian or Astronomical years of 365¼ days each, but when we reduce them to Calendar years of 360 days each,</u> the year used in the Scriptures, we find that <u>we have exactly 483 years</u> of 360 day s each. Page 52
Our prophetic calendar brings us to <u>360 days</u> , as we use now in the Scriptures. <u>We have exactly 483</u> (There it is.)—483. Here we have exactly proof of the prophecy. _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61, Par.84	
Editor's Note: Once again, in the above underlined words, Branham nearly quotes Larkin verbatim.	
Now, let me stop right here just a minute. That you might know beyond one shadow of doubt, I just wouldn't take that one place. I can take it through the entire Scriptures and prove you that seven days is—that seven—one week is—is seven years in the Bible. I just did it over here in Revelation the 13 chapter—or 11th chapter and the 3rd verse. Them prophets will prophesy one thousand two hundred and three-score days , which is in the midst of the last week of the Jews. Then they're cut off and the Armageddon sets in. Then if that be so, there it is again exactly thirty days in a month. See? Then it's a —it's not no thirty-one days and twenty-eight days and so forth; it's exactly thirty days in a month each time. _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61	*In the Book of Revelation the last "half" of the "Seventieth Week" of Daniel is described by three statements of time. First by 42 months (Rev. 11:2; Rev. 13:5) ; second by 1260 days (Rev. 11:3; Rev. 12:6); third by "Time, and Times, and Half a time" (Rev. 12:14); this last corresponding with Daniel's "Time and times and the dividing of time." Dan. 7:25; Dan. 12:7. Now as all these statements of time apply to the same period it is clear that the things that are equal to the same thing are equal to each other; and as a "thousand, two hundred and threescore days" equal 1260 days, and 1260 days equal 42 months of 30 days each, and 42 months equal 3 1/2 years, then "Time, Times and Half a Time" (or the dividing of time), must equal 3 1/2 years. That is, a "Time" must equal one year; and "Times," two years; and a "Half a Time," half a year. So we see that in "Prophetical Chronology" a "Time" is equal to a year of 360 days, and not a year of 360 years. There is therefore no scriptural authority for calling a "Time " 360 ordinary years. _Dispensational Truth, P. 156
Editor's Note: Branham is using Larkin's information to prove that one week in the Bible equal seven years. Larkin proved	

<p>this fact by comparing scriptures in chapters 11, 12, and 13 of the book of Revelation with the book of Daniel.</p>	
<p>Now, if these exactly was seven years, each one of the weeks, and we've already had sixty-nine weeks, then we have the Gentile age, and we know we're at the end of the Gentile age, then there's one more week left for the Jew. Is that right? And that's exactly seven years. If this was seven years, that's seven years, 'cause He said, "There's seventy weeks determined upon thy people." So we know we got seven years for the Jews. Is that true? Now, look at it. If there's a question, I want to know it. _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61</p>	<p>Now as 69 WEEKS of Daniel's "SEVENTY WEEKS" have already expired, and all that was prophesied to occur during those "SEVENTY WEEKS" has not yet been fulfilled, it stands to reason that the things unfulfilled are still future, and must be fulfilled in the remaining "ONE WEEK," and that that "ONE WEEK" shall be "SEVEN YEARS" long. Page 52</p>
<p>Now... And in the middle of the week, the middle of this Jewish week (See?), that's three and a half years — years—the antichrist, the prince, a prince that is to come... And remember, he comes out of Rome. The prince that is to come (What is he? A pope, a prince amongst the people.) that is to come..._The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61</p>	<p>" This then gives us the length of time of the reign of the "PRINCE THAT SHALL COME" (Antichrist), who we are told in verse 27 (Dan. 9:27) shall make a Covenant with the Jews for "ONE WEEK" (7 years), the last or "SEVENTIETH WEEK." Page 52</p>
<p>Now, notice here. <u>In the middle of the week</u>, three and a half days—three and a half years, rather, he breaks the covenant and causes the sacrifice and oblation that they will have set up already...' The daily worship—the sacrifice will come back into the city when the temple is rebuilt. And this prince that's to come in the middle of this week will break his covenant and do away with this sacrifice as I said, he'll scatter—scatter it, and what he'd do lasts on till the consummation. And notice <u>the overspreading of abomination to make desolation</u>. _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61</p>	<p>" and that in the "Middle" of the WEEK he shall break the Covenant and cause the sacrifice and oblation " that the Jews will have restored, to cease, and then the "overspreading of abominations that maketh desolate." shall continue until the end of the WEEK. Page 52</p>

Comment: As shown, Branham undoubtedly plagiarized Larkin's lesson and pretended that it was his revelation.

The Spirit of wisdom comes into the church to make known

to the church by the revelation of the Holy Ghost—bringing the church in and revealing what day that we're living in. Just the same as Gabriel come to—to Daniel, the **Holy Spirit comes to the church in the last days to reveal these great, deep, secret things**. _Do you understand now? _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61

Also, when preaching sermons on the seventy weeks of Daniel, Branham admits to reading books and commentaries written by Larkin, Smith, and others. He even said their teachings enlightened him. Yet, Branham pretended to disagree with their views and that he had conducted his own research at the library to get the revelation. Nonetheless, he underhandedly used their teachings without acknowledging this fact.

I've been reading Dr. Larkin's book, Dr. Smith's book, Dr. Scofield's notes, different commentaries from men everywhere, and yet I cannot put theirs together to make it come out right . See? So this week I'm planning on... Been visiting the library in Kentucky on some of the ancient astronomy of the calendars and times, and pic king up from the libraries and so forth all the ancient books that I can, and to—what little I can do, and having my trust solemnly in Jesus Christ to reveal it to me, because I do not want it to say, "I know this, and I know that." He knows my heart; He's listening at me. But I want it that I might enlighten His people. Therefore, **I believe that He will give it to me . I do not know as yet, but I'm trusting Him for next Sunday,** 'cause that'll be the tremendous part, as next Sunday to know and place those seventy of weeks. _Gabriel's Instructions To Daniel 07-30-61

...Down through the age there has been hundreds times hundreds of people, scholars, abled men, trying to explain what these seventy of weeks were. And I've read many of their commentaries on it. And I'm very grateful to **Mr. Smith of the Adventist church for his views . I'm very grateful to Dr. Larkin of his views . I'm grateful to all these great scholars for their views on this. And in reading them, it enlightens me much that I can find places that looks right. But to get the views that I—I thought that I would like to explain, I searched through the encyclopedia of time to find out what time meant.** _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61

As shown, Branham misled his audience to believe the understanding of Daniel's seventy weeks was revealed to him. But, as proven, he used Larkin's information nearly verbatim. Moreover, he was conflicted between Larkin's and Uriah Smith's teachings. Larkin taught that the 69th week of Daniel ended when Christ rode into Jerusalem at the end of his ministry; thereby leaving one week (7 years) on the prophetic calendar.

However, on pages 226-231, Uriah wrote in his book that the 69th week of Daniel ended when Jesus was baptized by John. Afterward, Christ preached for 3.5 years to the Jews. But, in the midst of the week (7 years - 3.5 years = 3.5 years) , Christ was crucified and caused the sacrifices to cease; thereby leaving 3.5 years on the prophetic calendar rather than seven years . As we shall later study, Branham brought more confusion to this subject by attempting to combine these opposing views.

Israel the Fig Tree

Matthew 24:32-33. Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and puts* forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: so likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, *even* at the doors.

William Branham vs. Clarence Larkin

What William Branham Said:	What Clarence Larkin Said:
<p>Now, learn a parable of the fig tree; When its branches is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when you shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the door. I that last—that question they asked Him: "And what will be the sign of the end of the world?" When you see these Jews... When you see these other things taking place, you know what takes place. Now, when you see these Jews... Talking to the Jew. _The Seventh Seal</p> <p>Now, His coming, and the hour of His coming, when the destruction of the earth... You know, he said there, "What will be the sign of the coming of the end of the world?" In Matthew 24, there where they asked Him that question, He went down to that. He told about Israel being gathered as a nation in the 31st verse of Matthew 24:31. But then He started off on parables. See? Then, you see there, "Learn a parable of the fig tree. When you see it putting forth its buds, why, you know spring's nigh." And then, "When you see this coming to pass, then know the time is nigh." See Israel's gathering in its own homeland. _The Seventh Seal</p>	<p>THE "FIG-TREE" SIGN JEWISH RACE <u>MATT. 24:32-35</u> 32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree.... Page 64</p> <p>*The "Fig-tree" is a New Testament symbol or figure of Israel and was used by Jesus Himself P. 341</p> <p>*3. The "FIG-TREE SIGN," or the re-gathering of the Jews back to their own land . _ Dispensational Truth, P.342</p> <p>8. THE FIG-TREE SIGN. When Jesus' Disciples asked Him, after He had foretold the destruction of the Temple: "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the SIGN of THY COMING, and of the end of the world (Age)?" (Matt. 24:1 -3), Jesus gave as a "Sign" of His Coming the "Fig-Tree Sign." The "FigTree" symbolizes the nation of Israel, and its "budding" the revival of Israel as a nation. Here again we have evidence of the nearness of the Lord's Return for the revival of Zionism, and the passing of the Land of Palestine into the hands of a Christian nation, opens the way for the restoration of the Jews to their own land, and the fulfillment of the Fig -Tree Sign. The fact that the City of Jerusalem surrendered without the firing of a shot is significant. Jesus said that Jerusalem was to be trodden down of the Gentiles until "The Times of the Gentiles" should be fulfilled (Luke 21:24), and the taking of Jerusalem at this time may signify that "The Times of the Gentiles" is drawing to a close. Dispensational Truth. Page 381</p>

Comment: On pages 341-343 of Dispensational Truth (1920), Larkin identified the nation of Israel as the fig tree in Christ's parable in Matthew 24:32-34. He spoke of the Jews return to their homeland 28 years before it happened. It is obvious that Branham read this book because Larkin said on page 8: "*There are three things that we must avoid in the handling of God's Word. 1. The Misinterpretation of Scripture. 2. The Misapplication of*

Scripture. 3. The Dislocation of Scripture."

Branham said nearly the same exact words: "*These three musts must be. Must not misinterpret, or mishandle It, misinterpret It, or mis-... or dislocate It. It must be kept just exactly the way God said it was*" (Christ Is Revealed In His Own Word 08-22-65). Followers believe Branham revealed the identity of the fig tree. But, as shown, he likely got this info from Larkin.

William Branham vs. Charles Taze Russell

What William Branham Said:	What Charles Russell Said:
<p>"Learn a parable of the fig tree. When you see it putting forth its buds, why, you know spring's nigh." And then, "When you see this coming to pass, then know the time is nigh." See Israel's gathering in its own homeland. _The Seventh Seal</p>	<p>Even as a fig tree.—"The fig tree. In this prophecy may be understood to signify the Jewish nation. (Matt. 24:32.). If so, it is being signally fulfilled; for not only are thousandsof Israelites returning to Palestine Page 120.</p>

Comment: As shown, Mr. Russell also believed the fig tree in Jesus' parable of Matthew 24:32 pertained to the Jews gathering in their homeland and Israel once again becoming a nation. Thus, Branham brought no new revelation.

Dan and Ephraim: Excluded from 144,000 Israelites

Rev. 7:4. And I heard the number of them that were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

William Branham vs. Clarence Larkin

What William Branham Said:	What Clarence Larkin Said:
<p>I told you awhile ago to read Revelations 7. Read with me and watch those tribes. In Revelations 7 Dan and Ephraim is missing and not numbered with them. Did you notice that? Joseph and Levi was substituted in their place. You notice that? Dan and Ephraim is not there. No, sir. But Joseph and Levi was substituted in the place of—of—of Dan and Ephraim.. _The Seventh Seal</p>	<p>There is a remarkable difference in the names of the Tribes as here recorded and the names of the original Twelve Tribes. Here the names of Dan and Ephraim are omitted, and the names of Joseph and Levi are substituted.</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham is paraphrasing Larkin.</p>	
<p>There is a reason for these tribes not being there. Everything has got a reason for it. Deuteronomy, we want to take the—the 29th chapter of—of Deuteronomy. Now, the Lord so help us that we can understand now. Now, we want to start in Deuteronomy the 29th chapter at the 16 th verse. Now, listen, Moses speaking. _The Seventh Seal</p> <p>Therefore, if any man will</p>	<p>Why is this? The reason is plain. In Deu. 29:18 -21, we read that the man, or woman, or family, or TRIBE , that should introduce idolatry into Israel, should have their or its name "blotted out" from under heaven, and be separated out of the Tribes of Israel. Page 66</p>

<p>serve an idol or keep an idol on him, or bless himself in his own imagination of his mind and serve idols, God said, "<u>Man, woman, family, or tribe, his name will be completely blotted out from amongst the people.</u>" Now, is that right? How true.. _The Seventh Seal</p>	
<p>Dan and Ephraim did just that under a hypocrite of a king in Israel, an impostor, Jeroboam. Now, notice, in First Kings the 12th chapter. I know we're... This, to me it — it—it lays a background on what we can depend on, what we see. First Kings, I want to go to the —the 12th chapter, the 25th to the 30th verse. _The Seventh Seal</p>	<p>This is just what the Tribes of Dan and Ephraim were guilty of when they permitted Jeroboam to set up "Golden Calves" to be worshipped, one at Dan in the "Tribe of Dan," and the other at Bethel in the "Tribe of Ephraim." 1. Kings 12:25-30. This is the reason why the Tribes of Dan and Ephraim are omitted from the list in this chapter, and the names of Joseph and Levi substituted. Page 66</p>
<p>See? Ephraim at Beth-el, and Dan; and they set up idols, and these went out to worship this. And here we are plumb down into the Millennium age almost, and God still remembered that sin. They're not even counted in there. Amen. _The Seventh Seal</p>	

Comment: Did an angel of God reveal to Branham the above information during his sermon on the seventh seal? As shown, Branham copied Larkin and never mentioned his book as the source. But, passed the information to his audience as a personal revelation. Also, there is a flaw in the above revelation. Although the tribes of Dan and Ephraim are not mentioned among those sealed during the tribulation, their names appear among other tribes during Christ's coming reign, as shown in Ezekiel 48:1-8.

Also, Branham says Ephraim is not listed in Revelation 7; but rather, Joseph is named. There is a problem with this revelation. Genesis 41:50-52 and Joshua 16:4 tell us that Joseph had two sons: Ephraim and Manasseh. So then, when Joseph is mentioned among those sealed in Revelation 7:8, it is actually speaking of Ephraim because he is the son of Joseph: "...*then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim...*" (Ezek. 37:16). Manasseh was already listed in verse 6. Branham failed to recognize this mistake when presenting this flawed view.

Serpent Seed: Cain the Son of Eve and the Serpent

Genesis 3:1. Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made.

William Branham vs. Zohar, Scofield, and Rabbi Eichhorn

What William Branham Said:	What Others Said:
<p>Before Adam ever had carnal knowledge of Eve, the serpent had that knowledge ahead of him. And that one born of it was Cain. Cain was of (born of, begotten of) that "Wicked One". I John 3:12.</p>	<p>"Two beings [Adam and Nachash] had intercourse with Eve, and she conceived from both and bore two children. Each followed one of the male parents, and their spirits parted, one to this side</p>

<p>_An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Three – Ephesian Church Age</p>	
<p>When the seventh angel begins to sound his mystery, he winds up all of the loose ends that these fellows probed at, and the mysteries comes down from God as the Word of God and reveals the entire revelation of God. Then the Godhead and everything else is settled. All the mysteries: serpent's seed and whatevermore is to be revealed. _The Breach 03 -17-63E</p>	<p>and one to the other, and similarly their characters. On the side of Cain are all the haunts of the evil species; from the side of Abel comes a more merciful class, yet not wholly beneficial – good wine mixed with bad." (Zohar 136)</p> <p>After receiving the Serpent's seed, Eve became pregnant. From her second act of intercourse with Adam, Eve became more pregnant. – American Rabbi David Max. Eichhorn 1957 book: "<i>Cain: Son of the Serpent,</i>" Page 27</p>
<p>Even—even the devil, after the curse came upon him, he become a serpent; he's still a beautiful creature. Look how graceful he can move, and how beautiful his colors. Even his curse never took the beauty from him. _The Mark Of The Beast And The Seal Of God #2, 02-17-61</p>	<p>The serpent in Edenic form, is not to be thought of as a writhing reptile. That is, the effect of the curse (Gen. 3:14). The creature which lent itself to Satan may have been the most beautiful as it was the most "subtle" of creatures less than man. Trace of that beauty remain despite the curse. Every movement of a serpent is graceful, and many species are beautifully colored. In the serpent, Satan appeared as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). Scofield Bible (footnote on Genesis 3:1, page 6)</p>
<p>See, they were—they were Canaanites, these giants; and they were the sons of Cain, which was the son of the serpent. And the serpent was a giant man, great monstrous sort of a fellow, not a reptile at all, beautiful. He was the most subtle of all the beasts of the field. _Questions And Answers #1, 08-23-64M</p>	
<p>Editor's Note: Branham paraphrased Scofield's descriptions of the serpent.</p>	

Comment: William Branham was not the originator of the serpent seed doctrine. His teaching is found in the 9th or 15th century book of Zohar and the Scofield Bible. It should be noted that Branham allegedly received the revelation of serpent seed in 1958 (The Serpent Seed 09-28-58E) after the 1957 publication of Eichhorn's book. Zohar, Eichhorn, and Branham believed the serpent (in Hebrew *Nachash*) and Adam had sexual relationships with Eve in the garden of Eden. As a result, Cain was begotten of the serpent, while Abel was born of Adam. He also said the giants of Canaan were sons of Cain when the Bible shows his lineage died in the flood. However, Zohar, Eichhorn, and Branham's account clearly contradict Genesis 4:1, which says: "*And Adam KNEW Eve his wife; and she conceived, and BARE CAIN, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.*" We shall study this subject later.

Water Baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ

Acts 2:38. Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

William Branham vs. Oneness Pentecostal^[131]

What William Branham Said	What Oneness Theology Said:

That's some of the mysteries that this angel is supposed to wind up, all "the mystery," all the mysteries of God. Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir? 12-30-62E, Par. 255

The mystery of water baptism. Where, the extreme trinitarianism has brought it into titles of "Father, Son, Holy Ghost." And the mystery of the Godhead being fulfilled in the baptism of the Name of "Jesus Christ," according to the Book of the Revelations that the Church in this time was to receive. There is some of the mysteries. Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir? 12-30-62E, Par. 261-263

But there's supposed to be an Eagle time come. See? That's the time it's to straighten all those mysteries out. See? Father, Son, and Holy Ghost is titles of the Lord Jesus Christ (Watch), all three of them. Matthew said, "Father, Son, Holy Ghost..." Peter said, "Lord Jesus Christ..." Who is the Father? "The Lord said unto my Lord, 'Set thou on My right hand.'" Is that right? Father, Son—Jesus, Holy Ghost—the Logos....
_Questions And Answers On The Seals 03-24-63

So it is a mystery that's been in the Book in these seven church ages. Each one of them produced a—**a mystery, all about water baptism** and these other things that they've fumbled about so long .
_Spiritual Food In Due Season 07-18-65E

And I stood there a little bit till the Holy Spirit revealed it. I said, "The entire Bible, as much as been revealed to man, through justification, sanctification, the baptism of the Holy Ghost, the **baptism in Jesus' Name**

In April 1913, at the "Apostolic Faith World-Wide Camp-Meeting" held in Arroyo Seco, California and conducted by Maria Woodworth-Etter, organizers promised that God would "deal with them, giving them a unity and power that we have not yet known."¹Canadian **R. E McAlister preached a message about water baptism** just prior to a baptismal service that was a bout to be conducted. His message defended the "single immersion" method and preached "that apostolic **baptism was administered as a single immersion in a single name, Jesus Christ,** " saying: **"The words Father, Son, and Holy Ghost were never used in Christian baptism"**. This immediately caused controversy when Frank Denny, a Pentecostal missionary to China, jumped on the platform and tried to censor McAlister. Oneness Pentecostals mark this occasion as the initial "spark" in the Oneness revival movement. **John G. Schaepe**, a young minister, was so moved by McAlister's revelation that, after praying and reading the Bible all night, he ran through the camp the following morning shouting that he'd received a **"revelation"** on baptism, that the **"name" of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit was "Lord Jesus Christ"**. Schaepe (whose name is often misspelled **Scheppe** in a number of sources) claimed during this camp-meeting that the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost was the name Lord Jesus Christ which name was later part of the baptismal command posited by Peter in Acts 2:38 – i.e., baptism "in the name of Jesus Christ" – was the fulfillment and counterpart of the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 constituting baptism "in the name (singular) of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (which "name" Oneness believers hold to be that of Jesus)." This conclusion was accepted by several others in the camp and given further theological development by a minister named Frank Ewart.

and all these things, has been revealed; but there is secrets that's hid inside, because the Bible is sealed with Seven Seals. I must go there to find it." _This Day This Scripture Is Fulfilled 02-19-65

There is ONE God with three titles, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. This mighty revelation is what the early church had, and it **must be restored in this last day along with the correct formula of water baptism.** _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter One - The Revelation Of Jesus The Christ

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are just titles. They are not names. That is why we baptize in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, for that is a name, not a title. It is the name of those titles, just like you take a new born baby who is a son and name him. Baby is what it is, son is the title, then you name him, John Henry Brown. You just don't baptize in 'Jesus Name'. There are thousands of Jesuses in the world and have been even before Jesus, our Saviour. But there is only one of them born the Christ, "Lord Jesus Christ". _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter One - The Revelation Of Jesus The Christ

On April 15, 19 14, Ewart and Glenn Cook publicly baptized each other in "the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, but as the one name of Jesus, not as a Trinitarian formula." This is considered to be the historical point when Oneness Pentecostalism emerged as a distinct movement. **A number of ministers claimed they were baptized "in the Name of Jesus Christ" before 1914**, including Frank Small and Andrew D. Urshan. Urshan claims to have baptized others in Jesus Christ's name as early as 1910. Even Charles Parham himself, founder of the modern Pentecostal movement, baptized using a Christological formula prior to Azusa Street.

Oneness teaching asserts that God is a singular spirit who is one, not three persons, individuals or minds. "Father," "Son," and "Holy Ghost" (a.k.a. Holy Spirit) are merely titles reflecting the different personal manifestations of the One True God in the universe.

Although Matthew 28:19 seems to mandate a Trinitarian formula for baptism, Oneness theology avows that the "name" in that verse is actually singular and refers to Jesus, whose name they believe to be that of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Oneness believers insist that all Bible's texts on the subject must be in full agreement with each other; thus, they say that either the Apostles disobeyed the command they had been given in Matthew 28:19 or they correctly fulfilled it by using the name of Jesus Christ.

Comment: Branham false ly told followers that he restored water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ according to Acts 2:38, along with the understanding this verse fulfilled Christ's command to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in Mathew 28:19. But, as show n, he was a chil d when Oneness Pentecostal taught this mode of baptism in 1913 and 1914. He often spoke of a song sponsored in G. T. Haywood's (1880-1931) songbook: "The Water Way: It Shall Be Light In T he Evening Time" that promoted water baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ (Look 04-28-63, par. 252 and Trying to Do God a Service 11-27-65B, par. 321). But yet, Branham claimed to restore this mode in the 1960s.

Also, Branham preferred that baptism be performed in the name of the "Lord Jesus Christ" rather than Jesus Christ or Lord

Jesus. He equated Lord with Father, Son with Jesus, and the Holy Spirit with Christ. Branham's followers believe he brought this revelation of baptism in the name of the "Lord Jesus Christ." But, as shown, Schaepe had already done so at the beginning of the Oneness Pentecostal movement : "...he'd received a "revelation" on baptism, that the "name" of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit was "Lord Jesus Christ". Wikipedia further says: ^[132]

On **April 15, 1914**, Ewart and Glenn Cook publicly **baptized each other** in "the name of the **Lord Jesus Christ**, but as the one name of Jesus, not as a Trinitarian formula.

Moreover, as we shall study, newspaper ads suggest that the church Branham attended under Dr. Roy Davis was Pentecostal and baptized according to Acts 2:38 (see pages 264 -265). Yet, Branham said that he asked his Baptist pastor to baptize him in the name of Lord Jesus Christ when in fact Dr. Davis already baptized in this mode before his request (The Laodicean Church Age 12-11-60E, par. 298). Once again, Branham is shown not to be the originator of a revelation that he claimed. But yet, Branham wanted to claim those revelations by saying he was tying the loose ends. What loose ends? He brought no new teachings to the subject. Also, the scriptures show the apostles baptizing either in the name of Jesus Christ or Lord Jesus (Acts 2:38; 8:16; 19:5). As shown below, Branham explained why he baptized in the name of the "Lord Jesus Christ" rather than "Jesus Christ." His answer:

Now, looky here, my sisters, and you brethren who are present: Matthew said, "Father, Son, Holy Ghost." Now, if you 'all go **get the Emphatic Diaglott of the Greek interpretation** (original Greek interpretation from the Vatican. **It happens to be that I have one** ; it's out of print now , I think), or **any Greek translation**, the right translation to Acts 2:38... Peter said, "Repent every one of you and **be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ**." The King James version just said, "in the name of Jesus Christ ."; but in the **Emphatic Diaglott it says, "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ ."** _The Water Baptism 01-20-61

In the above statement Branham told his audience that Acts 2:38 in the Emphatic Diaglott says to be baptized in the name of the "Lord Jesus Christ" rather than "Jesus Christ." His statement is untrue. The Emphatic Diaglott (once published solely by Jehovah's Witnesses) said: ^[133]

Peter and said to them: Reform you, and **be dipped** each one of you in the **name of Jesus Anointed**, for forgiveness of sins, and you shall receive the gifts of the holy spirit. Acts 2:38

The Emphatic Diaglott says to be dipped in the name of Jesus Anointed. Intentional or unintentional, Branham told his audience a lie. He could get away with this error in those days because books were difficult to access. However, the internet has made past books easily accessible. Thus, Branham's teachings cannot be trusted. People must conduct their personal researches or be misled by a man consistently proven to be error-prone.

The Godhead: Oneness Doctrine

1 Timothy 3:16. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh.

William Branham vs. Oneness Pentecostal ^[134]

What William Branham Said:	What Oneness Theology Said:
And now, we know that this Book of Redemption will not be thoroughly	The Oneness Pentecostal movement is considered to have begun in 1914 , as the result of

understood: it's probed at through six church ages, **but at the end, when the seventh angel begins to sound his mystery, he winds up all of the loose ends that these fellows probed at**, and the mysteries comes down from God as the Word of God and reveals the entire revelation of God. **Then the Godhead and everything else is settled**. All the mysteries: serpent's seed and whatevermore is to be revealed. _The Breach Between The Seven Church Ages And The Seven Seals 03-17-63E

Father, Son, Holy Ghost is absolutely **three titles of the Person of God** manifested in—in—in three different ways or three attributes of Himself. _Questions And Answers On The Seals 03-24-63

The fullness of Godhead is made known. **This secret of mystery is now revealed, that God is manifested. God and man become One**, the anointed Man, Christ! What does Christ mean? "The anointed One," the Anointed that was anointed with the fullness of the Godhead bodily. _Christ Is The Mystery Of God Revealed 07-28-63

What a day! What a time that we're living, this great mystery of God being finished; bringing in the Godhead, showing what It is; how these little isms, and went off and made Him this, and somebody made Him this, and somebody made Him that. **But the Angel of the Lord come down and brought up all their isms, and pulled out that Truth out of it, and presented It. And there It is, just as perfect as It can be**, no other way you could go. There It is, that's what He is. See, serpent seed, all—all these different things that's been so mysteriously amongst the people. _The

severe doctrinal disputes within the nascent Pentecostal movement.

Beginnings of the Oneness movement
However, **it was not the Oneness baptismal formula which proved the divisive issue between Oneness advocates and other Pentecostals, but rather their rejection of the Trinity**. In the Assemblies of God, the re-baptisms in Jesus' name caused a backlash from many Trinitarians in that organization, who feared the direction that their church might be heading toward. J. Roswell Flowers initiated a resolution on the subject, which caused many Oneness baptizers to withdraw from the organization. In October 1916 at the Fourth General Council of the Assemblies of God, the issue finally came to a head. **The mostly-Trinitarian leadership, fearing that the new issue of Oneness might overtake their organization, drew up a doctrinal statement affirming the truth of Trinitarian dogma**, among other issues. When this Statement of Fundamental Truths was adopted, a third of the fellowship's ministers left to form Oneness fellowships. After this separation, most Oneness believers became relatively isolated from other Pentecostals.

Forming Oneness organizations
Having separated themselves from the Trinitarians within the new Pentecostal movement, Oneness Pentecostals felt a need to come together and form an association of churches of "like precious faith." This led in **January 1917** to the formation of the General Assembly of the Apostolic Assemblies in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, which merged **by 1918** with a second Oneness body, the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World (sometimes referred to simply as the "PAW"). Several small Oneness ministerial groups formed after **1914**. Many of these were ultimately merged into the PAW, while others remained independent, like AFM Church of God.

Uniting Time And Sign 08 - 18-63	
<p>Editor's Note: Branham was so occupied with being Revelation 10:7 that he even claimed to restore the Oneness doctrine of the Godhead in the last day. But, as shown this belief was taught by Oneness Pentecostal in 1914 when he was 5 years old. Attempting to be different, Branham often pretended to be neither oneness, twoness (Jehovah Witnesses' belief), or threeness (Trinitarian), saying: "<i>What difference does it make to the Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, or Oneness, Twoness, Threeness, or whatever it is? It's my soul that's concerned</i>" (A Greater Than Solomon Is Here Now 03-06-64). But, Branham's teachings are mostly Oneness Pentecostal. But, he also taught the Trinitarian, Arianism (Jehovah's Witnesses), and adoptionism views of the Godhead, which has caused great strife amongst followers (studied later).</p>	
<p>The Spirit of God in John expresses thusly in order to set forth the Supreme Deity of Jesus Christ and to reveal the Godhead as ONE God. Today there is a gross error. It is that there are three Gods instead of one. This revelation as given to John by Jesus, Himself, corrects that error. It is not that there are three Gods, but one God with three offices. There is ONE God with three titles, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. This mighty revelation is what the early church had, and it must be restored in this last day along with the correct formula of water baptism. <u>An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages – Chapter - One The Revelation Of Jesus Christ</u></p> <p>I Timothy 3:16 says, "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness : God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into Glory". This is what the Bible says. It doesn't say a thing about a first or second or third person here. It says God was manifest in flesh. One God. That ONE GOD was manifested in flesh. That ought to settle it. God came in a human form. That didn't make Him ANOTHER GOD. HE WAS GOD, THE SAME GOD. <u>An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages</u></p>	<p>Father, Son, and Holy Spirit</p> <p>Oneness teaching asserts that God is a singular spirit who is one, not three persons, individuals or minds. "Father," "Son," and "Holy Ghost" (a.k.a. Holy Spirit) are merely titles reflecting the different personal manifestations of the One True God in the universe.</p> <p>When Oneness believers speak of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, they see these as three personal manifestations of one being, one personal God:</p> <p>Oneness teachers often quote a phrase used by early pioneers of the movement – "God was manifested as the Father in creation, the Son in redemption, and the Holy Ghost in emanation."</p> <p>God manifesting himself in three personal and distinct manifestations or forms to redeem and sanctify sinful and lost humanity, and also that all the fullness of the deity resides fully in the person of Christ.</p> <p>The Father and the Holy Spirit are one and the same personal God, according to Oneness theology.</p> <p>The Oneness doctrine of God</p> <p>Jesus Christ is the manifestation, human personification, or incarnation of the one God. <u>Wikipedia- Oneness Pentecostalism</u></p>

<p>Chapter One- The Revelation Of Jesus Christ But the whole thing has been wound up, for there's only one God, and His Name is Jesus Christ. <u>Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir? 12-30-62E</u></p>	
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Comment: Branham claimed that he restored the Pentecostal Oneness' doctrine of the Godhead. But, the above quote shows this claim to be false. Also, during his 1960 sermon on the Laodicean Church Age, Branham pretend he never believed the Trinity doctrine (par. 298). Yet, during Branham's early ministry he appeared to believe in the Trinitarian view of the Godhead.

See, you believe in **God**; You believe in **the Son**, believe in **the Holy Ghost**; that's **the Trinity**. **We believe in that**. At Thy Word 05-06-51E

And may the **Holy Spirit**, the **third Person** of the **Trinity**, come in now. The Resurrection Of Lazarus 07-29-51A

Making intercessions now for we who've accepted the **Holy Spirit**, the **third Person** of the **trinity**. Our Hope Is In God 09-29-51

We love Him, that great, **third Person of the trinity**.... Early Spiritual Experiences 07-13-52

Then **Jesus Christ** comes into His Church, to His people, to manifest Himself out through the people, while He, Himself, is **setting at the right hand of the Father**, sending back the **Holy Spirit**, the **third Person** of the **trinity**, to live in human beings, to work through them, to show the same works that He did in the beginning. God Testifying Of His Gifts 07-13-52E

As shown, Branham once believed in Trinitarianism during the early 1950s. Yet, he claimed to restore the Oneness doctrine of the Godhead that was taught since 1914. In the later 1950s, he seemed to gradually embrace the Oneness view. Then, in 1961, he declared the trinity doctrine to be of the Devil, saying: **"Trinitarianism is of the devil!" I say that THUS SAITH THE LORD!** He further said: "And as far as **three Gods, that's from hell.**" (Revelation, Chapter Four #3 01-08-61).

The subject concerning the Godhead is controversial among churches of varying beliefs. But, by speaking "Thus saith the Lord," Branham is declaring that God is saying the trinity doctrine is of the Devil. Disagreeing with a point of view is one matter, but to speak in the name of the Lord regarding the subject carries serious consequences if it is not true (Deut. 18:20 -22; Ezek. 22:28). But, as we shall later prove, Branham's "Thus saith the Lord" has been known to repeatedly fail or to be contradictory.

Therefore, if Branham is found to be wrong about the trinity on the Day of Judgment (Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; 1 Cor. 15:24-28; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 John 5:7), he could be guilty of false prophecy and blasphemy. His conflicting views on the Godhead have caused a rift amongst followers. Some believe his Oneness teaching; while others have embraced his Arianism and adoptionism views. Also, Branham taught simultaneously that Jesus was God manifested in the flesh and Michael the archangel (more later).

"And at that time Michael shall stand, the great prince." **Michael was Christ**, of course, Who fought the angelic wars in heaven with the devil. Satan and Michael fought together, or fought against each other, rather. Beginning And Ending Of The Gentile Dispensation 01-09-55E

What did Lucifer do? The first thing that Lucifer done to separate the fellowship of God and man, he wanted to build him a united kingdom, a greater splendor and seemingly more cultured, a greater kingdom **than Michael, Christ had.** _Christ Is The Mystery Of God Revealed 07-28-63

As you can see, Branham mixed O neness doctrine with Jehovah's Witnesses' theology. Actually, Branham not only failed to clarify the mystery of the Godhead, he is responsible for bringing more confusion to an already complex and hotly debated subject. Moreover, like the Godhead discussion, Branham also believed he clarified the teachings on marriage and divorce. But, as we shall later study, he created more confusion among his followers after teaching this subject on February 21, 1965.

The Two Comings of Elijah

Malachi 4:5-6. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers....
 Mathew 17:11. And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.

William Branham vs. Ellicott,^[135] Pulpit Commentaries,^[136] and Charles Taze Russell^[137]

What William Branham Said:	What Commentaries Said:
<p>Now, <u>that couldn't a been John</u>. No. See, the world wasn't burnt up and the righteous walked out on the wicked. See? No, no. ... before the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to the fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. Notice the accuracy of the Holy Spirit, that It would not confuse them two comings of Elijah. _What Is The Attraction On The Mountain? 07-25-65E</p> <p>Now, <u>we realize that that wasn't John</u>, 'cause it wasn't the dreadful Day of the Lord (was it?), and He... neither did He burn the earth. So it must've meant a preview, or—or another future coming of John... or of—of Elijah. _The Laodicean Church Age 12 - 11-60E</p> <p>Not only do we see this messenger coming here in Revelation 10:7, but we find that the Word speaks of Elijah coming before</p>	<p>(11) Elias truly shall first come.—Better, <i>cometh</i> Our Lord's words are obviously enigmatic in their form, and, as such, admit of two very different interpretations. Taken literally, as they have been by very many both in earlier and later times, they seem to say that Elijah shall come in person before the yet future day of the Lord, the great second Advent of the Christ. So it has been argued the prophecy of Malachi 4:5 shall yet have a literal fulfilment, and <u>John the Baptist when he confessed that he was not Elijah (John1:21) was rightly expecting his appearance.</u> _Ellicott's Commentary</p> <p>Verse 11. - Elias truly shall first come (ἔρχεται, cometh). Many of the best manuscripts and editions omit "first." The Vulgate has merely, Elias</p>

<p>Jesus returns. In Matthew 17:10, "And His disciples asked Him saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?" And Jesus said, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things." Before the coming of our Lord, Elijah must come back for a work of restoration in the church. This is what Malachi 4:5 says, "Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord; and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." There is absolutely no doubt that Elijah must return before the coming of Jesus. He has a specific work to accomplish. That work is the part of Malachi 4:6 that says "he will turn the hearts of the children to their fathers". The reason that we know this is his specific work to do at that time is because he has already accomplished the part that says "he shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children," when the Elijah ministry was here in John the Baptist. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age</p> <p>And there as He appeared, stood Moses and Elijah on either side. That is exactly how He is coming again. Truly Elijah will first come and turn the hearts of the children (bride) back to the fathers' Apostolic Word Doctrine. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Two - The Patmos Vision</p> <p>But the same inspiration that said Elijah will come for the last part of the church age to restore the faith of the children back to the original faith of the</p>	<p>quidem venturus est. It is probably inserted in our text from the parallel passage in Mark, where it is certainly genuine. Christ is here alluding to his own second coming, which shall be preceded by the appearance of Elijah in person. This seems to be the plain meaning of the prophecy in Malachi, and of Christ's announcement, and is confirmed by St. John's statement concerning the two witnesses (Revelation 11:3,6). <u>That the paragraph cannot refer to John the Baptist is plain from the tenses used in this verse</u> contrasted with those in the following. To regard ver. 12 as simply a correction of ver. 10 is to do violence to language, and to leave one half of Malachi's prediction unexplained. Restore (ἀποκαταστήσει) all things. The event is still future, and was not fulfilled in the Baptist's preaching, however deep and extensive may have been its influence. Of course, John in a partial degree reproduced the character and acts of Elijah, directing the people to the eternal principles of justice and righteousness, to a reformation of religion and morals; but he could not be said to have reconstituted, re-established all things; though it is possible that, had his message been received and acted upon, some such effects would have been produced. _Pulpit Commentary</p> <p>Verse 6. - He shall turn, etc.; i.e., taking the preposition, rendered "to," in the sense of "with," he shall convert one and all, fathers and children, young and old, unto the Lord. Or, in agreement with the versions, he shall bring back the Jews then living to the faith of their ancestors, who rejoiced to see the day of Christ (John 8:56); and then the patriarchs, who for their unbelief had disowned them, shall recognize them as true Israelites, true children of Abraham. Others explain - He shall unite the Jews who are our fathers in the faith to us Christians who are their children (see Luke 1:17, where</p>
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<p>fathers, the apostolic faith, which were supposed to go back. _The Fifth Seal 03-22-63</p> <p>And the man of the seventh angel messenger at the end of the Laodicean Age, will not be the literal Elijah. He will be a Gentile to his people. _Questions And Answers On The Seals 03-24-63M</p>	<p><u>the angel Gabriel quotes part of the passage, and applies it to John the Baptist).</u></p> <p>So Elijah shall come and preach repentance, as the Baptist did at Christ's first coming; and <u>unless the Jews listen to him and turn to Christ, they shall be destroyed</u>, shall share in that eternal anathema which shall fall on the ungodly at the day of judgment. _Pulpit Commentary</p>
<p>And now here's these two prophets standing here with the Word of God to do anything to nature they want to, and they shake the earth. And it shows exactly who does it. It's Moses and Elijah, 'cause there's their ministry re-impersonated again: both men. _The Sixth Seal</p>	<p>(And devoureth their enemies.—"History supplies the illustrations—the fire that consumed the opponents of Moses (Num. 16:28, 35), and that which came down at the word of Elijah. (2 Kings 1:10, 12)". _ Russell's "Finished Mystery," Page 173</p>
<p>What did Moses do? He—he—he turned the—the waters into blood; he done all these kinds of miracles, just exactly what's predicted here under this Sixth Seal. And here they are in Revelations 11, doing the very same things. Amen. _The Sixth Seal</p>	<p>And have power over waters—Literal and symbolic. To turn them Into blood.—Literally as when Moses turned the waters of Egypt Into blood (Exodus 7:21.) P. 174</p> <p>As often as they will. — Literally in the plagues which Moses poured out upon the Egyptians (Exodus 7 to 11.) Symbolically in the spiritual plagues, the seven last upon Christendom.—Rev. 16. 11:7. Page 174, Russell</p>
<p>They have power to—power to shut the heavens that it rain not in the days of their prophecy:... Elijah, he knows how to do it; he's done it before. Amen. _The Sixth Seal</p>	<p>11:6. These have power to shut heaven.—The literal heavens and the spiritual heavens.—1 Kl. 17:1. That It rain not*—That there be no literal showers, or spiritual showers of blessings. In the days of their prophecy. Literally in the three and one half years in Elijah's day in which there was no rain (James 5:17). Page 173, Russell</p>

Comment: As shown above, Branham was not the first to teach the two comings of Elijah to the Jews. Nor was he the first who claimed to be Elijah to the Gentiles. Other men did so before him (more later). Although popular commentaries of the 1800s spoke of two comings of Elijah, this study shall later show that both appearances pertained to the Jews, not to the Gentiles or the New Testament church. Actually, Malachi 1:1 and 4:4 says the prophecy of Malachi 4:5-6 pertains to Israel.

Seventh Angel of Revelation 3:14 and 10:7

Revelation 10:7. But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel,

when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

William Branham vs. Clarence Larkin

What William Branham Said:	What Clarence Larkin Said:
<p>It sounds so good to me; I—I like to read it. ... I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud:... a rainbow... upon his head, and his face was... the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: Now, we saw the same thing, which was Christ. And we know Christ is always the Messenger to the Church. All right. He's called a Pillar of Fire, the Angel of the covenant and so forth. And he had in his hand a little book opened:... (Now, the Seals had done been broke here. We're breaking them now; but this, the thing's opened.)... and he set his right foot on the sea, and his left... on the earth. _The First Seal</p> <p>If you notice that's Christ (See?), 'cause He in the Old Testament was called the Angel of the Covenant, and He's directly coming to the Jews now, for the Church is finished. See? All right. _The Breach Between The Seven Church Ages And The Seven Seals 03-17-63E</p>	<p>Who this "MIGHTY ANGEL" is we do not know unless he be Christ Himself. In the Old Testament the Son of God was called the "ANGEL OF THE LORD" (Ex. 3:2-18), and as we are now in that part of the Book of Revelation that deals mainly with Israel it is nothing less than what we should expect to hear, Christ spoken of as a "MIGHTY ANGEL." Then the description of this "MIGHTY ANGEL" seems to point to the same Person that John saw standing amid the "Lampstands" in chapt er 1:12-16, or Christ Himself. The "ANGEL" was clothed in a CLOUD, there was a RAINBOW upon His head, His face was as it were the SUN, and His feet as PILLARS OF FIRE. No mere angel was ever before or since described in the Scriptures as appearing like that. Then He is described as crying with a loud voice, as a lion roareth, and Christ is spoken of in this Book (Rev. 5:5) as "THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH"; and in the chapter that follows this the same "MIGHTY ANGEL" speaks of the "Two Witnesses," as "MY WITNESSES," which is further indisputable evidence that this "MIGHTY ANGEL" is no other than Christ Himself. Page 81</p>
<p>Editor's Note: As shown, Larkin identified the mighty angel of Revelation 10:1 as Christ based on the given descriptions. This teaching was not Branham's revelation. Moreover, Branham contradicted himself by saying this mighty angel, which he identified as Christ, will come to the Jews because the church age is finished. But yet, he claimed to be the angel of Revelation 10:7. Once again, another contradictory teaching.</p>	
<p>What is this Book of Redemption, this title deed, abstract title deed? _The Breach Between The Seven Church Ages And The Seven Seals 03-17-63E</p> <p>Now, watch. And he had in his hand a little book</p>	<p>What was this "LITTLE BOOK"? Some claim that it was the "SEVEN SEALED BOOK," now open, and therefore the "TITLE DEED" to the Earth, and that the "MIGHTY ANGEL" held it in His hand, as He stood with one foot on the sea and</p>

<p>open:... Now, here it was closed here, and sealed, and here it's open; it's been opened. _The Breach Between The Seven Church Ages And The Seven Seals 03-17-63E</p>	<p>one foot on the earth, as His authority for claiming possession. But the "ANGEL" does not make that use of it, and if it were His "TITLE DEED" to the Earth it seems a strange procedure for Him to give it to John to eat.. Page 81</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Branham believed the little book in the angel's hand was the seven sealed book and title deed to the earth. Larkin disagreed with him. Nonetheless, the fact that Larkin wrote in 1918 that some viewed this book to be thus informs us that Branham was not the originator of this alleged revelation. He brought no new insight pertaining to this book.</p>	

Comment: Branham was not the first to believe the mighty angel of Revelation 10:1 was Christ and the book was the title deed.

William Branham vs. Charles Taze Russell

What William Branham Said:	What Charles Russell Said:
<p>I like to read it. ... I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud:... a rainbow... upon his head, and his face was... the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: Now, we saw the same thing, which was Christ. And we know Christ is always the Messenger to the Church. All right. He's called a Pillar of Fire, the Angel of the covenant and so forth _The First Seal</p>	<p>10:1. And I saw another angel.—"The Messenger of the Covenant," the Lord Jesus.—Mai. 3:1. Come down from Heaven.—At the time of the Second Advent, Oct 1874.—Rev. 3:20. Clothed with a cloud.—"He cometh with clouds;" Page 167 And [a rainbow was] THE HAIR upon His head, and His face was as it were the sun, and His feet as pillars of Are —See Rev. 1:14-16; 7:2; 18:1. P. 167</p>
<p>And he had in his hand a little book open:... Now, here it was closed here, and sealed, and here it's open; it's been opened. _The Breach Between The Seven Church Ages 03-17-63E</p>	<p>10:2. And [He had] HAVING In His hand. —In His power, given to Him by the Father. — Rev. 6:7, 6. A little book open.—The Present Truth message.—C89. Page 167</p>
<p>And he had in his hand a little book opened:... (Now, the Seals had done been broke here. We're breaking them now; but this, the thing's opened.)... and he set his right foot on the sea, and his left... on the earth. _The First Seal</p>	
<p>Editor's Note: Russell believed the angel of Revelation 10:1 was Jesus' advent in 1874. Many of Branham's followers said it happened in 1963. Both men believed the opened little book were their messages. Followers believe their books are thus.</p>	
<p>Have the seven thunders which equals seven mysteries already been revealed? Were they revealed in the seven Seals, but are yet—but are yet not known to us as the thunders</p>	<p>10:3. And cried with a loud voice,—Pastor Russell was the voice used. —Rev. 7:2. As when a lion roareth.—Symbolical of Justice.—Rev. 4:7; Amos 3:8. And when, —In 1881 A. D. <u>He had cried</u>*—</p>

<p>yet? No, they were revealed in the seven Seals; that's what the thunders was about. They was to reveal... The seven thunders that had uttered their voices and no one could make out what it was... John knew what it was, but he was forbidden to write it. He said, "But the seventh angel, in the days of his sounding, the seven mysteries of the seven thunders would be revealed." And the seventh angel is a messenger of the seventh church age. See? _Questions And Answers #4, 08-30-64E</p>	<p>With the first great cr y, "Food for Thinking Christians ." 1,400,000 copies given away. <u>free. Seven thunder*</u>—Seven volumes of "STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES."—Rev. 8:5. Uttered their voices. — Were foreseen as necessary to the complete statement of the Plan, and the fulfillment of this and other Scriptures, 167 168 The Finished Mystery BSV. U 10:4. And [when] WHATSOEVER the seven thunders had uttered [their voices]. Page 167</p>
<p>Now this messenger of Malachi 4 and Revelation 10:7 is going to do two things. One: According to Malachi 4 he will turn the hearts of the children to the fathers. Two: He will reveal the mysteries of the seven thunders in Revelation 10 which are the revelations contained in the seven seals. It will be these Divinely revealed 'mystery-truths' that literally turn the hearts of the children to the Pentecostal fathers. Exactly so. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age</p>	<p>10:4. And [when] WHATSOEVER the seven thunder had uttered [their voices], I.—Pastor Russell as a representative of the John class. Page 168</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Russell believed his written books were the revelation of the seven thunders. As shown, during a questions and answers section, Branham was asked if the thunders had already been revealed. He said they were revealed in his messages on the seven seals, which he <i>plagiarized</i>. Like Russell, Branham greatly misinterpreted this subject, as we shall later study. Now, after more than 54 years since his death, the world continues on as these scriptures remain unfulfilled.</p>	
<p>And we find out, at the last church age, over in Revelation 10, there is to be a trumpet sound, and there was seven voices uttered at... They was not permitted to write. But it was sealed on the back side of the Book, the seven seals was on the back side of the Book. After the Book is written, then It's sealed back there with seven seals. Now, no one knows what they are. But It said, "In the days of the seventh angel sounding forth his</p>	<p>Saying [unto me], Seal up [those] WHAT things [which] SOEVER the seven thunders uttered.—Do not immediately disclose their full contents. — Dan. 8:26; 12:4, 9. And write them not.—Observe how the Lord retarded the publications: Vol. I was published In 1886. "In sending forth this first volume of the MILLENNIAL. DAWN, It is but proper that we apologize to the many friends who have waited for It so patiently since promised." (A3.) Volume II was published In 1889, and III in 189L "Some</p>

<p>Message," that's earthly angel, now. Because this Angel came down from Heaven; and this was on earth; angel is "a messenger," a messenger to the age. _The Evening Messenger 01-16-63</p>	<p>have urged greater haste In the writing and publishing of the several volumes of this series, and, to a large extent. I have shared the same feelings of Impatience'; but my observations of the Lord's dealings and leadings and unfoldings of His Plan are gradually convincing me that He has not shared our impatience. Page 168</p> <p>And not only so, but It has also given opportunity for practicing the lessons learned, and for exercising the talents of each In spreading the advancing light before others of God's saints." (C12-) Volume IV was published In 1897, V in 1899, VI In 1904 and VII In 1917 . This makes a total lapse of 36 years from the publication of <u>FOOD FOR THINKING CHRISTIANS</u> to the last volume of the 8SCRIPTURE STUDIES. Meantime the Harvest work grew to a movement of vast proportions; and Volume VII was delayed . Page 168</p>	<p>ends that these fellows probed at, and the mysteries comes down from God as the Word of God and reveals the entire revelation of God. Then the Godhead and everything else is settled. All the mysteries: serpent's seed and whatevermore is to be revealed. _The Breach Between The Seven Church Ages And The Seven Seals 03-17-63E</p> <p>And the messenger to the church age... ... in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery... (Seven Seals, all—all the mysteries)... of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets. The entire mystery is unfolded. That's the ministry of that angel. See? _The First Seal</p>	<p>mystery we are expressly told was <u>reserved until the close of the Gospel Age.</u>" (Z/97-265.) "The Plan ceases to be a mystery, because there is no farther object in perpetuating its secrecy. The greatness of the mystery, so long kept secret, and the wonderful grace bestowed on those called to fellowship In this mystery (Eph. 3:9), suggest to us that the work to follow Its completion must be an immense work, worthy of such great preparations. P. 169</p> <p>10:9. And I went unto the angel.—"<u>In coming out of bondage to human traditions, creeds, systems and errors,</u> we are coming directly to our Lord, to be taught and fed by Him, to be strengthened and perfected to do His pleasure, and to stand, and not fall with Babylon." Page 170</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Russell and Branham continued to promote their alleged messages as the revelation of the thunders. Russell believed his 7 volumes of books were the seven thunders.</p>		<p>But the Book is closed. No one knowed at all. They know it was a Book of Redemption on it there, but it's to be revealed in the last days according to Revelations 10. The seventh angel is going to be given the message of that, because it said that in the time of the sounding of the seventh church age—the seventh angel, when he sounds, all the mysteries of God should be finished up by his sounding. _The Third Seal</p>	
<p>I believe that "the seventh angel" of Revelation 10 is the seventh church -age messenger of Revelations 3:14. _Is This Th e Sign Of The End, Sir? 12-30-62E</p>	<p>10:7. But In the days of the voice of the seventh angel.—Pastor Russell was the seventh angel.—Rev. 3:14. Page 169</p>	<p>Editor's Note: Like Russell, Branham believed his messages (in the forms of books and recorded sermons) has revealed all the mysteries of the Bible. As a result, most of his followers no longer read the Bible as a book of authority or for teachings because rapturing faith lies with in the tapes and books . This is a fallacy, as this study shall prove. There are places in the Bible that Branham never talked about and may have never read..</p>	
<p>Editor's Note: Russell believed the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7 was the same angel messenger to the seventh church age in Revelation 3:14, which is the concept that Branham taught.</p>		<p>I believe that I have the message of the day. I believe that this is the Light of the day, and I believe it's pointing to that time coming. You see? I believe that the Message that he said down there, "the message that you have."_Questions And Answers 01-12-61</p>	<p>For many years Brother Fisher has been consecrated to the Lord, a careful student of the Bible in the light of the Message brought from the Lord by the messenger to the Laodicean Church. _Preface, Page 6</p>
<p>Now, see, the mystery of this seven -sealed Book will be revealed at the sounding of the seventh church angel's message. See? The seventh angel begins to sound, and there's the messages wrote out there , and we got it in tape and book form. _The Breach Between The Seven Church Ages And The Seven Seals 03-17-63E</p>	<p>When he shall begin to sound.—In the autumn of 1881, at which time FOOD FOR THINKING CHRISTIANS was circulated, and the General Call ceased. —Rev. 11:15. Page 169</p>	<p>But we, as this group of</p>	<p>REVELATION 1 <u>THE MESSAGE FOR THIS DAY</u></p>
<p>Editor's Note: Again, Russell and Branham promoted their written books and sermons as the revelation of the thunders and mystery foretold in Revelation 10:3-7. Like Russell, Branham plainly told his audience that his recorded sermons and books is the message of the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7.</p>			
<p>When the seventh angel begins to sound his mystery, he winds up all of the loose</p>	<p>The mystery of God [should be] WAS finished.—"The great unfolding of the Divine</p>		

<p>People, we have a <u>Message for this day</u>. We, we believe that God has given us a Message. _What House Will You Build Me? 11-21-65</p> <p>And that's the only thing you have to do, is make one jump to your feet, one jump to God, one promise, "Lord Jesus, I believe You with all my heart. I believe the <u>Message of the hour</u>. I see It confirmed, and I know It's right." _Modern Events Are Made Clear By Prophecy 12-06-65</p>	<p>The Revelation of Jesus Christ - John the Revelator and the Prophet Habakkuk have foretold that the understanding of this revelation, given in 96 A. D., is set for an appointed time, the end of the age; and that, at this time, HOW, when the <u>predicted "Faithful and wise servant" would be present with God's people, the vision would be made plain.</u>—Rev. 1:10; Matt. 24:46; Hab. 2:1 -3; 1 Pet 1:13. Page 11</p>
<p>The seventh angel's Message called <u>the Bride</u> out of the Pentecostal tradition _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M</p> <p>Just a perfect Message, back to the Word, "Go get that Bride!" That's a duty. That's what I'm here for That's what I'm trying to do, is call out a <u>Bride</u>. _Ashamed 07-11-65</p> <p>You say, "Why is it that the Message don't go out in these great big places, these big crusades, like amongst the denominations?" It's not their Food. It's not the church, so calls, Food. It's <u>the Bride</u> Food. It's spiritual Food in season. _Spiritual Food In Due Season 07-18-65E</p> <p>Then we've got the revelation in this last days, for the Message of the Lord God to <u>gather His Bride together</u>. No other age has it been promised. It's promised in this age: Malachi 4, Luke 17:30, Saint John 14:12, Joel 2:38. _The Invisible Union Of The Bride Of Christ 11-25-65</p>	<p>The Bible teaches that Jesus will set up His own Kingdom at His Second Advent In power and great glory, and that the virgin Church will become <u>His Bride</u> and Joint-heir by the power of the First Resurrection.</p> <p>"As the number of the Bride of Christ is to be 144,000. P. 138</p> <p>Are they before the Throne of God.—"With the world in the next Age, the Lord's power will be represented through the Great Company class, under <u>the Bride</u>. Page 141</p> <p>All Bible exponents of the Protestant kind recognize there are two Women especially mentioned In Revelation; the one the true Woman, <u>the Bride class</u>, the other the false Woman; and Protestants in general understand that false Woman to represent the papacy. Then again other Protestants understand that the Scriptures which refer to the mother and daughters refer to the papacy, and these denominational daughters, or systems, which sprang from her, and have more or less of her nature, disposition and characteristics. Page 218</p>
<p>Editor's Note: Russell and Branham believed they had a special message of the day to called out a n upper class of Christians called the "Bride." Russell believed the great company in Revelation 7:9-17 will be servants to the bride. Branham called this same group "foolish virgins," which consisted of clean living Christians who was not the bride, nor had they spoken negative of his message. But, these people had to go through the great tribulation to be purged and saved (discussed later).</p>	

Comment: As shown, many of Branham's teachings about Revelation 10:7 were so close to Russell that it becomes difficult

not to believe he read his book. Branham not only appeared to utilize Russell's written material, but, used his phrases such as "Bride" and "Message for this day." Also, both men had 7TH grade educations and failed predictions about Christ's return in 1914 and 1977 that caused great disappointments among their followers. Both believed they were the angel of Revelation 10:7 and the seventh church age messenger of Revelation 3:14.

Moreover, both Russell and Branham believed their written messages fulfilled Revelation 10: 3-7. They both have pyramided shaped tombstones that list them as the seventh church age messengers (Google search to see pictures). Russell died over 103 years ago and Branham over 54 ye ars, and their fulfillment as forerunners of Christ's soon return have utterly failed.

The Four Beasts: Four Periods in Church History

REVELATION 4:7. And the first beast *was* like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast *was* like a flying eagle. (Note: Branham's teaching on the four beasts represented as four periods in church history was discussed on pages 47-51. Although this view shall be considered, an additional one shall also be studied in this section).

William Branham vs. Clarence Larkin

What William Branham Said:	What Clarence Larkin Said:
<p>Now, there where beast is, the <u>chapters in Revelation 11, 13, and 17</u>, is called <u>beasts</u> the same way; but the beasts there, interpretation is "t-h-e-r-i-o-n," <u>therion</u>. The word, Greek word therion, which <u>means "a wild, untamed beast."</u> Therion, that means "a wild, untamed beast." But <u>Zoon</u> means "a Creature," see, "<u>Four living (Zoon) Creatures.</u>" _Revelation, Chapter Four #3, 01-08-61</p>	<p>The word translated "Beasts" should be translated "<u>LIVING CREATURES</u>," as in the Revised Version. The word here translated "beast" (<u>Zoon</u>), is not the same as the one translated "<u>beast (Therion)</u>" in <u>chapters eleven, thirteen, and seventeen</u>. The word here used means a "living being" or "creature," while the word used in chapters eleven, thirteen, and seventeen, <u>means a wild, untamed animal</u>. Page 41</p>
<p>Editor's Note: In the underlined words, Branham is nearly quoting Larkin's writings for verbatim. He used the same scriptures and explanations. In the quotes shown below, he continues to follow the outlined pattern shown in the fourth chapter of Larkin's book.</p>	
<p>But these are "living Creatures." What are they? <u>They're not Angels</u>. I tell you what, let's read in Revelation 5, right across the page. <u>Revelation 5, and 11th</u> verse: _Revelation, Chapter Four #3, 01-08-61</p>	<p><u>They are not angelic beings</u>, for they are distinguished from the angels, who are mentioned as a class by themselves in <u>Rev. 5:11</u>. Page 41</p>
<p>Let's just hold it there a minute, "living Creatures." What are they if they're not Angels, <u>they're not redeemed men?</u> What are they? Would you like to know? <u>Here's my interpretation</u>. I hope it's right; I believe it is. <u>They are God's guards of His Throne</u>.</p>	<p><u>Neither are they representative of redeemed human beings</u>, for they do not join in the Redemption Song. Rev. 5:8-10. The word "they" in this passage does not refer to the "Four Living Creatures," but to the "Four and Twenty Elders."</p>

<p>_Revelation, Chapter Four #3, 01-08-61</p> <p>See, they are God's Angels or God's guards of His Throne, and they... Let's get... just — just a minute again, let us get back to Ezekiel. I —I got t hese things wrote out here, and I just hate to pass them by, I know that this is a... [Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.] Let's get back to <u>Ezekiel the 1st chapter</u>, and let's begin with the 12th to the 17th verse, just a minute. _ Revelation, Chapter Four #3, 01-08-61</p>	<p>The "Four Living Creatures" are not in the same class with the "Elders," for they have no "thrones" or "crowns" or "harps" or "golden vials." <u>They are the "Guardians" of the Throne of God</u>, and accompany it wherever it goes. <u>Ez. 1:24-28</u>, Page 41</p>	<p>Cause if man ever got a hold of the Tree of Life, then he could live forever. And these Cherubims, first mentioned, was placed at the east gate of the garden, going four ways. I should have made that a little different from that; I can't do justly to God's orders and things like that, but I —I just... so that you'll know what I mean. There's the garden of Eden. And this is the gate right here, opens up here, swings out, and at this gate there was Cherubims. Cherubims! And, remember, it doesn't say "a Cherubim," it said "Cherubims." Cherubims was placed there to guard what? The Tree of Life .. That's what they was to guard, the way of the Tree of Life. _Revelation, Chapter Four #3, 01-08-61</p>	<p>the "Garden of Eden" to prevent the re -entrance of Adam and Eve, and to keep the way of the " Tree of Life. Page 41</p>
<p>Editor's Note: In the underlined sentences, Branham continues to plagiarize Larkin's book. He uses the same scriptures and explanations. Notice, in the above quote, he dare refers to the plagiarized information as "my interpretation," knowing fully that he got the info from Larkin's book.</p>		<p>Editor's Note: Branham continues to follow Larkin's outline and explanations. Branham's plagiarism is often hidden since he usually veers off the subject for awhile before returning back to the information. When we studied his plagiarism in Daniel's seventy weeks, this was the common pattern.</p>	
<p>They had "eyes without," showing what they could see, what was to come; "eyes within," knows everything now; and "eyes in the back," which knowed what was. Which was, which is, which shall come, reflecting through the church ages "He that Was, Which Is, and Shall Come; Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever." Hold them now. We're going to drive that thing plumb through the blackboard in a few minutes. Watch it. Now, just a minute. <u>Reveals their intelligence</u>, and it showed they knowed, know. They knowed all the <u>future and the present and past</u>, and all about it! And their... <u>They were tireless</u> . They never grew tired. They couldn't be anything connected with man, he grows tired. But they were tireless, they sang <u>"Holy, holy, holy! Holy, holy, holy! Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!</u> Holy, holy, holy!" all day and all night through every age. "Holy!" _Revelation, Chapter Four #3, 01-08-61</p>	<p>They have eyes before and behind and within, which <u>reveals their intelligence</u> and spiritual insight of things <u>past, present, and to come</u>, and <u>they are tireless</u> in their service, for they rest not day nor night, saying, <u>"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty</u>, which was, and is, and is to come." Page 41</p>	<p>All right, watch. Cain went out, <u>Cain went out from the Presence of the Lord</u> from the gate at the garden. So the Presence of the Lord must have been at the altar , and the altar was at the gate . Glory! Oh! All right. It's <u>God's dwelling place</u>, at <u>His altar</u>. Now, <u>Cain went out from the Presence of the Lord, from this place</u>. You want to put it down? <u>Genesis 4:16</u>. _Revelation, Chapter Four #3, 01-08-61</p>	<p>They were placed at the entrance to the "Garden of Eden" to prevent the re -entrance of Adam and Eve, and to keep the way of the "Tree of Life" . It would appear as if <u>at the place</u> where they were stationed <u>there was a Tabernacle, a place of worship to which Cain and Abel resorted to make their offerings</u>, and that it was from there that <u>Cain went out from the "PRESENCE OF THE LORD."</u> <u>Gen. 4:16</u>. P. 41</p>
<p>Editor's Note : Skipping through the fill -ins in the underlined words, Branham's nealy quotes from Larkin's book verbatim without citing him.</p>		<p>Editor's Note: In the above quotes, Branham continues to follow the outline and explanations in Larkin's book.</p>	
<p>Let's turn to Genesis 3:24, just for a moment now. Genesis, the 3rd chapter and the 24th verse. You love It? [Congregation says, "Amen!"—Ed.] All right. _Revelation, Chapter Four #3 01-09-61</p>	<p>The first time these "Living Creatures" are mentioned in the Bible is in Gen. 3:24, where they are called "CHERUBIM," but are not described. They were placed at the entrance to</p>	<p>Moses, taken from the earth up into Heaven and saw the altar of God. Is that right? I'm trying to prove my point here. You know what I'm trying to do, don't you? All right. He went up in the Presence of God. And when he descended from the Presence of God , he said, Mo - ... God told Moses, "Make everything on earth as patterned after Heaven." Is that right? All right. Now, then when he did, when he made the <u>Ark of the Covenant</u>, he put <u>two Cherubims to guard the ark</u>. See what it is? It was the temple... it was the altar, the</p>	<p>When Moses was given on the Holy Mount the pattern of the Tabernacle, he was instructed to make the <u>"Ark of the Covenant"</u> with <u>two Cherubim</u> upon it. Ex. 25:10-22. These Cherubim were <u>guardians of the "Mercy Seat,"</u> or the place of God's PRESENCE when He in His "Shekinah Glory" visited the Tabernacle. But it is not until Ezekiel had his vision of the Cherubim (Ez. 1:1 - 28; 10:1-22), that we have a description of what they are like. Page 41</p>

Throne guards. _ Revelation, Chapter Four #3, 01-08-61	
Editor's Note: Branham's continues to follow Larkin's book.	
Now, if you'll notice, Dan is the head of three tribes , Judah is the head of three tribes , Reuben is the head of three tribes , and Ephraim is the head of three tribes . Three fours is twelve, twelve tribes of Israel. See, each one with their banner; and the banner of Judah was a lion ; the banner of Reuben, man ; the banner of Ephraim, an ox ; the banner of—of—of Dan was an eagle. _ Revelation, Chapter Four #3, 01-08-61	In the camping and marching order of Israel in the Wilderness, there was a fixed relation of the Twelve Tribes to the Tabernacle. In camp the Tabernacle rested in the middle. The Camp of Judah, composed of 3 Tribes , rested on the East, with its Standard bearing the figure of a LION . The Camp of Ephraim, composed of 3 Tribes , rested on the West, with its Standard bearing the figure of an OX . The Camp of Reuben, composed of 3 Tribes , rested on the South, with its Standard bearing the figure of a MAN . The Camp of Dan, composed of 3 Tribes , rested on the North, with its Standard bearing the figure of an EAGLE . Thus the Tabernacle in the centre of the Camp, the place of God's Presence, was surrounded and protected by Standards that bore the figures of Ezekiel's and John's "Living Creatures." Page 43
Editor's Note: Branham brought no new insight to the subject.	

Comment: As shown, Branham extensively quoted from Larkin's book without citing it as a source of information.

William Branham vs. John Gill ^[138]

What William Branham Said:	What John Gill Said:
Now in the first age was a lion age . That was the Lion of the tribe of Juda, Christ. His own influence of life, taken that age. That's the first beast, which means power that answered by human voice. _The Fourth Seal The antichrist rode first in a teaching ministry. And watch the one that went to meet him, the Lion, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, which is the Word. When his false teaching went forth, the true Word went to meet him. That's the reason we had an Irenaeus , and a Polycarp , and—and—and those fellows, Saint Martin . When that antichrist was	And the first beast was like a lion ,.... And this figure expresses the strength of the ministers of the word , the lion being the strongest among beasts, Proverbs 30:30, to do the work they are called to, to endure hardness, as good soldiers of Christ, and to bear the infirmities of the weak; and also it denotes their courage and boldness in preaching the Gospel of Christ , without fearing the faces of men, or of being afraid of their reviling.

riding with his false teaching, God sent His teaching out, the Word, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, which is the Word made manifest in the Holy Spirit. _ Fifth Seal, Page 312	
Editor's Note: As stated, Branham made it appear as his revelation that the four beasts (lion, ox, face of man, and flying eagle) that announced the first four seals represented what God was during throughout church history to combat the four stages of the Antichrist on the white, red, black, and pale horses. He referred to these as the lion age, the ox age, man age, and the eagle age. In the above quote, he likens the lion age as ministers who used God's word to combat the Antichrist on the white horse. Nevertheless, as shown above and studied on pages 47-49, John Gill had already written about this subject in his commentary (published in 1746-1766) nearly 200 years before Branham. He basically brought nothing new.	
Now, the second beast that the antichrist sent out was a red beast, which was a —that he rode on—was to take peace from the earth and—and war. Now, the second one that went to combat him was the ox beast . The ox means a labor, a beast of burden . _The Fifth Seal	The second beast like a calf; or " ox ", for so the word here used signifies in the Hellenistic language, and with the Septuagint interpreters, and agrees with Ezekiel 1:10, and designs the laboriousness of Christ's faithful ministers in treading out the corn of Gospel truth, who labour in the word and doctrine, and are labourers with God; as also their humility, meekness, and patience in bearing insults , reproaches, and sufferings for Christ, and instructing those that oppose themselves:
Editor's Note: In the above quote, John Gill likens the ox as representing ministers who labored in preaching and suffered hardship during the red horse of the second sea 1 (see page 48). Branham said the same thing. Again, he brought nothing new.	
Now, the third beast that went out from the devil was this black horse. See? Now, the third beast that went out, power from God to combat him, to combat the powers of the black horse, was a man, cunning, smart, with the wisdom of God. _The Fifth Seal	The third beast had a face as a man ; and points at the humanity and tender heartedness, the wisdom, prudence, knowledge, and understanding , and the use of the reasoning faculty, together with a manly spirit in abiding by the Gospel at any rate; all which are so necessary in the ministers of the word.
Editor's Note: In the above quote, John Gill likens the third beast like a man as representing ministers of the gospel who retained their reasoning, prudence (smartness), and wisdom during the third seal (see page 48). Branham taught the same.	
Notice. Now, the fourth beast that was sent forth to combat the antichrist in this last beast... Are you ready? The last beast that was sent forth, or the last power to combat the antichrist (who was against the teaching	The fourth beast was like a flying eagle ; which sets forth the sagacity and penetration of Gospel ministers into the deep things of God, and mysteries of grace , and

of God, the antichrist) was an eagle. See? The fourth living beast was an eagle. Now, you just study the ages, study the Scriptures, it's a eagle. And in the Bible the last age was an eagle age, and God likens the eagle to His prophets. See? It... Now, watch. The last age, the eagle age—a revealer of the true Word. See? _Fifth Seal	their readiness and swiftness to do the will of God, in publishing the ev everlasting Gospel; see Revelation 14:6 ...ministers that followed them; and yet they retained some degree of Light and Knowledge, sagacity and penetration , and contempt of the world, signified by the eagle.... See page 49
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Editor's Note Branham taught that the flying eagle represents a revealer of the word, which he applied to himself. As you can see, Gill had already written in his commentary that the flying eagle represented true ministers who had light, knowledge, keen mental discernment (sagacity), and penetration regarding the word of God. That is, these men had revelations during the fourth seal (see page 49). Branham taught the same.

Now, if you'll notice, Dan is the head of three tribes, Judah is the head of three tribes, Reuben is the head of three tribes, and Ephraim is the head of three tribes. Three fours is twelve, twelve tribes of Israel. See, each one with their banner; and the banner of Judah was a lion ; the banner of Reuben, man ; the banner of Ephraim, an ox ; the banner of—of—of Dan was an eagle . _Revelation, Chapter Four #3, 01-08-61	There were four princes, who were standard bearers, placed at the four corners of the camp, so here four living creatures, or ministers of the word, who are standard bearers: the standard of Judah, with Issachar and Zabulon under him, was at the east of the tabernacle; and Ephraim, with Manasseh and Benjamin, at the west; Reuben, with Simeon and Gad, at the south; and Dan, with Asher and Naphtali, at the north; and the Jewish writers say (u), that on Judah's standard was the figure of a lion , on Ephraim's the figure of an ox , on Reuben's the figure of a man , and on Dan's the figure of an eagle ; and to which the four living creatures are likened here.
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Editor's Note : Branham taught that the twelve tribes of Israel that were divided into four groups and encircled the tabernacle of the Old Testament foreshadowed the four cherubims around God's throne. As shown, Gill already had this information written in his commentary. Branham brought nothing new.

Comments: As shown above, what William Branham's followers considered as his personal revelations from God were already written in books before his birth.

William Branham vs. Vincent's Word Study (1887) ^[139]

What William Branham Said:	What Marvin Vincent Said:
Did you think that—that God don't put a guard around His Word? See if that ox, lion, man, eagle isn't still setting at those gates right here on earth right now? Here's the	Lion, calf, man, eagle From this passage is derived the familiar symbolism of the four Evangelists ; Mark seated on a lion, Luke on a steer, Matthew on a man, and

Gospels, the four Gospels . _Revelation, Chapter Four #3, 01-08-61	John on an eagle. These are varied however. Irenaeus attributes the lion to John, and the eagle to Mark. Augustine the lion to Matthew, the man to Mark.
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Comment: Vincent's 1887 study compared the lion, ox, man, and eagle of Revelation 4:6-7 with the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Although fairly different, Branham did the same.

The Pyramid Teaching

Hebrews 13:9. Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines....

William Branham vs. Charles Taze Russell ^[140]

What William Branham Said:	What Charles Russell Said:
Now, remember in our teaching on the lessons that we've just been through, that we took the great pyramid and studied that for a while , that Enoch must've built. _The Message Of Grace 08-27-61	THE TESTIMONY OF GOD'S STONE WITNESS AND PROPHET, THE GREAT PYRAMID IN EGYPT. _The Divine Plan Of The Ages. (Title) Page 13
Now, God made three Bibles . Now, there's a pyramid teaching that's nonsense, but there's a genuine pyramid . _The Future Home 08-02-64	The great pyramid demonstrates the Divine plan of the ages , as it marks out the plan in a mathematical and symbolic manner. _The Divine Plan and Its Chronology, P. 69
	The Great Pyramid confirms the Bible's teaching that the time of Harvest has come. _The Finished Mystery, P. 226
	The Great Pyramid in Egypt is a Witness to all these events of the past and present — testifying in symbols? _The Finished Mystery (in endnotes)

Comment: In Russell's book "The Divine Plan Of The Ages (over 400 pages), he attempted to type the Great Pyramid in Egypt with biblical dispensations. He referred to this pyramid as "**The Bible in stone**" (see Wikipedia: Charles Taze Russell, Theology and teachings). Again, in the book "Thy Kingdom Come Vol. 3," he does an extensive 63 page study in chapter 10 whereby he uses the pyramid to predict many historical events, including his failed 1874 and 1914 calculations of Christ's return (page 342, 362). ^[140]

Branham mentions the pyramid 180 times in sermons, even when preaching the seventh seal (paragraphs 311,318,403, and 405). He believed it to be one of God's Bibles (more later). Again, in Dispensational Truth, ^[141] Larkin tried to compare the Great Pyramid with some biblical principles. As shown, Branham taught a lesson on the pyramid and mentions a teaching on this subject as *nonsense*. This criticism may be referencing Russell's teachings, which is filled with far-fetched ideas and false predictions.

Conclusion: Branham Did Not Reveal 17 Subjects

After examining the facts, what more can I say? The evidences has proven Branham to be a person who used the books of well known authors of the past, and then passed the information to his followers as revealed mysteries given to him by God.

William Branham's Early Failed Visions and Vindications

As stated, in the 1960s William Branham began to view himself as Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6, who restores the elect to the original word of God as a forerunner of Christ's return; the seventh angel messenger of Revelation 3:14 and 10:7, who reveals every hidden mystery of the Bible in the end time; and the fulfillment of the Son of man ministry of Luke 17:30, who reveals Christ to this generation as a prophet in human flesh. He also believed his message was the "shout" of Christ's second coming in 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

Nonetheless, Branham's main purported vindication to opening the seven seals have already been disproved. How? This study provided facts that he was not present when seven angels allegedly appeared in a cloud featured in Life Magazine, and that it may have been the aftermath of a destroyed missile. Branham's alleged claims are further disproved because evidence shows that he copied the seven seals, seven church ages, and likely up to nineteen (19) other mysteries supposedly revealed by him.

Moreover, during the course of Branham's ministry, he repeatedly told audiences that his visions never failed. However, an honest research into this claim will uncover erroneous, contradictory, and failed visions and prophecies.

Thus, in this chapter, we shall begin review of archived evidences that disproves Branham's claims of prophetic infallibility. How? By considering failures in early events that supposedly vindicated him as a prophet. As shall be referenced, some of this information was initially compiled by websites managed by former followers (shown below) who once believed and defended Branham's message.

1. www.believethesign.com
2. www.searchingforvindication.com
3. www.seekyethetruth.com
4. <http://people.delphiforums.com/johnk63/home.htm>.

Although I have not entirely reviewed the information on these websites, their administrators appeared to have performed exceptional researches in providing credible documented evidences that exposed many of Branham's claims. This review shall highlight some of their findings.

Archived Facts: No Sixteen Men Fell from Bridge

Between the ages of five or six, William Branham said he saw a vision of a future bridge being erected over the Ohio River. In the vision, he also saw 16 men falling from the bridge and drowning. Twenty-two years later, He said the vision was fulfilled, as shown below.

I looked down at the river, and **there went a bridge, a big, great big bridge going across the river**. And I counted **sixteen men that fell off of that bridge and drowned**. And I went and told mother. And I told her I seen it. And they thought I was crazy or something. They thought I was just at a little nervous hysterical child. And **twenty-two years from that time**, on the same ground **went the Municipal Bridge across, and sixteen men lost their lives on it**. _Experiences 03-02-48

And I saw a bridge come up out of the wilderness. And it started across the river. **Sixteen men dropped off in—into the water and perished**. And I seen a big sign, it said "twenty - two years." I run in and told my mother. Oh, she said, "Son, you're nervous. You went to sleep and you were dreaming." I said, "No. No. I saw it." So they wrote it down on a piece of paper. And **twenty-two years from then**, the great bridge crossed the river, and twen —**sixteen men dropped off of it and—and drowned in the river. Every time, it's perfect** . _ My Life Story 06-26-55A

A week after that, I seen the **Municipal Bridge**, in a trance, as I called it, seen the Municipal Bridge cross the **Ohio River**, seen **sixteen man lose their life** on it. **Twenty-two years from that day**, the Municipal Bridge crosses the same place, and **sixteen man lost their life in it**. _The Trial 04-19-64

Branham claimed to have seen a vision of the Louisville Municipal Bridge (renamed George Rogers Memorial Bridge in 1949) during childhood. But, there is no historical record of 16 men falling from this bridge into the water during erection between June 1928 and October 1929 (or afterward), and drowning in the Ohio River.

However, some of Branham's followers try to use the death of 16 men during the construction of Sydney Harbour Bridge between 1923-1932 in Australia as fulfillment of his vision. Nonetheless, when these deaths are examined, the men died at different times either by falling, crushed and crashed at quarry, by tetanus in hospital, struck by crane, gantry accidents, tram accident, and stacking metals. ^[142]

Some followers believe Branham's vision pertained to a railroad bridge named the "Big Four Bridge" that was constructed between 1888 and 1895, and updated in 1929. Thirty-seven (37) people died during its 1800s' construction, none during the 1929 update. (see "Big Four Bridge" – Wikipedia). How could this lame explanation be a prophecy if it had happened before Branham's birth and the possibility that he heard of this tragedy before seeing the vision?

Another lame excuse is that some men fell into a concrete pillar and were left buried. There is no official record of such an event. Even so, when Branham's sermons are researched, he said a total death of "16 men" "drowned" in the "water" (not concrete) at the "Municipal Bridge"

over the **“Ohio River” “twenty-two years”** after he saw the vision when he was between **“5 or 6 years old.”** Speaking futuristically of the bridge’s construction, he said: **“ At the age of just a little bitty boy, I could remember He speaking to me and telling me about a bridge that was going to span the river, how many men would lose their life on that bridge.”** (Do You Now Believe 12 -06-53E); and **“ Just even you take this big bridge down here, when I saw it come, twenty-two years before it was put up down there, saw the men lose their lives on it ”** (The Uncertain Sound 12 -18-60). As shown, his vision spoke of the future, not the past.

So then, the above excuses does not fit Branham’s vision and are awfully misleading. Also, the twenty -two years in Branham’s vision is incorrect. If he was born in 1909 and between 5 or 6 years old, 22 years later would be 1936 or 1937. This bridge was constructed between 1928 and 1929.

Branham’s followers had “always” believed the vision pertained to the Louisville Municipal Bridge. They recently began switching bridges after “Believe The Sign” (a well-known website among Branham’s followers that promoted his message) began to conduct a research concerning the bridge’s prophecy in 2012 to confirm its fulfillment. Their research showed no records of 16 men drowning in the Ohio River during the 1928 -29 bridge construction as Branham had repeatedly stated throughout the years. This discovery along with other discrepancies and errors eventually convinced them to leave his alleged message of the hour. They began to report their findings on their website. [143]

In an effort to disprove Believe The Sign findings regarding the bridge’s prophecy, a website called “Searching for Vindication” began to conduct an in-depth research. This website was created by Branham’s followers who believed the vision was fulfilled as he claimed. They believed the bridge issue raised by Believe the Sign could easily be disproved by a research of historical archived records.

Searching for Vindication researched several sources that included: (1) Basic research on Google and other search engines, (2) Wikipedia.org, (3) Encyclopedia of Louisville, (4) March 2007 Louisville Magazine article on the construction of the bridge, (5) National Register of Historic Places Louisville Municipal Bridge Nomination Form, (6) Official engineer’s report to the Louisville Municipal Bridge Commission, (7) Kentucky Newspapers microfiche collection at the Louisville Free Public Library, (8) Clark County Newspaper microfiche collection at Indiana State Library, and (9) Library of Congress, Chronicling America Collection. [144][145][146][147][148]

During three months of thorough research, Searching for Vindication learned that the Coast Guard kept an official log book of the bridge during construction. They have photographed 8,000 pages from these log books that covers the entire period from May 1, 1928 to January 1, 1940 and posted them on their website. [149][150][151] The website also provides links to other authentic documents and original newspapers articles for personal viewing. [152]

After completing an exhaustive research, Searching for Vindication found no evidence of 16 men falling from the Municipal Bridge. However, they did find evidence proving

that 16 men did not die during the bridge’s construction.

For example, on June 19, 1929, a newspaper article in the Jeffersonville Evening News posted the **first** death to occur at the bridge a few months before its completion on October 31, 1929. The worker died after being hit on the temple with an iron crank. [153] Another death was reported in an article on September 10, 1929 when a workman fell 85 feet from the bridge unto a barge and broke his neck. The last paragraph specifically called this fatality the **second** death [154] Neither of these men drowned. The two articles from the website are shown below. The research uncovered other discrepancies regarding Branham’s bridge prophecy.

Due to the above irrefutable researches, Branham’s followers were forced to switch bridges or provide other excuses. Also, during Searching for Vindication’s research, they not only discovered that his vision of 16 men falling to their death had never happened, they also found another major discrepancy pertaining to the foundational vindication of his prophetic ministry. They found evidence that there was no voice on the Ohio River commissioning Branham as Christ’s forerunner, as shown in the following section.

First Life Lost In Erection Of Traffic Bridge

The first life was spent in the erection of the new Jeffersonville, Louisville traffic bridge shortly after 2:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon when Richard Pilton, 26 years old, Jeffersonville, was struck on the right temple by an iron crank he was using to tighten a wire rope near Pier No. 5 of the bridge. The blow knocked the workman off a barge at the side of the pier and his body landed in the river. It was recovered by United States Coast Guardsmen within five minutes after the accident.

Deputy Coroner Joseph Beck of Louisville said Pilton's death was due to a fractured skull. The man had been employed two months by the American Bridge Company, which has the contract for the steel work on the municipal bridge. Four other workmen were nearby when Pilton was knocked into the river. Edward Gibbs, Frank Perzallo, Edward Connelly, Alfred Sult and William Seibert were the Coast Guardsmen who recovered the body.

For more than a year, workmen have been engaged in the erection of the traffic bridge across the Ohio river from Jeffersonville to Louisville. A safety program inaugurated by all companies and contractors who have placed men in the service of this erection has been recognized as efficient in that this is the first fatal and serious accident that has occurred since Pilton is survived by his wife, Mrs. Ellen Pilton; two small children, Richard Pilton, Jr., 2 and Betty Jane Pilton, 3; and his parents Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pilton of Evansville, Ind. The body was taken to the home of the Rev. C. S. Whitted at 229 East Chestnut street, Jeffersonville. Mrs. Whitted is an aunt of Pilton.

Funeral services are to be held at 7:30 o'clock tonight at the Whitted home in charge of the Rev. Mr. Whitted. The body is to be taken to Boonville, Friday morning for burial.

Workman Killed In 85-Foot Fall From Traffic Bridge

Lloyd McEwen, 25 years old, Bruce, Wis., riveter employed by the American Bridge Company, contractors for the erection of the steel super-structure of the new traffic bridge from Jeffersonville to Louisville was killed at 11:30 o'clock Wednesday morning when he fell from the floor of the bridge, eighty-five feet below to a barge containing steel and anchored in the river.

McEwen's death was due to a broken neck, Coroner Asa D. Combs, reported Wednesday. The man also sustained a broken back, broken left arm and lacerations on his head.

Workmen who saw the man plunge to his death reported that he was working on the floor of the bridge and apparently made a misstep, losing his balance.

McEwen's death marks the second to occur since the beginning of the bridge more than a year ago.

1933 Newspaper: No Angel or Voice on Ohio River

Searching for Vindication’s research and confirmation that Branham’s vision of the Municipal Bridge had failed was a significant blow to his prophetic claims at an early

age. In addition, they also discovered that there were no archived newspaper articles confirming his claim that an angel from heaven appeared to him on the Ohio River in 1933 when baptizing the 17th person among 500 converts. Carefully consider what Branham said about this event:

That day down there, about thirty-three years ago, or **thirty-four**, standing on the **banks of the Ohio River** there, at the bridge, and about **five thousand people or more gathered on the banks**. I was just about twenty years old, twenty-three, **twenty-two or twenty-three years old**, my first revival. I was **baptizing five hundred people**, that afternoon. And the deacons had led me out in the water. About the **seventeenth person**, when I was baptizing, **I heard a Voice say, "Look up."** And I turned to look up. Billy's mother, we wasn't even married then, just going together. **Here come that Pillar of Fire, circling out of the bright blue skies, at two o'clock on June the 15th, coming right down out of the skies**, like that. And a Voice roared out, all over the place there, and said, "**As John the Baptist was sent forth to forerun the first coming of Christ**", you have the Message that'll now forerun the second Coming of Christ." **Photographers taking the picture.** _Go, Awake Jesus 11-30-63E

Newspapers packed it all across the nation, plumb into Canada. We **got the clippings.** "**Mystic Light appears over local Baptist minister** while preaching, or baptizing. _A Trial 04-27-64

In 1933, the supernatural Light that fell down yonder on the river, that day when **I was baptizing five hundred** in the Name of Jesus Christ, as about a twenty-year-old boy. What did It say, Jeffersonville? What was It at the foot of Spring Street there, when the **Courier Journal**, I believe it was the **Louisville Herald**, **packed the article of It?** It went plumb across the **Associated Press**, plumb into **Canada**. Doctor Lee Vayle cut it out of the paper, way up in Canada, in 1933. _This Day This Scripture Is Fulfilled 02-19-65

As shown, Branham clearly said the Associated Press and newspapers across the nations carried the story of a mystic light appearing over him when baptizing the 17th person among 500 converts in the month of June 1933. He said all the local newspapers carried the article.

Recently when I was baptizing on the river at Jeffersonville, when **all the local newspapers packed It**, two o'clock in the afternoon when I was praying, **here It come right down out of the heavens**, right at two o'clock in the evening, June, or in the afternoon, rather, in June, about the middle of June, hung right over where I was, and **a Voice from It**, saying, "**As John the Baptist was sent to warn the people of the first coming of Christ, so is this Message to warn the people of the second coming.**" _Do You Now Believe? 08-17-52E

The fact that Branham mentions this 1933 Ohio River experience for the first time on recorded tapes in March, 1950 (Gifts And Callings Are Without Repentance) bring questions to his story. Why did he wait 17 years to mention this event on tapes, which was three years after making his first recorded sermon in 1947. Nor did Branham mention this event in a booklet published in 1945 entitled "I Was Not Disobedient to the Heavenly Vision," when referring to his initial evangelical commission (see pages 127-128).

Moreover, after preaching twenty-one (21) sermons on

recorded tape in Jeffersonville, Indiana from December 25, 1949 to May 14, 1954, why did Branham wait to May 15, 1954 (Question and Answers, Par. 107) to clearly mention this experience on audio tape to his church for the first time. Even though he slightly alluded to this event on September 23, 1951 (Principle of Divine Healing, Par. 45).

We question why he waited so long to mention this major event in the city where it had supposedly happened? Especially when facts show that during this same time span, he repeatedly spoke of his 1933 experience in other cities since 1950. Also, Branham repeatedly told audiences that 4,000 to 10,000 people witnessed this 1933 event on the Ohio River (he often used 10,000).

But **It appeared** down there on the Ohio River **before nearly ten thousand** people while I was baptizing in August. I was baptizing some five hundred, I guess, that afternoon. _God Revealing Himself To His People 08-13-50E

They was **all standing there**, hundreds and hundreds of people, yes, **four or five thousand**, maybe more, **up-and-down the riverbank**, a real hot afternoon in June. _An Absolute 01-27-63

However, at Branham's church in Jeffersonville, he faintly mentioned this vast number of people only once on audio tapes during a 1963 sermon.

When that Angel, that you see in that picture over there, come **down on the river** down there that day, **thirty years ago** this coming June or thirty-three years ago, rather, this coming June, and said, "As John the Baptist was sent forth," (**before five thousand people or more**) "the hour has come when your message will spray the world." _God Hiding Himself In Simplicity, Then Revealing Himself In The Same 03-17-63M

Considering the above, we must now question why Branham fleetingly mentions thousands gathered at the river bank when speaking in Jeffersonville thirty years later. He mentions this number once on audio tape in this city during his entire ministry. Perhaps they knew that it was practically impossible for that many people to be gathered at the Ohio River to witness people being baptized. Why? Because the 1930 census showed the population for Jeffersonville was 11,946, while the 1940 census list 11,493 residents.

Even when Branham mentioned 5,000 people in his 1963 sermon in Jeffersonville: census show the population was 19,522 in 1960 and 20,008 in 1970 (see Jeffersonville, Indiana in Wikipedia, under Demographics). Based upon Branham's largest estimate, nearly the entire city was gathered at the river bank in 1933. Also, it would take him from 16 to 25 hours to baptize 500 people if he took 2 to 3 minutes for each person. These statistics are hard to believe since evidence shown shortly contradicts his testimony. The story was so unverifiable that his pastor (Dr. Roy Davis) called it a dream and people called it a mental delusion.

The **newspapers packed it**, and it swept into Canada on the **Associated Press, around the world**, "A local minister, Baptist minister, baptizing, and," said, "**a mystic Light appears over him.**" The very One that they caught the picture of here, and done it in Germany and —and everywhere. And it's done. **My pastor said to me**, he said, "**Billy, what kind of a dream did you have?** Why, you know **you didn't see ...**" I said, "There were **hundreds standing there, witnessed It.**" And **they'd come**

down, said, "Oh, **that's a mental delusion.**" Trying his best, that's old man Unbelief and Mr. Skeptic. _A Trial 04-05-64

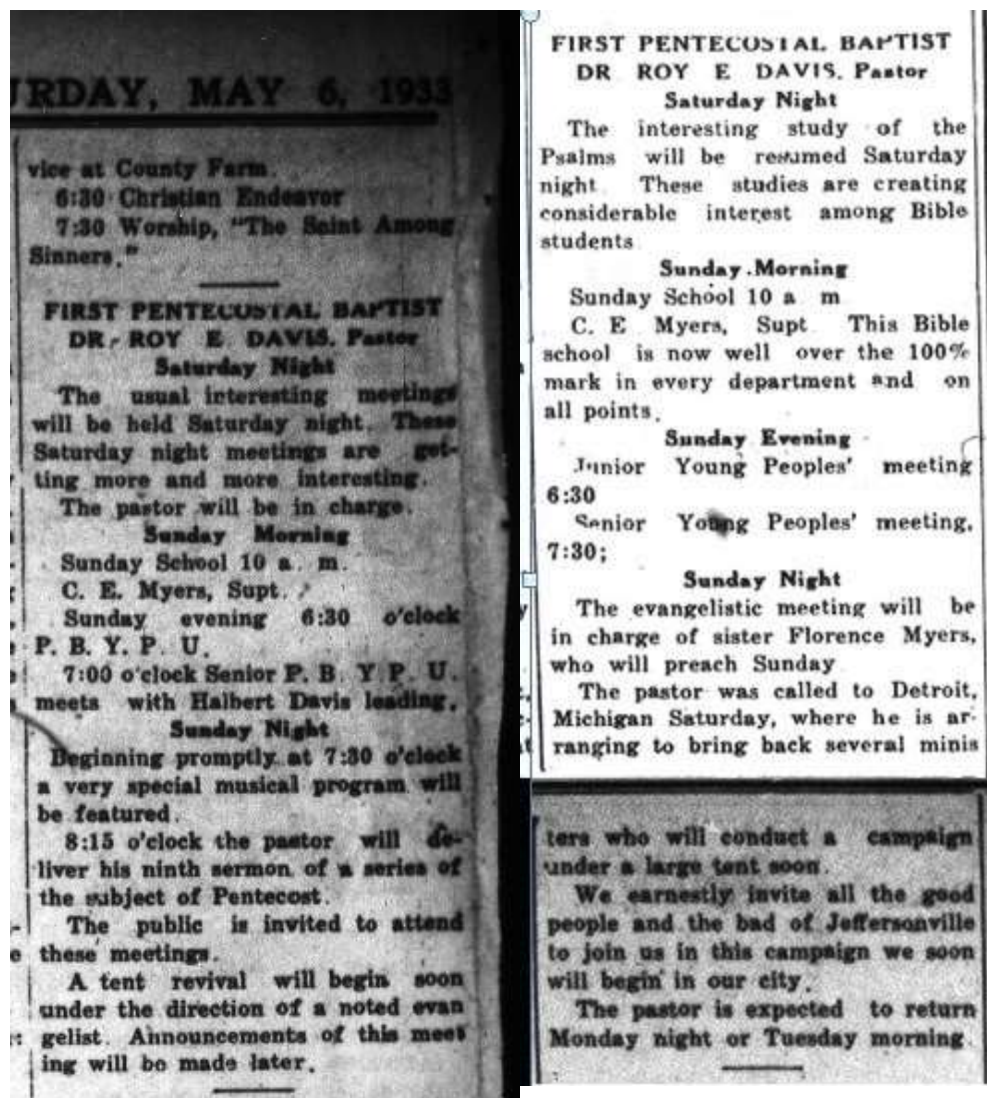
Moreover, it is interesting to note that when Branham clearly spoke of this 1933 event to his church in a 1954 sermon, he mention that some in the audience were present.

Just the same thing He said when I baptized right down here on the Ohio River, **many of you was standing there, twenty-three years ago**, right on the Ohio River that Light, Angel, come right down to where we was at, and said, "As John the Baptist was sent for a forerunner of the first coming of Jesus Christ, your Message will bring the second coming of Jesus Christ." _Questions And Answers 05-15-54

As we shall soon see, Branham did baptize some people in the Ohio River during June of 1933 and perhaps some in the audience during his 1954 sermon attended that event. But notice, Branham does not mention 5,000 to 10,000 people in attendance, or that those in the audience actually saw a light or heard a voice.

As an advocate for Branham, Searching for Vindication conducted a meticulous search to prove this 1933 event, only to find no local or national archived newspaper article verifying this supernatural experience on the Ohio River as he had stated. Although this event was supposedly witnessed by thousands of people, yet no one has come forward to verify the event or produced a copy of the original newspaper article.

However, what Searching for Vindication found was evidence proving Branham's testimony to be minutely correct and embellished. For example, they found a May 6, 1933 newspaper article in the "Jeffersonville Evening News" advertising Branham's upcoming tent revival. Another ad was posted on May 27, 1933. The ads (shown right) were posted by Dr. Roy Davis. Branham often said Dr. Davis was his pastor during that time. As shown below, he mentions this tent meeting.



Sometime ago, **as a young minister**, when my **first revival come**, I had it over here on the corner, where this housing project in **a tent**. I was baptizing a group down at the river that Sunday afternoon, when the Angel of the Lord made His first appearance in public in a **vindication of the Message** that I

was to speak. And it was a light came down from heaven and stood there. _Everlasting Life And How To Receive It 12-31-54

During the research, Searching for Vindication found documented proof that Branham's claim of being a Missionary Baptist was not entirely true. The full name of the church pastored by Roy Davis was "First Pentecostal Baptist Church" [155] (see ad below). They also discovered the initial name of Branham's home church was *Pentecostal Tabernacle*, not "Branham Tabernacle." [156]

Branham claimed to be a Missionary Baptist and said in the sermon about his life's story that God took his wife because he refused to fellowship with the Pentecostals. [157] The records shows that he was always a Pentecostal after conversion. Branham said he was preaching at a Black Pentecostal church the night his brother Charles died in an automobile accident before his wife's illness and death. [158]

Then, Searching for Vindication discovered another article in the same newspaper posted on June 2, 1933. The front page did report Branham's tent meeting. However, the four lines article only stated that 14 people were converted. There was no mention of any supernatural event. [159]

...large enough to accommodate several hundred persons. The bid at its next meeting was Friday, June 9 at ... was appointed by Dr. ... the cost of continuing ... also determine as far ... type of pool best suit ... of the community. Del ... was named as chair ...

decorator Is
alls City Store
Garn, expert interior
Dupont. Duco Con-
tact a Duco demonstra-
Saturday, June 2 and
of the Falls City Elec-
ware Company on
er, business manager
y Company, advises
to consult Miss Garn
g problems and to see
e famous Duco pro-
vice is free, and the
lally invited to avail
arn's assistance.

ersonville zone, is wearing what
told you so" expression since his re-
turn from the big race at Indianapolis
where five Studebakers finished the
full grind of the Memorial Day class-
ic, while three of them were among
the first ten "in the money."
Mr. and Mrs. Vorgang, who motored
to the capital city for the annual
event, returned enthusiastic over the
performance of the Studebaker stock
cars and the impression made on the
100,000 visitors that thronged the
speedway.
"It goes to show you that 'class will
tell' whether it be a contest among
humans being a horse race, or the
grueling 500-mile test of automobile
engines," said Mr. Vorgang in his en-
thusiastic resume of the event.

SHOT SUCCUMBS
IN NEW ALBANY
Was One Of Few to Sur-
vive Ride

David Albin alias "Cockeye" Mulligan, said to be a "big shot" of Chicago gangdom and one of the few gangsters to live through a ride, died an ungangster-like death with his shoes off in a New Albany Hospital Thursday, it was learned here Friday.

Albin was visiting Walter Mattox, who has built an expensive mansion on the McCulloch pike a short distance from New Albany. Stricken with a sudden kidney stone attack Albin was rushed to St. Edward's hospital and died there Thursday.

The George Barker gang took Albin for a ride several years ago, but he recovered from a chest wound. Chief of Detectives William Schoenmaker of Chicago gave Albin a going over last week, scolding Albin's protest that he was a "respectable businessman." The chief told Albin he was a "public enemy, unworthy of consideration." Albin obtained release on a writ of habeas corpus and came to visit Mattox.

Mattox is under bond to answer federal liquor charges which grew out of a raid on his home Derby day.

Remember, Branham said all the local newspapers, the Associated Press, and newspapers across the nations carried the story of this supernatural phenomenon, yet there were none found.

In the past Branham could have gotten away with misrepresentation of historical facts concerning the cloud, the bridge, and the Ohio River event because it was very difficult to obtain documented information. But now, the advent of the internet and other modern media outlets has made factual information easily accessible. Amazingly, the prophecy of Daniel said knowledge will be increased in the last days (Dan. 12:4).

our Name In The Supplement?

...to license numbers and serial numbers of one dol-
...circulation today which are scattered throughout
PICTORIAL SALES SUPPLEMENT of the **EVENING**
...distributed to all non-subscribers in Jeffersonville
...sitting holders to a set of two volumes of the Popular
...dia, are presented herewith to **EVENING NEWS**
...that they may have the opportunity to determine
...they are holding any of the lucky numbers. The names
...of two residents of Jeffersonville are also printed
...coverage supplement today. Search the ads. You may
...oped that the persons receiving this Pictorial Supple-
...realize the advantage of being regular subscribers to
...daily paper, and in this way the circulation of The
...few will be increased more than ever.
...numbers for this week are as follows:
Licenses—291-999; 290-469.
Bills—N6277431-A; T25383350-A.
Residents—John Dolan, 426 Watt St., J. B. Murphy,
Market St.
...of these numbers will be given the encyclopedia
...office of the **NEWS & JOURNAL** upon presentation
...with any of the serial numbers or upon presentation
...of ownership of the auto license numbers.
...numbers will be printed in all advertisements in the
...Sales Supplement today. If you, Mr. Subscriber,
...id any of the above numbers tell your friends, who
...scribers to read the advertisements presented in the
...is today, for they may hold the license or serial
...sitting them to this valuable reference encyclopedia.

Goldblume Beer to Wash
Indiana Throats June 10

Evansville, Ind., June 2—Cook's Goldblume beer will be on the market about June 10, according to Adolph Schmidt, president of the F. W. Cook Company. He is unable to state as yet what the average output will be.

...ordinance regulating the use of its lands.
...That is constructive legislation; and if other northern counties will follow Oneida's example, they will save themselves a lot of future grief.
...Unregulated settlement and land use have cost upper Wisconsin much money. Men have gone into the woods or the cutovers, selected what lands they pleased, and used them for any purposes they pleased.
...That would have been all right and in line with America's historic individualism, if the fate of such men had been their own affair alone.
...But it never was. Always their problems became public problems. Always there came demands, sooner or later, for a road to give ingress and egress to an isolated home; or for a school for isolated children; or for other services from government.
...Being scattered all over the map, it soon was clear that these independent settlers were costing the public a lot of money. To build a road into a community is one thing; to build a separate road into each of many scattered clearings is quite another. To build schools for a compact community is no great problem; to build schools for scattered homesteads may mean to build a separate school for a single family, in instances.
...So it has been going in many parts of northern Wisconsin. The unregulated use of lands has meant scattering public functions over wide territories; and, in instances, giving individuals or families services costing ten times the amount of taxes the family would pay in a lifetime.
...Wise land use is important from the public standpoint. Oneida county realizes that. It now is saying to its citizens:
"Here are good agricultural areas and if you want to engage in farming you must do so in these areas. Here are recreational areas where you can build summer cottages or resorts. Here are forest areas and if you choose to buy these you must grow or harvest trees."
By that process there will yet be sound development in Oneida county and a gradual decline in the public load that comes of too little planning in the use of land.

FOURTEEN CONVERTED

Fourteen conversions are reported in a tent meeting conducted at Eighth and Pratt streets by the Rev. William Branham.

Judge Kopp Names
Board of Review

Judge George C. Kopp appointed Claude Corner, New Washington democrat and Harry C. Poindexter former mayor of Jeffersonville to serve on the Board of Review at the Court House Monday. Mr. Conner and Mr. Poindexter with County Treasurer Charles V. Bab, County Auditor Otis B. Fife, and County Assessor Millard Badger will meet for thirty days at the Assessor's office to pass upon the valuation of real estate and to consider taxation problems.

The law requires that a democrat and a republican be appointed upon the board to serve with the county officials. Both Claude Conner and Harry C. Poindexter are well qualified for the appointment as the men have a thorough knowledge of the valuation of real estate.

Also, during Searching for Vindication research of various newspaper articles, court records, and other official public documents, they discovered many discrepancies told by Branham throughout his ministry that questioned his memory and cast doubt on his credibility. These findings can be viewed on their website.

So then, after considering archived documentations disproving some of Branham's major claims of vindication: are you still willing to risk your eternal destiny in continuing to willfully believe errors? Or, are you willing to

Perhaps you overlooked the above article that showed the end result at Branham's tent meeting because it is very small and does not have the great fanfare that was told for decades. The article is shown at the bottom of the newspaper's front page. An enlarged view is shown below.

FOURTEEN CONVERTED

Fourteen conversions are reported in a tent meeting conducted at Eighth and Pratt streets by the Rev. William Branham.

Like the cloud in Life Magazine, Branham's words does not hold up when put to the test. The Bible says: "Prove all things and hold fast to that which is good" (1 Thess. 5:21).

turn to Jesus Christ and sound biblical doctrines as your absolute. The choice is eternally yours (James 4:17).

Discrepancies Regarding 1946 Angelic Commission

As highlighted by an aforementioned website, [160] there is a major discrepancy concerning William Branham's commission to pray for the sick. Branham often said an angel of God appeared on May 6 -7, 1946 and sent him to pray for the sick the same same day Israel became a nation. Actually, Israel became a nation on May 14, 1948.

The very day that Israel was declared a nation again for the first time for twenty-five hundred years, that same night the Angel of the Lord sent me out to pray for the sick, the very same time, May the 6th, 1946, the Lord Jesus did that. The Manifestation Of Thy Resurrection To The People Of This Day 08-09-54E

But, in a booklet entitled “*I Was Not Disobedient to the Heavenly Vision*” published in 1945, ^[161] Branham’s story was different from his 1946 angelic commission. Branham said he was commissioned to pray for the sick after seeing a vision of a platform under a large tent or auditorium attended by a large audience and a mountain of bread.

It was in the month of **March, 1945**, one morning about 3:00 A.M. that our **Lord Jesus Christ gave me a vision**. This He has done many times and I most humbly praise Him for it.

I was then brought to a plain where a **platform was erected**. Seemingly, it was **under a large tent or auditorium**. There were curtains drawn in back of the platform. The Lord then told me to pull back the curtains and when I did **I saw a great mountain of the bread of life**. He then said, “Feed these,” and turning around I saw white-robed people coming from everywhere, **making up a large audience**.

After the vision, Branham explained in the 1945 booklet how he received a telegram from a Minister in St. Louis, Missouri named Robert Daugherty. He had a daughter named “Betty,” who was ill and dying.

About three weeks from the time of the vision, **I received a telegram from a minister in St. Louis, Mo** . . . by the name of **Rev. Robert Daugherty**. He asked me to come at once because his little daughter, **Betty**, was dying. They had sought medical aid for her and the doctors had done all that they knew how to help her. But the child continued to grow worse and was now near death.

Branham went on to explain in the 1945 booklet how the girl was healed.

Then I asked Sister Daugherty **to get a pan of clear water and a small white cloth**, which she did. . . . then I asked our dear Lord to heal the child and He did. Immediately she stopped crying and pulling her little hand through her hair. Then I returned home.

Three month after the girl’s healing, Pastor Daugherty visited Branham and asked him to come to St. Louis for a healing revival. A great revival reportedly took place.

Bro. Daugherty and I had a long talk and he told me the people wanted me to **come to St. Louis** for a healing revival. I agreed to go and the following Sunday I announced it to my congregation, **I told them that I believed this was where the bread of life was to be fed, according to the vision**. Many wanted to go with me, but as gas was rationed, we took only one car. **Two Sisters from the church, my wife and nine -year-old son, Billy, Jr** . . . and I went. The Sisters took notes of some of the things that happened during the revival. They are put in this book only for God’s glory and that the people might believe in His Son, Jesus.

That evening we had prayer and attended services in the large tent. **Bro. Bill explained to the congregation the gift of Divine healing, given him by God**.

As shown, Branham supposedly had the gift of healing in 1945. What makes this story controversial is that 5 years later in the book “*A Man Sent From God*” published in 1950, Branham retells the same story nearly verbatim. ^[162] However, instead of launching his healing ministry based upon the vision of a platform under a tent or auditorium filled with a large audience according to the booklet published in 1945; it now began with a commission by an

angel that appeared to him over a year later in 1946. Notice how the accounts shown below from “*A Man Sent From God*” are nearly similar to those shown in the 1945 booklet.

On this Sunday night **after the appearance of the angel** to Brother Branham, while he was speaking in the tabernacle at Jeffersonville, someone came in **and handed him a telegram. It was from St. Louis** and it asked him to come and pray for a girl, whose name was **Betty Daugherty**, that was dying. The news of what had happened had gotten as far as St. Louis, and now he was asked to go on this call.

“Do you believe that I am God’s servant?” “Yes,” was the cry of the family. “Then do as I tell you, doubting nothing.” To the mother he said, “**Get me a pan of clean water, and a white cloth**. Your child shall live for God has sent his angel to me and told me that your child shall live.”

As shown below, Chapter 11 of the book “*A Man Sent From God*” said the revival at Pastor Daugherty’s church in St. Louis was Branham’s first healing campaign. Similar to the 1945 booklet, Branham is accompanied by two sisters and his family (shown left and below). Moreover, Chapter 12 said that after the angel’s appearance and the St. Louis revival, great miracles began to follow Branham’s ministry.

On the a day of June, **Brother Branham, his family, and two sisters from his church** left Jeffersonville **for St. Louis** where he was **to begin his first healing campaign**.

DRAMATIC EVENTS IN BROTHER BRANHAM’S MINISTRY AFTER THE APPEARANCE OF THE ANGEL. **Immediately following the events of the last chapter great signs and mighty works of God began to follow the ministry of Brother Branham**. In a space of three months so many things happened on the phenomenal side that the recounting of them would fill several books.

As shown, Branham began his healing campaigns in 1945 before the appearance of an alleged angel in 1946. So then, the inconsistencies of an angelic commission in 1946 along with many others in prior and upcoming chapters has caused critics and followers to question the credibility of Branham’s supernatural experiences and testimonies.

Photographed Halo? George Lacy’s Report Mentions No Supernatural Being

On January 24, 1950, a photograph of William Branham was taken at Sam Houston Coliseum by Douglas Studio. When the picture was developed, a halo shaped light appeared over his head. ^[163] Like the picture of the cloud in Life Magazine, the photograph of the halo became another vindication of his ministry. This is what Branham said regarding the picture.

Look, hanging in Washington, DC, tonight, the picture of the Angel of the Lord!. As **George J. Lacy, the head of the FBI fingerprint and document for the United States government**, examined It from Houston, Texas, and **said**, “**This is the only supernatural Being was ever photographed in all the world.**” He ought to know; he’s the best that’s in the world, for it. *_This Day This Scripture Is Fulfilled 02-19-65*

George J. Lacy, the head of the FBI for fingerprint and document, took it at midnight that night. When they put it, It was the only one that had a picture. And you... How many has got it on your shelves now in your home? See? Hangs in Washington, DC, in a hall—hall of religious art, "The only supernatural Being was ever photographed in all the world's history." _A Court Trial 04-12-64

According to Branham, the picture was examined by George J. Lacy, who was the head of the FBI fingerprint and document division for the United States government. He often told different audiences that Mr. Lacy said the picture was the only supernatural being ever photographed in the entire world. Branham also said the picture now hangs in the Hall of Religious Art in Washington, DC.

There are several problems with Branham's statements in the above excerpts. First, Mr. Lacy was not the head of the FBI fingerprint and document division, nor was he an employee. Wikipedia lists him as the fifth President of the "American Society of Questioned Document Examiners." This group is "the world's oldest society dedicated to the forensic science of questioned document examination, having 144 members worldwide."^[164]

Although Mr. Lacy was well qualified to examine the photograph, the fact that Branham had 15 years to get the story right causes one to question his integrity and highlight his tendency to exaggerate or tell testimonies incorrectly.

Secondly, the photograph taken at the coliseum does not hang in the Hall of Religious Art in Washington DC because it does not exist. This is another inaccuracy or exaggeration in Branham's retelling of the story. However, there is a picture in a filing cabinet at the Library of Congress and the copyright office.

Thirdly, the actual written report by Mr. Lacy says nothing about the light being supernatural. The report only stated that a light did strike the camera's lens. The full report can be viewed online.^[165] In the report, Mr. Lacy said:

Based upon the above described examination and study I am of the definite opinion that the negative submitted for examination, was not retouched nor was it a composite or double exposed negative. Further, I am of the definite opinion that the light streak appearing above the head in a halo position was caused by light striking the negative.

As shown, Mr. Lacy's report does not say the halo was a supernatural being. He only stated that the picture was not retouched, but a light source struck the negative. So, this brings us to our most important question about the light source of the halo in the picture: "Was it a natural or supernatural light?" William Branham and his followers believed it was the same pillar of cloud that led the Israelites in the wilderness.

These promises that was made, notice, all these promises had been vindicated and fulfilled by the God of the promise. Look, **hanging in Washington, DC, tonight, the picture of the Angel of the Lord!** As George J. Lacy, the head of the FBI fingerprint and document for the United States government, examined it from Houston, Texas, and said, "This is the only supernatural Being was ever photographed in all the world." He ought to know; he's the best that's in the

world, for it. Notice, there it hangs, as the Truth, **the same Pillar of Fire that led Israel back yonder at the wilderness.** _This Day This Scripture Is Fulfilled 02-19-65

In comparing the halo to the pillar of fire in the days of Moses presents some problems. First, the "pillar" of cloud was not a circular "pillow" of cloud. The Hebrew word for "pillar" is a "column." So then, the pillar of fire in Moses' day was in the shape of an upright column of cloud or fire, not a small oval appearance as shown in Branham's picture.

Secondly, the pillar of the cloud and fire during the days of Moses was visible to all the Israelites (Ex. 13:21; 14:19-20; 33:8-10). Thus, my question would be: "If God wanted to provide infallible vindication of the halo in the picture as a supernatural being, why would he not allow this cloud to appear visibly before all the people, as he did for Moses. We are warned in the scriptures to "...prove all things..." and "...hold fast that which is good." (1 Thess. 5:21).

Thirdly, scriptures do not support any prophet, apostle, or person being overshadowed by a halo. A cloud did appear above Jesus and three disciples, but not a halo over their heads (Matt. 17:4-8). The idea of a halo over a sacred person has been depicted in iconic arts among various religions and cultures since ancient times. Wikipedia says:^[166]

A halo (from Greek *ἅλως*, *halōs* also known as a **nimbus**, aureole, glory, or gloriole) is a ring of light that surrounds a person in art. **They have been used in the iconography of many religions** to indicate holy or sacred figures, and have at various periods also been used in images of rulers or heroes. **In the sacred art of Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Christianity, among other religions, sacred persons may be depicted with a halo in the form of a circular glow, or in Asian art flames, around the head, or around the whole body, this last often called a mandorla.**

Since 1235 B.C., Wikipedia further said the halo have been seen in artworks over false gods such as Ra, Apollo, Brahma, Buddha, Indra, Vishnu, Cholo Nataraja, and a Tibetan deity. Even though the Bible do not support the existence of halos, their use in alleged Christian arts began in the 4th century.

So then, why is there reason to doubt the light source over Branham's head was a supernatural being? Because there is the possibility the light that struck the camera of the man taking Branham's picture on the stage could have been one of the many light fixtures in Sam Houston Coliseum.

Why do I say this? Well, photographs of lightings taken at this place in the 1960s shows halo like appearances (see an example during a Beatles' concert on the next page – Houston Chronicle, reprinted with permission). When these lights from fixtures and camera shots over people's heads are compared with the one over Branham (to view online, see endnote ^[167] for link), there are viable reasons to doubt that the picture actually shows a supernatural being.

Remember, Mr. Lacy's written report did not say the light source was a supernatural being. But rather, a light struck the negative. On page 107, the book "A Man Sent from God" posted a condensed newspaper's article written by a reporter who made reference to the lights in Sam Houston Coliseum during that particular meeting in 1950.

They lay on cots **under the glare of the great lights** of Sam Houston Coliseum Tuesday last night – the lame, the sick, the infirm, the ones whose hopes for physical health had almost gone. They lay there quietly, some of them uncomprehendingly, as the theological argument swirled about and above them (The Houston Chronicle, January 25, 1950).



In retrospect, after considering Branham's repeated plagiarisms of subjects allegedly revealed by God, including prophetic failures and unverifiable experiences, it becomes very hard to believe his claims without *infallible* proofs. Therefore,

without irrefutable evidences, it is difficult to accept an invisible, questionable halo light appearing on a picture to be a supernatural being in a coliseum filled with similar shaped lightings. It would be more credible if a visible literal light had appeared and photographed before the crowd, as God visibly did before the Egyptians and Israelites in the days of Moses (Ex. 13:21-22; 14:19-20).

As studied, Branham's testimony about being present when the cloud in Life Magazine appeared has been proven wrong, along with his plagiarisms of the seven seals, seven church ages, and possibly nineteen other subjects. Also, archived newspapers showed that his bridge's prophecy of 16 men drowning failed and no article was found to verify an angel or voice on the Ohio River. Rather, the newspaper actually showed 14 people converted during that time. Again, they are vast discrepancies regarding his 1946 angelic commission to pray for the sick.

Moreover, as we shall later study, Branham's 1933 visions of seven major events were filled with many historical inaccuracies and revisions. Likewise, the light source in the picture is unverifiable and questionable, and cannot be proven and trusted as being supernatural.

Nonetheless, for the record, perhaps there may be no undeniable evidence to confirm that the light source was not a supernatural being. Thus, there is the possibility that it could have been supernatural seeing that healings appeared to be occurring in William Branham's meetings. But, then again, if the light source in the picture was supernatural, what purpose did it served? Branham's followers believes it vindicated his entire ministry and end time message rather than his acclaimed gift of healing during the 1940s and 50s.

However, based upon the holy scriptures, supernatural signs and wonders cannot be the criteria by which a ministry is judged to be of God. Why? Because many false prophets will perform signs in the name of Christ and still be condemned in the Day of Judgment (Matt. 7:15-23). Also, Satan can perform false signs and miracles to deceive people (Ex. 7:10-12; 8:6-7; Deut. 13:1-5; Matt. 24:24; Acts 8:9-11; 13:6-12; 16:16; 2 Cor. 11:14; 2 Thess. 2:9; Rev. 13:13-14; 16:13-14).

Therefore supernatural signs cannot be the criteria

whether a person or doctrine is true or false. Rather, the criteria must be sound biblical doctrines based on scriptural truths (Isaiah 8:19-20; Luke 24:25-32,36-46; John 5:39; Acts 17:2-3,10-11; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; Titus 2:1,7-8; Heb. 13:9; 2 Pet. 1:20-21), and the preaching of the *true* biblical gospel of Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:16; 2:16; 1 Cor. 1:17-21; 9:16; 15:1-4,11; Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Thess. 1:8-9; 1 Pet. 4:17).

For example, during the year of 1917, between 30,000 and 100,000 people—consisting of newspaper reporters and photographers—visibly witnessed supernatural events in the sun after three Roman Catholic's girls saw apparitions of a paranormal being posing as Virgin Mary (called "Miracle of the Sun," more details later). Did this supernatural event vindicate this supposed Mary to be divine and these girls' messages as biblically true? Absolutely not!

Likewise, Joseph Smith allegedly transcribed the Book of Mormon from golden plates that were seen by eleven witnesses.^[168] Did this event prove this book to be true? No!

So, even if the light is supernatural, did the photograph of the halo over Branham's head provide indisputable proof that his alleged end time message is true and from God, as followers believe? In spite of the fact that it contain many errors and mostly consist of revelations copied from other authors? Concerning which, he passed down to followers as special revelations, while giving no one else any credit?

Therefore, does this halo vindicate Branham's obvious unscriptural teachings that we shall later study? Does this picture provide vindication for a man who appeared to be a very gifted evangelist, but consistently provided inaccurate, revised, contradictory, after the facts, and failed prophecies (as we shall study in the following chapters)?

It is very difficult to believe a doubtful light appearing in a picture over confirmed facts that prove Branham's words and experiences cannot be fully trusted. That is, unless there are undeniable evidences substantiating his claims, which must also be based upon sound biblical truths.

Thus, my questions to Branham's followers (who they deem to be Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6 who revealed the Son of man of Luke 17:30, and the seventh angel of Revelation 3:14 and 10:7): "Will you trust his clearly proven failed message of the hour to get you into heaven? Or will you return to the simple gospel of Christ (2 Cor. 11:3)?"

"Will you follow sound doctrinal truths of the Bible and salvation based upon the Lord Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross and resurrection according to the true biblical gospel (Romans 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:17-18; 15:1-4,11)? Or will you continue to trust in Branham's unverifiable experiences as God's approval for his entire error ridden message?" Dear friends, after considering the clear evidences, the choice will be eternally yours (2 Tim. 3:16-17; John 5:39; Acts 17:11; 1 Thess. 5:21; 2 Thess. 2:9-12; Rev. 22:14-15).

Beloved, **believe not every spirit**, but **TRY the spirits** whether they are of God: because **many false prophets** are gone out **into the world**. 1 John 4:1

Therefore, to him **who knows to do good and does not do it**, to him **it is sin**. James 4:17 NKJV

Chapter Six

William Branham's Historical Inaccuracies and Revisions of 1933 Visions

During the course of William Branham's ministry, he repeatedly spoke of seven major visions that occurred in 1933. He said these visions would transpire before Jesus' return in 1977. However, he only began to mention these prophecies on audio tapes over two decades after five (or six) of the visions had already happened. This is insufficient proof of authenticity.

If you will pardon a personal note here, I base this prediction on seven major continuous visions that came to me one Sunday morning in June, 1933. **The Lord Jesus spoke to me** and said that the **coming of the Lord was drawing nigh**, but that **before He came, seven major events would transpire.** _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

Franklin D. Roosevelt

As also related on Believe The Sign, ^[169] there are several problems with Branham's visions. First, when the prophecy is mentioned in 1960, he said President Roosevelt (FDR) would pick on Germany and cause a world war. Please notice, Branham supposedly "*read*" the original 1933 prophecy written on a paper.

I'd like **to read something to you.** 1932: (Listen to this.) As I was on my way... Or as I was getting ready to go on my way to church this morning, **it came to pass that I fell into a vision**. Our services is being held on Meigs Avenue at the old orphans' home, where Charlie Kern lives in part of the building." (He lives just across the street now, you know.) And **it came to pass that while I was in this vision I seen** some dreadful things take place. I speak this in the Name of the Lord. The president which now is, **President Franklin D. Roosevelt** ... (Now remember, this is twenty-eight years ago.) **will cause the whole world to go to war.** _Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

Now, look what happened now. In... **President Franklin D. Roosevelt** took America to England's tea party. That's right. **Germany never picked on us; we picked on them**, threw the whole world into a war, **to cause a world war**. _Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

The prophecy read by William Branham is historically inaccurate. Roosevelt did not cause or lead the world into war. Adolf Hitler began the war by invading Poland in 1939. Hitler had already conquered one-third of Europe, and was attacking Britain and Russia before America entered the war on December 8, 1941—a day after being attacked at Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Four days later, *Germany and Italy declared war on the United States*. ^[170] Perhaps, realizing the errors in the vision, Branham gradually began to change the wording of the prophecy over the years.

Write it in your Bible; see if it's right. 1933, one morning going to the Baptist tabernacle, I went into a trance, saw a vision. I saw **President Roosevelt was going to help lead the world to a world war**, told it that morning. They was going to lock me up for it. _Jehovah-Jireh 03-12-61

I said, "The President that now is (I copied this off of the old Scripture—old thing yesterday)—that the President that we now have, which was (how many remembers whose it was?) **Franklin D. Roosevelt...**" I said, "The President we have in now will run even in the fourth term (He's on his first then.)—will run into **the fourth term**, and **we will be taken to a second world war.**" _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61

As shown, by 1961 Branham had gradually shifted from blaming FDR for *causing* a world war to him *helping to lead* a war or *being taken* to war during the fourth term of his presidency. After making subtle changes to an obvious historical error, in 1964 Branham cleverly removed FDR as being responsible for World War II. Instead, the prophecy now blamed Hitler for declaring war on America.

And now remember that these things was said. Said, "**Adolph Hitler** would come to a mysterious end. **And he would declare war on the United States.**" _Broken Cisterns 07-26-64

After revising the prophecy several times, Branham's last rendition of the vision is found in his 1965 publication on the seven church ages. He completely drops FDR from the prophecy and blamed Hitler for causing a world war.

The next vision foretold that an Austrian by the name of **Adolph Hitler** would rise up as dictator over Germany, and that **he would draw the world into war.** _An Exposition Of Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - Laodicean Church Age

First, it was FDR who caused or led the world into a war, but now, it was Adolf Hitler. When Branham said FDR would be the cause of a world war, he spoke this prophecy in the name of the Lord, saying:

"This one first. **I speak this in the Name of the Lord**. The president which now is, **President Franklin D. Roosevelt**. (Now remember, this is twenty-eight years ago.) **will cause the whole world to go to war.**" _Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

Did God make a mistake when the vision was revised from Roosevelt to Hitler? No! Branham did. God cannot lie (Num. 23:19; Heb. 6:18). Here is what God says about a person speaking a prophecy in his name that fails.

But **the prophet** who presumes **to speak a word IN MY NAME**, which **I have not commanded him to speak**, or who speaks in the name of other gods, **that prophet shall die.**' And

if you say in your heart, ‘ **How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?** ’— when a prophet speaks **IN THE NAME OF THE LORD**, if the **thing DOES NOT HAPPEN OR COME TO PASS**, that *is* the thing which **the LORD HAS NOT SPOKEN**; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; **you shall not be afraid of him**. Deut. 18:20-22 (NKJV)

Then the LORD said unto me, **The prophets prophesy lies IN MY NAME**: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: **they prophesy unto you a false vision** and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart. Jer. 14:14 (see also Ezekiel 22:28)

Branham often spoke of Deuteronomy 18:20-22 and believed a true prophet’s credential is that his prophecies comes to pass. He said failed prophecies were from evil spirits. Branham led followers to believe that none of his prophecies spoken in the name of the Lord ever failed. ^[171]

Yet, when Branham’s sermons are examined, virtually all of his acclaimed prophecies were told after fulfillment. Even then, most of them were wrong. For example, the seven visions of 1933 were not mentioned on tapes until 1953 to 1960, after five or six events had happened. Even though he claimed they were written in a book of prophecy.

Yeah, I know that, see, just exactly what’s **wrote** on my **book of prophecy in 1933**, that would take place. _Souls That Are In Prison Now 11-10-63M

In my book in there, that **I keep wrote down : In 1933**, one morning, fixing to go to Sunday school, a Baptist Sunday school where I was pastor, the Holy Spirit come and showed me down to the end time, and **showed me seven things that would happen**. I marked them down. I t’s on old yellow paper. _The Voice Of The Sign 03-21-64E

But, after 54 years, this book remains missing to verify the visions occurred in 1933. A former Message Believer of 50 years, who attended Branham’s church during the 1960s and 70s, said the congregation asked to see this book after his death. They were told that the pages were blank. Why? Because an angel removed the information. Really! ^[172]

As shown below, Branham told followers that his seven visions of 1933 were *perfectly* fulfilled and *never failed* because they were “*Thus saith the Lord.*”

Five of those things has perfectly been fulfilled exactly. How Mussolini would rise and go to Ethiopia, and fall at his steps; and he would be turned to the people, in shame, with a woman. Many, many years before it happened **perfectly on the dot**. And it’s **never failed**, and **it won’t fail, because it’s THUS SAITH THE LORD**. _Once More 11-17-63

But, as seen with FDR, practically all of the above had errors. This study has shown failure in his first prophecy concerning 16 men falling from a bridge, and will further show many mistaken and failed prophecies spoken in the name of the Lord. Thus, based on Branham’s words, he is disqualified as a true prophet (see quotes in endnote ^[171]).

Benito Mussolini

William Branham not only made an obvious mistake in the prophecy concerning FDR, he did the same for Benito Mussolini. He was the dictator of Italy during World War II.

The president which now is, President Franklin D. Roosevelt... (Now remember, this is twenty-eight years ago.) will cause the whole world to go to war; and the **new dictator of Italy, Mussolini**, shall make **his first invasion** towards Ethiopia, and he will take Ethiopia; but **that’ll be his last**. He shall **come to his end**. _Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

Said, "This new dictator, **Mussolini**, will take **his first step toward Ethiopia**, and Ethiopia will fall at his feet." It did. It said, "**That’ll be his last**. He will end in disgrace." _Conference 11-25-60

Once again, Branham’s prophetic vision is historically inaccurate. When **reading** the prophecy of 1933, he said Ethiopia would be Mussolini’s first invasion, which occurred in 1936. Actually, his first invasion was the Greek island of Corfu in 1923, as stated in Wikipedia. ^[173]

Mussolini and the Italian cabinet were not satisfied with the reply of the **Greek government** and declared that it was unacceptable....

On August 31, 1923, a squadron of the **Italian Navy** bombarded the **Greek island of Corfu** and landed 5000 or 8000 or 10,000 **troops**. **Airplanes** aided in the **attack**.

Both Greece, on September 8, and Italy, on September 10, accepted it...In Italy everyone was satisfied with the Conference’s decision and **praised Mussolini**... on September 15, the Ambassadors Conference informed **Mussolini that Italy must evacuate Corfu on the September 27**, at the latest. Mussolini accepted it two days later.

As shown above, Ethiopia was not the first invasion of Mussolini’s reign of power. Nor was it his last invasion as Branham’s alleged prophecy had stated. In 1939, Mussolini attacked Albania. Wikipedia says: ^[174]

The **Italian invasion of Albania (April 7 – April 12, 1939)** was a brief military campaign by the Kingdom of Italy against the Albania Kingdom. The conflict was a result of the imperialist policies of Italian dictator **Benito Mussolin**. **Albania was rapidly overrun**.

Then, in 1940, Mussolini invaded France as stated in Wikipedia: ^[175]

The **Italian invasion of France**, also called the Battle of the Alps (**10–25 June 1940**), was the **first major Italian engagement of World War II** and the last major engagement of the Battle of France. Italy’s entry into the war widened its scope considerably in Africa and the Mediterranean Sea. The goal of the Italian leader, **Benito Musolini**, was the elimination of Anglo-French domination in the Mediterranean, the reclamation of historically Italian territory....

Again, Mussolini ordered the invasion of Egypt, Kenya, Sudan, and British Somaliland in 1940. Wikipedia says: ^[177]

When Italy declared war on 10 June 1940, the Italian troops were not prepared for a prolonged war in North Africa or East Africa. As a consequence, Italian dictator **Benito Mussolini** ordered only some limited aggressive actions to capture territory along the borders of **Egypt, Kenya, and Sudan**. Later in June...convinced the Italian Supreme Command (*Comando Supremo*) to plan a campaign to conquer **British Somaliland**.

Furthermore, Mussolini ordered the failed invasion of Greece in 1940. Also, he joined Germany's invasion of Yugoslavia and Greece in 1941. Wikipedia says: ^[176]

In October 1940, Mussolini ordered the invasion of Greece from Albania, but the operation was unsuccessful. In April 1941, Germany launched an invasion of Yugoslavia and then attacked Greece. Italy and other German allies supported both actions. The German and Italian armies overran Yugoslavia in about two weeks and, despite British support in Greece, the Axis troops **overran that country** by the end of April.

Mussolini also participated in the invasion of Russia in 1941 and declared war on the United States in the same year. Wikipedia says: ^{[178][179]}

The **Italian participation in the Eastern Front** during World War II began after the launch of Operation Barbarossa, the German invasion of the Soviet Union, on **22 June 1941**. To **show solidarity with the Germans**, Italian dictator **Benito Mussolini** ordered a contingent of the Italian Royal Army to be prepared for the Eastern Front and, by early July, **an Italian force was in transport.**

On December 11, 1941, **Italy declared war on the United States...**

As shown above, Branham's prophecy was historically incorrect. Yet, he spoke those words in the name of the Lord. As stated, he said Jesus told him those words: *"The Lord Jesus spoke to me and said that the coming of the Lord was drawing nigh, but that before He came, seven major events would transpire"* (shown on page 131).

Branham was not only incorrect about Ethiopia being Mussolini's first and last invasion. He also said in 1933 that Mussolini was not yet in power and would become dictator.

I saw it in 1933. See, I looked off. You said, you might have said, "Well, it didn't happen then." But it's going to happen! **Neither was Mussolini in power.** _God Doesn't Call Man To Judgment Without First Warning Him 07-24-63

I have predicted by revelation from God, or **a vision in 1933** that seven things would happen before the end time. And that, one of them, that, "**Mussolini,**" who was then becoming dictator, "**he would become dictator.**" _Broken Cisterns 07-26-64E

Branham was wrong. Mussolini became Prime Minister of Italy in 1922 and dictator in 1925. Again, his prophecy of 1933 is incorrect, as shown in Wikipedia. ^[180]

Benito Amilcare Andrea **Mussolini** ... was an Italian politician, journalist, and leader of the National Fascist Party, **ruling the country as Prime Minister from 1922** until his ousting in 1943. He ruled constitutionally **until 1925**, when he dropped all pretense of democracy and **set up a legal dictatorship.**

Perhaps Branham, realizing the errors in the prophecy, gradually began to change its wordings over the years. Until finally, he had completely removed any mention of Ethiopia being Mussolini's first and last invasion, or that he was not yet in power when the vision occurred in 1933. The last retelling of the vision in his 1965 book omit these wordings:

The **first vision** was that **Mussolini would invade Ethiopia and that nation would "fall at his steps".** That vision surely did

cause some repercussions, and some were very angry when I said it and would not believe it. But it happened that way. He just walked in there with his modern arms and took over. The natives didn't have a chance. But **the vision also said that Mussolini would come to a horrible end with his own people turning on him.** That came to pass just exactly as it was said.

_An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

As shown above, Branham added Mussolini coming to a horrible end by the betrayal of his people. This event was not mentioned when he first *read* the vision on November 13, 1960. Also, he began to include a woman in the vision during a 1963 sermon to match historical facts.

Five of those things has perfectly been fulfilled exactly. **How Mussolini would rise and go to Ethiopia, and fall at his steps**; and he **would be turned to the people, in shame, with a woman.** Many, many years before it **happened perfectly on the dot.** And **it's never failed,** and it **won't fail,** because **it's THUS SAITH THE LORD.** _Once More 11-17-63

As previously shown, the final rendition in the church ages book of 1965 omits the woman. Why all the changes and errors regarding a vision claimed to be "Thus saith the Lord?" As stated, Branham's "Thus saith the Lord" cannot be trusted, as we shall further prove later.

So then, why all the changes to Branham's prophecies? The answer may be found in the following quote.

I'd like to read you a prophecy that was given. I got on... And many... By the way, **Mr. Mercier** and **many of them** are going to **take some of these old prophecies,** and dig them out, and **revise them a little, or bring them up to date,** and **put them in papers.** I'd like to read some things that I'd like for you to—to... This one first. I'd like to read something to you. **1932:** (Listen to this.) As I was on my way... Or as I was getting ready to go on my way to church this morning, it came to pass that **I fell into a vision** _Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

As shown, before *reading* the seven visions of 1933 for the first time in a 1960 sermon, Branham instructs Mr. Mercer (who was in charge of recording and editing his tapes) to revise and update the prophecies. By the time Branham's seven visions of 1933 were written in his 1965 book on the seven church ages, they had been revised and updated. The apparent errors of the past had already been removed and the wordings updated to match history.

Adolf Hitler and Germany

William Branham did not only make an obvious mistake when *reading* the prophecies concerning FDR and Mussolini, he did the same for Adolf Hitler and Germany.

And **in 1933** when the Lord, when we was having meetings over here where that Church of Christ is standing now, the old Masonic home, the vision of **the Lord came to me** up here and **predicted** that, **Germany** would rise up and have **put that Maginot Line** there. _Why Are We Not A Denomination? 09-27-58

Now, you see why I'm hammering the way I do. I got, **THUS SAITH THE LORD.** In her voting she will elect the wrong

person. The Americans will take a great beating at a place that **Germany will build**, which will be a great wall built of concrete (The **Maginot Line**, eleven years before it was ever built.) But finally they will be victors. Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

And eleven years beforehand, it said that "We'd go to war with Germany, and **Germany would be fortified behind concrete,**" **the Maginot Line.** It happened just that way. The Ephesian Church Age 12-05-60

Once again, Branham made an historical blunder when reading the original prophecy of 1933 during a 1960 sermon. He said Germany would build the Maginot Line. Actually, France built the Maginot Line between 1930 and 1939. Germany built the Siegfried Line. Wikipedia says: ^[181]^[182]

The Maginot Line...named after the French Minister of War Andre Maginot, was a line of concrete fortifications, obstacles, and weapons installations that **France constructed** just before the border with Switzerland and the borders with Germany and Luxembourg **during the 1930s.**

The original **Siegfried Line** (German: *Siegfriedstellung*) was a World War I line of defensive forts and tank defenses **built by Germany** in northern France during 1916–1917 as a section of the Hindenburg Line. In English the term "Siegfried Line" commonly refers to the "Westwall", the German term for a similar World War II-era defensive line built further east during the 1930s opposite the French Maginot Line.

Perhaps Branham, realizing the error in his statements gradually began to change the wordings over the years. Until finally, he had completely removed any mention of the Maginot Line and replaced it with the Siegfried Line.

1933, the Holy Spirit came one morning and told me seven things that would take place before this nation was destroyed. One of them is that. It's on old paper there at the church, many has looked at it. How that we would go to war with Hitler and they'd... **How Germany** would fortify and **build a Maginot Line, or the Siegfried Line.** I believe it was, eleven years before it was ever thought of. Once More 11-17-63

And now remember that these things was said. Said, "**Adolph Hitler** would come to a mysterious end. And he would declare war on the United States. And they would **build** a great—a—a **great concrete thing**, that they'd even live in it. And right there the Americans would take a horrible beating, at this." And **it was the Siegfried line**, eleven years before it was ever started to be built. And then said, "But he would come to an end; and the States would win the war." Broken Cisterns 07-26-64

As shown, Branham switched names in his November 17, 1963 sermon. Thus, in the last retelling of the vision in his 1965 church ages book, he omits the Maginot Line.

The next vision foretold that an Austrian by the name of Adolph Hitler would rise up as dictator over **Germany**, and that he would draw the world into war. **It showed the Siegfried line** and how our troops would have a terrible time to overcome it. Then it showed that **Hitler would come to a mysterious end**. An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

As shown above, another apparent flaw in Branham's

1933 prophetic vision is the addition that Hitler would come to a mysterious end. Branham mentioned "Hitler" 86 times on recorded tapes between 1954 and July 19, 1964, yet there is no statement in the vision about him coming to a mysterious end until July 26, 1964, as shown below.

Look at 1933, how it say the women would act in this last days. How it said the people... How Mussolini, how he'd come to his end. **How Hitler would come to a mysterious end**. Recognizing Your Day And Its Message 07-26-64M

Once again, Branham destroys his credibility by adding to his alleged 1933 vision thirty-one years later. So, did Hitler come to a mysterious end? Videos on YouTube called "*The Day Hitler Died 2016 Documentary*" and "*The Last Survivor of Hitler's Bunker*" shows several 1948 interviews of eyewitnesses who testified that Hitler shot himself and his body was taken to a garden and burned. Wikipedia ^[183] and the Jewish Virtual Library ^[184] verifies this account.

...**Hitler shot himself** and Braun bit into a cyanide capsule. Their bodies were carried up the stairs and through the bunker's emergency exit to the bombed-out garden behind the Reich Chancellery, where they were placed in a bomb crater and **doused with petrol.**

The following day **Hitler committed suicide, shooting himself through the mouth with a pistol**. His body was carried into a garden of the Reich Chancellery by aides, **covered with petrol and burned** along with that of Eva Braun.

As shown, historical records has exposed the errors of Branham's prophecies. His prophecies and odd teachings were consistently filled with mistakes and cannot be trusted (discussed later). If you value your soul, you must flee the error prone message of William Branham and trust 100% in Jesus Christ for salvation. Remember his dire warning:

I've got to leave here. You've got to leave here. And if I go **as a false prophet, I'll lose my own soul and lose yours with me**. Questions And Answers On The Holy Ghost 12-19-59

Communism, Nazism, and Fascism

Branham did not only make obvious mistakes when reading prophecies relating to FDR, Mussolini, and Adolf Hitler: he did the same regarding Communism, Nazism, and Fascism. He said these three would eventually be one.

And I said, "**There'll be three great isms, Communism, Fascism, and Nazism.**" And I said, "**They'll wind up in one ism**, and that one ism will dominate the world and **will burn the Vatican City.**" Israel And The Church #2, 03-26-53

The first apparent flaw found in the prophecy is that Communism, Nazism, and Fascism initially led by Stalin, Hitler, and Mussolini began with the same ideology about dictatorial forms of government. Although these groups had some opposing philosophies, they were basically the same, as evident in the following definitions. ^[185]^[186]^[187]

Communism – a system of social organization in which all economic and social activity is controlled by a totalitarian state dominated by a single and self-perpetuating political party.

Fascism – a governmental system led by a dictator having

complete power, forcibly suppressing opposition and criticism, regimenting all industry, commerce, etc., and emphasizing nationalism and often racism.

Nazism – the ideology and practice of the Nazis, especially the policy of racist nationalism, national expansion, and state control of the economy.

As stated in Wikipedia, Fascism influenced Nazism. ^[188]

Fascism was a major influence on Nazism. The seizure of power by Italian Fascist leader Benito Mussolini in the March on Rome in 1922 drew admiration by Hitler, who less than a month later had begun to **model himself and the Nazi Party upon Mussolini and the Fascists.** Hitler presented the Nazis as a form of **German fascism.**

As shown, Nazism, Fascism, and Communism believed in dictatorial styles of political systems that controlled government, economics, social activities, and promoted racism against certain ethnic groups. However, historically speaking, Communism never adopted Fascism and Nazism because Russia had its own brand of dictatorship. Actually, Communism was a part of the Allies' armed forces and instrumental in destroying the other two isms of Branham's vision rather than adopting them. Wikipedia says: ^[189] ^[190]

The victory of the Allies over the Axis powers in World War II led to the collapse of many fascist regimes in Europe.

Following Nazi Germany's defeat in World War II and the end of the Holocaust, overt expressions of support for **Nazi ideas were prohibited in Germany and other European countries.**

Not only was Branham wrong about Communism adopting the other two isms, which were either destroyed or forbidden to implement, he also said Communist Russia would destroy Vatican City. At the present, Communism was banned in Russia since 1991 and Vatican City still exists. Branham had conflicting "Thus saith the Lord" prophecies about Communism and Romanism (Catholicism). First, he said communism would rule the world and destroy Vatican.

And I said, "There'll be three great isms, **Communism**, Fascism, and Nazism." And I said, "They'll wind up in one ism, and that one ism **will dominate the world** and **will burn the Vatican City.**" You remember me saying that years and years ago. Israel And The Church #2, 03-26-53

...If you'll give me one more night, if God does, I'll prove to you that **communism** is working straight in the hands of Almighty God to **destroy the Roman...** And remember, **I say this as God's prophet: The Russian empire will drop an atomic bomb of some sort on the Vatican City, and destroy it** in one hour. **THUS SAITH THE LORD.** And the Bible said that God took them cruel-hearted men and put them in His hands, and they were instruments in His hands to fulfill His will, and to bring back to her exactly what she had coming to her. That's exactly. That's the Word. The Mark Of The Beast 05-13-54

And I said, "There is three isms; Communism, Fascism, and Nazism. They'll all wind up out of **Russia, in Communism.**" And it will **destroy Catholicism.** See if it don't! The Voice Of The Sign 03-21-64E

In 1962, Branham practically reverses the prophecy

saying Romanism (Catholicism) will rule the world. Then, he rebukes those who believe Communist Russia will rule the world, which he had prophesied in 1953: "**Communism ...will dominate the world**" (as shown in the above quote).

See, **don't worry about Russia.** Russia is a small pebble on the beach. **Don't you worry about communism.** You watch **Romanism** when it's uniting with the churches. There's **nothing written in the Scripture** about **communism ruling the world.** The Greatest Battle Ever Fought 03-11-62

Any prophecy don't stay with that Word... That's exactly. That's the reason I say today; no matter how good it looks, **how many preachers are saying** this, that, or the other, "**Communism is going to take the world** and throw it down." **Don't you never try to fight communism. Fight Romanism.** For, that's **THUS SAITH THE LORD.** Was the Lord said **Romanism is going to rule, not communism.** It's just a puppet. The Restoration Of The Bride Tree 04-22-62

Because Branham said conflicting *Thus saith the Lord* that both communism and Catholicism would rule the world, which one of is correct? Also, in Branham's 1933 vision, he said: "The voice admonished: "**WATCH RUSSIA, WATCH RUSSIA. Keep your eye on the King of the North**" (Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age). But, he tells his church in the above quote not to worry about Russia and Communism, rather: "**You WATCH ROMANISM.**" Which prophecy is correct?

Branham drew his faulty prediction of Communist Russia destroying Catholicism from his misunderstanding of prophecy in Revelation 17:15-18. According to these verses the beast (or Antichrist) along with ten nations will destroy the woman called Mystery Babylon the Great. Branham believed the woman was Vatican that sits on the Seven Hills of Rome. He also believed Russia during the time of Khrushchev was a part of the same ten nations foretold in Daniel 2:41-45 and 7:7-8, as shown below.

Let me give you a little something on the iron and clay. Remember when **Khrushchev** beat his shoe on the desk at the U.N.? Well, there were **five eastern nations** there and **five western.** Khrushchev spoke for the East and **President Eisenhower** for the West. In Russian, **Khrushchev is clay** and **Eisenhower means iron.** The two main leaders of the world, the two big toes of the feet of iron and clay, were side by side. **We are in the end of it all.** An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Six - The Thyatirean Church Age

The above interpretation that the United States during Eisenhower's presidency (1953-1961) and Russia during the dictatorship of Khrushchev (1953-1964), along with eight other nations, were fulfillments of the ten nations foretold in the books of Daniel and Revelation is totally off-base. Why? Because both men are long dead. Furthermore, the fact that Russia will destroy Vatican (Rev. 18:8) because they are part of the ten nations in Revelation 17:16 is incorrect and opposes Branham eschatology (end time teachings). How?

As studied, Branham said the beast (or antichrist) of Revelation 13 is papal Rome (pages 96-97). Revelation 17:12-17 shows the ten nations partnering with the beast to destroy Babylon the Great. Branham's teaching is confusing

because he has the Pope, as the Antichrist, destroying the very institutions he now heads—Vatican and the Roman Catholic Church. So then, to avoid conflicting views, he has Communism destroying the Roman Catholic system rather than the Pope. During a question and answer section, Branham was specifically asked this question, and gave the same confusing answer.

I believe of the—some of the tapes taken, said you said it would finally drop—that—that **communism would finally destroy Catholicism or the Vatican by an explosion. Is this right? Yes. Revelations 16, you find it, and Revelations 18:8 and 12.** If the person is here and wants to take this piece of paper on that, you can look it right up. Yeah. See? "Alas, alas, that great city... for in one hour she has come to her end." You see? The merchants and everything here that brought her merchandise... It will be. That's right. And don't... Just quit... Just forget about communism. _Questions And Answers On The Seals, 03-24-63

Currently, the irony of Branham's confusing prophecy is that Communistic Russia did not destroy the Vatican and Catholicism. Rather, they destroyed Communism. The party was dissolved in Russia on August 29, 1991. ^[191] The February 24, 1992 issue of Time Magazine featured Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II on the front cover with the title: "*Holy Alliance.*" The subtitle read: "*How Reagan and the Pope conspired to assist Poland's Solidarity movement and hasten the demise of Communism.*" ^[192]

Also, an article at Washington Post's website read: "*How the Pope 'Defeated Communism.'*" ^[193] Again, a ten part post in 21st Century Christianity provides the history how Catholicism destroyed Communism in Russia with the title: "*How The Catholic Church, With Help From Ronald Reagan, Destroyed Soviet Communism.*" ^[194]

Finally, another problem with Branham's prophecy is that the vision appears to identify Communism, Nazism, and Fascism as being the three unclean spirits like frogs coming from the mouths of the dragon, beast, and false prophet in Revelation 16:13. Later, Branham changed this teaching and said these unclean spirits is the doctrine of the trinity.

"Now, there's going to be **three great isms**. Which is now in existence. One of them is in Rome, which is —is **Fascism**, and one of them is in Germany which is Nazi —**Nazism**. And the other one is in Russia, which is **communism**." I said, "Those **three great isms is the unclean spirits that went out of the mouth of the false prophet, and the dragons**, and so forth that will unite themselves together, speaking things that they should not, and they'll all beat at one another, until they'll finally wind up in one ism. And I predict that that will be communism. And communism will burn the Vatican city. _The Faith That Was Once Delivered To The Saints 05-01-55E

A false trinity was rising; not in the early days, wouldn't be made manifest in the early days, it went right on through with it. But when the Seven Seals be come, and opened those mysteries and revealed them; that's when "the frogs, **three unclean spirits like frogs**, come out to manifest themselves," **a trinity doctrine against the Truth**. See? Huh! See where it come from? See where it's going back to? Ecumenical Council. _The Anointed Ones At The End Time 07-25-65M

In the above quote s, which interpretations regarding the

unclean spirits like frogs are correct? The interpretation in the "Thus saith the Lord" prophetic vision of 1933? Or the interpretation that came after the alleged opening of the seven seals whereby all mysteries would be revealed. which Branham also declared to be "Thus saith the Lord."^[195]

Five of those things has perfectly been fulfilled exactly. How Mussolini would rise and go to Ethiopia, and fall at his steps; and he would be turned to the people, in shame, with a woman. Many, many years before it happened perfectly on the dot. And it's never failed, and **it won't fail, because it's THUS SAITH THE LORD.** And it's not contrary to these Bible. It's got to be. _Once More 11-17-63

All the mysteries: serpent's seed and whatevermore is to be revealed. Now, you see, I'm just not making that up. That's what... **It's THUS SAITH THE LORD.** I'll read it to you out of the Book: the sounding of **the seventh angel's message**, the mystery of God should be finished that's been declared by His holy prophets. That's the prophets who has wrote the Word. At the sounding of the seventh church age, the last church age, all the loose ends that through these church ages have been probed at, will be wound up together. And **when the Seals are broke and the mystery is revealed.** _The Breach Between The Seven Church Ages And The Seven Seals 03-37-63E

Actually, when considering Revelation 16:14-16, none of the above interpretations are correct. These verses plainly says these three demonic spirits will perform miracles and gather nations at Armageddon to battle Jesus Christ when he returns to the earth in the 19th chapter of Revelation.

Egg-shaped and Driverless Vehicles

Branham did not only make obvious mistakes in the prophecies concerning FDR, Mussolini, Adolf Hitler, and the three isms: he did the same regarding driverless vehicles. As also noted by Believe The Sign, ^[196] when Branham first spoke of his 1933 vision regarding automobiles in a 1953 sermon, there were no driverless vehicles mentioned in the original prophecy. This concept was added in 1958; even though he had spoken of egg-shaped cars several times.

I said, "Just before that time comes, **that automobiles...**" Which was built that old straight back, twenty years ago or twenty-five years ago. You can remember twenty years anyhow. I said, "**They'll look like an egg.** They'll be shaped. That's a vision. Be something on the shape of something like that." And that's the way they'll be just before the rapture. _Israel And The Church #2, 03-26-53

And at that time, **automobiles**, just before the coming of the Lord, **will be in the shape of an egg.** "Now, remember that; keep it in mind. See? That was in 1932, or something like that. And look how they're shaping down every year, right to it. We're nearer the end time; we are. _The Faith That Was Once Delivered To The Saints 05-01-55

I saw a vision, that before the coming of the Lord, **that cars would look like an egg.** How many remembers that prediction? Is there anybody left in here? Brother Steward's gone, and I guess. It was 1933 when we were having services over here. I guess just about all of them's gone now, since then. _Teaching On Moses 05-13-56

And I said it in '33 when I saw the coming of the Lord. And how the **automobiles would continually shape up like an egg** , until finally **they would come into a perfect egg shape**. Maybe part of you here knows; it's written on old papers and things the morning when we was over here at the little Masonic temple .
_God Keeps His Word 01-20-57E

I seen in '33 **how cars** would look before the coming of the Lord. They're pretty **near in that shape**. You remember, **I prophesied this**... You mark it in your books... _Jehovah-Jireh 03-09-57E, Par. 59

Just remember that, that I've said that. And **cars will become more like an egg** shape, just before the total annihilation or the destruction comes to this nation. Let us pray. _Jehovah-Jireh 03-09-57E, Par. 59

Please notice, Branham made no mention of driverless vehicles in the original prophecies from 1953 to 1957 (by the way, today's cars do not have "*perfect egg shape*" as predicted by Branham). However, in 1958, he began to include driverless vehicles as a part of the original prophecy.

And also said that cars would keep getting more **like an egg** , until the last days **they'd be just in the shape of an egg**. Now, I said, "It'll come to pass that **those cars will not be run by a steering wheel**; it'll be something another run." It's them cars they're bringing out right now, **remote control**, for safety. Correct. You won't be able to enter into a city then, a twenty - mile zone, you can just go twenty mile. **You can't hit another car, because it's remote control**. See, **it's going like that right now**. _Why Are We Not A Denomination? 09-27-58



featuring a family riding on the highway in a driverless, egg shaped vehicle playing a game (shown above). The headline of the article read : "Power Company Build for Your New Electric Living." The words under the pictures say:

"Electricity May Be The D river. One day your car may speed along an electric super highway, its speed and **steering automatically controlled by electronic devices** embedded in the roads. Highways will be made safer by electricity! No traffic jams...**no collisions**...no driver fatigue.

Did you see how William Branham misleadingly claimed that remote controlled cars were a part of his original vision? Why did he add this feature to the prophecy? First, the answer is found in the February 25, 1957 issue of Life Magazine. ^[197] In this issue and other media publications there were advertisements from Central Power and Light Company

So now , we may have a clue why B ranham added the driverless vehicle to his 1933 prophecy in 1958 . The concept was already being featured in magazines.

You can't hit another car, because it's remote contro l. See, it's going like that **right now**. _Why Are We Not A Denomination? 09-27-58

And I said, "Finally **they will invent a car** that they **won't have to have a steering wheel** in it. I seen a family going down the... Call it, 'road,' in a glass -top car, great big fine-looking roads and fine car. And they were sitting, looking at one another, and the car was running by itself, going right on around the curves and everything." And **they've got the car right now, it's already invented. They've got the car**. _The Laodicean Church Age 12-11-60E

As shown above, Branham not only admit ted to seeing the driverless vehicle as early as 1958, but it is evident he saw this vehicle in Life Magazine because he describes the very picture featured in the February 25, 1957 issue . When speaking about another topic, he admittedly said that he read this magazine early as September 25, 1957. He also saw this vehicle on television and in Popular Mechanics magazine.

The Life Magazine and them packed it a few weeks ago. _ Question And Answers On Hebrews #1 09-25-57

And then I seen the time there'd be an increase in science. I noticed there'd be an automobile... **I had it wrote down there**. I got it right with me now, old yellow paper, that there'd be a machine, **automobile perfected, looked like an egg** , would be **glass over it**. And there was **a man and woman, the family, setting there** with their backs turned to one another , **playing cards**, and the **machine traveling itself**. Something on the bumpers that would—it couldn't hit the others, going down. And **I seen that on televi sion a few nights ago** . They got that thing **perfected right now**. _Why? 01-28-61

I seen American family going down the road in a broad way, riding in a car with **their backs turned towards where the wheel should** be; looked like they were **playing checkers or cards**. And we got it. **It's on television. "Popular Science" — "Mechanics,"** rather, all have it; we got the car. It's controlled by **remote control by—by radar**. They won't even have to **have any steering wheel** in it. Just set your dial like this —like you dial your phone—your car takes you right on to it, can't wreck nor nothing. No other cars —the magnet keeps the rest of them away from you. See? **They got it** . Oh, my. **Think of it. Predicted thirty years before it happened**. _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61

Branham said this vision was written down on a yellow paper since 1933. But yet, he kept changing and adding to these seven prophetic visions. In Branham's last rendering of the driverless vehicle's prophecy in his 1965 book on the church ages, he describes the picture published in Life Magazine (compare with picture shown left).

I was **reading** the other day in—in **Life magazine**. _ An Ensign 01-19-62

I was **reading an article** in, I believe it was, **Life magazine** or something, not long ago. _ Be Not Afraid 06-07-63

I was **reading** it in **Life magazine**. _Going Beyond The Camp 07-19-64

The fourth vision showed the great advances in science that would

come after the second world war. It was headed up in the vision of a **plastic bubble-topped car** that was **running down beautiful highways** under **remote control** so that people appeared **seated in this car without a steering wheel** and they were **playing some sort of a game** to amuse themselves. *_An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age*

Life was not the only media featuring driverless vehicles in the 1950s. A 1956 video (8:44 minutes) on YouTube entitled "*GM Motorama Exhibit 1956*" featured a remote control driverless vehicle traveling the highway with a family inside. Another 1958 video entitled "*Disney Magic Highway 1958*" shows animation of a driverless vehicle. ^[198]

The followers of William Branham think the present day driverless vehicles using GPS technology is the fulfillment of his vision. But, as the above facts have shown, Branham did not foretell the coming of driverless vehicles. They were not in his original vision. The concept was already being featured in various media outlets before he decided in 1958 to include them in the vision of 1933.

Presently, the current driverless vehicles do not fit the *plastic bubble top* and *no steering wheel* descriptions that Branham claimed to have seen in his 1933 vision, which is the one featured in Life Magazine.

During the 1950s and 1960s Branham was able to change the original visions because his recorded sermons and general information were not readily accessible to be scrutinized. But now, software and the internet have made it easier to track Branham's original prophecies and the changes made throughout the years to cover obvious errors.

Another problem with Branham's 1933 vision of an egg shaped car is that this vehicle was featured at the 1933 World's Fair in Chicago, Illinois. According to Wikipedia, these egg shaped cars were called "Dymaxion." ^[199]

The **Dymaxion car** was designed by US inventor Buckminster Fuller the Great and featured prominently at Chicago's **1933-1934 World's Fair**.

Another aerodynamic egg-shaped vehicle being featured at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair was the Silver Arrow. ^[200]

In 1933 Pierce-Arrow stunned the automotive world and the millions of Americans who attended the **Chicago World's Fair**, by displaying a **futuristic luxury car called Silver Arrow**.

Did Branham attend the 1933 World's Fair in Chicago? Yes! Is there a possibility he saw the egg shaped car before he saw a vision of this vehicle? Yes. How? As shown below, Branham visited the World's Fair in the spring of 1933. He had the alleged vision in June of 1933.

I base this prediction on seven major continuous visions that came to me one **Sunday morning in June, 1933**. The Lord Jesus spoke to me and said that the coming of the Lord was drawing nigh, but that before He came, **seven major events would transpire**. *_An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age*

I was just a boy preacher, **went up** to hear Paul Rader preach **at the World's Fair, about 1933**, I believe it was, when it was **at Chicago**. And I had my first opportunity to walk out and look at the large body of water, larger than the Ohio River. And it was just jumping, and going on, you know. And **it was early spring**,

Easter sunrise service we were there. *_Behold, A Greater Than Solomon Is Here 06-12-62*

After considering the evidences concerning the egg shaped and driverless vehicles, it appears that fraudulent claims seem to cloud the truth regarding this prophecy.

Women & Moral Issues

In William Branham's 1965 publication pertaining to the seven church ages, the final rendition of his 1933 vision about women and the morals in the United States said:

The fifth vision had to do with the moral problem of our age, **centering mostly around women**. God showed me that women began to be **out of their place** with the **granting of the vote**. Then they **cut off their hair**, which signified that they were no longer under the authority of a man but insisted on either equal rights, or in most cases, more than equal rights. She **adopted men's clothing** and **went into a state of undress**, until the last picture I saw was a woman naked except for **a little fig leaf type apron**. With this vision I saw the terrible perversion and moral plight of the whole world. *_An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age*

As shown, Branham said the vision of 1933 for etold (1) Women got out of place when given the rights to vote, (2) Women cutting their hair showed disrespect and equality with men, (3) Women adopting men's clothing, and (4) Women would begin to undress and finally wear fig leaf type of aprons for clothing.

A chief problem with this vision is that none of the above prophecies were mentioned when Branham claimed to have read the original 1933 written version from a yellow paper in 1960, 1961, and 1962 sermons. The following quotes from those sermons shows what he said about women or a President supported by the Roman Catholic Church (which he later spiritualized as being the woman ruler seen in his vision).

I'd like **to read something to you. 1932:** (Listen to this.) As I was on my way... Or as I was getting ready to go on my way to church this morning, **it came to pass that I fell into a vision...** It shall—also has been **an evil thing done in this country; they have permitted women to vote**. This is a woman's nation, and she will pollute this nation as Eve did Eden. Now, you see why I'm hammering the way I do. **I got, THUS SAITH THE LORD. In her voting she will elect the wrong person.** *_Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60, Par. 31-32, 35*

Seven things I saw, five of them has already come to pass. **I seen a powerful woman stand up to the United States**. You can write this down if you do so—it's going to happen. I don't know... She's on her road now. Exactly. And she took over. And then I seen the United States just like something had burnt it over hit it, and just something, blowed up rocks and things. And then I seen the time there'd be an increase in science. I noticed there'd be an automobile... **I had it wrote down there.** I got it right with me now, **old yellow paper**, that there'd be a machine. *_Why? 01-28-61*

Several years ago, It predicted exactly the Maginot Line, exactly what would take place, exactly Kennedy would take the place, and of this, and **there would be a Catholic President ruling**

here, and what it would be. And **there's just two more things left, from seven things** that He told me to happen perfectly. That's right. **It's on old yellow paper.** We're at the end time. _A Super Sign 07-08-62

As shown, the earlier written version of Branham's 1933 vision contain none of the four prophecies about women in his 1965 book. Sure, he earlier read about women's voting in 1960, but gave a different outcome in 1965. Branham revised this vision over the years to fit his teachings and dislikes. It appears he wanted followers to believe God said those things in 1933. The following quotes show what his 1933 vision said about women between 1955 and 1958.

Wrote twenty-three years ago. "Before the end time comes, **there'll be a woman, that'll be a great ruler in this nation. She will either be president or something on that order, some great woman.** And at that time, automobiles, just before the coming of the Lord, will be in the shape of an egg." Now, remember that; keep it in mind. See? That was **in 1932**, or something like that. _The Faith That Was Once Delivered To The Saints 05-01-55E

But just remember this. I predict this: **that a woman will be president** before we're annihilated. That's right. I said that in **1933** by a vision. _God's Covenant With Abraham 04-28-56

It was **1933** when we were having services over here. I guess just about all of them's gone now, since then. **And I predicted that America, their number one god would be women.** That's what it is. _Teaching On Moses 05-13-56

I predicted it in **1933. I predicted that women would keep demoralizing and the nation** would keep falling, and they'd keep hanging to mother, or like mother like that, till they become, a woman become an idol. And after a while, **that America would be ruled by a woman.** Mark it and see if it's not right. **A woman will take the place of a President** or something, of great, some high power in America. _Teaching On Moses 05-13-56

And the women are getting bigger, the men are getting smaller. Women are taking over, 'course that's just the trend of the prophecy of the day, that this nation is a woman's nation. **It'll be run by a woman.** And remember, third—**1933**, I saw that come in a vision, **a great powerful woman will take over the whole nation someday.** That's exactly right, before the end time, before total annihilation. _Life 06-02-57

And you remember, I've already predicted **in 1933**, a **woman would rule this nation before** the chaos, by the annihilation. _Life 05-12-58

And then, there'll be **a great woman rise up**, 'cause America is a woman's nation. And it'll... **A great woman will rise up and be president**, or something like that in the nation, and then there will come a total annihilation, the entire nation will be wiped out. And that, I predict—now this is not the Lord saying this—the other about the woman and this, is the Lord. But **I predicted in 1933.** _By Faith, Moses 07-20-58M

As shown above, Branham's earlier statements about the vision of 1933 says nothing about (1) Women got out of place when given the rights to vote, (2) Women cutting their hair showed disrespect and equality with men, (3) Women adopting men's clothing, and (4) Women would begin to undress and finally wear fig leaf type of aprons for clothing.

Moreover, since Branham began recording sermons in 1947, none of the above predictions were mentioned during the 1940s and 50s. But, as discussed later, his predictions were based on trends of those days. So, Branham added these to his original prophecies. A hint of Branham adding to his 1933 prophecy began on December 8, 1960.

Now, so then **I said**, "There will be in that time, during that time the **women will be permitted to vote**, and **they'll elect the wrong person.**" **They did it on this last election.** That's right. "Which will start the stronghold. During that time it'll come to pass that—that there'll be a great woman rise up in the United States, she'll be beautifully dressed," and I got in parenthesis: "(perhaps the Catholic church)." See? "That'll take rulership over the power, overpower the others in the United States. _The Thyatirean Church Age 12-08-60

As shown, Branham not only added women's voting to the prophecy of 1933, but claimed that he said: "*and they'll elect the wrong person.*" Why did he add these words to the vision of 1933 on December 8, 1960? He did so because John F. Kennedy was just elected President on November 8, 1960 and began to serve his term in office beginning on January 20, 1961. He was the first and only Roman Catholic (so far) to serve as President of the United States.

Therefore, seizing the opportunity in little over a month, Branham added the above phrase, "**women will be permitted to vote, and they'll elect the wrong person**" to make it appear that he foretold those historic events in 1933. Then, he said: "**They did it on this last election.**"

As we shall later study, Branham observed unfolding events and would modify his prophecies to fit the coming trends. After Kennedy's election, Branham changed his original vision of 1933 to include women would be permitted to vote and elect the wrong man, as shown below.

I said, "Then I seen a... **They're going to permit women and are permitting women to vote.** And by voting, **they'll elect the wrong man** some of these days." And you did at the last election. **It was the woman's votes that elected Kennedy.** _The Laodicean Church Age 12-11-60E

Then I seen also that—that was eleven years before the Maginot line was built, I seen Germany fortify themselves in this big concrete place. I also seen they **permitted women to vote**, which was wrong. And said they would **—they would someday elect the wrong man; they just did it.** _Why? 01-28-61

Then I said, "**The women has been permitted to vote.** Which is a—absolutely a disgrace upon the nation. And in voting, **someday they'll elect the wrong man.**" And **they did that in this last election.** _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61

During Kennedy's presidency, Branham repeatedly told audiences that the visions of 1933 foretold his election due to women being permitted to vote. But, on November 22, 1963, Kennedy was assassinated in Texas. On November 17, 1963, five days before President Kennedy's death, this is what Branham said:

1933, the **Holy Spirit came** one morning and **told me** seven things that would take place before this nation was destroyed. One of them is that. It's on old paper there at the church, many has looked at it. How that we would go to war with Hitler and

they'd... How Germany would fortify and build a Maginot Line, or the Siegfried Line, I believe it was, eleven years before it was ever thought of. And how that automobiles would constantly shape like eggs. **And how that they would permit women to vote, and, in doing so, they would elect the wrong President** t. And in this would be a woman stand up that would govern the United States; not actually a woman, but a church . Then I seen her with nothing but ashes. It's going to happen. _Once More 11-17-63

As shown, Branham believed Kennedy would empower the Catholic church over America. As stated, Branham was a man who observed unfolding developments and events, then revised his prophecies to fit the perceived trends. Thus, from 1960 to 1963, he boldly proclaimed Kennedy's election as the fulfillment of the fifth vision he saw in 1933.

It shall—also has been **an evil thing done in this country; they have permitted women to vote** . This is a woman's nation, and she will pollute this nation as Eve did Eden. Now, you see why I'm hammering the way I do . **I got, THUS SAITH THE LORD. In her voting she will elect the wrong person.** _Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

Women, given the right to vote, elected President-elect Kennedy—with the woman's vote, the wrong man, which will finally be to full control of the Catholic church in the United States; then the bomb comes that explodes her. There's seven things predicted, and five of them has already happened. _Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

How many remembers that vision, here in the church ? Sure. Said that, how that even Kennedy would be elected in this last election. **How that women would be permitted to vote . How that Roosevelt would take the world to war. _The Ephesian Church Age 12-05-60**

Now, that brings us then to the **election of President Kennedy** , and this car coming on the —on the scene, **bringing five things out of the seven that has happened exactly**. _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61

As shown above, Branham said Kennedy's election was the fulfillment of his fifth vision in 1933: "...election of President Kennedy ...bringing five things out of the seven that has happened exactly." Also, five days after Kennedy won the ballot votes on November 8, 1960, Branham wasted no time on November 13 in declaring his election as "Thus saith the Lord," the fulfillment of his 1933 vision.

I got, **THUS SAITH THE LORD. In her voting she will elect the wrong person.** _Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

Women, given the right to vote, elected President -elect Kennedy. _Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

With Kennedy as President, Branham continued to add to the vision of 1933 by saying he predicted his election and a Roman Catholic President, as shown below

Several years ago, It predicted exactly the Maginot Line, exactly what would take place, exactly Kennedy would take the place, and of this, and there would be a Catholic President ruling here. _A Super Sign 07-08-62

But, Branham voted for Nixon and became upset with

black voters for helping to elect Kennedy on November 8, 1960. ^[201] On July 19, 1960, he mentions Kennedy (first time on audio tape) and Nixon as the nominees for their particular political parties without any reference to his 1933 vision.^[202] The election of Kennedy by women's votes was suppose to end with the Catholic church rise to power in America to fulfill his sixth vision of a great woman ruler.

Women, given the right to vote, elected President-elect Kennedy—with the woman's vote, the wrong man, which will finally be to full control of the Catholic church in the United States; then the bomb comes that explodes her. _Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

In those days, Branham had likened Kennedy to Ahab, his wife and Catholicism to Jezebel, and viewed himself as Elijah the prophet. During Kennedy's presidency, he was expecting events that would lead to the fulfillment of the image to the beast in Revelation 13 (see pages 97-106).

I said a hard thing about **Mrs. Kennedy**, a couple times, about her setting fashions for the world, with these water-head haircuts, and, "How our sisters and them cut their hair, and dress like Mrs. Kennedy," I said, "like a Jezebel of old." _The World Is Again Falling Apart 11-27-63

I've passed across this country. I've made remarks about **Mrs. Kennedy, with her Jezebel haircut** , and all like that, and her big waterheads, and these women. _The Token 02-08-64

Just the same as they're going to do in the future, and doing it right now, politics and religion! **Ahab** was a pretty good guy, but Jezebel, he was married to her. I don't say that **President Kennedy** isn't a good man, **but he's married to that Jezebel system**. It wasn't Ahab that did it; it was Jezebel behind the throne, that controlled it. It's that Jezebel system that's going to do the damage here. _The True Easter Seal 04-02-61

Watch. **Form an image unto the beast** ... We see all this. The very **Catholic president**... It ain't Kennedy, far as I know he's a man like I am or anybody else. It's not that. It wasn't Ahab. Ahab was a pretty good fellow. **It was that Jezebel behind him**. That's what was behind it. That's the thing that done the trouble. And it ain't **Kennedy**; it's **that Jezebel church behind him**. That's what's doing it. Sure, that's exactly. Why, the thing's right before you. _The Signs Of His Coming 04-07-62

She is setting right here on the throne, today, in this country . Remember, just like Ahab did, and Jezebel behind him. That's... The Bible **calls the Catholic church "Jezebel; prostitute"**. And Ahab wasn't no bad guy. I don't say that **Mr. Kennedy** isn't a nice man. I don't know nothing about him. He's a man. That's all I know. He's the President. I believe he'll make a good President. It's not him; **it's that system behind him** . Wait **til she gets wormed into the cabinet** , and everywhere she can, **then watch what'll happen**. Look what it done in other nations. Look what it's always done. And don't the Bible say, **in Revelation 13 ? This nation** is number thirteen. It's got thirteen stripes and thirteen stars in the flag. Thirteen stripes in the flag. Thirteen, everything in it is thirteen; thirteen colonies, thirteen everything. And it's **found in the 13th chapter of Revelation**. And the Bible said, that, " She come up like a little lamb." freedom of religion; "two little horns," civil and ecclesiastical. And after while, they united, "And he spoke like the dragon did, and done everything the dragon did before him." And the Bible said,

"They made a image unto the beast," the confederation of church, just what they got in right now . _ The Restoration Of The Bride Tree 04-22-62

There was Elijah in the time that all the women cut their hair, like Mrs. Kennedy and them does today. Painted their faces, a Jezebel. A king and all the people went worldly; the church did, too. And God sent in a prophet, by the name of Elijah, to condemn that thing. _The Investments 03-14-64

Look at Elijah, after his work was finished on earth. He was so full of that quickening power, he condemned them Jackie Kennedy haircuts in his day. He had told old Jezebel what he thought of her. _The Easter Seal 04-10-65

For two to three years Branham declared the election of Kennedy by women's vote s as the fulfillment of his 1933 vision that would fulfill Revelation 13 . But, when Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963, suddenly his vision had become terribly wrong.

In a sermon preached on January 12, 1964 , Branham completely left out the 1933 prophecy of Kennedy being elected by women's vote. Instead, he changes the prophecy back to a literal woman ruling this nation. To be safe, he presumed the woman could possibly be the church.

And I seen that, eleven years before the line was ever —ever a foundation was ever poured for it, or anything, the Siegfried Line. And all these other things, like machines and automobiles, and—and how everything has come right down exactly what He said, until a woman ruling this nation, which, perhaps, is the church. And then the end come. _Shalom 01-12-64

Again, in April 3, 1964, Branham left out the portion of the prophecy about women given the right to vote elected the wrong man. However, he vaguely alluded to Kennedy as a part of the vision in such a way that his audience could not tell if he was referring to his election or death.

He give seven things in 1933 , would happen. And now every one of them has come to pass but two things, perfectly, just exactly. How that even President Kennedy would be taken in. _Jehovah-Jireh #2, 04-03-64

Although Branham mentioned Jacqueline three more times in his 1965 sermons, the above quote on April 3, 1964 was the last time he mentioned President Kennedy on recorded tapes. For a man whom Branham said fulfilled his fifth vision of 1933, Kennedy is not even mentioned in his 1965 publication on the seven church ages where the final revised and updated versions of the seven visions are listed.

Women, given the right to vote, elected President-elect Kennedy—with the woman's vote, the wrong man, which will finally be to full control of the Catholic church in the United States; then the bomb comes that explodes her. There's seven things predicted, and five of them has already happened. _Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

The fifth vision had to do with the moral problem of our age, centering mostly around women. God showed me that women began to be out of their place with the granting of the vote. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

Furthermore, Branham repeatedly said women's votes

elected Kennedy. However, women's vote did not elect him to the presidency. According to official voting records by Gallup, Nixon had 51% of women's vote compared to 49% for Kennedy. [203] Once again, a false prediction by a man whom an estimated 2 million followers believe to be a 100% accurate prophet. They have entrusted their eternal destiny on Branham's flawed ministry rather than Jesus Christ and the finished work of his cross based on the gospel preached by the apostles (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:17-21; 15:1-4,11).

I've got to leave here. You've got to leave here. And if I go as a false prophet, I'll lose my own soul and lose yours with me. Questions And Answers On The Holy Ghost Par. 118, 12-19-59

Now, with President Kennedy dead, Branham once again revised his 1933 prophecy. How? Instead of saying women given the right to vote elected the wrong man , he now says women got out their place when permitted to vote.

The fifth vision had to do with the moral problem of our age, centering mostly around women. God showed me that women began to be out of their place with the granting of the vote . _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

Once again, the vision of 1933 underwent a noticeable change. Then, on July 26, 1964, Branham made another significant update to the vision of 1933. How? By saying he prophesied that women would wear men's garments and wear immoral clothing similar to a fig leaf.

Look at 1933, how it say the women would act in this last days. How it said the people... How Mussolini, how he'd come to his end. How Hitler would come to a mysterious end. How that the three ism would come in communism. How that the machines would come, looking like an egg. And how that women would wear garments and look like man, even like their underneath clothes ; and would finally come to putting fig leaves, like, on them. How the immoral act, how they would act in this day. Look what they've done. And it's right before you. _Recognizing Your Day and Its Message 07-26-64M

Again, Branham tailors his 1933 vision to fit trends of his day. The 1960s was the beginning of the counterculture and sexual revolution. These actions were major cultural shifts as regard to morality in America. Wikipedia says: [204]

"The Sixties", as they are known in both scholarship and popular culture, is a term used by historians, journalists, and other objective academics; in some cases nostalgically to describe the counterculture and revolution in social norms about clothing, music, drugs, dress, sexuality, formalities, and schooling; and in others pejoratively to denounce the decade as one of irresponsible excess, flamboyance, and decay of social order. The decade was also labeled the Swinging Sixties because of the fall or relaxation of social taboos , especially relating racism and sexism that occurred during this time.

The 1960s brought in new trends of fashions for women such as the mini skirt and other provocative clothing. Although the bikini was introduced in 1946, it came into fashion in 1963. These types of garments were basically unheard of in the United States, even for the loose morals of the Roaring 20s. Wikipedia says: [205] [206]

The 1960s featured a number of diverse trends. It was a **decade that broke many fashion traditions**, mirroring social movements during the time. In the middle of the decade, culottes, go-go boots, box-shaped PVC dresses and other PVC clothes were popular...**The widely popular bikini** came into fashion in **1963** after being featured in the musical Beach Party.

After designer Mary Quant introduced **the mini-skirt in 1964**, fashions of the **1960s were changed forever**. The mini skirt was eventually to be worn by nearly every stylish young woman in the western world and pushed out the longer skirt lengths that were worn before.

During this time, some women began to wear trousers rather than dresses, as stated in Wikipedia: ^[207]

The 1960s were an age for fashion innovation for women. With it came the **rise of women's trousers**. Traditionally, trousers had been viewed by western society as masculine. However, by the 1960s, it became acceptable for women to wear trousers as well. Women loved trousers because of their practicality, comfort and versatility. Women wore trousers with tunics, shawls, and jackets. The women's trousers came in a variety of styles: narrow, wide, below the knee, above the ankle, and eventually mid thigh.

Also, some women began to cut their hair very short (bob head), as stated in Wikipedia: ^[208]

The most important **change in hairstyles during this period** was that **men and women wore styles that resembled each other**. It was the **new fashion for women used to cut their hair short and close to their heads**

During the 1960s Branham saw these trends and began to add them to his prophecy of 1933. In June 1963, he added the fig leaf prophecy regarding women's clothing to the 1933 vision. Why? He noticed the trend. Branham said:

I predict that soon they'll come out with one of these things, it'll just be a **fig leaf** again. **I predicted that thirty years ago**. See, some insult to the Bible. See? They'll do it. It's public striptease. The Flashing Red Light Of The Sign Of His Coming 06-23-63E

When searching Branham's messages from his first recorded sermon in 1947, he does not mention the fig leaf clothing for women as a part of his 1933 vision until June 23, 1963. He had spoken many times of fig leaf religion in reference to Adam and Eve. Then, on July 21, 1963, less than a month after mentioning the fig leaf's prophecy for the first time, Branham says it is practically here.

But, you see, Satan just begin to cut off the skirts, and to lower them down, and—and **it'll come to pass** that there's somebody will design one a little **beyond the mikini or bikini**, or what you call the thing, **to a fig leaf**. You remember! That's right, it'll go right straight back. And it's, **it's there practically now**. He Cares Do You Care? 07-21-63

So then, Branham added the fig leaf apron to the prophecy on June 23, 1963 and admitted he saw it less than a month later. Remember, Wikipedia says the bikini came into fashion (popular) in 1963. What does that tell us? It tells us that Branham was watching the trends in clothing and added them to his vision of 1933. As shown, the fig leaf

apron was never a part of the original vision. Then, over a year later (July 19, 1964), he says the fig leaf apron is here.

Did you see the new bathing suits they brought out? Do you know my prediction that **women would finally come to fig leaves, thirty-three years ago?** And **now they got them** that's **dressed in fig leaves, transparent skirts**. The Word of the Lord never fails. See? And that was to take place just before the end time, come to **a fig leaf again**. Going Beyond The Camp 07-19-64E

As shown above in Branham's July 21, 1963 sermon, he appears to be referring to bikini type swimwear that covers the front and has g-strap which exposes the rear. There is no mention of a transparent garment. But, after seeing a bathing suit in a 1964 Life Magazine, he adds transparent skirts to the prophecy. What type of transparent bathing suit (or skirt) is Branham referencing? The front cover of the September 16, 1966 issue of Life Magazine may give us an idea, as transparent clothing became very fashionable (popular) in the latter part of the 1960s. However, in 1964, a bathing suit called the "monokini" was introduced; it exposed a woman's breasts (discretion advised when Google searching and viewing the above fashions).

In 1964 designer Rudi Gernreich conceived and produced **the monokini**, a revolutionary and controversial design included a bottom that "extended from the midriff to the upper thigh" and was "held up by shoestring laces that make a halter around the neck. (see Wikipedia "History of Swimwear").

See-through and transparent clothing became **very fashionable** in the **latter part** of the **1960s** (see Wikipedia "See-through Clothing").

Thus, Branham introduced the fig leaf prophecy for the first time as a part of his 1933 vision on June 23, 1963. He declared the bathing suit was here on July 21, 1963 and July 19, 1964. On July 26, 1964, he saw this garment in Life magazine and said "*they've got it*" on August 23, 1964. He also adds women wearing men's garment to the prophecy.

And I said, "Then the morals of our women is going to fall in such a degraded things, till they're going to be a disgrace to all nations. **They're going to wear man's clothes**. They're going to keep taking off their clothes till actually they come down like they got their **underneath clothes** on, that's all. And, finally, they'll **come to wearing just a fig leaf**." And if you notice, **in last month's Life magazine, they had the woman with the fig leaves** on. And that's the new evening frock, or gown, what they wear of the evening; transparent, can see through it, only the fig leaves just hides a certain spot of her body; with strapless, or strap, unstrapped bathing suits, the top of it, exposed body. And how that those things has happened! Broken Cisterns 07-26-64

And I said, "Then will come to pass, that they'll even be so disgraceful, till **they'll wear something look like a fig leaf**." I saw it, and **they've got it**; and **they're wearing it**. Just the—the immorality of women would get so low and degraded... We can't go no lower now; you can't go no worse. She's at the end. See, they'll never be completely nude. No, they... Questions And Answers #1, 08-23-64E

So then, when Branham added to the prophecy of 1933

in 1963, the fig leaf clothing trend had already begun the same year. After making the changes, we have Branham's final rendering in his 1965 book on the seven church ages:

The fifth vision had to do with the moral problem of our age, **centering mostly around women**. God showed me that women began to be out of their place with the **granting of the vote**. Then they **cut off their hair**, which signified that they were no longer under the authority of a man but insisted on either equal rights, or in most cases, more than equal rights. She **adopted men's clothing** and **went into a state of undress**, until the last picture I saw was a woman naked except for a **little fig leaf type apron**. With this vision I saw the terrible perversion and moral plight of the whole world. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

As proven, Branham's earlier statements pertaining to the original vision of 1933 about women contained none of the above alleged prophecies; even when he read it from a yellow paper on November 13, 1960 (see quote on page 138). It was altered as the events and trends changed.

Thus, being able to effectively research all of Branham's past transcribed sermons has uncovered the inconsistencies. Only God knows if he intentionally misled people regarding his 1933 visions. Nonetheless, as earlier stated, his so-called prophecies and strange teachings (called revelations) cannot be trusted (Titus 1:14; Heb. 13:9).

Great Woman in Power

As studied in the previous section, when Branham mentioned his 1933 vision of women for the first time, it included none of the prophecy written in his 1965 book on the seven church ages, such as: (1) Women got out of place when given the rights to vote, (2) Women cutting their hair showed disrespect and equality with men, (3) Women adopting men's clothing, and (4) Women would begin to undress and finally wear fig leaf type of aprons for clothing. His original prophecy in earlier recorded sermons only said a woman of great power would rise and rule this nation, which was first mentioned in 1955.

Wrote twenty-three years ago. "Before the **end time comes, there'll be a woman**, that'll be a **great ruler in this nation**. She will either **be president or something on that order, some great woman**. And at that time, automobiles, just before the coming of the Lord, will be in the shape of an egg." Now, remember that; keep it in mind. See? **That was in 1932**, or something like that. And look how they're shaping down every year, right to it. We're nearer the end time; we are. _The Faith That Was Once Delivered To The Saints 05-05-55E

Thus, Branham's alleged original prophecy pertained to a woman becoming a great ruler in America. But, when the first Roman Catholic President—John F. Kennedy—was elected on November 8, 1960, he changed the 1933 vision of a great woman rising in America to include the Roman Catholic Church on November 13, 1960. As studied, during this same sermon, he also added to the vision of 1933 that women being permitted to vote would elect the wrong man—five (5) days after Kennedy's election.

It shall—also has been an evil thing done in this country; they

have permitted women to vote. This is a woman's nation, and she will pollute this nation as Eve did Eden. Now, you see why I'm hammering the way I do. I got, **THUS SAITH THE LORD. In her voting she will elect the wrong person**. The Americans will take a great beating at a place that Germany will build, which will be a great wall built of concrete (The Maginot Line, eleven years before it was ever built.) But finally they will be victors. Then when **these women help elect the wrong person, then I seen a great woman rise up in the United States**, well-dressed and beautiful, but cruel in heart. She will either guide or lead this nation to ruination. (I've got in parenthesis "**perhaps Catholic church**.") _Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

Women, given the right to vote, elected President -elect Kennedy—with the woman's vote, the wrong man, which will finally be to full control of the Catholic church in the United States. Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

Actually, during an earlier sermon on July 16, 1960, Branham mentioned the revised prophecy for the first time that the woman ruler may be the Roman Catholic Church. Why? The reason may be that John Kennedy was nominated at the Democratic convention three (3) days earlier (July 13, 1960) to be the presidency candidate."

I won't have time in this meeting to tell you. **In 1933**... This is a woman's nation. It's the number thirteen. It appears in the thirteenth chapter of Revelation: thirteen stars, thirteen stripes, thirteen... Everything's a thirteen. Everything is woman. And **remember, THUS SAITH THE LORD** there will be a **woman rule before the end time**. She'll either be President, Vice President, **or it'll be the Catholic Church as a woman**. I've seen her: A great woman, the nation bowed to her. It'll be one before the end time. **THUS SAITH THE LORD**. Write it down and find out, you young people. See if it happens. If it isn't, I'm a false prophet. _From That Time 07-16-60

In the previous quote, Branham says "*I've got in parenthesis "perhaps Catholic church."* If he had this phrase written that the Catholic Church was included in the original prophecy of 1933, then why was this prediction not mentioned until Kennedy is elected as the Democratic nominee in July 13, 1960, or as elected president in November 8, 1960? Research shows that earlier prophecies had no such wordings, but only spoke of a literal woman.

Wrote twenty-three years ago. "Before the **end time comes, there'll be a woman**, that'll be a **great ruler in this nation**. She will either **be president or something on that order, some great woman**. _The Faith That Was Once Delivered To The Saints 05-05-55E

After John F. Kennedy became the first Roman Catholic President of the United States, Branham eventually drop all references to the great ruler being a literal woman. Rather, on November 17, 1963 (five (5) days before Kennedy's assassination), Branham says the woman in his 1933 vision refers to a church—referring to the Roman Catholic Church.

And how that they would permit women to vote, and, in doing so, they would elect the wrong President. And in this would be a **woman stand up that would govern** the United States; **not actually a woman, but a church**. Then I seen her with nothing but ashes. It's going to happen. _Once More 11-17-63

As shown, since Kennedy became President with the support of the Roman Catholic Church, Branham revised his interpretation of the woman to be spiritual, not literal. But, when Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963, his prophecies about Catholicism being the woman rising in power during the days of Kennedy were left in shambles.

As studied, since Kennedy was dead, Branham once again revised the 1933 prophecy to catch the rising trend in the 1960s. The final rendering in his 1965 book about the seven church ages gave leeway to the vision's fulfillment. How? By interpreting it to be mostly the Roman Catholic Church with the possibility that it could be a literal women.

Then in the sixth vision there **arose up in America a most beautiful, but cruel woman**. She held the people in her complete power. I believed that this was **the rise of the Roman Catholic Church**, though I knew it could possibly be a vision of **some woman rising in great power in America** due to a popular vote by women. An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

Even though the rise of Catholicism as the woman of power was not in the alleged vision of 1933, by including this institution, Branham attempts to cover all bases of this prophecy from possible failure. Why? Perhaps, because he had staked his reputation as a prophet on the fulfillment of this particular prophecy.

And remember, **THUS SAITH THE LORD** there **will be a woman rule before the end time**. She'll either **be President**, Vice President, OR it'll be **the Catholic Church as a woman**. I've seen her: A great woman, the nation bowed to her. It'll be one before the end time. **THUS SAITH THE LORD**. Write it down and find out, you young people. **See if it happens**. If it isn't, I'm a false prophet. From That Time 07-16-60

William Branham had to protect himself from being labeled a false prophet by future generations. So then, if the literal woman's interpretation of the prophecy fails, he knew the spiritual one could not fail. Why? Because he knew the rise of the Roman Catholic Church was already happening in America with the election of President Kennedy.

Watch. Form an image unto the beast... We see all this. The very **Catholic president**... It ain't Kennedy, far as I know he's a man like I am or anybody else. It's not that. It wasn't Ahab. Ahab was a pretty good fellow. **It was that Jezebel behind him**. That's what was behind it. That's the thing that done the trouble. And it ain't **Kennedy; it's that Jezebel church behind him**. **That's what's doing it**. Sure, that's exactly. **Why, the thing's right before you. Can't you see that**—can't you see that everything... See the fig tree putting forth its branches? The Signs Of His Coming 04-07-62

Actually, the rise of Roman Catholicism in America was evident in the 1800s when Uriah Smith wrote in his published book of 1897: ^[209]

Evil is also threatened from another quarter. **Roman Catholicism**, which has **grown strong through immigration**, has **fixed its rapacious eyes on the United States**, determined to **bring this government under its power**. Votes rule here.

and **Romanism controls an immense suffrage**, which it carefully manipulates to its own ends. With such a weapon in its hands, its power for evil is almost unlimited; for multitudes of unscrupulous politicians, who under their country's pay, labor not for their country's good but for their own selfish aggrandizement, stand ready to help any party carry out any scheme, no matter how wicked, if that party will keep them in office. **Within recent years** we have witnessed the ominous phenomenon of the **consolidation of the Catholic elements** in this country into one gigantic society, or "federation," as it is known, which **holds annual conventions in our large cities**, and conducts an **active campaign in the interests of the Catholic church**. Daniel and the Revelation, page 582.

In 1897, Mr. Smith said the very things that Branham claimed to be a prophecy regarding the rise of Catholicism in America. Remember, we studied in chapter two that Branham read Mr. Smith's book. Furthermore, Wikipedia speaks of the growth of the Catholic Church in America at the beginning of the previous century (1900s): ^[210]

By the beginning of **the 20th century**, approximately **one-sixth of the population of the United States was Catholic**. Modern Catholic immigrants come to the United States from the Philippines, Poland and Latin America, especially from Mexico.

So then, what Branham called a prophecy regarding the rise of Catholicism in America was actually an occurring trend evident by the election of John F. Kennedy—the first Catholic President in US history. Branham protected himself from failure by observing the religious trends of his day. He also protected himself by the fact that the rising political and voting power of women in those days could possibly elect a female president in America (discussed later). Either way, Branham could not fail, as stated in his 1965 publication.

I believed that this was **the rise of the Roman Catholic Church**, though I knew it could possibly be a vision of **some woman rising in great power in America** due to a popular vote by women. An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

Notice, Branham said the vision of a great woman ruler could POSSIBLY be a literal woman president. His use of the word "possibly" makes the election of a woman president more of a probability than a direct prophecy from God. Especially when we realize he said on November 17, 1963 that the great female ruler is a church, not a woman.

And in this would be **a woman stand up that would govern the United States; not actually a woman, but a church**. Once More 11-17-63

So then, even if a woman eventually becomes president of this country, it won't be the fulfillment of Branham's vision. Why? Because he said the woman is the Roman Catholic Church and possibly a literal female. But, in the November 13, 1960 sermon, he viewed the woman as literal and "perhaps the Catholic Church." So, what many followers view as a clear-cut prophecy of a woman president is nothing more than a prediction that has 50/50 chance of happening either way based upon past and future political trends. Such wordings can hardly fail.

United States' Annihilation

In William Branham's 1965 publication pertaining to the seven church ages, the final rendition of his 1933 vision regarding the United States said:

The last and seventh vision was wherein I heard a most **terrible explosion**. As I turned to look I saw nothing but debris, craters, and smoke **all over the land of America**. _An Exposition Of Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

Similar to the other visions of 1933, this prophecy also underwent revision since first spoken by Branham on recorded tape in 1956 and 1957, as shown below.

And, remember, I predict that before the **great total annihilation**, which I don't say the Lord told me this, but I believe **there'll be something happen** either between now or at that time in '77. It may come...?... at this hour. But between now and '77, I predict that either **a great destruction or a total annihilation of the entire earth**, between now and '77; I predicted it in 1933. _Teaching On Moses 05-13-56

And remember, third—1933, I saw that come in a vision, a great powerful woman will take over the whole nation someday. That's exactly right, before the end time, **before total annihilation**. _Life 06-02-57

One of the chief problems with this vision is that none of the earlier versions shown in the above quote mentions the United States. Branham's rendering of the 1933 vision in the 1950s spoke of a **"great destruction" or "total annihilation of the ENTIRE EARTH."**

Actually, this version of the vision is not much of a prophecy seeing that the dropping of the hydrogen bomb on Japan in 1945 could have been considered a great destruction. However, the "total annihilation of the earth" before the fulfillment of the book of Revelation is unscriptural and a false prophecy.

In 2 Peter 3:10-13, the scriptures speaks of a passing away of this world's system and coming of a new earth that happens after the 1,000 years reign of Christ (Rev. 20:11; 21:1). Other than these biblical prophecies, there is **no total annihilation of the entire earth** as implied by Branham.

As shown, America was not a part of the original vision of 1933. Then, in 1957 and 1958, the prophecy continued to speak of the total annihilation of the world with a small hint concerning the United States without mentioning its name.

See? Just remember that, that I've said that. And cars will become more like an egg shape, just before **the total annihilation or the destruction comes to this nation**. Let us pray. _Jehovah-Jireh 03-09-57

And then there will come **a total annihilation**, the **entire nation will be wiped out**. And that, I predict—now this is not the Lord saying this—the other about the woman and this, is the Lord. But I predicted in 1933 that the world would be **total annihilation** before '77. By Faith, Moses 07-20-58

Notice, Branham began to change his prophecy to include America. He said it could be the total annihilation **OR** the destruction of this nation. Then, in 1960, the prophecy is revised after the election of John Kennedy to the presidency. The United States is clearly added to the vision.

Women, given the right to vote, elected President -elect Kennedy—with the woman's vote, the wrong man, which will finally be to full control of the Catholic church in **the United States; then the bomb comes that explodes her**. There's seven things predicted, and five of them has already happened. So you can judge yourself how far away we are. We're near the end. _Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

Then I turned to look and I seen the United States was a smoldering something had burned it up. Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

And I said, "I seen, looked like there was stumps burning; rocks, blown out; and the **whole United States just looked bare**, laying like that, **as far as I could see** where I was standing." _The Thyatirean Church Age 12-08-60

In the above quotes, did you see how the alleged vision of 1933 underwent a major change? It no longer spoke of a total annihilation of the earth, which is an unscriptural teaching when viewed from Branham's perspective. All reference to total annihilation of the earth was replaced with the United States experiencing a nuclear attack. Branham believed this attack would come from Russia.

Today, knowing that we're living in the closing time, and we're aware that there's something going on. **Yonder in Russia perhaps a bomb is already centered for the middle of this city, and also in the America**, and around the world. But we also have bombs centered for the middle of their city. Just who pulls the trigger or presses the button first. There could be **a total annihilation in five minutes**. _Sirs, We Would See Jesus 08-04-57

But now the end of the Gentile dispensation is here, and **Russia (the Communists) has a bomb** pointed right towards it to end it too. Don't worry, **it's coming**. The Bible said so. **It'll be here with your name wrote** on it. It'll **go into powder in one second's time, the whole nation**. It'll be **completely annihilation**. _God-Called Man 10-05-58E

As shown above, Branham already believed a nuclear war would eventually breakout between the United States and Russia in 1957 and 1958. But, during his sermons "Condemnation By Representation" on November 13, 1960 and "The Thyatirean Church Age" on December 8, 1960 (quotes shown above), he began to add this expected war to his 1933 vision to officially make it "Thus saith the Lord."

Why would Branham suddenly begin to predict a nuclear war between Russia and America, resulting in this nation receiving a devastating attack? The answer might be found in the fact that tensions between these two countries erupted briefly before and during Kennedy's administration. What happened during that time? From 1956 to 1962, threats of a possible nuclear war had escalated the Cold War between America and Russia. Wikipedia says: ^[21]

On 18 November 1956, while addressing Western ambassadors at a reception at the Polish embassy in Moscow, **Khrushchev** used his famous **"Whether you like it or not, history is on our side. We will bury you"** expression, **shocking everyone present**. He later claimed that he had not been talking about **nuclear war**, but rather about the historically determined victory of communism over capitalism... **Eisenhower's secretary of state**, John Foster Dulles, initiated a "New Look" for the

containment strategy, **calling for a greater reliance on nuclear weapons against US enemies in wartime**. Dulles also enunciated the **doctrine of "massive retaliation"**, threatening a severe US response to any Soviet aggression **Possessing nuclear superiority**, for example, **allowed Eisenhower to face down Soviet threats** to intervene in the Middle East **during the 1956 Suez Canal**.

As shown, tension between America and Russia had escalated in 1956, especially during the "Suez Crisis" (see Wikipedia) with the possible threat of a nuclear war. Branham was well aware of this Suez Canal conflict.

Did you hear the newscast tonight? Did you read your newspapers? **The whole world is in a turmoil, on the Suez Canal**, there's a **third world war coming up, an atomic war**. And while she's brewing, what can happen? It lays in who shoots the first atomic bomb.. Raising Jairus' Daughter 07 - 31-56, Par. 45

In a 1954 sermon called "Invasion of the United States," Branham told his audience not to be afraid of Russia (05 -09-54, Par. 225). But now, due to the crisis between the US and Russia, he spoke a serious of five sermons between 1956 and 1958 called *The Handwriting on the Wall*, saying in the first sermon that Russia has a bomb with the US name on it (09-02-56, Par. 154) . Then, on May 1, 1960, Russia shot down America's U-2 spy plane and captured its pilot. ^[212]

The U-2 spy plane incident caused a major escalation between the two countries . A few months later on October 12, 1960, Khrushchev's notorious shoe banging incident occurred at the UN. Branham was familiar with this incident and interpreted it as the sign of the end and the fulfillment of prophecy foretold in Daniel 2:40-43 He made these statements shortly after the shoe banging incident..

Now, did you notice? Did you know what the **name Khrushchev** means in Russia? **Dirt or clay**. He was a heading up of them kingdoms. You know what **Eisenhower means**, the head of this? **Iron**. Iron and clay and they couldn't mix together. **He took his shoe and beat it on** the... There's no mixing together. They can't mix. They won't cleave one to the other. Do you see friends? The next thing left is the stone to be cut out, the coming of the Lord, to roll into this image and mash it into pieces, and all these kingdoms will be ground and blowed away like the chaff on a summer's threshing floor. **We're at the end time**, brother, sister. Can't you see where we are? Listen **THUS SAITH THE LORD**. Repent. Conference 11-25-60

And I'll give you a little thing on that, that "**iron and clay**." Did you notice, or have I ever quote it to you, in that last great conference they had up here where **Khrushchev took off his shoe and beat the table with it**? There was five eastern nations gathered there, there were five western nations. Khrushchev headed the eastern nations, Eisenhower headed the western nations; there's the two main leaders, the two big toes. Khrushchev, in Russia, means "clay." **Eisenhower**, in Amer-... in English, means "iron." **We're at the end**. The Thyatirean Church Age 12-08-60

The **East and the West had fulfilled exactly what Daniel said**, that, there, ten kingdoms, there would be, wouldn't mix, like iron and clay would not mix together. Conferences 04-10-61

Considering the above information, are you beginning to

see a possible reason Branham changed his 1933 prophecy of the earth's total annihilation to be a nuclear war between Russia and the United States in November and December of 1960? He was hearing the news and conflict between Russia and the United States; namely between Khrushchev and President Eisenhower. This was an opportunity to change the prophecy because a human generated total annihilation of the entire earth was too far fetched and unbiblical. But, a bomb being dropped on America was highly possible.

Women, given the right to vote, elected President-elect Kennedy—with the woman's vote, the wrong man, which will finally be to full control of the Catholic church in **the United States; then the bomb comes that explodes her** . Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

Then I turned to look and I seen the **United States was a smoldering** something had **burned it up**. Conference 11-25-60

When Kennedy took office on January 20, 1961, the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba and the Berlin Wall crises further increased tension between America and Russia, mainly between President Kennedy and Khrushchev. ^{[213][214]} After the failed Bay of Pigs invasion on April 17, 1961, Khrushchev threatened to defend Cuba by equipping it with nuclear ballistic missiles from Russia, which would eventually lead to the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. ^[215]

The **Cuban Missile Crisis**, also known as the October Crisis ... or the Missile Scare, was a **13-day (October 16–28, 1962) confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union** over Soviet ballistic missiles deployed in Cuba. It played out on television worldwide and was the **closest the Cold War came to escalating into a full-scale nuclear war**.

As shown, the threat of a full-scale nuclear war had suddenly escalated. This incident had worldwide coverage on television. This conflict was a showdown between John F. Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev. ^[216]

Khrushchev achieved a propaganda victory in April 1961 with the first manned spaceflight and **Kennedy** a defeat with the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion. While Khrushchev had threatened to defend Cuba with Soviet missiles, the premier contented himself with after-the-fact aggressive remarks. The failure in Cuba led to Kennedy's determination to make no concessions at the Vienna summit scheduled for **June 3, 1961** . **Both Kennedy and Khrushchev took a hard line**.

With contention now heating up between the United States and Russia since the 1956 conflict between Eisenhower and Khrushchev, in 1961 Branham really began to tell his audiences that the destruction of America by a bomb was originally foretold in his 1933 vision.

So then **I seen the time of—of the end coming**, and five things that the Lord let... **Seven things I saw, five of them has already come to pass**. I seen a powerful woman stand up to the United States. You can write this down if you do so —it's going to happen. I don't know... She's on her road now. Exactly. And she took over. And **then I seen the United States just like something had burnt it over hit it**, and just something, **blowed up rocks and things**. Why? 01-28-61

It's already in print and went out around the world. See? **That was in 1933**. And **I predicted** that there would be **some great**

tragedy happen to this United States before or **by the year of 1977**. How many remembers me saying that? Look at the hands. making of the —before this great consummation or great thing would take place **here in the United States** —some **great horrible thing**. _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61

Now, then after that, I turned and looked, and **I saw this United States burning like a smolder**; rocks had been **blowed up**. And it was burning like a —a heap of fire in logs or **something that just set it affire**; and looked as far as I could see and **she'd been blown up**. _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61

As shown above in the sermon preached on August 6, Branham claimed to have many witnesses in the audience that he predicted in 1933 a *great tragedy* occurring in the U.S by 1977. Yet, in 1956, he earlier said that most of the alleged witnesses were dead: *“How many remembers that prediction? Is there anybody left in here? Brother Steward's gone, and I guess. It was 1933 when we were having services over here. I guess just about all of them's gone now, since then.”* (Teaching On Moses 05-13-56). A former member testified that congregants attending Branham's church would cover for his mistakes (or lies) because they did not want the prophet to look bad (see endnote ^[292])

Even if Branham had witnesses, this *vague* 1933 prophecy of a *great* tragedy in the United States by 1977 was unclear and highly likely with the rising threat from Hitler and Nazism during that time. Also, Japan was a rising power and easily conquered northeast China in 1931. Nonetheless, as stated, earlier recorded sermons did not mention this country in his original 1933 vision and nothing happened by 1977. Thus, making it a false prophecy.

So, with rising tension between the United States and Russia, a serious confrontation erupted amid October 16 -28 of 1962. Khrushchev deployed medium range nuclear missiles in Cuba, which was 90 miles from Florida. ^[217]

Superpower tensions culminated in the Cuban Missile Crisis (in the USSR, the "Caribbean crisis") of **October 1962**, as the **Soviet Union sought to install medium range nuclear missiles in Cuba**, about 90 miles (140 km) from the U.S. coast.

On October 16, Kennedy was informed that U -2 flights over Cuba had discovered what were most likely medium -range missile sites, and though he and his advisors considered approaching Khrushchev through diplomatic channels, could come up with no way of doing this that would not appear weak. **On October 22, Kennedy addressed his nation by television, revealing the missiles' presence and announcing a blockade of Cuba**. Informed in advance of the speech but not (until one hour before) the content, Khrushchev and his advisors feared an invasion of Cuba. Even before Kennedy's speech, they **ordered Soviet commanders in Cuba that they could use all weapons against an attack** — except atomic weapons. **As the crisis unfolded, tensions were high in the U.S.**

Was Branham aware of the escalating events that were occurring in 1962 between the United States and Russia? Yes, there was worldwide coverage and tension in the America was high. Consider the following quote.

Produce anything in the world, be the king of the earth, rule the universe, **be a Khrushchev or a Kennedy**, or whatever you wish to be, you'll die just the same. Possessing All Things 05-06-62

No doubt Branham was familiar with the rising tension between Kennedy and Khrushchev. With a possible war looming between America and Russia in October of 1962, Branham seized the opportunity to speak of his prophecy on October 13, 1962— 3 days before the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Signs of His Coming appearing, everywhere, we see it push out in the Word. We hear the Holy Spirit come, **tell us certain things are fixing to happen**. No more than twenty years ago, right from this same building, **It told of President Kennedy coming in**. It told exactly what would take place, that the women and so forth would put this fellow in, and exactly what he would be. And **we knowed it all along**, and told **just exactly what would happen**. And **here it is today**. . _The Influence Of Another 10-13-62

The reason Branham did not speak about the Cuban Missile Crisis on recorded tapes during this time is because his last message before it happened was October 13, 1962. By the time he preached his next sermon “Blasphemous Names” on November 4, 1962, the crisis was over.

The Crisis occurred between October 16 and 28. Branham's lapse between sermons may have saved him from making further misleading statements regarding his 1933 vision. After the crisis, Kennedy and Khrushchev relationship improved. Wikipedia says: ^[218]

After the crisis, superpower relations improved, as Kennedy gave a conciliatory speech at American University on June 10, 1963, recognizing the Soviet people's suffering during World War II, and paying tribute to their achievements. Khrushchev called the speech the best by a U.S. president since Franklin Roosevelt, and, in July, negotiated a test ban treaty with U.S....Plans for a second Khrushchev-Kennedy summit were dashed by the U.S. President's assassination in November 1963.

After the Cuban Missile Crisis in October of 1962, Branham did not speak much about America's destruction in 1963 (in reference to the vision of 1933), other than to say:

And how that they would permit women to vote, and, in doing so, they would elect the wrong President. And in this would be a woman stand up that would govern **the United States**; not actually a woman, but a church. Then **I seen her with nothing but ashes. It's going to happen**. _Once More 11-17-63

With the cold war between America and Russia fully implemented after Kennedy's death, Branham makes his final rendition of the 1933 vision about the United States in his 1965 book on the Seven Church Ages.

The **last and seventh vision** was wherein I heard a most terrible explosion. As I turned to look I saw nothing but **debris, craters, and smoke all over the land of America**. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

In the final rendition, did you notice how Branham avoided words such as total annihilation of the earth, which were his original wordings in the 1950s, as shown below.

And, remember, I predict that before the **great total annihilation**, which I don't say the Lord told me this, but I believe there'll be something happen either between now or at that time in '77. It may come...?... at this hour. But between

now and '77, I predict that either **a great destruction or a total annihilation of the entire earth.** between now and '77; I predicted it in 1933. Teaching On Moses 05-13-56

And remember, third—1933, I saw that come in a vision, a great powerful woman will take over the whole nation someday. That's exactly right, before the end time, **before total annihilation.** Life 06-02-57

Branham's final rendition even avoided using words such as America being destroyed by a bomb, which he supposedly predicted in 1960 when allegedly *reading* about this country being included in the original vision of 1933.

Women, given the right to vote, elected President-elect Kennedy—with the woman's vote, the wrong man, which will finally be to full control of the Catholic church in **the United States; then the bomb comes that explodes her.** Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

United States' Annihilation by 1977

Another problem with Branham's 1933 vision about the United States is that everything was supposed to be fulfilled by 1977. From 1960 to 1965, Branham predicted several times that his seven visions would be fulfilled by 1977.

Then I turned to look and I seen the United States was a smoldering something had burned it up. And down beneath there **I said,** not in the trance, but, "I predict..." (remember this, I guess this is taped too), "I predict that these things will take place between now, **1933 and 1977.**" Which will give us sixteen more years if my prediction strikes right. Conference 11-25-60

And I said, "I seen, looked like there was stumps burning; rocks, blowed out; and the **whole United States just looked bare,** laying like that, **as far as I could see** where I was standing." And I said, "I predict, according to the way time is moving, it'll be sometime between this year **33 and '77.**" The Thyatirean Church Age 12-08-60

Branham attempted to separate his prediction of 1977 from being a prophecy from the Lord. Yet, he claimed divine inspiration for this failed prediction.

Based on these **seven visions**, along with the rapid changes which have swept the world in the last fifty years, **I PREDICT** (I do not prophesy) that these visions will have all **come to pass by 1977.** And though many may feel that this is an irresponsible statement in view of the fact that Jesus said that 'no man knoweth the day nor the hour. **'I still maintain this prediction after thirty years** because, Jesus did NOT say no man could know the year, month or week in which His coming was to be completed. **So I repeat** , I sincerely believe and maintain as a private student of the Word, **along with Divine inspiration that 1977 ought to terminate the world systems and usher in the millennium.** An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

In 2 Timothy 3:16, Paul says the scriptures came by inspiration of God. The Greek word for inspiration" is "God breathed." Thus, by claiming divine inspiration, Branham is saying God influenced him to predict 1977 as the end. He further said God's inspiration never failed.

Now, I can fail, 'cause I'm a man. But when **He speaks that inspiration,** that will **always be just that way.** See? And **it never fails.** Get The People To Believe 07-17-52

So, even though Branham attempted to separate this failed prediction from a prophecy, there were times when he referred to his 1933 prophetic visions as predictions.

And **I predict** that that **will be communism** . And communism will burn the Vatican city. The Faith That Was Once Delivered To The Saints 05-01-55E

I predict that before the coming of the Lord that **a woman will be a great ruler in the United States** , 'cause it's a woman's country. Painted-Face Jezebel 10-03-56

Another problem with Branham's visions of 1933 is that he continued to add new prophecies to the alleged original ones as events in the 1960s unfolded. For example, he claimed the uniting of churches in the 1960s was a part of his 1933 vision.

"Oh, **all the churches is going to be one now** ." Yeah, I know that, see, **just exactly what's wrote on my book of prophecy in 1933, that would take place.** Why, don't you realize **that's Satan uniting together** ? The Bible says that. And just after a bit, just a little while, as soon as they become one, then the interdenominational is finished, see. There will be your mark of the beast, right. See? Souls That Are In Prison Now 11-10-63M

When Branham saw the ecumenical church movement of the 1960s (such as the Second Vatican Council between 1962 and 1965), he claimed that event was a part of his 1933 vision. However, research of his sermons shows this event was not in the original prophecy. Besides, Uriah Smith and Charles Taze Russell had already written about this ecumenical movement in their books in 1897 and 1918.

Again, when 800 people in Branham's community got sick from eating eggs, he claimed this incident was an original part of his 1933 vision.

They spray the fields with this DDT, I seen the other day, and now we got **eight hundred sick people** in this community **from eating eggs.** Do you remember years ago when I first, when we had the little bitty structure here, and **I was prophesying, and said, "It shall come to pass in the last days, don't live in a valley and don't eat eggs."** I've got it on my book . I thought there was something about that, and I went and looked at it. **"Don't eat eggs." That was way back in 1933.** Eggs has got something in them now, and I see where science says that a man over fifty years old should never eat an egg, because it's the hardest thing on a heart that can be eaten. Diseases! He Cares Do You Care? 07-21-63

Did Branham obey his own prophecy about eating eggs? No. He did not even follow science's supposed advice for a man over 50 years old not to eat eggs.

A vegetarian met me, not long ago, he said, "Brother Branham, I had a lot of confidence in you till I heard you say you **eat bacon and eggs** for breakfast." See? And said, "How could a godly man eat a thing like that?" You see, I said, **"Well, what's wrong with it?"** The Harvest Time 12-12-64

Apparently Branham did not take his alleged 1933 vision from the Lord serious when answering the man about eating eggs: "...what's wrong with it?"

Did William Branham Revised 1933 Visions to Fit Trending Events?

So far, our previous studies pertaining to William Branham's obvious plagiarisms, failed visions and prophecies, doubtful supernatural experiences have provided sufficient evidences that he was not Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6, who restored the elect to the original word of God in the last days. Nor was he the seventh angel of Revelation 3:14 and 10:7, who revealed the seven seals and every hidden mystery of the Bible at the end time. Nor was he the fulfillment of the Son of man ministry of Luke 17:30, who revealed Christ to this generation. Neither did his alleged message fulfill the shout of Jesus Christ's second coming in 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

The accessibility of official archived information on the internet along with the availability of Branham's audio and written sermons has uncovered vast errors in his alleged end time message. If Branham had not recorded his sermons, or if they had never been converted to booklets, or searchable through computer software and the internet, we would have never known about these gross errors.

Actually, I believe this information was made available for the sake of individuals who sincerely want to know factual truths about William Branham and his alleged fulfillment of major end time biblical prophecies. Thus, in this chapter, we shall continue to investigate his visions and prophecies of 1933.

Historical Reasons Original 1933 Visions were Revised

Based upon our study in the prior chapter, Branham appeared to be a person who observed current unfolding developments and events, then altered his prophecies to fit the coming trend. For example, Branham preached a sermon on July 25, 1965 entitled "The Anointed Ones at the End Time," which he called a prophecy.

In the sermon, Branham warned followers about people professing Christianity who will have genuine gifts of the Holy Spirit, but will not have the true word of God. When Branham allegedly foretold those things as prophecy, the Charismatic movement had already begun in 1960. ^[219]

Branham had built his ministry teaching that signs and wonders were vindications that God sent him. But now, an entire movement of people from different denominational backgrounds were moving in signs and wonders without embracing his alleged restoration ministry of Malachi 4:5-6.

These people were operating in gifts without Branham's teachings, which he claimed to be the message of the hour. ^[220] To fore-run this trend and prevent his followers from

considering the signs and wonders happening within the Charismatic circles as vindication from God, Branham claimed to prophesy the coming of false anointed ones. By doing so, he condemned the entire movement.

In like manner, we saw in the previous chapter how Branham repeatedly revised his seven visions of 1933 to fit coming trends. In this study, we will further consider some reasons he may have revised these prophecies.

Benito Mussolini

In 1933, Branham claimed to have seen a vision of Mussolini attacking and defeating the nation of Ethiopia. Twenty years later, this vision is mentioned on recorded tape for the first time on March 26, 1953. When speaking about the prophecy, Branham uses the word "if."

People, we're living in the end time. How many of you people has heard years ago down here when they was going to have me arrested down here for preaching on that mark of the beast? When I said that **Mussolini**, when he first come in power twenty-some-odd years ago, **I said, "if Mussolini ever goes towards Ethiopia, mark this down, there'll never be peace till Jesus Christ comes."** _Israel And The Church #2, 03-26-53

Notice, when Branham first spoke of Mussolini invading Ethiopia in 1953, he used the word "if," which suggest a presumption more than a 1933 prophecy. Actually, the use of the word "if" suggests that he may have already been aware of the ongoing disagreement between Italy and Ethiopia on the African continent. This disagreement began in 1926 and eventually led to the Italo-Ethiopian Treaty of 1928, which was brokered by the League of Nations. Wikipedia says: ^[221]

On August 6, 1928, in addition to abiding by Article X, **Italy and Ethiopia signed the Italo-Ethiopian Treaty of Friendship**. This treaty declared a 20-year friendship between the two nations. On August 27 of the same year, both Italy and Ethiopia signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact, an international treaty "providing for the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy".

The treaty defined the border between Italy's colony of Somaliland and Ethiopia. After the agreement was signed, Mussolini began to breach the truce by settling on lands beyond borders set by the treaty. As a sign of aggression in 1930, Mussolini built a fort well beyond the boundaries set by the League of Nations. Wikipedia says: ^[222]

Italy pursued a policy of provocation and preparation for invasion in Ethiopia, described as follows by the League of Nations: "At places where there is not a single Italian national, a consul establishes himself in an area known as consular territory with a guard of about ninety men, for whom he claims jurisdictional immunity. This is an obvious abuse of consular privileges. The abuse is all the greater that the consul's duties, apart from the supplying of information of a military character, take the form of assembling stocks of arms, which constitute a threat to the peace of the country, whether from the internal or the international point of view." **In 1930, Italy built a fort at Walwal**, an oasis in the Ogaden. The fort was in a boundary zone between the nations, which was not well defined; today **it is about 130 km inside Ethiopia**.

As shown, in 1930 Italy was already showing signs of invading Ethiopia before Branham had his alleged prophecy of 1933. Wikipedia further said of the 1930 incident: ^[223]

The **Italo-Ethiopian Treaty of 1928** stated that the border between Italian Somaliland and Ethiopia was twenty-one leagues parallel to the Benadir coast (approximately 73.5 miles). **In 1930, Italy built a fort at the Walwal** oasis (also Welwel, Italian: Ual -Ual) in the Ogaden, well **beyond the twenty -one league limit**.

Now we can see why Branham could have used the word "if" when speaking of Italy invading Ethiopia in 1933. He most likely was observing international news. At first, Branham's views about the Italo-Ethiopian war was merely a conjecture. Later, it was changed to a prophecy. But, as studied, he still got the prophecy wrong by saying Ethiopia would be Mussolini's first and last invasion (see page 132). Also, Branham told his audience in a 1963 sermon that Mussolini was not in power when he saw the vision in 1933.

But it's going to happen! **Neither was Mussolini in power**, neither was the Maginot Line built, neither did the car look **like** an egg in them days, and the things, neither did the women elect a President that would look like a —a college boy, and all these other things, neither would there be a Catholic President, and so forth, spoke of. About **thirty years ago, or more, these things were predicted**, but He only showed me way off down to the end. God Doesn't Call Man To Judgment Without First Warning Him 07-24-63

As earlier shown, Branham's statement is historically incorrect. Mussolini was already Prime Minister of Italy in 1922 and a dictator 1925. Once again, historical facts have proven him to be wrong, as shown in Wikipedia: ^[224]

Benito Amilcare Andrea Mussolini... ruling the country as **Prime Minister from 1922** until his ousting in 1943. He ruled constitutionally **until 1925**, when he dropped all pretense of democracy and set up a **legal dictatorship**.

Adolf Hitler and Germany

In 1933, Branham claimed to have seen a vision of a man named Adolph Hitler. He would rise up to become dictator in Germany and draw the world into a war. He wrote these words in his 1965 book on the church ages:

The next vision foretold that an Austrian by the name of **Adolph Hitler** would **rise up as dictator over Germany**, and that he would **draw the world into war**. It showed the **Siegfried line** and how our troops would have a terrible time to overcome it. Then it showed that **Hitler would come to a mysterious end**. An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

As studied (p.131), the original prophecy said President Roosevelt would lead the world into World War II, not Hitler. Another chief problem with this vision is that none of the above prophecies about Hitler in the 1965 book on the seven church ages were mentioned when Branham claimed to have read the original 1933 written version from a yellow paper in 1960, 1962, and 1964 sermons about Germany. The following quotes from those sermon shows what he read:

This one first. **I'd like to read something to you**. 1932: (Listen to this.) As I was on my way... Or as I was getting ready to go on my way to church this morning, it came to pass that I fell into a vision. Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60, Par. 35

We will be in **war with Germany**. Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60, Par. 35

The Americans will take a **great beating at a place that Germany** will build, which will be a great wall built of concrete (**The Maginot Line**, eleven years before it was ever built.) But finally they will be victors. Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60, Par. 35

Several years ago, **It predicted exactly the Maginot Line**, exactly what would take place, exactly Kennedy would take the place, and of this, and there would be a Catholic President ruling here, and what it would be. And there's just two more things left, from seven things that He told me to happen perfectly. That's right. **It's on old yellow paper**. We're at the end time. A Super Sign 07-08-62

I marked them down. **It's on old yellow paper**. Told me exactly **how Germany would build that Siegfried Line**, and how the Americans would take a great beating at it, eleven years before the—the line was ever built. The Voice Of The Sign 03 -21-64E

As shown, there is no mention of Adolf Hitler, not even his name when Branham claimed to have read the original prophecy in 1960. There are no mention of him rising as a dictator, drawing the world into a war, or coming to a mysterious end. Branham added those alleged prophecies about Hitler to the final rendition of his 1965 book. I say "alleged" because they had too many revisions and errors to be from God (Num. 23:19; Heb. 6:18).

Why were the final renditions of Branham's visions in his 1965 book about the seven church ages significantly different from the original written version he read on November 13, 1960. As earlier stated, the answer may be found in the fact that Branham instructed Leo Mercier and Gene Goad to revise and update his 1933 prophecies.

By the way, **Mr. Mercier** and **many of them** are going to **take some of these old prophecies** and dig them out, and **revise**

them a little, or bring them **up to date**, and **put them in papers**. I'd like to read some things that I'd like for you to—to... This one first. I'd like to read something to you. Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

Again, there is another serious issue with this alleged 1965 prophecy written in the church ages book. Branham spoke as though Adolf Hitler was an unknown person in 1933, who was not yet in power.

The next vision foretold that an Austrian by the name of **Adolph Hitler** would **rise up as dictator over Germany**

Actually, Hitler was made Chancellor of Germany on January 30, 1933, nearly six months before Branham's alleged prophecy in June of 1933. Wikipedia says: ^[225]

On 30 January 1933, the new cabinet was sworn in during a brief ceremony in Hindenburg's office. The NSDAP gained three posts: **Hitler was named chancellor** Hitler had insisted on the ministerial positions as a way to gain control over the police in much of Germany.

After Hitler was made Chancellor of Germany in January of 1933, he further advanced his rise to power. How? By dissolving the existing government and decreeing that a new election be held in early March. Hitler wanted to build a majority government that supported him. ^[226]

As **chancellor, Hitler** worked against attempts by the NSDAP's opponents to build a majority government. Because of the political stalemate, he asked Hindenburg **to again dissolve the Reichstag, and elections were scheduled for early March. On 27 February 1933**, the Reichstag building was set on fire. Göring blamed a communist plot, because Dutch communist Marinus van der Lubbe was found in incriminating circumstances inside the burning building.

On March 23, 1933, the passing of the "Enabling Act" by the Reichstag (Germany's Congress) made Hitler's government a legal dictatorship. Wikipedia says: ^[227]

On 23 March 1933, the Reichstag assembled at the Kroll Opera House under turbulent circumstances ...After Hitler verbally promised party leader Ludwig Kaas that Hindenburg would retain his power of veto, Kaas announced the Centre Party would support the Enabling Act... **The Enabling Act**, along with the Reichstag Fire Decree, **transformed Hitler's government into a de facto legal dictatorship.**

After the vote that practically gave Hitler dictatorial powers on March, 23, 1933, he and allies began to suppress all oppositions, such as other political parties and all trade unions. Wikipedia says: ^[228]

Having achieved full control over the legislative and executive branches of government, Hitler and his allies began to **suppress the remaining opposition**. The Social Democratic Party was banned and its assets seized. While many trade union delegates were in Berlin for May Day activities, SA stormtroopers demolished union offices around the country. **On 2 May 1933** all trade unions were forced to dissolve and their leaders were arrested.

By the end of June, the other parties had been intimidated into **disbanding**. This included the Nazis' nominal coalition partner, the DNVP; with the SA's help, Hitler forced its leader, Hugenberg, to resign **on 29 June. On 14 July 1933**, the NSDAP was declared the only legal political party in Germany, **although the country had effectively been a one-party state since the passage of the Enabling Act four months earlier.**

Furthermore, soon after Hitler's rise to power in 1933, he already had aggressive expansionist ideas regarding Europe. Wikipedia says: ^[229]

After his rise and takeover of power in 1933 to a large part based on these grievances, Adolf Hitler and the Nazis heavily promoted them and also ideas of vastly ambitious additional demands based on Nazi ideology such as **uniting all Germans** (and further all Germanic peoples) **in Europe in a single nation; the acquisition of "living space"** (Lebensraum) for primarily agrarian settlers (Blut and Boden), creating a "pull towards the East" (Drang nach Osten) **where such territories were to be found and colonized.**

As shown, Hitler was already a dictator with aggressive ideologies toward other European nations before Branham saw his alleged vision in June 16, 1933 that he would rise as a dictator in Germany. A Youtube documentary entitled "Goebbels' Biography (Goebbels' Experiment)" shows live footage of Hitler's rise to power before Branham's vision (see endnote ^[225] for link). Therefore, what he called a prophecy was none, but a well known fact during that time.

Maginot Line

Not only was Branham's vision of Hitler incorrect, but as previously shown, he claimed that the Maginot Line was not built when he foretold its building in his 1933 vision.

But **it's going to happen!** Neither was Mussolini in power, **neither was the Maginot Line built**, neither did the car look like an egg in them days, and the things, neither did the women elect a President that would look like a —a college boy, and all these other things, neither would there be a Catholic President, and so forth, spoke of. **About thirty years ago, or more, these things were predicted**, but He only showed me way off down to the end. God Doesn't Call Man To Judgment Without First Warning Him 07-24-63

Let us see what historical facts say about the building of Maginot Line. Wikipedia says: ^[230]

The line was **built in several phases from 1930** by the STG (Service Technique du Génie) overseen by CORF (Commission d'Organisation des Régions Fortifiées). **The main construction was largely completed by 1939**, at a cost of around 3 billion French francs.

As shown, the Maginot Line was built in several phases beginning in 1930. By the time Branham saw his alleged vision in 1933, the building of this line had already begun. Also, as stated, the earlier versions of Branham's prophecy said the Germans built the Maginot Line when in fact the French built it. He later corrected this error by saying the Germans built the Siegfried line (see pages 133-134).

However, even portions of the Siegfried Line were built

in 1916-1917 before Branham's vision of 1933. The newer portion was built further east between 1938 and 1940, as stated in Wikipedia. ^[231]

The **original Siegfried Line** (German: *Siegfriedstellung*) was a **World War I line** of defensive forts and tank defenses **built by Germany** in northern France **during 1916–1917** as a **section of the Hindenburg Line**. In English the term "Siegfried Line" commonly refers to the "**Westwall**", the German term for a similar World War II-era defensive line built **further east during the 1930s** opposite the French Maginot Line ... It was planned beginning in 1936 and built between 1938 and 1940.

Branham called the defensive line built by the Germans the "Maginot Line" 31 times on recorded tapes since mentioning this name for the first time in 1958. Branham first attempted to say the correct name "Siegfried Line" in 1959 but continued to call it the Maginot line even when he claimed to have read the original 1933 written version from a yellow paper in 1960, 1962, and 1964 sermons.

The following quotes from those sermons shows what Branham read before completely and correctly switching over to the Siegfried Line by the time he wrote his 1965 book on the seven churches ages.

This one first. **I'd like to read something to you.** 1932: (Listen to this.) As I was on my way... Or as I was getting ready to go on my way to church this morning, it came to pass that I fell into a vision. Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60, Par. 35

The Americans will take a great beating at a place that **Germany will build**, which will be a great wall built of concrete (**The Maginot Line**, eleven years before it was ever built.) But finally they will be victors. Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60, Par. 35

Several years ago, **It predicted exactly the Maginot Line**, exactly what would take place, exactly Kennedy would take the place, and of this, and there would be a Catholic President ruling here, and what it would be. And there's just two more things left, from seven things that He told me to happen perfectly. That's right. **It's on old yellow paper**. We're at the end time. A Super Sign 07-08-62

I marked them down. **It's on old yellow paper**. Told me exactly **how Germany would build that Siegfried Line**, and how the Americans would take a great beating at it, eleven years before the—the line was ever built. The Voice Of The Sign 03 -21-64E

The next vision foretold that an Austrian by the name of Adolph Hitler would rise up as dictator over **Germany**, and that he would draw the world into war. **It showed the Siegfried line** and how our troops would have a terrible time to overcome it. An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

Once again, historical facts has proven Branham alleged vision of 1933 to be wrong. So then, since Branham had a tendency to revise his 1933 prophecies, it becomes more difficult to believe that he foretold any of the events before they happened. Especially when his supposed book of prophecy that contained the original writings of the 1933 visions went missing after his death in 1965 (see page 132).

Communism, Nazism, and Fascism

In 1933, Branham claimed to have a vision of the rise of Communism, Nazism, and Fascism. He wrote these words in his 1965 book on the seven church ages:

The third vision was in the realm of world politics for it showed me that **there would be** three **great ISMS. Fascism, Nazism, Communism**, but that **the first two would be swallowed up into the third**. The voice admonished, "WATCH RUSSIA, WATCH RUSSIA. Keep your eye on the King of the North." An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

In the above statement, there is a problem with this alleged prophecy. Branham wrote as though Communism, Nazism, and Fascism were non-existent political parties in 1933. But, historical facts shows Communism was formed in 1912, Nazism was formed in 1920, and Fascism was formed in 1922. Wikipedia says: ^{[232] [233] [234]}

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union ...was **founded in 1912** by the Bolsheviks (the majority faction of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party), a revolutionary group led by Vladimir Lenin which seized power in the aftermath of the October Revolution 1917. The party was dissolved on 29 August 1991 soon after a failed coup d'état.

...**The Nazi Party** (/ˈnɑːtsi/), was a political party in Germany **active between 1920** and 1945 that practiced Nazism. Its predecessor, the German Workers' Party (DAP), existed from 1919 to 1920.

The National Fascist Party ... ruled Italy **from 1922** when Fascists took the power with the March on Rome, to 1943, when Mussolini was deposed by the Grand Council of Fascism.

As shown above, the three great ISMS not only existed before Branham's vision of 1933, they were already in power in Russia (1917), Italy (1925), and Germany (January of 1933). Thus, what he called a prophecy was not, but an established fact during that time. History has proven his alleged vision of 1933 to be wrong. Also, since Branham had a tendency to revise his 1933 prophecies, we cannot confirm that he ever said Communism would outlast the other two isms. But, as studied, he still got the prophecy wrong by saying Communism would embrace Nazism and Fascism. Instead, both of those political parties and forms of government had become illegal and banned (see page 135).

Driverless Vehicles

In 1933, Branham claimed to have seen a vision of egg-shaped and driverless vehicles. He wrote these words in his 1965 book on the seven church ages:

The fourth vision showed the great advances in science that would come after the second world war. It was headed up in the vision of a **plastic bubble-topped car** that was running down beautiful **highways under remote control** so that people appeared seated in this car **without a steering wheel** and they were **playing some sort of a game** to amuse themselves. An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

In the above quote, Branham claimed that he saw in the

vision a plastic bubble topped car driven by remote control with a family playing some sort of game (checkers or cards in earlier sermons –Questions And Answers #1, 08-23-64M, Par. 17). One of the issues with this 1965 rendition of the 1933 vision is that there is no mention of a plastic bubble topped car or a family playing a game when Branham claimed to have read the original 1933 written version from a yellow paper in a sermon on November 13, 1960. The following quote from that sermon read:

I'd like to **read you a prophecy** that was given. _Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60, Par. 132

Also, science will progress, especially in the mechanical world. **Automobiles** will continue to **get like egg shape**. Finally they will build one that **won't need a steering wheel**. (They've got it now.) It will be controlled by some other power. _Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60, Par. 139

Now, let's consider what Branham said months later on January 28, 1961.

And then I seen the time there'd be an increase in science. I noticed **there'd be an automobile**... I had it wrote down there. I got it right with me now, **old yellow paper**, that there'd be a machine, automobile perfected, **looked like an egg, would be glass over it**. And there was a man and woman, the **family**, setting there with their backs turned to one another, **playing cards**, and the machine traveling itself. **Something on the bumpers that would—it couldn't hit the others**, going down. And **I seen that on television a few nights ago**. They got that thing perfected right now. _ Why? 01-28-61

Please notice, there is a significant difference from what Branham read directly from a written paper in 1960 and what he claimed he said in 1961. The written version said nothing about a glassed topped car or a family playing a game as the vehicle remotely travelled down the highway. Neither did the 1960 version say anything about a device on the bumper that would prevent collisions. Branham added this device after seeing it on television. Moreover, in the following quote, Branham claimed that cars were not egg-shaped when he foretold its invention in the vision of 1933.

But it's going to happen! Neither was Mussolini in power, neither was the Maginot Line built, **neither did the car look like an egg in them days**.. _God Doesn't Call Man To Judgment Without First Warning Him 07-24-63

But, as shown on page 138, egg shaped vehicles were present at the world's fair in Chicago when Branham attended during the spring of 1933. A Google search of egg-shaped vehicles of 1933 will show some pictures of these vehicles. Also, as earlier studied, before Branham first mentioned driverless vehicles in 1958, they were already being introduced on video by General Motors, Disney, and various magazines beginning in 1956.

Again, the website of Seek Ye The Truth posted an April 25, 1931 news article by the Ottawa Journal, entitled "**Egg-Shaped Automobile Body Predicted for Future**.." The first paragraph says: "*The eventual automobile body will be shaped like an egg. It will take several years for us to reach that point... and the egg-shaped body is the destination of these trends carried to their logical conclusion.*" [235]

Also, as shown on page 137, Branham's final rendering of this vision in his 1965 publication on the church ages describes the photograph posted in Life Magazine. This picture shows a plastic topped car travelling remotely down the highway without a steering wheel as a family plays a game. Perhaps, now we know where Branham got the descriptions he claimed to have seen in a 1933 vision. Again, a historical search has disproved Branham's claims.

Women and Moral Issues

As studied (pages 138 -143), Branham claimed to have seen a vision of women and morality in 1933. He wrote these words in his 1965 book on the seven church ages:

The fifth vision had to do with the moral problem of our age, **centering mostly around women**. God showed me that women began to be **out of their place** with the **granting of the vote**. Then they **cut off their hair**, which signified that they were no longer under the authority of a man but insisted on either equal rights, or in most cases, more than equal rights. She **adopted men's clothing** and **went into a state of undress**, until the last picture I saw was a woman naked except for a **little fig leaf type apron**. With this vision I saw the terrible perversion and moral plight of the whole world. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

As studied, Branham tailored this 1933 vision to fit the trends of his day. His alleged prophecy foretold (1) Women got out of place when given the rights to vote, (2) Women cutting their hair showed disrespect and equality with men, (3) Women adopting men's clothing, and (4) Women would begin to undress and finally wear fig leaf type of aprons.

As proven, the 1960s began the counterculture and sexual revolution. Everything Branham prophesied were already happening before he revised his vision (see pages 141-143). Remember, none of the above prophecies were mentioned when he allegedly read the original vision written on a yellow paper (page 138). They were updated to remove apparent historical errors and revised after President John Kennedy's election and assassination.

The last version of Branham's revised prophecies about women reflected his teachings. What did he mean by the statement: "*women began to be **out of their place** with the **granting of the vote**?*" He believed a woman's place was at home in the kitchen. Therefore, she should not vote, work public jobs, or have a driver's license.

I got a clipping out of the paper, that I believe, it was about sixty percent of the boys that went overseas in this last war, was divorced from their wives before they come back, their wives running off with somebody else in these defense plants, working. **She has got no business in a defense plant**. A woman's place is at home with her children. And when she... Now if her husband's sick and she has to work, that's different. **But woman's place is at home in the kitchen**, and when she leaves that **she's out of her place**. Exactly right. _He Was To Pass That Way 07-27-57

Well, the other day some crazy woman driver drove right in front of me, come pretty near killing two of my children. I said, "Lady." She said, "Now, you shut your mouth; I'm the one that's

driving." And before I got back, twenty-six women driver's almost caused us to be killed. We kept count of it. They **made a mistake** when they **give her a driver's license**. They **put her out here to voting**. They **put her out here to these public works**. And during the time of the war, right in New York City, more illegitimate children was born in the city of New York, of prostitute women, and their husbands overseas, than there was soldiers killed in the four years of war. **When a woman gets out of the kitchen she's out of her place**. _The Mark Of The Beast 07-15-56

Branham also believed women were the cause of every sin, crime, and most car accidents.

And I said, "It's a woman's country, she has her liberties here. And she'll ruin it, **she's the ruination of the world**." (And, Roy, I got your letters on that, that great woman that... "Every criminal case... We've... I'd X-rayed it down now to: **every criminal case was ever done in this United States**, **a woman was behind it**." That's exactly right. That's immoral women, you see, and things.) _ The Thyatirean Church Age 12-08-60

They say the women is the most safest drivers. I'm an international traveler. Me and my son, crossing this nation, put a book up in the —in the car. And every time a boo -boo was called, pulled on the road, we marked it down, "man" or "woman." And out of three hundred, there were two hundred and **eight-one of them caused by women; nineteen of them by men**. That's exact. Yet, she's set there and push her hair up. And she turn out like this, and make a left's right, and everything. But, oh, course, the police ain't going to say that. They got them on a police force. What a disgrace! **When a woman gets from behind the table in the kitchen, in the house, taking care of her own little ministry God give her, her babies, she's out of the will of God**. _The World Is Falling Apart 04-12-63M

When, **she's guilty of every sin that was ever committed, she is the cause of it**. Right. Now, I'm not, I'm not speaking of rights. She is guilty. She is the one that caused every baby to be born blind. She is the one that caused every grave to be dug. She is the one that caused sin, sickness, sorrow. A ambulance can't ring unless a woman caused it. **No crime can be done, no sin, no death, no sorrow, no suffering, but a woman done it**. _Souls That Are In Prison Now 11-10-63M

Furthermore, Branham believed women are the by-product of man and was not in the original creation so she could cause the fall of the human race. He believed she was designed to be deceitful and easily deceived.

Adam had been made in the image of God. He was a son of God. As a son of God he could not be tempted and fall. That would be impossible. **So God took a byproduct of man to cause the fall**. Woman never stepped fresh from the hand of God as a true product of God. She was produced from man. And when God caused her to be brought forth from man she was vastly different from the other females He had created. She was able to be seduced. No other female in creation can be immoral; but the human female may be touched at almost any time. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Six - The Thyatirean Church Age

There is nothing **designed to be so deceitful, as a woman** that's deceitful. There cannot be nothing else; there is nothing made to be that way. Also, there is nothing that can be **so easily deceived as a woman**. Now, the fall proves this statement to be true, the

fall in the beginning. **She was not in the original beginning creation**. She was in Adam, but not in a female sex, herself, at the beginning. **She was the by-product** made. _ Marriage And Divorce 02-21-65M

Also, Branham believed womanhood is a perversion of creation; her rottenness began in Eden and ends in America.

Notice, all nature runs in continuity. If He'd have made the woman in the same original creation, there'd have been no sin, because she couldn't have done it, she couldn't have done it. **She is a perversion of the original creation**. _Marriage And Divorce 02-21-65M

This nation is numbered thirteen, a woman's nation. It's a woman, in the Bible. Woman is on our coins. It's **a woman's nation. It's where the rottenness of women begins**, starts, where **it ends at. The rottenness started in Eden**, by disbelieving God's Word. _The Third Exodus 06-30-63

As well, Branham believed Satan designed women's beauty to deceive men.

But in the human race, it's **the woman that's pretty**, not the man; if he is, there is something wrong, there is crossed -up seed somewhere. Originally it's that way. Why, why was it done? **To deceive by. Her designer, Satan**, is still working on her, too, in these last days. _Marriage And Divorce 02-21-65M

Now, there is nothing can stoop like her, and **she is designed so that she can be deceiving**. And **Satan is really working on her today, in these last days, because he is her designer**. I can prove that now. To go right back at the beginning, who started to work on her, Adam or Satan, God or Satan? See, **that's her designer**. It's her chief weapon to throw man to her filth, being a pretty woman, she can sway a man any way she wants to. _Marriage And Divorce 02-21-65M

Is that right? Beautiful! **Sin is beautiful**, what we call beauty today. **And sin is deceiving, by beauty**. You'd never look at a woman going down the street and tell what's in her heart. See? But I wanted to say these things so that you could see why that **Satan is her designer**. That's exactly right, his own son proved it, Cain. Now, **she is beautiful so she can deceive**. _Marriage And Divorce 02-21-65M

What's more, Branham believed wives were designed to be sex acts—contradicting Genesis 2:18 that says God created her to be a compatible help mate for Adam. Proverbs 30:10-31 shows the woman's role in the family.

...**A true woman**, virgin, that marries her husband, and lives, and she is a blessed thing to the man. If God could have give **His son any better thing than a wife**, He would have give that to him. **But she is designed to be a sex act**, and no other animal is designed like that. No other creature on the earth is designed like that. _Marriage And Divorce 02-21-65M

Additionally, Branham believed a woman could be forgiven, but never justified for sexual immorality. She was defiled for life (apparently he does not have a true biblical understanding of justification – discussed later).

If she would mar them, **she is defiled for lifetime**. No matter how much she is forgiven, she can't be justified. I'll strike that in a little bit. Got a Scripture on that, in a few minutes. **She can be forgiven for her defilement, but she cannot be justified in**

this life. It's always with her. Notice now. She's been given this. She may be forgiven, but not justified. Her body is given to her, a sacred trust from God. The Invisible Union Of The Bride Of Christ 11-25-65

Likewise, Branham believed a man could divorce his wife if she cut her hair. He repeated this 20 times on tapes and said it was "Thus saith the Lord." Nonetheless, Apostle Paul taught no such doctrine in 1 Corinthians 11:1-16.

The Bible said, "The hair is given to a woman for her glory." And **the Bible rights gives any man a right to leave and divorce and leave his wife, that'll cut her hair**. That's the Bible. **That's THUS SAITH THE LORD** Too bad you got away from the old fashion trainings, isn't it? The Worst Sinner In The City 02-18-56E

You women that claim you've got the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and not the audacity to let your hair grow out; when the Bible condemns it and said a woman's... **a man has got a right to put away his wife in divorce if she bobs her hair**. Christ Is The Mystery Of God Revealed 07-28-63

Again, Branham believed a man could put away his wife and remarry, but not the woman.

The **man can put away his wife and marry another one**; but **not the woman put away her husband and marry another one**. Marriage And Divorce 02-21-65M

Branham also believed a woman will be guilty of committing adultery in the Day of Judgment if she caused a man to lust after her due to wearing immodest clothing. Unseemly attire included open-toed and high-heeled shoes.

You couldn't sell old -fashion button shoes here in town, today, at all. Women don't want them. **They want the toes out of them**. The rest of the women is doing it. That's right. The Invasion Of The United States 05-09-54

The Bible speaks that, Isaiah 5. "How she'd walk with **high-heeled shoes** on, tinkling her feet as she went along." The Flashing Red Light Of The Sign Of His Coming 06-23-63E

Let me tell you. You might be just as pure as a lily to your husband, and you might be just as pure as a lily, young girl, to your boy friend, but someday **God is going to make you answer for committing adultery**. You are **guilty when you dress like that**. Jesus said, "Whosoever looketh upon a woman to lust after her, has committed adultery with her already in his heart." And **when that man has to answer, that sinner, for looking upon you, for committing adultery, who presented it to him?** Think of it. **You Pentecostal women**, shame on you! See? Shame on you! A Testimony On The Sea 03-07-64

But Jesus said, "Whosoever **looketh upon a woman**, to lust after her, hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." And **if you presented yourself out there**, and that **sinner thinks that about you**, because **you presented yourself; at the Day of the Judgment**, when **he answers for committing adultery, who is guilty?** Think of it. Uh -huh. It's exactly right. Jesus Keeps All His Appointments 04-18-64E

Branham blamed the woman for the act of adultery when a man lusts after her because of immodest clothing. He gives the man an excuse. However, in the scripture that Branham quotes (Matt. 5:28), Jesus blames the man.

And you, **some of the women, put on these nasty clothes** and

get out here to **throw yourself before man**. Jesus said, "Whosoever **looketh upon a woman** to lust after her has **committed adultery** with her already in his heart." Then **who is guilty**, the **man or you?** He is a **male, made so he could take this act**, see; and **you're the female, that ought to refuse**. Marriage And Divorce 02-21-65M

Finally, Branham appears to be speaking of the Aaronic priesthood in the quote below, but his use of Old Testament scriptures and ambiguous statements that ministers can only marry virgins seem to imply that this mandate is still applicable in the New Testament. Especially when he first uses the word "minister" in stead of "priest" and said: "*The unchanging God said so.*" This statement implies that he believes the same restrictions still applies today.

There is no minister that can marry a widow. Did you know that? You want to read that? All right, you get in the Leviticals, Leviticus 21:7 and Ezekiel 44:22, and It'll show you that the priesthood was not to marry a woman that's been touched by man. **This type is of the virgin Bride of Jesus Christ**, because they handled the Fire of God, the **priests** did, Aaron's sons. We haven't got time to read It all, and get out by noon, we got twenty minutes yet. And them is Aaron's sons that handled the—the—the Fire of God, so **they could not marry a woman that had been touched by another man. The unchanging God said so**. They could **not marry** another woman, and **a woman been touched by a man**, showing in type here, if you want to see it, that the Church of the living God is purely, unadulterated, the Word of God, and not a denomination that's been handled by man. Marriage And Divorce 02-21-65M

Perhaps Branham's undue bias against womanhood influenced him to pick an Old Testament law that no longer applied in the New Testament. But, belittles the power of Jesus' shed blood on the cross by condemning born again Christian women totally justified by him (Rom. 8:31-34; Heb. 10:17). He attempted to use Leviticus 21:7,13-14 that forbade the Aaronic priesthood from marrying women who were not virgins, while ignoring other restrictions in verses 9 and 18-21 that disqualified men from becoming priests.

Disqualifications included those who were blind, lamed, flat nosed, brokenfooted, brokenhanded, dwarfed, and crookbacked; had eye defects, scurvy, scabs, damaged testicles, and those who did not have virgin daughters. Why did Branham ignore those requirements for men?

Branham unfairly picked and chose Old Testament laws that suited him, but no longer applied to the New Testament church (Col. 2:13-14; Heb. 8:13), while ignoring others. Hebrews 7:12 says the Aaronic priesthood and Mosaic laws were changed. In the New Testament, the church is the priesthood, not ministers (1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 1:5 -6). Actually, Paul says people must keep all the Mosaic laws if they try to be saved by them. He says these people are cursed if they fail to keep all the laws and warned the church not to be entangled in that bondage (Gal. 3:10-13; 5:1-4).

Nonetheless, many Message churches (Branham's followers) believe ministers must marry virgins or be removed from office. In using Old Testament laws, they failed to realize that God told a prophet to marry a harlot (Hosea 1:2). Or the fact that God forgave Rahab of harlotry (Josh. 2:1), Tamar of incest (Gen. 38:12-25), and Bathsheba

of adultery (2 Sam. 11:1 -5) by allowing them to be Jesus' ancestors after the flesh (Matt. 1:3-6). Or the fact that Jesus completely forgave women who had committed sexual sins (Luke 7:36-50; 8:2-3; John 4:16-42; John 8:1-11).

So, why are men followers of Branham excused for past sexual prowess while women followers are forever shamed and condemned for the same past acts. Because Branham said "*she is defiled for a lifetime.*" She can be forgiven, but never justified (see page 155). Reminds me of the religious leaders who wanted to stone a woman caught in adultery, but failed to bring her male partner. According to the law, the man was also to be stoned (Deut. 22:22-24; John 8:4-5).

The apostles never gave such instructions regarding the qualification of the ministry in the New Testament. They taught that pastors (bishops, elders) and deacons (Greek word means servant or minister) must be the husband of one wife. Concerning the qualification of deacon's wives, they must be grave (honorable and serious), not slanderers, sober, and faithful in all things (1 Tim. 3:1-12; Titus 1:5-8).

The above quotes reflect Branham's general views of women. He said worst things about those who lived immoral lives, such as calling them: "dog meat, painted-face Jezebel, less morals than a slut (dog), sex exposal (disposal), and human sexual garbage."

Branham admitted that he hated immoral women before his conversion. He called women "stinking vipers" and crossed the street to avoid meeting them (The Sardisean Church Age 12-09-60, Par. 152-153). Back then he said: "*They're not worth a good clean bullet to kill them with it. That's right. And I hated women. That's right. And I just have to watch every move now, to keep from still thinking the same thing*" (My Life Story 04-19-59A, Par. 87).

Considering Branham's statements on pages 153-156, it appears that he still struggled with misogynistic views about womanhood. His views are contrary to those of the apostles' regarding woman (Rom. 16:1 -6; Phil. 4:3) and wives (Eph. 5:25,28-29; Col. 3:19; 1Pet. 3:7) that likely affected men's views of wives and daughters. Therefore, it should be no big surprise if the final revised rendering of his 1933 vision about women in his 1965 publication on the seven church ages should reflect his teachings and attitude toward them.

However, by claiming God told him those things in 1933, Branham is attempting to add spiritual authority to his views about women beyond written scriptures. As studied, his original vision of 1933 about women contained none of these alleged prophecies: (1) Women got out of place when given the rights to vote, (2) Women cutting their hair showed disrespect and equality with men, (3) Women adopting men's clothing, and (4) Women would begin to undress and finally wear fig leaf type of aprons for clothing.

So then, as Branham's sermons throughout the years has shown, he revised his 1933 vision of women as events and trends changed. Being able to effectively research his past sermons has uncovered the revision and cover-up.

Great Woman with Power

In 1933, Branham claimed to have seen a vision about

a beautiful and cruel woman ruler in America. The final rendering in his 1965 book on the seven church ages said:

Then in the sixth vision there **arose up in America a most beautiful, but cruel woman**. She held the people in her complete power. **I believed that this was the rise of the Roman Catholic Church**, though I knew it could **possibly be** a vision of some **woman rising in great power in America** due to a popular vote by women. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

As stated, Branham provided an escape clause in this prophecy by interpreting the woman in the vision to be the Roman Catholic Church with the **possibility** that she could very well be a literal female. In earlier sermons, Branham said this woman would be a Preseident, but now he vaguely describes her as a "great power." The safer approach for fulfillment was to say the woman is the Roman Catholic Church. Why? Because it was already a rising power in the United States evident by Kennedy's election in 1960. The lesser chance of fulfillment was to say she is a literal woman who rises to power due to the popular votes of women.

In the earlier versions of the prophecy, Branham was more definitive in interpreting the woman as being literal. That is, until the election of President Kennedy when the revised interpretation exclusively pointed to the Roman Catholic Church. The final rendering of this vision cannot be classified as a prophecy because he uses the words: "...it could POSSIBLY be a vision of some woman..."

The use of the word *possibly* disqualifies it as a definite prophecy. This woman could be a President, Vice President, or the Catholic Church, which is more speculative than prophetic. By widening the prophecy's interpretations, the chances of failure become less. Branham's prophecy could only fail if the three options shown below does not happen.

Everything is woman. And remember, **THUS SAITH THE LORD** there will be **a woman rule before the end time**. She'll either be **President, Vice President**, or it'll be the **Catholic Church** as a woman. I've seen her: A great woman, the nation bowed to her. It'll be one before the end time. **THUS SAITH THE LORD. Write it down and find out, you young people. See if it happens. If it isn't, I'm a false prophet.** _From That Time 07-16-60

The question we now ask, why did Branham originally believe the vision spoke of a literal woman who will rise in the USA? Was this prophetic or speculative guessing, since he uses the words "*it could possibly be*" when speaking of a literal woman ruler. In researching the historical background before Branham's alleged 1933 vision about a woman ruler in America, we must understand the status of women in the early 1900s. Consider excerpts from the essay: "*Women in American Politics in the Twentieth Century.*"^[236]

At the **beginning of the twentieth century**, women were **outsiders** to the **formal structures of political life—voting, serving on juries, holding elective office**—and they were **subject to wide-ranging discrimination** that marked them as **secondary citizens**. Over the course of the century, however, women in America moved dramatically (though still not equally) into all aspects of public life—politics, labor-force participation, professions, mass media, and popular culture.

In 1900 women's legal standing was fundamentally governed by their marital status. They had **very few rights**. A married woman had no separate legal identity from that of her husband. She had no right to control her biological reproduction (even conveying information about contraception, for example, was illegal), and no right to sue or be sued since she had no separate standing in court. She had no right to own property in her own name or to pursue a career of her choice. **Women could not vote, serve on juries, or hold public office**. According to the Supreme Court, **they were not "persons" under the Fourteenth Amendment** to the Constitution, which guarantees equal protection under the law.

Due to the status of women in America, feminism became a rising power in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Wikipedia defines feminism as:^[237]

Feminism is a range of movements and ideologies that share a common goal: to define, establish, and achieve equal political, economic, cultural, personal, and social rights of women. This includes seeking to establish equal opportunities for women in education and employment.

During this time, the cultural landscape of America was changing as regards to women's place in society. Wikipedia further says of feminism:^[238]

The history of the modern **western feminist movements** is divided into three "waves". Each wave dealt with different aspects of the same feminist issues. The **first wave** comprised of **women's suffrage movements** of the **nineteenth and early twentieth centuries**, promoting **women's right to vote**. The **second wave** was associated with the ideas and actions of the **women's liberation movement** beginning in the **1960s**. The **second wave campaigned for legal and social equality** for women. The third wave is a continuation of, and a reaction to, the perceived failures of second-wave feminism....

As shown, America's views of women's place in society were vastly changing in the early 1900s when compared with previous generations. Especially when women won the right to vote with the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920. Another change happened in America's cultural landscape called the "Roaring Twenties." During this time, there were a new breed of young women called "flappers." Wikipedia defines flappers as:^[239]

Flappers were a "new breed" of young Western women in the 1920s who wore **short skirts**, **bobbed their hair**, listened to jazz, and flaunted their disdain for what was then considered acceptable behavior. Flappers were seen as brash for **wearing excessive makeup, drinking, treating sex in a casual manner, smoking, driving automobiles**, and otherwise flouting social and sexual norms. Flappers had their origins in the liberal period of the Roaring Twenties, the social, **political turbulence**....

Before and during the "Roaring Twenties," Branham saw the immoral behavior of women and developed a hatred for them. He admittedly said of that time:

But I can remember when my father's still up there running, I had to be out there with water and stuff, **see young ladies** that wasn't over seventeen, eighteen years old, **up there with men** my age now, **drunk**. And they'd have to sober them up and

give them black coffee, to get home to cook their husband's supper. Oh, something like that, I said, "I..." **This was my remark then, "They're not worth a good clean bullet to kill them with it."** That's right. And **I hated women**. That's right. And I just have to watch every move now, to keep from still thinking the same thing. _My Life Story 04-19-59A

I said, "What do you want?" **I never did like women**, but not—not you sisters, I—I mean, He told me not to defile myself. And it made me have a complex. _The Revelation That Was Given To Me 02-10-60M

When Branham was indirectly describing his end time ministry as Elijah the prophet, he clearly said he hated no-good women. As stated, this view was vastly different from Jesus' approach in helping these lost souls (Luke 7:36-50; 8:2; John 4:4-43; John 8:1-11), even though the book of Proverbs speak out against their immorality (Prov. 7:6-27).

He will also hate fancy women! Elijah did: Jezebel. Is that right? **John did: Herodias**. Both them prophets, the Spirit, the same Spirit. They hated the denominational world, the church world. **They hated, also, fancy, no-good women**. _The Laodicean Church Age 12-11-60E

When accused of being a women hater, Branham said:

You know I've always been considered, on account of **they'd call me "woman-hater,"** but I'm not. See? Cause, I believe... I—I—I **don't like immoral, indecent**. I like real, genuine sisters of Christ. _Things That Are To Be 12-05-65

Branham was 11 (or 13) years old when the women's suffrage amendment was passed in 1920, and was no older than 21 (or 23) when the Roaring Twenties came to an end in 1930. During this time, he saw the outlandish behaviors of the flappers, referring to those of the past as "mammy."

And what's happening to these... What's the matter with these **little flappers** on the street today, these little **cigarette-sucking women**, and **short wearing, bobbed-haired flappers**, and so forth? What's the matter with them? **It's 'cause their mammy acted like that**. _The Serpent's Seed 09-28-58E

Now to do this today, what is the god of the United States? You remember in the **tabernacle years ago**, I preached on that? **The god of this modern day, a little flapper** sitting there with **make-up on, and dress pulled up over her knees**, and things like that. I said, "Behold your god!" And that's right, she is on every advertisement, **half naked**. She is on the street, the same way. _Marriage And Divorce 02-21-65M

By the time Branham saw his alleged vision of 1933, women's political influence was already rising, along with unacceptable moral issues. The election of 1912 marked a turning point for women's political power. A 2003 article entitled "The Rise of Political Woman in the Election of 1912,"^[240] has several newspapers' excerpts of that era showing the rising influence of women in politics.

With a suddenness and force that have left observers gasping, women have injected themselves into the national campaign this year in a manner never before dreamed of in American politics." *New York Herald*, Aug. 11, 1912

"Never before in the history of the United States have women taken a deeper interest in a presidential campaign than this year." *New Orleans Picayune*, Aug. 19, 1912

"Unprecedented in this country is the prominent part which women are taking in the presidential campaign this year." *Calumet Michigan News*, Aug 21, 1912

"Woman's Day in national politics seems to many an editorial observer to be now dawning." *N.Y. Literary Digest*, Aug. 31, 1912

Even before women won the right to vote, they had become a rising political force. Branham's alleged vision of 1933 only stated the obvious outcome after women were permitted to vote. What outcome? The day was coming when women's votes could possibly elect a female president in the United States. Branham's alleged vision of 1933 could be viewed more as a prediction based upon political changes that were happening during those times.

Another key change in America's social and economical landscapes were women's rise in public workplaces before, during, and after World War II. Wikipedia says: ^[241]

Before WWII, there existed persistent and systematic discrimination against women workers. This includes bars to married women working in most states. During the high unemployment of the Great Depression many thought men should have preference, because that way there can be at least one provider for every family. The U.S. culture determined that women gain employment before marriage, but upon marriage, to dedicate themselves to their main duty - in maintaining the family home. **The important anti-discrimination legislation Equal Pay Act of 1963 would not be passed until 1963.** In 1940, 28% of women over 14 participated in the labor force.

At the end of the war in 1945, 37% of women were part of the labor force. However, in 1950, this percentage had dropped to 32% because men soldiers reclaimed their manufacturing jobs after the war. However, certain groups of women fared better during this time. Wikipedia says: ^[242]

But one demographic was impacted: in 1940 13.8% of white married women 35 to 44 y/o were working, while in 1950 25.3% were. Important factors at the time that led to general increases in women's participation include: rise of the tertiary sector (see table), increases in part-time jobs, adoption of labor saving household technologies, and education. Part-time jobs were more compatible with raising children. Labor saving devices lowered the time cost for women of a family. High school and college education better prepared women for employment. There was also a decline in the stigma that a husband's worth was less if the wife worked in this time period. The divorce rate was still low in the 1940s and 50s and less important.

During this time, women employment showed a noticeable increase in several fields, such as 30.88% in clerical jobs, 16.5% in manual, 14.31% as operative, 14.27% as service workers, 8.5% in sales, 6.84% in professional/technical jobs, and smaller increases in other fields. ^[243] In Branham's 1950s sermons, he spoke against the cultural changes involving women in politics and public workforce after World War II.

I got a clipping out of the paper, that I believe, it was **about sixty percent of the boys that went overseas in this last war**, was divorced from their wives before they come back, their **wives** running off with somebody else **in these defense plants, working**. She has got **no business in a defense plant**. _He Was To Pass That Way 07-27-57

They **put her out here to voting**. They put her out here to **these public works**. And **during the time of the war**, right in New York City, more illegitimate children was born in the city of New York, of prostitute women, and **their husbands overseas**, than there was soldiers killed in the **four years of war**. _The Mark Of The Beast 07-15-56

As shown, Branham saw the cultural changes happening to women between the 1920s and 1950s. After decades of second class citizenry in America, their influences on society were on the rise thereby increasing the possibility of a woman president. Branham recognized this trend and for the first time on recorded tapes he began to call America "a woman's nation" in a sermon preached on October 2, 1956.

And when the man got to a place that he wasn't a man, her husband, and let **her do that**, that showed his weakness. That's right. He's supposed to be the head of the house. So, and **today** the **whole nation is in that trend**. And American is not not more really **America**; it's not more a Christian nation; **it's a woman's nation**. _Father, The Hour Has Come 10-02-56

In the above quote, Branham recognized the *trend* of women's rising political power. Six months before calling America a woman's nation, Branham began to say this was part of his 1933 vision. He first mentioned this connection on April 28, 1956, as shown below.

I didn't mean that to do any harm, women; I don't mean you Christian women. But **just to see women coming into politics** and everything, it's a disgrace; it's a breaking of the American morale. And remember, this is... America will... A —a woman... I—I better leave it alone. But just remember this. **I predict this: that a woman will be president** before we're annihilated. That's right. **I said that in 1933 by a vision**. _God's Covenant With Abraham 04-28-56

So then, twenty-three years after the alleged prophecy of 1933, Branham mentioned a woman becoming president in America for the first time on recorded tape on April 28, 1956. That is, after he had seen the cultural changes from the 1920s to 1950s. The rise of women's political power and impact on America's society may be the reason he signaled 1956 as being America's last chance to return unto God.

This America has become condemned. And what did she do, according to the vision? She elected the wrong person. I don't know how long it'll take it to run out, but it will be someday. **THUS SAITH THE LORD**. It will. She's on her downward move right now. She'll never come back again. She's gone. That's right. **She's been gone since 1956** when she condemned and turned away God from the great revival hours. _Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

After Branham connected the rise of women's political power with his 1933 vision for the first time on tapes in April of 1956, he again makes the connection on March 9, 1957, while continuing to call America a woman's nation.

I seen in '33 how cars would look before the coming of the Lord. They're pretty near in that shape. You remember, I **prophesied this...** You mark it in your books... I've told you many times—every time here. There'll come a time... **America is a woman's nation. And a woman will rise up, soon, in America, and become a great person, like a president or somewhere, before the coming of the Lord** I believe. See? _Jehovah-Jireh 03-09-57E

Branham's 1957 statement that he believed a woman would SOON rise to become president in America, was already a strong possibility due to the unfolding trends of that time. Then, in the 1960s, a dramatic change took place that increased women's voting power. An article published by Demand Media, called "*The 1960s Rise of Women in U.S. Politics*," says: ^[244]

The "**Women's Movement**" of the **1960s** helped set the foundation for later generations of **female political candidates**. The number of **females holding office improved significantly** beginning in the **late 1960s** and 1970s, a trend that continues....

The article further said:

The "Women's Question" debate of **the 1960s** challenged the traditional role of women as the primary caretakers of the home and family. The second wave of the **American women's movement came** out of the general social rebellion of **the 1960s**...and the changes **encouraged females** with a desire **to hold political office** to take up public issues....

Although women received the franchise in 1920 with the ratification of the 19th Amendment, **the Voting Rights Act of 1965 enabled women to vote in larger numbers** due to the elimination of discriminatory state laws**Women voted in comparable numbers to men during the 1960s elections**, but weren't organized to rally behind one political party or female candidates.

Elections in the 1960s increased the number of women holding state office, but voters still viewed women as home caretakers as opposed to public officials....

The **1960s** saw **more women elected to national office**....

The above excerpts clearly shows how women's voting and political powers were nationally on the rise in the 1960s due to the elimination of discriminatory laws against them. These eliminations increased their chances of being elected to the presidency in the coming future.

As studied, when Branham saw the emerging voting power of women, he began to say on recorded tapes that his 1933 prophecy foretold they would elect the wrong man by being allowed to vote. He added this version of the prophecy on November 13, 1960, five days after the election of President John F. Kennedy on November 8, 1960.

It shall—also has been an evil thing done in this country; **they have permitted women to vote**. This is **a woman's nation**, and she will pollute this nation as Eve did Eden. Now, you see why I'm hammering the way I do. I got, **THUS SAITH THE LORD. In her voting she will elect the wrong person**. _Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

Women, given the right to vote, elected President-elect Kennedy—with the woman's vote, the wrong man, which will finally be to full control of the Catholic church in the United States. _Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

As shown, when trends changed, so did Branham's 1933 visions. So then, were Branham's 1933 visions actually prophecies or keen observations of changing times? Since Branham had a tendency in changing prophecies to fit present conditions and trends, it becomes nearly impossible to believe anything he says about these visions. Especially when we realized he gave Leo Mercer and Gene Goad, whom he called his tape boys, the permission to revise and update his 1933 visions and prophecies, as earlier stated.

By the way, **Mr. Mercier** and **many of them** are going to **take some of these old prophecies**, and dig them out, and **revise them a little**, or bring them **up to date**, and **put them in papers**. I'd like to read some things that I'd like for you to—to... This one first. I'd like to read something to you. _Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

By the time Branham's 1933 prophecies were written in his 1965 book on the church ages, they were significantly different from the first renderings of those visions. The obvious errors either were corrected or entirely eliminated. The tape boys had done their revision and updating job well.

So then, Branham's prophecy of a woman president in the United States was mentioned on recorded tapes after their political prominence was on the rise. Actually, the first woman elected to congress was Jeannette Rankins, who was elected in 1916 and once again in 1940. ^[245]

Jeannette Pickering Rankin (June 11, 1880 – May 18, 1973) became **the first woman to hold a high government office in the United States...in 1916**...After winning her House seat in 1916 she said, "I may be the first woman **member of Congress** but I won't be the last." **She also was elected in 1940**.

In the above quote, Ms. Rankin statement "*...I may be the first woman member of Congress but I won't be the last*" have proven to be correct. Historical records shows that after Ms. Rankin, thirty-one (31) women served in congress from 1921 to 1933, which was the year Branham claimed to have seen a vision of a woman president.

Furthermore, by the time Branham first mentions this prophecy on audio tapes on April 28, 1956, record showed that 132 women had served in congress from 1921 to 1955. Then, before Branham wrote this prophecy in his 1965 book on the seven church ages, record shows that 219 to 232 women had served in congress between 1955 and 1965 (see endnote for link to list). ^[246]

Thus, Branham's prediction appeared to be influenced by the rising trend of women's political power. Remember, on October 2, 1956, he spoke about that developing trend.

So, and but today the **whole nation is in the t trend**. And American is not more really **America**; it's not more a Christian nation; **it's a woman's nation**. _Father, The Hour Has Come 10-02-56A

So, if a woman is eventually elected to the presidency in the United States, the reason will not be the end result of Branham's 1933 vision. Especially after over 87 years have transpired since the vision. Also, his 1977 deadline for this prophecy to be fulfilled has long expired. But rather, the prediction may be accredited more to Branham's keen observation of political trends in 1956 when he first mentions this prophecy on recorded tapes. During that point in time, women's political prominence was significantly on the rise in comparison to previous eras.

Moreover, if a woman is elected as the president of the United States, it won't be the fulfillment of Branham's vision. Why? Because his final revision in the 1965 seven church ages book interpreted the Roman Catholic Church as being the great woman rising to political power in America with the prospect that a literal female could *possibly* be elected. So then, what many of Branham's followers view as a prophecy of a woman president is nothing more than a prediction that has 50/50 chance of happening.

United States and 1977

In the seven church ages' publication of 1965, the final rendition of William Branham's 1933 vision regarding the United States said:

The last and seventh vision was wherein I heard a most **terrible explosion**. As I turned to look I saw nothing but debris, craters, and smoke **all over the land of America**. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

Similar to the other visions of 1933, this prophecy also underwent revision since first spoken by Branham on recorded tape in 1956, as shown below.

And, remember, **I predict** that before the great **total annihilation**, which I don't say the Lord told me this, but I believe there'll be something happen either between now or at that time in '77. It may come...?... at this hour. But between now and '77, I predict that either a great destruction or a **total annihilation of the entire earth**, between now and '77; I predicted it in 1933. _Teaching On Moses 05-13-56

As studied, Branham's earlier prophecy spoke of the annihilation of the entire earth by 1977, not America. His doomsday prediction about America actually began in 1957, when rising tension with Russia brought the possibility of a nuclear war between the two countries (see pages 145-148).

And remember, third—1933, I saw that come in a vision, a great powerful woman will take over the **whole nation someday**. That's exactly right, before the end time, before **total annihilation**. _Life 06-02-57

But now the end of the Gentile dispensation is here, and **Russia (the Communists) has a bomb** pointed right towards it to end it too. Don't worry, it's coming. The Bible said so. It'll be here with **your name wrote on it**. It'll go **into powder in one second's time, the whole nation**. It'll be **completely annihilation**. _God-Called Man 10-05-58E

Then, in 1960, he clearly says the vision pertains to the destruction of America.

Then I turned to look and I seen the United States was a smoldering something had burned it up. And down beneath there I said, not in the trance, but, "I predict..." (remember this, I guess this is taped too), "I predict that these things will take place between now, **1933 and 1977**." _Conference 11-25-60

By the time Branham's book on the seven church ages was published in 1965, the threat of nuclear war between America and Russia still existed, but had subsided since the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. The final revised and updated rendering of the prophecy does not speak of America's total annihilation as Branham earlier foretold. But, it simply says he heard a terrible explosion and saw debris, craters, and smoke all over than land of America. His 1977 deadline for this event to occur has failed. Followers were disappointed while some left the Message after 1977 had come and gone.

Conclusion of Seven Visions

In a 1964 sermon, William Branham told his trusting audience that his seven visions of 1933 were perfect and exact, and none of them ever missed.

Seven things He showed me, in '33, would come to pass. Five of them has already passed. Doctor Lee Vayle is writing a book on it there now. See? **Five things, perfectly**, and just two more things to happen. Said, "It'd happen just before the Coming." Here we are right at the end now, and look like that sixth thing is moving right up. See? **Perfectly, exactly**, even the wars and how they would happen, **exactly on the dot, and not one time did it miss**. _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M

Nonetheless, we have seen during our research how Branham made significant changes on recorded tapes to his alleged original 1933 visions. He had a tendency of revising prophecies throughout the years to fit current trends. Therefore, we must question whether any of the seven visions recorded on tape since 1953 is originally what he said in 1933. Nonetheless, he still got most of the prophecies wrong even decades after the fact.

Branham began to retell these supposed visions of Mussolini, Hitler, FDR, and the three isms in 1953, which are twenty (20) years since the prophecy in 1933 and nearly eight (8) years after they were fulfilled at the end of World War II in 1945. Therefore, we do not know what changes he had made to these prophecies before they were recorded on tapes. None of them may be the same he saw in 1933.

But, there is a reason to doubt if Branham saw seven visions besides the missing book of prophecy that contained them. Why? Because he claimed to have placed a prophecy in his church's cornerstone in 1933: "*Laying right here at this cornerstone, if we could **burst in there tonight, you'll see a flyleaf off of my Bible** where He told me to be an evangelist.*" (Questions And Answers, 01-12-61, Par 57).

However, during an interview, a former member who attended Branham's church in the 1960s and 70s, said the cornerstone had to be repaired because a car damaged it in the early 1970s. She said when about 200 members gathered to see the 1933 prophecy, the cornerstone was empty. But, they accepted a leader's excuse that an angel took it away. [247] Her story was confirmed by a prominent member. [248]

Chapter Eight

William Branham's Failed "Thus Saith The Lord" and Predictions

So far, our studies pertaining to William Branham's plagiarisms, failed visions and prophecies, alleged supernatural experiences have provided evidences that he was not Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6, who restored the word of God as Christ's forerunner. Nor was he the seventh angel of Revelation 3:14 and 10:7, who revealed the seven seals and every hidden mystery of the Bible at the end time. Nor was he the fulfillment of the Son of man ministry of Luke 17:30, who revealed Christ to this generation. Neither did his alleged message fulfill the shout of Christ's return in 1 Thessalonians 4:16. In this chapter, we shall continue to investigate the accuracy of Branham's visions, Thus saith the Lord, prophecies, and predictions.

Tent Vision and Rapturing Faith Failed

In 1956, William Branham began to tell his audience about a vision of a huge tent. The angel of the Lord took him inside and he saw people being instantly healed (Being Led by the Holy Spirit, Paragraphs 13 to 27, February 19, 1956). He called this tent vision the "Third Pull," which was to be the apex of his healing ministry.

Then He taken me from there, and **I seen a great huge tent**. I never seen such a—a tent. And it was packed and lined everywhere with people. And I walked out to the... Looked like I was standing above the people, looking down, where I'd just made an altar call; and hundreds and hundreds of people were weeping and rejoicing after they had accepted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. And I looked, and then I heard a man get up and say, "Call the prayer line." And people begin to line up over on this side, the left from where I was looking down towards the platform, and they lined all the way up and down the street for a prayer line. I noticed to my left, which would've been to my right if I was on the platform, a little wooden building. And I seen that Light, that all—they have the picture of, you know, that's always in the meetings; **I seen that Light leave me, and go to that building**, and go in that building; and a Voice said to me, "**I'll meet you in there; that'll be the third pull.**" I said, "Why?" He said, "Well, it won't be a public show like the other." And I came to. _Why Are People So Tossed About? 01-01-56

Branham told audiences that the Lord spoke to him and the Holy Spirit showed him the tent vision. He boldly declared this vision to be "Thus saith the Lord."

It happened just that way, and **so will this**, for **it's THUS SAITH THE LORD**. And you'll know. _Why Are People So Tossed About? 01-01-56

And in **reading the vision**, you notice how that **the Holy Spirit had showed** something else is just fixing to happen. And in these kind of healing services that I'm having now, **until I get into the tent**. _God Using His Gift 03-11-56

That's the reason that **by a vision the Lord has showed me** to get **this big tent** and stay from four to six weeks in places. _What Visions Are 04-21-56

But after the... knowing this, that **the Lord had spoke some time ago** about... Ah, I suppose about three or four years ago (My wife, which is present now, would be able to know just the date. We have it wrote down.), that **I seen a vision of a large tent** or—something, that **we're anticipating someday having**, and where we could come into a place and stay a long time. _Balm In Gilead 11-24-59

Moreover, Branham believed that through the third pull, which involved the tent vision, he would perform creative miracles by the spoken word. These miracles would produce rapturing faith in followers to undergo bodily changes and be taken to heaven at the Lord's coming. As we shall later study, Branham believed his message was the "shout" of Christ's second coming in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.

Look where we're at now, yes, sir, **at the Third Pull**. Notice, we're right here at the door, of **the Coming of the Lord**. _Why Cry? Speak 07-14-63M

And we're **looking for a rapturing faith** that can pull the Church together and give it some supernatural strength, **that can change these bodies** that we live in. When we see a God that can raise the dead off the floor or out of the yard, and bring him back to life again and present him before us, when we see a God who can take a cancer that's eat a man to a shadow and raise him up to a strong healthy man, that **ought to give rapturing faith** to the people. _Why Cry? Speak! 07-14-63M

The **Third is properly identified**. See? We know where it is. So, the **Third Pull is here**. It is so sacred, that, I mustn't say much about it. As He told me in the beginning, said, "This, say nothing of it." You remember that, years ago? [Congregation says, "Amen."—Ed.] It speaks for itself. See? But you... I've tried to explain the others, and I made a mistake. This will be the thing, that, to my opinion... I don't say the Lord tells me this. **This will be a thing that will start the Rapturing faith**, for the going away. See? _Look Away To Jesus 12-29-63E

Then one time He said about **the Third Pull**; how it would come by this one way, then by knowing the heart, and then the **spoken Word**. _Shalom, 01-12-64

Branham's belief that his ministry was going to produce rapturing faith within followers is based on lies. Paul says true Christians are already risen with Christ (Rom. 6:4-11; Eph. 2:4-6; Col. 2:12-13; 3:1) and have faith to be raptured (caught up to heaven after the resurrection of saints - 1 Cor. 15:42-55; 1 Thess. 4:13-18). As shown below, they obtain this status after accepting salvation by faith in the crucified and risen Savior by the gospel, not by Branham's message.

For if **we believe** that **Jesus died and rose again** [the gospel in 1 Cor.15:1-4,11], even so them also which sleep in Jesus **will God bring with him** [the resurrection in vs. 16]. 1 Thess. 4:14

For the **hope** which is **laid up for you in heaven**, whereof ye heard before in the word of the **truth of the gospel**. Col. 1:5

Whereunto he **called you by our gospel**, to the **OBTAINING of THE GLORY** of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thess. 2:14

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a **lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**, ⁴to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, **reserved in heaven for you**. 1 Peter 1:3-4

Again, Paul based the resurrection of all saints on Jesus Christ and his resurrection.

But now **Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep**. For since by man came death, **by Man also came the resurrection of the dead**. For as in Adam all die, even so **in Christ all shall be made alive**. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward **those who are Christ's at His coming**. 1 Cor. 15:20-23

Moreover, Jesus confirmed the fact that those who believe in him as Savior already have resurrection faith.

Martha said to Him, "I know that he will **rise again in the resurrection at the last day**." Jesus said to her, "**I AM THE RESURRECTION** and the life. He who **BELIEVES in Me**, though **he may die**, he **shall live** [eternal life after the resurrection]. And whoever lives and **BELIEVES in Me shall never die**. Do you believe this?" John 11:24-26 NKJV

As shown, Jesus' followers do not need Branham to be raptured. Romans 8:11 says the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead will do the same for us. However, from February 24, 1956 to July 18, 1965, Branham's sermons showed that he was looking for the fulfillment of the tent vision.

And **I just can't hardly wait to get in that tent**, and it's going to be something wonderful. And I just know **He's going to do it, just before His coming**. _Jehovah-Jireh 02-24-56

I want to start in on my new ministry. And I want to take them back here in this room, because **you know the vision**. How many **remembers the vision** (Sure you do.) of **the little tent in the room**. _The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit 09-28-58

And so far as I know, that **every vision** that He's ever give me has been **fulfilled, except the one** that I'm a change in my ministry, to **where I'm to pray for people in a little place like a little room under a tent**, or a big auditorium or something. _Present Stage Of My Ministry 09-08-62

And I—I **want to get my own tent** and my—my stuff, **like the Lord gave me a vision** to, and I believe the time is just now at hand. _Ashamed 07-11-65

But now speaking on what the services, and going to Africa, and the things that we've tried to arrange for these few days here in Indiana. And **somehow or another, Lord, it may be You are driving us to that tent, to make that vision fulfill**. _Ashamed 07-11-65

...I'm going to ask if we just can't **get our tent** and—and **put it up**... [few sentences removed]... **there's a vision concerning that**. And I think that maybe the reason this happens... Now, you know, a lot of times we think it's horrible because certain things happen, but, you know, that might be God, see, driving you into these things. **When, He said it, He'll do it**. _Trying To Do God A Service Without Being The Will Of God 07-18-65M

As shown in the following two 1965 quotes, Branham was also looking for rapturing faith months before death.

And I want you to get built up now in the... this Holy Oracles of God, in the Faith, **the Faith of this hour**. The Faith! **It's going to take more faith than ever** was in any age, for this **has to be rapturing faith, be taken up**. And so we want you to believe tonight in all that you have seen, heard, the Word that you have heard preached, the —the signs and wonders that you have seen done.. _Spiritual Food In Due Season 07-18-65E

God isn't going to plant a new Church, but is going to bring His original planting back to original seed. He is doing it as stated in verse 23, by the teaching, or "former" rain. **Next will come the harvest rain or rapturing faith**. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Ten - A Resume Of The Ages

On December 24, 1965, Branham passed away. Similar to the failure of the bridge's vision and the inaccuracies, failures, and revisions of the visions of 1933: his tent vision of the third pull that would produce rapturing faith never happened. Thus, another major vision that was supposedly "Thus saith the Lord" had clearly failed (Deut. 18:20-22).

Over one half century later, some followers are still looking for Branham to rise from the dead to fulfill the vision. Others have excused him from personally fulfilling the tent vision that would produce rapturing faith. How? By saying rapturing faith lies within his recorded sermons. But, Branham believed the tent vision would produce this faith during his lifetime. Hrs followers need to face reality!

Africa or India Vision Failed

On July 13, 1952, William Branham began to tell his audience about a vision pertaining to a future meeting in Durban, South Africa.

Then just then, He **taken me out in the Spirit**. Listen, Brother Jackson, **you never heard this, none of the rest have**. And **He set me down at Durban, South Africa**, in that same booth, standing there before those tens of thousands, and thousands of people there. And I looked and I seen all that meeting gather together, and fade off to my right. _Early Spiritual Experiences 07-13-52A

During the sermon, Branham went on to tell the audience that an angel said 300,000 people will attend this meeting in South Africa. He pronounced the vision as "Thus saith the Lord."

And the hillsides were **sitting black** and standing with **people** for a mile away nearly. And I said, "Oh, are **they all black people**?" Then He **turned my face** here in front of me, to **Durban again**, and **there was beautiful white men and women**, standing with their hands up in the air, praising God. Then He turned me back again, and the great Light started

going way back over the hills and showing. **Then the Angel drew near.** And **I heard Him scream with a Voice**, that shook me from the vision. **Said, "There'll be three hundred thousand of them in that meeting. THUS SAITH THE LORD mark it in your book."** I come out of it. _Early Spiritual Experiences 07-13-52A

After Branham clearly told his audience the vision's fulfillment would be in Durban, South Africa during the afternoon service, he came back at the evening service and said it will take place in Bombay, India.

I told you the vision this afternoon, and there will be a meeting that I will hold somewhere, and **I believe it's in India, near Bombay**, that there'll be **three hundred thousand people**. _God Testifying Of His Gifts 07-13-52E

First, Branham told his audience he saw black and white people in the vision. But now, during the same set of meetings, he says the people in his vision were Indians.

And you people setting here in this audience tonight, will hear of the meeting. Where it'll be, I believe it'll be in India. **It looked like Indians to me.** I could see them, and I was at the Durban meeting. I seen it going away into history, turning blue. _Thou Knowest All Things 07-16-52

Already Branham has created confusion with this prophecy as he did with the visions of 1933. Thus, during the same meeting, he speaks of both Africa and India.

I know where that meeting is. **That meeting** is in—in one of them in South Africa, the other one is **in India**. And that's going to be a real meeting. That's going to be where God makes Himself known to **three hundred thousand people**. _Faith In The Son Of God 07-15-52

Originally, Branham said he was taken in the vision to Durban, South Africa.

He taken me out in the Spirit. Listen, Brother Jackson, you never heard this, none of the rest have. And **He set me down at Durban, South Africa**. _Early Spiritual Experiences 07-13-52

As previously studied, Branham has been known to revise prophecies. First it was Africa. But now, Branham gives himself some insurance by saying the vision will be fulfill in Africa **or** India.

Keep that on your mind. Write it on a piece of paper; I lay it in your Bible; put it on the flyleaf somewhere. You'll hear through the magazine: "Brother Branham had a meeting," (somewhere in Orients, or down **in India**, I believe, **OR Africa**, somewhere), "where **three hundred thousand people** attended the meeting." _Thou Knowest All Things 07-16-52

On July 20, 1952, Branham now tells the same church audience that the vision will be fulfilled in India. Later, on March 29, 1953, he confirms it will be fulfilled in India.

And as soon as our Lord tells me the hour, the time to move, I'm **going into Africa**, and **from there to India**, where **I will fulfill a vision** that God has given me of **three hundred thousand people**. _Who Has Believed Our Report 07-20-52E
Now, you mark it in your Bible, and watch what the report is. When I **return from India**, there'll be **three hundred**

thousand people attend the meeting there at one time. _Israel And The Church #5, 03-29-53

Afterward, Branham repeatedly spoke of this vision in different sermons and told his audience that it was "Thus saith the Lord."

I heard Him tell this One standing by me, and the Voice was so strong that it broke me **out of the vision**, said, "**There's three hundred thousand of those in that meeting.**" Mark that down, for it's **THUS SAITH THE LORD. His Word comes to pass**. Do You Now Believe? 03-07-54E

Mark my word; write it in the pages of your Bible, for **it's THUS SAITH THE LORD**, "Remember, when we land in India, you're going to hear of tens of thousands times thousands being saved." The Holy Spirit has said it; I've wrote it here in my Bible; it's wrote in tens of thousands of Bibles right here, like the resurrection of the little boy. By a vision that He said, "**There's three hundred thousand of them in there.**" And **you see if that isn't right**. Questions And Answers 05-15-54

Finally, in September of 1954, Branham goes to Africa and India. But, after arriving in India, Branham finds out that he cannot hold open air meetings. After returning, Branham gave his church a report of the trip, yet says nothing about the vision of 300,000 people attending the meeting in Africa or India. But, Branham does tell them of an obstruction encountered in India, which may be his way of making an excuse why the vision was not fulfilled.

There's a woman, went over there, Mrs. Dowd. I don't know whether you ever heard of her or not. Oh, such a **disgrace that was in India**. That's the reason we couldn't even have our meetings in the open air. _The Word Became Flesh (India Trip Report) 10-03-54M

But to think, **she** had it under control to a place **till you couldn't even have a meeting in the open air**. That's what it was. _The Word Became Flesh (India Trip Report) 10-03-54M

Branham told his church in Jeffersonville that he could not have open air meetings in India. Why? Before his arrival a visiting woman evangelist had set a bad example by compelling the poor people to give an offering and converting their rupees into American money. Even though Branham says nothing about 300,000 people attending his meetings; yet, in California and New York he tells the audience that a crowd of 500,000 attended.

And **in India**, no one would ever know how many came. **You couldn't estimate; you** couldn't see. There's **thousands times thousands**, and thou... **Five hundred thousand at the meeting**, So you can just imagine, as far as you could see, just—just black hands up. They was acceptin' g the Lord Jesus. _The Faith Of Abraham 11-18-55

...then over into India. Where I—I think our **greatest audience was in India** that we ever had. We couldn't even see them. It was **estimated around five hundred thousand** people at the meetings. So it was much larger than the African meeting where there was about a... Oh, we could put about fifty or seventy - five thousand inside the racetrack. _The Law Having A Shadow 12-03-54

On recorded tape, William Branham admittedly said he exaggerated when it came to estimating the size of crowds.

I'm **not very good** at making a...?...or **estimating crowds**, because **I usually exaggerate on it.** _Strait Is The Gate 03-01-59M

Not only did Branham exaggerate the crowd of 500,000 attendees, years later he admittedly said that number of people would have been the *estimated* crowd if he had stayed the 3 to 5 days according to the schedule. The mayor of Bombay said the people would have heard and they would have come. But, he left India early.

And it taken me better than two and a half hours to even get to the stand where I was going to preach. **The mayor estimated that if I stayed the three days, or the five days I was supposed to stay, that it to be **five hundred thousand** outside people in Bombay. They'd heard; they'd come.** _The Great Commission 03-01-58B

Branham appeared to cut the Indian trip short because there was no cooperation among the ministers. But, later realized that he should have stayed.

And I thought, "Well, if **these preachers don't want to cooperate, let them alone** then." But **I made a mistake. I should've turned and come back till I got cooperation.** _The Great Commission 03-01-58B

Apparently, Branham did not believe his exaggerated claims of 500,000 people attending his meeting in India. Or that it fulfilled his vision of 300,000 attendees, the one alleged to be "Thus saith the Lord." Why do I say this? Because on January 26, 1957, over two years later, he admits that the trip to India was not as successful as expected. Branham blamed the failure on the assumption that he did not follow the directive of the Holy Spirit,

And when... I had been very much constrained to go to —to India. And yet, as many of you might know, the **Indian trip wasn't the success that it should've been**, because **I failed** to follow the **leading of the Holy Spirit**, and never recognized it after **He give me a vision to go to Africa first and then to India.** _India Trip Report 01-26-57B

Considering the above statements, it appears Branham was untruthful when he told the audience in California and New York a few years ago that 500,000 people attended his meeting in India. At first, he blamed the vision's failure on a woman evangelist in 1954, and later on uncooperative ministers in 1958. But, in the above 1957 quote, Branham blamed the vision's failure on the assumption that God instructed him to go to Africa first, then to India. But instead, he went to India first and then Africa. If you will recall, when Branham first spoke of this vision, it said nothing of a trip both to India and Africa. The initial vision only showed him in Africa ministering mainly to "black people."

And **He set me down at Durban, South Africa.** _Early Spiritual Experiences 07-13-52A

And the hillsides were **sitting black** and standing with **people** for a mile away nearly . And I said, "Oh, are **they all black people?**" Then He turned my face here in front of me, to **Durban again.** _Early Spiritual Experiences 07-13-52A

After Branham told his audience the vision pertained to South Africa during the afternoon service, it was he who told the same people during the evening service that the same vision pertained to India.

I told you the vision this afternoon, and there will be a meeting that I will hold somewhere, and **I believe it's in India, near Bombay**, that there'll be **three hundred thousand people.** _God Testifying Of His Gifts 07-13-56E

So then, Branham's original vision never spoke of a trip to Africa and then to India. Branham is blaming the vision's failure over a issue that did not exist, a problem that he created. The vision never told him to go to India and Africa. But now, Branham has changed the vision to include both Africa and India.

Only last night on the flyleaf of my Bible, when it was sometime ago, **in a vision** that the Lord had given me and I spoke it to the church... And then He said to me, "**Go to Africa then back to India.**" _I Stand At The Door And Knock 12-08-57

All of Branham's sermons were not readily available or searchable during those days. Thus, it was difficult to know what he had first prophesied. He created a problem and blamed the vision's failure on that issue. Now, Branham says the angel of the Lord told him to go to Africa first.

And on my road in there, there stood the **Angel** of the Lord, said, "**I thought I told you to go to Africa first.**" _I Stand At The Door And Knock 12-08-57

As the years pass, Branham's vision became more confusing. First, the original vision showed him going to Africa, which he changed to India. But now, he has the angel speaking of two trips. Remember, Branham later told his audience to write in the flyleaf of their Bibles that the vision would be fulfilled either in India OR Africa, not India AND Africa.

Write it on a **piece of paper**; lay it in **your Bible**; put it on the **flyleaf** somewhere. You'll hear through the magazine: "Brother Branham had a meeting," (somewhere in **Orients**, or down in **India**, I believe, **OR Africa**, somewhere), "where **three hundred thousand people** attended the meeting." _Thou Knowest All Things 07-16-52

On January 7, 1958, Branham reverses his previous position that the vision pertained to India, he now says it pertains to Africa.

Now, in that... Here sometime ago **a vision came and told me about going to Africa.** _The Queen Of Sheba 01-07-58

Not only did Branham bring an angel into the fray that initially did not exist, but now says the Lord told him to go to Africa first and then to India. Branham said the Lord condemned him for failing to obey. So, he was condemned for an issue that did not exist in the original vision.

And I thought that it meant go to Africa first, then to India. And **the Lord spoke to me** and told me to **go to Africa first, and then to India.** Well I thought that compared with the vision. And then **I forgot about it and went to India first** and then **He condemned me** at Portuguese, as you know the story. And said,

"I thought I said to you 'Go to Africa first.'" And then I was condemned. _The Queen Of Sheba 01-07-58

After Branham spoke the above words, the vision becomes more confusing and complex as he attempts to explain during the same sermon why a vision of "Thus saith the Lord" failed to be fulfilled.

I thought all the time, and now it just comes up, the revelation begins to push me for Africa, and **I read in the vision**, and the **vision really said**, "**Go to India first and back to Africa.**" It's just exactly the way it's going to happen. Now, see, the **Lord spoke to me**, **knowing that I would fail**, but the vision can't fail. It's what God has already said and it cannot fail. The vision, I've got it **wrote in an flyleaf of my Bible**. I will bring it down maybe and let you see it. How that it really reads that **I will go to India first and then back to Africa; but He told me to go to Africa first and then to India**, knowing that I would fail, but the vision can never fail. God has spoke it. It's got to be that way. _Queen of Sheba 01-07-58

In an effort to salvage his reputation and vision of "Thus saith the Lord," Branham has God contradicting himself. Notice! The written prophecy from the Lord in the flyleaf of his Bible first said go to India **OR** Africa, but now says: "**Go to India first AND back to Africa.**" But, Branham said the Lord told him once more: "**go to Africa first and then to India.**" According to Branham's confused words, God initially gave him the prophecy in the flyleaf of his Bible to go first unto India because he knew he would fail.

Thus, we have God speaking contradictory prophecies whereby both failed. Why? Branham obeyed God's original vision to go to India first and disobeyed God's second one saying he should first go to Africa. Unbelievable!

Then, on March 23, 1958, several weeks after Branham's confusing explanation why the vision of 300,000 attendees had failed in India, he now believe it pertains to Durban, South Africa, which was the actual vision he told his afternoon audience on July 7, 1952 before confusing the prophecy: "**And He set me down at Durban, South Africa.**" Thus, he abandons the vision about India.

I just got my telegram back this morning from Durban, South Africa. The **vision where three hundred thousand people will be gathered** pretty soon **for a meeting which is coming up right away.** _Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever 03-23-58

From 1958 to March of 1965, Branham's vision of Africa had not been fulfilled. Then, in April of 1965, Branham told different audiences of his plans to visit Africa in May according to a vision. He expected 300,000 people to attend the meeting. This was the same vision that he had earlier declared to be "Thus saith the Lord."

Pray that the will of God will not be hindered. That, my soul that's cried for **Africa** since I've left, may I be able to return again, then **bring you a message of a great meeting**. I probably won't see you no more, from today, **until I return back. We're going, just in a few days now, the tenth of May.** Will you pray for me? [Congregation says, "Amen." —Ed.] _It Is The Rising Of The Sun 04-18-65M

Now **I'm certainly soliciting the prayers** of the people out in

the radio land, as well as here. After I leave this meeting, I'm going to Europe, **down into Africa and** around, on meetings. And this is **going by a vision**, so it's going to be a **great meeting there**, I'm sure. And **I felt for years that the Lord** has wanted me **to come back.** _One In A Million 04-24-65

And I—I'm going to **South Africa** after this. For, oh, my, you know how it is down there where you can't even talk to the people. And there'd be... We're at least **expecting three hundred thousand, one single meeting**. _Does God Change His Mind? 04-27-6507

As shown, Branham was expecting 300,000 attendees in the upcoming South Africa's meeting. He expected the vision of "Thus saith the Lord" to be fulfilled. However, before arrival, Branham was given a restricted visa that prohibited him from having religious services or preaching. The following speech in Africa is found at the end of Branham's sermon entitled "Ashamed."

[Brother William Marrion Branham expressed his desire to take the Message to Africa in this statement on Thursday evening, **May 27, 1965, outside of a house in Johannesburg, South Africa, as an interpreter translated it into Afrikaans** He spoke about this Africa trip in his next Message, Ashamed, July 11, 1965. Due to its brevity (3 minutes, 40 seconds), it is placed here at the end of "Ashamed." —Ed.] This is one of the highest moments of my life. I have waited fifteen years for this time. My heart has longed to see you again, ever since I left you. I have prayed very much, to get to come back. **And a few weeks ago, I was under great anticipation, believing that I would get to come and have a meeting. But when I got the visa, "restricted."** I almost had a heart attack. **I wanted to come so bad!** _Ashamed 07-11-65, Par. 250

On July 11, 1965, after returning back to the United States, Branham told his church how he had gotten the idea of entering Africa in May as a tourist and hunter through Sidney Jackson, a very close friend. He was hoping to have a big meeting until he learned of the visa restriction.

I had planned on, so hard, coming back; burdened in the heart. I just returned from Africa, as you all know. And **when I got over there, I had a restricted visa, and wouldn't let me, wouldn't let me preach** because it gathers too many together. They're expecting an uprising there at any time, and—and they—they wouldn't let me preach because of that gathering too many people together. _Ashamed 07-11-65, Par. 7

And so I wrote them a letter back, and told them. And I said, "Remember, at the Day of the Judgment, let them boney hands reach out of the smoke, condemn you! Their blood be upon you, not on me, 'cause I've tried for about ten years to get back." Then when I mailed the letter, come back, Something said to me, "**See Sidney Jackson, take a hunting trip.**" And, the same time, **the Lord spoke to Sidney Jackson,** said, "Yellow-mane lion, **Brother Branham camping; Durban, big meeting.**" _Ashamed 07-11-65, Paragraphs 35-36

When I started to go over, I'm telling you, I never had so much trouble in all my life, of **trying to get there**. And then at the very last minute, very last minute to go, here was **wrote across my visa, "Cannot anticipate in any kind of religious service; can only come hunting."** _Ashamed 07-11-65, Par. 38

As of July 1965, William Branham's vision of "Thus

saith the Lord” regarding 300,000 attendees in Africa still was not fulfilled. Then, he found out why the May trip was restricted and planned a return to Africa in October.

I found out what the trouble was. Now I think, **about October**, the Lord willing, **I can go back** and **have a meeting** and everything, full cooperation, everything else, see, **in Africa** now. I got to the bottom of it and found out where it was at, what caused it. _Ashamed 07-11-65, Par. 40

As shown, Branham planned to return to Africa in October of 1965, but he never did. Then, on December 24, 1965, he died from a vehicle accident that occurred on the 18th. He had waited for the African vision of “Thus saith the Lord” to be fulfilled since 1952. But, it had failed (Deut. 18:20-22; Jer. 14:14; 23:25-32; Ezek 22:28; Zech. 13:3).

Brown Bear Vision Failed

In 1962, William Branham began to speak of a vision about a future brown bear that he would hunt and kill. He repeatedly told audiences in different sermons about this vision and declared it to be “Thus saith the Lord.”

Coming home, the other night, or the other day, or just 'fore I come home, **I was fell into a vision**. And I seen some little fellows, thin, looked like young boys, or something, had on caps. And we were standing, **hunting. And I had shot a mammoth, big brown-looking bear.** And then they turned around and said to me, said, "But there is some confusion about the meeting." 49 I said, "No matter what the confusion is, if I was supposed to go, wherever was, I'll go anyhow, see. It doesn't matter." And the vision stopped. I don't know where that's at. But, this is on tape. It's going to happen. See? Just remember, **it's going to happen. It's a vision.** _Wisdom Versus Faith 04-01-62

Many of you remember **the vision that I had**, where I had **shot the grizzly bear, nine-foot grizzly bear**, (and church remembers me telling it here), and the caribou. **I had another. Remember it's on tape here.** **I seen a great huge brown bear.** That might be a Kodiak and it wouldn't have worked down there in Canada, 'cause they're not there, you see. But wherever **it will be, it'll be. It will be**, that's **THUS SAITH THE LORD.** It will be. _Possessing All Things 05-06-62

Now, **I'm going back into the country**, that you might know, **when I come back next year. I'm going to get a brown bear that's almost twice that size.** You see if **it's right or not**. I **seen it.** _ Presuming 06-10-62

Like the other visions of “Thus saith the Lord,” this one was never fulfilled. Branham’s followers have offered various excuses for the prophecy’s failure, such as he disobeyed the vision or it will happen when he rises from the dead. Whatever the excuse, his “Thus saith the Lord” did not happen. What’s your excuse? (Deut. 18:20-22)

Timing of Los Angeles’ Earthquake Failed

On February 4, 1965, a massive earthquake registering a magnitude of 8.7 struck the Rat Islands that form part of the Aleutian Islands off the west coast. It caused minor damages. Wikipedia says of this earthquake: ^[249]

The 1965 Rat Islands earthquake occurred at 05:01 UTC on 4 February (19:01, 3 February local time). It had a **magnitude of 8.7** and triggered a tsunami of over 10 m on Shemya Island, but caused very little damage.

The **Rat Islands form part of the Aleutian Islands**, a chain of volcanic islands forming an island arc... the Alaska-Aleutian megathrust, has been the location of many megathrust earthquakes.

Nearly two months after the main shock struck Rat Island on February 4, Wikipedia further said that another earthquake of 7.6 in magnitude hit the same area.

The main shock was followed by an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 nearly two months later, that triggered a small tsunami. This was not an aftershock, but a normal fault event within the outer rise of the subducting plate, triggered by the earlier event.

Then again, on April 29, 1965 at 8:30 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time (PDT), another earthquake struck the state of Washington on the west coast. Wikipedia says: ^[250]

The 1965 Olympia earthquake occurred at 08:29 PDT (15:29 UTC) on April 29 within the Puget Sound region of Washington State. It had a **magnitude of 6.7** on the moment magnitude scale and a maximum perceived intensity of VIII (*Severe*) on the Mercalli intensity scale. It caused the deaths of seven people and about \$12.5 million in damage.

Moreover, HistoryLink.org wrote an article about this earthquake that occurred on the morning of April 29, 1965, entitled: “Earthquake Rattles Western Washington on April 29, 1965.” ^[251]

On the morning of April 29, 1965 at 8:29 a.m. Pacific Daylight Saving Time, **an earthquake registering 6.5 magnitude** occurs in **Western Washington** centered between Seattle and Tacoma. This is the fourth strongest documented earthquake in the Puget Sound region since 1850.

Again, a website that chronicle northwest earthquakes wrote of this particular catastrophe that occurred on the morning of April 29, 1965 entitled: “The April 29, 1965 Earthquake.” ^[252]

The Pacific Northwest Seismic Network summarized **this mid-morning quake** as “an eerie, **6.5-magnitude** revisit of the 1949 quake, centered again **near Olympia**, [which] caused the deaths of four elderly women who suffered heart attacks and three other persons hit by falling debris.”

As shown, three sources were provided recalling the earthquake that occurred in the state of Washington on April 29, 1965 at 8:29 am PDT. Why? Because on the evening of that same day William Branham spoke a sermon in Los Angeles, California entitled “Choosing a Bride.” It was during this sermon that he first began to speak and prophesy the Los Angeles’ earthquake.

"Oh, Capernaum," said Jesus, "thou who exalted into heaven, will be brought down into hell. For, if the mighty works had been done in **Sodom and Gomorrah**, it'd have been standing to this day." And Sodom, Gomorrah **lays in the bottom of the Dead Sea.** And **Capernaum is in the bottom of the sea.** Thou city, who claims to be the **city of the Angels**, who has exalted

yourself into heaven, and sent all the dirty, filthy things of fashions and things, till even the foreign countries come here to pick up our filth and send it away, to your fine churches and steeples, and so forth, the way you do. Remember, **one day you'll be laying in the bottom of the sea,** your great honeycomb under you right now. The **wrath of God is belching right beneath you**. How much longer He will hold this sandbar hanging out over that? **When, that ocean out yonder, a mile deep, will slide in there, plumb back to the Salton Sea.** It'll be worse than the last day of Pompeii. Repent, Los Angeles. _The Choosing Of A Bride **04-29-65E**

Is it coincidental that Branham began to prophesy the Los Angeles' earthquake after a 8.7 quake struck the west coast on February 4, 1965, followed two months later by a 7.6 aftershock, and another 6.5 quake occurring on the west coast the morning of the same day he began to prophesy. I do not want to accuse Minister Branham, but based upon our studies, he had a tendency of revising visions and prophecies to fit current events.

For example, why did Branham change his 1933 prophecy of FDR causing World War II to Hitler being the man to do so? Again, why did he change the 1933 vision from Germany building the Maginot Line (which was actually built by France and under construction in 1930 before his vision) to the Siegfried Line (which was part of the Hindenburg Line built in 1916-1917, with the new addition being built between 1938 and 1940)?

Also, why did Branham remove from his 1933 vision of Ethiopia being the first and last invasion of Mussolini (which was historically incorrect)? Why did he add to the same vision that a woman would die with him (which was added in 1961, previous rendering of the vision on recorded tapes from 1953 to 1960 did not mention a woman)?

Furthermore, why did Branham change his 1933 prophecy of an egg shaped vehicle (displayed at the World Fair in 1933, which he visited before seeing the vision) to include driverless vehicles in 1958 after the technology was displayed on films and magazines beginning in 1956? Of which, he describes the actual photograph shown in Life Magazine and admits in his sermons to seeing the vehicle on television and in Popular Mechanics (Page 137)?

Once more, why did Branham change the prophecy of a great woman ruler rising in America to women being allowed to vote will elect the wrong man after John Kennedy, a Roman Catholic, was elected as President? Only to change the vision back after his assassination in 1963? Why did Branham add in his 1965 book on the church ages the possibility that women's popular vote will elect a great woman ruler during the time when the Voting Rights Act of 1965 increased women's political powers? How? By removing long existing barriers in the voting laws, and the fact that many women were already serving in congress.

Moreover, why did Branham change his 1933 prophecy from the world being entirely annihilated (which is unbiblical if not viewed from 2 Peter 3:10-13; Rev. 20:11; and Rev. 21:1) to seeing devastation throughout America when the conflict with Russia and the Cuban Missile Crisis was at its height? Again, why did he expand the 1933 prophecy about women to include being out place after

being permitted to vote, cutting their hair, wearing pants, and dressing in fig leaf clothing; when those things were presently being introduced in the 1960s (page 142)?

Again, why did Branham wait twenty (20) years or more after five (or six) events had already taken place to publically mention these 1933 prophecies. Seeing that he started recording sermons in 1947, but first began to mention these prophecies on tape between 1953 and 1960?

Also, why did Branham claim to be hunting when the alleged seven angels shown in the cloud of Life magazine appeared on February 28, 1963? Only to discover that he went hunting after returning from Houston, Texas on March 4, 1963? And, why did he claim the cloud in Life Magazine to be supernatural? Only to discover that reputable astronomers concluded that it most likely was the aftermath of a destroyed Thor missile launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

Further yet, why did Branham say the Associated Press and local newspapers carried the story of a supernatural light appearing over him and a voice commissioning him as the forerunner of Christ when baptizing the 17th person in the Ohio River? Only to discover no such evidence exist in the archives other than a four line article on the front page of a local newspaper saying 14 people were converted?

Yet again, why did Branham claim that his vision of 16 men falling from the Municipal Bridge and drowning during construction actually happened? Only to discover no such documentation in the Coast Guard's log books, newspaper articles, or public records showing such an incident—but, actually proves that it did not happen?

Why did Branham's "Thus saith the Lord" prophecy of the tent vision (third pull) that would produce rapturing faith failed to happen, which drove some followers to expect his resurrection from the dead to fulfill the vision?

Once more, why did Branham's "Thus saith the Lord" visions of Africa and the brown bear failed? Or the stories of Donny Morton and King George being healed only to discover they died of the alleged healed disease nearly 1 to 2 years later (discussed soon)? Why did he claim seven angels revealed the seven seals to him, only to discover that he used information from Clarence Larkin, Charles Taze Russell, Uriah Smith, and other writers of the past? Why did he claim to reveal the seven church ages and nineteen (19) other alleged revelations? Only to discover that he copied some of these same writers?

After reconsidering Branham's track record, why did he begin prophesying the Los Angeles' earthquake on the same day of a nearby major earthquake and those that recently occurred on the west coast? So then, did those massive earthquakes in February and April of 1965 have any influence on why Branham began to suddenly speak about the Los Angeles' earthquake on the evening of April 29, 1965? Remember, he was in California when the earthquake occurred in the state of Washington on the morning of April 29, 1965.

Acts 1:3 says Jesus showed himself alive to his disciples by many *infallible proofs*. There are too many discrepancies that surround the ministry and testimonies of

William Branham to entirely trust every thing that he says. As earlier studied in Chapter One, even the two men who were with him in Arizona when the alleged angels and cloud appeared, shunned away from verifying his story by telling the interviewer they could not remember (see pages 23-24). Branham's words and experiences cannot be fully trusted without credible documented proofs.

After prophesying the destruction of Los Angeles by an earthquake, Branham took a long anticipated trip to Africa in May 1965. As previously stated, a restricted visa forbade him to preach, thereby leaving unfulfilled his vision of a meeting having 300,000 attendees.

After Branham returned home to Jeffersonville, he preached his first sermon since the Los Angeles' prophecy on July 11, 1965. In this sermon he tells the church of the prophecy concerning Los Angeles.

And while in there, Something struck me, and I didn't know nothing for about thirty minutes. **There was a prophecy went out.** First thing I remember, Brother Moseley and **Billy, I was out on the street, walking.** And It said, "Thou **Capernaum, which calls yourself by the name of the Angels,**" **that's Los Angeles, city** of angels, see, the angels, "which are exalted into heaven, **will be brought down into hell.** For, if the mighty works had been done in Sodom, that's been done in you, it would have been standing till this day." And that was all unconsciously, to me. *—Ashamed 07-11-65*

In the above prophecy, the city of Los Angeles is called Capernaum, which was a city in Israel founded during 2nd century BC. This city had a population up to 1,500 residents. After the above prophecy, Branham said he returned home and got his history book to see what happened to Capernaum. He said an earthquake sunk the city to the bottom of the sea.

And Jesus stood, and said, "Capernaum, if Sodom would have had the works done in it that you've had done in you, it would have been standing today. But now you must be brought down to hell!" And about two hundred or three hundred years after His prophecy, with all them coastal towns, every one of them still standing but **Capernaum**, and it **lays in the bottom of the sea. An earthquake sunk it into the sea.** And then prophesying, "**Los Angeles will be in the bottom of the sea.**" *—Ashamed 07-11-65*

And all of a sudden the Holy Spirit spoke out and said, "**Capernaum**," see, "the city that calls yourself by the name of the angels," **that's Los Angeles**, "thou are exalted into Heaven, but be brought down to hell." *—Trying To Do God A Service Without Being The Will Of God 07-18-65M*

And just after that, maybe a hundred years or something, after Jesus' prophecy, **Capernaum**, the only coastal city that He had visit, a **earthquake sunk it in the sea.** And you know that was a **direct answer to California, to Los Angeles.** *—Trying To Do God A Service Without Being The Will Of God 07-18-65M*

I remember, just my last Message in California, where I thought I'd never go back again, **when I predicted, "Los Angeles will go beneath the ocean. THUS SAITH THE LORD." It will.** She is done. She is washed. She is finished. What hour? I don't know when, but it will be sunk. Right after

that, the earthquakes begin to jolt and bow. *—The Rapture 12-04-65*

On July 11, 1965, Branham told his church that Los Angeles will sink to the bottom of the sea like Capernaum. During a sermon preached on July 18, 1965, he then tells them about an earthquake that struck the Aleutian Island following his April 29, 1965 prophecy of Los Angeles. Branham told the audience that he was watching television (he preached against watching TV, but often did so. ^[253] ^[254]^[253]^[256]^[257]^[258]) and listened to some scientist explaining how that earthquake split the earth from the Aleutian Island to the surroundings of Los Angeles.

And then in Tucson the other day, just as I got back, a **great earthquake** had happened **out there**. And the **scientists was on the television drawing it out**. It was in the papers. That, **the earth**, the other day, **split from the Aleutian Islands**, or from Alaska, around the Aleutian Islands, about two hundred miles out into the sea, come back in at San Diego, went **around Los Angeles**, and come out at San Diego. And it's **pulled loose several inches**. Houses has toppled down. Motels has went in. And the scientists on this panel was —was asked. Said, "Well, that could fall in someday?" *—Trying To Do God A Service Without Being The Will Of God 07-18-65M*

Branham went on to tell his audience the earthquake described in the above quote occurred *after* the prophecy of Los Angeles' earthquake on April 29, 1965.

Said, "Could? It will!" And he used the scientific names of how the lava has... That's what's caused these earthquakes all along, around San Diego and down in there. It's been that hollow place. And now all of it's begin to break in, like sand falling in, and now it's just a crust. And **it's pulled loose, several inches**. They could take radar and stuff, and follow that crack, and mark it. I see where it was at. And it **pulled loose**, several inches more, maybe **two or three inches** the other day, again, **right after that prophecy was given**. And the ones that was interviewing the scientists, said, "Well, it probably won't be in our age." He said, "It could be in five minutes or in five years; but it's going to fall in." *—Trying To Do God A Service Without Being The Will Of God 07-18-65M*

In describing the above earthquake, Branham said "*a great earthquake had happened out there*" **after** returning from Africa to his home in Tucson, Arizona. When saying "out there" is he referring to the state of Arizona or the west coast? When examining documented history, several list of earthquakes does not show any major earthquake on the west coast other than those occurring on February 4, 1965 and April 29, 1965. Apparently Branham is speaking of the Rat Islands' earthquake that occurred in February because they formed part of the Aleutian Islands.

The first question we must ask: "Why did Branham tell his audience that Rat Islands' earthquake occurred **after** his prophecy of the Los Angeles' earthquake, when it actually happened **before** the prediction?" The Second question: "When did Branham learn of that earthquake causing a split in the earth around Los Angeles?" Branham had a propensity of getting his timing of events incorrect. Did he have knowledge about this split before prophesying the Los Angeles' earthquake? We may never know, but his track

record causes us to doubt his retelling of the story.

Even though we do not know how much information Branham had about the earthquake of February 4 that caused geological damages around Los Angeles before April 29, we can determine the inspiration behind the prophecy by its accuracy. When comparing Capernaum to Los Angeles, Branham said an earthquake sunk the city into the sea as fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy (Matt. 11:23).

However, Jesus never said Capernaum would sink into the sea through an earthquake. He said it would be brought down to hell for rejecting his ministry; either referring to the people's eternal destiny, or the city's desolation, or both. Why do I say this? The reason being, history tells us that the city never sunk to the bottom of the sea, but was abandoned in the 11th century. Wikipedia says: ^[259]

The excavations revealed that the site was established at the beginning of the Hasmonean Dynasty, roughly in the 2nd century BC, and **abandoned in the 11th century**.

Today, the ruins of Capernaum still exist, having a building of a Jewish synagogue probably built in the 4th or 5th century AD. The western portion of the ruins is owned by the Franciscans, who converted the refurbished Jewish synagogue into a monastery. The remainder of the city is owned by the Greek Orthodox, which built a church on the property. In March of 2000, the Pope visited the city's ruins during travels to Israel. ^[260] The city's ruins can be viewed online (see endnotes for links). ^{[261][262][263][264][265]}

The question Branham's followers must seriously ask themselves: "Can the Holy Spirit prophesy an error?" The Bible clearly say it is impossible for God to lie (Num. 23:19; Heb. 6:18)?" As studied, Branham have a history of foretelling total or partially incorrect prophecies beginning at the age of seven when a vision of 16 men drowning during the building of the Municipal Bridge failed.

Because errors in the prediction about Capernaum being sunk by an earthquake contradict historical and current facts, Branham's statements about Los Angeles must be disqualified as being a prophecy from the Lord. At best, it could be considered a keen prediction based upon the past history of earthquakes in the state.

So then, Branham's prophecy is once again proven to be historically incorrect, which should cause followers to doubt his credibility and dismiss his claims as Elijah the prophet (Deut. 18:20; Jer. 14:14; 23:25-26,32; Zech. 13:3).

In spite of Branham's error, the chances of a major earthquake striking Los Angeles was a strong scientific possibility before his prophecy in 1965. The San Andreas Fault, which runs 810 miles across California, was discovered in 1895. This fault was found even before the great San Francisco's earthquake of 1906 where 80% of the city was destroyed. ^{[266][267]} However, in 1953, a noted geologist came to a major conclusion about San Andreas that astounded the scientific establishment. ^{[268][269]}

In 1953, geologist Thomas Dibble astounded the scientific establishment with his conclusion that hundreds of miles of lateral movement could occur along the fault.

Large-scale (hundreds of miles) **lateral movement along the fault was first proposed in a 1953** paper by geologists Mason Hill and Thomas Dibble. **This idea, which was considered radical at the time**, has since been vindicated by modern plate tectonics.

Since 1953, the possibility of major earthquake striking California was scientifically considered due to lateral movements of underground plates. Wikipedia says seismologist later discovered that nearly every 22 years the San Andreas Fault produces earthquakes at least 6.0 in magnitudes. Wikipedia further said: ^[270]

Following recorded seismic events in 1857, 1881, 1901, 1922, 1934, and 1966, **scientists predicted** that another earthquake should occur in Parkfield in 1993. It eventually occurred in 2004. **Due to the frequency of predictable activity**, Parkfield has become one of the most important areas in the world for large earthquake research.

Moreover, Wikipedia says researchers are expecting a major earthquake to hit the San Andrea Fault, which is 147.4 miles from Los Angeles. ^[271]

A study in 2006 concluded that the San Andreas fault has reached a sufficient stress level for the next "big one" ($M \geq 7.0$), to occur. It also concluded that the risk of a large earthquake may be increasing more rapidly than researchers had previously thought.

Also, Believe The Sign provides a link to an article in Time Magazine dated on April, 1, 1957. ^[272] This article showed the possibility of Long Beach, a town located on the southern edge of Los Angeles, sinking below sea level due to excessive withdrawal of petroleum from an oilfield.

Again, a research released August 19, 2015 has shown that California's Central Valley is sinking two inches a month because of excessive withdrawal of water during a major drought in the state. ^{[273][274]}

As shown, the scientific community was already aware of the dangers of the San Andreas Fault and sinking ground in the Los Angeles area in the 1950s before Branham's 1965 prophecy. So then, if a major earthquake occurs, it should not be attributed to Branham's prediction. Why? Because obvious mistakes comparing Los Angeles to Capernaum disqualify it as being a prophecy from God.

Another reason Branham's words cannot be viewed as a prophecy from God is that he had appeared to predict the time when Los Angeles would sink in the sea. For decades Billy Paul (Branham's eldest son) told Message Believers around the world that his father told him he would not be an old man before Los Angeles sink in the sea.

In a 1969 book written by Peary Green called "The Acts of the Prophet," he retells the statement that William Branham made to his son about the time of this earthquake when walking on a street in downtown Los Angeles. ^[275]

Return now to that day when Brother Branham turned to Brother Billy Paul and said "Billy, all I can say is that God has told me no different (about Sister Florence)." After making this statement, he turned to his son and said, "Billy, where are you standing?" Downtown Los Angeles, Billy Paul replied "Where are you standing?" queried the prophet. "In front of the May

Company, downtown Los Angeles.” Billy replied. At this Brother Branham made a personal prediction: **“Billy,” he said, “I may not be here, but you won't be an old man until sharks will swim right where we are standing.”**

Notice, the prophecy did not say the earthquake would happen before Billy Paul died; it would happen before he becomes an old man. Born in 1935, he was 30 years old when the prophecy was spoken. Presently, he is an old man at the age of 84 years. During earlier testimonial services, Billy Paul made references to the Los Angeles' earthquake prophecy given by his father, which can be viewed online (see endnote for link) ^[276]

Even though Branham's eldest son and his close friend Peary Green have confirmed the statement that a major earthquake will sink Los Angeles before Billy Paul got old, some Message Believers discount the personal prophecy. Why? Not only because it is not mentioned in Branham's recorded sermons, but that it failed to happen.

So then, if the criteria for a legitimate prophecy must be on recorded tapes, then none of Branham's prophecies concerning the municipal bridge, the seven major visions of 1933, and many others can be deemed credible. Why? Because they were not recorded on tapes when first told, but were mentioned decades after they had happened.

Also, the Alaskan earthquake that Branham claimed to have prophesied was not mentioned on recorded tapes until it had happened. Although this earthquake occurred on **March 27, 1964**, Branham does mention it as a prophecy on recorded tapes until **June 14, 1964**. ^[277] Even though he had spoken of this event in sermons on April 1, 1964; April 3, 1964 April 4, 1964; and April 15, 1964, without mentioning it as a prophecy. ^[278]

As proven in earlier studies, Branham had a pattern of telling prophecies after they had happened, and the ones he told on recorded tapes before the events occurred did not happen. But, is there any clue on audio tape that Branham could have possibly spoken the above prophecy to his son regarding Los Angeles sinking beneath the ocean before he became an old man? Yes!

And while in there, **Something struck me**, and I didn't know nothing for about thirty minutes. **There was a prophecy went out. First thing I remember, Brother Moseley and Billy, I was out on the street**, walking. And It said, " **Thou Capernaum, which calls yourself by the name of the Angels,**" that's **Los Angeles, city of angels**, see, the angels, "which are exalted into heaven, will be brought down into hell. For, if the mighty works had been done in Sodom, that's been done in you, it would have been standing till this day." And that was **all unconsciously, to me**. _Ashamed 07-11-65

As shown, Branham said he and Billy Paul were walking on a street in Los Angeles after prophesying the doom of the city. According to Billy Paul, the prophecy that he would not be an old man before the city sunk beneath the sea came when standing before the May Company (located on the corner of Eighth Street and Broadway) in downtown Los Angeles. So, the above quote gives credence to Billy Paul's words.

Thus, even if America experiences a horrific event, or

a woman is elected president in the future, the fact that Branham's prophecies failed to happen in 1977 shows his inspiration was wrong. The same can be applied to his earthquake prophecy since it did not occur in the time he specified. If these events had occurred in the time frame predicted by Branham, they could have possibly been viewed as fulfillments of his prophecies; even though he changed them as events unfolded.

But now, whatever happens to America will happen not because of Branham's prophecies, which has been proven wrong, but by the fact those events were going to eventually happen. Why? Because trending events since the rise of women's power in politics in the 1950s and 1960s, nuclear conflict with Russia during the same time, and the prognosis of a major earthquake in Los Angeles since the 1950s showed that these events could likely happen.

Martin Luther King and Massacre Prediction Failed

Martin Luther King Jr. was a civil right leader who led non-violent protests against discrimination in the southern parts of the United States during the 1960s. Beginning on June 28, 1963 in Arkansas, William Branham began to publically criticize Dr. King on recorded tapes, saying he would lead millions of blacks to their death.

Although Branham's followers do not deem his statements about Dr. King as a prophecy from God, it must be considered as a prediction.

Now, I'm a Southerner. And there is one thing I'd like to say about them, I wish I could talk to **Martin Luther King**. That man, being a Christian, don't know he is **leading his people right into a death trap**, where there is going to **be millions of them killed**. See? **He is wrong**. _O Lord, Just Once More 06-28-63M

But, **this man**, if I could only speak to him; leading those precious people, under the name of religion, into a death trap where **he's going to kill thousands times thousands of them!**. _The Third Exodus 06-30-63M

One thing, I pray that Brother **Martin Luther King** will certainly soon wake up. He loves his people; there's no doubt. But if he just only see where his inspiration. What good would it do if you went to school, **a million of you laying yonder, dead?** _The Third Exodus 06-30-63M

And that man's a Christian. As—as a minister, he shouldn't lead them people into a revolt against that. **They're going to cause millions to die**. It'll start **another revolutionary**. And it's a shame to do that. _The Indictment 07-07-63M

In reading Branham's statements about the civil rights movement, he appeared to be oblivious to the struggle facing blacks in the 1960s. They were facing racial discrimination based on "Jim Crow laws," ^[279] second class citizenry, and harassment by the Ku Klux Klan.

Even though Branham appeared not to be a deep southern racist, he supported some forms of segregation. How? Branham believed whites, blacks, and Indians should not intermarry and interbreed, even though he said that his mother was "*half Cherokee Indian*." ^[280] Branham's genealogy shows his great grandmother to be a full blooded

Cherokee and his mother being part Cherokee (red man to Branham) married a white man.^[281]

Today, we have so much **fussing and stewing about this segregation of white and colored** and everything. **Why don't they leave it alone? Let it the way God made it.** Tell me what real good, smart, intelligent, beautiful, **colored woman** would want to have a baby by a **white man to make it a mulatto?** _But It Wasn't So From The Beginning 04-11-61

What good would a white woman want to have a baby by a colored man making him a mulatto child? It's not sensible.

If God wanted a man brown, black, white, whatever color He wanted him, that's God's creation. That's the way he wanted it. He wants white flowers, blue flowers; God's a God of variety. He likes big mountains, little mountains, deserts, plains, white, black, short, fat, and indifferent. God's a God of variety. _But It Wasn't So From The Beginning 04-11-61

I'd say He is a God of variety. He makes big mountains and little mountains. He makes deserts. He makes forests. He makes **white man, black man, red man**. We should **never cross that up**. It becomes a hybrid. And anything hybrid cannot re-breed itself. **You are ruining the race of people.** _O Lord, Just Once More 06-28-63M

The people would be better off if you'd just let them the way they are, the way God made them. **Let the brown race marry the brown race, the white race marry the white race, the dark race, the yellow race and whatevermore,** _Condemnation By Representation 11-13-61

Some of them said to me one time, said, "Brother Branham, **being a southerner**, what do you think about segregation?" I said, "It's not for me to say. The boss, government, said, 'Let it be what it is, permit them to marry, and so forth.'" I said, "That's—that's up to them. As an American, I abide by the laws." To me, you ought to leave it the way God had it. He made white men, black men, brown men. He's a God of variety. Let them stay the way God made them. That's what I think. If I was a black man, I'd—I'd want—I'd want to stay in my class of people. If I was a Chinese, yellow, I'd want to stay that way. **Being that I'm Anglo-Saxon, white, let me marry amongst the white, teach my children the same**, and just stay the kind of a flower and the color that God made us at the beginning. After all, He's the One that made it. _Life 07-19-62

But I don't believe in marrying, intermarrying like that. _A Paradox 04-18-64

Now, I don't believe in mixing marriages. I believe that a **white man should not marry a colored girl, or a colored girl marry a white man, or a yellow marry a colored, or a white,** or a... I believe the brown, black, white, and races of people are like a flower garden of God, and I do not believe they should be crossed up. _Questions And Answers #4, 08-30-64E

As shown, Branham was against interracial marriages, even though Moses and Solomon married black women (Num. 12:1; SOS 1:6). Also, God put no such restriction when instructing Israel about marrying foreigners (Deut. 21:10-14) other than those who worship false gods (Deut. 7:3-4). Neither does the New Testament restrict marriages between ethnic groups seeing that every human came from Adam and Noah (Acts 17:26). God forbids marriages between Christians and unbelievers (2 Cor. 7:14-17) unless they were already married (1 Cor. 7:12-16, 39).

As shown below, Branham falsely accused Dr. King of being communistic inspired and leading blacks to death.

And I think that **Martin Luther King is Communistic inspired**, which is going to **lead about a million people to a absolutely a death trap. See? I don't say the Lord told me that.** _He Cares Do You Care? 07-21-63

While Branham was steady criticizing, Martin Luther King's efforts helped pass the landmark Civil Right Act in 1964 that outlawed discrimination. Wikipedia says:^[282]

The **Civil Rights Act of 1964** (Pub. L. 88-352, 78 Stat. 241, enacted July 2, 1964) is a landmark piece of civil rights legislation in the United States that **outlawed discrimination** based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. It ended unequal application of voter registration requirements and racial segregation in schools, at the workplace and by facilities that served the general public (known as "public accommodations").

Instead of congratulating Dr. King for helping to pass the Civil Right Acts on July 2, 1964, Branham continued to criticize him. In a sermon preached in Jeffersonville on August 30, 1964, Branham accused Dr. King of being communistic inspired and the greatest problem for blacks.

I've told you here in this pulpit, **Martin Luther King is the greatest indebtedment the colored people's ever had.** Right. That man's going to lead a—**thousands of them to a slaughter** (That's right.), **inspired by communism.** _Questions And Answers #4, 08-30-64E

After making the above statements, Branham quieted down his rhetoric on recorded tapes against King. That is, until August 15, 1965 after nineteen blacks were killed in California. Branham then tried to claim credit for his prediction in a sermon preached on that day.

Look at, in California. Look at the riots. Look at **nineteen people** being **killed**, racial. **Didn't I tell you, here not long ago**, that that **Martin Luther King would lead his people to a massacre? How many remembers that?** [Congregation says, "Amen."—Ed.] _And Knoweth It Not 08-15-65

At first, Branham did not claim the Lord said that King would lead millions to their death, But, when 19 blacks were killed, he tried to take credit as though it was a prophecy. The above quote was the last time Branham mentioned Dr. King on recorded tape. He died on December 24, 1965 and Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968. The foretold massacre of millions of blacks never happened. His prediction had utterly failed.

Moon Landing Prediction Failed?

In 1958 and 1962, William Branham made somewhat of a prediction that mankind would never land on the moon.

What's the meaning of these sputniks in the skies? What's the matter? What is this modern Babylon, that we're trying to build a machine to take us to the moon? **You'll never make it.** What's it all about? Science don't know. They're in a mad rush for something, and they don't know what it is. _The Handwriting On The Wall 03-03-58M, Par. 129

Oh, now they're all wanting to make a whole lot of these

astronaut cans so they can get into it. And the —the atomic age comes, they're going to bust up the world, they just pull this and all go over on the moon, taking a trip to the moon, and have it all over with, and so they'll just make them another economy **on the moon. They ain't going to get there. I don't believe, with all my heart, they'll ever get there.** See? _ Countdown 09-09-62M, Par. 101

Between July 20, 1969 and December 11, 1972, Branham prediction failed when six crewed trips consisting of a total of 24 astronauts along with numerous uncrewed trips landed on the moon. Some of Branham's followers hold to a conspiracy theory that the USA did not land on the moon, even though approximatedly 400,000 scientists, engineers, technologists, machinists, and electricians worked on the Apollo project with none claiming it to be a conspiracy. Also, third-party and independent tracking evidences suggest that it did happen (see Wikipedia: "Moon Landing," "Moon Landing Conspiracy Theory," "Third-party Evidence for Apollo Moon Landing;" and Google search the article: "The Wildest Moon Landing Conspiracy Theory Debunked").

Was Branham A Ku Klux Klan Sympathizer?

As studied, William Branham repeatedly spoke against Martin Luther King Jr. and held segregationist views regarding interracial marriages. However, blacks attended Branham Tabernacle and he preached at their churches. In the 1950s, he also ministered to blacks in South Africa during the apartheid—discrimination based on race—and looked forward to returning there to specifically minister unto the blacks (Ashamed 07-11-65, Par. 33).

Nonetheless, if left to Branham's ideology, blacks would still be living under Jim Crow laws and victimized by a violent organization called the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) since he was unsupportive of the social changes occurring in the 1960's civil right movement. Also, while Branham publically criticized and condemned Dr. King for leading non-violent civil rights protests, he never condemned on recorded audio tapes the blatant violence of the KKK. Instead, he actually said something positive about them.

But she, through her church society and the **Ku Klux Klan**, paid the hospital bill for me, **Mason's. I can never forget them.** See? **No matter what they do**, or what, I still... there is something, and that stays with me, see, what they did for me. And they paid the bill to Doctor Reeder. He is still living, lives here in Port Fulton, could tell you the story. _Souls That Are In Prison Now 11-10-63M

As shown, Branham wanted to show appreciation to the KKK and the Masons for paying his hospital bill when he was wounded by a shot gun in both legs as a lad. But, Branham made a mistake by saying on recorded tape that he could never forget them "**no matter what they do**" and "**something...that stays with me.**" Being appreciative is one thing, excusing their wickedness is another matter. Who was the Ku Klux Klan? Wikipedia says: ^[283]

The **Ku Klux Klan (KKK)**, or simply "**the Klan**", is the name of three distinct past and present movements in the United States that have advocated extremist reactionary currents such

as **white supremacy, white nationalism**, and anti-immigration, **historically expressed through terrorism**. The first organization sought to overthrow the Republican state governments in the South during the Reconstruction Era, **especially by violence against African American leaders**.

The same article in Wikipedia further said:

Beginning in the 1950s, for instance, individual **Klan groups** in Birmingham Alabama, **began to resist social change and blacks' efforts to improve their lives by bombing houses in transitional neighborhoods**. There were so many bombings of blacks' homes in Birmingham by Klan groups in the 1950s that the city's nickname was "Bombingham."

The Ku Klux Klan had a history of hostility toward blacks and other minority ethnic groups since its founding between 1865 and 1866. But, during the 1950s and 1960s they violently resisted civil rights advancements by discriminating, shooting, burning, bombing, and lynching innocent blacks in the name of white supremacy. ^[284]

Besides the above quote where Branham expresses gratitude to the KKK, he mentioned them by name 12 other times on recorded tapes. In those recordings, he jokingly spoke about being dressed as a Klansman to visit a sick hospital patient. For example, he said:

Finally, **he dressed me up like a Ku Klux Klan**, with all that white stuff, and take me in, and I went to the boy. He had been unconscious, two or three days. His heart was just barely beating. I forgot what the respiration; very small, just barely bleed, beating. And the old father and mother was standing there. _The Trial 06-21-64

As stated, with all the atrocities committed by the Ku Klux Klan, Branham never publically condemned them on recorded tapes. Branham's leniency toward this group may stem from the fact that his former pastor, Dr. Roy E. Davis, was a leader in this organization.

As researched by the website "Seek Ye The Truth," a 1966 congressional report entitled "*Activities of Ku Klux Klan Organization in the United States*," identified Roy E. Davis of organizing the "Original Knights of the Ku Klux Klan" in 1960 (report can be viewed online, see endnote for link). ^[285]

Furthermore, beginning in 1922, archived newspaper articles identified Roy E. Davis as a spokesman and leader—Imperial Grand Dragon of the United States—of the Ku Klux Klan (articles can be viewed online) ^[286]. These newspapers articles also show that he had repeated run-in with the law and a questionable lifestyle. ^[287]

So then, even though archived information tied Dr. Davis to the Ku Klux Klan, Branham said he left his former pastor because he wanted to ordain women preachers, not because of his Klan's connection.

That's exactly **how I broke away** from the Missionary Baptists. **Doctor Roy E. Davis**, how many ever heard him? Sure, you did, see. **He wanted to ordain some women preachers, and I said, "No, sir. As an elder," I said, "I cannot do that,** consciously. It's against the Word of God." _Does God Ever Change His Mind About His Word? 04 -18-65E

Chapter Nine

William Branham's Failed Discernments and Healings?

Our studies about William Branham's obvious plagiarisms, failed visions, failed prophecies, and alleged supernatural experiences have provided evidences that he was not Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6, who restored the elect to the original word of God as Christ's forerunner. Nor was he the seventh angel of Revelation 3:14 and 10:7, who revealed the seven seals and every hidden mystery of the Bible in the end time. Nor was he the fulfillment of the Son of man ministry of Luke 17:30, who revealed Christ to this generation as a prophet. Neither did his alleged message fulfill the shout of Christ's return in 1 Thessalonians 4:16. In this chapter, we will investigate his discernments and healing claims.

Branham's Failed Discernments

Evangelist William Branham was known to have a healing ministry and a gift called in the Bible "the word of knowledge," even though he referred to it as a gift of discernment. Often during Branham's sermons, he would challenge anyone to show him one time where he made a mistake on the platform during visions and discernments.

Now I challenge anybody to tell me, anywhere in the world, to these tapes, wherever they may go, **show me one time** that He **ever failed** to tell on the platform, or out in **any vision or anything**, but what was **exactly the right thing, come to pass just as He said**. Told every person just exactly what their troubles was, and all about it, and where they come, and all about what they should do. And every time It said THUS SAITH THE LORD to anything of healing, it happened that way. If you know one, let me know about it. **I'll go at the tape and find out. It's never failed**, in these twelve long years, or, fourteen years. **It's never failed**, because it can't fail. The sign was given by God. **It can't fail.** _As I Was With Moses, So I Will Be With Thee 09-11-60M

Because of Branham's statements, the followers of his ministry and message believe he never made a mistake during prayer and discernment. They believe none of his visions and "Thus saith the Lord" ever failed. However, as we have repeatedly shown in this book, he made many mistakes in visions, "Thus saith the Lord" prophecies, and personal predictions. Likewise, he had failures during discernments in prayer lines. For example, as shown below, Branham is praying for a man he believes to be deaf. Only to be corrected by a Lady that he is not deaf, but has hardening of the arteries and cannot talk.

You hear me? Let's pray now. Dear Jesus, bring mercy to this man who is so desperately in need. Thou did **make the ears of**

man, and You made the whole body of man. And I pray that You'll heal this man tonight, and make him well. May the blessed Lord Jesus strike His power of healing across him tonight, by his faith looking up, and may he be made completely whole, I pray in Jesus Christ's Name. Amen. Now, just with your heads bowed just a moment. How long have you been this way? **Hear me now?** Can you... Amen. Two years. **Yes. You hear?** Yes. Amen. **He can hear now.** Let's say, "Praise the Lord." God bless you now. Go on your road rejoicing and be happy. Amen. **[Lady says, "Brother Branham, Brother Branham."]** Yes? **["He isn't deaf, he has hardening of the arteries; he can't talk."—Ed.]** Can't talk? Well, he's sure doing a good job of it now. _Thirsting For Life 06-13-57E

In the second example, Branham is corrected by a lady after incorrectly saying her name. This mistake happened in 1964 during discernment in a prayer line. I became aware of this mistake in the late 1980s while listening to one of his sermons.

Now, when He come to Simon, He told him who he was. You believe **God can tell me what your name is**? Would it make you believe more? It would? **Mrs. Strong...** **[The sister says, "Stout."—Ed.]** Stout, would you believe? Go and believe, and you... It's all over. Amen _A Testimony On The Sea 03-07-64

There were other times Branham stumbled during discernment, but appeared to correct himself. What we do not know is how many times Branham did not correct himself or was corrected by the person he was praying for. Why do I say this? Because during discernments and prayers, his words have been edited from the audio tapes and a noticeable skip appears. In the books, the words "[Blank spot on tape —Ed.]" appears, meaning the editor had removed the words, as shown below.

How do you do, **sister**. Do you believe me as God's prophet? You have sufferings... There's more than one thing. One thing, a heart trouble that's been bothering you, and another thing, **you're a... anemic ... [Blank spot on tape —Ed.]**... but you have faith now. _God Testifying Of His Gifts 07-13-52E

The boy is your son, and **he has a mental condition**. That's THUS SAITH THE LORD GOD. **[Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]** ...Something here that knows you. Do you believe He has give you your request? With all your heart? Then go and receive it. You can have everything you ask for, if you just go believing. **[Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]** _God Keeps His Word 03-28-58

There are too many editing of tapes to list in this book. But, the example below should provide an idea how this technique was often used. Actually, I do not know how long Voice of God Recording will allow these "Blank spot

on tape” to remain since people are becoming aware of this practice. For example, the excerpt below shows repeated editing in one sermon to remove unwanted words during prayer and discernment. Why?

322 [Someone speaks in tongues. **Blank.spot.on.tape.** Someone interprets. **Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]** Holy Spirit saying that message that as He was there with Abraham and his seed, He's here, Abraham's seed, today. 323 Be reverent before Almighty God. I'll ask you if... You may raise your head. I ask you to be reverent. 324 I have called today that we're going to pray for the sick to bring the sick up here and I do not want to let this... to leave this impression upon these people here, that because that I'm here, I'm the one to pray for the sick. 325 [**Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...?...** that colored woman. And she's praying for a high blood pressure. She... 326 [**Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...from here; she's from Chicago.** 327 [**Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...up, Mrs. Jones.** 328 [**Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...Mrs. Nola Jones, will you stand up? Is she up?** 329 [**Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...one another, lay your... wave your hand like this, so that the people know that you and I are strangers to one another. Go home. Jesus Christ healed you.** 330 [**Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...another woman [Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.] ...?...** 331 [**Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...balcony, [Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.] operations the strength, the pull is coming from this way... 332 [Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...?...with a throat trouble... 333 [Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...she's got a colon disorder... 334 [Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...?...stand up, and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. 335 [Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...that lady setting at the end at that row out there... 336 [Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]... trouble you believe God will make you well, lady? 337 [Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.] ...right go home; Jesus Christ heals you. 338 [Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...have faith in God... 339 [Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...The little lady setting right there, kind of a pink -looking long. 340 [Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...with her eyes. You believe that God will make you well?... 341 [Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...rheumatism, she's bothered with, do you believe with all your heart? You can have it also. 342 [Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...man sitting over on the other side looking at me with that sinus trouble. You believe that God will make you well, sir? the sinus trouble? All right sir. Next to that you got stomach trouble. You believe with all your heart God will make you well? Got heart trouble next to that. You believe that God will make you well, lady? You believe? Next to that, you have arthritis. You believe that God will make you well? All right sir you can have it. Go home be made well. 343 [Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...God will make you well? Up there in the last row? All right sir, you can have it. Next to you got intestinal trouble. You think God will make you well? You go receive it. 344 [Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...all your heart? Have faith in God. 345 [Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...?... A lump in the breast, Ms. Cramer, stand up on your feet and be made well. 346 [Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...seed after Him. God promised that it would be this way in the last days, children. Do you believe it? 347 **Now, THUS SAITH THE LORD ...** 348 [**Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...?...** The Word of God is proving it to be right. You're all becoming milky and everywhere now everything's happening. 349 [**Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...?... here from St. Louis.** 350 [**Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...eyes.** 351 [**Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed.]...?... here's got asthma, if you believe you can go back and be made well.** 352 [**Blank.spot.on.tape—Ed....****

_Abraham And His Seed After Him 04-16-61

Who permitted words in these tapes to be edited out? Well, first of all, Branham informs us that no outside party had legal rights to tamper with his audio tapes.

See, he never played the rest of the tape; just that part, and cut it off. Which, would be a penitentiary offense to do it. **Them tapes are absolutely franchised. No one can mess with them.** You better not. You—you—you got the law on you _Recognizing Your Day And Its Message 07-26-64

Secondly, Branham said after meetings he would listen to the tapes to see what was said, or if it was correct.

'Course, I hardly couldn't tell you what one or the other one... **I catch it on the tapes down here, what is being said.** All right. _The Testimony Of Jesus Christ 08-29-53

But we have the tape recording. That's the reason on our meetings... You see, **we pick up tapes of every meeting.** Somebody comes and says, "Well, the Lord said to me, "Certain—certain..." **We'll play back over the record and find out whether that's truth or not.**" See? **Then we know right where we got it (See?), on the recording.** _Demonology 11-12-53

So then, Branham was in charge of the tapes and any editing, as shown below.

I don't want to keep you too long. I'll —I'll just... I don't want to wear you out. And now I'll... Now, you tape boys just **leave the tapes run just a minute,** and I'll—I'll **cut this off just in a minute, myself.** All right, sir. _The Spoken Word Is The Original Seed 03-18-62

Where's that **little switch** that you **turn the tapes off** with? This it? I'll just have to hold that then. _Perfect Strength By Perfect Weakness 11-19-61

Now, I want to say this; **I suppose the tapes are off.** Lot of people say, "Brother Branham, with a ministry of that type..." **I have to watch,** 'cause **people just take them tapes** and just try to **pick them to pieces,** you know. _Sixth Seal 03-23-63

I think the tapes is off now, and I just got about three or four minutes I want to talk to you. Is that all right? _The Sixth Seal 03-23-63

I thought **this thing** here **controlled those tapes,** but it doesn't (See?), and this is a —a desk light. And **I thought the tape controller used to be here.** But I was told to just make motion to the brethren in the —in the room there, the recording room, and **they'd know when to stop tapes** and **when not.** See, the tapes has a worldwide ministry everywhere (See?), everywhere. It goes into all kinds of languages and everything, **so there's things that we'd say right here we wouldn't say somewhere else** (You see?), and that's **the reason that we stop it**. _Questions And Answers On The Seals 03-24-63M

After Branham's 1963 sermon on the seventh seal, he had it edited and recorded a new ending. In 1966, the original ending was officially released after his death.

Brother Branham told these brothers, "**I don't want this message sent out the way it is.**" After **listening to the tape himself,** he **instructed the brothers to stop the tape** at a certain point, and **at that point**—(beginning of paragraph number 261)—**recorded a new portion** of approximately

twenty minutes in length —(paragraph 377-415). **This new portion was then used in place of the original ending—** (paragraph 261-373). _The Seventh Seal 03-24-63e

As earlier stated, Branham gave Leo Mercier and Gene Goad, who he called his tape boys, the task of revising and updating his prophecies.

By the way, Mr. Mercier and many of them are going to **take some of these old prophecies**, and dig them out, and **revise them a little**, or **bring them up to date**, and **put them in papers**. _Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

Furthermore, even though Branham possibly had a gift called the word of knowledge, his use of prayer cards during prayer lines has caused some critics to question if everything was genuine. Why? Because when Branham's son issued prayer cards to audiences, it appears that he knew of their afflictions since he wrote or saw what they wrote on the cards. For example, a former alcoholic testified in a 1993 edition of "Only Believe" (published by Branham's daughter) that Billy Paul wrote her problem on the prayer card after a daytime service. During the evening service his father discerned the problem. [288] She said:

After the service was dismissed, **Billy Paul Branham**, Brother William Branham's son, **came by with prayer cards for that evening's prayer line**. He asked if I wanted one, and I answered, "Yes." Then **he asked what was wrong and I said, "I'm an alcoholic."** **He wrote it on the card and handed it to me.** The **number on the card was J -27...** After the preaching, **Brother Branham** began to **call the prayer cards**. **He began with J-25**, which meant that I was third in line... When I came before him, he immediately said that he saw me in darkness. He asked, "Do you believe me to be God's prophet?" I replied, "Yes, sir." Then he questioned me, "If God reveals to me what is the matter with you, and if Jesus heals you, will you serve Jesus the rest of your life?" Again, I said "Yes, sir." He looked at me a moment, **then said, "You're an alcoholic."**

Again, information on prayer cards contained peoples' names, addresses, afflictions, and asked if they were Christians (to view prayer card online, see endnote [289]). This written information is what Branham generally discerned during prayer lines. [290] For example:

Betty Broadwell is your name. You live at 2214 Beverly Street, Los Angeles, California. You are in serious need. It's a liver trouble. _ Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever 08-29-54E

Now—now, here stands a poor thing. Lady, you've had a world of trouble, haven't you? You're just a lady that's **walked up there in a prayer line**. That's all. **You are a Christian.** _Get The People To Believe 07-17-52

A testimony written by Voice of God Recording (led by Branham's sons) told of a woman in the audience whose affliction (Uremia), name, and address on the prayer card were discerned by Branham. This article is no longer available online, but a screenshot of the ir website and portion of the publication can be seen on Youtube. [291]. The article verifies that Billy Paul knew of this woman's affliction before his father's discernment line because he wrote it on her prayer card.

Everything she had shared with me was on that card. I had never seen a **prayer card** up to that time. **I showed it to Billy Paul** and he chuckled **about his writing**. It was hardly legible, but he recognized the letters and pointed them out to me.

During an interview, a former Message Believer for 50 years (who lived in Jeffersonville and attended Branham's church in the 1960s and 70s) raised questions about prayer cards. She said that during the healing services, Billy Paul would give papers to his dad and often whispered to him so the microphone could not pick it up. She said that most of the people called out were those who Branham actually knew, even though he would say "I don't know you."

For example, the Sister said that after her mother had written on the prayer card about her female problem, Billy Paul went straight up to his father a minute before the discernment began. Branham soon called out her condition (she was the second person) and said I don't know you, when in fact he did know her because she attended his church. The lady testified that her mother claimed the healing, but later died of her illness. [292]

Moreover, due to the fact that Branham was very adamant that patients line up in prayer lines exactly in numerical order of their prayer card numbers, along with the fact he would only discern a few selected people each meeting: has caused some critics to suspect the use of mnemonics (memory retention techniques). For example:

Now, 53? 54? 55? 56, 57, 58, 59, 60? You line right up along here, right in —**in numerical order just the way you are** . . . _ My Commission 05-05-51

Now, is all the people that has prayer cards up? Has anybody else got a prayer card? **All prayer cards standing in the row? I want to be sure of this now.** _Perseverance 06-08-62

Claimed Healing Failures

So, as shown, blank spots on the audio recordings of William Branham are intentional. Also, due to Branham's propensity to revise prophecies, these blank spots and the use of prayer cards during discernments questions his credibility. Moreover, several years ago after reading the testimony of Mr. Alfred H. Pohl about Branham's visit to Canada in 1947, there are rooms for concern to suspect discernment errors. In Mr. Pohl's book, "17 Reasons Why I Left the Tongue Movement (Reason #14)," he said: [293]

At that time, I believe it was in 1947, I was on the teaching staff of our denominational Bible school in Saskatoon, Sask. The healing meetings were held in the church auditorium which was adjacent to the Bible School dormitory and offices. It became my responsibility to place the very sick, such as stretcher-cases, in the various dormitory rooms. **The "healer" in this particular campaign, was William Branham from the U.S.A.**, who had been invited by our church leaders to minister in some of our larger city churches. The services were very well attended by people coming long distances, many from other provinces. When Mr. Branham had concluded his meeting in the church auditorium, I would take his arm and lead him from room to room in the dormitory, so that he could pray for those who were unable to attend the public meetings or stand in the healing-lines.

As shown above, Mr. Pohl was responsible for taking Branham to those who were sick during and after the meetings. According to Pohl's writings, he rejoiced as Branham used the gift in his hand, prayed for the sick, and pronounced them healed. People were so enthused of being healed, they gave large sums of money. [294]

A common practice of Mr. Branham was to take the hand of the sick person, and then say something like this, "The vibrations in your hand tell me that you have cancer. But I will pray for you that the Lord will heal you." When he had prayed, he would say something like this, "The vibrations are gone, the cancer is dead. **You are healed!** But you will be very sick for about three days till your body throws off the dead cancerous tissue. **But don't worry, you are healed.** Just trust the Lord." With similar words he would give assurances to these suffering ones that they would recover. This, of course, **would bring hope and joy to these dear souls**, many of whom responded with a large financial gift, sometimes far beyond their means. At times I was given large sums of money to pass on to Mr. Branham, which I always did gladly, **for I, too, believed him.**

Mr. Pohl continued: [295]

I wish that I could go on to say that all these, or at least a good number of them, did go on to recover. But I can't. Time went on, the campaign ended, and Mr. Branham and his party were gone. Then we began to see the results being tested by time. It was a difficult time for us, and particularly for me. For one by one these that **I had personally seen "healed" and declared so by the "healer," died.** Our faith was severely tested. Relatives of the deceased ones would ask, "Why?" What could we tell them? I had to ask myself several questions:

A week later after Branham's meetings were over, Mr. Pohl said many people believed to be healed were not. They died. [296]

In the first weeks following the campaign we received one report after another of **people whose healing had not lasted.** Either they were **back to their original condition or had died.** It was disturbing! Some meddlesome newspapermen had investigated. Their reports hurt the reputation of our churches and witness as **more and more people** who were **supposed to be healed were found not to be, after all.**

Mr. Pohl goes on to tell of one unique case where Branham prayed for a lady and pronounced her healed. [297]

One day while I was occupied in the office at the Bible School, I received a visitor. As he came in, I immediately recognized him as the father of four of our Bible School students. His was a highly respected family in our Fellowship. But not many days before this, during the campaign, he had flown his wife, sick with cancer, to Saskatoon. He had phoned me from the airport asking where the ambulance should be for his wife to be prayed for. I made the arrangements and placed her in one of the dormitory rooms. That evening when Mr. Branham had concluded his ministry in the church auditorium, I led him into her **room where he prayed for her and pronounced her healed.** Needless to say, we all rejoiced together! Joyfully they returned by ambulance and plane to their home near Regina.

Several days later after Branham had pronounced the woman healed, her husband returned to Canada with sad news. His wife had died. [298]

Now, several days later, this dear brother sat before me in our office, his heart heavy and his mind in turmoil. He had come nearly 200 miles to speak to me. Before he did, however, I already sensed what had probably happened. But in spite of this, his question still hit me very hard. "Brother Pohl," he said, "you were there beside my wife's bed the night **Mr. Branham prayed for her and pronounced her healed?**" "Yes," I replied, "I was right there." He went on, "Can you tell me **why it is that my wife who was healed just a few days ago is now in the grave?**" My friends, I believe that was one of the hardest questions that I was ever called upon to answer! My heart went out to this dear brother. I felt with him. But how could I answer him?

In Mr. Pohl's book, he goes on to tell of another case where a Pentecostal pastor brought his wife to be prayed for by Branham. He pronounced her healed. [299]

One afternoon during the healing campaign I answered a telephone call. The call was from a Pentecostal pastor from Ontario. He had just flown in with his wife, sick with cancer, and her nurse. As on other occasions, I admitted them to a dormitory room, and in due course **she was prayed for and Mr. Branham pronounced her healed.** Again there was much rejoicing. I remember that the pastor handed me a cheque of a sizable sum of money to pass on to Mr. Branham. As he did so, he remarked that he couldn't afford to give that much, but that Mr. Branham deserved it because his wife was now healed, and he had spent thousands of dollars on doctors that didn't help her.

The pastor, who had a radio broadcast, believed Branham's words and announced on air that his wife was healed. But, as with the previous case, shortly after Branham had pronounced the lady healed, Mr. Pohl discovered that she had died. [300]

It was several weeks later that I, as the Missionary-Secretary of our denomination, visited and ministered in our churches in Ontario. When in the vicinity of this pastor's home city, **I made inquiry as to his wife's state of health, only to be told that she too had passed away.** What a blow that must have been to that dear brother? But that was not all. I was told that he had a good radio ministry in his city. When he had returned from the healing meetings in Saskatoon, he announced over his radio broadcast that his wife had been wonderfully healed. However, just a short while after that he had to **inform his radio audience that his wife had died. I was told that it dealt a severe blow to his radio ministry.**

During an interview, Mr. Pohl said there were other cases where people died, but these two examples were the exceptional ones. Because of these repeated failures, Mr. Pohl began to question this type of healing. [301]

We had more of those cases--these are just two exceptional ones--but **there were others that passed away.** I stood beside **bed after bed, person after person** who was **pronounced healed** and yet, where were they? **They passed away.** So there was something **very wrong with this type of healing.**

During the interview, Mr. Pohl further said one of Winnipeg's large newspapers gave considerable coverage to the meetings and reported the healings. However, the editor later sent reporters to see if the people were still healed or alive, only to discover they were not. [302]

And when these **reporters went back**, they **discovered that these people had died**, or were **in the same state or in a worse state** than they were before. So, **the editor then put it in the paper** that **these cases had turned out to be phonies** and that **these people weren't healed after all**. And there was something wrong with these so-called miracles and healings.

Mr. Pohl said his denomination's failure to correct Branham and other high profile ministers became one of the greater reasons he left the Tongue's Movement. [303]

It was this failing in our denomination, and in the Tongues Movement in general, to deal with ministers of high standing or popularity who needed to be corrected or stopped, that became one of the greater reasons for my leaving the Movement.

During the personal interview, Mr. Pohl told the host disturbing things that occurred during Branham's prayer for the sick. First, Branham said his hand would swell and spots would appear when praying for certain diseases. When he asked the audience if they saw the spots, they said yes. But, Mr. Pohl said he was standing next to Branham and saw "no spots." [304]

And as he held this man's hand out and showed the back of his hand toward the audience, he said, "Folks, can you see the spots on my hand?" Would you believe hands went up all over that auditorium and even in the back of the auditorium (people were standing; the place was jammed ... First of all, myself. **I was standing right beside him. I was touching him**, shoulder to shoulder. And I looked, and for the life of me **I couldn't see any spots. There were no spots**.

In another case, Mr. Pohl relates how Branham had difficulty casting a demon out a deaf and dumb woman. After repeated attempts using the name of Jesus Christ, Branham hesitated and told his audience to bow their heads and close their eyes. Mr. Pohl said he thought Branham wanted the eyes close in reverence to God. But, Branham gave another reason; he wanted to use some words given by the angel that reportedly assisted his ministry. [305]

The reason that I want every eye closed is that the angel that gave me this gift **gave me some words that I must say** to cast off this deaf and dumb spirit; and I'm not suppose to reveal those words to any human being." He said, "**The reason I ask you to close your eyes is so you will not read my lips when I say those words**"... This is what the angel told him. And this is the only thing that would do the job.

During a 1948 sermon, Branham admits to using some unknown words, when praying for the sick. He said:

Have you noticed, always, **after I ask or rebuke over a spirit, I'm always perfectly silent for a few moments**? Who's noticed that in the meetings, let's see your hands. Have you noticed that? Now, here's what it is. There's **three words** that **I have to repeat at that time**. See? And it's the **three high words** of the Bible. **No mortal on earth know** it. See? And when I ask that, and then I feel that drop, then it comes shakes back to a place in return of that spirit. Then the...?... healed. That's the reason you hear me say that. See? That's what takes place. Now, I did that so you wouldn't keep questioning me about it coming through the line. So that is true. Now, I know that you had noticed a lot of times when **I ask to rebuke, I stand still just for a few minutes and repeat these three words**

that the **Angel of the Lord told me to repeat**. Then if I feel it come back, **then I know it's done**. _Experiences 03-02-48

As shown, Branham spoke of three high words of the Bible that he used when praying for the sick. Yet, in a sermon in 1960, he speaks of 15 witchdoctors using three high word of the Bible, "Father, Son, and Holy Ghost," to conjure up a storm to blow away his tent in Germany.

...I was thinking how **fifteen witch doctors** on one side and fifteen on the other one, called up a storm to blow away the tent in Switzerland, or I believe it was France—Germany. **Going to blow away the tent**. Told us they was going to do it. And set there and cut those feathers and started going through maneuvers, "**Father, Son, and Holy Ghost...?...** Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, **three high words**," they said. _Abraham 02-11-61

And, oh, they was just going into a **big enchantment**, going on and on like that, saying those little holy words they said, "**The three high holy words: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost**," on both sides like that. _He That Is In You 11-10-63E

Branham claimed the conjured storm was rolled back when he used the name of Jesus Christ. Nonetheless, Mr. Pohl said he became suspicious when Branham wanted to abandon the name of Jesus Christ and use these three high words to heal the person. After seeing many negative results, he believed the healings were not genuine. [306]

So I became very suspicious. And when people began to die one after another--people whose beds I had stood beside, and **he had pronounced them healed**--I said to myself, "Well, that just proves these healings were fake. **They're not genuine**. This is not in the name of Christ."

When asked by the interviewer about the popularity of William Branham, Mr. Pohl said his denomination accepted him. Mr. Pohl criticized the moderator of the meeting for not recognizing Branham's errors when he could not see the spots in his hands and when he could not produce one genuine case of healing to the newspaper. [307]

Yes, I know our denomination accepted him; I can't figure out why they didn't get wise to it; they should have. **Our moderator should have recognized** it when **he couldn't see the spots**, and I couldn't see them. He should have recognized there's something wrong. He should have recognized, too, **when he dealt with the editor of the newspaper** in Winnipeg, **when he couldn't produce one genuine case**. But still, even after that he let Branham go through our churches throughout western Canada.

During the same year that Mr. Pohl said people whom Branham had pronounced healed were dying, it was during this time (1947) that Branham was claiming thousands of healings. Likewise, in 1948, a leader in a major Pentecostal denomination raised the same concern as Mr. Pohl.

...**down across the country, thousands are being healed**, coming through there, **of all kinds of sickness and diseases**. _Faith Is The Substance April 12, 1947

At that time, I believe it was in 1947...**The "healer" in this particular campaign, was William Branham from the U.S.A.**, who had been invited by our church leaders to minister in some of our larger city churches. _Pohl

Controversy surrounded Branham from the early stages of his ministry. In 1947, a minister in Saskatchewan, Canada, stated that many **Branham pronounced as healed later died**. A year later, W. J. Taylor, a district superintendent with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, raised the same concern and asked for a thorough investigation, presenting evidence that claims of the number of people healed were vastly overestimated. He stated that "there is a possibility that this whole thing is wrong. _see "William Branham" under caption "The Healing Revival" in Wikipedia

Considering the above information, one could question whether any of Branham's claims of healings were true? Although the above report gives this perception, based on independent resources such as Gordon Lindsay's Book "A Man Sent From God" (1950), David Edwin Harrell's book "All Things Are Possible" (1975), C. Douglas Weaver's book "The Healer Prophet" (1987), and online personal testimonies (YouTube), some healings appears to be true.

But, as stated, a former Message Believer who attended Branham's church in the 1960s and 70s, said she never saw a miracle. In Jeffersonville, she never saw anyone he pronounced healed actually cured, including her mother who later died of her claimed healed illness. Also, after attending many of his meetings throughout the country, she never saw a person in a wheelchair or stretcher healed. [308]

Similar to Pohl's, Taylor's, and a former member's testimonies about the low percentage of healings in Branham's meetings, the website of a former follower refers to a 1956 book entitled: "Modern Divine Healing." [309] This book is based upon the author's investigation of faith healings by interviewing people who were healed.

According to the above website, this book spoke of a Baptist minister who had attended five of Branham's six healing campaigns during his visit to Durban, South Africa (pages 257-259). The book says the minister obtained a list of people supposedly healed from a newspaper editor to investigate the claims. Among the 46 cases, he personally knew some of the people. The investigation showed:

- The healing of a woman who the Branham campaign had reported to have been bedridden for 10 months, but was neither bedridden nor ill (she had been suffering from menopause which had "laid her low" for a day or two, after which it left her normally after a week or so).
- At least 20 known TB cases who were rejoicing in their healing, but ended up no better than before they were pronounced healed.
- About a week after the campaign, a local newspaper published the case of a woman with a chronic heart condition who had been healed at the campaign. In that same issue was her obituary which reported of her death the previous day. The editor hadn't realized it until after the paper had been distributed.
- A 23 year old man with leukemia was singled out by WMB as having a "cancer of the blood." WMB exclaimed, "You are cured!" The young man seemed well for about 12 hours, but then got worse. He died in less than a month.
- No less than 4 members of a large family personally known to this Baptist minister were pronounced healed from diseases including arthritis and a red corpuscle deficiency. None of them were healed despite their being

noted by the Branham Campaign as having been the one family which benefited most during the meetings.

The above website also says that the author of the book spoke of a case wherein a young doctor was pronounced healed of leukemia, only to discover that he had died.

...Bosworth writes: "In one service **Brother Branham pointed to a doctor**...very ill with leukemia, and **said, 'You are healed of leukemia....'**" But this young doctor **had been dead two months** when this report from Bosworth was printed!

Again, a Swiss theologian and historian name Walter J. Hollenweger, who was William Branham's interpreter in Switzerland, spoke well of his gift to discern diseases in those days: "*He possessed an extraordinary diagnostic gift and could identify the illness (sometimes even the names of persons he had never seen.*" But, Dr. Hollenweger said of his healing predictions: "**Unfortunately his healing prognosis was accurate only in rare cases.**" [310]

Dr. Hollenweger said in his book, "The Pentecostals," regarding claims of healing in Branham's meetings: "**By contrast to what he claimed, only a small percentage of those who sought healing were in fact healed.**" [311]

Also, in a book entitled "The Healer-Prophet," the author says of Branham's healing campaigns: [312]

Despite all the precautions, **many persons left Branham campaign disappointed.** The Branham's team's conviction **that all could receive deliverance**, whether in the prayer line or seated in the crowd, **often did not always bear fruit.** Critics charged that wheelchair patients were conspicuously avoided.

Moreover, during an interview Ern Baxter, a friend and associate minister in Branham's healing meetings for several years, attested to the accuracy of Branham's gift of the word of knowledge in those days and the visible sign in his hand. [313] When Baxter was asked what brought the healing revival of the 40s and 50s to an end, he said:

People began to **circulate healing testimonies** which, **when they were checked out by reputable journalists and reporters**, even those who were friendly to the movement, **were found to be false.** **The percentage of healings that stood up after investigation was embarrassingly low.** As a result, disillusionment set in, and **the healing movement as it was known in the beginning declined in momentum....**

Now, I do not desire to highlight Branham's failures in praying for the sick, yet it is necessary. Why? Because Branham made followers to believe his healing ministry superseded that of Jesus' earthly ministry, as shown below.

Remember, there was only about **three people raised, of dead, by Jesus Christ.** And **we have** on record, doctors' record, **five.** See? **_Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir? 12-30-62E**

So, **He had more success right here** than He did in—in Capernaum or—or Nazareth, in that. **He done more miracles right here in this tabernacle** than **He did in the entire ministry on earth.** That's right, He did it. **_Token 09-01-63M**

In many of Branham's sermons, he often made claims of thousands of people being healed. But, as shown, several close witnesses attest to the fact that the healing claims of Branham were very low when investigated. Not with

Christ, the Bible says everyone was healed.

When the even was come, they brought unto him **many** that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and **healed ALL that were sick**: Matt. 8:18

But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and **great multitudes** followed him, and **he healed them ALL**; Matt. 12:15

And the **whole multitude** sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and **healed them ALL**. Luke 6:19

As shown, when Jesus prayed for the sick, everyone was healed. Also remember, Jesus did more signs that were not recorded in the four gospels, as shown below.

And **many other signs** truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are **not written in this book**. John 20:30

And there are also **many other things which Jesus did**, the which, if they **should be written every one**, I suppose that even **the world** itself could not **contain the books that should be written**. Amen. John 21:25

So then, it is delusional thinking to believe Branham's healing ministry superseded Christ's. Based on Acts 5:16 and Acts 28:9, it is even delusional to think his healings superseded the apostles'. They had 100% healings success.

There came also a **multitude out of the cities** round about unto Jerusalem, bringing **sick folks**, and them which were **vexed with unclean spirits**: and they were healed **EVERY ONE**.

So when this was done, others also, which **had diseases IN THE ISLAND, came, and were healed**.

Alleged Healings of Donny Morton and King George

As studied, many of William Branham's healings claims had failed when investigated. A notable example I discovered around 2010 was the story of Donny Morton. In Branham's account, this child was healed of meningitis. From 1953 to 1964, he repeatedly told audiences of this healing and his interview in the 1952 November issue of Reader's Digest,^[314] which wrote an article about the child entitled "The Miracle of Donny Morton." Branham said:

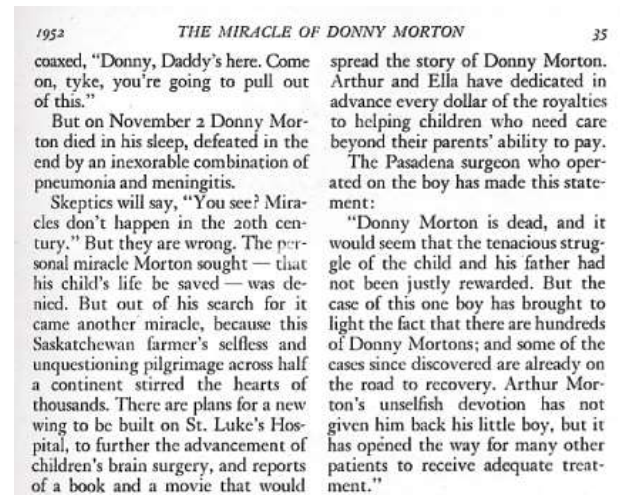
And there's a... **How many** read last November issue of "Reader's Digest," that article in there about the "**Miracle of Donny Morton, where he was healed?**" Any of you in here ever read it? I see one lady, just two, three, oh, it's many of you, I guess, read it. Well, here it is. _Demonology 11-12-53

This little baby's name is Donny Morton." The father begin to shake, and he said, "That's true." I said, "Do you believe?" And he started screaming; he said, "With all my heart." He **went right straight from that meeting that night and bought Donny his first pair of shoes, and he wore them the next day.** _Be Not Afraid, It Is I, 03-05-60

How many **read Reader's Digest**, of that little **Donny Morton**, that they signed to it, "**was healed**"? And, "**The miracle of Donny Morton, Reader's Digest**. So, that, that had me in on interview on that. That little boy been given up by Mayo's, Hopkins, and all of them. And **the Lord Jesus healed him**, made him well. And Florence Nightingale, late Florence Nightingale's great-granddaughter, London, England. She was flown from Durban, South Africa. _Jehovah-Jireh #2, 04-03-64

In listening to Branham's testimonies, you would think the child was instantly healed of meningitis the next day and walked in his new shoes. If you had not read Reader's Digest, you would have never known that Donny Morton showed some improvement after several operations and died from a combination of meningitis and pneumonia nearly a year after Branham's claim. Also, as stated above, Branham said a descendant of Florence Nightingale was healed, when in fact she never married or had a child^[315]

As stated in Reader's Digest, the miracle of the story



was not the fact that the child was healed, but the father's selfless effort to save his child had stirred the hearts of thousands. As a result, the hospital that treated Donny planned to build a new addition to further advance children's brain surgeries.

Also, there was the prospect of a book and movie that would tell this story, and the parents' commitment to use the royalty to help financially deprived family facing the same struggles. It appears Branham used the article's title to mislead audiences to believe the boy was miraculously healed. The end of article is shown above. The entire story can be read online (see endnote for link).^[316]

Similar to the above story, Branham claimed King George (VI) was healed of multiple sclerosis through his prayer in 1950. But, no historical records showed the King having this illness, but rather arteriosclerosis. Branham claimed the king died instantly of a blood clot during a cancer operation (which took place in 1951), when facts showed he died in 1952 from the effects of the above illness. Yet, Branham continued to claim the King's healing until his death in 1965.^{[317][318]}

Contradicting Stories of Resurrected Finland Boy

Oftentimes, William Branham's testimonies of events were vastly different from other witnesses. We recognized this fact in Chapter One where Gene Norman and Fred Sothmann refused to verify the order of events that occurred in Arizona during Branham's alleged meeting with seven angels on February 28, 1963 (see pages 23-24).

Another notable example of discrepancy took place

during the retelling of a story where a Finland boy was reportedly raised from the dead by Branham. On recorded tapes, he repeatedly told audiences of this story from 1950 until November 26, 1965—nearly a month before his death on December 24, 1965.

During a sermon entitled “Three Witnesses,” preached on July 28, 1950, Branham gave his first account of the story (paragraphs 45 -50). According to Branham, he and associates were traveling in Finland when they came across an accident scene where two boys were struck by a car.

One of the boys was taken away in a car to the hospital while the other laid dead on the ground. At this point, Branham eventually got out of the car to look at the dead child. He then remembers the vision of the dead child who would be raised from the dead.

I said, "**That's him.**" Oh, my, you don't know how that feels; you know where you're at then. All devils out of hell, if he'd line everything there was in hell up around, it'd never stop it. It's there; it's got to happen. Now, the only thing is just drama. I said, "Now, I remember, I knelt to this side in the vision when I prayed." You have to do just as you seen it. And I knelt down; they all gathered around. I said, "Now, watch, THUS SAITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD, this boy's life will return to him." And there **he'd been dead; they'd taken his pulse and everything; he was gone. So, and all mashed up like that**. And I knelt down and I said, Heavenly Father. _ Three Witnesses 07-28-51

According to Branham, after speaking in the name of the Lord that the dead child would live, he began to pray for him on the ground. During prayer, Branham said the angel of Lord began to move and the child jumped to his feet perfect and normal (after being severely mashed).

And when the **Angel of the Lord begin to move down**, I said, "Oh, holder of this boy's spirit, death, according to a vision that God has already showed that you cannot hold this child; therefore, I call for his little soul to return to him in the Name of Jesus Christ." And no more than I said that, **the boy jumped to his feet just as normal and well as he could be, just as perfect and normal and whole as he could be.** _Three Witnesses 07-28-51

In later sermons Branham dramatically embellished the story. How? At the accident he told a crowd consisting of hundreds of people that if the child is not raised from the dead in five (or two) minutes: he was a false prophet.

Standing around the little dead boy laying **there, hundreds standing around**, and I said, "**THUS SAITH THE LORD. I saw a vision of that baby, and five minutes from now he will be on his feet, or I'm a false prophet.**" There **he raised and leaped to his feet, praising God**, living yet today. He's Christ. He can't die, and remain Christ. _Blind Bartimaeus 01-27-57E

I said, "You speak right quick, Sister Isaac, interpret for me." I said, "If the Lord God in a land of America, two years ago, here it is wrote on these brothers' Bible leaf, see if **that little boy isn't on his feet alive in five minutes, I'll leave Finland with a sign on my back, 'False Prophet.'**" _A Missionary Talk 03-30-58A

I said, "That's him." I said, "Now..." And I told all the people and had Mrs. Isaacson, I said, "Now, tell them, 'Just be reverent.'" I said, "**If this little boy isn't on his feet, alive, in**

five minutes from now, then you can take me out of Finland; I'm a false prophet." See? I said, "The little boy is going to rise up from the dead right now," been dead about thirty minutes. _ From That Time. 07-16-60

I said, "Stand still, all of you." The mayor of the city there. I said, "**If that boy isn't on his feet in two minutes from now, I'm a false prophet;** ride, run me out of Finland." Certainly. "But if he is, you owe your lives to Christ." That's right. They stood still. _Absolute 12-30-62M

As shown, Branham gave a dramatic account of the Finland boy being raised from the dead. Three of the ministers who accompanied him was Gordon Lindsay, Jack Moore, and a resident pastor named Vilho Soininen.

And **I, Brother Moore, and Brother Gordon Lindsay**, and them **went over to take a look at the little boy**. And they come back and they were crying; they said, "Brother Branham, you ought to go see him." _The Presence Of The Lord Jesus 06-12-55

When Pastor Vilho Soininen gave an account of the event in a book written by Gordon Lindsay (A Man Sent From God), the story is vastly different from Branham's dramatic version. In the book, Gordon Lindsay said: ^[319]

We shall let Pastor Vilho Soininen, of Kuopio, relate this remarkable incident:

... Then as we were returning from Puijo, a terrible accident occurred. A car ahead was unable to avoid striking two small boys, who ran out into the street in front of it, throwing one down on the sidewalk, and the other five yards away into a field. **One unconscious boy was carried into a car just ahead of us and the other, Kari Holma, was lifted into our car and placed in the arms of Brother Branham and Miss Isaacson who were sitting in the back seat.** Brothers Moore and Lindsay were in the front seat with me. "**As we hurried to the hospital**, I asked through Miss Isaacson, the interpreter, how the boy was. Brother Branham, with his finger on the boy's pulse, answered that the boy seemed to be dead, since the pulse did not beat at all. Then Brother Branham placed his hand over the boy's heart and realized that it was not functioning. He further checked the boy's respiration and could detect no breath. Then he knelt down on the floor of the car and began to pray. And Brothers Lindsay and Moore prayed, too, that the Lord would have mercy. As we neared the hospital, about five or six minutes later, I glanced back, and to my surprise, the boy opened his eyes. As we carried the boy into the hospital, he began to cry, and I realized that a miracle had taken place.

According to the above account, the child was taken to the car and laid in Branham's arms in the back seat as they hurried to the hospital. Branham and entourage only prayed for the child after the pastor inquired about his well-being. In Lindsay and Soininen's account, there was no official medical declaration that the child was dead. Rather, it was Branham who said the child appeared to be dead because there was no pulse, heartbeat, or respiration.

Furthermore, in Jack Moore's account of the event, which was published by Voice of God Recordings, he confirmed Lindsay and Soininen's version of the story. ^[320]

As **I lifted the lifeless form into the back seat** where Bro.

Branham and Sister Isaacson were sitting, I knew that it was too late to help... his pulse was gone. But as we drove on towards the city, **we lifted hearts and voices in prayer**, and after a bit we heard Bro. Branham say, "His pulse is beating again"....

As shown, Gordon Lindsay, Jack Moore, and Pastor Soininen's recollection of events differs from Branham's dramatic and embellished account. Branham's account involves a dead child lying on the ground and being instantly healed before hundreds of people. In Branham's account, he follows a past vision and tells the crowd "Thus saith the Lord" the child will rise from the dead in five minutes. If not, he will leave Finland as a false prophet.

It is interesting to note that a special overseas edition of the Voice of Healing Magazine was published by Gordon Lindsay in June 1950. In this issue Branham gave his testimony of what happened on that day. Surprisingly, he confirms Gordon Lindsay, Jack Moore, and Vilho Soininen's version of the story; even though he told his audiences throughout the years on recorded tapes a fabricated story. Branham said in the special edition: ^[321]

Brother Jack Moore picked him up and brought him back into the car with us. We saw that he was dead. I looked at the little boy and thought I recognized him. Then I remembered that he was the little boy I had seen in the vision, who was eight or ten years old, with light brown hair and who was poorly dressed. I held him to my body and began to pray. Suddenly his life came back to him.

As shown, there was no dead child lying on the ground and being instantly healed before hundreds of people. There was no "Thus saith the Lord" the child will rise from the dead in five minutes. If not, I will leave Finland as a false prophet. In the above account, Branham said the child was brought to the car and he prayed for him (along with others). Afterward, he said the child came to life.

Furthermore, according to Pastor Soininen, the only proof that the child had actually died is Branham's words. Perhaps, if Branham knew the days were coming when his words and testimonies spoken in different cities would be displayed on internet for all to search and examine, he would have chosen not to embellish his stories.

Discrepancies in Life Story

There are many discrepancies in the life story of William Branham that questions his trustworthiness. His followers think critics are wrongfully nit-picking these inconsistencies. It is not a matter of being critical over minor issues. Branham's credibility is at stake.

Nonetheless, William Branham must be the first to bear responsibility for causing people to scrutinize his audio sermons since he told followers to only say what was recorded on tapes. Why? Because God told him what to say. He viewed those recorded sermons as stored food.

It's on tapes. It'll go worldwide on **the tapes**, where people in their houses. **Them tapes will fall right into the hands of the predestinated of God.** He can direct the Word. He'll direct everything just exactly to its course. That's the reason

He sent me back to do this. **"Store up the Food here."**
_Taking Sides With Jesus 06-01-62

And now, this is just a little service that —it—it'll blend right in with it though, **so listen to every word.** Catch it. And—and **if you're taking it on tapes** or anything, then you **stay right with that tape teaching.** **Don't say nothing but what that tape says. Just say just exactly what the tape says** (See?), now because some of those things... We're going to understand a whole lot about this now, why it's misunderstood. See? And **you be sure to say just what the tape says. Don't say nothing else** (See?), 'cause... **I don't say that of my own. It's Him that says it.** You see? _God Hiding Himself In Simplicity, Then Revealing 03-17-63M

And before they went into the land, before they entered, Moses said, "Now, the words that I have spoken to you, I call heaven and earth to witness against you. If you add one thing to It, or take one Word from It, you'll not stay in the land where the Lord God gives you." **So say I,** in the Name of Jesus Christ! **Don't you add one thing.** Don't take, put your own ideas in It. **You just say what is said on those tapes.** **You just do exactly** what the Lord God has commanded to do. **Don't add to It.** _Trying To Do God A Service Without Being The Will Of God 07-18-65M

As shown above, Branham compared the words in his recorded audio sermons to those of Moses' in the Bible. Therefore, as Moses admonished the people not to add to his words (Deut. 4:2; 12:32), Branham warned followers not add to his words, just say what's on the tape. Due to Branham's statements, some leaders among his followers believe there are no errors in his message, or that every word in his transcribed books are infallible (more later).

So then, Branham is the one who brought attention to the errors and discrepancies in his recorded sermons by emphasizing that people should say what's on the tape. As studied in this book, when one does so, there are repeated plagiarisms, failed visions, failed prophecies, failed Thus saith the Lord, and failed predictions along with conflicting and false doctrines. Further discrepancies are shown below.

1). Branham said that his lack of education was due to his father's (Charles) early death. As a result, he had to quit school in the 7th grade to support the family. However, Charles' actual death's certificate and other facts prove that Branham was 27 years old and had his own family when his father died in 1936 at the age of 54 years. ^[322] 323]

2). From 1950 unto 1965, Branham told audiences he was once a Missionary Baptist. But, documented proof shows the church he attended under Dr. Roy Davis was named "First Pentecostal Baptist." This church was Pentecostal and perhaps Apostolic Oneness because they baptized according to Acts 2:38. Dr. Davis said Branham received the Holy Spirit in his home. (discussed later). Also, the name of Branham's church was initially "Pentecostal Tabernacle" before being changed to "Branham Tabernacle." Since there was a division between Oneness and Trinitarian Pentecostals, Branham appeared as an outsider (Missionary Baptist) among them. He attempted to hide his past from mainstream Pentecost until the revivals of the late 40s and mid 50s were mostly over. ^{[324][325][326]}

3). Branham told audiences that his wife's death was due to his unwillingness to fellowship with Pentecostals, when in fact he was already such. Also, newspapers articles show that his wife was a youth leader at Dr. Davis' Pentecostal church before they were married. As stated, Branham said he was preaching at a colored Pentecostal church the night his brother Charles died (August 5, 1935) in an automobile accident. Thus, Branham was already preaching among Pentecostals before his wife's death on July 21, 1937. So, why did Branham blame his wife's illness and death on his refusal to fellowship with Pentecostals? ^{[327][328]}

The next one to go was Charles. I was... He went quickly, suddenly. He was... **I was preaching down here at the little, colored Pentecostal church that night, when Charles was killed up** on the highway by an automobile. _The Testimony Of A True Witness 11-05-61

4). When retelling his life story, Branham told audiences that he asked permission of his prospective father-in-law to marry his daughter on the front porch, while his future first wife asked her mother in the kitchen. Yet, official marriage licenses and divorced records shows his wife's father and mother were divorced in 1931. Furthermore, her father had remarried in 1932 and living in another city when Branham married his wife in 1934. ^{[329][330][331][332][333]}

5). Branham claimed Israel's nationhood and his angelic commission happened the same day on May 6-7, 1946. However, historical fact shows that Israel became a nation on May 14, 1948. ^{[334][335]}

6). Branham claimed he and Ern Baxter saw King George passing by when he visited Canada. The problem is that Baxter became his healing campaign manager after 1947 and the King had only visited Canada once in 1939, which can be seen on You Tube. ^[336]

7). In 1951, Branham prayed: "***I asked our Lord if he would give us another child: possible, give us a little boy. And I would name him Joseph.***" (Believest Thou This? Par. 16, 05-06-51A). After Joseph's birth in 1955, he turned the prayer into a vision and prophecy, saying: "***And a vision come down and said, 'You will have a son, and you shall call his name Joseph'***" (Be Not Afraid, It is I Par. 26, 06-29-62). Yet, during an earlier sermon, he said there was no vision: "***And Something just said to me, not a vision, but Something just said to me, 'You'll have a boy, and you'll call his name Joseph'***" (The Power Of God Par. 4, 10-06-55).

8). During the dedication of his son, Branham said: "***May you be a prophet, Joseph.***" (Enticing Spirits Par. 23, 07-24-55). Two years later, he turned the prayer into a prophecy, saying: "***I was inspired to say, 'Joseph, thou art God's prophet'***" (Thirsting for life Par. 140, 7-28-57).

9). Branham appeared to be against remarriages, especially for women. Yet, earlier court records showed that he officiated three remarriages of his divorced brothers, which included remarriage to a divorced woman. ^{[337][338][339][340][341][342][343][344][345][346][347][348][349][350][351][352][353]} He also taught that engaged people were already married: "***When you're engaged to her, as far as God is concerned, you're married to her'***" (The Invisible Union Of The Bride Of

Christ Par. 86, 11-25-65). Yet, he claimed to annulled his oldest son's first marriage.

That's what the Scripture said. It says if she cuts her hair, she dishonors **her husband**. And **a woman** that's dishonorable has a legal right to be put away in divorce. **But he can't marry again** now. But he—but he can put her away in divorcement.. _Questions And Answers On Genesis 07-29-53

Does this mean **a sister or a brother is free to remarry** ? **No**, sir. See, he explained that first. See: ... unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she departs, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband:... (See?) **There's no such things as any believer ever being reconciled to remarriage again, with a living companion**. _Questions And Answers 05-27-62

Did you realize I'm talking to my own son, Billy Paul? Would I spare Billy Paul? No, indeed. Billy Paul **got married to some little girl**, and come up, and said, "Daddy, I'm going to get married." I was washing my car; I said, "Butt your head against the wall," just kept on washing my car like that. He said, "I'm going to get married." I said, "Oh, go on," just kept on like that. He goes around and tells his mother, and his mother laughed at him. You know what he done? **Run off with some little kid still in common school and got married**. We annulled the wedding, **the father of this girl and myself**. **We annulled the wedding**, but he was married just the same. He's my boy setting here listening at me now. That's exactly. **He come to me with the girl that he lives with now, my daughter-in-law**. My little grandson... He said, "**Daddy will you marry me?**" I said, "**By no means.**" That's my own son. _Questions And Answers #3, 08-30-64M

As shown, Branham claimed his son got married without his consent. However, the official marriage license showed that he did consent. ^{[354][355]} Also, Branham told the church that he and the girl's father annulled the marriage. However, official court record shows that the young lady (she was 18 years old) filed for divorce 43 days after they were married. Records also shows that a restraining order was issued 5 days later and a court trial less than 3 months later annulled the marriage. ^{[356][357]} Once again, Branham seem to incorrectly retell the story.

Closing Comments

When convincing the father of Banks Wood (a very close friend) to leave his Jehovah Witnesses' organization, Branham showed him four outstanding failed prophecies.

And I took four outstanding prophecies of Jehovah Witness, and showed him that **none of had come to pass**. **Every one of them failed**. _Believe From The Heart 06-23-57

If Branham considered four failed prophecies as reasons for someone to leave their organization, then he should be held to the same standard (Matt. 7:1-5; Rom. 2:1). Therefore, people should leave his alleged end time message. Why? Because of multiple failed visions, failed prophecies, failed "Thus saith the Lord," failed predictions, erroneous teachings, and irreconcilable discrepancies when retelling testimonies.

Chapter Ten

William Branham's Erroneous Teachings Regarding Malachi 4:5-6

Our previous investigation of William Branham have uncovered some serious issues such as plagiarisms, failed visions, and failed prophecies and Thus saith the Lord, along with unverifiable supernatural experiences and embellished stories.

As stated, these events have provided sufficient evidences that Branham was not Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6, who restored the elect to the original word of God as the forerunner of Christ's second coming. Nor was he the seventh angel of Revelation 3:14 and 10:7, who revealed the seven seals and every hidden mystery of the Bible in the end time. Nor was he the fulfillment of the Son of man ministry of Luke 17:30, who revealed Christ to this generation as a prophet in human flesh. Neither did his alleged message fulfill the shout of Christ's return in 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

In this chapter, we shall examine Branham's claim to being Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6 and prove it to be scripturally incorrect.

Disproving Branham's Teaching: Two Major Prophets Never Co-existed

To promote and exclusively be the only main prophet and messenger of the last days, William Branham taught that there were **never** two major prophets on the earth during the same time. In Branham's 1965 book on the seven church ages, he uses capitalized letters and "Thus Saith the Lord" to emphasize this erroneous concept.

There **never was** in the age, **any two major prophets** on the earth at one time. There were many minor prophets, but there were one major prophet. _Our Hope Is In God 09-29-51

Now, He **never had two major prophets** at the same time, **never**, in the world. See? _Trying To Do God A Service Without It Being God's Will 11-27-65B

There has **never been an age** where God gave His people **two major prophets at one time**. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

BUT I DENY UPON THE INFALLIBLE EVIDENCE OF THE WORD THAT THERE IS MORE THAN ONE MAJOR PROPHET-MESSENGER WHO WILL REVEAL THE MYSTERIES AS CONTAINED IN THE WORD, AND WHO HAS THE MINISTRY TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE CHILDREN TO THE FATHERS. "Thus saith the Lord" by His unfailing Word stands, and shall stand and be vindicated. There is one prophet-messenger to this age. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

Branham's above statements shows that he may have never read or studied the entire Bible. Why do I say this? If so, he would have known that Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel were major prophets who lived and prophesied during the same time. Consider the following scriptures.

In the fifth day of the month (which was the **fifth year of King Jehoiachin's captivity**), the word of the LORD came expressly unto **Ezekiel** the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the River Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him. Ezekiel 1:2-3

And it came to pass in the **seven and thirtieth** [37th] **year of the captivity of Jehoiachin** king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the five and twentieth day of the month, that Evilmerodach king of Babylon, in the first year of his reign, lifted up the head of **Jehoiachin** king of Judah and brought him forth out of prison. **Jeremiah** 52:31

The above scriptures show that both Jeremiah and Ezekiel mentioned King Jehoiachin in their books and prophesied during his lifetime. The verse below tells us that Daniel came to Babylon during the reign of King Jehoiakim. Who was Jehoiakim? He was the father of King Jehoiachin.

In the third year of the **reign of Jehoiakim** king of Judah, came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand.... Now among these of the children of Judah were: **Daniel**, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah Dan. 1:1-2,6

So **Jehoiakim** slept with his fathers, and **Jehoiachin his son** reigned in his stead. 2 Kings 24:6

Did you see it? In the above verse, Daniel came to Babylon during the reign of Jehoiakim, who was the father of Jehoiachin. Jeremiah and Ezekiel prophesied during the reign of Jehoiakim's son. Remember, Daniel came to Babylon as a lad and lived through the seventy years captivity of Israel (Dan. 9:1-2). Actually, it was during the reign of Jehoiakim did God call Jeremiah to be a prophet.

The words of **Jeremiah** the son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin...It came also in the **days of Jehoiakim** the son of Josiah, king of Judah, unto the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah, king of Judah, unto the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month. Jer. 1:3

The above scriptures plainly let us know that God had three major prophets on the earth during the same time. Likewise, the prophets Isaiah, Hosea, and Micah (who wrote books in the Bible) prophesied during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (Isa. 1:1; Hos. 1:1; Mic. 1:1).

Again, Zechariah and Haggai (who wrote books in the Bible) prophesied during the same time (Ezra 5:1; 6:14). Some of the men mentioned above are viewed as minor prophets due to size of their books. But the fact that God allowed them to write a book in the Holy Scriptures should qualify them as "major" (Luke 24:25-27,44-45; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21). Actually, according to the Bible, God always had multiple prophets during the same time.

Now the **acts of David** the king, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of **Samuel the seer**, and in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of Gad the seer, 1 Chron. 29:29

Now the **acts of Rehoboam**, first and last, are they not written in the book of **Shemaiah the prophet** and of **Iddo the seer** concerning genealogies? 2 Chron. 12:15

Then the **prophets, Haggai** the prophet and **Zechariah** the son of Iddo, **prophesied unto the Jews** who were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them. Ezra 5:1

Now the rest of the **acts of Solomon**, first and last, are they not written in the book of **Nathan the prophet**, and in the **prophecy of Ahijah** the Shilonite, and in the **visions of Iddo the seer**.... 2 Chron.. 9:29

As shown, God always had multiple prophets at the same time. What right did Branham have to consider some of these men as minor prophets when compared to him. Seeing that he had failed visions, failed prophecies, failed predictions, failed "Thus saith the Lord," and vast doctrinal errors. Even though some of these prophets do not have books in the Bible, they were major prophets to the people unto whom God had sent them. These men were greater than Branham; yet, he viewed them as minor prophets.

In reference to prophets, Branham had this belief that a major prophet was a one man show. He was above all. However, the Bible teaches that every word must be established at the mouth of two or three witnesses (Num. 35:30; Deut. 17:6-7; 19:15; Matt. 18:16; 2 Cor. 13:1; 1 Tim. 5:19; Heb. 10:28). This may be one reason why God had multiple prophets during the same time. For example, when a prophet disobeyed the word of God, he would use another one to rebuke him (1 Kings 13:20-34; Jer. 28:1-17).

Moreover, during the days of Elijah there were many prophets of God. One hundred of them were hidden in a cave (1 Kings 18:9-18) because of Jezebel's persecution. Elijah believed he was the only true prophet left alive until the Lord revealed to him otherwise (1 Kings 19:14-18). Also, Elijah was not the only prophet sent to King Ahab. God sent others to speak unto Ahab, as shown below.

And behold, **there came a prophet unto Ahab king of Israel**, saying, "**Thus saith the LORD**: 'Hast thou seen all this great multitude? Behold, I will deliver it into thine hand this day, and thou shalt know that I am the LORD. 1 Kings 20:13-14

And the **prophet came to the king of Israel**, and said unto him, "Go, strengthen thyself, and mark, and see what thou doest; for at the return of the year the king of Syria will come up against thee." 1 Kings 20:22

And he hastened and took the ashes away from his face, and **the king of Israel recognized him, that he was of the prophets**. And he said unto the king, "**Thus saith the LORD**: 'Because thou hast let go out of thy hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore thy life shall go for his life, and thy people for his people.'" 1 Kings 20:41-42

Again, God even used a prophet name Micah to rebuke Ahab and prophesied his imminent death to his face (1 Kings 22:1-40). Furthermore, when God revealed to Elijah that he was going to be taken away to heaven in a whirlwind, he also revealed this secret to Elisha and other prophets (2 Kings 2:1-7). God always work through two witnesses or more. Even in the New Testament, the words of a prophet had to be confirmed by two or three witnesses.

Let **two or three prophets speak**, and let the **others judge**. If anything be revealed to another who sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be comforted. The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets, 1 Cor. 12:29-32 (see Acts 15:32)

Not only does the Old Testament show more than one major prophets during the same time, Revelation 11:1-2 shows two of them prophesying to Israel in the last days at the same time. Again, both Jesus and John the Baptist were major prophets who preached during the same time (Deut. 18:15; Matt. 11:7-9; John 3:22-35; 4:1).

Likewise, in the New Testament, God used twelve Apostles during the same time. Even Paul, whom Branham chose to be the first church age messenger, had to get approval from other apostles concerning the gospel he preached among the Gentiles (Acts 15:1-33; Gal. 2:1-10).

Branham wanted to be a one man show when it came to the prophetic office. He believed many of his colleagues were not prophets, but had the gift of prophecy. He believed these gifts should be tested, but rejected the fact that his prophetic ministry could be judged. Why? Because a prophet is the interpreter of the written word for his generation. Whatever he says cannot be judged. This belief is not biblical (Deut. 13:1-5; 18:21-22; Isaiah 8:19-20).

Many man has raised up, good Spirit-filled man, and they try, they go out... **Maybe the Lord give them a gift of prophecy**. Now, there is a million miles **difference between a gift of prophecy and a prophet**. See? **A gift of prophecy must be judged by three** before it can even be passed into the church. _The Voice Of The Sign 02-14-6

But when you see the **man speaking** what's going to happen, **in the Name of the Lord**, and it happens day in and out, week in and out, month in and out, year in and out, then you know that come from God. See? That's **God's credentials** to the man, that **he is the interpreter of the written Word for that day** .. _The Voice Of The Sign 02-14-64

Now, prophets. There's such a thing as "gift of prophecy" in the Church; but **a prophet is predestinated and foreordained for the hour**. See? Yes, sir. Now, if a prophecy goes forth, two or three has to set and judge whether that's right or not, 'fore the church can receive it. **But nobody set before a prophet**, 'cause he was—he was absolutely the Word of God. **He was that Word in his day**. You seen God reflect. Now, **God has promised to send us that again in the last days**, to bring the

Bride out of that ecclesiastical mess, in the only way it can be done. _The Rapture 12-04-65

As shown, Branham believed the gift of prophecy should be judged by two or three persons. But, no one can judge a prophet because he was the word for his day. Yet, in 1 Corinthians 14:29, Paul says "Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge." Paul did not say gifts of prophecy should be judged, he said PROPHETS SHOULD BE JUDGED. Again, Christ warned us not to be deceived by false prophets (Matt. 7:15-23; 24:11,24-25).

Likewise, 1 John 4:1 tells believers to "...TRY THE SPIRITS whether they are of God: because MANY FALSE PROPHETS are gone out into the world." Again, Jesus commended the church for testing those who claimed to be apostles, but "...has found them LIARS" (Rev 2:2).

Even Peter, who was personally given the keys to God's kingdom by the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 16:18-19), was rebuked by Paul when he walked contrary to the truth of the gospel (Gal. 2:11-16).

The apostles had higher offices than prophets (1 Cor. 12:28); yet, they met and discussed issues (Acts 15:6). These men were not like William Branham who could not be corrected by anyone, even though some tried. Why? Because Branham believed he was the only messenger of the entire Laodicea church age. Such thoughts can lead to self-delusion (Gal. 6:3) and may have caused his untimely death, as we shall later consider.

William Branham Claim to be Elijah of Malachi 4:5-6

Beginning in December 4, 1960 unto December 6, 1965 (twelve days before his fatal accident) Branham mentioned Malachi 4 over 236 times in his audio sermons. Particularly, he was speaking of verses 5 and 6, which says:

Behold, **I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:** and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. Mal. 4:5-6

Branham believed the Elijah of Malachi 4:5 would appear to the entire church before Jesus Christ's second coming. Why? To turn the people back to the teachings of the apostolic fathers (the apostles).

Malachi 4 said that He would **send Elijah** before that evil day come upon the earth, when He'd burn it like a furnace, and **He would restore** and to bring back the —the children to the faith of the fathers—the **original apostolic Pentecostal faith** which He promised to be restored. Now, that's just as plain as Scripture can say it. Now, it's promised. And if we're in the last days, something's got to happen; and **it is happening, and we're seeing it.** _The Second Seal 03-19-63

He promised to send us, in this last days, **according to Malachi 4, a prophet upon the earth**, "That would **turn the hearts of the people back**, the hearts of the children **back to the apostolic fathers again.**" - Modern Events Are Made Clear By Prophecy 12-06-65

Branham believed John the Baptist fulfilled the first

part of Malachi 4:5, while the Elijah of the last days would fulfill the latter portion of the verse, as shown below.

There is absolutely no doubt that Elijah must return before the coming of Jesus. He has a specific work to accomplish. **That work is the part of Malachi 4:6 that says "he will turn the hearts of the children to their fathers"**. The reason that we know this is his specific work to do at that time is because he has **already accomplished the part** that says **"he shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children," when the Elijah ministry was here in John the Baptist.** _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

In Matthew 17:10-13, when Jesus' disciples asked about the coming of Elijah, he told them: "*Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.*" Then he proceeded to say: "But I say unto you, That Elias is come already" Verse 13 says: "Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist." (Luke 1:13-17). In conjunction with Malachi 4:5, Branham believed Jesus' first statement in verse 11 spoke of a future appearance of Elijah, while verse 12 referred to John the Baptist.

Now, watch: And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Elias truly shall come**, shall first come, and restore all things. But I say unto you, That **Elias is come already**, and you knew him not, (**See, He didn't say who he was, see.**) but have done unto him whatsoever ye listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. And the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist. (Now —**now, John the Baptist was the Elias that was to come.**) _The Laodicean Church Age 12-11-60E, Par. 65

Now, watch the compound coming of Elijah. Now, if you'll notice, all Scripture has a compound meanings, "But It's hid from the eyes of the wise and prudent, and revealed to babes such as will learn." Don't you believe that? Now, hold **Malachi 4** right there. _The Laodicean Church Age 12-11-60E, Par. 68

Now, we realize that **that wasn't John**, 'cause **it wasn't the dreadful Day of the Lord** (was it?), and He... neither did He burn the earth. So it must've meant a preview, or —or **another future coming** of John... or of —**of Elijah**. Is that right? _The Laodicean Church Age 12-11-60E, Par 74

Branham was not the first to teach two comings of Elijah. As studied (pages 115-116), commentaries before his time had written of two comings of Elijah. As stated, Branham had a habit of taking other biblical writers' ideas or teachings and passing them on as his revelations.

When describing the characteristics of this Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5 during the sermon "The Laodicean Church Age," (December 11, 1960), Branham was actually speaking of himself. In describing the Elijah of the last days, Branham said he will: (1) hate denominations, (2) hate fancy, no-good women, and (3) love the wilderness.

Branham's description of Elijah left no doubt to followers that he was referring to himself. Why? Because they knew these traits pertained to him. During a sermon in 1965, Branham spoke of the Malachi 4 prophecy to his church in Jeffersonville regarding the coming of Elijah:

According to Malachi 4, a Scripture, there is to rise a

Message that will shake the hearts of the people right **back to the apostolic fathers again**. There is to rise one on the scene, **in the power of Elijah**, that'll rise on the scene; **a wilderness man** that'll come out, and will have a Message that'll run right straight back to the Word again. **That's the hour that we're living in.** _This Day This Scripture Is Fulfilled 02-19-65

After speaking about a last day appearance of Elijah, Branham reminds the audience of his 1933 experience when a supernatural light descended over him while baptizing the seventeenth person among 500 people in the Ohio River. He said the story was carried in a local newspaper and the Associated Press, even into Canada.

Then, consider now, I ask you at this hour, you people here of Jeffersonville. In 1933, the **supernatural Light** that fell down yonder **on the river**, that day when I was baptizing five hundred in the Name of Jesus Christ, as about a twenty-year-old boy. What did It say, Jeffersonville? What was It at the foot of Spring Street there, when the Courier Journal, I believe it was the **Louisville Herald**, packed the article of It? It went plumb across the **Associated Press, plumb into Canada**. Doctor Lee Vayle cut it out of the paper, way up in Canada, in 1933. When I was baptizing my seventeenth person, under this Witness; and you know the rest of the story. _This Day This Scripture Is Fulfilled 02-19-65

As earlier shown, the only newspaper's article found was a four-line report saying he had a tent revival and 14 converts (see page 127). Nonetheless, after Branham spoke of this 1933 experience in the above quote, he connects his ministry to being the fulfillment of Malachi 4:5. How? By comparing his ministry to that of John the Baptist, who according to his teachings fulfilled the first appearance of Elijah in Malachi 4:5-6.

Then, William Branham proceeds to plainly tell his waiting trusting followers what they longed to hear: "*This day this scripture is fulfilled.*" What scripture? The prophecy about the last day coming of Elijah the prophet in Malachi 4:5-6. His church rejoices and praises God.

And when I was standing there, baptizing the seventeenth person, a Light came down from Heaven, shining down above there, like a Star falling from the Heaven. **A Voice said**, "**As John the Baptist was sent to forerun the first coming of Christ, your Message shall forerun His second Coming**, into all the world." This day this Scripture is fulfilled. [Congregation is rejoicing—Ed.] This day! [Congregation is greatly rejoicing and praising God.] God promised it. What happened? **This day It's went around the world.** _This Day This Scripture Is Fulfilled 02-19-65

Book of Malachi Disproves Branham's Elijah Claim

In disproving William Branham's claim as being Elijah the prophet, we must first realize the prophecy of Malachi is written to Israel, not to the Gentile church.

The burden of the word of the LORD TO ISRAEL by Malachi. I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet **I loved Jacob [Israel], and I hated Esau**....Mal. 1:1-3

As shown, the book is addressed to Israel, not the church. Even when Paul quotes Malachi 1:2-3 in Romans 9:12, this verse and the entire chapter pertain to Israel.

I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, that I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for **my brethren, my kinsmen** according to the flesh: **who are Israelites**. Rom. 9:1-4

Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For **they are not all Israel, which are of Israel**: 7 neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: Rom. 9:6-7

It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, **Jacob [father of the 12 Tribes of Israel] have I loved, but Esau have I hated**. Rom. 9:12-13

Again, the prophecy of Malachi 4:5-6 pertains to Israel, because God said I will send YOU Elijah the prophet. Who is the "You" in verse 5? Verse 4 provides the answer.

Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb **for all ISRAEL**, with the statutes and judgments. Verse 4

Behold, **I will send YOU [Israel] Elijah the prophet** before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. Verse 5

Considering Malachi 1:1 and 4:4, the prophecy of Malachi 4:5-6 have nothing to do with Gentiles or the New Testament church. It pertains to Israel. Branham had a habit of isolating a verse from its surrounding context.

For example, as we shall soon study, Branham believed he fulfilled the revealing of the Son of Man in Luke 17:30. But, he failed to connect that verse to the entire context in Luke 17:24-30. A proper study of the entire context proves he failed to fulfill verse 30 because Christ did not literally return and travelled across the sky as lightning from east to west. Neither did this world's system come to an end as in the days of Noah and Lot.

Likewise, Branham failed to realize that Malachi 4:4 identified the "YOU" in Malachi 4:5 to be Israel, not the New Testament Church. Somewhat like Alexander Dowie (1847-1907) and Frank Sanford (1862-1948), who had great healing ministries and later viewed themselves as Elijah the prophet, Branham mistakenly did the same.

Doctrinal Confusions Among Followers Disproves Restoration Claims

The first question Branham's followers should ask: "How can he be the fulfillment of Malachi 4:5-6 after his alleged end time message were filled with plagiarisms, failed prophecies, failed predictions, failed "Thus saith the Lord," and false teachings? How can he be the restorer of God's word after contradictory teachings and statements have brought much confusion among followers. They can barely agree on a consistent doctrinal basis, while some have gone amuck with strange teachings (Heb. 13:9).

Thus, Branham was not the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6

who restored the doctrines of the apostles. Why? Because his followers are not restored to their teachings in the Bible. Rather, their loyalty to his audio sermons and books as the absolute authority has left them in the throes of false teachings, debates, doctrinal confusion, and hostility among themselves and the entire Christian community.

To prove this observation, let's consider some of Branham's close associates who ended up terribly shipwrecked after his death. The first is Leo Mercer.

As first presented on a video by "Seek ye the Truth," testimonies from a documented Supreme Court case (S045060) in the state of California identified Mr. Mercer as physically and sexually abusive to children. The name of this case is "People vs. Loker," which can be viewed online (see endnote for links).^[358] This court document says Leo began his abuse after the death of William Branham. It lists numerous abuses committed by Mr. Mercer. Two excerpts from the document are shown below.^[359]

The park residents were members of the Branham Prophecy or Message Church, followers of Brother Branham, whom they believed to be a prophet...Leo Mercer, a self-proclaimed minister, ran the park. After Brother Branham's death in 1965, Mercer gradually became more authoritative, employing various forms of punishment. He would ostracize people from the community and separate families. Children were beaten for minor infractions like talking during a march or not tying their shoes. Mercer would punish girls by cutting their hair, and force boys to wear girls' clothing. There was also evidence that Mercer sexually abused children.

...[Girl's name omitted by Editor] was about 10 years old. Mercer ordered that **her hair be cut off** to punish her because he had had a vision from God that she was being sexually inappropriate with young children. [Name omitted] **was beaten and forced to wear masculine clothes** that covered much of her body, hiding her bruises. Her **fingertips were burned** so she would know what hell felt like.

Who were Leo Mercer and Gene Goad? They were close friends of Branham and in charge of recording his sermons. He repeatedly mentioned their names on audio tapes from 1955 until nearly two months before his death in December, 1965. Branham often referred to both of them as tape boys and his field secretaries.^{[360][361][362]}

Leo and Gene eventually left as tape boys and started a trailer park commune for Message Believers in Prescott, Arizona called "The Park,"^{[363] [364] [365]} where the abuses occurred. On May 31, 1964, Branham spoke a sermon at this commune entitled "The Oddball," where he addresses Leo and Gene. He commends them for their work and referred to the Park as "Little Jerusalem" and "Goshen."

Brother Leo, Brother Gene and pilgrims, I—I deem this one of the grand privileges that I've had, to come here to see for myself what you have here on these grounds. It's a... I have been blessed as I moved across the little creek there, and see this court. And I... One time when Brother Leo was making tapes, and **I told him that surely there was something greater in life for him than to make tape.** And, course, tape-making is something that we must do, but it's blessed us, but there is something else. We're all cut out for different things to do. And to come here this morning and look, **this fine little**

Jerusalem setting out here, little, what I called, it Goshen.
_Oddball 05-31-64

Moreover, on October 31, 1965, Branham spoke his final sermon at this park entitled "Leadership," where he addresses Leo and Gene. He again commends their work and referred to the Park as a "village."

I want to thank each and every one of you, for this fine time of fellowship, **Brother Leo and Gene.** This has actually been three days of worship, for me. Even out in the jungle, when I try to let myself go and think I was hunting, I somehow or another, I look at you and hear you talk. I had the privilege this afternoon to visit your homes. I never seen, walked into any, **I'm going to call it a village, that I ever seen so many clean, neat homes and people, and so much respect for Christ and the Gospel.** I—I never seen it anywhere. _Leadership 10-31-65A

Branham also addressed the children at this commune. Perhaps, some who were later abused by Mr. Mercer.

Dear Jesus, I cannot express my—my feelings and my gratitude towards **Brother Mercier, Brother Goad, and all these fine people and their little children,** of how kind they have showed us since we've been here. _Leadership 10-31-65

We follow him all through the wilderness; and **you children** has heard **Brother Leo and Brother Gene,** and your papa and mama, tell you what all I taken place in the wilderness. _Leadership 10-31-65A

Mr. Mercer was never indicted since he was dead when the above court convened.^[366] Also, during a 2000 sermon, Lee Vayle (a close friend of Branham) identified Mercer as a pervert when they met in the 1950s.^[367] Again, a former Message Believer of 50 years says her family visited the Park, but left after her father recognized this problem with Mercer.^[368] Court records showed the same for Leo:^[369]

...defendant's aunt, moved to the park in 1962 when she was 18, and left in 1975. At the time of her testimony, she had recently learned that **Mercer had molested one of her sons.**

Leo Mercer was not the only follower of William Branham officially accused of sexually abusing children. In a 2012 article by Reuters news agency entitled "*Insight: German sect victims seek escape from Chilean nightmare past,*"^[370] the writer tells the story of a man who was abused by Paul Schaefer. He built a commune in 1961 and set up a secretive sect located in Chile, South America. Schaefer, who was a Message Believer, tortured followers and sexually abused children. He was eventually arrested and died in prison in 2010, as stated in the news article.

"I have never forgotten it, my first dealings with Schaefer," he said. "I was about seven or eight. That is **when the abuse and rape started.**" Schaefer followed the teachings of American preacher William M. Branham, one of the founders of the "faith healing" movement in the 1940s and '50s. Born in a log cabin in Kentucky, Branham said he had been visited by angels and attracted tens of thousands of followers with sermons that advocated a strict adherence to the Bible, a woman's duty to obey her husband and apocalyptic visions, such as Los Angeles sinking beneath the ocean. Former members of the sect say that Schaefer preached against "sins of the flesh." He also segregated men and women, they say, subjecting all but a few

to enforced celibacy. **Anyone who disobeyed was brutally punished**, often by Schaefer personally...Schaefer fled the Chilean police in 1997. Schaefer was arrested in Argentina and died in a Santiago prison in 2010 aged 88.

Fred Sothmann was another close associate of William Branham to go terribly astray. From 1957 to a few weeks before his death in 1965, Branham often spoke well of Sothmann referring to him as his good friend and manager^[371] Fred was one of the two men who went hunting with Branham when the alleged seven angels in Life magazine appeared. During a taped interview in 1992, Sothmann refused to clearly confirm Branham's story (page 23).

Sothmann became very delusional. During a videotaped interview, which can be seen online (see endnote),^[372] he said Branham was the Almighty God and the Lamb who came from heaven to open the seven seals. He also said Branham was greater than Jesus and did more and greater miracles. He prayed for the sick in Branham's name.

Although many of Branham's followers will disagree with Sothmann's outlandish beliefs about Branham being God; yet, their very prophet oftentimes alluded to God being veiled in his flesh. For example, in the sermons "The Super Sign" and "The Unveiling of God," Branham repeatedly alluded to God being manifested in his flesh. Why? To fulfill the prophecy of Christ's second coming in Luke 17:30 and Malachi 4:5-6. Branham mentions Fred Sothmann's name in one of those meetings where he was alluding to being God manifested in human flesh.

But, look, right **at the end time**, before the burning and the destroying, **the super sign appears mysteriously**, right on the scene again before us, amen, **God Himself. Not a man**, but **God made manifest**; a super sign, an everlasting sign, an Eternal sign, a super sign, **God manifested in the flesh.** _The Super Sign 11-29-63

Notice, through the ages, the same way, by His prophets, He has revealed Himself. They wasn't exactly **prophets, they were gods**. He said so. For, what they spoke was God's Word. **They were the flesh that God was veiled in. They were gods.** _The Unveiling Of God 06-14-64

You're not behind that veil anymore, little Ones, **God has come in full view of you**. The other day, **Brother Fred Sothmann, Brother Tom Simpson**... I don't know whether he ever got here or not. _The Unveiling Of God 06-14-64

Now to the **perfect ministry of Himself; not some man**, not some denomination, as they've worked down through that age there, see; but **Himself made manifest**, manifests Himself **to the promise**, making Saint **Luke 17:28, Malachi 4**, and so forth, Hebrews 13:8, just exactly right. _The Unveiling Of God 06-14-64

How many sees **Him standing**, the Mighty Conqueror, the Word made flesh, **unveiled before us** [section of Par. 370 removed]...**Unveiling Himself in each age**, brought to the believer, **veiling Himself in human flesh** from the unbeliever. **He is hid behind a veil**. May God break every veil, and we see Him as He is! _The Unveiling Of God 06-14-64

The Holy Spirit back in the Church again; **Christ, Himself, revealed in human flesh, in the evening time**. He said. He promised it. _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M

Branham's bold statements have convinced many followers to believe he was either God or Christ revealed in human flesh fulfilling the Son of man prophecy of Luke 17:30. Therefore, Branham must share some of the blame for their delusional belief that he is deity. Furthermore, he clearly said the Elijah of the last days is the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus, many of Branham's followers believe he is Christ because he was Elijah the prophet.

But the **Elijah of this day is the Lord Jesus Christ**. He is to come according to Matthew the seventeen-... **Luke 17:30**, says the **Son of man is to reveal Himself** among His people. **Not a man, God!** But **it'll come through a prophet**. _Trying To Do God A Service Without It Being God's Will 11-27-65B

In considering Branham's bold statements identifying himself with deity, we can begin to see why Mr. Sothmann and others had issues if they literally believed his words.

Likewise, Lee Vayle associated William Branham with Christ's appearance to the church in the last days. Who was Lee Vayle? He was a very close friend of Branham. From 1956 to a few months before Branham's death in December 1965, he often spoke of Vayle and referred to him as a campaign manager, theologian, and Doctor (Perseverance 06-08-62, Par. 14; Who is This Melchisedec 02-21-65, Par. 13), even though he reportedly did not have a PH.D degree and attended Bible school for only six weeks.^[373]

Moreover, Branham referred to Vayle as a writer of literature and books for his church (Events Made Clear by Prophecy 08-01-65, Par.167) He assisted Branham in the publications of his 1965 book on the seven church ages and the seven seals (The Anointed One at the End Time 07-25-65, Par. 196; Christ is Revealed in His Own Word 08-22-65, Par. 177 see also pages 67-68).

Branham and followers believed he was supposed to forerun the second coming of Christ like John the Baptist forerun his first coming. But, since Jesus did not come in Branham's lifetime, Lee Vayle started a doctrine amongst followers called "parousia." This Greek word could mean presence, arrival, appearance, or coming. In the classical usage this word means "physical presence or arrival."^[374]

In attempting to prove that Jesus Christ came during Branham's lifetime, Vayle twisted the word "parousia" to mean a spiritual, invisible, and nonperson appearance of the Lord Jesus and not his literal coming, as shown in Matthew 24:27, 37, and 39.^[375] In doing so, Vayle said Christ started his appearance in 1933 (as shown below).

What allegedly happened in 1933? As stated, Branham was baptizing in the Ohio River when a light appeared and a voice said: *"As John the Baptist was sent to forerun the first Coming of Christ, your Message will forerun the second"* (disproved on pages 124-127). Vayle also said Christ entered his church in 1963 when Branham opened the seven seals. This event was allegedly vindicated by the appearance of Jesus and seven angels in Life magazine, which was disproved in Chapter One. Vayle said:^{[376][377]}
^{[378][379][380][381]}

It's actually, the **Lord Himself shall descend with a shout**, that **is the actual Parousia**, the Presence. And it's not only the

Presence, but it's the Presence in the sense of the ultimate **which Presence began back in 1933 at the ... Ohio River.**

Now, what I'm trying to show you here, **at the Parousia**, remember that's the time was specifically we're interested in, is not in June 11, 1933, but **in March 19 to 24 of 1963**, when the **constellation of angels came down**, and the Mighty Messenger Himself put one foot on land and sea, and came into the **Church to reveal the Seals.**

... So many people don't understand where we stand here *in this ministry of Bro. Branham's*, on **the Presence, which is the Appearing**. Every single one of those words has started, and is moving, and moving, and moving--as **Christ started to appear, and move into His Church, in 1933!** But it was *in 1963*, that we saw Rev 10:1 join with Rev 10:7, you see, **bringing forth the Seals** and all.

Matthew 24, into those who are now in the Rapture of Luke 17. So therefore this is not of something concerning the Parousia, **He's already here. He came in 1933.** But he never set Himself the head of the church until the church was set in order by the Word; coming more and more into the church.

...*Christ started coming into the church, through His Appearing in June 11, 1933, and finally took Headship, in about 1963*, right when He came down. See? That's the idea. He's got to *come* down to take *Headship* in order to raise the dead, **finish off that Shout.**

Now *in 2 Th 1:7*, It says: Those who are troubled rest with us, when the **Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven** with his mighty angels, **(That has taken place already in 1963.)**

Vayle was not the first person who misused *parousia* to justify a failed prophecy about Christ's return. Charles Taze Russell, the founder of the Jehovah's Witnesses, did the same. He said in "The Finish Mystery:"^[382]

It seems that not long after their 1874 disappointment, a reader of *The Herald of the Morning*, who had a copy of the *Emphatic Diaglott*, noticed something in It which he thought peculiar — that **In Matthew 24:27, 37, 39, the Greek word *parousia*, which In our Common Version is rendered 'coming,'** Is In the *Diaglott translated 'presence'*—evidently the correct translation of the Greek. This was the case; and following It, they had been led through prophetic *time* toward proper views regarding the object and manner of our Lord's Return, and then to the examination of the time when the thing Indicated In God's Word as related to Christ's *parousia* should take place.

So I paid Mr. Barbour's expenses to come to see me at Philadelphia (where I had business engagements during the summer of 1876), to show me fully and Scripturally, If he could, that the prophecies **indicated 1874 as the date at which the Lord's presence** and the **Harvest began.** He came, and the evidence satisfied me.

As shown, when Christ did not return in 1874, Russell accepted the *parousia/presence* explanation to justify the failed prophecy. As studied, Mr. Russell believed he was the seventh angel of Revelation 3:14 and 10:7. He believed the angel descending from heaven in Revelation 10:1 was the Second Advent (*parousia*) of Christ in 1874 (p. 167).

10:1. And I saw another **angel**.—"The Messenger of the Covenant," **the Lord Jesus**.—Mal. 3:1. **Come down from**

Heaven.—At the time of the Second Advent, Oct 1874.—Rev. 3:20. Clothed with a cloud.—"He cometh with clouds.

Like Russell's beliefs that Christ's *parousia/presence* occurred in 1874, the Jehovah's Witnesses organization (JWO) used this word to justify his failed prophecy about Jesus' literal second coming in 1914. Wikipedia says:^[383]

Jehovah's Witnesses **rarely use the term "second coming"**, preferring **the term "presence"** as a translation of *parousia*. They believe that Jesus' comparison of "*the presence of the Son of man*" with "*the days of Noah*" at Matthew 24:37–39 and **Luke 17:26–30** suggests a duration rather than a moment of arrival. They also believe that biblical chronology points to **1914 as the start of Christ's "presence"**, which continues until the final battle of Armageddon.

Like Russell and the JWO's beliefs that Jesus' *parousia* coming occurred in 1874 and 1914, Lee Vayle said it began in 1933 and was completed in 1963. Vayle said the word "parousia" is never used in reference to Christ's coming in the flesh or pertaining to his return.^[384]

In these places the **New World Translation** renders *Parousia* as 'be present' or 'present himself' from the contrast that is made between the presence and the absence of Paul, both in 2 Cor 10:10, 11 and Phil 2:12. ... The terms *Parousia* and **Parousia** are **never used for the coming of Christ in the flesh**. And **Parousia never has the sense of 'return'**.

As shown above, Lee Vayle got his understanding of the *parousia* doctrine from the New World Translation, which is the Bible translated and used by the Jehovah's Witnesses. They brought forth this false rendering of *parousia* in their Bible to mean *presence* rather than *coming* to justify their prophet's (Mr. Russell) failed prophecy of Christ's literal return in 1914.

In attempting to use the JWO's failed reasoning, Mr. Vayle told an outright lie by saying *parousia never* refers to Christ literal coming or return. But, there is a reason why the translators of other Bible versions chose to translate the word "parousia" as "coming." The reason, Paul's use of this word meant a real physical appearance (shown below), not a spiritual, invisible, and nonperson appearance,

I am glad of the **coming** [*parousia*] of **Stephanas** and **Fortunatus** and **Achaicus**: for that which was lacking on your part they have supplied. 1 Cor. 16:17

Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the **coming** [*parousia*] of **Titus**; and not by **his coming** [*parousia*] **only**, but by the consolation wherewith he was comforted in you, when he told us your earnest desire, your mourning, your fervent mind toward me; so that I rejoiced the more. 2 Cor. 7:6-7

For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but **his BODILY** [*physical*] **presence** [*parousia*] is weak, and his speech contemptible. 2 Cor. 10:10

That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by **MY coming** [*parousia*] **to you again**. Phil 1:26

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in **MY presence** [*parousia*] only, but now **much more in my absence**, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling Phil 2:12

As shown, the word *parousia* described the literal bodily arrival, appearance, presence, or coming of Paul and his co-workers; not a spiritual, invisible, and nonperson appearance as stated by Mr. Vayle. Also, in the verses below, Paul used a different Greek word for *presence* and *coming*, even though they pertained to the same literal return of Christ.

For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Are* not even ye in the **presence** [emprosthen] of our Lord Jesus Christ at his **coming** [parousia]? For ye are our glory and joy. 1Thess. 2:19-20

Likewise, in the same verse, Apostle John used a different Greek word for *appearance* and *coming*, even though they pertained to the same literal return of Christ.

And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall **appear** [phanerōthē], we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his **coming** [parousia]. John 2:28

As proven, the word *parousia* pertains to a literal bodily arrival, appearance, presence, or coming of Christ; not an invisible nonperson appearance. This word was also used to describe the literal coming of the Antichrist in the last days and the literal coming of the Jesus Christ when he destroys this man in Revelation 19:11-21.

And then shall that **Wicked be revealed**, whom **the Lord** shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of **his coming** [parousia]: *even him, whose coming* [parousia]: is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders. 2 Thess. 2:8-9

Moreover, in the following verses, Apostle Peter uses the word *parousia* to describe Jesus' first coming in a literal physical body and the coming Day of the Lord when the heavens shall be dissolved with intense heat.

For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and **coming** [parousia] of **our Lord Jesus Christ**, but were **eyewitnesses** of his majesty. 2 Peter 1:16

Looking for and hasting unto the **coming** [parousia] of **the day of God**, wherein the **heavens being on fire** shall be dissolved, and the **elements shall melt with fervent heat**? 2 Peter 3:12

As shown, *parousia* refers to the literal physical coming of a person or event. Thus, Lee Vayle and the JWO's entire assumption is wrong. *Parousia* in Matthew 24:27,37 and 39 pertains to Christ's literal bodily coming, not a spiritual presence. Nonetheless, Lee Vayle built his entire *parousia* doctrine of Christ's appearance on Branham's 1933 experience on the Ohio River and the presumption that Christ appeared in the cloud on February 28, 1963 (as shown in Life Magazine) while he was hunting in Arizona.

But, as earlier proven, both of these events did not happen as stated by Branham. There were no newspaper articles verifying that a light appeared and a voice spoke when Branham was baptizing in the Ohio River; except a four line article on the front page of a Jeffersonville newspaper that 14 people were converted (see page 127).

Neither was Branham present when Christ supposedly

appeared in a cloud on February 28, 1963, which reputable astronomers says was caused by the detonation of a faulty missile launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. Also, Branham plagiarized his sermons on the seven seals, which undermines his claims that these hidden mysteries were supernaturally revealed by seven angels.

Therefore, Lee Vayle entire presumptions of Christ's *parousia* appearance in 1933 and 1963 are based on errors. Yet, many Message Believers adhere to his false *parousia* teaching. Even though over 57 years have transpire since Branham allegedly opened the seven seals in March of 1963, and over 87 years since his purported John the Baptist commission on the Ohio River in June of 1933.

Moreover, Peary Green was another close friend and follower of Branham who attempted to connect the second coming of Christ with his ministry. However, Pastor Green claimed to believe in a literal bodily return of Jesus.

In Green's book "The Acts of the Prophet," he quoted Daniel 7:13 and Luke 21:27 that show Christ as the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven. He tried to connect these scriptures to Branham's fulfillment of Luke 17:30 as the Son of man and the appearing of the cloud in Life Magazine on February 28, 1963. [385] [386] [387] At the end of the chapter entitled "The Cloud," Green said on page 77:

I proclaim to the people of this age that the **Scriptures promise there is a cloud to be connected again to the appearance of the Son of Man on this earth**. Now I bring you startling news that **there has been such a cloud in this century – a cloud that cannot be explained by science**. If it could be explained by scientific principle then I couldn't believe what I do about it, **but there is no explanation**.

In the above quote, Green attempts to mislead readers that there is no scientific explanation for the cloud shown in Life Magazine. As studied, leading astronomers did provide a scientific explanation (see pages 16-21).

Again, Lee Vayle and Peary Green were not alone in their false assumptions about Jesus' return. Evan Moseley likewise believed Jesus Christ literally appeared through Branham. [388] [389] Moseley was a close friend of Branham (Who Do You Say This Is? 12-27-64, Par 5) who instigated his resurrection and return ministry. [390]

Moseley said Bro. Branham instructed him to buy an airplane that would be used during the fulfillment of the tent vision. However, after Branham's sudden death in 1965, Moseley and others believed he would rise from the dead to fulfill this vision and other unfulfilled prophecies declared to be *Thus saith the Lord*. Currently, the airplane is parked in Arizona. [391] Every Easter followers gather in Jeffersonville, some expecting his resurrection. [392]

Paulaseer Lawrie was another friend and follower of William Branham who went terribly astray regarding the second coming of Christ. Who was Paulasser? Wikipedia says he was a preacher from India who had a faith healing ministry and a world-wide following. He met Branham in a 1954 crusade in India and later in the USA. [393]

He participated in a Bombay healing crusade of American evangelist William Branham in 1954, an acquaintance that

was to be important later. A series of "miracles" sparked interest in Paulaseer's message...From Scotland he went to the United States, where he attempted to acquire backing from an established Pentecostal ministry. This was largely unsuccessful **until he met with Branham, who encouraged him in his ministry.**

Paulaseer's official website, says he was baptized by Branham in 1960 and thereafter held large meetings attended by miraculous signs. The website also says he directed all converts to the message of Bro. Branham. ^[394]

He directed all of them to the message and doctrines of Bro. Branham, sacrificing his own ministry in the process. **Thousands and thousands took to the message of Bro. Branham.** There were hundreds of independent prayer groups started by Bro. Paulaseer Lawrie throughout India.

After Branham's death, Paulasser twice visited his followers in the United States. Wikipedia says: ^[395]

In 1967, Paulaseer took a long journey in the West, **preaching to many of Branham's followers** In **1969** he took another tour, and this time some Branhamites experienced extraordinary things from his preaching.

On July 21, 1969, Paulasser announced that he was Christ's second coming and adopted Branham's 1977 prediction about the rapture. Wikipedia says: ^[396]

On 21 July 1969 – the day of the Apollo 11 moon landing – **Paulaseer claimed to have become the second coming of Christ.** His followers pointed to Branham's sermons to show that he recognized Paulaseer as such. Paulaseer adopted from Branham a prediction that the Rapture would occur in 1977....

In the foreword of an alleged biography of Paulasser, the writer referred to him as the Son of man, Son of God, the Son of David, the Lord God, and Lord God Almighty. Paulasser's followers also called him "Ayyah"—God manifested in the flesh. The writer further said Paulasser was the fulfillment of Branham's prophecy. ^[397]

My upbringing was of the Christian background. When I first received the moon landing messages of **Ayyah** I literally hid them, for fear that here is the second coming of Christ for whom I have waited and preached to many, in hope to lead them to the event which has already transpired on the moon landing day. As it is mentioned, He will come like a thief. While history made a mark, God also made **His silent entrance to the scene that would set the stage for the fulfillment of all prophecies. From Adam to the last church age messenger William Branham, all pointed to this ministry of Ayyah. God manifested in the flesh.** Where God Himself made the Bible an open book so that a child could understand, this simplicity of God's Word was complicated by the scholars highly educated society of the world.

Moreover, Paulaseer's followers believed Branham's description of Christ (or the angel) in his sermons described their leader. They believe that as John the Baptist baptized Jesus, Branham baptized Paulaseer, who was the second coming of Christ, the Son of man. ^[398] Wikipedia further says of Paulasser: ^[399]

Paulaseer adopted from Branham a prediction that the Rapture would occur in 1977, and that only 700 would be saved. Many

American followers abandoned Paulaseer after his predictions for that year failed to come true.

In the 1980s, Paulaseer changed his message somewhat, teaching *Aadhi Bali* or "Supreme Sacrifice" – an idea from the Purusasukta. He began to draw much more on Hindu and even Muslim ideas, and attracted more native Indian followers.

Branham not only played a chief role in launching Paulasser's ministry, he unknowingly help launched the ministry of Jim Jones from Indiana. Jones was the notorious cult leader who compelled 918 followers to commit murder-suicide in 1978. ^[400] Wikipedia says: ^[401]

Jones organized a mammoth religious convention to take place **June 11 through June 15, 1956**, in a cavernous Indianapolis hall **called Cadle Tabernacle.** To draw the crowds, Jim needed a religious headliner, and so **he arranged to share the pulpit with Rev. William Branham**, a healing evangelist and religious author as highly revered by Oral Roberts. **Following the convention, Jones was able to launch his own church,** which changed names until it became the Peoples Temple Christian Church Full Gospel. The Peoples Temple was initially made as an inter-racial mission.

Like Branham, Jones claimed to have a prophetic and healing ministry. ^[402] As shown, they held a joint meeting in Indianapolis at Cadle Tabernacle from June 11, 1956 to June 15, 1956. An original flyer from Jim Jones' church advertising this upcoming meeting can be seen online (see endnote for link). ^[403] The flyer has a picture of Jim Jones and the following words in large and bold letters:

REMEMBER THE WILLIAM BRANHAM WORLD RENOWNED BROTHERHOOD HEALING CRUSADE, WE ARE HAVING AT CADLE TABERNACLE—JUNE 11TH – JUNE 13TH.

In Branham's recorded sermons, there are multiple references to these five meetings, some are shown below.

Don't forget the services in Indianapolis this week. If any of you are—have any friends up that way, why, write and tell them. The **services will begin tomorrow night at seven o'clock** at the **Cadle Tabernacle in Indianapolis.** _Perfection 06-10-56

If we had the love of God in the Assemblies, in the United, in the Church of God, in the Methodist, in the Baptist, then denominational barriers would be broke down, **this Cadle Tabernacle tonight would be packed to the streets here**, and the power and glory of God, and an old fashion revival would sweep this city and...? out. _Hear Ye Him 06-11-56

Now, **we have one more night after tonight** in this lovely gathering here in the **great Cadle Tabernacle.** And we're so happy to be here; and for the opened door to meet together, worship the Lord. _God Provided A Lamb 06-14-56

Then **in behalf of the Cadle Tabernacle** and its staff, I certainly thank them, truly, with all my heart, that it's certainly been a great privilege **to be here under the roof** of this great mammoth church here. _An Exodus 06-15-56

It appears that Jones' name may have been edited from the above sermons, even though he hosted the meetings that were held in Indianapolis, Indiana —the city where he

lived before moving to California after 1963. Branham lived (in Jeffersonville) only 112 miles from Jim Jones.

In 1951, Jones moved to Indianapolis...(see Jim Jones – Wikipedia “Early life”).

Jones organized a mammoth religious convention to take place June 11 through June 15, 1956, in a cavernous Indianapolis hall called Cadle Tabernacle (see Jim Jones – Wikipedia).

When Jones returned from Brazil in December 1963, he told his Indiana congregation that the world would be engulfed by nuclear war on July 15, 1967, that would then create a new socialis Eden on Earth, and that the Temple had to move to Northern California for safety (see Jim Jones – Wikipedia).

[A brother welcomes Brother Branham —Ed.] Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. May be seated just a moment. I certainly appreciate that fine welcome. And I want to say also, and to Dr., the chairman, and to Brother Boze, and to the other, Dr. Beeland, that this has certainly been a pleasure for me to be here and to minister with you brothers in this fine fellowship. _An Exodus 06-15-56

As shown, Jones moved his church to California after 1963 to escape a predicted nuclear war nearly during the same time Branham moved to Arizona and was predicting America’s destruction by a bomb (see pages 145 -148,160). As shown, efforts had been made to disassociate Branham from helping to launch the notorious Jim Jones because it highlights his failure as a prophet to foresee the horrendous massacre this evil man inflicted upon innocent people. Nonetheless, during a later sermon in Chicago, Branham acknowledged Jones (real name is “James Warren Jones” – see Wikipedia) as “our host pastor” (perhaps referring to the recent meetings a few months earlier in June).

And the Lord has been blessing us tremendously, I feel. And this great convention that has come to Indianapolis. _ God Provided A Lamb 06-14-56

Happy to see, today, is our host pastor, Brother James Jones, from Indianapolis, back there. _Father, The Hour Has Come 10-02-56A, Par.4

As shown, some of Branham’s close associates went into deep erroneous doctrines. There is not enough space in this book to consider other wayward followers. However, they can basically be categorized into ten (10) major sects, which are: (1) Return ministry sect that believe Branham will rise from the dead to finish his unfulfilled prophecies of Thus saith the Lord, such as the tent vision, African vision, and seven thunders revelation, [404][405] [406][407][408] (2) Based on Lee Vayle teachings, the Parousia sect that believe Christ came in the 1963 cloud shown in Life Magazine and made his second appearance [409] or coming [410] in the days of Branham. [411] Some (or all) in this group believes Jesus is no longer on the throne of grace and the only means of redemption is to accept the prophet’s message, [412] [413] (3) The deity sect that believe Branham was either God or Jesus Christ. [414] [415][416][417][418][419]

Moreover, (4) The Joseph Branham is a prophet sect that closely follows Branham’s son, [420][421] who believe the unabridged books of his father’s sermons are infallible,

[422] [423] (5) The seven thunders sect that believe the seven unwritten mysteries of Revelation 1 0:4 are the seven virtues listed in 2 Peter 1:5 -7, [424] [425][426] (6) The seven thunders sect that believe seven men will proclaim these unwritten mysteries to the true bride of the message, [427]

Also, (7) The eighth messenger sect that believe another messenger appears after Branham to bring the bride to perfection, [428][429][430][431] (8) The third testament sect that believe the Old and New Testaments are over and a third one is presently in existence. This sect believes they are now living in the millennium reign of Christ. They also believe Jesus is no longer the Son of man or Son of God, but now operating under the Son of David’s ministry, [432][433][434] (9) The polygamy sect that believe in multiple wives at the same time, [435][436][437] [438] and (10) The remaining sect that accepts none of the above, but still believe Branham to be Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6, the revealing of Christ in Luke 17:30, the seventh angel of Revelation 3:14 and 10:7, and the “shout” of Christ’s second coming in 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

Among the multiple sects of Branham shown above, there are varying doctrines and disagreements regarding: (1) The Godhead – some believe the Father and Jesus are either the same person or two distinct beings, while others believe he became God when filled with the Holy Spirit after being water baptized by John the Baptist and once again became a man in the garden of Gethsemane before dying on the cross, (2) Infallibility – some believe there are either no errors or various errors in Branham’s sermons, while others believe there were errors that he corrected in later sermons after the seven seals were revealed in 1963.

The list continues: (3) Mixed Marriages – most are against mixed marriages mainly between black and white followers, (3) Ministers’ wives – most believe ministers can only marry virgins and all others must step down, some do not believe this doctrine, and (4) Divorcees and remarriages – some believe in no remarriages or men can remarry, but women divorcees cannot; while some believe men and women can remarry if divorced from unsaved spouses. Complicating these lingering issues are court records showing Branham had officiated the remarriages of both divorced men and a divorced woman (studied on page 182). This discovery may further divide an already vastly fragmented and splintered group regarding this subject.

The above list excludes the vast array of personal beliefs and different opinions held by each pastor relating to: (1) dressing codes for women, such as skirts with or without splits, skirts below the knees or to the ankles, sleeves or sleeveless blouses; flat, medium, high heel, or open toe shoes, and acceptable or non-acceptable hairstyles (braids, curls, natural, wigs, cutting loose ends), (2) the use or non-use of televisions and monitors (DVD players), (3) the use of modern technology, such as computers and the internet, and (4) attending sporting events, movies, carnivals, beaches, or choosing other types of public entertainments and recreations for the family.

The vast differences and confusions among Branham’s followers are mostly caused by contradictory statements he

made during various sermons. Also, Branham's followers are taught to regard statements in the books of his recorded sermons as divinely inspired or infallible (mainly by Branham's son, see video links ^{[439][440]}), especially if he said "Thus saith the Lord." As a result, some followers of Branham believe in polygamy due to a 1965 sermon on marriage and divorce ^{[441][442]} and a "Thus saith the Lord" statement he made during that time, as shown below.

Notice, don't fail this now, take it all down in your hearts. But not one of those women could even have one more husband. He is the original creation, not her. Not one of those women could have one more husband, but that one husband could have a thousand wives. That's THUS SAITH THE LORD. That's the Bible. Now I've went back, took my time and showed you back yonder where it started, what Jesus said. Now do you see it clearly? They could have as many. _Marriage And Divorce 02-21-65M

Although William Branham said he did not believe in polygamy; yet, he repeatedly spoke in earlier sermons that America would be better off if it practiced this multi-wives concept. He commended nations that did so.

Speaking to someone the other day **about polygamy**. I said the nation in a whole would be better off if it practiced polygamy. It would. We're the highest-rated nation in the world with divorces, marrying and intermarrying, and intermarrying. Because we try to make the men of the world outside coincide with Christian doctrine, and you can't put the nature of a lamb in a pig. Polygamy would be better off for him. You may not believe it but God would look at polygamy and excuse it a lot quicker than what He would. Now, you remember, don't you say that I believe in polygamy; I don't. I remember what God said, Moses said, or, the Pharisee said to Jesus, said, "Why did Moses suffer a writing of divorce?" Said, "He did it because the hardness of your heart." Right. But it wasn't so from the beginning, never will be. God did it because of the hardness of their heart. But in the nations where they have polygamy the divorce courts are at ebb, low. _The Supernatural 01029-56

In the nations where they have polygamy, it's a thousand times better. And yet, polygamy's wrong; we know. _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61

Moreover, Branham commended a tribe in Africa for its moral principles, even though it practiced polygamy.

They have polygamy. But if some man hasn't taken her for a wife at a certain size, she has to take her tribal paint off and leave the—the tribe, because there's something wrong. If she is... before she is married, or taken for wife, she's examined for her virginity. If she be found guilty, she has to tell the man that's done it. They're both killed together. Be a lot of deaths around the United States anyhow, if they'd search them out like that. But there's no nightlife among them. No, sir. **They're clean, moral, as they can be**. _A Greater Than Solomon Is Here 05-15-61

In a sermon preached on February 18, 1965, Branham faintly alluded to polygamy as a form of adultery.

The three women, three women that this Seed was carried through. One of them was actually **an adultery, under polygamy**. _The Seed Is Not Heir With The Shuck 02-18-65

Nonetheless, on February 21, 1965, three days after the above unclear statement regarding polygamy, Branham preaches the sermon: "Marriage and Divorce." During this sermon he carelessly spoke positive of polygamy without clearly condemning its practice in the New Testament.

Now you see then, "after" the beginning, it was something else was introduced. **Now this is going to shock you**. Are you tired? [Congregation says, "No."—Ed.] Just sit still just a little longer. 203 Then when the double covenant was made by man and woman, through sex, another covenant altogether (not the original covenant, but another covenant), now what's introduced? Polygamy, in all. Then, after the beginning, **polygamy was introduced in man and in beasts; after the beginning**, the fall. _Marriage And Divorce 02-21-65M

See that original back there, "from the beginning," now? **Remarrying, now notice, he can, but she can't**. Like David, like Solomon, like the continuity of the whole Bible, now, same as David and the rest of them. Now you notice in First Corinthians 7:10, notice, Paul commands the wife that is, that divorces her husband, to remain single or be reconciled, not to remarry. She must remain single, or to be reconciled back to her husband. She cannot remarry. **She must remain single, but, notice, he never said about the man**. See, you can't make the Word lie. **"From the beginning," the sex law by polygamy**. Now, the Word of God runs true with nature of God, runs in to continuity. _Marriage And Divorce 02-21-65M

But **she is designed to be a sex act**, and no other animal is designed like that. No other creature on the earth is designed like that. **That's the reason you see polygamy**, because of that. That's what brought it in. _Marriage And Divorce 02-21-65M

As shown, Branham said the man could remarry without committing adultery based on the Old Testament concept of polygamy, which excludes women: **"She must remain single, but, notice, he never said about the man."** Mark 10:10-12 refutes his claims that the man can remarry without committing adultery (if not viewed from the exception of fornication in Matthew 5:31-32 and 19:1-9). Also, the Mosaic law allowed divorced women to remarry (Deut. 24:1-4). Thus, refuting Branham's notions that they were not allowed to do so during the Old Testament.

Nonetheless, Branham's comments in 1956, 1961, and 1965 about polygamy were mostly positive. His statement that polygamy was not God's original plan and **"...won't be so in the world over yonder ..."** can be interpreted by some followers as endorsing its present practice.

You see, **woman**, you are—you are a jewel if you want to be a jewel, but the desire has to be by you. And you see why the Marriage And Divorce was, that Jesus pointed back yonder, **it was because your kind** was the cause of all sin. **That's the reason polygamy and divorce, and things, was introduced**. At the beginning it never was so, and **it won't be so in the world over yonder**. _Marriage And Divorce 02-21-65M

Also, in Branham's 1965 sermon on "Marriage and Divorce," he used King David's polygamous marriages to compare Christ's relationship with the church.

And at the end there will be **one Lord Jesus, and His Bride many**, singular. You get it? There was **one David** on one

throne, one king (after God's Own heart) with **five hundred wives**. _Marriage And Divorce 02-21-65M

But to get this Marriage And Divorce straightened out, so that you would know which was right and which was wrong, now He plainly shows here in these types. There is **one Christ**; and **many members of that Wife**. _Marriage And Divorce 02-21-65

Moreover, in the sermon "Choosing a Bride" preached on April 29, 1965, Branham alluded to polygamy being legal only under the Old Testament. Yet, he used David's and Solomon's polygamous marriages as examples of Christ's relationship with the church.

"Woman was made for man, and not man for woman." That's the reason, **under the old laws, that polygamy was legal**. Look at **David setting down there with five hundred wives**, and the Bible said, "He was a man after God's own heart." With five hundred wives, and **Solomon with a thousand**, but not one of them women could have another husband. You get my tape on Marriage And Divorce. That, up on top the mountain at Tucson, here not long ago, I was up there praying about it. _The Choosing Of A Bride, 04-29-65, Par. 135-136

Notice, now, she could not have but one husband, because, "Woman was made for man, and not man for woman." That whole **five hundred women was just David's wife, and it was a type**. When **Christ sets on the Throne in the Millennium, His Bride will be not one person, but it'll be tens of thousands**, the Bride, all in One. And **David had many wives**, as individuals, but only all of them together was his wife. Like the whole Body of believers is the Bride of Christ, 'cause It's She, the woman. He was the Man. Now, we were made for Christ. Christ wasn't made for us. _The Choosing Of A Bride, 04-29-65E, Par. 137

In the above quote, Branham told people to get his tape on Marriage and Divorce. But, his teaching on this subject has caused great confusion and debates amongst followers while reducing womanhood to trash (refer back to pages 153-156 for more information). Also, Branham's positive statements about polygamy and failure to clearly condemn it in the New Testament have influenced some followers to *openly* practice this forbidden act.

For example, the pastor of a Message church in Zimbabwe, who has seven wives, said in a November 28, 2010 news article—entitled "*Proud polygamist eyes eighth wife*"—that he and his first wife were influenced by Branham's teachings to practice polygamy. ^[443]

"This (polygamy) is not something I sat down and planned. I was greatly influenced by our church founder, **Reverend William Branham**, who wrote teachings on polygamy. "I then **studied extensively on the subject** and started preaching about it. Befittingly, it was at church that I met and wooed some of my wives," he said.

The first wife, Tafadzwa, has six children. She was stunned when her husband revealed plans of taking a second wife. However, **she had a change of heart after reading Reverend Branham's literature**.

On December 12, 2013, another article in NewsDay reported how an arrested pastor of a Message church in Zimbabwe attempted to molest a member of his church. ^[444] The article says during the attempted rape, the woman

recalled how the pastor tried to assure her by saying he was going to introduce polygamy in the church and marry her.

After failing to rape her, she said, Gumbura assured her not to be troubled because he was going to marry her. She alleged that the pastor, **who had one wife at the time**, told her of **his plans to introduce polygamy in the church**.

On January 15, 2014, the same news outlet reported that pastor now had multiple (four) wives. ^[445]

RMG Independent **End Time Message church** founder Robert Martin Gumbura's **wives** who are facing charges of illegal possession of pornographic materials together with five other women from the church yesterday pleaded not guilty to the charge when the trial opened.

I shared the above articles to show how polygamy is a growing practice among some of Branham's followers. In 2014 some of these followers who practice polygamy came to Branham's home church in Jeffersonville to debate this issue with local members and the pastor. During the debate the polygamist read from Branham's books, which can be seen online (see endnote for links). ^{[446][447]}

The brethren and pastor of the church opposed the polygamists' views. But, they had no effective quotes from Branham to unequivocally refute them. These African followers were reading directly from his book on Marriage and Divorce and other sermons regarding this subject.

Nonetheless, Mark 10:10-12 clearly condemns the practice of polygamy as an adulterous relationship. Again, 1 Timothy 3:2 and Titus 1:6 forbid the practice. So, as you can plainly see, Branham's alleged end time message did not clarify the word of God. Rather, his teachings have caused vast confusions amongst followers.

Therefore, taking into consideration the above facts, William Branham was not the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6 who restored God's elect to the original doctrines of the apostles. Why? Because his followers are not restored to their teachings in the Bible. Instead, they listen intently to Branham's contradictory sermons as the voice of God, while studying and quoting his books as though they were the Holy Scriptures, or more than the scriptures.

However, due to Branham's inconsistent teachings on subjects such as endtime prophecies, being born and filled with the Spirit, the Godhead, marriage and divorce, the revealing of six or seven seals and seven thunders, whether Jesus has left the mediatorial throne or not, whether the forbidden tree in Eden was Eve or Satan, and many others: followers would choose quotes that best supported their arguments. As a result, his teachings have left them with endless debates, vast doctrinal confusions, and hostility among themselves. There are constant internal and external strife among the various groups that oftentimes lead to congregational splits. ^[448] For example, on August 13, 2015, an issue caused the 89 years old pastor and several deacons at Branham's home church in Jeffersonville to resign. ^{[449][450]} The pastor said regarding the church "*...it looks like it is falling apart.*" ^[451] Overall, there are no true unity and peace among Branham's diverse followers. ^[452]

Role of New Testament Prophets Disprove Branham's Elijah Claim

William Branham wanted to be a prophet-messenger to this generation who could not be scripturally corrected by anyone. Therefore, he taught followers to believe that two Major Prophets never existed at the same time. But, as studied, this belief is scripturally incorrect.

Furthermore, Branham did not properly understand the role of prophets in the New Testament Church, but propagated an Old Testament concept. He also believed the word of the Lord could only come through prophets.

And the **Word can only come through these prophets**, as they spoke. _ Power Of Transformation 10-31-65M

See, It was not wrote by man, but It was wrote by God. It's not a man's book, It's not a theologian's book. It's the Book of God, which is a Book of prophecy wrote by the prophets and interpreted by the prophets. The Bible said, "**The Word of the Lord comes to the prophets.**" Exactly. Modern Events Are Made Clear By Prophecy 12-06-65

Branham believed only a prophet has the divine interpretation of God's word.

A prophet has the Divine interpretation of God's Word. That's exactly right. How a person can call one, somebody, "a prophet" and then say, "they have the wrong revelation"? _The Thyatirean Church Age 12-08-60

Branham so strongly believed the word of the Lord came only to the prophets that even the Apostle John needed a prophet to reveal the book of Revelation to him. In the quote below, Branham seems to imply that God could not trust a literal angel to bring the message to John, so he sent a prophet to do so. If so, this is utter nonsense.

Do you believe that the time, **even on John**, on the Isle of Patmos, this message was so perfect that He couldn't **trust it with an angel**? You know, a **angel is a messenger**, but do you know the **messenger was a prophet**? You believe that? Let's prove it. Revelation 22: let's see if it was an eagle. See, he was... Sure he was an angel; he was a messenger. But **it was a prophet that revealed this whole Book of Revelation to him**. Revelation the 22nd chapter and the 19th verse, I believe that's right if I've got it written down here: 22:19. I may be wrong. No, 22:9. That's what it is, I was looking at 22:9. That's right. Oh, yes, here. _The Fifth Seal 03-22-63

As shown, Branham misinterpreted the scriptures to exalt his prophetic ministry over the apostles. How? By saying *a prophet* had to reveal the book of Revelation to John.

And **I John saw these things**, and heard *them*. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of **the angel** which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, *See thou do it not*: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God. Rev. 22:8-9

As shown below, Branham's younger son (and perhaps all Message Believers) falsely believe his father was the angel who revealed this book to John. ^[453]

John, you remember when **John** saw **that messenger, he fell down to worship him**. But what that messenger was saying, that was the messenger that was **telling him all the mysteries**. He said: don't worship me. That was **that prophet**. No, **I believe that prophet was Bro. Branham that was giving him the revelation what was happening**. Yeah, because there was only one angel that had the revelation of the seals: the seventh angel messenger. So he said don't worship me. You don't worship me. So, if he was the same: I would worship Bro Branham. But, he says that don't worship Bro. Branham, we worship the life that was in him. – Joseph Branham

When considering 1 John 4: 1 and 6, Branham and his son failed to realize that John did not need a prophet to reveal the word of God to him. But rather, he told believers to test men claiming to be prophets by his teachings (and the other apostles) to determine if they were true or false.

Another error repeatedly taught by Branham to exalt the prophet's office over the apostles was to say that Paul was a prophet: "*Do you believe Paul was a prophet? Sure, he was. Certainly, he was* (The Ephesian Church Age 12-05-60, Par. 199). But, at the beginning of nearly every epistle Paul called himself an apostle (Rom. 11:13; Gal. 2:8). Nowhere do we find where Paul called himself a prophet or said "Thus saith the Lord."

But, why would Branham say the angel in Revelation 22:8-9 is a prophet? Because this angel said in verse 9: "I am thy fellowservant, and *of thy brethren the prophets*." But, a closer examination of that verse will disclose the true understanding. Let's read this verse in another version.

Then he said to me, "*See that you do not do that*. For I am **YOUR fellow servant**, and of **YOUR brethren the prophets**, and of **those who keep the words** of this book. Worship God." New King James Version

I read this verse in another version to show that the word "thy" means "your," which is a key to understanding what the angel is saying. This literal angel is not telling John that he is of the prophets, as Branham believed. The angel first tells John that he is his fellow servant. That is, the angel is telling the apostle not to bow and worship him because he is a servant of God like John is the servant of God. We are both fellow servants to the same God. Therefore, the angel is telling John that he do not deserve worship because he was only a servant of God like him.

The angel further says to John that he was not on ly his fellow servant, but he was a fellow servant like John's brethren the prophets. The angel did not call the prophets **HIS** brethren; he referred to them as John's (**YOUR**) brethren the prophets. Moreover, he was not only a fellow servant like John the apostle and his Jewish brethren the prophets, but he was a fellow servant like all the people of God who keep the words of this book. Do you understand?

So then, the angel is simply saying to John that we are all servants to the same God. Therefore, I do not deserve worship. Again, in Revelation 19:10 (NKJV), the angel forbade John to worship him because he identifies himself as a fellow servant like him and his (John's) brethren (fellow Christians) who have the testimony of Jesus.

And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See *that you do not do that! I am YOUR fellow servant*, and of **YOUR brethren** who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Branham's views about a prophet's role in the New Testament was wrong. He tried to be Elijah the prophet to the church when the promise of Malachi 4:4-6 was to Israel. Actually, the Lord Jesus said the Old Testament concept of prophets ceased with John the Baptist.

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. For **all the prophets** and the law **propheesied UNTIL John**. Matt. 11:12-13

Furthermore, Hebrews 1:1-2 informs us that God no longer spoke to his people through the Old Testament's concept of prophets. He was now speaking in the New Testament through his Son Jesus Christ.

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners **spake in time past** unto the fathers **by the prophets**, hath in **these last days spoken** unto us **by his Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.

Although the ministry of prophets continued in the New Testament, their role was considerably different from the Old Testament's perspective. The office of the apostles superseded the prophets of the New Testament. The word of the Lord came to the prophets of old. But, that word became a human (John 1:1-3,14) and personally taught the apostles before returning to heaven (1 John 1:1-4).

We believe on Christ based on the apostles' teachings (John 17:20; Acts 2:42). Their names will be engraved in the foundation of the walls of the heavenly Jerusalem (Rev. 21:14). In the New Testament, the prophets' ministry is listed as secondarily to the apostles' ministry.

And **God hath set some in the church, FIRST apostles, SECONDARILY prophets**, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 1 Cor. 12:28

Whereas prophets were called by visions (Num. 12:6), an apostle had to see the Lord Jesus (Acts 1:21-26; 1 Cor. 9:1). Thus, it was the apostles who were chosen by God to write the New Testament books of the Bible (excluding Mark, Luke, and Acts which were historical accounts of Christ and the Church), not the prophets (1 Thess. 2:13).

Furthermore, it was the apostles who settled issues regarding church doctrines (Acts 15:1-34). New Testament prophets, such as Judas and Silas, only confirmed what the apostles taught (1 Cor. 14:37), as shown in Acts 15:30-32.

So when they [Apostle Paul, Barnabas, and company] were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they **delivered the epistle** [sent from the apostles]: which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation. And **Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted** the brethren with many words, and **confirmed them**.

As Elijah the prophet, William Branham wanted to be a one man authority and not subject to scriptural correction by any one. However, in the New Testament Church, the ministry consisted not only of prophets, there were four additional offices that proclaimed the word of the Lord.

And he gave some, **apostles**; and some, **prophets**; and some, **evangelists**; and some, **pastors** and **teachers**; 12 for the perfecting of the saints, **for the work of the ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Eph. 4:11-12

Branham believed the word of the Lord only came to the prophets and they were interpreters of the word. However, the prophets of old were not interpreters of the word because they often did not understand many of their prophecies (Dan. 8:27; 12:8; 1 Peter 1:10-12).

So then, in the New Testament, prophets are not the only ministry that brings God's word to the people, as Branham taught. Now, there are five different types of ministries that proclaim the word of God through the written word of God in the Holy Scriptures (The Bible).

Therefore, we do not need to wait for a prophet to tell us the word of God. The Holy Spirit leads and guides believers into truth by the written word (John 16:7-15).

And that from a child thou hast **known the holy scriptures**, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **All scripture is given by inspiration of God**, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction** in righteousness: that **the man of God** may be perfect [complete], **thoroughly furnished** unto all good works. 2 Tim. 3:15-17

Nonetheless, like Agabus, God can use New Testament prophets to warn his people of future events (Acts 11:27-30; 21:9:10-14). Also, besides the five ministries, God has given individuals various gifts to edify the church (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:1-31).

Branham's idea that the New Testament church needed an Old Testament style of prophet to lead them is wrong. In years past God spoke to his people by the prophets through visions and prophecies (Num. 12:6; Amos 3:7-8). Why? Because they were the ones mainly anointed with the Holy Spirit, other than some kings, judges, priests, and Levites.

However, since the arrival of the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament, the prophecy of Joel 2:28-29 and its fulfillment in Acts 2:16-18 shows God speaking by visions and prophecies to and through his people consisting of both men and women (Acts 21:9; 1 Cor. 11:5).

Branham seriously wanted to be Elijah. He wanted to be an Old Testament prophet to the New Testament church, which was a ministry that had ceased with John the Baptist. Actually, as studied in chapters six and eight, if Branham were judged by the standards of Old Testament prophets, he would have been killed for speaking false prophecies in the Lord's name.

But **the prophet**, which shall presume to **speak a word in my name**, which **I have not commanded him to speak**, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even **that prophet shall die**. Deut. 18:20

Viewpoint #1: John the Baptist Completely Fulfilled the Coming of Elijah

As stated, William Branham believed the Elijah of Malachi 4:5-6 and Matthew 17:11-12 had two comings. The first coming was John the Baptist; the second being himself. But, as proven, these scriptures were written to Israel, not the New Testament church. Thereby eliminating Branham from this prophetic equation.

Nonetheless, the question we must now ask: "Does Malachi 4:5-6 speak of two comings of Elijah?" There are two main schools of thoughts regarding this question. The first suggest that the Elijah of Malachi 4:5-6 was fulfilled entirely by John the Baptist. How? Well, the angel Gabriel told the father of John the Baptist that his son would go forth in the spirit and power of Elijah.

And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in **the spirit and power of Elias** [Elijah], to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. Luke 1:16-17

Notice! In the above scriptures, Gabriel confirmed the fact that John the Baptist fulfilled the coming of Elijah the prophet. Nonetheless, the question asked by some: "Did he fulfill *all* of Malachi 4:5-6?" This question is mainly asked because Luke 1:17 only speaks of John turning "*the hearts of the fathers to the children,*" but does not mention the remainder of the prophecy that says he would turn "*the heart of the children to their fathers.*"

But, when considering Luke 1:17, we must either conclude that Gabriel is referring to a portion of Malachi 4:5-6 being fulfilled, or speaking of the entirety of this scripture. That is, if we assume the angel is using other words to interpret the prophecy, as shown below.

And he shall go before him in **the spirit and power of Elias** [Elijah], to turn the hearts of the **fathers to the children**, and the **disobedient [children]** to the wisdom of the **just [fathers]**; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. Luke 1:16-17

In view of the above, either Gabriel is referring to the entire prophecy of Malachi 4:5-6 being John the Baptist, or partially quoting this prophecy that he would only turn the hearts of the fathers to the children. If he is referring to the entire prophecy, then the phrase "the **disobedient to the wisdom of the just**" is referring to turning the "disobedient children to the wisdom of the fathers."

In Luke 1:17, Gabriel says John would "... make ready **a people prepared for the Lord**," which appears to be referring to Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3.

Behold, I will send my messenger, and **he shall prepare the way before me**: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, **Prepare ye the way of the LORD**, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Luke 1:16 say of John: "*And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.*" Therefore, if John completely fulfilled the prophecy of Malachi 3:1 and Malachi 4:5-6, he did so by preparing the hearts of the Israelites to receive the Messiah by preaching repentance, faith (John 1:6-7; 3:27-36), water baptism, and announcing his soon arrival. The scriptures below show John's impact upon the Jews.

And **the same John** had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. Then went **out to him Jerusalem**, and **all Judæa**, and **all the region round about Jordan**, and were **baptized of him** in Jordan, **confessing their sins**. Matt. 3:5-6

Then there arose a question between *some* of **John's disciples** and the Jews about purifying. And **they came unto John**, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, **to whom thou barest witness**, behold, the same baptizeth, and **all men come to him**. John 3:25-26

Jesus saith unto them [Jews], Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For **John came unto you** in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but **the publicans and the harlots believed him**: and ye, when ye had seen *it*, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him. Matt. 21:31-32

Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth. But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved. He was a burning and a shining light: and **ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light**. John 5:33-35

Luke 1:17 says John came to turn the fathers to the children. Specifically, he came to turn adherents of the Jewish orthodox religion (the fathers) to receive Jesus and eventually the apostles, who were the children that would bring the doctrines of the newly established Christian faith.

John's impact on the apostles was evident in that one of his disciples was Andrew. It was John who introduced Andrew to Jesus. Then, Andrew introduced his brother Peter to Jesus. Peter became the leading apostle among the group (John 1:35-42; Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:14; Gal. 2:9).

During Jesus' earthly ministry he sent 12 disciples (the children - Isa. 8:16-18) to preach to the Jewish fathers (Matt. 10:1-15) along with seventy other men (Luke 10:1-20). But, after Jesus finished the work of redemption on the cross and rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit empowered these men to convert many people from among the 14 centuries old Jewish orthodox religion (the fathers).

These converts became believers of the newly found Christian faith (the children). For example, 3,000 Jews forsook the religion of their forefathers to embrace Jesus Christ and the Christian faith on the day of Pentecost through the preaching of Peter. The scriptures below show the impact the apostles had on the Jewish people.

Then they that **gladly received his word** were baptized: and the same day there were **added unto them** about **three thousand souls**. Acts 2:41

Howbeit **many of them** which **heard the word believed**; and the **number of the men** was about **five thousand**. Acts 4:4

And with **great power** gave the apostles WITNESS OF THE RESURRECTION of the Lord Jesus: and **great grace** was upon them all. Acts 4:33

And believers were the **more added** to the Lord, **MULTITUDES** both of **men and women**” Acts 5:14

...Ye have **FILLED** Jerusalem with **YOUR DOCTRINE...**” Acts 5:28

And in those days, when the **number of the disciples** was **multiplied**.... Acts 6:1

And the **word of God increased**; and the number of the **disciples multiplied** in Jerusalem **greatly**: and a **GREAT COMPANY** of the **priest** were obedient to the faith. Acts 6:7

...Thou seest, brother, how many **thousands of Jews** there are **which believe**.... Acts 21:20

The great conversion of the Jews to the Christian faith began with John the Baptist when he proclaimed the soon arrival of the Messiah and the kingdom of God (Matt. 3:1-12; Luke 16:16). For that reason, the book of Acts begins with reference to John the Baptist’s ministry (Acts 1:5,22).

Furthermore, when Peter and Paul preached Christ for the first time to the Gentiles, they began their messages with John the Baptist introduction of Jesus Christ to the Jews (Acts 11:36-37; 13:23-25). Again, John’s impacted others in the book of Acts that eventually led to their conversion to the Christian faith (Acts 18:24-28; 19:1-6).

So then, if Luke 1:17 pertains to the entire prophecy of Malachi 4:5-6, John not only turned the hearts of the fathers to the children, but turned the disobedient (children) to the wisdom of the just (fathers).

In this verse, the “disobedient” would be the wayward Israelites being turned to embrace the wisdom of the just, which could possibly refer to the faith of the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They are the forefathers of the twelve tribes of Israel and often called “FATHERS” in the scriptures (Ex. 3:13-16; Deut. 30:20; Acts 3:13; Act 7:32).

Moreover, these men’s descendants are often called the “CHILDREN of Israel” (Ex. 3:9-15; Acts 5:21; 9:15; 10:36) or Abraham’s children (John 8:39), which are divided into twelve tribes (Acts 26:7; Rev. 7:4; 21:12).

Actually, when the angel said John would turn the disobedient (children) to the wisdom of the just (fathers) in Luke 1:17, verse 16 identified the children that John would turn to the Lord as being the “children of Israel.”

And many of the **CHILDREN of Israel** shall he **turn to the Lord** their God.

In Romans 4:11, Paul called Abraham “*the father of all them that believe*.” Why? Because he was the first to be justified by faith through believing in the promised Savior. How? In Volume I of my book, entitled “The True Biblical Gospel of Jesus Christ,” I said:^[454]

In Genesis 15:6, we are told about Abraham: “And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.” What did Abraham believe to receive this

righteousness? The scripture said: “*He believed in the Lord.*” These are nearly the same words Paul told a jailer when he asked to be saved, saying: “... **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and you will be saved...” Acts 16:30-31 (NKJV).

In Romans 4:9-25 and Galatians 3:6-7, Paul informs us the same faith that justified Abraham also justifies his children (John 8:39). Also, in Galatians 3:9, he says that those who are of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. The scriptures tells us in the New Testament that we are justified (declared righteous) and saved by faith (e.g., Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:8).

In Genesis 15:5, Abraham not only believed in the Lord, but more specific, he believed the words of the Lord spoken to him. What words? These words: “...*Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, SO SHALL THY SEED BE.*” Do you see it? God told him about Christ, the promised seed of Abraham! In Acts 3:25-26, Peter identified this seed as being Jesus.

In Galatians 3:16, Paul said that God made a promise to Abraham and his seed (singular), not seeds as in plural. In this verse, Paul identified this seed to be Jesus (Heb. 2:16). He also identifies all who are saved by faith in him as the true seed of Abraham (verses 26-29), thereby fulfilling God’s promise to multiply his seed. Therefore, when God told Abraham to look to heaven and count the stars in Genesis 15:5, he was speaking of his heavenly faith seed in Christ, mainly the redeemed church. But, when God told him to count the dust of the earth in Genesis 13:14-18, he was mainly speaking of Israel, who through Christ shall inherit their land forever.

At the age of seventy-five years, God’s original promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-4 had nothing to do with Isaac. But, mainly spoke of the coming of Christ, the one through whom Abraham would bless all nations (verse 3, Genesis 22:18). Later, when Abraham was ninety years old, God told him of the coming of Isaac; through whom the promised Christ would come, and not by Ishmael (Genesis 17:1,17-21; 21:12).

Once we understand the original covenant that God made and confirmed with Abraham spoke of Christ (Galatians 3:17), the one who would bless all nations and not Isaac, then perhaps we can better understand why Paul said in Romans 4:20 that Abraham “...staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief...” We know that Abraham never doubted what God told him in Genesis 12:1-4. But, we also know that he and Sarah had difficulty understanding how God was going to bring forth this promised seed if he did not have any immediate heir and descendant through whom the promised seed would come. Especially, when considering the fact that Sarah was barren and they were becoming older biologically and physically (Genesis 15:1-4; 16:1-6; 17:15-22; 18:9-15).

Finally, after Abraham and Sarah were convinced by God regarding the birth of Isaac, they fully believed (Hebrews 11:11-12). By bringing forth Isaac against great odds of barrenness and old age, God proved that he would also bring forth the promised seed who would bless all nations.

When Christ the promised seed came, many of Abraham’s earthly descendants did not believe in him and were disinherited. But, those who believed, as did Abraham, became partakers of the blessings in his promised seed —Jesus Christ (Romans 11:7,17-24; Galatians 4:22-31).

When God told Abraham about the promised seed and how all nations were going to be blessed through him (Genesis 12:1-3); he was not only speaking of the coming of Jesus Christ the Savior. But, according to Galatians 3:8, God was also preaching the gospel unto him, as it is written:

And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the

heathen through faith, **PREACHED** before **THE GOSPEL unto Abraham**, saying, *In thee shall all nations be blessed* [through Christ his seed – Genesis 22:18].

Through the preaching of the gospel, Abraham believed and was justified when he saw the coming of Jesus Christ the promised seed who would bless all nations of the earth. In John 8:56, Jesus verified the fact that Abraham foresaw his coming, saying: *“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and saw it, and was glad.”* After Abraham heard the gospel, he began looking for the full fulfillment of the promise and for a city built by God (Hebrews 11:10). Nevertheless, Hebrews 11:13 says that Abraham and others “...all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having *seen them afar off*, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”

God not only promised Abraham that all nations would be blessed through his coming seed, which is Jesus Christ, he also made the same promise to Isaac and Jacob (Gen. 26:1-5; 28:10-17). So then, John came to turn the disobedient Israelites (children) to the wisdom of the just (fathers). The word “just” means righteous. The wisdom of the patriarch is that they were justified (declared righteous) by faith in the promised coming seed (Savior) – Rom. 4:3.

Thus, John came to turn the disobedient to the faith of the fathers by introducing the very Messiah they longed to see (Hebrews 11:13-16, 39-40). John turned many of the Israelites to receive the wisdom of the just, which could ultimately refer to Jesus. I say this because Matthew 27:19 and 27 calls Christ a just man. Also, Peter, Paul, and Stephen particularly referred to Jesus as the “Just One.”

But ye denied the **Holy One and the Just**, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you. Acts 3:14

Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before **of the coming of the Just One**; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: Acts 7:52

And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and **see that Just One**, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. Acts 22:14

The above scriptures inform us that Jesus Christ is specifically called the “Just One,” which means the Righteous One (Jer. 23:5-6). It was John who turned the disobedient among the Jews to accept the wisdom of the just. He did so by announcing and introducing Jesus Christ. John also prepared them through repentance, faith, and water baptism to receive the coming Messiah.

In those days came **John the Baptist**, preaching in the wilderness of Judæa, and saying, **Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand**. Matt. 3:1-2

Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto **John** the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. And he came into all the country about Jordan, **preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins**. Luke 3:2-3

And as the **people were in expectation**, and **all men mused in their hearts of John**, whether he were the Christ, or

not; John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but **one mightier than I cometh**, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire: Luke 3:15-17

And this is the **record of John**, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, **Who art thou?** And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, **I am not the Christ**. John 1:19-20

And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, **if thou be not that Christ**, nor Elias, neither that prophet? **John answered** them, saying, I baptize with water: but **there standeth one among you**, whom ye know not; **he it is, who cometh after me** is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. John 1:24-27

The next day **John seeth Jesus coming** unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. **This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me:** for he was before me. And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. John 1:29-31

[John the Baptist speaking] **He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life:** and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. John 3:36

Then said Paul, **John** verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, **saying unto the people**, that they should **believe on him** which should come after him, that is, on **Christ Jesus** Acts 19:4

In view of the above, if John fulfilled the entirety of Malachi 4:5-6, then Jesus' statement identifying him as Elijah completes the prophecy.

For all the prophets and the law prophesied until **John**. And if ye will receive *it*, **this is Elias** [Elijah], **which was for to come**. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. Matt. 11:13-14

In the above scriptures, Matthew 11:7 says Jesus was speaking to a crowd when he said John the Baptist was the Elijah foretold in Malachi 4:5-6. However, Matthew 17:1-4 says Elijah, along with Moses, appeared on the mountain with Jesus when he was transfigured. Although Jesus had previously identified John the Baptist as the coming of Elijah, when returning from the mountain Peter, James, and John asked him further regarding this matter. Perhaps this question was asked because they had just witnessed the appearance of the actual Elijah on the mountain.

And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead. And his disciples asked him, saying, **Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?** And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. But I say unto you, **That Elias is come already, and they knew him not**, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. Then the **disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist**. Matt. 17:9-13

One of the arguments against John the Baptist being

the entire fulfillment of Malachi 4:5-6 is that God promised to send Elijah **“...before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.”** Some believe this great and dreadful day did not happen after John’s ministry.

But of course, God never said this great day would happen immediately after Elijah’s arrival. He said Elijah would appear before this great day, whenever that day occurred. However, if John the Baptist completely fulfilled Malachi 4:5, did he precede the eminent coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord? Before answering this question, let us consider the word “earth” in Malachi 4:6:

And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and **smite the earth** with a curse.

In the above verse, the Hebrew word for earth can also mean “land,” which may refer to Israel. If so, this verse is saying God will send Elijah in an effort to prevent the land of Israel from being cursed. During John’s preaching, he warned the religious leaders of the coming wrath of God.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, **O generation of vipers**, who hath **warned you to flee from the WRATH TO COME?** Matt. 3:7

And now also **the axe is laid unto the root of the trees:** therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, **and cast into the fire...** Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but **he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.** Matt. 3:10,12

In the above verses, John warned the religious leaders of a coming wrath. He warned them that everyone who did not bring forth good fruit would be cut down and thrown into the fire. Also, Malachi 4:1 spoke of such a day.

For, behold, the day cometh, that **shall burn as an oven**; and **all the proud**, yea, and all that **do wickedly**, shall **be stubble**: and **the day that cometh shall burn them up**, saith the LORD of hosts, that it **shall leave them neither root nor branch.**

What is the wrath that John and Malachi spoke of? There is a wide range of possible answers. The coming wrath can refer to (1) The destruction of Jerusalem and Israel by the Romans in 70 AD, (2) The wrath of God in the last days shown in Revelation (Rev. 6:1,17; 16:14; 19:15), and (3) The day of judgment and the lake of fire (Rev. 14:10-11; 20:11-15). Since we are considering the ministry of John the Baptist, let’s consider the events that led to the destruction of Jerusalem and Israel in 70 AD.

The first event to consider is the rejection of John the Baptist by the civil and religious authorities (Matt. 11:18; 14:1-12; 21:23-32). The next thing to consider is the rejection of Jesus Christ by the same leaders (Matt. 26:63 - 68; 27:1-2,22-31).

After both John’s and Jesus’ ministries were rejected by the Jews, the land was smitten with a curse. The nation of Israel would be destroyed; a destruction that would last for nearly 19 centuries (until May 14, 1948). The prophet

Daniel spoke of this coming destruction.

And after threescore and two weeks **shall Messiah be cut off**, but not for himself: and the people of **the prince that shall come shall DESTROY THE CITY and the sanctuary**; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the **end of the war DESOLATIONS ARE DETERMINED.** Dan. 9:26

Like Daniel, the Lord Jesus also spoke of this coming destruction to Jerusalem, the temple, and the country.

And when he was come near, he beheld **the city**, and wept over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. **For the days shall come** upon thee, that **thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee**, and compass thee round, and **keep thee in on every side**, And **shall lay thee even with the ground**, and **thy children within thee**; and they **shall not leave in thee one stone upon another**; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation. Luke 19:41-44

And as some spake of **the temple**, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts, he said, As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which **there shall not be left one stone upon another**, that **shall not be thrown down.** Luke 21:5-6

Then let them which are in **Judaea flee to the mountains**; and let them which are in the **midst of it depart out**; and **let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto**. For **these be THE DAYS OF VENEGENACE** that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there **shall be great distress in the land**, and **WRATH UPON THIS PEOPLE**. And they **shall fall by the edge of the sword**, and shall be **led away captive into all nations** and **Jerusalem shall be trodden** down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. Luke 21:21-24

Likewise, Apostle Paul spoke of this coming destruction.

For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of **the Jews**: Who both **killed the Lord Jesus**, and **their own prophets**, and **have persecuted us**; and **they please not God**, and are **contrary to all men**: Forbidding us **to speak to the Gentiles** that they might be saved, to **fill up their sins alway**: for the **WRATH IS COME UPON THEM TO THE UTMOST.** 1 Thess. 2:14-16

The fact that Israel’s devastation lasted for nearly 19 centuries informs us that its destruction in 70 AD was a great and dreadful (fearful) day for the Jews. A day so great that Jesus wept over Jerusalem because he knew this city would shortly be destroyed.

According to history, Jerusalem’s destruction by the Romans was a horrific event. Those who rejected Christ said to Pontius Pilate: *“...His blood be on us and on our children,”* not realizing their refusal would bring deadly consequences (Matt. 23:34-38; 27:25). Josephus, a Jewish historian, witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 by the Roman soldiers. He described how the blood of those who were massacred *“...made the whole city to run down with blood to such a degree indeed that the fire of many houses was quenched with these men blood.”* [455]

So, when considering the calamities that came upon the Jews after the ministry of John the Baptist, it is possible that he completely fulfilled the prophecy of Malachi 4:4 -6. Also, it is interesting to note that the Old Testament scriptures ends with God's promise to send Elijah. Then, over 400 years later the New Testament scriptures begin with his coming as Christ's forerunner through John the Baptist. The four gospel writers began their story of Jesus Christ with the coming of John the Baptist (Matt. 3:1-17; Mark 1:1-15; Luke 1:1-45; 3:1-23; John 1:6-9,19-38; 3:22-36), who was confirmed by both Jesus and Gabriel to be Elijah (Matt. 11:13-15; 17:10-13; Luke 1:13-17).

Viewpoint #2: Understanding the Two Comings of Elijah in Malachi 4:4-6

When considering Malachi 4:4-6 fulfillment, there is another perspective that deserves review if the prophecy foretold two separate comings of Elijah. First, Malachi 4:1 speaks of a coming day of wrath upon the wicked.

For, **behold, the day cometh**, that shall **burn as an oven**; and all **the proud**, yea, and all that **do wickedly**, shall be stubble: and **the day that cometh shall burn them up**, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

Furthermore, verse 2 speaks about the coming Sun of righteousness, which pertains to Jesus Christ the Savior.

But unto you that fear my name **shall the Sun of righteousness arise** with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they **shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this**, saith the LORD of hosts.

When considering verse 2, does the prophecy pertain to the first or second coming of Jesus Christ, or both? Also, in consideration of verse 1, does this day of wrath speak of an event already passed or futuristic, or both? As studied, John the Baptist spoke of a coming day of wrath which could possibly refer to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD or the lake of fire after the Day of Judgment, or both.

However, the phrase that God would send Elijah the prophet "...before the coming of **the GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY of the LORD**" could refer to his coming wrath during the sixth seal, as shown in Revelation 6:12-17. During this time, the sun will become black and the moon will turn to blood (red).

Also, outer space and earth are so shaken that asteroids, meteorites, and stars fall to the earth. During this time, an unprecedented massive earthquake moves every mountain and island out of their places, resulting in tsunamis (Luke 21:25). Isaiah 13:9-11 also foretold this event.

Behold, the **day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger**, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her

light to shine. And **I will punish the world for their evil**, and the wicked for their iniquity....

In response to this horrific event, Revelation 6:15 says the leaders of governments (kings), leaders of militaries (chief captains), leaders of corporations (rich men), influential people (great men), soldiers (mighty men), and every human (bondsman and freeman) will attempt to hide themselves in the caves and rocks of the mountains from God's wrath. They will say to the mountains and rocks:

Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sits* on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: **for THE GREAT DAY OF HIS WRATH is come**; and who shall be able to stand? Rev. 6:17

As shown, even after Israel's destruction following the ministries of Christ and John the Baptist, the above scripture still spoke of a coming day of the Lord preceding Jesus' return to the earth (Zech. 14:1-4; 1 Thess. 5:1-3; 2 Peter 3:10-13). So, if the sixth seal describes the dreadful day foretold in Malachi 4:5-6, then another Elijah besides John the Baptist could appear to Israel. This event does not pertain to the Gentiles or the New Testament church since the "You" in verse 5 speaks of Israel (Mal. 1:1; 4:4).

When considering the prospect of another appearance of Elijah in the last days, we should remember that God is not finished with the nation of Israel. As previously stated, the Lord Jesus predicted the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD and the dispersion of the Jews thereafter.

However, Jesus also spoke of Israel's restoration as a nation when symbolizing it as a fig tree (Hosea 9:10; Luke 13:1-8; Matt. 24:32-35). Also, there are several Old Testament scriptures that foretold the restoration of Israel in the last days (e.g., Jer. 23:1-9; Ezek. 37:1-28; 38:8). Even in Romans 11:7-32, Paul spoke of the cutting off and restoration of Israel. In verses 25-27, he said all Israel shall be saved after God finished with the Gentiles.

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; **that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in**. And **so all Israel shall be saved**: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: for this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. As concerning the gospel, *they are* enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, *they are* beloved for the fathers' sakes. For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance. Rom. 11:25-27

Considering the above, the nation of Israel (all Israel) will accept Jesus as their Messiah in the last days. Even though some orthodox Jews are beginning to view Jesus as their Messiah, Israel as a nation will not be converted to him until the arrival of two end time witnesses.

Revelation 11:1-13 shows these two men, who are called prophets (verse 10), proclaiming God's word to the nation of Israel for 3.5 years during the last week of Daniel's prophecy. According to Daniel 9:24, the nation of Israel in the last days will be fully restored to God after the

complete fulfillment of the seventy weeks. Israel will be redeemed from sin and have everlasting righteousness foretold in prophecies before Jesus' return to the earth.

Seventy weeks are determined upon **thy people** [Israel] and **upon thy holy city**, to **finish the transgression**, and to **make an end of sins**, and to make **reconciliation for iniquity**, and to **bring in everlasting righteousness**, and to **seal up the vision and prophecy**, and to **anoint the most Holy**. Dan. 9:24

And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and **the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months**. And **I will give power unto my two witnesses**, and they shall prophesy a **thousand two hundred and threescore days**, clothed in sackcloth. Rev. 11:1-3

These two prophets will appear during the time of the Antichrist and will have similar miracles like Moses and Elijah. Why? Because Revelation 11:5-6 says they will have power to hurt their enemies with fire, prevent rain, turn water to blood, and strike the earth with plagues.

In Exodus chapters 7 thru 12, Moses turned the water to blood and smote Egypt with various plagues. In 1 Kings 17:1 and 2 Kings 1:1-15, it was Elijah who had prevented rainfall in Israel for 3.5 years and called down fire to consume his enemy (reviewed on pages 56-57, 115-116).

Again, it was Moses and Elijah who had appeared with Jesus in the mount of transfiguration to testify of him. (Matthew 17:3). Moses represented the law and Elijah represented the prophets. Luke 9:31 says they appeared to speak of Jesus' death on the cross in Jerusalem.

Thus, in Revelation 11:1-13, two men likened unto these prophets will testify of Jesus the Messiah and Savior while executing God's judgments upon the earth (verses 5-6). Verse 7 calls their prophecy a testimony, which speaks of Jesus the Savior (Rev. 1:2; 19:10). Their efforts will eventually lead to the nation of Israel (all Israel) spiritual conversion through accepting Christ (Rom. 11:25-27).

These men will also pronounce God's judgment upon a wicked world that worships Satan and the Antichrist (Rev. 13:1-18). When comparing the time frame of the 6th and 11th chapters, they seem to appear before or during the great day of God's wrath foretold in Revelation 6:17. They also appears before God's ultimate judgments on the world during the outpouring of the seven vials of his wrath.

And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels **seven golden vials FULL OF THE WRATH OF GOD**, who liveth for ever and ever. Rev. 15:7

And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out **the vials of the WRATH OF GOD upon the earth**. Rev. 16:1

As studied, Malachi 1:1 and 4:4-6 says God promised Israel that he would send Elijah the prophet before the great and dreadful day of the Lord. First, he would send him to turn the fathers (traditional Jews) unto the children

(Christianity in its fancy). Considering this prophecy from a two-fold perspective, John the Baptist fulfilled this portion of the scripture by turning the hearts of many Israelites to accept Jesus Christ during his first coming.

Then, during the second part of Malachi's prophecy, the end time Elijah would turn the children (Israelis since the rebirth of Israel in 1948 - Isa. 66:7-9) to the teachings of the apostolic fathers (the apostles—1 Cor. 4:15—and true Christianity, which is nearly 2,000 years old).

As stated, the fathers could also be the faith of the Patriarchs (pages 198-199). The Elijah who appears in the last days, along with another prophet before the great and dreadful day of the Lord (Mal. 4:5), comes to turn Israel's hearts to accept the Lord Jesus as their Messiah before his second coming.

Why do these prophets need such startling power as described in Revelation 11:5-6? During those days the Antichrist will be in ruling in the land of Israel (Daniel 11:45) and will possess tremendous satanic powers (2 Thess. 2:8-9). After these two men have finished their testimony to the nation of Israel, they are eventually killed by the Antichrist in Jerusalem. Their dead bodies remain unburied in the streets for three days and a half, while the world rejoices over their death.

Then, after this time elapses, the Spirit of life from God enters and raises these two men from the dead and they ascend into heaven in the sight of their enemies. Afterward, a great earthquake destroys a tenth part of the city that kills 7,000 people. Those who remained alive among the Israelites repent and give glory to God.

And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and **the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven**. Rev. 11:13

As a result, Israel returns to God and accepts Jesus Christ as Savior and Messiah according to Roman 11:25-27. This conversion is followed by the 7th angel of Revelation 10:7 and 11:15 announcing Christ's earthly kingdom (more details later) and culminated by his return at Armageddon and Jerusalem to overthrow the enemies of Israel during the battle of *the "great day of God Almighty"* (Zech. 14:1-21; Rev. 19:11-21), which also could possibly be the great day that Malachi 4:6 foretold.

And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto **the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of THAT GREAT DAY OF GOD ALMIGHTY**. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watches*, and keeps* his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. Rev. 16:13-15

So, no matter what view among the two perspectives a person may believe, none of them pertain to Elijah the prophet appearing to the Gentiles and New Testament church as Alexander Dowie, Frank Sanford, Herbert W. Armstrong, William Branham, or any other person.

Chapter Eleven

William Branham's Erroneous Teachings Disprove Restoration Claims of Malachi 4:5-6

Our investigation of William Branham have shown some serious issues such as repeated plagiarisms, failed visions, failed prophecies, and failed Testaments. Thus saith the Lord, alleged supernatural experiences, and embellished stories. In this chapter, we shall consider some errors in his teachings that are contrary to scriptures.

Michael the Archangel is Jesus Christ

William Branham believed a false doctrine taught by Charles Taze Russell, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Uriah Smith that Michael the archangel is Jesus Christ. Branham also confusingly taught during the same time that Jesus is God.

Other Scriptures tell us that God will be represented by **Messiah**, and that He will be on the side of the masses. 'At that time shall Michael [the Godlike One—Messiah] stand up.' (Dan. 12:1.)
_Charles Taze Russell – The Finished Mystery, Page 252

Who, then, is Michael?... The voice of our **Lord Jesus Christ** ... hence also **Michael is the Son of God.** _Uriah Smith – Daniel and the Revelation. Page 162

"And at that time Michael shall stand, the great prince." **Michael was Christ**, of course, Who fought the angelic wars in heaven with the devil. _William Branham – Beginning And Ending Of The Gentile Dispensation 01-09-55E

The first thing that Lucifer done to separate the fellowship of God and man, he wanted to build him a united kingdom, a greater splendor and seemingly more cultured, a greater kingdom than **Michael, Christ had**. _William Branham – Christ Is The Mystery Of God Revealed 07-28-63M

Now, that Man was Elohim. That was God; and **Jesus is God.** WMB _Christ Is Revealed In His Own Word 08-22-65M

Branham's teachings about Christ is contradictory. If Jesus is Michael, then Michael is God. However, the Bible refers to Michael as only one among other angelic princes.

But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days; but lo, **Michael, ONE** of the **CHIEF PRINCES** [plural], came to help me, and I remained there with the kings of Persia. Dan. 10:13

As shown, Michael is listed as an angelic prince (Dan. 12:1) among others. Jude 1:9 calls him an "archangel," which is a "chief angel." In the verses below, God clearly puts a distinction between Christ and literal angels.

Having become so much **better than the angels**, as He has by inheritance obtained **a more excellent name** than they. **For to which of the angels did He ever say:** "You are My Son, Today

I have begotten You" ? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And **He shall be to Me a Son** "? But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the **angels of God worship Him.**" And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire." But **to the Son He says:** "Your throne, **O God, is forever and ever** ... Hebrews 1:4-8 (NKJV)

The above scriptures says of the Lord Jesus: (1) he is better than the angels, (2) he has a more superior name, (3) God never told an angel to fulfill the Messianic promise in Psalm 2:7 where Christ is called his Son, and (4) he is called God and worshipped by angels who are called servants (ministers); they do not receive worship (Rev. 19:10; 22:8 - 9). Thus, Christ is greater than Michael.

Well, what about 1 Thessalonians 4:16 that says Jesus shall return with the "voice of the archangel." Yes! But, considering Hebrews 1:4 -8, this verse does not call him an archangel. Rather, Jesus' return shall be accompanied by angels (Matt. 13:41; 24:31; 2 Thess. 1:7; Rev. 19:17) and announced by an archangel, who could be one the seven angels before God's throne (Rev. 8:2; 11:15). Remember, Gabriel, who may be among these archangels before God's throne, announced Jesus' first coming (Luke 1:19, 26-38).

Also, the word *angel* in both Hebrew (Malak) and Greek (aggelos) means *messenger*. They apply to angelic (Gen. 16:7-11; Acts 5:19-20) and human messengers (Gen. 32:3; Num 20:14; Luke 7:24,27; 9:52). Thus, Malachi 3:1 calls Christ the "messenger of the covenant," which some refer to as the "angel of the covenant" (Rev. 10:1-3).

Jesus is the messenger of the New Testament (Heb. 1:1 - 2), but he is never referred to as a literal angel. Revelation 1:8,11 and 2:8 says he always was the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, and the first and the last : who is, was, and is to come the Almighty (John 1:1-3).

But, Jude 1:9 shows Michael the archangel rebuking Satan in the Lord's name, while Revelation 12:7 -8 shows him defeating Satan in a last day battle. No scriptures shows him being Christ. Thus, Russell, Smith, and Branham's teaching about Michael being Jesus Christ is unbiblical.

Hell is Everlasting, not Eternal

Another mixed up teaching of William Branham is that hell is everlasting, not eternal. It will one day cease to exist.

The Bible never says it's Eternal, **It says "everlasting" hell. Don't say the word Eternal**, it says an "everlasting" hell. Now, it's prepared for the devil and his angels; an everlasting hell, not an Eternal one. _ Smyrnaean Church Age 12-06-60

As shown, Branham believed hell is everlasting, not eternal. It is sad that he created an erroneous doctrine by failing to look at the actual Greek word for “everlasting” and “eternal.” Both words are the same in Greek, which is “aionios” (#166 in Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance). When the King James Version (KJV) Bible was being translated into English, scholars chose to interchange these words in different scriptures because it meant the same.

Take for example, in John 3:15-16 the Greek word “aionios is used interchangeably between everlasting and eternal when speaking of eternal life.

That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have **eternal** [aionios] life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have **everlasting** [aionios] life.

Again, in Matthew 25:46, Jesus used the same Greek word to describe both eternal life in the kingdom of God and eternal punishment in the lake of fire.

And these shall go away into **everlasting** [aionios] punishment, but the righteous into life **eternal** [aionios].

Once more, the word “everlasting” in the King James Version was used to describe the eternal existence of God, as shown in 1 Timothy 6:15-16.

Which in his times **he shall shew, who is** the blessed and **only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords** who only **hath immortality**, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom *be* honour and power **everlasting** [aionios]. Amen.

Considering the above, Branham mislead followers by saying eternal and everlasting were different words. Charles Taze Russell also believed there was no eternal punishment. However, contrary to these men, Jesus says otherwise.

We may suppose that **hell is to last forever**, but the Prophet speaks of **its coming destruction**. _Charles Taze Russell – The Finished Mystery, Page 116

[Revelation] 14:11...So 'the smoke of their torment' may mean **there is nothing in this verse that necessarily implies an eternity of suffering**. In a similar way the Word 'punishment' or 'correction' in Matt. 25:46 gives in itself **no indication of time**...**About endless torment:** "(a) **The doctrine is found nowhere in the Old Testament, nor any hint of it.** _Charles Taze Russell – The Finished Mystery, Page 223

There's no Eternal hell. If you had Eternal... If you burned in hell for Eternity, then you have to have Eternal Life to be there, if you're alive. And there's only one form of Eternal Life, that's God! See? So, and then **the Bible doesn't teach an Eternal hell, it teaches an "everlasting" hell**. That might be for ten thousand million years, I don't know, but **it has to cease.** _William Branham – The Pergamean Church Age 12-07-60

Then shall he [Jesus] say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, **into everlasting** [aionios, eternal] **fire**, prepared for the devil and his angels ...And these shall go away into **everlasting** [aionios, eternal] **punishment**. Matt. 25:41,46

In the above quotes, who will you believe: Jesus or error prone men who created a misleading doctrine because they failed to look up a simple word in a Greek lexicon?

Many other Bible translations use the word *eternal* in Matthew 25:41 instead of *everlasting* because they are the same Greek word. Two examples are shown below.

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into the **eternal fire** which is prepared for the devil and his angels. American Standard Version (ASV)

Then he will say also to those who are at his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed ones, into **eternal fire**, that which was prepared for The Devil and for his Angels. Aramaic Bible in Plain English

In attempting to disprove the Bible’s clear teaching about eternal punishment, Branham used an other faulty reasoning that hell cannot be eternal because it was created.

You can't have Eternal hell, and the Bible plainly says that **"hell was created."** And if it's created, **it isn't Eternal**. **Anything that's Eternal never was created;** it always was, it's Eternal. And the Bible says that "Hell was created for the devil and his angels." **Hell was created, it isn't Eternal.** And **I do not believe that a person will be Eternally punished**. _The Smyrnaean Church Age 12-06-60

Once again, faulty reasoning has doomed Branham’s interpretation. He says hell cannot be eternal because it was created, when in fact everything that exists was created except the Godhead. Heaven, the earth, angels, and humans were created by the word of God (Gen. 1:1; John 1:1-3, Heb. 11:3). Yet, these shall abide forever in the regeneration (Eccl. 1:4; Rev. 21:1; 22:3-5). Branham likewise believed this earth will never cease to exist (The Future Home 08 -02-64, Paragraphs 166 -186). Yet, he said *“anything”* created has an end, such as hell. Moreover, “forever” is another word that Branham misused when speaking of hell.

Therefore, we find out that hell had a beginning, and it has an end. And there's only... No one can ever say that... **Hell is forever, forever, yes, forever, but not Eternal. Forever is "a space of time."** The Bible says, "Forever and forever." And you look it up and find out if forever doesn't mean "a space of time." _Hebrews, Chapter Six #2, 09-08-57E

In the above quote, Branham says forever does not refer to eternity, but a space of time. The Greek word for “forever” can refer to a space of time. But, what Branham failed to tell his audience that the Bible did not say hell (lake of fire) is “forever.” It uses the phrase “for ever and ever” to describe hell. This term means from ages to ages, which speaks of never ending time.

...The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and **he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone** in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up **for ever and ever;** and they have no rest day or night... Rev. 14:10-11

And the devil who had deceived them was cast into the **lake of fire and brimstone**, where the beast and the false prophet are; and **they shall be tormented** day and night **for ever and ever.** Rev. 20:10

So, in the book of Revelation, the phrase “for ever and ever” is used to describe eternity. Another fact Branham failed to tell followers regarding the words “for ever and

ever” is that John repeatedly used the same phrase when speaking of God’s eternal existence, as shown below.

And when those living beings give glory and honor and thanks to **Him** that sat on the throne, **who LIVES* for ever and ever.** Rev. 4:9

the four and twenty elders fall down before **Him** that **sits on the throne**, and worship Him that **LIVES* for ever and ever,** and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Rev. 4:10

And the four living beings said, “Amen.” And the four and twenty elders fell down and w **orshiped Him** that **LIVES* for ever and ever.** Rev. 5:14

And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, and swore **by him that LIVES* for ever and ever**, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are.... Rev. 10:5-6

And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of **God, who LIVES* for ever and ever.** Rev. 15:7

Another fact Branham failed to tell followers is that the words “for ever and ever” in the above scriptures —when referring to the existence of God and the lake of fire —is the Greek word “aion” (#165 Strong’s Concordance). The word “eternal” is derived from “aion.” This word is translated “ever” (forever). Even without the phrase “for ever and ever” it pertains to eternity, as shown when referring to God, Christ, and eternal life.

And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the **Son abideth ever** [aion]. John 8:35

This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat man na, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread **shall live for ever** [aion].

For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: **to whom be glory for ever** [aion]. Amen. Rom. 11:36

As shown, the words “*for ever and ever*” refers to eternity since this phrase is often used when speaking of God’s existence and eternal life (Gal. 1:5; Phil. 4:20). So then, scripturally speaking, there is no difference between the words: eternal, everlasting, and for ever and ever.

Furthermore, KJV Bible describes punishment in the lake of fire as *eternal damnation* (Mark 3:29), *eternal judgment* (Heb. 6:2), *everlasting* [in Greek, “eternal”] *destruction* (2 Thess. 1:9), *everlasting* [in Greek, “eternal”] *fire* (Matt. 25:41), and *everlasting* [in Greek, “eternal”] *punishment* (Matthew 25:46).

Again, 2 Peter 2:17 and Jude 1:13 shows hell to be forever. Also, Mark 9:43-48 says the worms of hell **do not die** and the fire “**NEVER shall be quenched**” (Matt. 3:12).

Cain: The Son of Satan and the Serpent

As studied in Chapter Four, the doctrine of the serpent seed did not originate with William Branham. This teaching is found in a mystical book supposedly written in the ninth or fifteenth century called “Zohar,” which says: ^[456]

“Two beings [Adam and Nachash] had intercourse with Eve, and she conceived from both and bore two children. Each followed one of the male parents, and their spirits parted, one to this side and one to the other, and similarly their characters. On the side of Cain are all the haunts of the evil species; from the side of Abel comes a more merciful class, yet not wholly beneficial – good wine mixed with bad.” (Zohar 136)

Now compare Branham’s teaching with the book of Zohar:

Before Adam ever had carnal knowledge of Eve, the serpent had that knowledge ahead of him. And that one born of it was Cain. Cain was of (born of, begotten of) **that “Wicked One”**. I John 3:12. *—An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Three – The Ephesian Church Age*

We have no concrete proof that Branham read the book of Zohar. But, they both propagated the same erroneous belief pertaining to the original sin in the garden of Eden. As studied, Branham got the description of the serpent from his Scofield Bible (see page 111). He initially taught that Eve was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The next question's the same...?... 58. **Was it a—a literal tree from which Eve ate the fruit?** She saw that it was good for food. All right, brother, sister, ever who it was, let's go back into Genesis and find out something here. Let's go to Genesis 3:8, if you will. All right, and listen real close now. Now, I'll bring the story up. It was all pure and holy; there was no sin or no defilement. Now, I'll get the—your—this first question first. The tree in the life —the middle of the garden, in the midst of the tree... **The tree was the woman**. *—Questions And Answers On Hebrews #1, 09-25-57*

Ain't a woman a fruit tree? Aren't you the fruit of your mother? **That was the fruit that was forbidden to be taken**. *—The Serpent's Seed 09-28-58E*

Well **the woman is the tree**. She is the fruit tree. You're the fruit of your mother. The fruit of the womb is you. That's right. And then the fruit of the Tree of Life, that was in the garden of Eden, is Christ. *—Marriage And Divorce 02-21-65M*

As shown, Branham initially believed Eve was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He believed Adam was forbidden to have sexual relationship with her and children were not supposed to be born from woman (see Presuming 06-10-62M, Par. 98 and Marriage and Divorce 02-21-65M, Par.201). But, God told Adam not to eat of this tree before Eve was created. Eve was created in Genesis 2:21-25. As shown below, God spoke of this tree in Genesis 2:9 and warned Adam not to eat thereof in verses 16 and 17.

And **out of the ground** made the LORD God to **grow every tree** that is pleasant to the sight, and **good for food**; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and **the tree of knowledge of good and evil**, Verse 9

And the LORD God **commanded the man**, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: **but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it**; for in the day that thou eatest thereof **thou shalt surely die**. And the LORD God said, *It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.* Verses 16-18

Also, Genesis 2:9 and 3:6 list the tree of the knowledge of good and evil among others grown from the ground and

as *food* (fruits). Thus, Eve was not this tree. It existed before she was created. Besides, how could Eve obey God's command not to eat of the tree if she was this tree?

And **the woman said** unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. Gen. 3:2-3

Some among Branham's followers use Proverbs 30:20 to imply that the word "eat" in Genesis 3:6 refers to the act of adultery. If so, how did Eve commit adultery if she ate of the tree since she was the tree according to their prophet beliefs? Branham's reasoning goes against plain scriptures by saying Eve was the tree. This may be the reason he forsook this version in the final rendering on this subject. In a 1965 book on the seven church ages, he said Satan was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil instead of Eve.

Now that we have come this far, let me try to crystallize your thinking on this subject so you can see the necessity of our going into the '**serpent seed doctrine**' as I have. We start with the fact that there were **TWO trees in the midst of the garden**. The Tree of Life was Jesus. The other tree is definitely Satan because of what came forth of the fruit of that tree. An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Three - The Ephesian Church Age

Branham taught from 1957 until early 1965 this baffling doctrine, which is contrary to scriptures, that Eve was the tree. Then, he changed the whole concept at the end. Yet, many of his followers continue to teach the earlier version of this heretical doctrine that Eve was the forbidden tree.

But, Branham's teaching that Satan being the tree is just as heretical. Why? Because if Eve partook of the tree by having sexual relationship with Satan through the serpent, in Branham's baffling teachings: how did Adam eat of the tree? The answer would be perverted and blasphemousness.

Notice. Now, **the devil come down** and got **into the serpent**, and he **found Eve in the garden of Eden naked**. And he talked about the fruit in the midst, the "midst" means "middle" and so forth. You understand in a mixed congregation. And he said, "Now, it's pleasant. It's good to the eye." What did he do? **He begin making love to Eve.** The Serpent's Seed 09-28-58E

As shown above, Branham believed Satan taught Eve about sex through the serpent. He believed the serpent had sexual relationship with Eve before Adam. He believed the serpent committed adultery with her, as shown below.

Now, **this serpent**, when he stood there... This great big giant of a fellow stood up there. **He was guilty of committing adultery with Adam's wife.** The Serpent's Seed 09-28-58E

If the word "eat" in Genesis 3:6 implies that Eve had sex with Satan through the serpent? Then, how did she eat of the tree of life and the other trees in Genesis 2:16 and 3:2,22? The word "eat" cannot be adultery since Branham said: "*the tree of life was Jesus*" (quote shown above and page 205).

Also, in Genesis 3:13, Eve said the serpent "*beguiled me.*" Branham misleadingly told followers that the word *beguile* meant defile: "*The serpent beguiled me.*" *Do you know what beguile means? Means "defiled"* (Serpent's Seed

09-28-58E, Par. 163). The Hebrew word for beguile (*nasha*) implies that she was deceived. When Jacob's daughter Dinah was sexually "defiled" in Genesis 34:5,11, and 27, a different Hebrew word (*tame*) was used.

Again, Paul used the word beguile in 2 Corinthians 11:3 whereby the Greek word (*exapatao*) means *deceived* in reference to being spiritually seduced. Paul used the same Greek word for beguile in Romans 7:11; Romans 16:18; 1 Corinthians 3:18; 2 Thessalonians 2:3. In these scriptures the word is translated "deceive," none having any sexual implication. Therefore, this Greek word actually means "deceived," as properly translated in 1 Timothy 2:14: "... **but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.**"

As stated, Branham believed that God's original plan for having children and populating the earth was not through sexual relationship between husband and wife (even though he gave Adam and Eve reproductive organs and told them to be fruitful and multiply before the fall - Gen. 1:28; Psa. 127:3). But, children would be created from the dust of the earth.

Now the **world is to be repopulated, not by the original creation of God**, like in the beginning, not by the original creation, **but by sex desire**. Now that takes care of "the beginning," doesn't it? In the beginning there was only one man and one woman, one male and one female; but when she crossed that line and brought this sin, now the world is to be repopulated again, by sex, not by creation; by sex. See where the woman is at now, now? But that's the way the world is populated today, **through women.** Marriage And Divorce 02-21-65M

Just like, in the beginning, **it was not God's perfect will for children to be born on the earth through sex.** No, sir. God created man out of the dust of the earth, breathed the breath of life into him, and he became a living soul. Does God Ever Change His Mind About His Word? 04-18-65E

And He showed here, in the beginning, that **His perfect will was to create man out of the dust of the earth.** But, you see, He permitted sex to be brought in. **He never did intend children to be born by sex**, but it was permitted, which soon will fade away. Does God Change His Mind? 04-27-65

Branham believed Adam could not be tempted to fall because he was created in the image of God. However, Eve could do so because she was a byproduct of man and not in the original creation (even though Genesis 1:26-28 says she was in the original creation). Branham said God used a byproduct of man to cause the fall of the human race.

Every other female was in the original creation, but **Eve was not in the original creation**. See, that had to be made that way. We'll get to it after a while. Notice, in this creation that **she was in, not in the original, but a by-product.** Marriage And Divorce 02-21-65

Adam had been made in the image of God. He was a son of God. As a son of God he **could not be tempted and fall**. That would be impossible. **So God took a byproduct of man to cause the fall**. Woman never stepped fresh from the hand of God as a true product of God. She was produced from man. And when God caused her to be brought forth from man she was vastly different from the other females He had created. **She was able to be seduced.** An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Six - The Thyatirean Church Age

According to Branham's baseless theology, after Eve committed adultery, Adam's sinned and condemned the world by taking her back to be his wife and having a sexual relationship with her. Thus, based upon Branham's beliefs, Adam's sin was not caused by eating forbidden fruit as stated in Genesis 3:6 since he could not have Adam eating of the tree, which was sex with Satan through the serpent.

...and people ask me, " **If Eve fell that way, what did Adam do, for God lays the blame on Adam?**" That is simple. The Word of God is forever settled in heaven. Before one speck of stardust was made, that Word (**God's law**) was there EXACTLY AS IT IS WRITTEN IN OUR BIBLE. Now the Word teaches us that **if a woman leaves her husband and goes with another man she is an Adulteress and is no longer married and the husband is not to take her back**. That Word was true in Eden as it was true when Moses wrote it in the law. The Word can't change. Adam took her back. He knew exactly what he was doing, but he did it any way. *An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Three - The Ephesian Church Age*

Branham said God's word forbade Adam from taking Eve back after committing adultery. Actually, the law he reference pertains to divorce, not adultery (Deut. 24:1-4; Jer. 3:1). Adulterers were stoned to death (Deut. 22:22), even though God spared David and Bathsheba (2 Sam. 12:9-14, 24) and told Hosea to marry a harlot and to take her back after she committed adultery (Hosea 1:2-3; 3:1-3). Yet, Branham said Eve brought death into the world, not Adam.

Well the woman is the tree. **She is the fruit tree.** You're the fruit of your mother. **The fruit of the womb is you.** That's right. And then the fruit of the Tree of Life, that was in the garden of Eden, is Christ. **Through the woman come death;** through the Man, in the original creation, come Life. **To be born of a woman is death;** to be born of Christ is Life. Get the idea? *Marriage And Divorce 02-21-65M*

Branham blamed Eve for causing death. However, in Romans 5:12-19, Paul blamed Adam. Verse 12 says:

Wherefore, as **by ONE MAN sin** entered into the world, and death by sin; and **so death passed upon all men**, for that all have sinned:

Again, even though Paul recognized Eve's part in the fall of the human race (1 Tim. 2:14): in 1 Corinthians 15:22, he says Adam brought death into the world.

For as **in Adam ALL DIE**, even so **in Christ shall all** be made alive. 1 Cor. 15:22

Branham believed Adam committed sin by taking Eve back and having a sexual relationship after she committed adultery, not because he had personally sinned by eating of a literal tree. So then, what was Adam's sin? To find the proper answer we must ask: "What is sin?" 1 John 3:4 says: "Whoever commits* sin transgresses* also the law: **for sin is the transgression of the law.**"

So then, sin is defined as breaking God's law. Thus, Adam sinned when he disobeyed God's command not to eat of the forbidden tree, as stated in my book "The True Biblical Gospel of Jesus Christ Volume III." [457]

Although 1 John 3:4 speaks of transgressing the morals of the Mosaic law, sin originally entered the world through

disobeying a commandment given by God; and death entered into the world by that sin. If there was no commandment to transgress, there could be no sin and no death as a result. When the meanings of these two scriptures are placed together, it reproduces a vivid picture illustrating how Adam and Eve allowed sin and death to enter the world through disobeying a law given by God.

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die. Genesis 2:17 (NKJV)

In the above verse, there is (1) a law – "you shall not eat," (2) the sin – "that you eat of it," and (3) the death – "you shall surely die." In view of Romans 5:12 and 1 John 3:4, death could not have possibly entered the world without sin, and sin could not have possibly entered into the world without a law that could be disobeyed. So remember, when anyone violates God's law just one time: that person has sinned, and must therefore die (Ezek. 18:4). No one can have one without the other since the violation of the law, sin, and death are inseparable.

As shown, Adam's sin goes deeper than what Branham had stated. The nature of sin was passed down through his seed. Why do I say this? Well, when Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, the angel Gabriel called him holy when he told her: "...therefore, also, that **holy one** who is to **be born** will be called the **Son of God**" (Luke 1:35 NKJV). Jesus was holy (without sin – 2 Cor. 5:21) during his conception and birth. No other human being could ever be declared thus.

But, the question we must now ask: "How could Christ be born holy after being born of a woman, which according to Branham is responsible for bringing death. Especially, when we consider the verse in Psalm 51:5:

Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and **in sin did MY MOTHER CONCEIVE me.**

How could Jesus be conceived and born of a woman (Gal. 4:4) and not be a sinner? The reason is that he was not born of Adam's literal seed. Now we can understand why Eve is called the mother of all living, but Adam was not the father of all living (Gen. 3:20). Why? Because he was not the direct bloodline ancestor of Jesus. God was his Father (Matt. 1:18-25; 3:16-17) and bloodline (Acts 20:28).

If Jesus was literally Adam's seed he would have to be the actual son of Joseph, the husband of Mary. But, if Joseph fathered the actual birth of Christ, then he would have been born in sin. Why? Because every human born from a man and woman is conceived and birth in sin (Psalms 51:5).

The fact that Jesus was born without sin, even though he was born of a woman through the created seed of God, proves that the seed of Adam carries the sinful nature that Paul describes in the seventh chapter of Romans. So then, Adam is not as innocent as Branham taught. His sin goes beyond taking Eve back after she allegedly committed adultery. Adam sinned by disobeying God's command not to eat of a literal tree that existed before Eve was created.

Branham also wrongly taught that Cain was conceived in the garden of Eden after the Devil possessed the serpent and had sexual relationship with Eve. He said Cain was the **SON OF SATAN**, as shown below.

Notice. Now, **the devil come down** and got **into the serpent**, and he **found Eve in the garden of Eden** ~~naked~~. And he talked about the fruit in the midst, the "midst" means "middle" and so forth. You understand in a mixed congregation. And he said, "Now, it's pleasant. It's good to the eye." What did he do? **He begin making love to Eve**. And he lived with her as a husband. And she saw it was pleasant, so she went and told her husband; but **she was already pregnant by Satan**. And she brought forth **her first son** whose name was **Cain, the son of Satan**. _The Serpent's Seed 09-28-58E

Branham's account of Cain being Satan's son clearly contradicts Genesis 4:1, which says:

And **Adam KNEW Eve** his wife; and **she conceived**, and **bare Cain**, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

During question and answer sections in 1959 and 1963, Branham attempted to explain away this straightforward scripture by cleverly evading the main issue.

89. Brother Branham: Would you please explain your theory that Eve conceived Cain of the devil? I never said that. I said Eve conceived Cain of the serpent. **In Genesis 4:1, 1st verse, clearly states that Adam knew his wife Eve, and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, "I have gotten a man from God."** Absolutely. All life has to come from God. John Dillinger come from God. Adolf Hitler come from God. _Questions And Answers 06-28-59E

My friends have asked me **to explain Genesis 4:1 and I can't**. Will you help me? Now, she's saying here... What the question is, no doubt, that they're saying, **"Eve said she gotten this man from the Lord."** How do you think life could ever come if it didn't come from the Lord, be it right or wrong? _Questions And Answers On The Seals, 03-24-63, Paragraphs 130 and 133

In the above answer, Branham evades the main issue by discrediting Eve's statement: *"I have gotten a man from the LORD."* But, her statement was not the issue. It was the fact that the first part of the verse said: *"And Adam KNEW Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain."* Branham avoided this portion of scripture because it would have proven his doctrine wrong. He also avoided this issue in his 1965 book on the seven church ages by focusing on Eve's statement rather than the first portion of Genesis 4:1.

In Genesis 4:1, Eve said, "I have gotten a man from the Lord." She does not credit Adam with the fatherhood of Cain. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Three - The Ephesian Church Age

Again, in the same book, Branham avoids the main issue regarding Genesis 4:1 by mainly attempting to prove that Cain and Abel were twins.

Notice the exact way the record of God sets forth the account of the births of Cain, Abel and Seth. **Genesis 4:1**, "And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord. And she again bare his brother Abel." Genesis 4:25, "And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth..." There are THREE sons born from TWO acts of carnal knowledge by Adam. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Three - The Ephesian Church Age

Furthermore, as stated, Branham said Cain was conceived in the garden of Eden.

Notice. Now, **the devil come down** and got **into the serpent**, and he **found Eve in the garden of Eden** naked- _The Serpent's Seed 09-28-58E

As shown, Branham not only avoids the main issue in Genesis 4:1, he attempts to bypass this scripture altogether. How? By saying Cain was conceived **IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN**, when the same verse shows his conception occurred after Adam and Eve were expelled from that place.

And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: **therefore the LORD God SENT HIM FORTH FROM THE GARDEN OF EDEN**, to till the ground from whence he was taken. **SO HE DROVE OUT THE MAN**; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life. "And **Adam KNEW Eve** his wife; and **SHE CONCEIVED**, and **BARE CAIN**, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD." Genesis 3:23-24; 4:1

As stated, a nother error propagated by Branham is that Cain and Abel were twins.

Now, if you notice it's always been twins all along. There was... **Cain and Abel were twins**, and Esau and Jacob were twins. _Questions And Answers #3, 08-30--64M

She brought forth those twins, Cain and Abel. One act, two children. Search the Scriptures. _The Invisible Union Of The Bride Of Christ 11-25-65

Branham believed Cain and Abel were twins, but the scriptures says no such thing. There are only two examples in the Bible that shows the actual births of twins. Both births are found in the book of Genesis, which are (1) Esau and Jacob, and (2) Pharez and Zarah. Each time the scriptures specifically called them twins.

And when her [Rebekah] days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, **there were TWINS in her womb**. Genesis 25:24

And it came to pass in the time of her[Tamar] travail, that, behold, **TWINS were in her womb**. Genesis 38:27

So then, if Cain and Abel were twins, Genesis 4:1 would have stated this fact since these multiple births are clearly identified in the same book. But, it does not matter if Cain and Abel were twins? The Bible's account by Moses says Cain was conceived after Adam had a sexual relationship with Eve his wife, not with the serpent. Verse 1 also plainly show the conception took place after the serpent had been cursed, and Adam and Eve banished from Eden. The serpent is no where involved in the birth of Cain or Abel.

Branham says Cain's conception took place in the garden of Eden. In Genesis 4:1, the writings of Moses says it occurred outside the garden of Eden. Who will you believe: the Bible's account or a man whose teachings have been consistently proven to be inconsistent and error prone?

Sadly, Branham's followers have chosen to believe his errors. They say Cain was not Adam's son because he does not appear in his genealogy. It is true. But, neither does Abel appear in Adam's genealogy. Was he not also the son of

Adam (Gen. 5:1-3; 1 Chron. 1:1)? In Luke 3:23-38, Adam's genealogy shows an unbroken lineage to the birth of Christ. Perhaps Cain was not mentioned because his descendants perished in the flood, while Abel died childless.

Branham believed the serpent's seed are literal children of this animal that descended from Cain's genealogy. He believed this seed exist in today's world.

But just **before the end time**, the Seed's almost gone from the earth, it's weighted out, the seed of the righteous. The **seed of the serpent** is accumulating faster and faster and faster, **getting ready for this atomic age** to be destroyed. _The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit 09-28-58

But, there is a problem with this teaching because Cain's descendants were destroyed in the flood during the days of Noah. The Bible says only eight people were saved: Noah and his wife, and his three sons and their wives (1Pet. 3:20). However, in the sermon "The Serpent's Seed" (09-28-58E, Par. 197), Branham tried to cover his base by saying the serpent's seed (Cain's seed) came over the flood through the wives of Noah's sons. There are few problems with this reasoning. First, the Bible does not say so.

Secondly, the seed comes from the man, not from the woman. Even if this was true, the children born from the wives of Noah's son would no longer be the serpent's seed, but Noah's seed. For example, when Ruth the Moabitess and Rahab the Canaanite married men from the tribe of Judah (from which Jesus descended), their children took on the nationality of their fathers, not the mother's. They were the seeds of Abraham, as shown in Matthew 1:1-6.

Salmon begot **Boaz by RAHAB**, Boaz begot **Obed by RUTH**, Obed begot **Jesse**, and Jesse begot **David the king**. Verse 5

So then, physically speaking, there is no serpent seed among humans. But, spiritually speaking, it does exist. Thirdly, Branham believed the reason God destroyed the world was due to the sons of God from Seth lineage marrying the daughters from Cain's lineage. ^[458] If Noah's sons had married the daughters of Cain, as Branham believed, then they would have been guilty of committing the very sin that destroyed the men of Seth lineage.

Also, according to Branham, Eve is called the mother of all living because she was bearing the child of the serpent and the child of Adam.

In that Word it says, Genesis 3:20, "And Adam called his wife's name **Eve**; because **she was the mother of all living.**" But no Scripture ever says that Adam is the father of all living. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Three

Branham says Eve is the mother of every living person, but Adam is not the father of all living since Cain was not his son. Well, Genesis 4:1 tells us differently. It says Cain was CONCEIVED after Adam had a relationship with Eve his wife. The scripture cannot be clearer. Genesis 4:1-2 tells us that both Cain and Abel were the sons of Adam.

Thus, other than Jesus, Adam is the father of all living. As stated, Branham intentionally avoided the first portion of Genesis 4:1. Moreover, Apostle Paul says all nations came from one blood, not two—Adam and the serpent.

And **hath made of ONE BLOOD all nations of men** for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation. Acts 17:26

So then, we ask: "Is there a literal seed of the serpent?" Yes, reptilian snakes among animals are the serpent's seeds. How about the human race? No! Even if Cain's lineage was the serpent seed, they were killed in the flood of Noah's day. There is no literal seed of Cain in today's world.

Well, what about Genesis 3:15 that speak of the serpent seed bruising the heel of the woman's seed, which is Christ; and her seed (Christ) bruising its head—referring to Satan? First, naturally speaking, there is an inherent animosity for humans to kill reptilian snakes by striking them on the head and they striking humans on the feet or leg.

Nonethelss, spiritually speaking, Genesis 3:15 foretold how the serpent seed would bruise Christ on the cross and he would destroy Satan by doing so. The seed of the serpent in this verse refers to those who are spiritually the children of the Devil, not physically. Jesus and John the Baptist referred to some Jews as serpents and of their father the Devil (Matt. 3:7; 12:34; 23:32-33; John 8:44). These Jews were literally Abraham's seeds (John 8:33), but spiritually they were the serpent's seeds who crucified Christ.

Well, Matthew 13:38 shows the Devil having children. Yes. Apostle John referred to Cain as being of that wicked one because his works were evil, not because he was genetically Satan's son by the serpent. John was speaking spiritually of Cain because he includes everyone who live unrighteous lives as also being the children of the Devil.

In this the **children of God are manifest**, and the **children of the devil: WHOSOEVER DOETH NOT RIGHTEOUSNESS is not of God**, neither he that loveth not his brother. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as **Cain, who was of that wicked one**, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. 1 John 3:10-12

As Zohar shows, Branham did not reveal the serpent's seed concept as he would have followers to believe. Also, as noted in Wikipedia, serpent seed was found in a 2nd century Gnostic's literature called the "Gospel of Philip." The actual quote from this writing is shown below ^[459]

The idea that Eve mated with the serpent, or with Satan, to produce Cain, has been taught in various forms for thousands of years, and it finds its earliest expression in **Gnostic writings** (e.g., **the Gospel of Philip**) and especially in Manichean doctrines; however, it was soundly **rejected by mainstream Christian theologians such as Irenaus**.

But now he was created (and) he begot. What nobility is this? First, **adultery came into being**, afterward murder. And **he was begotten in adultery**, for he was **the child of the Serpent**. So **he became a murderer, just like his father**, and he killed his brother. _The Gospel of Philip

As shown, Irenaus, whom Branham considered to be the messenger of the Smyrna church age, rejected the Gnostic's heretical serpent seed doctrine. Wikipedia continues:

The **Serpent Seed** idea **appears** in a **9th-century book** called Pirke De-Rabbi Eliezer.

This 9th century book by Pirke De Rabbi Eliezer says:^[460]

Riding on the serpent, the **angel Samael came to Eve** in the night and **seduced her, and she conceived Cain**. Later, while Eve was pregnant by the angel, **Adam came to her**, and she conceived Abel.

Wikipedia further spoke of a 1957 book written by American Rabbi David Max Eichorn called "*Cain: Son of the Serpent*." In this book he provides an alleged detailed account how the serpent seduced Eve. It is interesting to note that the following year, Branham claimed to receive the revelation of the "Serpent Seed (09-28-58). A quote from Eichorn's book is shown below (see endnote ⁵⁶³ for link).

In his book *Cain: Son of the Serpent*, David Max Eichorn, **traces the idea back to early Jewish Midrashic texts** and identifies many rabbis who taught that **Cain was the son of the union between the serpent and Eve.**

After receiving the **Serpent's seed, Eve became pregnant**. From her **second act of intercourse with Adam**, Eve became **more pregnant**. – Cain: Son of the Serpent, Page 27

Wikipedia further says of serpent seed:

Some **Kabbalist** rabbis also believe that Cain and Abel were of a different genetic background than Seth. This is known among Kabbalists as "The Theory of Origins". The theory teaches that God created two "Adams" (*adam* means "man" in Hebrew). To one he gave a soul and to the other he did not give a soul. The one without a soul is the creature known in Christianity as the serpent. **The Kabbalists** call the serpent Nahash (meaning *serpent* in Hebrew). **This is recorded in the Zohar.**

As shown, the serpent seed doctrine was largely developed by Kabbalist Jews, who believe in mysticism and other heretical teachings. This doctrine is recorded in their book "Zohar," which is often sexual in nature. This book's inspiration is false and a few teachings are:^[461] (1) Adam expelled God from the garden of Eden, (2) Says derogatory statements about God and sexuality, (3) Employs yoga and meditation techniques, (4) Teaches reincarnation, and (5) Promotes necromancy and familiar spirits experiences during graveside rituals whereby inquirers takes on the souls of the deceased and even speak with their voices

In comparison to the Bible, Zohar is a falsely inspired book. But yet, it contained the serpent's seed doctrine that William Branham claimed to be a revelation of God in the last days. If this book's inspiration is wrong, then the inspiration behind the serpent's seed doctrine is also wrong. Also, if Eve and the serpent had committed an adulterous act as Branham claimed, why would God use cryptic languages to describe those happenings when he used straightforward words to describe this act in other places in the Bible?

The Bible clearly describes: (1) Lot's incestuous sexual relationship with his two daughters whereby they were impregnated and bore two sons – Gen. 19:30-38, (2) Reuben, the oldest son of Jacob, had an incestuous sexual relation with his stepmother Bilhah – Gen. 35:22, (3) Judah had an incestuous sexual relationship with the wife of his deceased son, whereby she was impregnated and bore twin sons – Gen. 38:12-25, (4) The men of Israel sexual acts with Moabitess' women – Num. 25:1; 1 Cor. 10:8, (5) Some

wicked men from the tribe of Benjamin who wanted to have sexual relationship with a Levite, but raped his wife instead – Judges 19:22-28, (6) King David's sexual relation with Bathsheba the wife of his faithful soldier, whereby she was impregnated and the husband intentionally killed – 2 Sam. 11:1-27, (7) Ammon, the oldest son of King David, who raped his half-sister Tamar – 2 Sam. 13:1-22, and (8) Absalom, the rebellious son of King David, who had incestuous sexual relations with his father's wives in plain view of the people of Israel – 2 Sam. 16:21-22.

As shown, the word of God made no attempt to hide embarrassing illicit sexual acts that were also committed by key figures of the Old Testament. Furthermore, the Bible does not attempt to hide the facts that in the genealogy of Christ there were Tamar who was impregnated by her father-in-law, Rahab who was a former harlot, or Bathsheba who once was an adulteress (Matt. 1:3-6). But, of course, these acts had no effects on the birth of Jesus Christ. Why? Because he was born of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 1:18; Luke 1:34-35), not from the seed of Joseph, who was a bloodline descendant of these men and women.

Since God did not hide these shameful illicit sexual acts committed by key figures in the Bible, why should he use cryptic language to hide such acts if they had occurred in the garden of Eden? Simply said, if events had taken place in the garden of Eden like the book of Zohar and Branham had claimed, then God would have plainly told us.

What advantage is there for God to use symbols to hide what happened in the garden of Eden? Such symbols would leave us with the difficult task of deciphering these cryptic languages resulting in weird assumptions and far-fetched conclusions that goes beyond the natural orders of events.

For example, a woman being impregnated by an animal and bearing it a human son goes against the natural orders of creation and present day realities. Especially when we realize that God said every seed would bring forth of its kind (Genesis 1:11-12). The serpent was created among animal kind (Gen. 1:21-25), while Adam and Eve were created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-28).

Therefore, to believe what Zohar and Branham taught concerning Eve and the serpent will take a leap of faith into the unknown. It will take trusting two unreliable sources whose past inspirations have been proven to be contrary to the simple plain truths of the Holy Scriptures.

Even if those events had happened, it is obvious that God did not want us to know. Why? Since he did not plainly tell us in the book of Genesis. It is best to stay with the Bible's version of humanity's fall than to trust in the words of Branham, a man who has been proven to be error prone. He also believed serpent seed could not be saved. Whereas the Bible shows everyone has an opportunity to be saved (Acts 17:30; 2 Tim. 2:4, 2 Pet. 3:9), even Cain (Gen. 4:6-7).

Apostle Paul warned Christians not to be misled by Jewish fables and strange doctrines (1 Tim. 1:4; Titus 1:14; Heb. 13:9). Rather, to teach sound doctrines that cannot be condemned (Titus 2:7-9). None of the prophets or apostles in the Bible taught serpent seed as literal children of Satan by Eve and the serpent through Cain's lineage. This is a

Jewish fable and a false doctrine. If you trust Branham's alleged revelation, do not forget his chilling words:

I've got to leave here. You've got to leave here. And **if I go as a false prophet, I'll lose my own soul** and **lose yours with me**.
_Questions And Answers On The Holy Ghost 12-19-59

I am not willing to entrust my eternal destiny to strange teachings of a man whose supposed revelation was not taught in the scriptures by the apostles and prophets. But somehow, Branham believed this teaching was revealed to him in the last days because he was the angel of Revelation 10:7 who reveal all the mysteries. We shall later prove by scriptures that he had a false interpretation of this verse.

Furthermore, if Branham is wrong, he will be guilty of accusing and slandering Eve with having an adulterous affair with an animal. I would rather stay with the Bible's version of the story than to delve into unknown secrets not supported by scriptures. Also, as usual, after preaching the serpent seed, Branham contradicted himself by saying every human came from Adam. Where is serpent seed?

Men and women have their own rights. Our colored brothers, and our Japanese, and the yellow, white, black, and whatever they was. There's no difference in the color of a god. **We all come from one man, Adam.** _The Third Exodus 06-30-63M

Contradictory Teachings of Daniel's Seventy Weeks

As studied on pages 107 -109, Branham plagiarized Larkin's lesson pertaining to the seventy weeks of Daniel. But, he pretended as though it was a personal revelation.

The Spirit of wisdom comes into the church to make known to the church by the revelation of the Holy Ghost—bringing the church in and revealing what day that we're living in. Just the same as Gabriel come to—to Daniel, **the Holy Spirit comes to the church in the last days to reveal these great, deep, secret things.** Do you understand now? _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61

Furthermore, when preaching sermons pertaining to the book of Daniel, Branham admitted to reading books and commentaries written by Clarence Larkin, Uriah Smith, and others. But, even though Branham pretended to disagree with their teachings, he admittedly said they enlightened him. Nonetheless, Branham made the audience believe that he performed a personal research to get the revelation, while at the same time using their information.

I've been reading Dr. Larkin's book, Dr. Smith's book, Dr. Scofield's notes, different commentaries from men everywhere, and yet I cannot put theirs together to make it come out right. See? **So this week I'm planning on... Been visiting the library in Kentucky on some of the ancient astronomy of the calendars and times, and picking up from the libraries and so forth all the ancient books that I can, and to — what little I can do, and having my trust solemnly in Jesus Christ to reveal it to me,** because I do not want it to say, "I know this, and I know that." He knows my heart; He's listening at me. But I want it that I might enlighten His people. Therefore, **I believe that He will give it to me I do not know as yet, but I'm trusting Him for next Sunday,** 'cause that'll be the tremendous part, as next Sunday to know and place those seventy of weeks. _ Gabriel's Instructions To Daniel 07-30-61

Through the age there has been hundreds times hundreds of people, scholars, abled men, trying to explain what these seventy of weeks were. And **I've read many of their commentaries on it.** And I'm very grateful to **Mr. Smith of the Adventist church for his views.** I'm very grateful to **Dr. Larkin of his views.** I'm grateful to **all these great scholars for their views** on this. And in **reading them, it enlightens me** much that I can find places that looks right. **But to get the views that I—I thought that I would like to explain, I searched through the encyclopedia of time to find out what time meant.** _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61

Although Branham led his church to believe the seventy weeks of Daniel was revealed to him, our study in Chapter Four showed he used Larkin's information nearly verbatim. But, he was conflicted between the teachings of Larkin and Smith. How? Larkin taught that the 69th week in Daniel's prophecy ended when Christ rode into Jerusalem at the end of his ministry. Thereby leaving one week (7 years) on the prophetic calendar to be fulfilled in the last days.

Conversely, Uriah Smith wrote in his book (Daniel and the Revelation, pages 226-231) that the 69th week of the prophecy ended when the Lord Jesus was baptized by John. Afterward, Christ preached to the Jews for 3.5 years, but was crucified in the midst of the week. Thereby causing the sacrifices to cease and leaving 3.5 years on the prophetic calendar rather than seven years, as shown below.

As he began his ministry in the autumn of A.D.27, his first Passover would occur the following spring, A.D.28; his second, A.D.29; his third, A.D.30; and his fourth and last, A.D.31. **This gives us three years and a half for his public ministry,** and corresponds exactly to the prophecy that he should be **cut off in the midst, or middle, of the seventieth week.** As that week of years commenced in the autumn of A.D.27, the **middle of the week would occur three and one half years** later, in the spring of 31, **where the crucifixion took place.** Page 229

Although Smith believed 3.5 years were allotted to the Jews after the crucifixion of Christ in 31 AD, he also believed that time period ended in 34 AD. As a result, he believed God was forever finished with the nation of Israel. Especially, after its destruction in 70 AD.

In the 1930's, Joseph (Judge) Rutherford, the leader of the organization that became the Jehovah's Witnesses after Russell's death, nearly had a similar view to Mr. Smith. He believed the seventy weeks ended in 36 AD—3.5 years after Christ's crucifixion. Both men were proven wrong when Israel became a nation once again on May 14, 1948.

Because Branham was conflicted with opposing views between Larkin and Smith, he taught both versions. When preaching the Seventieth Week of Daniel on August 6, 1961, he taught that the antichrist is the prince who breaks the covenant with Israel in the last days and take away the sacrifice. But when preaching the seven seals, he says Christ is the one who took away the sacrifice when he died on the cross. First, let see what he preached in 1961.

And **we've already had sixty-nine weeks,** then we have the Gentile age, and we know we're at the end of the Gentile age, then **there's one more week left for the Jew.** _The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61

Now, notice here. **In the middle of the week** , three and a half days—**three and a half years** , rather, he **breaks the covenant** and **causes the sacrifice and oblation** that they will have set up already. The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61

And he makes a covenant with them, and in the midst of the seventieth week, he breaks —**the antichrist breaks his covenant with the Jews** , "thy people." The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08=06-61

Now, let us consider what he taught in 1963 doing his sermon on the first seal.

Now, just **seventy weeks was determined** , perfectly, as Daniel said **that Messiah would come and would be cut off in the midst of the week**. And **Jesus** prophesied three and a half years. Now, in the middle of this, **three and a half years of Daniel** . in the middle of it. **He was cut off**. And now the last part is the tribulation period. The First Seal 03-18-63

During this tribulation period, after the Bride has been called out, and the church goes through the tribulation period, the hundred and forty -four thousand is called by the two witnesses of Revelation 11. Now, look, they'll prophesy one thousand two hundred and threescore days clothed in sackcloth. Now, we know this Roman calendar has... We got twenty -eight days and sometimes of thirty and thirty -one, but actual the calendar reads this: thirty days to every month. That's right. And take a hundred—a thousand, two -hundred and threescore day s and put thirty to it, and see what you got: **three and one-half years exactly on the dot**. That's the time—**that's allotted time for the Messianic message to be preached to Israel like it was back there**. The First Seal 03-18-63

As shown, Branham taught a 3.5 and 7 years tribulation period based on Larkin's and Smith's conflicting versions of the seventy weeks. He never corrected the discrepancy. As a result, he was asked about this apparent contradiction during a question section on the seven seals. Here is the question:

Brother Branham, I noticed you—your **referring to Daniel's seventy weeks** on the First Seal message. I understand on Daniel—**on the tape of Daniel** when the Gospel returns to the Jews, the seventy weeks will begin. Is there a one seventy —**one week, seven years, left for the Jews** , or yet is there only one -half week, one **three and one-half years left for them** ? Questions And Answers On The Seals 03-24-63

Branham's answer is shown below.

Only one-half week: **Jesus prophesied the first half week** , as was predicted, **only one-half week left for them**. Questions And Answers On The Seals 03-24-63

As shown above, Branham no longer believed Larkin's teaching of a remaining 7 year period where the antichrist break his covenant with the Jews in the midst of the week (3.5 years). He now believed Smith's view that only 3.5 years remained after Christ's crucifixion.

Yet, Branham attempted to blend both teachings than to acknowledge the inconsistency. How? By believing Christ died in the middle of the week and during the remaining 3.5 years the Antichrist (Roman power) will break his covenant with the Jews. He was very dishonest about this subject.

I said they might want to consolidate together on the money, and the—and **the Roman power take the Jewish power** in—of money, **breaking the covenant**. That might not be so. See, **I**

know they'll break it, but I—I don't know what reason, 'cause it's not revealed to me about what they'll do. Questions And Answers On The Seals 03-24-63M

(No, that **antichrist breaks his covenant** at the end of **the last three and one half years**. See?) . Questions And Answers #3, 08-30-64M

During a 1964 question and answer section, Branham's confused teachings based upon opposing views between Larkin and Smith regarding the seventy weeks prompted a question from someone in the audience, as shown below.

371 Since then, it seems **like the first three and one half years was fulfilled during the ministry** (Well, here you've got it right here.) of—**of Jesus**, but the expression , "**midst of the weeks**" seems to be applied only to the antichrist breaking his covenant with the ... (No, that antichrist br eaks his covenant at the end of the last three and one half years. See?) **As I understood Daniel tape**, the **first sixty-nine weeks ended when Jesus rode into Jerusalem A. D. 30**, so that three and one half years of His ministry would be included in the sixty -nine week's; and the full last weeks—and **the full last week or seven years** would still be fulfilled and **would begin at the rapture** **Please clarify this for me**. Questions And Answers #3, 08-30-64M

As shown, someone realized Branham had taught two opposing views concerning Daniel's seventy weeks, and asked for clarification. In providing an answer, Branham accused the person of being mixed up about what he said.

You know, brother, sister, ever who it is that's asked this question. Very fine (See?), but **I believe you got a little mixed up on what I said**. See? Now, the—when Jesus came into Jerusalem (That is exactly right.), that was the end of... See? He went right straight in from there and was crucified. See? And He—**He did prophesy half of the seventy weeks** which is three and one half. Now, He was cut off, and His soul was made a sacrifice. And now, there would come then... **In this last days, there's three and one half years still promised to the —the Jews**. And the—in—during this time was a gathering up of the saints for the rapture. Questions And Answers #3, 08-30-64M

The person asking the question was not confused. It was Branham who failed to acknowledge that he had taught two opposing views. He claimed that God had revealed both the seventy weeks of Daniel and the seven seals to him.

The Spirit of wisdom comes into the church **to make known** to the church **by the revelation of the Holy Ghost** —bringing the church in and revealing what day that we're living in. Just the same as Gabriel come to —to Daniel, **the Holy Spirit comes** to the church **in the last days to reveal these great, deep, secret things**. The Seventieth Week Of Daniel 08-06-61

What little I can do, and having my trust solemnly in Jesus Christ **to reveal it to me**, because I do not want it to say, "I know this, and I know that." He knows my heart; He's listening at me. But I want it that I might enlighten His people. Therefore, **I believe that He will give it to me**. **I do not know as yet, but I'm trusting Him for next Sunday** .. Gabriel's Instructions To Daniel 07-30-61

Now, the vision, plus the Word, plus the history, plus the church ages; and all blend together. So I could truly say that to the best of my understanding and according to the Word of God and **the**

vision and the revelation, the interpretation thereof is **THUS SAITH THE LORD**. _The Seventh Seal 03-24-63E

Branham never corrected his teachings between the two conflicting views taught by Clarence Larkin and Uriah Smith. He tried to mesh the opposing thoughts together.

I've been reading Dr. Larkin's book, Dr. Smith's book, Dr. Scofield's notes, different commentaries from men everywhere. _Gabriel's Instructions To Daniel 07-30-61

In summary, Branham told his church during the 1961 sermon on "The Seventieth Week of Daniel" that the final seven years of the seventy week were still allotted to Israel after Jesus' crucifixion. Then, in the midst of the last seven years (3.5 years), the end time Antichrist will break his covenant with the Jews and take away the reinstated daily sacrifices and oblations (see quotes on page 109).

However, during Branham's 1963 sermons on the seven seals, he taught his church that 3.5 years were still allotted to Israel after Christ's crucifixion on the cross. According to this version, Jesus breaks the covenant (referring to the Old Testament) with the Jews in the midst of the last seven (7) years when he died on the cross and caused the daily sacrifices and oblations to cease.

Then, Branham mixes Larkin's views with Smith's 3.5 years explanation by saying the Antichrist would break his covenant with the Jews in the midst of the last 3.5 years. So then, instead of the Antichrist breaking the covenant with the Jews in 3.5 years, he breaks the covenant in 1.75 years.

And he **makes this covenant with the Jews**, and **in the midst** of this, **three and a half years**, he **breaks his covenant** as soon as he gets the thing wrapped up and gets the money of the Jews tied up. _The First Seal 03-18-63

(No, that antichrist **breaks his covenant** at the end of **the last three and one half years**. See?) _Questions And Answers #3, 08-30-64M

As shown, Branham knew what he had taught in 1961 because he tried to add his previous views from that sermon regarding the Antichrist breaking his covenant with the Jews into his newly adopted 3.5 years concept borrowed from Smith during his inspired 1963 opening of the seven seals. Instead of admitting to the audience that his inspired 1961 interpretation was wrong, he pretended there was none.

By combining opposing views, Branham brought more confusion to this subject. His teachings were so baffling that someone asked a question concerning this interpretation of Daniel's prophecy. Since Branham did not have a scriptural answer, he could only say he was "presuming."

29. **Where is the Scripture** that shows that the—that **Catholicism will deceive the Jews and get their wealth**? Now, just where does it say that—that—that the beast will deceive for the wealth; **it doesn't say that**. But **we're presuming** that that was. _Questions And Answers On The Seals 03-24-63M

Forbidden Teachings: Zodiac, Pyramid, and Freemasonry

The Zodiac

During William Branham's ministry, he often spoke of

the zodiac. What is the zodiac? Although it was initially linked to astronomy, there is a danger. Wikipedia says: ^[462]

In both **astrology** and **historical astronomy**, the **zodiac** (Greek: ζῳδιακός, *zōidiakos*) is a circle of twelve 30° divisions of celestial longitude that are centered upon the ecliptic, the apparent path of the Sun across the celestial sphere over the course of the year.

As shown above, the zodiac is connected to astrology. Branham often referred to it as God's first Bible.

Here goes another one flying off the sun. It goes over here and hangs down, stops it there. What's He doing? **Writing His first Bible**. Notice, the human beings once looked towards the heavens. And **He puts all the stars in the heavens, the zodiac**, starting off with the Virgin, ending up with Leo the Lion. First coming of Christ, the second coming. Came by the Virgin, come again as the Lion of the tribe of Juda. There He puts the first Bible. _Who Is God? 08-15-50

God's first Bible was in the skies, **the Zodiac**; it starts off and runs every age. The **first, beginning of the Zodiac, is a virgin**; that's how **He come, first**. The **last figure in the Zodiac is Leo** the lion; the **Second Coming**. Just before there is a crossed fishes, which is the **cancer age; that we're living in now**. _The Future Home Of The Heavenly Bridegroom And The Earthly Bride 08-02-64

As shown, Branham says the first sign in the zodiac is the virgin and the last sign is the lion. According to his analogy, we are living in the cancer age, referring to the last days. The first error in the above analogy is that Branham attempted to compare the Zodiac's signs of the virgin with the birth of Christ and the lion with his second coming.

These comparisons are not correct because the virgin is not the first sign of the zodiac, as stated by Branham. In the zodiac, the lion represents August and September and comes before the virgin, which represents September and October. Moreover, the cancer, which is July and August, comes before the lion and virgin.

Also, Branham wanted the cancer sign to represent the last days. To do so, he incorrectly identifies the signs of the fish, which is the last sign in the zodiac, to be the same as the cancer. They represent different months and are not the same signs. So, in Branham's analogy, the last days and second coming of Christ appears before his birth. Thus, the zodiac does not align with the first and second coming of Jesus Christ. Minister Branham invented this false belief.

It is true that God gave the sun, moon, and stars for signs, seasons, days, and years (Gen. 1:14-17). There are also scriptures that speaks of God creating the sun and constellations of stars called Arcturus, Orion, Pleiades, and the seven stars (Job 9:7-9; Amos 5:8), which can be used as types (Gen. 37:9-10; Rev. 1:16; 12:1). Also, scriptures do say a star appeared when Christ was born (Matt. 2:1-2), but Number 24:17 foretold this event. Yet, Branham told his audience that Job spoke of the zodiacs and explained it.

Now notice on this, that Christ. God wrote three Bibles. The **first Bible** was in the sky, **called the zodiac**. Now, if you don't know the Book of Job, just forget about it, 'cause, **because Job is the one explains it**, how that **he looked up** and **he named those things in the sky**. _Blasphemous Names 11-04-62M

However, as shown in Job 9:7-9, the zodiacs (from Aries to Pisces) are neither mentioned nor explained as Branham claimed. Job only spoke of Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades as being created by God. So then, God created the stars, but the Babylonians created the zodiacs. How? When they took some stars from among 100 billion others and arranged them into 12 constellations (shapes) and assigned names to them, as stated by Wikipedia. ^[463]

Babylonian astronomers at some stage during the **early 1st millennium BC divided the ecliptic into twelve equal zones** of celestial longitude to create the first known celestial coordinate system...The Babylonian calendar as it stood in the 7th century BC **assigned each month to a sign**, beginning with the position of the Sun at vernal equinox....

Branham also said in his 1965 book on the church ages that the zodiac was invented by the Babylonians.

Now since the priests were in charge of teaching these sciences, and since these sciences were used as a part of religion, we already know the key as to how the **Babylonish religion** gained its strength in these two countries. It is also true that whenever a nation was able to overcome another nation, in due time the religion of the subdued became the religion of the subdued. It is well known that **the Greeks had the very same signs of the Zodiac as did the Babylonians** _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Five - The Pergamean Church Age

So then, the Babylonian astronomers devised the zodiac by choosing, arranging, and naming certain groups of stars perhaps for navigational purposes. However, the very fact that the Babylonians devised the zodiac leads us to suspect subtle satanic influence. Why? Isaiah 14:4 and 12 identifies Lucifer as the true spiritual king of ancient Babylon.

Also, Genesis 11:1-9 tells us Babylon was the city that rebelled against God after the flood. In describing the same era, Romans 1:18-32 show us how mankind rebelled against God and worshipped the creation rather than the Creator.

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became **vain in their imaginations**, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools...Who **changed the truth of God into a lie**, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. Verses 22-23,25

Yes, God created the stars, but vain imaginations of idolatrous men created the zodiacs. Not only as pertaining to astronomy for navigational purposes, but to be used in the satanic darkness of astrology. Wikipedia says: ^[464]

Although **the zodiac** remains the basis of the ecliptic coordinate system in use in astronomy besides the equatorial one, the term and the names of **the twelve signs are today mostly associated with horoscopic astrology**.

As shown, the twelve signs of zodiac in today's world are mostly associated with the horoscope and astrology. What is astrology? The Latin word means a "study of stars;" later referred to as "star-divination." The word "Horoscope" means "**observer of time**." Wikipedia says: ^[465]

A **horoscope** is an astrological chart or diagram representing the positions of the Sun, Moon, planets, astrological aspects, and

sensitive angles at the time of an event, such as the moment of a person's birth. The word *horoscope* is derived from Greek words *hōra* and *scopos* meaning "**time**" "**observer**...."

So then, the zodiac is not mainly used today as a means of mapping constellation of stars pertaining to astronomy. It is mostly used in astrology and horoscopes to predict people's future based upon astronomical signs of their birth months. Likewise, Branham believed people's inborn nature were determined by the sign they were born under.

The first thing, **I went to that person and found** their birthplace, and **what sign that they were born under**, and **could tell** what their **birth was**. Which **way it set in their natural nature** sets them in a certain line. Then, when they're reborn again, they're over here in another nature. _Questions And Answers #3, 08-30-64M

An astronomer told me one time, the same thing, that I should go west... **The stars**, when they cross their cycles and so forth, **I was born under that sign**, and **I'd never be a success in the East; I'd have to go West**. And **last year I took off, West**, to fulfill what a lifetime's desire has been, see, to—to do it. _Souls That Are In Prison Now 11-10-63M

As shown, an astronomer told Branham that he was born under a sign and would never have success in the eastern part of the country. In obedience to this person's advice, along with a supposed vision in December of 1962, he moved to Arizona. Notice! In the above quote, Branham said an astronomer told him about being born under a sign and moving west. But, the truth of the matter, the astronomer whom he speaks of was actually an astrologer.

She said, "Maybe I better explain myself." **She said, "I'm an astrologist."** I said, "I thought you was something like that." She said, "I'm on my way to Chicago to see my boy who's a Baptist minister." I said, "Yes, ma'am." She said, "Anybody ever tell you **you were born under a sign**." _How The Angel Came To Me, And His Commission 01-17-55

She said, "Well, what is a wise man?" She said, "The same thing that I am, **an astrologist, 'stargazer'** they call them." And she said, "You know, before God does anything in—in the earth, He always declares it in the heaven, and then on the earth." And I said, "I don't know." _How The Angel Came To Me, And His Commission 01-17-55

And this little **fortune-teller**, a young lady, seventeen or eighteen years old. She said, "Say, you, come here." And I walked over to her. She said, "Did you know **you were born under a sign?**" **It scared me**. I said, "**I want nothing to do with that**," and walked away. _The Revelation That Was Given To Me 02-10-60M

This Magi said to me, "You'll never be successful in the East." Said, "**You were born under a sign**." And said, "You... That sign, that constellation, when they crossed, way out in there, the day of your birth, they were hanging westward. And you must go westward." Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir? 12-30-62E

As shown, during Branham's earlier ministry, he called this woman an astrologist, fortuneteller, and stargazer. But, as Branham began to embrace his end time messenger role and this woman's earlier prediction, he began referring to her with less occultic names such a magi or astronomer.

But, there is a vast difference between an astronomer and an astrologer. Astronomy is the scientific study of stars and other planetary bodies in outer space, whereas astrology involves divination by the star. That is, astrology attempts to predict people's future based upon what celestial sign they were born under. Actually, it was this woman astrologist who told Branham that God declares things in the heavens before doing so on the earth.

She said, "Well, what is a wise man?" **She said,** "The same thing that I am, **an astrologist, 'stargazer'** they call them." And she said, "You know, **before God does anything in—in the earth, He always declares it in the heaven, and then on the earth .**" And I said, "I don't know. _How The Angel Came To Me, And His Commission 01-17-55

She said, "When you got on the bus, I seen it." She said, "I work in the White House." She said, "I'm on my way now to Chicago to see my son, who is a minister." She said, **'I'm an astronomer.'** **She said,** "Did you know who... **When God does anything, the first thing He does is to declare it in heaven, before He declares it on the earth?"** _The Revelation That Was Given To Me 02-10-60M

Branham later adopted this astrologist unbiblical view as his own revelation. What view? That God declares things in the heavens before declaring them on earth.

God always declares it by His celestial bodies before He makes it known to the earth. God writes it in the heavens. _The Great Shining Light 12-22-57

Then, **when that Magi** told me these things, when I was just a boy, game warden; or before that, I believe it was, about these things. And it scared me, because I was afraid of what the Magi was. But later on I found out that the Magi's of the Bible was right, because God declares it in heaven before He declares it on earth, watching those heavenly bodies. _Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir? 12-30-62E

And here **God declares it right in the heaven** comes right down **and declares it on earth**. And the churches walking right into it! _Turn On The Light 01-25-64

As shown on page 214, Branham was initially wary of this astrologist's statement: *"It scared me. I said, 'I want nothing to do with that.' and walked away."* But, in the later years, Branham embraced her prediction regarding his life and her false statement about things happening in the sky (heaven) before occurring on the earth. He used this same reasoning to support the cloud appearance in Life Magazine. He believed it was God's vindication in the heavens before he opened the seven seals on the earth—which did not occur as proven in chapters one and two of this book (more later).

That day they took pictures all across southern United States and Mexico. There it hangs now in the **Life Magazine**, still a mystery to them. But **He declares it in the heavens before He does it on earth.** He always does that. He shows His signs in the heavens first.—Shalom 01-12-64

As studied in Chapter One, when irrefutable evidences disclosed the fact that William Branham was not present on February 28, 1963 during the appearance of the cloud in Life Magazine, his daughter used *"God always shows his major events first in the heavens"* as an excuse (even though

her father hunted a week later and the cloud never appeared in that vicinity, but over 200 miles away). In the Only Believe magazine, she wrote: ^[466]

Speaking to a small group of people that had gathered in the home of Brother Tom Simpson, **he explained,** "I looked to see when it was, and it was time, same, about day or two before, or, day or two after I was up there." Several months later, in Sierra Vista, Arizona, **he clarified the event even further** by reminding his listeners that **God always shows his major events first in the heavens.** "Did you notice," he commented, "before the seven seals were revealed, the great mysterious Light showed forth in the heavens up here above Tucson, where were we?"

So, as shown, Branham adopted a false view from an astrologist that God always shows events in the heavens before he does so on the earth. This concept is a lie from the dark side because Satan is capable of doing the same.

Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here *is* Christ, or there; believe *it* not. For there shall arise **false Christs, and false prophets,** and shall **shew great signs and wonders**; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, **they shall deceive** the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Matt, 24:23-25

And then shall that **Wicked be revealed,** whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the **working of Satan with all power and signs and living wonders.** 2 Thess. 2:8-9

And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. **He performs great signs,** so that he even **makes fire come down FROM HEAVEN** on the earth **in the sight of men**. And he **DECEIVES those who dwell on the earth BY THOSE SIGNS** which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast. Rev. 13:12-14 NKJV

And I saw **three unclean spirits** like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are **the spirits of devils, working miracles,** which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of **the whole world,** to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Rev. 16:13-14

Furthermore, if God declares events in the heavens (sky) before performing them on the earth, then one must give credence to the story of "The Lady of Fatima" in 1916 and 1917. The story began when three girls in the village of Fatima, Portugal allegedly saw apparitions of the Virgin Mary—based on the teachings of Catholicism. Wikipedia says: ^[467]

They claimed to have experienced the visitation of an angel on three separate occasions. The angel taught them prayers to pray, to make sacrifices, and to spend time in adoration of the Lord **On May 13, 1917, Lúcia described seeing a lady "brighter than the sun, shedding rays of light clearer and stronger than a crystal goblet filled with the most sparkling water and pierced by the burning rays of the sun".** While they had never spoken to anyone about the angel, Jacinta divulged her sightings to her family despite Lucia's admonition to keep this experience private.

During the visitation of this apparition appearing as Mary, the girls were given secrets called the "Three Secrets of Fatima." Wikipedia says thousands of people came to Fatima in the following months. Then, as early as July 1917 the apparition promised to perform a great miracle for its last appearance on October 13 so those who were present would believe. The event which occurred on that day was called the "Miracle of the Sun." Wikipedia says: ^[468]

As early as July 1917 **it was claimed that the Virgin Mary had promised a miracle for the last of her apparitions on October 13, so that all would believe.** What happened then became known as the "**Miracle of the Sun**". A huge crowd, variously estimated between 30,000 and 100,000, including newspaper reporters and photographers, gathered at the Cova da Iria.

According to the above information, 30,000 to 100,000 people, which included reporters and photographers, witnessed a supernatural phenomenon involving the sun. The following account describes what they saw. ^[469]

The incessant rain had ceased and there was a thin layer of cloud. Lúcia, seeing light rising from the lady's hands and the sun appearing as a silver disk, called out "look at the sun". She later had no memory of saying this. **Witnesses later spoke of the sun appearing to change colors and rotate like a wheel.** Witnesses gave widely varying descriptions of the "**sun's dance**". Poet Afonso Lopes Vieira and schoolteacher Delfina Lopes (with her students and **other witnesses in the town** of Alburita), **reported that the solar phenomenon was visible up to forty kilometers away**. However, the phenomenon was not visible in other parts of the globe, where the Sun was noticeable at the time of the supposed miracle.

Also, a columnist for the most influential newspaper in Portugal, who was anti-clerical, witnessed the event. He claimed that what he saw defied all cosmic laws. ^[470]

Columnist Avelino de Almeida of *O Seculo* (Portugal's most influential newspaper, which was pro-government in policy and avowedly anti-clerical), reported..."Before the astonished eyes of the crowd, whose aspect was biblical as they stood bare-headed, eagerly searching the sky, **the sun trembled, made sudden incredible movements outside all cosmic laws** - the sun 'danced' according to the typical expression of the people."

Furthermore, an eye specialist who wrote for another newspaper likewise witnessed the event. ^[471]

Eye specialist Dr. Domingos Pinto Coelho, writing for the newspaper *Ordem* reported "**The sun, at one moment surrounded with scarlet flame, at another aureoled in yellow and deep purple**, seemed to be in an exceeding fast and **whirling movement**, at times appearing to be loosened from the sky and to be **approaching the earth, strongly radiating heat**".

Again, another reporter witnessed the event. ^[472]

The special reporter for the October 17, 1917 edition of the Lisbon daily, *O Dia*, reported the following, "... **the silver sun, enveloped in the same gauzy purple light was seen to whirl and turn in the circle** of broken clouds...The light turned a beautiful blue, as if it had come through the stained-glass windows of a

cathedral, and spread itself over the people who knelt with outstretched hands... **people wept and prayed with uncovered heads, in the presence of a miracle they had awaited**. The seconds seemed like hours, so vivid were they."

Account of the supernatural phenomenon continued: ^[473]

No movement or other phenomenon of the sun was recorded by scientists at the time. Not all witnesses reported seeing the sun "dance". Some people only saw the radiant colors, and others, including some believers, saw nothing at all.

As shown, the belief that God declares first in the sky before doing so on the earth can be deceiving. This concept has an occult origin used by astrologers to study the stars in foretelling future events. For this reason, the zodiac is popular with those involved in the occult and false religions.

Actually, the heathen practices of observing the signs of heaven for answers are forbidden by God. As shown below, this practice is called "stargazing." It is listed among astrology (star-divination), sorceries, enchantments, and fortunetelling. Practitioners of these wicked acts will be eternally condemned to the lake of fire (Rev. 21:8; 22:15).

Stand now with **thine enchantments** and with the multitude of thy **sorceries**, wherein thou hast labored from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail. Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the **astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators** stand up and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee. Behold, they shall be as stubble; **the fire shall burn them**; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame.... Isaiah 47:12-14

Furthermore, God warned his people not to seek answers from him through these heathen practices of observing the signs in the sky or observing time (Isa. 8:19-20). He called these practices "abominations."

Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, **to be defiled** by them: I am the LORD your God. Leviticus 19:31

When you are* come into the land which the Lord thy God gives you,* **you*shall not learn to do after the ABOMINATIONS** of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone that makes* his son or daughter to pass through the fire [human sacrifice], or that **uses* divination** [fortune-telling, channeling, palmistry], are an **OBERSERVER OF TIMES** [astrology, horoscope], are an **enchanter** [chanting or reciting magic spells], or a **witch** [practice witchcraft], or a **charmer** [to influence by charms and incantations], or a **consulter with familiar spirits** [spiritualist, séances, and physic advisors], or a **wizard** [warlocks, sorcerers], or a **necromancer** [consulter with the supposedly dead].... For these nations, which you shall* possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for you,* the Lord thy God **hath not suffered** [permitted] **you* so to do**. Deut. 18:9-11, 14

Thus saith the LORD: "**Learn not the way of the heathen**, and **be not dismayed at the signs of heaven** for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain.... Jeremiah 10:2-3

As shown, Branham spoke well of the zodiac. He believed a person's nature and destiny were determined by being born under a certain sign. He also believed God would always show a sign in the sky before declaring it on the earth. As a result, ministers who follow his teachings indiscriminately speak positive about the zodiac, not realizing this evil is clearly forbidden by God. Branham's influence has persuaded them not to heed God's warning about these abominations. Nonetheless, when the Jewish leaders came to the Lord Jesus requesting a sign from heaven, he rebuked them and denied their request.

The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and **tempting desired him** that he would **shew them A SIGN FROM HEAVEN**. He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times? **A WICKED and ADULTEROUS generation SEEKETH AFTER A SIGN**; and **there shall no sign be given unto it**, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

The Pyramid

William Branham's imprudent use of the word "zodiac" have caused followers to entertain practices forbidden in scriptures. These false practices consist of observing the stars to predict future events and using the signs of one birth's months to determine his or her disposition.

Likewise, Branham's beliefs about the "pyramid" have opened the door for followers to delve into strange teachings about this subject. How? Like Charles T. Russell who called the pyramid "The Bible in stones" (see page 122), Branham listed it as God's second Bible behind the zodiac.

What's He doing? He's writing His first Bible. The **first Bible** was ever written, was written in the skies, **the zodiac**. It starts out with the virgin; that's how He come first. It ends up with Leo the lion, the second coming. And He's writing His first Bible. The **second Bible** was written, was written by Enoch, and put in **the pyramid**. The **third Bible** was written, and the last one, is **this One**. [Brother Branham indicates **his Bible**—Ed.] *The Cruelty Of Sin, And The Penalty That It Cost To Rid Sin From Our Lives* 04-03-53

Now, **God made three Bibles**. Now, there's a pyramid teaching that's nonsense, but **there's a genuine pyramid**. See? Notice. Now, God, first Bible... He made three. There have to be everything in a three. *The Future Home Of The Heavenly Bridegroom And The Earthly Bride* 08-02-64

As shown, Branham attempted to avoid what he called a "pyramid teaching," perhaps from Charles Russell (see page 122). Yet, he repeatedly spoke of the pyramid throughout his ministry from 1953 to 1965. He attempted to apply its symbolism, along with the zodiac, to events of the last days.

Now, and in the Bible, we're living in the **last days**, the **top of the pyramid**, the **crossed fishes of the cancer age in the zodiac**, in the time of the coming of the **Leo the lion**, in the **capping Stone**, and in the days of the manifestations of the sons of God in the Bible. See? See where we're at? **We're right at the end time**. *Adoption #2*, 05-18-60

Branham not only spoke well of the pyramid, he did the same regarding its symbol on the one dollar bill.

I don't have my pocketbook with me. But if you'll notice in your pocketbook, if you have a **one-dollar bill**, they have the seal of the United States; an eagle on one end, holding the spears, the **coat of arms**, as it were; and on the other end, it's **got the pyramid**, with a **all-seeing eye** on top of it. See, they didn't know what they were doing. And on there it's written in Latin, and you'll find out it says it, this is "**the great seal**." They didn't know what they were doing. Neither did Caiaphas know he was prophesying. *The Future Home Of The Heavenly Bridegroom And The Earthly Bride* 08-02-64

Branham believed the uncapped pyramid and the accompanying symbols on the dollar bill represented the return of Jesus Christ. Those symbols may have literal application to the founding of United States. For example, MDCCLXXVI on the dollar bill is 1776, the year the United States was founded. Secondly, the Latin words "Novus Ordo Seclorum" beneath the pyramid on the dollar bill means "New World Order," and the words "Annuit Coeptis" means "Announcing the Birth." These words could pertain to the founding of this country. The capstone and eye supposedly represents the "Eye of Providence."

Nonetheless, the above words and symbols may convey hidden messages from the dark side about the coming new world order." The eye could represent the "Eye of Horus," which involves Egyptian mythology. Also, the pyramid has long been associated with Egyptian mysticism and psychic (paranormal) powers. Wikipedia says: ^[474]

Pyramid power refers to alleged **paranormal properties** of the ancient **Egyptian pyramids** and **objects of similar shape**. With this power, model pyramids are said to preserve foods, sharpen or maintain the sharpness of razor blades, improve health (some people "were so energized that they could not cope with the dynamo effects they experienced" ¹), function "as a thought-form incubator, "trigger sexual urges, and cause other dramatic effects. **Pyramid power** is one of many **pseudoscientific theories regarding pyramids**. Such theories are collectively referred to as pyramidology.

Due to the alleged power radiating from the pyramid in Egypt or similar shaped objects, the occult and the New Age movement uses these symbols to harness cosmic powers from spirit guides. Wikipedia says: ^[475]

It is common in New Age magazines to see advertisements for open metal-poled **pyramids** large enough to meditate under. The New Age group Share International, founded by Benjamin Creme, practices a form of meditation called *Transmission Meditation* in which they meditate under an open metal-poled tetrahedron; they believe that by doing so, **they are tuning into cosmic energy radiating from a cosmic entity known as Maitreya**.

As shown, the pyramid is associated with paranormal powers of the dark side. But yet, Branham compares it with the Holy Bible. Comparing the Bible to the zodiac and the pyramid, which are symbols belonging to occultism, one must question where Branham is getting his inspiration. Why? Because the Bible—inspired by God—condemns the mystical practices associated with these objects.

Again, we must question why Branham was so driven to compare God's words in the Holy Bible to ungodly objects used by Satan's occult? We must also question why he and Russell's tombstone are shaped like a pyramid (to view, Google search pictures of tombstones). As stated in 1 John 4:1, we must use the Holy Scriptures (1 Tim. 3:16) to test the influence behind Branham regarding these subjects.

Beloved, **believe not every spirit**, but **try** [test] **the spirits** whether **they are of God**: because **many false prophets** are gone out into the world.

Freemasonry

As studied, Branham delved into questionable teachings about occult objects and symbols such as the zodiac and pyramid. By doing so, he may have persuaded followers to think nothing is wrong with their use. He may have done the same regarding the Masonic Lodge, as shown below.

Well, the Masonic Lodge has got a better order than that. True. **The Masonic Lodge and all other lodges** are **all right**, but it still isn't the house of God. There's where God speaks. Those lodges try to make you moral. But God makes you righteous through Jesus Christ, His Son. _Hear His Voice 10-05-58M

You know, **a mason knows a mason when he speaks to him**. And **different lodges know by different signs**. The Christian does too. There's just something about when you speak to a man, and you feel that gentle sweet spirit, you know he's your brother. There's just something about him. _The Faith Of Abraham 04-24-59A

We got a brotherhood." **A good Mason**, Odd Fellow, or anything like that produces that. **And that's all right**, but that'll never take the place of a new birth in Jesus Christ, salvation to the soul, this Truth. _The Thyatirean Church Age 12-08-60

Now, I ain't saying nothing on Kiwanis now. That's all right. See? Just some people take... 'Cause I—I **believe that the Masons are all right**, but the Mason Lodge will never take the place of the Church, or the Blood of Jesus Christ. **All my people are Masons**, and **they're all right** as a lodge. But it won't take the place of the Church. _Be Not Afraid, It Is I 04-14-61

162. Brother Branham, **is there anything wrong with belonging to a lodge** after we have become a Christian, such as the **Masons? No, sir**. You be a Christian wherever you are. I don't care where you are, **you can still be a Christian**. _Questions And Answers 10-15-61M

And his good friend, and mine, Brother [name omitted by Editor], from Lowell, Indiana, was standing there. And I never knew before; **he was a Mason**. He had a **Mason button** on him. And **we were talking about the Masonic order**. _The Restoration Of The Bride Tree 04-22-62

You Masons, I'll call your attention. You **remember the sign of the cross**? Now, you—**you know what I'm talking about**. Now, notice. Now, if you—if you notice that was packing and preserving that Bible. See? And they had to labor among one another. There you are, the ox. _The Fifth Seal 03-22-63

In the above quotes, Branham believed a person could be a Mason and true Christian at the same time. But the fact that one must call the leader of the lodge "Worshipful Master" is against biblical truths. Wikipedia says: ^[476]

The **Worshipful Master** sits in the East of the lodge room, chairs all of the business of his lodge, and is vested with considerable powers without further reference to the members. **He also presides over ritual and ceremonies**.

But be not ye called 'Rabbi,' for **One is your Master, even Christ**; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon earth, for One is your Father, who is in Heaven. Neither be ye called masters, for **One is your Master, even Christ**. Matt. 23:8-10

The fact that Masons are sworn to secrecy and must take blood-curling oaths against themselves for divulging those secrets violates another scriptural truth.

But I say unto you, **swear not at all**: neither by Heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; neither by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be 'yea, yea' or 'nay, nay'; **for whatsoever is more than these COMETH OF EVIL**. Matt. 5:34-37

It is disturbing that Branham repeatedly condemned true Bible-believing churches, but refused to do the same regarding the Masonic Lodge and the Ku Klux Klan. The disparities between freemasonry and biblical Christianity are too vast and complex to be discussed in this book. There are many credible books that explore this subject.

Illegitimate Children Cannot be Raptured

William Branham believed an Old Testament law that forbade illegitimate children from entering the congregation of the Lord until ten (10) generations is still applicable for today (Deut. 23:2).

We went back in Deuteronomy and showed that a **illegitimate child**, bastard child, **could not even enter the congregation of the Lord for fourteen generations**. That was under the law, and **Christ come to magnify the law. How much more is it now?** _The Serpent's Seed 09-28-58E

A woman that's married to a man, or a man married to a woman that'll cross the lines of holy wedlock, and bring in a **illegitimate child**, the generations will not come into the **Kingdom of the Lord until ten generations**. Deuteronomy 30—23:2. All right, it won't come in—a illegitimate child, he or his generation, or his generation, or his generation; **even though they're trying like Esau, weeping to find a place, it takes ten generations**. _Condemnation By Representation 11-13-60

As shown below, Branham mentions the blood of Jesus Christ when talking about this Old Testament law. But, he only speaks of Christ's blood as a remedy against spiritual illegitimacy. He does not mention it as a remedy for being physically born illegitimate.

Ten generations, four hundred years before a illegitimate child could ever come into the Kingdom of God. There was no serum to take care of him. He had to just breed it out through the family. Four hundred years 'fore a illegitimate child could come in the congregation of the Lord. **But today, since the Blood of the Jesus Christ** has been shed and you've been **interbred by all**

different kinds of ideas, the Holy Spirit is here this morning to **breed you back to the original**, bring you back to **Pentecost, breed you back**. _It Wasn't So From The Beginning 11-27-60M

Branham's unclear teaching that Old Testament laws pertaining to illegitimate children were still applicable today prompted a direct question from one of his followers.

308. Dear Brother Branham, **if a baby is born of a—out of wedlock, can this child ever be saved or go in the rapture?** Saved? Why sure, I believe the child could be... The child can't help what's been done. That is true. But I... **About going in the rapture... Saved, I'd say, "Yes." But in the rapture it's a predestinated seed that goes in the rapture. And I can't believe that adultery was a predestinated seed. You understand? See?** I believe the people can—the baby can be saved; it has no—no rights of its own. It's a awful act and things. _Questions And Answers #2, 08-23-64E

Branham answer clearly shows that he did not believe the blood of Jesus could entirely undo the law's judgment upon an illegitimate child. He believed that child could be saved, but not raptured to heaven as a predestinated seed (those who follow his message). But, the Bible says Jesus' death and shed blood removed the Old Testament laws that were against us (Eph. 2:13-16; Gal. 3:13-14; Col. 2:13-14).

Furthermore, the idea that individuals can be saved, but not worthy to be raptured to heaven because they are not predestinated according to Branham's beliefs is based upon lies. As stated on pages 161-162, those who are truly saved by Jesus Christ according to the gospel are already qualified to be resurrected and raptured (caught up) to heaven.

Sadly, the irony of Branham's teaching is that while he believed it took ten (10) generations to purge illegitimate children (considered not to be predestinated seeds), he failed to realize that he judged himself (Rom. 2:1). How? A search of Branham's genealogy by "Believe The Sign" not only revealed illegitimacy in his ancestry a few generations ago, but also shows that his father and mother came from the same great-great-great grandfather and grandmother. ^[477] We may never know how many of his followers live in fear of missing the rapture (going to heaven) due to this teaching.

Unborn Babies Are Not Living Being

Branham said unborn babies are "dead" and "not alive." Rather, they are just "little nerves jerking, muscles" (see Questions and Answers Par. 42, 01-03-54; Questions and Answers Par. 277, 08-30-64; Who Is This Melchisedec? Par. 77, 02-21-65). For a man claiming to be a prophet, he failed to foresee the future when abortionists would terminate the unborn because they are non-persons (See "Abortion Debate" and "Mary Anne Warren" – Wikipedia). Since the 1973 legalization of abortions in the USA, over 62 million babies have been killed, while over 1.57 billion has been aborted worldwide since 1980 (see www.numberofabortions.com).

So, how can Branham's followers refute the abortionist argument to terminate the *life* of the unborn if their prophet viewed them as dead. However, medical science has now proven that unborn babies are living. They receive oxygen

(breathes) through the mother's blood, have heartbeats and brainwaves, feel pain, and can learn while in the womb (see "Beginning of human personhood" and "Fetal circulation" – Wikipedia; Google search "Can unborn babies learn?").

Furthermore, scriptures shows that John the Baptist was not only filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb, but leaped for joy when he met Christ for the first time (Luke 1:15, 39-44). Likewise, twins such as Esau and Jacob were alive when they struggled in their mother's womb (Gen. 25:21-26), Also, God recognized Jeremiah and Paul as living persons in their mother's womb (Jer. 1:5; Gal. 1:15), and Levi in Abraham's bosom (Heb.7:9)

Christ's Blood No longer Available After Seals Opened

Before and during William Branham's sermons on the seven seals between March 17 and 24 of 1963, he said the sealed book could not be opened until Christ had finished his work as a mediator at the end of the church age.

His mediatorial work was done, mediatorial. He was... **quit being the Mediator at the end of the Church age**, to become the Lion of the tribe of Juda, His mediatorial work was done. And He was to become a Lion which was the Judge, now, and He took... **when He took the Book out of the hand.** _Revelation, Chapter Five #2, 06-18-61

He was a Lamb, you know, with the seven sealed Book. **When the Book was taken, the mediatorial work was finished.** _Gabriel's Instructions To Daniel 07-30-61M

So here come **the Lamb now. His intercessory days is over, the mediatorial days.** _The Breach Between The Seven Church Ages And The Seven Seals 03-17-63E

This is something you must get. Now, **He had been doing His mediatorial work making intercessions for the believer.** For two thousand years He'd been back there, a Lamb. Now, He is **stepping forth from eternity to take the title deeded Book, and to break the Seals,** and reveal the mysteries. When of it? At the end time. Do you get it? _The Breach Between The Seven Church Ages And The Seven Seals 03-17-63E

And so then when that last soul comes in, then the time of redemption is finished. Then the Lamb comes forth to claim His rights to what He has redeemed, and that's all creation. The earth and everything belongs to Him. See? He has redeemed it with His own Blood. And when **He come forth to take this Book to open it...** _The Third Seal 03-20-63

And then we find—find out that **in the revealing of the Seals that the—the Lamb had left His mediatorial work as an Intercessor** and had come forth now to claim His rights, all that He had redeemed by His death. _Fourth Seal 03-21-63

The Lamb's done left the—His mediatorial work. The mediatorial work has been finished from over on the throne, **and the Sacrifice,** as we've typed Him perfectly, the Kinsman Redeemer, the bloody Lamb that come forth, the Lamb that had been slain (a bloody One, been killed, bruised), **come forth and took the Book out of His hand. That's... The day's are finished.** _The Sixth Seal 03-23-63

As shown, Branham repeatedly taught followers that Jesus Christ is no longer on the throne of grace to mediate

and intercede for anyone when he took the seven sealed book in God's hand. Branham is actually teaching that when the seals were opened by him in March of 1963 (see quotes on pages 29 & 221), there were no more sacrifice, no more blood, no more grace, and no more redemption for the church. Why? Because Jesus left the mercy seat to take the seven sealed book and reveal the seven seals to him.

Certainly, the—the Lamb had the Book in His hand. **He'd done left the Throne of mediatorial grace**. See? _Questions And Answers On The Seals 03-24-63M

When **the Lamb leaves that seat of the throne, to —being a Mediator**, He becomes down here, **and the day of redemption for the church is finished**. The next redemption is opened is for the Jews, the hundred and forty -four thousand. Is that right? Cause He promised He'd cut the tree off, you know. Now, here... Now, here He comes out, the Lamb, and then the day of redemption is finished, and all that's going to be redeemed is already been redeemed and put on the Book, and **He's out here opening the Book. That's right**. _Questions And Answers On The Seal 03-24-63M

There's no more Blood on the altar. The sacrifice has been removed; and there's nothing but smoke and lightning and judgment in there. And that's just exactly what's poured out here tonight. (See?) **The Lamb's done left the—His mediatorial work. The mediatorial work has been finished from over on the throne, and the Sacrifice**, as we've typed Him perfectly, the Kinsman Redeemer, the bloody Lamb that come forth, the Lamb that had been slain (a bloody One, been killed, bruised), **come forth and took the Book out of His hand**. That's... The day's are finished. Now, He's coming to claim what He has redeemed. Amen. _The Sixth Seal 03-23-63

The Bible says Jesus redeemed us from sin by his shed blood on the cross (Col. 1:14; Heb. 8:14; 10:19; Rev. 5:9). There is no forgiveness of sins and access to God without his shed blood (Heb. 9:22; 10:10). After Christ redeemed us, Hebrew 9:24 -25 says he went to heaven to appear before God as our High Priest and intercessor (Rom. 8:34).

As a result, 1 Timothy 2:5 says Jesus is the only mediator between God and man. As such, Hebrews 4:14 -16 refers to Jesus as our great High Priest who sit upon the throne of grace. Believers are instructed to confidently come before him to receive mercy and grace in the time of need.

Because of Jesus' mediatorial work, 1 John 2:1 -2 says believers have a propitiator and advocate with the Father when they sin, and the world have a means of getting saved. Therefore, when the followers of Christ commit a sin, it is the blood of his cross and mediatorial work that forgives them when they confess.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin**. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **If we confess our sins**, he is faithful and just **to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**. 1 John 1:7-9

Therefore, based upon the above scriptures, every living believer is doomed if Christ is no longer performing his mediatorial work. But, according to Branham the day of

redemption was over for every saved and unsaved person in 1963 when Jesus took the sealed book from God's hand. Thus, Jesus' death and shed blood on the cross for our sins has become obsolete if he has already left the throne of grace to open the seven seals as taught by Branham.

Nonetheless, as usual, Branham seems to backtrack from his heretical views of Jesus' mediatorial work being ended during sermons on July 28 and November 30 of 1963. After claiming Jesus finished his mediatorial work when the seven seals were opened in March, Branham places the completion of his mediation and possession of this book in the impending future by using the word "someday."

Now you see the Seals? When **He was in His mediatorial work back there, redeeming, but someday He comes forth to get this Book** that He's redeemed.. _Christ Is The Mystery Of God Revealed 07-28-63

And **some day when the Book of redemption is finished, the Lamb takes It**. And then **the last name is called off** of that, the Lamb comes forward to call for what He has redeemed, that's His Church. And **I believe that time is close at hand**. _Go, Awake Jesus 11-30-63E

But again, in the same sermon on July 28, 1963 Branham appears to once again claim that Christ's mediatorial work is done.

See what I mean? **He has begin to give Life unto His Body**, (why?) the One that He has redeemed. **The mediatorial work is done, He's bringing His Life to Body**, in a vindication for the Rapture. Remember, now, in the last day... _Christ Is The Mystery Of God Revealed 07-28-63

Branham's doubletalk pertaining to this subject has left followers in a state of confusion. Why? The reason being, many followers believe salvation is only available to those who believe his message since Christ left the mercy seat in March of 1963. However, some followers believe Christ is still on the mercy seat because Branham repeatedly spoke of him as the High Priest after March of 1963. For example:

And I look to the... **Where He sits, at the right hand of God**, ever living to make intercessions for me." **With His Own Blood, as the High Priest**, He sets There, over it. How much more ought we to look to the Holy Place of God, **where Jesus Himself, our Mediator**, the only One between God and man, **stands with His Own Blood, to make intercessions on our confession!** Amen. Don't get... Amen means "so be it." I believe it with all my heart. _Greater Than Solomon Is Here 06-05-63

Sadly, some followers interpret Jesus the High Priest as speaking of Branham due to a sermon preached on February 21, 1965 entitled: "Who is this Melchisedec?" During this sermon he identified Melchisedec as God. The one who came to Abraham on the plain of Mamre and discerned the heart of Sarah in the tent while she laughed at his promise of a son in their old age (Gen. 18). During this sermon, Branham compared his ministry with Melchisedec (Heb. 7).

That Melchisedec was flesh, represented Himself in a human body; and then later He was made flesh. And **now, tonight, He**

is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. Do you believe it? [Congregation says, "Amen."—Ed.]. **Who is this Melchisedec**, then, that's the same yesterday, today... "Never had no father, never had no mother; He never had no beginning of days, He never had any end of life." And He met Abraham, and what kind of a sign did He perform? Then when **He was made flesh**, He said **it would repeat again just before the end time**. **Do you believe that?** [Congregation says, "Amen."—Ed.] I believe it. _Who Is This Melchisedec? 02-21-65E

So then, Branham's followers believe he was fulfilling the Son of man ministry of Christ in Luke 17:30. But, some believe he was Melchisedec and the only means of salvation is accepting his message. Even after going back and forth between Jesus' mediatorial work being previously ended or completed at a future date, Branham continued to confuse his followers concerning this subject.

But, you see, in this Book was what was redeemed. It was the Book of Redemption. And everything that He had redeemed was written in that Book. All that He died for was written in the Book, and **He could not leave His mediatorial Seat until He had thoroughly redeemed**. And He couldn't redeem it at the cross, because they were predestinated in the Lamb's Book of Life, and He had to stay on There **to make intercessions until that last person was finished**. Glory! **But one day He rose from There**, come forth. Where was the Book at? It was still in the abstract Owner, God Almighty. And John looked around, and he wept, because there was no man even worthy to look on the Book and, especially, open the Seals, to reveal what the hidden mystery was. The mystery was in the Seven Seals. **When these Seven Seals was opened, that opened up the entire Bible**. _Souls That Are In Prison Now 11-10-63M

So we're—**we're trying to get every soul saved**, so that **Jesus can come**. And He cannot come until that last one that has the name of the Book of Life, that was put There before the foundation of the world; when that name is called, that's the last one then. He came to redeem, to bring back. Redeem is "to bring back." And when He brings the last one in... **He is setting at the right hand of God, tonight, doing His mediatorial work**. And when that last soul is saved, that was redeemed, and seen and knowed by God before the foundation of the world; **when that last soul is saved, that closes the Book. Then the Lamb comes out, takes the Book** out of the right hand of Him that sets upon the Throne. Then it's... He's coming then, **He's coming to the earth**. _Is Identified The Same In All Generations 04-15-64

No. See, **everything will be finished** for the Gentile church **when the Bride is taken from the earth**. The Spirit of God leaves the earth: "He that's filthy is filthy still; he that's righteous is righteous still; he that's holy is holy still." In other words the sanctuary becomes smoky, where the—the Attorney stands to plead the case. Christ leaves the sanctuary; **His day of mediatorial is over. The rapture comes**; He leaves from the sanctuary, **goes forth and takes the Book of Redemption**, and claims everything He redeemed. **There's no more mediatorial work**. How many understands that? I got it on one of the Seals—or one of the... Yeah, the Seals, I believe it was, that Christ comes forth to claim His mediatorial work. _Questions And Answers #2, 08-23-64E

As shown, Branham was a confused man regarding this subject. He takes followers on a roller coast ride between Christ's mediatorial work being finished when he allegedly

opened the seven seals in March of 1963 and Christ presently being a mediator until the last elect is saved. After which, he takes the book immediately before the rapture of the church. Thus, one moment Branham said the book was opened and redemption is over. Then, in the next moment, the book is not opened and redemption is still available.

With so many of Branham's teachings being obviously wrong, people continue to believe he was Elijah the prophet who restored the doctrines of the apostles in the last days. But, as shown, he not only taught contrary to the apostles of Christ. He brought more uncertainty to an already baffled people. Friends, flee the contrary teachings of William Branham while there is breath in your body and return to sound biblical doctrines. Do not forget his grave warning:

I've got to leave here. You've got to leave here. And if I go as a false prophet, I'll lose my own soul and lose yours with me. _Questions and Answers On The Holy Ghost 12-19-59

Claimed to Reveal Seals That No Man Could Open

As studied, between March 17 and 24 of 1963, William Branham claimed that he opened the seven sealed book in God's right hand (Revelation 5:1). He taught that Christ had to leave his mediatorial work to take and open this book. He likely got this idea from Clarence Larkin, but wrongly misplaced the timing (see Larkin's quotes on page 61).

As a result, Branham erroneously taught that Jesus' blood would no longer be available for salvation after he opened the seven seals. However, Branham contradicted his revelation by continuing to preach salvation (that includes his message – discussed later). As shown below, Branham clearly told followers that he opened the seven seals.

And he had in his hand a little book opened:... **(Now, the Seals had done been broke here. We're breaking them now;** but this, the thing's opened.). _The First Seal 03-17-24

I saw seven Angels in a—in a form of a pyramid, that swept down and picked me up. And **I was brought East, to open the Seven Seals for God**. _Standing In The Gap 06-23-63M

There He stood there, and said, "The time is at hand, **return back. Open the Seven Seals of mysteries** that's been hid all through the reformations and things, bring it out." _Who Do You Say This Is? 12-27-64

There stood seven Angels. And threwed a sword in your hand, said, **"Go home and open these Seven Seals** that are given." And here they are, the true mystery of marriage and divorce, and the serpent's seed, and all of these things that's been fussed about. It's **THUS SAITH THE LORD**. _The Easter Seal 04-10-65

"Return home. For, **THUS SAITH THE LORD**, the seven mysteries that's been hid in the Bible all these years, these denominations and everything, God is going to **open those seven mysteries to us in the Seven Seals**." _What Is The Attraction On The Mountain? 07-25-65E

As shown, Branham claimed that he was sent to his home church by angels of God *to open* the seven seals. However, this belief is contrary to scriptures because Revelation 5:1-4 clearly says **no human** in heaven, in the

earth, or under the earth was worthy to OPEN this book.

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, **Who is worthy to open the book**, and to **loose the seals thereof**? And **NO MAN** in **heaven**, nor in **earth**, neither **under the earth**, **WAS ABLE TO OPEN THE BOOK**, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

To accept Branham's claim that he *opened* the seven seals, a person must disregard the Bible because verse 3 says **NO MAN** is worthy *to open* or read the book in God's right hand. As we shall later study, Jesus Christ as our kinsman redeemer is the only person worthy to literally open this book because he redeemed us on the cross by his shed blood (Rev. 5:5-9). We shall later prove by scriptures that the opening of this seven sealed book is still futuristic.

Also, as irrefutably proven in Chapter Two, Branham did not open nor reveal the seven seals because he brought no new revelation to the subject. Rather, Branham nearly copied his entire sermons on the seals from well known authors and books of the past. Thus, his claims are untrue. Furthermore, we shall prove that the opening of the seven seals are not merely teaching plagiarized sermons regarding the subject, but actually setting each seal into motion.

Four Contradictory Teachings About the Godhead

William Branham taught four contradictory versions concerning the Godhead, which are historically known as: (1) Trinitarianism, (2) Modalism, (3) Adoptionism, and (4) Arianism. These varying versions are responsible for many arguments amongst his followers. I do not have sufficient space in this book to engage this subject other than to identify these conflicting views taught by Branham.

Two of the main reasons fueling disagreements among Branham's followers is that some believe every recorded sermon he spoke from 1947 to 1965 is "Thus saith the Lord" and infallible. Others believe in progressive revelation where he made some doctrinal errors at the beginning of his ministry, but corrected them at the latter end (particularly after the seven seals were supposedly opened in March of 1963). Thus, Branham in the early 1950s occasionally taught the trinity doctrine. What is the trinity? Wikipedia says: ^[478]

The Christian doctrine of the **Trinity** (from Latin *trinitas* "triad", from *trinus* "threefold") defines God as three consubstantial persons, expressions, or hypostases **the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit; "one God in three persons"**. The three persons are distinct, yet are one "substance, essence or nature".

The doctrine of Trinitarianism teaches that there is one God manifested in three distinct co-eternal and co-equal persons: (1) Father, (2) Son, and (3) Holy Spirit. Reportedly, Branham once believed in the trinity.

See, you believe in **God**; You believe in **the Son**, believe in **the Holy Ghost**; that's **the Trinity**. **We believe in that**. _At Thy Word 05-06-51E

And may the **Holy Spirit**, the **third Person** of the **Trinity**, come in now. _The Resurrection Of Lazarus 07-29-51A

Making intercessions now for we who've accepted the **Holy Spirit**, the **third Person** of the **trinity**. _Our Hope Is In God 09-29-51

We love Him, that great, **third Person of the trinity**. _Early Spiritual Experiences 07-13-52A

Then **Jesus Christ** comes into His Church, to His people, to manifest Himself out through the people, while He, Himself, is **setting at the right hand of the Father**, sending back the **Holy Spirit**, the **third Person of the trinity**, to live in human beings, to work through them. _God Testifying Of His Gifts 07-13-52E

Although Branham said he believed in the trinity, he did not believe Jesus was the eternal Son of God as do Trinitarians. He taught Arianism's view, which asserts that Jesus was created by God the Father, a distinct being, and subordinate to him (See Arianism – Wikipedia). Branham said Jesus proceeded from God. That is, he was a distinct being who had a beginning and not co-eternal with God. (also taught by Charles Russell and Jehovah's Witnesses).

So He **first was God, Jehovah**. And out of Him... Let's just picture now as a little drama so you can get it. Let's see coming out of space where there's nothing, let's make it a little **white Light, like a mystic Light, like a Halo**. And **that was the Logos that went out of God in the beginning**. That was the **Son of God that came out of the bosom of the Father**. That was what was in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh and dwelled among us. In the beginning was God. **And then out of God came the Logos, a part of God that went out of God**. _Who Is God? 08-15-50

During a sermon on September 7, 1953, Branham allude to God and Christ being distinct beings and shows disdain toward the trinity doctrine. How? By saying God is one, not a triune being.

God come in the flesh, Jesus Christ, the **Logos, that went out in the beginning**. How back in the beginning no one could see God. Then the Logos came out. Then God manifested Himself down in man. _Lord, Show Us The Father And It Sufficeth Us 09-07-53A, Par. 95

My parents and my both—before me were Catholic. But brother, you see there's not much Catholic **left in me as the triune beings**. That's right. Yes, sir. **They believed in the Eternal Sonship, or there's three actual individual being: God the Father**, an old man with long white beard; **God, the Son**, a middle age man; and **the Holy Ghost** was a mascot boy like. **There's no such things**. There's **only one God**. _Lord, Show Us The Father And It Sufficeth Us 09-07-53, Par. 96

However, during a sermon preached on November 20, 1953, Branham once again shows support for the trinity doctrine. How? By saying Jesus is sitting next to the Father and calling the Holy Spirit the third person of the trinity.

The only hands that **Christ** has tonight, is our hands, only lips He has. **He's setting by the Father**, He sent the **Holy Spirit** back, the **third person, the Trinity**, to bear record of His being, which is God. _Demonology 11-20-53A

The above examples show Branham denouncing and supporting the trinity, oneness, and Arianism doctrines within nearly 2 months. His indecisiveness and conflicting statements has caused confusion amongst followers. Later, in 1961, he emphatically told followers in the name of the Lord that the trinity doctrine is of the Devil and from hell. He also said the trinitarian mode of baptism is false and indirectly referred to it as an "adultery baptism."

Now, my precious brother, I know this is a tape also. Now, don't get excited. Let me say this with godly love, the hour has approached where I can't hold still on these things no more, too close to the Coming. See? **"Trinitarianism is of the devil!" I say that THUS SAITH THE LORD!** Look where it come from. It come from the Nicene Council when the Catholic church become in rulership. The word "trinity" is not even mentioned in the entire Book of the Bible. And as far as **three Gods, that's from hell. There's one God.** That's exactly right. _Revelation, Chapter Four #3, 01-08-61

THUS SAITH THE LORD the baptism using the title of **Father, Son, Holy Ghost is false.** _A True Sign That's Overlooked 11-12-61

And if you're baptized in any other way but in the name of Jesus Christ, it **adultery baptism**, which is not found in the Bible. _God's Chosen Place Of Worship 02-02-65

After Branham strongly condemned the concept of a triune being, he once again seems to support the trinity's view that God and Christ are separate beings. How? He does so by saying Christ sits at the right hand of God.

And all that God was, which was the Word, He poured into His Son, and His Son became God the Word. And all that the Son was... He gave His life. **God raised up the body, the tabernacle, sets at His right hand.** And all that was in the Son, which was the Father, He poured into the church in the Name of the Holy Ghost. _Behold, A Greater Than All Of Them Is Here 07-15-62

Although Branham's back and forth teachings on the Godhead has become problematic for followers, in the later years he mostly taught the Apostolic Pentecost's Oneness version (see pages 113-115). This view is historically called Sabellianism, Modalism, or other titles. Wikipedia says: ^[479]

In Christianity, **Sabellianism** in the Eastern church or Patripassianism in the Western church (also known as **modalism**, modalistic monarchianism, or modal monarchism) is the nontrinitarian or anti-trinitarian belief that the **Heavenly Father, Resurrected Son, and Holy Spirit are three different modes or aspects of one monadic God**, as perceived by *the believer*, rather than three distinct persons within *the Godhead*—that there are no real or substantial differences among the three, such that there is no substantial identity for the Spirit or the Son.

As shown below, Branham taught the Oneness doctrine.

Just like **Father, Son, and Holy Ghost**; the office of God. He was God the Father, then He became God the Son, now He is God the Holy Ghost. **Not three Gods; one God, three manifestation, three attributes of the same God.** _Proving His Word 04-26-65

The Jehovah of the Old Testament is the Jesus of the New.

"Hear, Oh, Israel the Lord thy God is ONE God." The New Testament does not reveal ANOTHER God, it is a further revelation of the ONE AND SAME GOD. Christ did not come down to make Himself known. He did not come to reveal the Son. He came to reveal and make known the Father. He never talked about two Gods; He talked about ONE God. And now in this last age, we have come back to the capstone revelation, the most important revelation of Godhead in the whole Bible, that is, **JESUS IS GOD, HE AND THE FATHER ARE ONE: THERE IS ONE GOD, AND HIS NAME IS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.** _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age

If Jesus is 'BOTH' Lord and Christ, then **He (Jesus) is, and cannot be else but "Father, Son, and Holy Ghost" in ONE Person manifested in the flesh.** It is NOT "God in three persons, blessed trinity," but **ONE GOD, ONE PERSON with three major titles, with three offices manifesting those titles.** Hear it once more. This same Jesus is "BOTH Lord and Christ." Lord (Father) and Christ (Holy Spirit) are Jesus, for He (Jesus) is BOTH of them (Lord and Christ). If that doesn't show us the true revelation of the Godhead, nothing will. Lord is NOT another one; Christ is NOT another one. **This Jesus is the Lord Jesus Christ—ONE GOD.** _The Seven Church Ages - Chapter One - The Revelation Of Jesus The Christ

As shown, Branham fundamentally taught the Oneness version of the Godhead during the latter years of his ministry. But, he mixed this view with another doctrine historically called "Adoptionism." Wikipedia says: ^[480]

Adoptionism, sometimes called dynamic monarchianism is a nontrinitarian theological teaching **that Jesus was adopted as God's Son** at either his **baptism**. His **resurrection**, or his **ascension**.

Adoptionism teaches that Jesus did not become God or the Son of God until he was baptized, resurrected, or ascended into heaven. Branham said the body of Christ was not deity and he did not become God until baptized with the Holy Spirit. He said, Jesus died on the cross as a man when God's spirit departed in Gethsemane. Thus, Jesus was not God when he died, even though Matthew 1:23 says he was "God with us" at birth (John 1:1,14) and Acts 20:28 says God purchased the church with his own blood.

He was the Messiah. He was—**He was Jesus when He was born. But when the Holy Ghost came upon Him after His baptism, He was anointed with God.** God was in Him, 'cause He come to fulfill the Word. _The Messiah 01-17-61

They said, "He couldn't be Deity and die." The **Man (the body) was not Deity**, but **Deity was in the body.** _God's Gifts Always Find Their Places 12-22-63

He was that, truly. He was that, plus God. See, He was the manifestation. **Jesus is the body**, the Boy, the Man; **God was what dwelt in Him**. God was in Him. He was a God-man. He was a Man, yet He was God manifested in flesh. _Then Jesus Came And Called 02-13-64

And **this little Boy, twelve-year-old Child, no wisdom at all**, why, but just a twelve-year-old Boy. The **Father didn't dwell in Him at that time**; because **He come on the day when He baptized Him**, "He saw the Spirit of God coming down, see, and went in Him." _Paradox 02-06-64B

The Spirit left Him, in the garden of Gethsemane . He had to die, a man . Remember, friends, He didn't have to do that. That was God. God anointed that flesh, which was human flesh. And He didn't... If He'd have went up there, as God, He'd have never died that kind of death; **can't kill God.** _It Is The Rising Of The Sun 04-18-65M

As shown, Branham's conflicting teachings portrayed Jesus Christ as (1) the second person in the trinity who sits at the right hand of God, (2) a created being, (3) the one true God manifested in the flesh, or (4) a created human body indwelt by God during the infilling of the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:23; 4:1), and departed before his crucifixion.

To promote the Adoptionism doctrine that Jesus became God after his baptism, Branham often misquoted Matthew 3:17, which said: "*And lo a voice from hea ven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*" He often twisted this verse to say God was pleased to *dwell in Christ.*

The Father that dwells, tabernacles, lives... "This is My beloved Son, in **Whom I am pleased to dwell in.**" Matthew 3. See? "In Whom I am pleased to dwell. **I am very please to dwell in this One.**" Dwell, that's **to occupy, come in the house and live .** "In Him was the fullness of the Godhead bodily," says the Scripture. That's right—the visible image of the invisib le God. Now, there He is. Now, **that's God the Father, God the Son.** _The Water Baptism 01-20-61

Branham not only confusingly taught that Jesus was the one true God (Modalism), the second person of the trinity (Trinitarism), a created being (Arianism), or simply a human body that God indwelt (Adoptionism), he also said Jesus was Michael the archangel, as earlier studied. He also said Jesus was the angel of the covenant in the Old Testament.

That Angel was the **Angel of the covenant,** which **was Christ Jesus.** _The Angel Of The Lord 05-02-51

And any Bible reader knows that that Pillar of Fire was the **Angel of the Covenant,** the Logos that went out of God, **which was Jesus.** _Scriptural Signs Of The Time 04-10-64

This great **Angel of the Covenant!** "**Jesus Christ,** in the **form of God,** thought it not robbery, but become equal with God." Now He's a Pillar of Fire..... _The Third Exodus 06-30-63M

Branham's varying views of the Godhead have caused great divisions among followers. Some sects believe: (1) the Father and Jesus are two distinct beings, called the "Two Lords' doctrine" by detractors , (2) some believe the Father and Jesus are the same person, mainly those from Oneness Pentecostal background, and (3) some believe he became God when filled with the Spirit after being water baptized, and became a man before dying on the cross, then becomi ng the Son of God in the church ages.

Jesus Never Said He was the Son of God

As studied, Branham had conflicting views about the deity of Christ. He taught another strange doctrine that Jesus never called himself the Son of God during his earthly ministry. Jesus called himself the "Son of man."

Now, He had to come as Son of man, because He was a Prophet.

Jehovah, Himself, called the prophets, "son of man." And **Jesus never referred to Himself as Son of God.** He referred to Himself, always, as Son of man. And notice, He revealed Himself then as the Prophet, the Seer.. _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M

Now, **when Jesus came to the earth,** He came in the name of three Sons. Son of man, which is a prophet; Son of God; and Son of David. Now, He lived here on earth. **He never did say He was the Son of God .** He said, "I'm the Son of man." Jehovah Himself called Ezekiel and the prophets, "Son of man." Because, He had to come to fulfill Scripture as a prophet. Moses said, "The Lord yo ur God shall raise up a Prophet likened unto me." **That's the reason He could not be the Son of God there because He was the Son of man.** _This Day This Scripture Is Fulfilled 02-19-65

Remember, our Lord **Jesus Christ never did identify Himself as the Son of God.** He said, "You said I was; to this end I was born," and so forth, but He never identified Himself. _ Marriage And Divorce 02-21-65M

So He had to come according to the Scripture, a Prophet. **He never called Himself the Son of God;** He called Himself th e Son of man. _Does God Change His Mind? 04-27-65

As shown, Branham taught that Jesus NEVER referred to himself as the Son of God on the earth. He believed Jesus did not become the Son of God until the church age.

He revealed Himself first as Son of man, a prophet; this age, **through the church age,** Son of man... or **Son of God;** and in the other age, Son of David. Three sons! _ This Day This Scripture Is Fulfilled 01-25-65

Therefore, He was the Son of man. Now, **for two thousand years,** He's been **known to us as Son of God ,** Spirit. And in the Millennium, He'll be Son of David, upon the Throne. _This Day This Scripture Is Fulfilled 02-19-65

Then, He served His office as Son of man. Then He served His office now as Son of God. God is a Spirit, and when now **He served through the Church Ages, as Son of God.** Now, in the Millennium, He'll be Son of David, when He sits on the throne of David. _Proving His Word 04-26-65

He never called Himself the Son of God; He called Himself the Son of man. But now He is , **through the Church age now, He has been Son of God.** _Does God Change His Mind? 04-27-65

Are Branham's above statements true that Jesus never identified himself as the Son of God while on earth and did not become such until the church age began on the day of Pentecost? In John 3:16, Jesus refers to himself as God's son, saying: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son...." Then, in verse 18, he said:

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but h e that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten **Son of God.**

In the above verses, Jesus Christ referred to himself as the Son of God. Likewise, in the following scriptures he clearly identifies himself as the Son of God.

Verily, verily, **I SAY** unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the **Son of God**: and they that hear shall live. John 5:25

Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he **said unto him, Dost thou believe on the SON OF GOD?** He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And **Jesus** said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and **it is he that talketh with thee.** And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him. John 9:35-38

Say ye **of him**, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because **I SAID, I AM the SON OF GOD?** John 10:36

When **Jesus** heard *that*, **HE SAID**, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the **SON OF GOD** might be glorified thereby. John 11:14

Not only did **Jesus** called himself the Son of God on the earth, his disciples did the same (Matt. 16:13 -17; Mark 1:1; John 1:18,34,49; 6:66-69; 11:27). Again, Satan and demons did so (Luke 4:3,9,41; 8:28). Also, the Jews and a Roman centurion gathered at the cross knew of his claim.

The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because **he made himself the Son of God.** John 19:7

And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. **If thou be the Son of God**, come down from the cross. Matt. 27:40

If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: **for HE SAID, I am the Son of God.** Matt. 27:42-43

And when **the centurion**, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, **Truly this man was the Son of God.** Mark 15:39

As shown, **Jesus** was repeatedly referred to as the Son of God before the church age began in the book of Acts (Mark 1:1; John 20:31). The angel Gabriel told Mary that **Jesus** was the Son of God at birth.

And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which **shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.** Luke 1:35

Once again, Branham's made-up teaching regarding **Christ** has been proven to be scripturally incorrect.

Fifth Seal: Jews Saved without Jesus Christ

As studied, William Branham's alleged revelation of the fifth seal identified the souls under the altar as Jews killed by Hitler and Stalin during and after World War II. As stated on page 52, he partly taught those views since 1956

Now, notice this. Now, **these souls under the altar** was, the—the—these—these souls, unders tanding now that are under the

altar, why **they were martyred by sinful men like Eichmann**. See? They're holding right on, millions of them (See?), **but they remain Jews**. Now, remember. What was it? They were killed for the Word of God's sake, **not for the testimony of Christ**. Did you understand that? But remember, the church come in. Also the martyrs of the church was for the Word of God and the testimony of **Jesus Christ**. How many knows that here too? All right now. But **these didn't have the testimony of Jesus Christ** "... for the Word of God and for the testimony which they held," **as Jews**. And **Hitler hated them, so did Eichmann, so did Stalin**, all of the rest of the world (See?), but they stayed true to what they believed. And **they killed them** because they **were Jews**. _The Fifth Seal 03-22-63

Branham believed those Jews were saved, even though they had never accepted **Jesus Christ** as Savior. I love the Jewish people and desire this to be true (Rom. 10:1). But, Branham's revelation of the fifth seal is contrary to Apostle Paul's teachings that Jews needed to accept **Jesus** by the gospel to be saved (Acts 13:14 -52; 17:1-6; 19:8-10; 20:21; 28:17-29; Rom. 1:16-17; 3:9,28-30; 9:1-8,30-33; 10:1-5,16; 11:1-32; 1 Cor. 1:22-24; 15:1-4,11; Gal. 2:21; 1 Tim. 2:4-6). Remember, Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians who were told that **Jesus** is God's means of forgiveness (Heb. 9:11-15; 10:1-14) and salvation (Heb. 2:3,9-10; 5:8-9; 7:25).

Branham also contradicted Apostle Peter (Acts 2:22-42; 3:13-20; 5:29-32), who was given the keys of the kingdom by **Christ** (Matt. 16:18). Remember, Peter said to the Jews in Acts 4:12: "*Neither is there salvation in any other* : for there is **none other name under heaven** given among men, **whereby WE MUST BE SAVED.**"

Apostle John also says that anyone who have not the Son of God have not the Father (1 John 2:22 -23; 2 John 1:9). Again, **Jesus** told Nicodemus—a religious Jew—that everyone must be born again to enter the kingdom of God. **Jesus** also said no one can approach God without him (John 3:1-7; 14:6). **Christ** further told the Jews that they would die in their sins if they did not believe in him (John 8:24). Thus, Branham's alleged revelation is contrary to scriptures and cannot be trusted. For more information see pages 52-53.

Families Saved Without Accepting Jesus Christ?

There is a belief amongst some of Branham's followers that family members can be saved by applying the token to their lives. As we shall later study, Branham believed the token of salvation is the Holy Spirit rather than the blood of **Jesus Christ**. The evidence of this token is to believe his end time message. He taught followers to apply the token of salvation to unsaved families by claiming them.

You believe for your safety, and **then apply the Token for the whole family**. See? You say, "How can I do that?" **Claim It!** If It worked on you, then you and the Word becomes one. Amen! Amen! See? See, It works for both of you. You and the Word are one, then **apply It to your children, apply It to your loved ones.** _Token 09-01-63M

Like Rahab did, she applied the token to her father, she applied it to her mother, she applied it to her brothers and sisters, and got them all in. **You apply It**, say, "Lord, I'm going

after my son. I'm going after my daughter. **I claim her!** 'Satan, you turn her loose!' I'm coming after her. **I apply my Token, the Holy Spirit.** O Holy Spirit, that lives within me, catch my daughter there. I'm going to her now, with Your anointing upon me." **He'll do it. Amen.** _Token 09-01-63M

He said, "Rise and be baptized." Paul took him out and baptized him, said, "Now believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou and thy house shall be saved." Believe what? **Believe the Lord Jesus Christ, for your house, apply the Token to your house.** _Token 09-01-63M

Branham may not have meant that family members who never accepted Jesus are saved by applying the token. But, some followers view it that way. Like the Jews of the fifth seal, they believe relatives can be saved without accepting Jesus as Savior. Why? Because they have the token after accepting his message, and can apply it to loved ones.

Also, based on a vision, Branham often told followers that everyone he loves and all who loves him will go to heaven, which includes his dog and horse (The Fifth Seal 03-22-63, Par. 415-422; Easter Seal 04-10-65, Par. 328). This may be the reason followers often say they love him. Yet, Jesus' love for a young ruler could not save him (Mark 10:21-27). Jesus says no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born again (John 3:3-7; John 5:1). For more information see explanation note on page 310.

Husbands Can Divorce Wives for Cutting Hair

As shown on pages 153-156, William Branham had many biased teachings against women. He believed women: (1) should not vote, (2) should not work public jobs, (3) should not have driver's licenses, (4) should not wear open-toe and high-heel shoes, (5) are behind every criminal case, (6) are guilty of all sins ever committed, (7) not in original creation, but a by-product of a man, (8) was a perversion of creation, (9) rottenness began in the garden of Eden, (10) were designed by Satan to be beautiful to deceive men, (11) were designed to be a sex act, (12) can be forgiven, but never justified after having sex before marriages, (13) are solely the blame for the act of adultery when men lust after them while indecently dressed, (14) cannot marry ministers if not a virgin, and (15) cannot remarry after divorce, even though former husbands are permitted to do so.

In addition, Branham believed husbands can divorce wives for cutting their hair. This is not an accidental statement because he repeated this belief 20 times on audio tapes and said it was the Bible and "Thus saith the Lord."

The Bible said, "The hair is given to a woman for her glory." And **the Bible rights gives any man a right to leave and divorce and leave his wife, that'll cut her hair.** That's the Bible. **That's THUS SAITH THE LORD.** _The Worst Sinner In The City 02-18-56E

You women that claim you've got the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and not the audacity to let your hair grow out; when the Bible condemns it and said a woman's... **a man has got a right to put away his wife in divorce if she bobs her hair.** _Christ Is The Mystery Of God Revealed 07-28-63

And you know what the Bible said? **The Bible actually gives a**

man, if he wants to, the right to put her away in divorce, if she does that. **"She's a dishonorable woman, that'll cut her hair."** The Bible said so. Right. Didn't know that? Huh? Oh, yeah! _The Choosing Of A Bride 04-29-65E

As shown, Branham said the Bible gave husbands the right to divorce wives if they cut their hair because she is dishonorable. He based this belief on the scriptures below.

But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman *is* the man; and the head of Christ *is* God. Every man praying or prophesying, having *his* head covered, dishonors* his head. **But every woman that prays* or prophesies* with her head uncovered dishonors*** [*shames* in Greek] **her head:** for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. 1 Co. 11:3-6

As shown, Apostle Paul taught no such doctrine that husbands can divorce wives for cutting their hair. He said she shames him by praying or prophesying uncovered. The Greek word for *dishonor* is "Kataischuno," which is translated as "asha med" in Romans 5:5; 9:33; and 10:11. If Paul had meant divorce or separation, he would have used the Greek word "aphienai," which is translated in the same book: "...let not the husband **put away** [aphienai] *his wife*" (1 Cor. 7:11).

Thus, the Bible never said what Branham repeatedly told audiences. He created a major unscriptural doctrine by adding words the Apostle never said (Prov. 30:5 -6). Also, neither did Peter or Paul mention such a doctrine when speaking of women's hair (1Tim. 2:9; 1Pet. 3:3). Actually, in the Old Testament, God said the opposite of Branham. A foreign woman captured during war shaved her head before marrying an Israelite, not divorce him (Deut. 21:10-13).

Although Branham vehemently condemned women who cut their hair, in 1964 he made exceptions when his teen daughters (ages 14 and 18) began to do the same.

I say one thing. I wished... Now, I know **my kids** has done that too, **Rebekah and Sarah, I seen when they cut their hair off** here in front, and plait it back here in the back, and make these things across the front, like this. I—I don't, I—I... Now, not holding them. See? No, sir. To me, **I wished they didn't even put a scissors on their hair at all. But when they got all long, hanging down like this, and just cut the front of it out** of their eyes, little kids maybe. I—I **wouldn't know whether that'd be wrong: I wouldn't think so.** See? But when you get... If you can, I—for you sisters, I'd just let it the way the Lord made it. See? _Questions And Answers #3 08-30-64, Par. 187

Conclusion: Teachings Contrary to Scriptures

The followers of William Branham view his sermons and books as authoritative. Even worst, some believe his messages are infallible, and equals or surpasses the Bible. But, as studied, many of his teachings are contrary to scriptures. The errors shown in this chapter are the tip of the iceberg. Like Chapter 8 that disproved Branham's claim as being Malachi 4:5 -6, the following chapters shall scripturally disprove other major claims and teachings.

Chapter Twelve

William Branham's Erroneous Son of Man Teachings of Luke 17:30 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16

Our previous investigation of William Branham have uncovered serious issues such as erroneous teachings, repeated plagiarisms, failed visions, failed prophecies, failed Thus saith the Lord, and failed predictions, along with unverifiable supernatural experiences and embellished stories.

As stated, these events have provided sufficient evidences that Branham was not Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6, who restored the elect to the original word of God as the forerunner of Christ's second coming. Nor was he the seventh angel of Revelation 3:14 and 10:7, who revealed the seven seals and every hidden mystery of the Bible. Nor did he fulfill the Son of man ministry of Luke 17:30, who revealed Christ to this generation as a prophet in human flesh. Neither did his alleged message fulfill the shout of Christ's return in 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

In this chapter, we shall briefly examine the errors found in the teachings of William Branham pertaining to the fulfillment of Luke 17:30 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

Branham Claimed Fulfillment of Jesus' Second Coming in Luke 17:30

In Luke 17:28-30, Jesus Christ gave a prophecy that pertained to his literal second coming, as shown below

Likewise also as it was in **the days of Lot**; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed *them* all. **Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.**

During a sermon on January 9, 1958, William Branham began to reference Luke 17:30. He compared his ministry with God's appearance to Abraham in Genesis 18 as being the revealing of the Son of man.

Jesus said, "When the Son of man is revealed from heaven." Let me close by saying this: that **the Son of man is now being revealed from heaven.** "Will it come after while, Brother Branham?" **It is now.** And I hope I won't have to make this so personal of this own meeting, but that your spirit within you that's give you by God, can read what I'm talking about. **The Son of man has already come from glory and is revealing Himself for the past few years to His Church in mercy, showing them His great Presence, doing the same things that He did when He was here on earth, revealing Himself like He did to Abraham. Before the destruction.** _ The Called-Out 01-09-58

That's the same God, the same Angel, the same Spirit that was **in that One that revealed Himself to Abraham** the same way, the same manner, the same message. And Jesus Himself said it would be in the coming of the Son of man. **It would be revealed the same way.** _The Called-Out 01-09-58

Since that time, Branham continued to claim that the God who physically appeared to Abraham was once again revealing himself in human flesh in the last days. How? Through him to fulfill the Son of man of Luke 17:28-30.

Noah, Matthew 24, we see them days fulfilled. And remember, Jesus said also in Saint **Luke 17:28 to 30**, "As it was in the days of Sodom, **so shall it be at the coming of the Son of man.**" Is that right? Now, remember, Sodom was just before Sodom burned. And **what did they receive? Did they get a sign? Sure.** _The Signs Of His Coming 04-04-62

Look in your Bible and see if it don't show "Elohim," Elohim, the self-existing One, Elohim in human flesh. **What's it a sign of? Elohim back in the Bride, human flesh again in the last days doing the same thing.** Where's it at? There's your sign for the last days. _The Signs Of His Coming 04-07-62

As shown above, Branham subtly viewed himself as the second coming of Jesus Christ as the Son of man since 1958. During the latter end of Branham's ministry between 1959 to 1965, he repeatedly alluded hundreds of times that he was the fulfillment of the Son of man foretold in Luke 17:30. A few examples are shown below.

Now it hasn't been in any years since the apostles, until this time, as far as we know, but **He promised at this time, "The Son of man would be revealed like it was at Sodom."** Now you read that in **Luke 17**, about 20 to **30**, and see if that isn't right. **He promised it.** _When Their Eyes Were Opened, They Knew Him 02-12-64

Now what did **He promise to vindicate Himself? In a man, a human flesh**, like He did to Abraham, "When the Son of man..." **It would be the Son of man.** _The Trial 06-21-64

But the Elijah of this day is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is to come according to Matthew the seventeen-... **Luke 17:30, says the Son of man is to reveal Himself among His people.** Not a man, God! **But it'll come through a prophet.** _Trying To Do God A Service Without It Being God's Will 11-27-65B

Jesus, when He come, **He was to be a Prophet.** That's right! And today, **before Jesus comes again**, the **full manifestation of the person of Jesus Christ is to be manifested in flesh.** Think of it! Jesus said, "As it was in the days of Sodom, so shall it be at the coming of the Son of man, **when the Son of man is being revealed.**" _Modern Events Are Made Clear By Prophecy 12-06-65

Branham's Claim to Luke 17:30 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16 Proven Wrong

Branham believed the term "son of man" referred to a prophet because God repeatedly called Ezekiel the prophet by this title (Ezek. 2:1-8). Daniel was also called son of man (Dan. 8:17). Actually, Branham could have gotten this interpretation from Clarence Larkin because he said *son of man* refers to a prophet.^[481]

When Jesus was on the earth He was, as the "**Son of Man**," a **PROPHET**, now as the "**Son of Man**" in Glory He is a Priest, and when He comes again it will be as the "**Son of Man**" to reign as **KING**. (Clarence Larkin)

According to Branham, the Son of man ministry of Jesus Christ pertains exclusively to his ministerial office on the earth as a prophet of God.

In Ezekiel, the 1st chapter, the 2nd verse, Jehovah called Ezekiel the Son of man, exactly what Jesus called Himself. You understand that, through the teaching of the week. Now, see, **what is the Son of man? Prophetic.** _The Trial 06-21-64

Now notice, He come in three sons' name. He come in the name of the Son of David... Or, the Son of man, Son of God, Son of David. Now, **He had to come as Son of man**, because **He was a Prophet**. Jehovah, Himself, called the prophets, "son of man." And Jesus never referred to Himself as Son of God. **He referred to Himself**, always, as **Son of man**. And notice, **He revealed Himself then as the Prophet, the Seer.** _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64

So then, Branham believed the term "son of man" pertained to a prophet. However, in the scriptures, this term does not refer to a prophet; but generally relates to those born of the human race.

How much less **man**, *that is* a worm? and the **son of man**, *which is* a worm? Job 25:6

Thy wickedness *may hurt* a **man** as thou *art*; and thy righteousness *may profit* the **son of man**. Job 35:8

What is **man**, that thou art mindful of him? and the **son of man**, that thou visitest him? Psa. 8:4

LORD, what *is* **man**, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the **son of man**, that thou makest account of him! Psalm 144:3

Put not your trust in princes, *nor* in the **son of man**, in whom *there is* no help. Psa. 146:3

As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour *cities* thereof, saith the LORD, no **man** shall abide there, neither shall a **son of man** dwell in it. Jer. 49:18

And Hazor shall be a dwelling for dragons, *and* desolation for ever: there shall no **man** abide there, nor *any* **son of man** dwell in it. Jer. 49:33

As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour *cities* thereof, saith the LORD; *so* shall no **man** abide there, neither shall any **son of man** dwell therein. Jer. 50:40

Her cities are a desolation, a dry land, and a wilderness, a land wherein no **man** dwelleth, neither doth *any* **son of man** pass thereby. Jer. 51:43

As you can see, the term *son of man* refers to the humanness of mankind. Thus, unlike God's past earthly appearance to Abraham in a body called a theophany, the term son of man when referring to Jesus Christ conveys the fact that he was literally born of a virgin as a human to become our kinsman redeemer. Thus, he was not only the Son of God, but became the Son of man as the seed of Abraham and the Son of David (Matt. 1:1). Amazingly, he was fully God and fully man at the same time. So then, Branham misunderstood what the term *Son of man* meant and believed he fulfilled Luke 17:30 for Jesus as a prophet.

As shown, Branham taught followers that Luke 17:30 would be fulfilled in the last days when Christ reveals himself to his people **in human flesh** through a prophet. Remember, Jesus Christ warned us not to believe anyone claiming to be him in the flesh, as shown below.

The Holy Spirit back in the Church again; **Christ, Himself, revealed in human flesh, in the evening time.** He said. He promised it. _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M

Then **if any man shall say** unto you, Lo, **here is Christ**, or there; **BELIEVE IT NOT**. For there shall arise **false Christs**, and **false prophets**, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, **I have told you before**. Wherefore **if they shall say** unto you, Behold, **he is in the desert**; **GO NOT FORTH**: behold, **he is in the secret chambers**; **BELIEVE IT NOT**. Matt. 24:23-26

Not only did William Branham believe he fulfilled the return of Christ as the Son of man in Luke 17:30, he also believed his end time message was the "shout" foretold in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18. These scriptures say the Lord Jesus **himself** shall return with a "shout," "voice," and "trumpet" when he **personally** gather his people in the air during the resurrection of the saints. Thus, these verses warn us that Jesus himself, not Branham or anyone else, shall meet his people in the air to ever be with them.

For the **LORD HIMSELF** shall descend from heaven with **A SHOUT**, with the **voice** of the archangel, and with the **trump of God**: and the **dead in Christ shall rise first**: then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up together** with them in the clouds, to **MEET THE LORD in the air**: and so shall **we ever be with the Lord**. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

. Although many people said William Branham had a humble demeanor; yet, he was a self-regarding man. Why? Because he claimed to be Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6, the angel to the Laodicea church in Revelation 3:14, the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7, the Moses of the third exodus (Third Exodus, July 30, 1963), the unveiling of God to this generation (The Unveiling of God - June 14, 1964), and the fulfillment of the Son of man prophecy in Luke 17:30 that pertains to Jesus' literal second coming.

Branham pointed all the above scriptures to himself. But, as proven in this book, he fulfilled none of the above. Sadly, his error prone ministry and message were filled with false teachings, obvious plagiarisms, failed visions, failed prophecies, failed predictions, and failed "Thus saith

the Lord.” Another erroneous addition to this proud list is his claim of fulfilling the “shout” in 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

Three things happens. A voice... **A shout**, a voice, a trumpet, has to happen **before Jesus appears**. Now, a shout... Jesus does all three of them when He's—He's—He's—He's descending. A shout, **what is the shout? It's the Message going forth, first, the living Bread of Life bringing forth the Bride.** _The Rapture 12-04-65

Now, it's the first thing, is the sounding. The first thing is a trumpet and a... or a voice... **A shout**; and then a voice; and then a trumpet. **Shout: a messenger getting the people ready.** _The Rapture 12-04-65

Therefore, **the Message** calls the Bride together, see, **the shout.** _The Rapture 12-04-65

The first thing comes, when He starts descending from the Heaven, there's a shout. What is it? Is a Message, to get the people together. _The Rapture 12-04-65

As shown, Branham conveyed to followers that his message was the shout of 1 Thessalonians 4:16. As stated on pages 161-162, Branham believed his third pull tent ministry would give followers rapturing faith during his lifetime. As shown on pages 59-60, he connected this third pull ministry with the secret return of Christ in the seventh seal. As a result, followers believe he fulfilled Jesus' secret seventh seal coming as the Son of man that began in 1963 when Christ allegedly appeared in the disputed cloud over Arizona shown in Life Magazine (see Chapter One).

How could Branham be the fulfillment of Luke 17:30 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16 which speaks of the literal physical appearance of Christ during his second coming? Seeing that over 54 years have transpired since his death and Jesus has not yet arrived? Branham once ridiculed Pentecostal denominations for eating spiritually dead vulture food that was 50 years old. Ironically, the same criticism of teaching a 54 years old end time message now applies to Branham and followers.

Pentecost is like her **denominational vulture** sister, setting now in large "counsel seats of the ungodly," certainly, listening to her worldly, politic heads **feeding her on vulture food of dead rabbits**, of something that passed by, fifty years ago. That's the condition of the Pentecostal church. Oh, my! _The Seed Is Not Heir With The Shuck 02-18-65

The fulfillment of Luke 17:30 does not pertain to Jesus appearing in the Arizona desert in a disputed cloud to bring forth an error prone and plagiarized message pertaining to the seven seals through William Branham (see chapters one and two). But, as stated, this verse refers to the literal physical return of Jesus Christ, as shown below.

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the **Lord Jesus shall BE REVEALED from heaven** with his mighty angels, **in flaming fire taking vengeance** on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: **who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord** and from the glory of his power; **when he shall come to be glorified in his saints**, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. 2 Thess. 1:7-10

According to 2 Thessalonians 1:7 -8, Jesus' prophecy in Luke 17:30 actually refers to the time he shall **be revealed from heaven** during his return; not revealed on the earth through a prophet as Branham taught. He shall come with mighty angels in flaming fire to take vengeance on a rebellious world, as also shown in Revelation 19:11-16.

And I saw **heaven opened**, and behold **a white horse**; and **he that sat upon him** was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his **name is called The Word of God.**

And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 And **out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword**, that with it **he should smite the nations**: and he shall **rule them** with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh **a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.**

So then, Luke 17:30 speak of Christ being revealed from heaven during his literal return to the earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lord to execute vengeance upon a wicked world. He shall be revealed because everyone on the earth shall literally see him.

Behold, **he cometh with clouds**; and **EVERY EYE SHALL SEE HIM**, and they also which pierced him: and **all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.** Even so, Amen.

So then, the Son of man being revealed speaks of Christ Jesus' appearance as shown above. During this coming, Daniel 7:13-14 and Matthew 26:64 calls him the "Son of man" when he once again dwells among mankind as the Son of David during his millennium reign on the earth as King (Ze ch. 14:9). But, of course, Jesus was the Son man in heaven as the representative of those redeemed from among the human race (Acts 7:56; Rev. 1:13).

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, **one like the SON OF MAN** came with **the clouds of heaven**, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was **given him dominion**, and **glory**, and **a kingdom**, that **all people, nations, and languages, should serve him**: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed. Daniel 7:13-14

Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, hereafter shall ye see the **SON OF MAN** sitting on the right hand of power, and **coming in the clouds of heaven.** Matt. 26:64

Thus, the above scriptures describe the true fulfillment of the Son of man being revealed according to Luke 17:30. Remember, 1 Thessalonians 4:16 says "The **LORD HIMSELF** shall descend from heaven with a shout." So this verse and Luke 17:30 is not fulfilled by a mere human, but personally by the Lord Jesus **HIMSELF**.

As studied, many of Branham's followers believe the cloud that appeared in Life Magazine in Arizona to be Jesus' second coming. They believe it fulfilled Matthew 24:27 and 30 where Jesus says his arrival in the clouds

during his second coming will be as the lightning shining from the east to the west. They interpret these verses based on Branham's statements that as the sun rise in the east and sets in the west, so has the gospel and civilization travelled east from Jerusalem until it finally arrived on the west coast in America where Christ the Son of man appeared to him in Arizona to fulfill Luke 17:30 and bring forth the evening time light (Proving His Words 04 -26-65, Par. 207). He misinterpreted the evening light (see p. 94).

However, Matthew 24:23-28 forewarned us not to believe anyone saying Christ is in the desert or secret chambers. Also, our studies in Chapter One has proven the cloud in Life Magazine had no connection to Branham.

Moreover, as earlier studied in Chapter One, Branham misapplied Matthew 24:28, which says: "*For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.*" Branham said the eagles are followers of his end time message, who are eating the freshly revealed word (carcass or body) of Christ. He wrongly interpreted this verse and negated Jesus' intended warning not to believe anyone who says he has arrived on the earth.

Jesus said he will arrive in the sky as the lightning shines from the east to the west, not as the sun following civilization and a disputed cloud in the Arizona desert that was travelling west to east. So then, when Branham spoke of fulfilling Luke 17:30, he failed to fulfill Luke 17:24 that speak of Christ on *one specific day* literally traveling across the sky as lightning during his bodily return.

For as the **lightning**, that **lightens* out of the one part under heaven, shines* unto the other part under heaven**; so shall also the **SON OF MAN BE IN HIS DAY**. Luke 17:24

Contrary to followers beliefs, Branham said the Son of Man of Luke 17:24 (Matt. 24:27) can only happen during Jesus' literal return from heaven when every eye shall see him (Rev. 1:7), not as an imposter in a physical body.

Now, if He appeared to us in a physical body, looked just exactly like Hofmann's Head of Christ at Thirty-three, and blood running out of His hand, and so forth, nail scars all over Him, I wouldn't accept it. No, no, no, no. **When He comes, Hisself, "Every eye shall see Him, every tongue shall confess Him; and as the lightning cometh from the East unto the West, so shall it be."** See? We don't believe these cults and clans. We believe God is the Word. _Spiritual Food In Due Season 07-18-65 E, Par. 167

Yet, Branham contradicted himself by claiming to reveal Christ the Son of Man in a physical body in verse 30, while failing to fulfill Luke 17:24 as shown in Par. 167. He also failed to fulfill verse 29, where it compares the fire that destroyed Sodom to the time when the Son of man in verses 24 and 30 would be revealed. This event will occur when Jesus returns from heaven at Armageddon.

But the same day that Lot went out of **Sodom it rained FIRE and brimstone** from heaven, and **destroyed them all. EVEN THUS SHALL IT BE** in the day **when the Son of man is REVEALED**. Luke 17:29-30

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the **Lord Jesus shall BE REVEALED from heaven** with his mighty

angels, **IN FLAMING FIRE taking vengeance** on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel...2 Thess. 1:7-8

As shown, the above destruction did not occur during the lifetime and ministry of William Branham. So, when Christ Jesus return to fulfill Luke 17:24-30, the entire world will know it. During this return, he said wherever the dead bodies (carcasses) are located, there will the eagles (vultures) gather to consume them. As stated, this verse speaks of Armageddon (Rev. 16:16), the place where Christ shall overthrow Satan and the all rebellious armies of the world in Revelation 19:17-21 (see pages 26-28).

And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to **ALL THE FOWLS** [eagles, vultures] that fly in the midst of heaven, **Come and gather yourselves together** unto the supper of the great God; that ye may **EAT THE FLESH of kings**, and **THE FLESH of captains**, and **THE FLESH of mighty men**, and **THE FLESH of horses**, and of them that sit on them, and **THE FLESH of all men**, both free and bond, both small and great ...And the **remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse**, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and **ALL THE FOWLS WERE FILLED WITH THEIR FLESH**.

In Matthew 24:26, Jesus says his return to the earth will be preceded by people claiming he is in the desert or in secret chambers. However, the Savior's return in the sky will be accompanied by a great display of divine power at Armageddon that cannot be imitated by Satan and false Christs (Matt. 24:24). As Revelation 1:7 informs us, when Jesus returns, the entire world shall see him and all the people of the earth will mourn and weep.

During this time, the eagles (vultures) will gather at Armageddon to eat the slain dead bodies (carcasses) of the rebellious armies as the fulfillment of Christ's prophecy: "*For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together,*" Therefore, Jesus' return will be accompanied by vulturous birds gathering together at Armageddon to eat the carcasses (Jer. 16:4; 19:7; 34:20) of those slain by him. As shown earlier, eagles are also listed in the family of vulturous birds.

And these are they which ye shall have in abomination among the fowls; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: **the eagle**, and the ossifrage, and the ospray, and **the vulture**, and the kite **AFTER HIS KIND**.

Doth the **eagle** mount up at thy command... Her young ones also suck up blood: and **where the SLAIN ARE, there is she**. Job 39:27,30

As earlier stated, Matthew 24:28 says of the vultures (eagles): "*there will the eagles be gathered together,*" while Revelation 19:17 says: of the vultures: "*Come and gather yourselves together.*" Both verses speaks of eagles gathering to eat dead bodies. So then, one of the sign accompanying Jesus' return will be eagles gathering to eat the dead bodies of the rebellious armies at Armageddon. Until the events described above happens, Jesus warned his people not to believe anyone saying he is in the desert or on the earth. So, as you can see, the Christ that allegedly appeared to William Branham in the Arizona desert, as shown in Life Magazine, did not fulfill Luke 17:24-30.

Chapter Thirteen

Did William Branham's Elijah and Son of Man Claims Cause Untimely Death?

In the previous chapters, we considered and disproved William Branham's claims as being Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6 and the Son of Man of Luke 17:30. In this chapter we shall consider prophecies that foretold his death in 1965 and whether those claims were responsible.

Did Prophecies Foretell Branham's 1965 Death?

In the mid 1990s, I came across an interesting prophecy pertaining to William Branham while reading a book called "He Gave Gifts Unto Men."^[482] The author Kenneth Hagin (1917-2003) was a noted Bible teacher and considered to have an credible gift of prophecy in those days. In 1955, Branham attended an evangelical meeting of Hagin and acknowledged him in his sermon as an evangelist, Pastor, reliable teacher, and a lovely and fine man.

The First Assemblies of God, I believe it is, is having a —a revival, and morning meetings also, by some **evangelist**. And I don't remember just what the brother's name is now, but I heard about him. Brother Hagin? [Someone says, "Hagin." —Ed.] Hagin? **Brother Hagin is holding a revival** at the (Is that the First Assembly?) _Jehovah-Jireh 02-22-55

This morning I was at the Assemblies of God church for the morning meeting, where we had a lovely service. I was listening at the **evangelist** there. I can't think of the man's name. [Someone says, "Hagin." —Ed.] Hagin, **Brother Hagin**. Very **reliable teacher**... **Pastor, a lovely man**, they were very sorry they were having a revival during the time of our campaign, but they've had it staged for about a year. And they had to go ahead, through with it. So it was perfectly all right. But we want to show them our love, that we love them. We're not divided in this work of the Lord. We're all together, one body are we, moving on. And every morning, at ten till eleven o'clock, they having services there in the... **Brother Hagin, this morning is teaching on Divine healing**, which had a marvelous message. I sure appreciate it. My first time of knowing ever getting **to shake hands with the brother**, but a mighty **fine man**. _Glorified Jesus 02-25-55

In January of 1964, Hagin said that he received the following prophecy while praying in a motel room:

At the end of '65, he who now stands in the forefront of the healing ministry **as a prophet** will be **taken out of the way**. He'll make a false step and Satan shall destroy his life, but his spirit will be saved, and his works will follow him. **Ere '66 shall come, he shall be gone**.

The prophecy said a leader amongst the healing revival would die at the end of 1965. After Hagin discussed the prophecy with Gordon Lindsay (1906-1973), they concluded that it pertained to William Branham.

Lindsay was Branham's former campaign manager and promoted him through the "Voice of Healing" publication in the early days of his ministry. He also wrote the book "A Man Sent from God." In a book entitled "My Diary Secrets," Freda Lindsay recalled the time Hagin came to her husband (Gordon Lindsay) with the prophecy and the conversation that followed.^{[483][484]}

One day Kenneth Hagin came into our offices. He handed Gordon a piece of paper on which was written a prophecy he said the Lord had given him. **The prophecy stated that the leader of the deliverance movement was soon to be taken in death because he was getting into error, and the Lord was having to remove him from the scene for that reason.** Gordon took the prophecy and placed it on his desk.

Mrs. Lindsay did not quote the prophecy verbatim, but most likely paraphrased it based upon a conversation between her and Gordon regarding William Branham.

After Brother Hagin left, I asked, "What do you think about this: **Is this Branham?**" Gordon answered gravely, "**Yes, it is Branham.** He is **getting into error**. He thinks **he is Elijah**. He thinks he is **the messenger of the covenant**. The sad thing is that unscrupulous men around him are putting words into his mouth, and due to his limited background he is taking them up.

Kenneth Hagin was not the only person predicting the untimely death of William Branham. In Hagin's book, he relates a conversation between him and Gordon whereby Anna Schrader spoke a prophecy that Branham was going to die because he was walking in the way of Alexander Dowie. In a 1960 sermon, Branham said Sister Schrader had the gift of prophecy.

Here's little **Miss Schrader** here. I was talking to her today in there. You wonder why she lays like that. **She has a gift of prophecy**. That's what does it. _Conference 11-25-60

According to Branham, Sister Schrader spoke the following prophecy in the quote shown below

Sister Schrader, you're a good woman. I love you, my sister. You was the one, me not knowing you, when I walked in and someone spoke in tongues, and you gave the interpretation, and

said the very same thing that that Light did, when it come down over me down there, when I first was a Baptist preacher. Said, **"As John the Baptist was sent forth to forerun the first coming of Christ, you're sent forth, and your message will forerun the second coming."** _The Way Back 11-23-62

It is interesting to note that Branham said Sister Schrader prophesied the same words spoken to him when a light appeared over the Ohio River where he was baptizing converts. He said newspapers throughout the nation reported this event. But, evidence earlier studied on pages 124 -127 shows there was no newspaper found saying a light or voice appeared and spoke to Branham. It is also interesting to note that his version of the prophecy pertaining to John the Baptist differs from the one recorded by Gordon Lindsay in his book: "A Man Sent from God." [485]

The next incident was a stirring message given in the Spirit and interpreted, almost identical to two others which were to be given in other Branham meetings in different places, a sure testimony of the authenticity of this anointed ministry. It was uttered with such rousing force that it almost seemed unearthly, and this was the gist of the message...that **as John the Baptist was sent as a forerunner of the Lord's first coming, so was He sending forth this evangelist and others like him to move the people and prepare them for His second coming.**

Considering Lindsay's version, the alleged prophecy did not solely speak of Branham or his message. But, it included evangelists who had great ministries during the revivals of the 40s and 50s (such as Billy Graham, Oral Roberts, A.A. Allen, Jack Coe, W. V. Grant Sr., and others).

Taking into consideration Branham's propensity in altering prophecies, Mr. Lindsay's version is most likely correct. Nonetheless, according to Hagin's conversation with Lindsay, he was told that a prophecy regarding the pending death of William Branham came to Sister Schrader during prayer. Why? Because Bro. Branham was walking in the ways of John Alexander Dowie.

Right in the middle of the prayer, Sister Schrader blurted out, 'Go warn Brother [Branham]... he's going to die.' Brother Lindsay said, 'I was busy, and I let that get by me, and I didn't go warn him like I was supposed to. Then later, my wife and I and Sister Schrader were again praying about ministry projects. Again Sister Schrader blurted out right in the middle of prayer 'Go warn Brother [Branham]... he's going to die. He's walking in the way of Dowie.' After his morning meeting, Brother Lindsay said, 'I talked to him as the Lord had instructed me, but I saw that he wouldn't listen...' (K. Hagin, 'He Gave Gifts unto Men', pages 164-170).

John A. Dowie Declared Himself Elijah the Prophet

According to Kenneth Hagin's conversation with Gordon Lindsay, Sister Schrader prophesied that Branham was going to die because "...*he's walking in the way of Dowie.*" Who was John Alexander Dowie? He was a Scottish evangelist (1847-1907) known for his faith healing ministry in Australia and the United States. [486]

Gordon Lindsay was born in Zion, Illinois, a city built by Dowie. His parents were followers of Dowie. [487] F. F.

Bosworth (1877-1958), who was another close associate of Branham, attended his church for several years. [488] Branham spoke of Bosworth connection to Dowie.

Brother Bosworth was raised up here in Zion, under Doctor Dowie. _Experiences 07-25-52

Wikipedia says John A. Dowie was a restorationist who believed in the return of the apostolic offices and spiritual gifts to the church at the end time. [489]

Dowie was a **restorationist** and sought to recover the "primitive condition" of the Church. He believed in an **end-times restoration of spiritual gifts and apostolic offices** to the Church.

According to a 1980 biography of Dowie written and published by Gordon Lindsay, he had a major impact upon his generation. Lindsay said Dowie was known by millions throughout the world, even though today's Christian scarcely heard of him. [490]

The **Christian generation of today knows little of a story**, which is as unique and fascinating as any that has appeared in the annals of the church since the days of the apostles. Though forgotten today, in the rapid moving of events, **the name of John Alexander Dowie was known to millions throughout the world** at the turn of the century.

Also, Lindsay credited Dowie for bringing the message of healing and deliverance to the church's attention. He caused the world to recognize that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. [491]

It is an account of a reformer who, fighting against the greatest of odds, single-handedly challenged the apostasy of his time, and succeeded in bringing to **the attention of the church** visible, if not to its acceptance, **the message of the Gospel of healing** — a message of deliverance for the whole man, body, soul and spirit.

Despite the fiercest persecution, numerous illegal arrests—as many as one hundred in a year—he outwitted and foiled his enemies, and succeeded in **bringing to the attention of the world**, the great truth that **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever**, and established the right for the minister of the Christian Church to obey Christ's command in the Great Commission to lay hands on the sick for healing.

After Dowie arrived in the United States, Lindsay goes on to say that his success in praying for the sick eventually brought worldwide recognition. [492]

When Doctor Dowie first set foot on American soil, he was forty-one years of age, and as far as this country was concerned, was virtually an unknown minister of the Gospel. However, news of **the arrival of a man who preached Divine healing, and who got results, soon spread abroad**, and he began receiving calls from up and down the Pacific Coast. He at once launched into a series of healing missions, which eventually took him to Chicago, where **within a few brief years, a series of dramatic events were to plummet his ministry before the attention of the entire world.**

According to Lindsay, Dowie's success and popularity brought him before government officials, the President of the United States, and other leaders of nations. [493][494]

Dowie was now **received by congressmen**, by **governors**, and on one occasion, by **President Theodore Roosevelt**, who left a cabinet meeting to meet him. Page 4

A half century ago **the name of Dowie was known the world around**, and he was **received by rulers and potentates**.

Lindsay wrote about the impact and influence that Dowie had upon the 20th century church regarding apostolic ideals, while rebuking both Protestant and Catholic churches. [495]

“John Alexander Dowie holds a unique and definite place in the **development of apostolic ideals for the Church** of the Twentieth Century. His life, mission, and work present a fascinating, romantic object lesson for those interested in progressive Christianity. “Singlehanded, as Elijah of old, he **denounced the decadent order of the day**, and **protested** mightily against apostasy, both of **the Protestant and Catholic** divisions of the Church....

Lindsay said Dowie performed notable signs, wonders, and miracles that increased people's awareness of him. [496]

Signs, wonders, miracles! They were now occurring in such profusion that the hosts of hell and their human dupes were being put to confusion. In the Great Commission given by Christ in Mark 16, the “signs following” were to be the credentials of the believer. And when these take place, the people are quick and willing to recognize the authority of the minister. Despite all the flood of persecution that followed him, **the people flocked to Dr. Dowie's standard in ever-increasing numbers**.

Affidavits presented to the Superior Court testified of the healings. Among those healed were relatives to Buffalo Bill, Abraham Lincoln, and President Harrison. [497]

The hundred affidavits testifying to healing presented in the Superior Court—affidavits of the healing of prominent citizens such as Amanda Hicks a **first cousin of Abraham Lincoln**, and Miss Jean Harrison, a **niece of President Harrison**, not to mention many others of note, were a revelation to the city of Chicago and confounded the opposition. **The testimonies were so highly documented** that citizens perceived that the possibility of fraud was not to be seriously entertained.

We cannot tell of the multitude of healings that were daily taking place, for Dr. Dowie often prayed for as many as a thousand people a week. But our story would not be complete unless we related a few of the outstanding instances of the healing of people, some who were well-known persons of that time, and whose deliverance was the **wonder of thousands**. One such case was the healing of Sadie Cody, **niece of Buffalo Bill**.

Dowie was so popular and successful that he built Zion, a city 47.5 miles north of Chicago, Illinois. The last census in 2010 showed this city to have a population of 24,413. Wikipedia says: [498]

Zion is a city in Lake County, Illinois, United States. The population was 22,866 at the 2000 census, and had grown to 24,413 as of 2010. **The city was founded in July 1901 by John Alexander Dowie**. He also started the Zion Tabernacle of the Christian Catholic Church, which was the only church in town. It was built in the early 1900s and burned down in 1937. The city was named after Mount Zion, Israel.

In 1899, Dowie claimed to be God's messenger, and then Elijah the prophet in 1901. Dowie also claimed to be the forerunner of Christ's return. Wikipedia says: [499][500]

In 1899, he claimed to be "**God's Messenger**" and **in 1901**, he claimed to be the spiritual return of **the Biblical prophet Elijah**, and styled himself as "Elijah the Restorer", "The Prophet Elijah", or "**The Third Elijah**". He was also an advocate of divine healing and was highly critical of other teachers on healing.

Dowie had claimed to be the **forerunner of Christ's second coming**.

Moreover, Gordon Lindsay said Dowie regarded himself as the messenger of the covenant, the prophet foretold by Moses, and Elijah the Restorer. [501]

Still one thing more. Dr. Dowie went on to add that this same spiritual intuition also declared him to be **the Messenger of the Covenant** as foretold in Malachi 3:1-3—a prophecy which practically every Bible commentator agrees, as referring to Jesus Christ. Dr. Dowie therefore regarded **his prophetic office as three-fold**: as **Messenger of the Covenant**; as the **Prophet foretold by Moses**; and, as **Elijah, the Restorer**....

After Dowie declared himself to be Elijah the prophet, he was immediately challenged by religious leaders around the world. He was denounced from hundreds of pulpits as an impostor and swindler, while the majority at his church hesitantly accepted his declaration. [502]

This astonishing statement made in June, 1901, that he, **John Alexander Dowie, was Elijah, the Restorer**, was **immediately challenged and denounced by religious leaders all over the world**. From hundreds of pulpits Dr. Dowie was declared an imposter and a mountebank. Others who had believed in his ministry, with sadness of heart were convinced that he had become a victim of a paranoiac delusion. Nevertheless, **the majority of the people of Zion though with some hesitation and misgivings, followed along with the Declaration**.

In 1905, Dowie was stricken with a stroke while serving communion adorned in an Aaronic style priestly garment. Lindsay book says: [503]

“The sacrament was all but finished. Only a few more words remained to be spoken. “Again the people waited. “Suddenly their leader shook his right hand as if some foul thing clung to it. He beat it upon the arm of his chair. Those near him saw him sway. “He turned, ghastly pale, to an attending deacon, who hurried to his side. Dowie was half led, half borne away. **“Never again was he to lift his voice in Shiloh Tabernacle.” John Alexander Dowie had suffered a stroke.**

John Alexander Dowie died in 1907. According to Hagin, Sister Schrader did not know about Dowie when she spoke the prophecy. [504]

What did that prophecy mean, "He's walking in the way of Dowie"? **Sister Schrader didn't even know what that meant; she didn't know Dowie**. This prophet had proclaimed that he was Elijah that was to come, and that he was the messenger of the covenant. But Jesus is the Messenger of the Covenant! Dowie had proclaimed the same thing. I read one of **Dowie's** sermons in which **he proclaimed, "I'm Elijah number three."**

This prophet who died also said he was Elijah . That's what the Lord meant by, "**He's walking in the way of Dowie.**"

Also, it should be noted that James Sanford (1862-1948) was a contemporary minister with Dowie who claimed to be Elijah the prophet. In 1896, he built a communal society called "Shiloh" that eventually had a membership of 600 people. In 1897, he witnessed some miracles performed by Dowie that propelled his healing ministry. Soon after, Sanford had great success in praying for the sick. Wikipedia says: ^[505]

Soon Tongues of Fire reported healings of pneumonia, cancer, diphtheria, catarrh, "sick headache," sprained wrist, dropsy, typhoid, mental derangement, broken bones, and "utter exhaustion." A local three-year-old girl who had been pronounced permanently blind by medical authorities suddenly regained her sight after prayer was offered for her at Shiloh.

Moreover, Wikipedia says a woman was raised from the dead through Sanford. ^[506]

But the most spectacular case was the "resurrection" of Olive Mills, who had been seriously ill, perhaps with spinal meningitis. **Told Mills was dead**, Sanford found her without breath or pulse. In desperation he shouted, "Olive Mills! Come back! In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, come back!" **Almost immediately, Mills opened her eyes, and within a few hours she was out of bed and dressed.**

In 1901, Sanford announced that he was Elijah and one of the two prophets in Revelation 11:1-14, who would be killed and resurrected in Jerusalem. This announcement was met with ridicule in the press and a breaking of fellowship with former associates. Wikipedia says: ^[507]

Shortly thereafter, **Sanford announced that God had spoken three words to him "like a thunderbolt": "Elijah is Here!"** And it was as Elijah that Sanford now called down God's judgment on "every lying pen," editors who had written critically "about this man of God." As usual Sanford was also making an eschatological reference. **Sanford believed that he, as Elijah, would be one of the "Two Witnesses" of Revelation 11**, who would be martyred and rise from the dead in Jerusalem before the coming of Christ's kingdom. The "Elijah" announcement was met with increased ridicule from the press and led to the breaking of all ties with followers of Moody and A. B. Simpson.

Sanford made his followers sign a pledge that he was Elijah and David. ^[508]

Meanwhile, Sanford had **his followers sign a ten-foot scroll called the "Pledge of Loyalty,"** which included among its articles of faith a statement **that "F. W. Sanford of Shiloh, Maine, U.S.A." was Elijah** and David, and that "I believe in and accept him as such."

In 1904, Stanford was convicted of cruelty to children, and then manslaughter in 1911 after his lack of judgment was responsible for several deaths among his followers during a voyage to Africa. He was sentenced to 10 years in federal penitentiary, but was released after seven years for good behavior. Sanford eventually retired and died in 1948. Currently, the organization he started has a membership of several hundred people in Eastern United States.

Did William Branham Follow Dowie's Example?

As shown, William Branham was not the only person influenced by Dowie's claim. John Sanford also had a successful healing ministry and later claimed to be Elijah. Branham was very familiar with Dowie's ministry and his claim to be Elijah the prophet. In 1949, when preaching in Zion, Illinois at Dowie's church and New York in 1951, Branham claimed that Dowie prophesied of his coming.

He said, "It'll be forty years after my death, that this city shall go on the rock, but **after that forty years there'll come a revival**, that'll be more glorious than it was in the first place." And **I have the writings here** in—in—in just in part that I might read there. It's kinda... "**Doctor Dowie prophesied that some forty years after his death, that the churches would be restored in more power and glory than they were in—in the former.**" _ I Was Not Disobedient To The Heavenly Vision 07-18-49

How **Doctor Dowie**, in his death, **prophesied that I would come to that city forty years from the time** that he died. Not knowing nothing about it, **he died on one day, and I was borned on the next**. And forty years to the day I entered the city, not knowing nothing about it. Oh, how God's great move is coming together. I hear the sound of abundance of rain. _ Our Hope Is In God, New York, NY, 09-29-51, Paragraph 8

In the above quote, Branham said he was born the next day after Dowie's death. Dowie died on March 9, 1907. Branham said he was born on April 6, 1909 (A Trial 04 -27-64, par. 169). Some records shows other dates. Either way, he was not born the day following Dowie's death.

So then, why would Branham make such a false statement? After telling the audience in New York about Dowie's prophecy in paragraph 8, Branham considered himself as being the Elisha to Dowie's Elijah claim, as stated in paragraph 9. Branham considered Dowie a dead himself to be major prophets who could not co-exist just as Elijah an Elisha could not do so.

And now, listen closely now, **as we're duplicating the day when this great man, Elisha, who had a double portion of the Spirit of Elijah. There never was in the age, any two major prophets on the earth at one time.** There were many minor prophets, but there were one major prophet. And **Elijah was the prophet until Elisha came.** Then when Elijah was taking off, a portion, a double portion of Elisha's Spirit... **Elijah's Spirit came upon Elisha.** _ Our Hope Is In God, New York, NY 09-29-51, Paragraph 9

By the 1960s, Branham was no longer content with being Elisha. So, he began to criticize Dowie's Elijah claim while setting the stage for his fulfillment of Malachi 4:5-6.

Oh, there's been a **hundred Elijah's** come up **in the last days: Alexander Dowie**, and so many in the world today **saying they're Elijah**, they're Elijah of the day. Elijah will go back to the original Pentecostal Ephesus church, and bring that same Message to the people with signs of the Messiah. The Bible said so. _ The Messiah 01-17-61

We've had **Elijah's garments**; we've had **Elijah's robes**; oh, there's been people that... **John Alexander Dowie is buried up there wrapped in a— a robe; he said he was Elijah.** And we've had all kinds of things like that. What is it anyhow? It's only to

take away a Truth that is going to be presented. See, see? _The Fourth Seal 03-21-63

Considering the above quotes, Branham was aware of others who claimed to be Elijah. One such person was Herbert W. Armstrong (1892 -1986), who started the Worldwide Church of God, Ambassador College (now Ambassador University), and had an international following.

In 1934, Armstrong began a magazine called "The Plain Truth" that had a monthly circulation of 8.2 million by 1986, which was more than Time magazine's monthly circulation of 5.9 million in the same year. ^[509] Mr. Armstrong believed he was fulfilling the second coming of Elijah's ministry in Malachi 4:5 -6 and Matthew 17:11. He believed he was sent to restore the church. ^[510]

"There was an ELIJAH to come and RESTORE things in the Church. THAT HAS HAPPENED, and what has been restored is the GOVERNMENT OF GOD—and many of the truths, at least 17 or 18 principal, VITAL DOCTRINES OF TRUTH have been added to about the three that had survived in the Sardis era of the Church."

"Jesus said the **ELIJAH shall yet come and restore all things.... God raised me up to restore** the government of God.

Mr. Armstrong was viewed as an apostle and the end time Elijah who foretold the return of Jesus Christ. Wikipedia says: ^[511]

Mr. Armstrong oftentimes said that, **like John the Baptist (Elijah)**, he was a voice preaching in a spiritual wilderness of religious confusion. For this reason he was **considered to be both an "Apostle" and end-time "Elijah"** proclaiming as God's representative the Gospel of God's kingdom to the World before the return of Jesus Christ.

To promote himself as the end time Elijah, Armstrong taught dual comings of this prophet based upon Malachi 4:5 -6 and Matthew 17:11. ^[512]

You go back and read Malachi 3:1 -5 and Malachi 4 [and] where Jesus said, **'Elijah truly shall come'—even after John the Baptist was put in prison [and was beheaded], he was yet to come.** The [end -time Elijah] was to restore. **John the Baptist didn't restore."**

When examining the sermons of Branham, he explicitly mentioned Malachi 4 in reference to his ministry for the first time on December 4, 1960. He did so when retelling the story how his wife -to-be opened her Bible to Malachi 4:5 after asking God about their future marriage.

Branham mentioned Malachi 4 the next time when teaching about the Laodicean Church Age on December 11, 1960. From paragraphs 61 to 105, Branham attempts to convince his church that the messenger of this age will be Elijah the prophet. Like Herbert Armstrong, he taught that Malachi 4:5-6 and Matthew 17:11 has a compound meaning and speaks of two comings of Elijah.

Now, watch **the compound coming of Elijah** . Now, if you'll notice, all Scripture has a compound meanings, "But It's hid from the eyes of the wise and prudent, and revealed to babes such as will learn." Don't you believe that? Now, hold **Malachi 4** right there. _The Laodicean Church Age 12-11-60E

We're promised in the last days, that he will return to this country too. I know, Jesus, when... **Matthew 17**, when they asked Him, "Why the Scribes say, Elias..." Watch what He said, **"Elias truly must first come."** Past, present—in **the future tense**, but then He give John as an example. **John wasn't Malachi 4.** John was Malachi 3, "Behold, I send a messenger before Me to prepare the way." Malachi 4, He said, **" Before the great and terrible day of the Lord shall come**, when all the earth will be burned like a stubble; **before that day , I'll send Elijah."** _ Jezebel Religion 03-19-61

During Branham's sermon on the Laodicean Age, he described the character of the coming Elijah. In paragraphs 91 to 99, Branham actually gave them a profile of himself. If, thereby leaving followers no room to doubt that he was Elijah. In Branham's next two sermons preached on the 12th and 17th of January 1961, he continued to persuade his congregation and the church of his friend Jack Moore in Shreveport, Louisiana about the coming of Elijah as the messenger to the Laodicean age. ^{[513][514]}

From that time, Branham particularly mentioned Malachi 4 during his sermons over 200 times from 1961 until his death in 1965 as he tried to cleverly convince churches that he was Elijah the prophet without having to say so directly.

During the time Branham began to promote himself as Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6 and the messenger of the Laodicean age of Revelation 3:14, he also began to view himself as the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7.

When examining Branham's sermons, he references Revelation 10:7 on July 13, 1962 (From the Time, Par 89) and taught about it on December 30, 1962. But, Branham cleverly mentions this verse in reference to his ministry for the first time during his sermons on the seven seals in March, 1963 without having to tell his audience directly.

All right, to the believers... Notice, the first Elijah, that was him. The second was Elisha. The third was John. **The fourth** was the **seventh angel or the last messenger to the church**, according to **Malachi 4 and Revelation 10:7**. Now, the fifth time, he is a messenger to the Jews, to the hundred and forty -four thousand, to the Jews after the Church is gone. _The Fifth Seal 03-22-63

Now, **we're into the age of the Eagle the revelation to be revealed**, the whole thing. Now, compare this with Revelations the 10th chapter, verse 1 to 7, and we'll see here in this Revelations—the **Revelations here, 10: 1 -7**, that in the days of the sounding of the **seventh angel's message was to finish up all the mysteries of God.** _The Seventh Seal 03-24-63E

Perhaps visitors may have not known who Branham was referencing when speaking about the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7. But, Branham's church knew he spoke of himself in the third person. Branham used that subtle approach throughout remainder of his ministry.

Did Elijah's Claim and Erroneous Teachings Cause Branham's Death?

As stated, Gordon Lindsay and Anna Schrader believed Branham's claims as being Elijah of Malachi 4:5 -6 and the messenger of the covenant were responsible for his early death in 1965. ^[515]

After Brother Hagin left, I asked, "What do you think about this: **Is this Branham?** Gordon answered gravely, "Yes, it is Branham. He is **getting into error**. He thinks **he is Elijah**. He thinks he is **the messenger of the covenant**. The sad thing is that unscrupulous men around him are putting words into his mouth, and due to his limited background he is taking them up.

Some have questioned Hagin's reason for Branham's death because the prophecy said he would make a false step after January of 1964, but does not identify this misstep. According to other critics, Hagin's prophecy is inaccurate because Branham had already made a false step when he claimed to be Elijah the prophet and the seventh angel before the prediction was spoken on January of 1964.

However, when examining Hagin's statements in his book, it appears that he personally believed Branham's death was due to his persistent intrusion into the teaching ministry, which led to great confusions among believers. Hagin believed Branham should have solely stayed with his prophetic ministry. In the book, Hagin retells a conversation between Branham and Lindsay regarding this matter. ^[516]

Brother Lindsay related an experience he'd had with that prophet. Brother Lindsay said, "I told him, 'You're not a teacher, so don't try to teach.'" He was a preacher and a good one at that, and he had marvelous manifestations of the Holy Spirit in his ministry. Brother Lindsay said, "I begged him not to teach. I said, 'You don't know the Bible, and you're confusing folks. Leave the Bible teaching to the teachers . Just go ahead and preach and exercise the word of knowledge and gifts of healings as the Spirit wills, and be a blessing to the Body of Christ.'" This prophet said to Brother Lindsay, "I know I'm not a teacher, but I want to teach. And I'm going to teach!"

After writing the above paragraph, Hagin goes on to say:

"It's dangerous to intrude into a ministry office to which you are not called. In the Old Testament, if people intruded in to a holy place that was reserved for those who held certain offices, they instantly fell dead. Under grace, people in disobedience can last for a while, but sooner or later, those who intrude into ministry offices to which they are not called will be judged. **It is dangerous to intrude into another man's office."** (K. Hagin, 'He Gave Gifts unto Men', pg 164-170).

So, did Branham's intrusion into the teaching ministry cause his early death? Well, throughout Branham's ministry he often told audiences that he was not a Bible teacher.

Now, **I'm not a teacher** ; I'm a long ways from being a Bible expositor. And I am... My education is limited to a seventh grade. Demonology, Religious Realm 06-09-53A

I'm not very much of a teacher . I'm—I am not a teacher, but what little I do know about the Lord Jesus, I like to express to the people what I know about Him. Law 01-15-55

Your pastors here might not be able to discern spirit and foretell things that's coming to pass. They might not be able to do that, but they have a position. **Neither am I a teacher.** Nor, I'm not—I'm not an apostle. See? These five offices... And each one of them men has an office, and he's holding his office. And that office is just as great in the sight of God as any other office. Behold, A Greater Than All Of Them Is Here 07-15-62

I am not sufficient to stand here to —to talk about a thing like

this. It's more. I—I cannot, I can't bring myself into the spot, and I—I **put myself to be a teacher** . I—I couldn't do that, because I—I—I **haven't got the intellectual knowledge** . Investments 08-03-63B

As shown, throughout Branham's ministry he did not deem himself qualified to be a teacher of God's word. Nevertheless, near the end of Branham's evangelical focused ministry, he decided to become an expounder of the word of God. In fact, he began to say that a prophet was the divine interpreter of the written word of God.

A **prophet**, seer, means, "one who forthtells or tells forth," and also is "**a Divine interpreter of the written Word.**" Anybody knows that, that knows what a prophet means. The Identification Of Christ In All Ages 04-09-64

But in the Old Testament, **it wasn't exactly a prophet, it was a seer.** And the seer foretold things that would come to pass. And, also, that was **his credentials as a divine interpreter of the written Word**, because his own ministry was manifesting that Word. See? So that made him the prophet. Christ Is Identified The Same In All Generations 04-15-64

During a sermon, Branham spoke of a person who commended his prophetic gift, but criticized his teaching ability, saying:

Somebody wrote me here not long ago. And said, "Brother Branham," said, "I'll tell you; **we all believe you to be a prophet.**" Said, "As long as the Spirit of the Lord's upon you, and you're discerning people and things like that (that discernment), we know that's a prophet. But," said, " **your teaching is horrible.** No." Hearing, Receiving, And Acting 06-07-60

Branham goes on to say to the critic that a prophet is an interpreter of the word of God.

Why, brother, you don't even know what a prophet means. What did the Word of the Lord come to? The prophet. What does the prophet mean? It doesn't altogether mean a —a foreseer, or foreteller, or forth-teller. **A prophet means this, that that is given to him to a vindicate that he is an interpreter of the Divine Word.** Absolutely. Glory. How can you be so dogmatic? It shows you're carnal, when people do that. Hearing, Receiving, And Acting 06-07-60

When examining the ministry of William Branham, the latter years of his life as a Bible teacher were filled with many erroneous beliefs. For example, in the latter years, Branham taught that he was Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6, the seventh angel of Revelation 3:14 and 10:7, the Son of man of Luke 17:30, the shout of Christ's return in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, and a host of other false teachings that we shall further disprove in the following chapters.

As studied in the prior chapter, Branham particularly began to mention the Son of man of Luke 17:30 being revealed through his ministry on audio tape since his 1958 sermon "Called Out." This verse says:

But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

As proven in the prior chapter, these verses pertain to

the second literal bodily coming of Jesus Christ, not to Branham claiming to fulfill them 54 years ago. He wrongly interpreted and falsely misused these scriptures.

Moreover, Branham began to view himself as the Lord who appears to the end time elected seed as God did to Abraham on the plains of Mamre (Gen. 18:1). He also began to teach that Billy Graham and Oral Roberts (or Jack Shuler) were the angels who will deliver some people from among the denominational churches as the two angels rescued Lot from being destroyed in the city of Sodom (Gen. 19).

There was **three Angels** went down. **Two of them, a Billy Graham and a Jack Shuler** went down into Sodom and preached just the message of Gospel deliver—deliverance to the people. But one **Angel stayed behind with the elected, Abraham and his group**. _Where Is He, King Of The Jews? 12-21-58M

You noticed, they had **Billy Graham and Oral Roberts** and them in the day of Sodom? Men like them went down and **preached to the Sodomites** in the city. But the elect, **Abraham and his group, was a called out group**, out to one side. What kind of an **Angel stayed behind and preached to them**? _Conference With God 12-20-59M

Look at the modern Billy Graham, the angels, messengers down in Sodom, calling the people out, to see if they can find forty just people; and God would even compromise for ten, and yet they can't find it. **This great evangelist, Billy Graham, and Jack Shuler of you Methodist people**, and, oh, **Oral Roberts of you Pentecostals**, how that out there in Babylon in these organizations that's co-operating. _Investments 08-03-63

"As it was in the days of Lot," when Abraham, that called -out group waiting for a promised son, **Lot was down there hearing a modern Billy Graham and an Oral Roberts to that denominational setup** down there, as a nation. _Events Made Clear By Prophecy 08-01-65e

During a sermon in 1962, Branham told his church that three types of seeds were being planted through Billy Graham, Oral Roberts, and himself. He further said the planting was nearly over. While making these statements, Branham claimed that he saw a vision confirming this revelation to be "Thus saith the Lord."

Now, there has been **three different kinds of seeds planted**. A denominational, **Billy Graham**, he was the **head planter**. **Oral Roberts**, for **the Pentecostals**. Pentecostal seed has been planted; I'm talking about organization now. And, then, **the Word has been planted**. Now you'll have to understand, folks. I ain't saying this no more unless God tells me. I want you to get this good and clear. Three seeds has been planted. _The Spoken Word Is The Original Seed 03-18-62, Par. 279

That's the reason, **the planting, it's about over**. See? It's all over. Seeds must be planted before the Rain falls. That right? [Congregation says, "Amen."—Ed.] Or, otherwise, the Spirit. Now you're going to disagree there, but hold on just a minute. See? Seeds must be planted; and then the Rain falls, to water the Seed. Is that right? ["Amen."] Now I want... Is there anybody in here that understands Hebrew, knows Hebrew words? All right. You look it up if you want to. Now, we are hearing so much, and so many organizations and everything else talking about, "We're in the latter rain." Nonsense. No such a thing now.

Oh, something is happening. I can just see it passing before me. It's done caught the Spirit. See? Amen. I know this is Truth. It's THUS SAITH THE LORD. By vision, see, just moving, coming. _The Spoken Word Is The Original Seed 03-18-62, Par. 280-283

Over 57 years have passed since Branham's vision of "Thus saith the Lord" regarding Billy Graham, Oral Roberts, and himself. Not only are these men deceased, but the destruction of the wicked as in the days of Lot has not happened, nor has Jesus Christ returned. As Branham drew to the end of his ministry, he increasingly continued to view himself as the fulfillment of the Son of man prophecy in Luke 17:30 and the prophet of Malachi 4.

Now it hasn't been in any years since the apostles, until this time, as far as we know, **but He promised at this time, "The Son of man would be revealed** like it was at Sodom." Now you read that in **Luke 17**, about 20 to 30, and **see if that isn't right**. He promised it. **Read Malachi 4**. Don't mix it with Malachi 3, now. Malachi 3 was John the Baptist. See? But Malachi 4, as soon as this was over, the wick -... the righteous walk out over the wicked, and the world was burnt with fire, see. It never happened in the days of John's time. We're expecting that great anointing upon the Church, that will turn the hearts back to the original Doctrine of the fathers, back to the real genuine Pentecost. _When Their Eyes Were Opened, They Knew Him 02-12-64

Also, during the latter years of Branham's ministry in the 1960s, he began to view himself as God manifested in a human body to fulfill Luke 17:30. In examining Branham's sermons from 1960 to 1965, he increasingly alluded to audiences that he was God or Christ manifested in the flesh.

Now, Jesus, in **Luke 17:30**, promised the sign of the end time. **The last sign, was God manifested in a human body** that could discern the thoughts that was in Sarah's mind, in the tent behind her. That's what He said. That's the sign that He promised at the end. _The Voice Of The Sign 03-13-64

Now to the **perfect ministry of Himself; not some man**, not some denomination, as they've worked down through that age there, see; but **Himself made manifest**, manifests Himself **to the promise**, making **Saint Luke 17:28, Malachi 4**, and so forth, Hebrews 13:8, just exactly right. _The Unveiling Of God 06-14-64M

Notice, through the ages, the same way, by His prophets, He has revealed Himself. Them wasn't exactly **prophets, they were gods**. He said so. For, what they spoke was God's Word. **They were the flesh that God was veiled in**. **They were gods**. _The Unveiling Of God 06-14-64M

How *many sees Him* standing, the **Mighty Conqueror**, the **Word made flesh, unveiled before us**; the **Alpha, the Omega**; **He that Was, Which Is, and Shall Come**; the **Root and the Offspring of David**; was **the Son of man, Son of God, Son of man**, and will be **Son of David**? You believe it with all your heart? [Congregation says, "Amen."—Ed.] **Unveiling Himself in each age**, brought to the believer, **veiling Himself in human flesh** from the unbeliever. **He is hid behind a veil**. May God break every veil, and we see Him as He is! _The Unveiling Of God 06-14-64M

The Holy Spirit has been bound by these denominational rivers, for almost two thousand years, but is to be **loosed in the**

evening time, by the evening-time Message. The Holy Spirit back in the Church again; **Christ, Himself, revealed in human flesh, in the evening time**. He said. He promised it. — The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M

In 1965, Branham became increasingly bold with his Son of man's claim. During the sermon "Who Is This Melchisedec," he compared himself with this man. Branham cleverly tells the audience that as the Lord appeared to Abraham in human flesh as Melchisedec, likewise God was being manifested in his flesh to fulfill the promise to Abraham's royal seed—his followers. In a later sermon, he even said the Elijah of the last days is the Lord Jesus Christ.

But then **where is that royal Seed of Abraham? Where is their sign**, that He said? "As it was in the days of Sodom," that **God came down and was manifested in human flesh**, and told what Sarah was thinking back in her heart, in the tent behind Him, the last sign before the Gentile world was destroyed by fire. And the Church has got its last sign before the whole world is going to be destroyed, this Gentile kingdom be destroyed by the fire and wrath of God. Do you believe that? [Congregation says, "Amen."—Ed.] That **Melchisedec was flesh, represented Himself in a human body**; and then later **He was made flesh**. And now, tonight, He is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. **Do you believe it?** [Congregation says, "Amen."—Ed.] _Who Is This Melchisedec? 02-21-65E

But the **Elijah of this day is the Lord Jesus Christ**. He is to come according to Matthew the seventeen —... **Luke 17:30**, says the **Son of man is to reveal Himself** among His people. **Not a man, God!** But **it'll come through a prophet**. — Trying To Do God A Service Without It Being God's Will 11-27-65B

Branham's subtle allusion of God being manifested in his flesh went beyond the Holy Spirit indwelling all born again believers (1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19). His repeated emphases of being deity manifested in human flesh influenced many followers to literally believe he was either God or Christ fulfilling the Son of man prophecy of Luke 17:30.

Therefore, Branham must share the blame for fueling some followers' delusional belief that he was literally God manifested in the flesh. Especially when Branham knew since 1961 that some followers already believed he was Christ and were baptizing in his name. Yet, he continued to fuel their false beliefs by repeatedly saying God or Christ was being manifested in the flesh—alluding to himself.

I heard of it a—few years ago and I thought it was a joke. And **I met a couple brethren** (which I don't see neither one of them in the meeting this morning), two or three of them one time in a fishing trip, and **they approached me** by the subject of saying, **"Brother Branham, aren't you the anointed Messiah, the Christ?"** _Revelation, Chapter Five #1, 06-11-61

And I heard it a few more times. But it wasn't so. And the other day in **Canada a brother showed me a little ticket** of a thing he's packed in his pocket, said **"William Branham is our Lord," baptizing in the name of William Branham**. And a little... a precious... If it had been an enemy, if it had been my enemy I would have known it was a joke. But a **precious, darling brother come up to confess his sins** and his wrongs and say **his faith in me as being Jesus Christ**. _Revelation, Chapter Five #1, 06-11-61

In Peary Green's book "The Acts of the Prophet," he wrote about this segment of Branham's followers who believed he was literally God and virgin born. ^[517]

The belief that Brother Branham was God is a powerful, pervading spirit which account for much of the opposition to this message. I have experienced the influence of this spirit and I have been told of accounts of other instance which I will relate here. Page 136

The Day that **I was approached with this doctrine of virgin birth**, I shook my head in disbelief that people who claimed to love him so much, would foster such false doctrine. Page 138

As studied, we know Fred Sothman was a very close friend of Branham who believed he was literally God and greater than Jesus Christ. But, as shown, he was not alone in his deity belief regarding Branham. In fact, Willard Collins, the recently resigned pastor (August 2015) of Branham's home church in Jeffersonville for nearly 46 years, who personally knew him since 1955, said of the prophet during his resignation speech: *"He was God tabernacled in the flesh! Nothing short of it, and he had all the answers."* ^[518] As earlier stated, some among Branham's followers gather at his gravesite every year during the Passover (known as Easter) expecting him to rise from the dead. ^[519]

Although Peary Green appears to be against followers who believe William Branham was literally God; yet, he helped fuel their belief by saying in his book: ^[520]

But those who do not believe Brother Branham was God's prophet, don't realize **what a compliment it is for others to call him Jesus Christ**.

Green believed it was a compliment to Branham when people could not differentiate between him and the Lord Jesus because he walked so close to God. In further attempting to downplay the gravity of Message Believers referring to Branham as Christ, Peary goes on to say: ^[521]

No, some men could not tell the difference. **When I hear someone say he was Jesus Christ, it just confirm my respect for Brother Branham**; for what a man of God that people could not tell the difference.

Considering the Saviors warning of false prophets and Christs appearing in the last days (Matt. 24:23 -25), Green is using dangerous and faulty reasoning in the above excerpt. How? By continuing to promote and fuel the godhood of William Branham amongst his followers by deeming it a compliment when people call him Jesus Christ.

But, Green failed to realize that history is filled with men whose followers strongly believed they were Christ. Under the title *"List of People Claimed to Be Jesus,"* Wikipedia provides such a record of 35 people from the 18th to the 21st century. But, there is no excuse for such behavior among professing Christians. The original apostles walked closer to God, but had no problem with first century believers confusing them with being God or Jesus Christ.

Even Catholicism with their traditions of patronizing and venerating saints, knew better than to believe anyone of the apostles to be Christ. Why? Because they never claimed to be God manifested in the flesh, other than what the Holy

Spirit afforded every believer: "... *Christ in you, the hope of glory*" (Col. 1:27) or "...*that the life of Jesus might be made manifest in our body...the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh*" (2 Cor. 4:10-11).

Branham claimed that he alone was God manifested in flesh to fulfill prophecies belonging entirely to Christ's second coming. By doing so, he went beyond scriptural boundaries. He had no right to claim the fulfillment of Jesus' return as the Son of Man in Luke 17:30, or that he was fulfilling a portion of 1 Thessalonians 4:16: "For or the **Lord himself** shall descend from heaven with **a shout**...."

Therefore, Branham caused this deity mayhem amongst his followers by repeatedly alluding that he was God manifested in human flesh. Branham crossed the line because God manifested in the flesh is a phrase *exclusively* belonging to Jesus Christ's first coming, as stated in 1 Timothy 3:16.

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Being a human born in sin like everyone else, Branham had no right to make such a claim of being God manifested in the flesh because he had a gift. When Branham breached that wall that separate Jesus Christ from mere humans, he opened the door of idolatry for his followers to disobey the first commandment: "*You shall have no other gods before me*" (Ex. 20:3 NKJV). Nonetheless, Peary Green's book subtly continues to fuel the deity doctrine amongst Branham followers by referring to John 10:34.^[522]

...and therefore according to John 10:34, **it is not wrong to refer to him** as the prophets of old were referred to, that is, "**gods**," because the scriptures cannot be broken."

I do not have enough space to elaborate on John 10:34, where Jesus quotes "Ye are gods." But, this verse is quoted from Psalm 82:6 where the entire stanza pertains to the rulers of Israel who were given authority from God to judge the people correctly using His words—the Mosaic laws (Ex. 18:21-23; 2 Chron. 19:6-7). For example, in Exodus 22:28 the word "gods" refers to the rulers and judges of Israel. In Acts 23:3-5 (NKJV), when Paul was being judged by the High Priest, he quoted and interpreted Exodus 22:28 by solely using the word "ruler" instead of "gods."

Thou shalt not **REVILE the GODS**, nor curse **the ruler** of thy people. Ex. 22:28

Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, *you* whitewashed wall! For **you sit to judge me according to the law**, and do you command me to be struck contrary to the law?" And those who stood by said, "**Do you REVILE God's high priest?**" Then Paul said, "I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; **for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a RULER of your people.'**" Acts 23:3-5

To support referring to Branham as a god, Green quotes Exodus 7:1, where the Lord said to Moses: "*See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be your prophet.*" Actually, in this verse there is no indefinite article "a" in Hebrew, but rather the word "Elohim" appears alone, which refers to "God." Thus, NKJV (and other

translations) conveys God's intended meaning to Moses: "*See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh.*"

So, God is not calling Moses a minor deity, but merely answering his question in Exodus 6:30: "...How shall Pharaoh hearken unto me." The Lord said Moses would appear as God to Pharaoh when he tells Aaron what to say to Pharaoh rather than directly speaking to him. As shown in verse 2, this would be done in a manner similar to how the Lord God spoke to Moses as his prophet,

Thus, Green misused Exodus 7:1 and John 10:34 to excuse followers for calling Branham "a god." Why? Because he assumes these verses can be applied to Branham since he was like the Old Testament prophets. Nonetheless, as studied, the Old Testament style of prophets ceased in the New Testament (pages 195-196). Furthermore, if Branham lived by the decrees of the Old Testament, he would be killed for speaking false prophecies in the name of the Lord as shown in Deuteronomy 18:20-22 (see chapters 5-9).

Sadly, as Branham's ministry drew near the end, he became increasingly controversial and susceptible to false teachings (chapters 10-17). For example, in 1964 and 1965 (nearly a month before death), Branham boldly told followers that the word preached by Peter on the day of Pentecost and the apostles' teachings will not work for this day. His message had become the word of God for today.

The Word of Moses' time did not work in the days of Jesus' time. The Word, **the Word in the days of the apostles does not work in this day. It's a promised Word for this day**... _Shalom 1-12-64

The Word that fell on the Day of Pentecost will not work this day. No, sir. That was for Pentecost. **This is for the Bride**, going Home of the Bride. **We got something different**. _The Invisible Union Of The Bride Of Christ 11-25-65

Also, less than 3 weeks before death, Branham boldly declared that his message was the shout of Christ's second coming in 1 Thessalonians 4:16 (see quotes on page 229). But, it was on February 19, 1965 that Branham finally told his church that Malachi 4:5-6 is fulfilled, after alluding to being Elijah the prophet for years.

According to Malachi 4, a Scripture, there is to rise a Message that will shake the hearts of the people right **back to the apostolic fathers again**. There is to rise one on the scene, **in the power of Elijah**, that'll rise on the scene; **a wilderness man** that'll come out, and will have a Message that'll run right straight back to the Word again. That's the hour that we're living in. _This Day This Scripture Is Fulfilled 02-19-65

Then, consider now, I ask you at this hour, you people here of Jeffersonville. In 1933, the **supernatural Light** that fell down yonder **on the river**, that day when I was baptizing five hundred in the Name of Jesus Christ, as about a twenty-year-old boy. What did it say, Jeffersonville? What was it at the foot of Spring Street there, when the Courier Journal, I believe it was the **Louisville Herald**, packed the article of it? It went plumb across the **Associated Press, plumb into Canada**. Doctor Lee Vayle cut it out of the paper, way up in Canada, in 1933. When I was baptizing my seventeenth person, under this Witness; and you know the rest of the story. _This Day This Scripture Is Fulfilled 02-19-65

And when I was standing there, baptizing the seventeenth person, a Light come down from Heaven, shining down above there, like a Star falling from the Heaven. **A Voice said**, " **As John the Baptist was sent to forerun the first coming of Christ, your Message shall forerun His second Coming**, into all the world." **This day this Scripture is fulfilled.** [Congregation is rejoicing—Ed.] This day! [Congregation is greatly rejoicing and praising God.] God promised it. What happened? **This day It's went around the world.** _This Day This Scripture Is Fulfilled 02-19-65

Thus, Kenneth Hagin, Gordon Lindsay, and Anna Schrader believed William Branham died due to his confused teachings that included claims of being Elijah and the messenger of the covenant. Branham did refer to the seventh star (angel) as "the messenger of the covenant." He claimed to be the seventh star messenger.

And then the message of John **in the last days (or the message of Elijah**, the Spirit that'll be in the church) will be —take the hearts of the people that's fallen away from the Pentecostal fathers, and turn their hearts back to the original Message of Pentecost again, as it started. **The messenger of the covenant, the seventh star of the day, we're living in that day.** _Queen Of Sheba 01-19-61E

What Angel? **The Angel of the covenant**, the Angel, **the messenger of the day**, the **seventh Angel** which **is sounding today.** _From That Time 07-13-62

In Pearry Green's book, he acknowledged Branham as a messenger of the covenant, which is a title reserved exclusively for the Lord Jesus Christ (Mal. 3:1).^[523]

...So was our **Brother Branham more than a prophet**. He was the Seventh Church Age Messenger, a star in the hand of Jesus Christ.. He is one of those seven eyes... **He is also a messenger of the covenant** that God has made with His people....

Remember, on November 27, 1965 (nearly three weeks before Branham's fatal accident on December 18, 1965), he said the Elijah of the last days is the Lord Jesus Christ who fulfills Luke 17:30. It will not be a man, but God manifested through a prophet—referring to himself.

But the **Elijah of this day is the Lord Jesus Christ**. He is to come according to Matthew the seventeen "... **Luke 17:30**, says the **Son of man is to reveal Himself** among His people. **Not a man, God!** But **it'll come through a prophet.** _Trying To Do God A Service Without It Being God's Will 11-27-65B

On November 28, 1965, a day after Branham told his audience that God and Christ were being revealed through him to fulfill Luke 17:30, he once again intruded into the realm of deity. How? He did so by telling them that the fullness of Godhead was bodily among them as a Prophet - God fulfilling Malachi 4:5-6 and the Son of man ministry. Branham became increasingly bold with his deity claims.

No leaven among you, that **brings the entire fulness of the godhead bodily among you.** Couldn't do it in Luther's age, couldn't do it in Wesley's age, couldn't do it in Pentecostal age; **but in the day when the Son of man will be manifested, revealed, brought back the Church together with the entire Deity of God amongst His people,** showing the same visible signs, **manifesting Himself like He did at the beginning** when

He was manifested on earth in a form of **a Prophet-God.** Oh! Glory! **Promised by Malachi 4**, promised by the rest of the Scriptures. _God's Only Provided Place Of Worship 11-28-65M

By personally claiming the fullness of the Godhead to be bodily amongst human s, Branham intruded into the exclusive claim reserved alone for the Lord Jesus Christ.

For it pleased the Father that **in him** [Jesus Christ] **should all THE FULLNESS DWELL** Col. 1:19

For **in him** [Jesus Christ] **dwelleth all the FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD BODILY.** Col. 2:9

Before William Branham's fatal accident, Gordon Lindsay desperately tried to warn him of impending death if he continued down the same path. Kenneth Hagin recalled Lindsay saying:^[524]

In other words, when Sister Schrader blurted this out about this prophet, it had no relation to what they were praying about at all. It didn't seem to fit with what was going on, but the Holy Spirit had something He wanted to get over to them. Brother Lindsay said, "I called around to see if I could locate this minister, and I finally found where he was holding a meeting. **I called him and talked to him personally. I told him, 'I have something important to talk to you about. I want to fly out and talk to you in person. Will you be there?'**" The minister assured Brother Lindsay, saying, "Yes, I'll be here three days."

Hagin continues in his book that Lindsay said Branham refused to listen and died shortly thereafter:^[525]

Brother Lindsay told me, "I flew out there, and when I got there, he was gone. Some fellows had come along and wanted him to go hunting with them back up in the mountains. So he went with them and wouldn't be back for three days. I couldn't sit there and wait on him for three days, so I had to leave." Brother Lindsay said, "Later that same year, my wife and I and Sister Schrader were praying again, and **Sister Schrader suddenly blurted out about the same prophet**, '**Go warn Brother** (and called this minister's name)! **He's walking in the way of Dowie. He's going to die. Go now!**' "So I checked around and found out where he was holding a meeting and found out that he would be there several days. **I flew to the nearest city, rented a car, and drove to the town where he was preaching.** "After his morning meeting," Brother Lindsay said, "**I talked to him as the Lord had instructed me, but I saw that he wouldn't listen.** I said to myself, **Well, he'll just have to die then.** And **not too long** after that, **he did die.**"

William Branham's Accident, Death, Funeral, and Burial

According to Hagin's book, Bro. Branham died shortly after refusing Gordon Lindsay's warning. What happened? Well, on December 18, 1965, while traveling from Tucson, Arizona to Jeffersonville, Indiana for the Christmas holiday, Branham and his family (wife and youngest daughter) were involved in a horrendous head-on collision. The other vehicle was driven by a drunk driver near Friona, Texas. Freda Lindsay wrote in her book about the accident that happened according to Hagin's prophecy:^[526]

In West Texas he had a head-on collision with a drunken driver and was taken to the hospital. His head became terribly swollen. A tube was placed in his throat to assist his breathing, but on

Christmas Eve, 1965, he departed this world, even as the prophecy had stated. A tremendous ministry that had veered off course!

In providing more detailed information of the accident, Pearry Green wrote in his book that Bro. Branham had gone through the windshield and lay across the hood of the car with his left elbow pinned in the door and his left leg wrapped around the steering column. Bro. Branham's wife was on the right side under the dash, while Sarah his youngest daughter lay on the back floor.^[527]

According to Sarah Branham's recollection of the accident, her father was very upset all day because of a family issue, which caused him to be less attentive (see endnote to view Sarah's entire letter online^[528])

I know my father was a very cautious driver, always keeping speed limits and observing the traffic. Under normal circumstances he would have reacted and avoided the car coming towards him. While speaking he looked over to mother during this unpleasant conversation. Just then it happened. That was the last thing I remember from before the crash until I came to myself in the ambulance...I was two months in the hospital.

After arriving at the hospital in Amarillo, Texas, Pastor Green described his visit with Bro. Branham in the hospital room. His left arm and leg were in traction as he lay unconscious after the operation. The doctor also had to perform a tracheotomy on his throat to allow him to breathe. He said Bro. Branham momentarily regained consciousness, but was unable to speak because of the tracheotomy. Green also recalled how he had to undergo operation to relieve pressure caused by a brain concussion.

On December 24, 1965 at 4:37 am, Green said Bro. Branham stopped breathing and had to be placed on a respirator machine. At this point, Green said he believed God would allow it to go but so far before healing Bro. Branham. Nonetheless, at 5:49 pm the doctor asked to see his son Billy Paul.

According to Green, when Billy Paul saw the curtain drawn around his father's bed, he turned to him and said: "*Pearry, it's all over.*" Green said he turned his head to conceal the tears as the doctor walked in and said: "*Mr. Branham, said Doctor Hines, 'I regret to inform you that your father expired at 4:49 pm.'*" According to Green, Billy bowed his head and sobbed softly and then pathetically said to him "*Pearry, take daddy home.*"^[529]

After this, Green wrote on page 117:

As I viewed the body of our Brother William Branham in that hospital room, I couldn't help but remember the powerful, dynamic spirit that had cried out against Jezebel and denominational spirits of the land. This was no longer the prophet of God, this poor body had been so racked and tortured, that now even lacked the hair of the head, removed during the operation. During the period of his confinement of his stay in the hospital, I had found it unbelievable that he wouldn't recover; even when I learned that he was dead, I couldn't seem to comprehend the fact. Therefore I still expected him to walk out of that hospital.

Upon hearing of Branham's accident, Hagin wrote in his book:^[530]

On December 27, 1965, my wife was at the beauty parlor, and she called home to say that this minister, who was the leading prophet at the time, had been in an automobile accident. He was unconscious, and doctors said he would never regain consciousness. I told her, "There is no use praying. He'll be dead within two or three days." **I said that because I remembered what the Lord had said in that prophecy. Then the Lord explained to me, "I had to permit him to be removed because of the damage he was causing in the Body of Christ."** Two days later, **Brother Lindsay called me and said, "Brother Hagin, the brother you referred to just died** . I got out that prophecy the Lord gave us eighteen months ago and read it. It's right on."

On December 29, 1965, funeral service was held for William Branham, but he was not interred until April 11, 1966. Some critics have questioned why he was not buried until after the Passover (called Easter). Some people believe the delay was necessary to give Branham's wife time to recover from the accident. While other believed that some followers were expecting him to rise from the dead on resurrection morning,

1971 Letters Gave Reasons for Branham's Death

In 1971, a minister who presently believes the message of William Branham, but says he disagrees with the cultic and unscriptural behaviors of many followers: wrote letters to Kenneth Hagin, Gordon Lindsay, and Anna Schrader . He was requesting information about the prophecies pertaining to Branham's death. He received responses to the letters, which can be viewed online (see endnote for link).^[531]

The response letters from Gordon Lindsay , which was dated February 9, 1971, basically said what Kenneth Hagin had written in his book. An excerpt of the letter said:

In answer to your question, may I say that two year preceding the **death of our Brother**, Brother Kenneth came into my office and told me that **the Lord had showed him** that **He was going to take in death** the leader of the deliverance movement because he was getting into false doctrine. **It came to pass exactly as the prophecy stated.**

Also, a response letters from Mrs. Freda Lindsay — dated March 24, 1971 — basically said what Kenneth Hagin had written in his book. An excerpt of the letter said:

Regarding **Brother Branham**, the **error that he got into shortly before his death** was that he **believed he was Elijah** and that he was **the messenger of the covenant...**

Moreover, a response letters from Kenneth Hagin— dated March 23, 1971 — basically said what he had written in his book. An excerpt of the letter said:

In answer to your question about the one you mentioned ---The **prophecy that came forth** was that he was **taking a false step**. This was **two years before he passed away**.

In addition, due to the fact that Anna Schrader was quite elderly and could not write a response letter , Gordon wrote on her behalf on April 28, 1971. An excerpt said:

I am told that **number of tapes** were released by **our Brother**

that **was in error** as also **several books** that were printed by those seeking to capitalize on him, in which statements were made that **he was Elijah**, and that he was **the messenger of the covenant**, etc.

As shown, the response letters verified that Kenneth Hagin received a 1964 prophecy foretelling the death of William Branham at the end of 1965. They also said Bro. Branham died for claiming to be Elijah the prophet, the messenger of the covenant, and teaching false doctrines.

Branham's Death Disproves His Malachi 4:5-6 Claim

After considering two foremost perspectives pertaining to the fulfillment of Malachi 4:4 -6 on pages 197 -202, we come to the main reason I shared those viewpoints. To prove that none of those views pertained to William Branham, the Gentiles, or the New Testament Church.

Sadly, Branham's alleged end time message were filled with repeated plagiarisms, false teachings, failed visions, failed prophecies, failed predictions, and failed "Thus saith the Lord." These results prove he was not Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:4-6, who restored the word of God.

In addition, the vast doctrinal confusions among Branham's followers also prove he did not restore them to the biblical teachings of the apostles. His followers are wreaked in false teachings, false hopes, and hostile debates among themselves. However, the greatest evidence proving Branham did not fulfill Malachi 4:4-6 as the forerunner of Christ's second coming are his very own words. He said:

Though he will not be popular, he will be vindicated by God. As Jesus authenticated John, and the Holy Ghost authenticated Jesus, we can well expect this man will be first of all authenticated by the Spirit working in his life in acts of power that are indisputable and found nowhere else; and Jesus Himself, in returning, will authenticate him, even as He authenticated John. John witnessed that Jesus was coming, — and so will this man, like John, witness that Jesus is coming. And the very return of Christ will prove that this man indeed was the forerunner of His second coming. This is the final evidence that this indeed is the prophet of Malachi 4, for the end of the Gentile period will be Jesus, Himself, appearing. Then it will be too late for those who have rejected him. An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - Laodicean Church Age

In the above quote, Branham's very words prove he was not Elijah the prophet. How? Because he said the literal return of Christ would be the **"final evidence"** that proves the fulfillment of Malachi 4:5-6. Branham made that quote over 54 years ago in 1965 shortly before his fatal accident.

Moreover, as studied on pages 161 -162, near the end of Branham's life, he was looking for the fulfillment of a prophecy called the *tent vision*, which was also named the *third pull* and declared to be "Thus saith the Lord." This happening was supposed to be an unprecedented display of creative power in Branham's ministry through the spoken word that would produce rapturing faith in his followers. Branham said this event was so close that he may be killed, but would not die of old age before the Lord Jesus' return.

But I do believe, that **we are so close**, that **I would never die with old age**. Yet, at fifty-four years old, I'll never die with old age, **until He's here**. See? Unless I'm shot, killed, or something other, some way killed, **just old age wouldn't kill me, until He's come**. And I believe that. Look Away To Jesus 12-29-63E

Branham's words and expectations were left unfulfilled when he suddenly died in 1965. Jesus Christ not only failed to return before Branham died, he failed to return during his expected lifetime. Today, he would either be 111 or 113 years old based on varying birth records. Over 54 years since his death, the world continues on. Branham's unfulfilled words have proven he was not the forerunner of Christ's return. His claims as being Elijah the prophet and the Son of man of Luke 17:30 are absolutely untrue.

Sadly, Branham's followers are still trusting in his false claims, promise of rapturing faith, and Jesus' imminent return to gather them. These events were supposed to happen during his lifetime through the fulfillment of the tent vision called the "Third Pull" (see pages 161-162).

But now, after all of Branham's verifiable documented failures: his followers still believe his error-ridden recorded and transcribed sermons will produce rapturing faith to attain heaven. They fail to trust in salvation through Jesus Christ to enter heaven based on the true biblical gospel taught by the apostles (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:1 -4,11; Col. 1:5; 1 Thess. 4:14; 2 Thess. 2:14; 1 Pet. 1:3-4). These unfulfilled promises have not only caused disillusionment over the last 54 years or more, but will be responsible for great disappointments in the pending future.

Also, it is interesting to note, that less than a month before Branham's tragic death, he challenged God to kill him if his story of creating squirrels and the supernatural conversions of Sis. Hattie Wright's two sons were not true.

Excuse the expression; but that day, setting there in that woods (**and God's my Judge, and I could fall dead on this pulpit**), when that Scripture had stumped me all my life... setting there that morning in the woods, and I was thinking on that, and that Voice spoke to me, He said, "That Scripture is like all Scriptures, It's true." I Have Heard But Now I See 11-27-65E, Par. 129

Why? That is Truth! **God has the authority to kill me, before these people across the nation**. Many of you here and in Jeffersonville, I can hear the tabernacle ring out now, "Amen!" because they're setting right there listening at it. See, because it's the Truth! I Have Heard But Now I See 11-27-65E, Par. 165

Branham told the sister that it was Thus saith the Lord and he was a false prophet if her request did not happen (Par. 156-160). When one of the sons retold the story in a book written by Branham's granddaughter, details were less dramatic. ^[532] Sounds familiar? As studied, Branham often exaggerated stories (see pages 179-181: "*Alleged Healings of Donny Morton and King George*" and "*Contradicting Stories of Resurrected Finland Boy*"). A former member of Branham's church said Sister Hattie would not discuss the matter when asked. ^[533] Why?

Chapter Fourteen

William Branham's Erroneous Teachings Regarding Seven Seals

Our previous investigation of William Branham have uncovered some serious issues such as repeated plagiarisms, false doctrines, failed visions, failed prophecies, failed predictions, and failed. Thus saith the Lord, along with alleged supernatural experiences and embellished stories. As stated, these events have provided sufficient evidences that Branham was not Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6, who restored the elect to the original word of God as the forerunner of Christ's second coming. Nor was he the seventh angel of Revelation 3:14 and 10:7, who revealed the seven seals and every hidden mystery of the Bible in the end time.

Moreover, Branham was not the fulfillment of the Son of man ministry of Luke 17:30, who revealed Christ to this generation as a prophet in human flesh. Neither did his alleged message fulfill the shout of Christ's return in 1 Thessalonians 4:16. In this chapter, we shall closely examine the errors found in the teachings of William Branham pertaining to the seven seals, supposedly the pinnacle of his alleged revelations.

Branham's Original Vision of Five Angels, Not Seven: Does it Really Matter?

As studied, Branham claimed that *seven angels* of God appeared while hunting in Arizona and told him to return to Jeffersonville to open the seven seals. Branham cited the cloud in Life Magazine as evidence of their appearance when he was hunting. But, facts shows he was not present (pages 11-28). Also, in a sermon preached on December 23, 1962, Branham originally told his church that he saw a vision of FIVE angels, NOT SEVEN.

And no more than the second group of birds come by, I looked to the West. And looked like in the form of a pyramid, like two on each side, with one in the top, **came five of the mightiest Angels** I ever seen in my life. Such a terrific speed, I never seen. Their heads back, and Their pointed wings, just sailing quickly! And the power of Almighty God struck me, in such a way, till It lifted me plumb from the ground, all the way from the ground, up. I could hear Joseph still speaking. _The Reproach For The Cause Of The Word 12-23-62

Now, this is all still in the vision. It wasn't... See? It was in the vision. And then, all at once, as I realized that I had been... They were around me. I couldn't see Them, but I had been brought into this constellation of a pyramid of Them, inside this **constellation of—of Angels, of five**. And I thought, "Now, death angel would will be one. **Five would be grace**." I was thinking that. I thought, "O h! It's—It's coming with my Message. That's my second climax. They're coming to bring me

the Message from the Lord." And I screamed out with all my might, as loud as I could, "O Jesus, what would You have me do?" And when I did, It just —just went away from me. _The Reproach For The Cause Of The Word 12-23-62

It just seemingly, just shakes me, that blasting and that **swift coming of those Angels** like that, **five of them together**, in a—a **constellation** of Them. _The Reproach For The Cause Of The Word 12-23-62

They looked kind of like that color of doves. And they were in—in coming from this way. And they, look like: **one, two; three, four; and then one right at the top**, see, **making five**. And they come with such a speed! There is nothing, no jets, no nothing else can compare with that. _The Reproach For The Cause Of The Word 12-23-62

As shown, Branham's original vision clearly consisted of a constellation of five angels, two on each side and one at the top. It is interesting to note that a few days later, on December 26, Branham and Lee Vayle discussed the possibility that these angels may be related to the seven thunders in Revelation 10:1-7. Mr. Vayle spoke of this in his book entitled: "Twentieth Century Prophet." [534]

Having discussed this peculiar vision with the author on Dec. 26, we felt, knowing this wonderful prophet of God, that **the angels who came with the voice of thunder were sent from God as a token that he would know what was in the tenth chapter of Revelation concerning the Seven Thunders** that John heard but did not write. This was a supposition. No one knew for sure what it meant.

As shown, God did not tell Branham that the vision of five angels pertained to the revealing of the seven thunders in Revelation 10:3-4. Branham's entire beliefs that the seven thunders would be revealed to him as the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7 came from a dialogue between him and Vayle. Vayle said it was a supposition (a guess).

However, on December 30, 1962, a few days after discussing the possibility that the vision of angels could be related to the tenth chapter of Revelation, Branham decided to change the vision from FIVE angels to SEVEN. How? First, he created doubt in the minds of his audience whether it was five or seven angels.

But, it shook the earth. And when it did, I was still looking westward. And way off into Eternity, **I saw a constellation of something coming**. It looked like that it might have been little dots. There could have been **no less than five, and not more than seven**. But, They were in the shape of a pyramid, like these messengers coming. And when it did, the Power of

Almighty God lifted me up to meet Them. Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir? 12-30-62E

So then, after Branham had counted and undoubtedly said the original vision consisted of FIVE angels, he then created doubt that it may have been five or seven. Afterward, he finally changed the vision to be exclusively SEVEN angels IN THE SAME SERMON.

Knowing nothing about it, a blast come forth, and **here come seven Angels from Eternity**. I said, "Lord, what would You have me do?" It wasn't told. I may have to go, first, to find out. I don't know. Might not even be that. I don't know. I'm just saying, "What if it is?" If it's Scriptural, that sounds very close to it. Don't you think so? [Congregation says, "Amen." —Ed.] Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir? 12-30-62E

After Branham changed the original vision from five to seven angels, he then begins to introduce to his church what he and Lee Vayle had discussed on December 26. They discussed that these seven angels may possibly be related to the seven thunders in the book of Revelation.

Look. Then, look, the capstone was not interpreted. See? "Get west, and come back." Or, is it this, it's **these seven Angels in this constellation that came to me**? And when I meet you at the Day of the resurrection, you'll see th at I lie not; God, my Judge. Or, is this that second climax that I talked about the other day? Is it of something coming forth for the Church? I don't know, I could stay on that a little bit, but I'll move on. Could it be that, the mighty thunder, or the seventh Angel in the seven, constellation, seventh -period constellation, their pyramid made in a form (three on a side, and one on top), and they dropped from Eternity? Could it be? **Is this the mystery, of the Thunders**, that will bring back the Headstone? You know, the pyramid never was capped. The Headstone is yet to come. It's been rejected. **Could it be, brethren, sisters?** Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir? 12-30-62E

As shown, Branham had to change the vision of five angels to seven to introduce the revealing of the thunders to a gullible audience, so he could connect it to these seven mysteries. Why? Because having five angels to open seven thunders would not fit into the idea. There had to be seven angels to reveal seven thunders. As studied, Branham had a propensity for changing visions to support his beliefs.

As clearly proven in chapters six and seven, Branham repeatedly changed his seven visions of 1933 to keep up with trends and unfolding events. Branham's tendency in changing visions and prophecies would have never been caught if his sermons from 1947 to 1965 had not been recorded. We would not have the luxury of searching his earlier statements regarding a vision or prophecy.

So, to connect the vision of five angels to the seven thunders, Branham had to change the numbers. By doing so, he got into gross error because the Bible shows these thunders occurring after the tribulation period. As we shall later discuss, John was forbidden to write what the seven thunders had spoken. But, Revelation 10:7 says they would be revealed during the days of the seventh trumpet angel, which occur in Revelation 11:15 after the great tribulation and the coming of two prophets to Israel (Rev. 11: 1-13).

Furthermore, Branham also attempted to connect his vision to the opening of the seven sealed book in God's right hand. By doing so, he got deeper into gross error because the Bible says only Christ could open these seals (Rev. 5:3-7) and literally set in motion the events shown in each one, as we shall later study.

Now, you remember when that was told there, the angels and the church ages. And now, in this, **it'll dovetail right into these Seven Seals that we're coming to speak. And the Seven Seals that we're trying to speak of**, when they come this time, is the seven written Seals. And these Seven Seals, as you know, is just the manifestation of the seven angels of the seven churches; but, there are seven other Seals that's on the backside of the Book, It's outside the Bible. Notice. Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir? 12-30-62E

As shown above, Branham had already planned to speak on the seven seals. As earlier stated, sermons preached on September and November of 1962 showed that he intended to speak on this subject after the renovation of his church.

And I think, if the Lord willing, **I want to take, the next time that we start, on the Seven Seals of Revelations** and the seven natural seals. In His Presence 09-09-62E

And this is suppose to be the time that **I'm to speak on those seven last Seals**. And they **didn't get the church ready**. And there is something, hindrance, that's caused it. That, I think the city is giving us a rough way, because of not adequate parking room for the amount of people that we're... that the church will hold. - Blasphemous Names 11-04-62M

As shown, Branham planned to speak on the seven seals months before he had his vision of five angels on December 23, which he conveniently changed to seven angels on December 30. Again, why a vision of seven angels? It took seven angels to open seven seals. Also, it was an attempt to add authority to fulfilling events that only Christ and a literal seventh angel could fulfill.

Furthermore, Branham had already scheduled the meeting for March 17-24. He had already made plans to return from Arizona to Jeffersonville before he met any alleged angels on February 28, 1963 instructing him to go back to reveal the hidden mysteries of the seven seals in March. As stated, he spoke of this planned meeting in a sermon preached in Tucson, Arizona on February 23, 1963.

I just got through going through them at my church. And returning back now, **beginning the 17th, to take the Seven Seals**. A Door In A Door 02-23-63

So, as you can see, William Branham's vision never consisted of seven angels, but five. Then, if there were only five angels, this meant that they could only open five seals and reveal five thunders. Branham had to make it seven angels to fit his upcoming schemes.

Nonetheless, based upon the fact that Branham had a vision of FIVE angels tells us that he was not sent by God to open the SEVEN seals or reveal the SEVEN thunders. Thus, as proven in Chapter Two, he had to copy various

writers in every sermon on the seven seals . Why? Because there were no five or seven angels from God revealing alleged hidden mysteries about the the seven seals.

As further consideration, do the followers of Branham realize that over 57 years has transpired since he claimed to fulfill major events that suppose to happen immediately before Christ's return? Over a half century have gone since he allegedly fulfilled the opening of the seven sealed book in God's right hand , revealed the unwritten secrets of the seven thunders, and fulfilled the seventh trumpet angel of Revelation 10:7 . Since that time, the world continues and Jesus has not yet returned.

Nonetheless, to undoubtedly show the gross errors of Branham's teachings concerning the seven seals, we shall examine scriptural truths regarding this subject in the following sections. Then, in Chapter 15, we shall consider scriptural truths about the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7 and the seven thunders. So, if you follow Branham, but willing to face facts and truths (John 8:30-32) that will clearly prove his teachings absolutely wrong about these subjects, then let us sincerely and prayerfully proceed.

Identifying the Seven Sealed Book in God's Hand

Did William Branham open the seven sealed book in God's right hand, even though the Bible clearly says no human was worthy to take the book, or to look thereon? No! Only Jesus the Savior was worthy to literally open the seven seals, not a man presenting borrowed written information about these seals from writers of the past.

Therefore, this study shall now prove by scriptures that Christ will open the seven sealed book in the last days shortly (approximately up to 7 years) before returning to the earth. He will literally set in motion the actual events of each seal upon the earth as they are opened . As we shall see, the horse riders and seals pertain to the future, not to past events. The following information is mostly taken from my book "The True Biblical Gospel of Jesus Christ Volume III," [535] where this subject is further discussed.

To begin our study , Revelation 5:1 -3 says God had a seven sealed book in his right hand that no human in heaven, earth, and under the earth was worthy to open and look thereupon, as shown below:

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne **a book** written within and on the backside, **sealed with seven seals**.

And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And **no man** in **heaven**, nor in **earth**, neither **under the earth** , was able to **open the book**, **NEITHER** to **look thereon**.

What is this seven sealed book in God's hand? Seeing that no human (including William Branham) was worthy to take this book except the Lamb of God, who was slain on Calvary's cross, tells us this book relates to redemption.

And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, **hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof** . And I

beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, **stood a Lamb as it had been slain**, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. Rev. 5:5-6

In view of Revelation 5:5-6, Jesus was qualified to take the book because he purchased the right after dying on the cross as the Lamb of God (John 1:29) and prevailing on the behalf of humanity. Revelation 1:18 tells us how Jesus Christ the Savior prevailed over death and hell through his crucifixion and resurrection; never to die again. In doing so, Christ redeemed his people by his shed blood , as stated in Revelation 5:9.

And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: **for thou was slain** [on the cross], and hast **REDEEMED US** to God **BY THY BLOOD** out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.

Therefore, it appears this book in God's right hand is a book pertaining to redemption since the crucified and risen Savior was the only one worthy to take, open, and read its content. He alone redeemed us by his shed blood. But more specifically, this book appears to be the title deed to the very inheritance that Adam lost in the beginning.

Why do I say this? Well, the book in God's hand was actually a scrolled document that had seven seals on its exterior. By comparison in Jeremiah 32:6-16, the title deed transferred between the prophet Jeremiah and his uncle's son was a sealed scrolled document—which was an established law and custom in Israel. This deed was referred to as "The Evidence."

...Buy thee my field in Anathoth: for the **right of redemption** is thine to buy it...And I subscribed [signed] **the evidence** [title deed], and **SEALED IT**, and took witnesses, and weighed him the money in the balances. Jeremiah 32:7,10

So I took **the evidence of the purchase** , both that which **was SEALED** according to the **law and custom**, and that which **was open**. Verse 11

Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; take these evidences, **this evidence of the purchase** , both **which is SEALED**, and this evidence which **is open**; and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may continue many days. Verse 14

In Jeremiah 32:6-16, the title deed transferred between the prophet and his uncle's son was a sealed scrolled document referred to as "The Evidence." The sealed title deed was the evidence that a purchase had been made; namely, Jeremiah's purchase of his uncle's property in their hometown of Anathoth (Jer. 1:1).

As shown, verses 11 and 14 says a section of this deed was open (for immediate verification of ownership) while the sealed segment was to be opened in the presence of the governing authority when the time came for someone to claim the property 70 years later after captivity (Jer. 29:10).

So then, the seven sealed scroll in God's right hand represent the title deed to Adam and Eve's lost earthly inheritance when compared with Jeremiah 32:6-16. In

Genesis 1:26-28, God originally gave the human race dominion over the earth as an inheritance. Psalm 115:16 says the heavens belong to the Lord, but he gave the earth unto the children of men (humans).

Again, Psalm 8:6 says God made mankind to have dominion over his creation. Thus, the title deed to the earth belonged to God's earthly children. Satan could never possess this inheritance legally. Why? Because he is a thief and squatter who craftily stole the world from God's children—Adam, Eve, and their descendants (Matt. 4:8-9; John 10:10). A squatter is a person who illegally occupies land without a title deed.

So then, when Adam and Eve obeyed Satan's voice instead of observing God's word, they surrendered the inheritance to the enemy. As a result, God allowed the enemy to take control of the world due to sin (Luke 4:5-6; John 14:30; Rom. 6:16; Eph. 2:1-3; 2 Peter 2:19).

Remember, once God had given the dominion of the earth to humans, it was theirs to keep or lose. When they temporarily forfeited the inheritance, God had to honor their decisions until he could legally restore it to the rightful owners. Until that time, the title deed to the earth, which was illustrated in Revelation 5:1 as a seven sealed scroll (book), returned to God's right hand.

The Role of a Kinsman Redeemer Explained

Why did the title deed return to God? He is the original and legal owner of the earth (Lev. 25:23; Psalms 24:1) under whose rule Adam and Eve had joint ownership and dominion (Gen. 1:26-28; Psalm 8:3-8; 115:16). So, when they relinquished their authority unto Satan (Luke 4:6; Eph. 2:2), the book (title deed) rightfully returned to God and remained there until the legal heir(s) could reclaim the rights to the inheritance through redemption.

The person possessing the sealed title deed in God's hand will have the evidence that the earthly inheritance belongs to him. However, Adam and Eve were incapable of redeeming the world that they lost through disobedience and sin (Gen. 3:22-24). But, God had a law that a capable kinsman could redeem the lost inheritance on behalf of his fallen family members (Leviticus 25:24-25,47-49).

Sadly, Psalm 49:7-9 says none of Adam's descendants were capable of redeeming what he had lost. Why? Because Adam's sin made every descendant sinners (Psa. 51:5; Rom. 3:23; 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:22), which disqualified them from redeeming anyone. As a result, the inheritance was temporarily forfeited to Satan who stole it (Luke 4:5-6).

According to God's laws of redemption, only a relative of the person who lost the property had the legal right to redeem it. For example, Jeremiah's first cousin asked him: "...buy my field that is in Anathoth, which is in the country of Benjamin: **for the RIGHT of inheritance is yours, and the redemption yours; buy it for yourself...**" Jeremiah 32:8 (NKJV).

Now, please consider the scriptures pertaining to Christ Jesus' legal rights to redeem Adam and his descendants' lost inheritance.

And **NO MAN** in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. Verse 3

And one of the elders said unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the **tribe of Juda, the Root of David**, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. Verse 5

Notice, verse 3 initially says no man (human) was worthy to take the book. But, in verse 5, a man appears from the tribe of Judah, a descendant from the lineage (root) of King David. Who is this man? Where did he come from? The following verses give us a clue.

God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is **NONE that do good, NO, NOT ONE**. Psa. 53:2-3

And **he** [God] **saw** that there was **NO MAN**, and wondered that there was **NO INTERCESSOR**: therefore **his arm brought salvation** unto him and his righteousness it sustained him. Isa. 59:16

And **I looked** [God speaking], and there was **NONE TO HELP**; and I wondered that there is **NONE TO UPHOLD**: therefore **mine own arm brought salvation** unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. Isa. 63:5

As shown, there was initially no human worthy to save us until the Lord Jesus (God's arm in the above verses) became a man and our kinsman redeemer. Thus, the Lord from heaven became the *man* Christ Jesus (1 Cor. 15:47; 1 Tim. 2:5). Revelation 5:5-6 referred to him as the Lion from the tribe of Judah and a Lamb that was slain.

Christ's reference as being the lion of Judah speaks of his kingship as foretold in Genesis 49:8-11. The prophecy said this coming king from Judah would bring peace (Shiloh) and ride into the city of Jerusalem on a donkey (Matt. 21:1-11) and gathers (redeems) the people through his blood (garments washed in blood of grapes).

So, the prophecy of Genesis 49:8-11 not only spoke of Christ as the coming lion King from the tribe of Judah, it also foretold his work of redemption through his shed blood as the Lamb of God.

Likewise, Revelation 5:5-6 speak of Christ Jesus' first coming to the earth as the Lamb of God who redeemed us from sin, death, and hell. Thereby reclaiming the seven sealed title deed to its rightful owners (the humans race).

Revelation 5:5-6 also speaks of Christ Jesus' second coming as the King who will sit on the throne of David in Jerusalem and rule the entire earth after taking and opening the seven sealed title deed (Luke 1:32-33). Hence, the seven sealed title deed pertains to Jesus' redemption—as the lamb of God—of the lost inheritance forfeited by Adam and Eve, and taking possession of the redeemed property as the King of kings—the lion of Judah (Rev. 19:11-21).

For this very reason, the Lord Jesus came from heaven to become the Son of man (John 1:1-3,14,18; 1 Cor. 2:8; 15:47): supernaturally conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin human mother (Matt. 1:18-21). By doing so, he became Abraham's promised seed and our very

kinsman (Heb. 2:9-16; 1 Tim. 2:5-6)—a legitimate member of the human family. A person who was born holy (Luke 1:35) and lived sinless (Heb. 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22).

Therefore, Jesus was more than qualified and capable of redeeming the human race from the dire consequences of Adam and Eve's terrible blunder, who lost the family's inheritance through disobedience and sin. Hebrews 9:15 informs us that by means of Jesus' death and redemption, we received the promise of eternal inheritance; the very one that Adam and Eve forfeited. Ephesians 1:11 also speaks of this redeemed inheritance.

Hebrews 9:16-17 tells us that the New Testament is likened to a legal document called a "Will." This deed declares the written intentions of a person (testator) regarding the distribution of his or her estate after death. The "Will" also informs the legal heirs of any asset or wealth of the estate bequeathed (freely given) unto them.

Jesus' death and shed blood on the cross redeemed the inheritance forfeited by Adam and Eve's sins. The Bible is somewhat of a legal "Will" of our inheritance because it tells us the birthrights, blessings, and gifts God has freely bequeathed to us through Jesus' death on the cross.

The story of Boaz and Ruth is a classic example of the role of a kinsman redeemer. Elimelech, who was from the tribe of Judah, moved to Moab along with Naomi his wife and two sons due to a famine in his homeland. Many years later, his wife was the only one who returned alive to Israel, accompanied by Ruth—her daughter-in-law (Ruth 1:1-20). Ruth 1:21 tells us that she left the land of Israel full (wealthy) and returned home empty (in poverty).

Nevertheless, Ruth 2:1 says "...Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz." Boaz was the son of a courageous woman of faith name Rahab (Heb. 11:31) and the great grandfather of King David. Boaz was not only an actual ancestor of Jesus Christ (Ruth 4:21-22; Matt. 1:5), he foreshadowed Christ's role as a kinsman redeemer. In the story of Ruth, Boaz redeems Naomi, who was a Jewess; Ruth, who was a Gentile; and the inheritance of Elimelech his relative (Ruth 4:7-11).

Likewise, when the Lord Jesus became our kinsman, he redeemed both Jews and Gentiles on the cross by his shed blood (Ephesians 2:11-17), and rightfully purchased Adam's lost possession. Jesus, by redeeming what Adam had lost, became worthy to legally take the title deed from God on behalf of Adam and those he redeemed. Revelation 5:9 says Jesus was worthy to take and open the seals of the book (title deed). Why? Because he paid the price that God required for redemption by his shed blood on the cross.

And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art WORTHY TO TAKE THE BOOK, and to OPEN THE SEALS thereof: **for thou was slain** [on the cross], and hast **REDEEMED US** to God **BY THY BLOOD** out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation. Revelation 5:9

Understanding the importance of blood sacrifices

Before proceeding with our study, we should ask: "Why did redemption of the human race require the

blood of Jesus Christ?" Well, first of all, God's original penalty for sin was death. He told Adam and Eve that the day they ate of the forbidden tree they would "surely die" (Genesis 2:17). Afterward, death remained the penalty for sin (Ezek. 18:4; Rom. 6:23).

Nonetheless, when Adam and Eve did sin, Genesis 2:21 says God made for them "*coats of skin, and clothed them.*" Coats of skin signified that an animal(s) was killed (a sheep?) and its blood shed. Thus, God was the first to offer a sacrifice on behalf of his fallen children.

As stated in Volume II of my Book "The True Biblical Gospel of Jesus Christ" (pages 119-120), God allowed an animal sacrifice to die in Adam and Eve's place and partially satisfied demands for their immediate death. This substitutional death help curtailed the enormous damage that sin had inflicted on their relationship with God. How? By permitting the blood of a slain animal to make a limited atonement on their behalf (Heb. 10:4).

As a result, God continued his relations with Adam and the human race and did not eternally condemn them as he had done to Lucifer and his fallen angels when they had sinned (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:12-16). 1 Peter 2:4 says "...God *spared not* the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell...."

However, the sacrifice slain for Adam and Eve could not reverse the sentence of death already imposed upon them as a result of their transgression. Nonetheless, God thereafter chose the blood of animals deemed as clean (e.g., sheep, cattle, goats) to temporarily make atonement for sinful humanity so he could have some measure of fellowship with the people of his fallen creation.

God specifically chose the "blood" of these particular slain animals to atone for humanity's sin because the life of the body is in the blood. Thus, shed blood represents death because life is leaving the body. So then, it took the death (shed blood) of one to substitute for the life of another, as it is written in Leviticus 17:11:

For **the life** of the flesh **is IN THE BLOOD**: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for **it is the blood** that **makes* an atonement** for **your soul**.

Thus, there is no forgiveness of sin or atonement for anyone without the penalty of death being satisfied, which is illustrated in the shedding of blood. Hebrews 9:22 says the same: "*And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and **without shedding of blood is no remission*** [forgiveness of sins]."

However, an innocent animal dying in the place of sinful humanity had limitations. Although this animal partially atoned for Adam's and Eve's sins, it could not reverse the eternal damage they had initiated (Heb. 9:12).

Hebrews 10:1-14 informs us that animal sacrifices had to be continually offered because they could never permanently take away sin. It would take a far more superior sacrifice to make an onetime payment to undo the eternal penalty Adam and Eve had inflicted upon themselves, their descendants, and creation.

Therefore, since the sins of once perfect humans brought everlasting damnation to all of humanity, it would take the righteousness of a perfect human dying as a perfect sacrifice for the sins of imperfect humans to reverse this everlasting damnation (Romans 5:15-19).

But, until this perfect sacrifice came, God accepted the sacrificial substitute of clean animals as a temporary solution so that he could maintain a limited measure of fellowship with Adam, Eve, and their descendants.

Revelation 5:5-6 shows that Jesus as the Lamb of God and the perfect slain sacrifice had come and prevailed by shedding his blood on the cross and rising from the dead. Afterward, verse 7 shows Christ taking the seven sealed title deed [book] of the earth from God's right hand. Then, verse 9 shows the elect praising him for redeeming them by his blood. The next verse shows the redeemed resolutely saying:

And **made US** unto our God **Kings** and Priests, and **WE SHALL REIGN ON THE EARTH.** Revelation 5:10

The fact that the redeemed said "*we shall reign on the earth*" as kings (Rev. 1:5-6) proves that the acquisition of this book by Jesus the kinsman redeemer restored Adam's lost inheritance to his rightful descendants. Remember, Adam and Eve were given authority to rule the earth (Gen. 1:26-28). Originally, Adam was the true "Prince of this world" under God his Father before Satan acquired this title due to his forfeiture (John 14:30; Eph 2:2).

When Adam lost this authority, Christ regained it by prevailing over sin, death, the grave, hell, and Satan by his crucifixion, burial, and resurrection (Col. 2:14-15; Rev. 1:18). He has regained the authority of the earth that Adam had surrendered to the enemy. Acts 5:30-31 tells us that after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead: God exalted him with his right hand TO BE A PRINCE and a Savior. Acts 17:7 refers to Jesus as a King. Revelation 19:16 calls him the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

The fact that Jesus took this title deed from God's right hand is very significant. The term "right hand of God" is extensively used in scriptures to symbolize his awesome power (Ex. 15:6,12; Psalm 20:6). Because Christ prevailed over our enemies, he now sits on God's right hand of power (Matt. 26:64; Acts 7:55-56), not as he had formerly done before becoming a human (John 1:1-2, 14; 17:24).

The Lord Jesus now sits in heaven on the behalf of all believers (Eph. 2:5-6; Heb. 9:24) as our kinsman redeemer, conquering Savior, High Priest, mediator, and the true ruler of the earth. He has legitimately overthrown Satan through his sacrificial death on the cross, his burial, and his literal bodily resurrection on the third day (Col. 2:13-15).

As a result, the Savior declares himself as the new authority of the earth in Matthew 28:18, saying: "...**All power** [authority] is **given unto me** in heaven and **in earth**. Moreover, the redeemed are joint-heirs with him (Rom. 8:17-18; Daniel 7:13-14,18,22,27; Rev. 2:26-27; 5:10; Rev. 20:4-6). Notice, after Jesus takes the title deed to the earth, the angels of God and the entire universe praises him (Rev. 5:11-14; read Romans 8:19-23).

As you can see, the gospel's message of redemption is very much involved in revealing and providing the reason for the seven sealed book. Through Jesus' sacrificial death and shed blood on the cross, he redeemed his people and purchased the seven sealed title deed to the earth.

As kinsman redeemer and the rightful heir (Rev. 5:6-10), Christ eventually restores this title deed in the last days to those who are joint-heirs with him when he comes to claim and possess the purchased inheritance (Rom. 8:16-23; Eph. 1:11-14; 4:30). Thus, considering the above facts of redemption, Branham was not worthy to open this book..

Understanding When the Seven Sealed Book is Opened

Before discussing truths concerning the opening of the seven sealed title deed to the earth, it is important to understand the particular point in time when this event actually happen. Branham believed it occurred in March of 1963 (see page 29). But, Daniel 7:13-14 provides a clue.

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like unto the **Son of man came with the clouds of heaven**, and CAME TO THE ANCIENT OF DAYS, and they **brought him near before him**. Verse 13

And **THERE WAS GIVEN HIM** him **dominion**, and **glory**, and **A KINGDOM**, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. Verse 14

As we shall further discuss later, the above prophecy pertains to the second coming of Jesus Christ to the earth. According to this prophecy, prior to Christ's literal return to the earth on clouds, he first goes before the throne of God (the Ancient of Days). Afterward, verse 14 says he is given dominion and a kingdom over the entire earth.

In Revelation 5:1-10, God's word provides a clearer understanding of Daniel's visions. Daniel saw this Son of man coming before God's throne (Ancient of Day) and given a kingdom before returning unto the earth. Likewise, Revelation 5:1-6 shows Jesus as the Lamb of God, our kinsman Redeemer (the Son of man), coming before God's throne prior to his return to the earth in Revelation 19:11-16 as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Also, Daniel 7:14 shows this Son of man receiving an earthly kingdom after appearing before God's throne. Likewise, Revelation 5:7; 8:1-6; and 11:15 shows Jesus our kinsman redeemer receiving an earthly kingdom by taking the seven sealed title deed from God's right hand of power, and opening the last seal that eventually leads to this world becoming a part of the kingdom of God. Similar to Daniel 7:18,22, and 27, John saw the redeemed ruling the earth with Christ in Revelation 5:9-10 and 20:4-6.

Again, Daniel 7:14 shows the Son of man receiving "...*dominion, and glory, and a kingdom*, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him...." Likewise, Revelation 5:11-12 tells us how this Son of man received that *dominion, glory, and kingdom*. He did so after taking the seven sealed title deed. After taking the scroll, a vast

company of angels gathered around the throne and said to the Lamb of God: "...Worthy is the Lamb, that was slain to RECEIVE power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing..."

Did you see it? Jesus received the dominion, glory, and kingdom that Daniel foretold by taking the seven sealed title deed from God's right hand. So, this book (scroll) has not yet been opened. Based upon the rise of the end time Antichrist in the first seal, its opening will be gin around seven years before Jesus' return to the earth (discussed in "The True Biblical Gospel of Jesus Christ Volume III." [536]

Overview: A Brief Summary of the Seven Seals

The opening of the first seal

William Branham taught followers to believe that the opening of the seven seals simply involved interpreting the symbols and applying them to historical or future events. Well, as studied, many theologians and Bible teachers have done the same, from which Branham copied nearly his entire understanding of the seals (see Chapter Two).

So then, any minister can claim to open the seven seals if it simply involves teaching on the subject. But, the actual opening of the seals is more than teaching about them; it involves setting in motion the very events shown in each one. As this summary shall show, only Christ can open the seven sealed title deed to the earth by setting end time events into motion before his return, as shown in each seal.

Remember, the seven seals are not the title deed. They externally seal this document. Branham placed so much emphasis on the seven seals rather than the actual title deed that will give Jesus the legal right to claim, return, and possess the earth during his second coming.

During the opening of the first seal, John saw a white horse rider who was given a crown and went forth conquering. Who is this rider? Either he is Jesus Christ, who comes back on a white horse (Rev. 19:11), or he is the Antichrist. I do not have sufficient space in this book to thoroughly elaborate on this subject, but this rider is the rise of the antichrist *in the last days*.

Considering 1 John 2:18 and 4:1-7, the spirit of the Antichrist appeared during first century Christianity. The word *antichrist* means "against Christ" and "in the place of Christ." It was against Jesus by introducing false doctrines into the church through a counterfeit ministry (2 Cor. 11:1-4,13-15; 2 Pet. 2:1-3). This spirit replaced the true Christ by getting people to trust false church systems and Popes for salvation rather than the finished work of his cross. The Pope's title *Vicar of Christ* means "In the stead of Christ." This spirit has used the Popes and others to come against Bible-believing followers of Christ throughout history.

Nevertheless, the opening of the first seal is not particularly referring to manifestations of the spirit of the Antichrist during past church and secular history through various antetypes (earlier forms or prototypes).

For example, Daniel 7:7-8 speaks of a leader (little horn) rising from the Roman Empire (fourth beast). Historically speaking, the Holy Roman Empire and the

papacy emerged from the ruin of pagan Rome.

However, Daniel 7:7-8 along with verse 25 ultimately speak of the end time Antichrist who will rule the world for 3.5 years. In verse 25, "a time and times and dividing of times" regarding the end time Antichrist's rule equals 3.5 years. In Revelation 13:1-8, John saw the same Antichrist ruling the world for 42 months, which equals 3.5 years.

When comparing the little horn in Daniel 7:8 with the end time Antichrist in Revelation 13:5, both verses describe a person who had a mouth that spoke great things and blasphemies against God.

I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another **little horn** [referring to the Antichrist], before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn *were* eyes like the **eyes of man**, and **A MOUTH SPEAKING GREAT THINGS**. Dan. 7:8

And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the **beast** [the Antichrist]: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who *is* like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him **A MOUTH SPEAKING GREAT THINGS** and blasphemies; and **power was given unto him to continue forty and two months**. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. Rev. 13:4-6

So then, the Holy Roman Empire and the papacy of the past were antetypes of the end time Antichrist. Perhaps, for this reason, the following verse describes the beast as a past, non-existing, and futuristic power.

The beast that thou sawest **WAS**, and **IS NOT**; and **SHALL ASCEND** out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they **behold the beast** that **WAS**, and **IS NOT**, and **YET IS**. Rev. 17:8

According to Revelation 17:8, the end time beast shall ascend out of the bottomless pit and afterward go into perdition (eternal punishment). Both Daniel 7:11 and Revelation 19:20 shows this end time Antichrist (also referred to as "the beast") being cast into the lake of fire.

Also, Daniel 8:20-27 spoke of Antiochus Epiphanies, a ruthless king who appeared at the end of the Grecian empire. However, when this prophecy is closely examined, it clearly speaks of the Antichrist, who appears before Christ's return to the earth. Antiochus was an antetype (see Daniel 11:21-32) of the coming end time Antichrist (Dan. 11:35-45). The name "Antiochus Epiphanes" means "god manifest," which describes the false claim the Antichrist shall make during his reign (Dan. 11:36-37; 2 Thess. 2:4).

Thus, the opening of the first seal speaks of the literal coming of the Antichrist in the last days, who comes during the seventieth week (last 7 years period) foretold in the books of Daniel (Dan. 9:24-27) and Revelation (chapter 13). As stated, the sealed book is being opened during this time. Hence, the order of events shown in the opening of each seal only happens in the last days shortly before Christ's return to the earth to establish his kingdom.

Therefore, seeing that the opening of the first seal

appears to refer to the rise of the Antichrist in the last days, we must now ask: What has the rise of this man to do with the title deed to the earth and Jesus Christ's return to set up and establish his kingdom? Well, the first clue is shown in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3.

Now we beseech you, brethren, **by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ**, and by our gathering together unto him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that **the day of Christ is at hand**. Let no man deceive you by any means: **FOR THAT DAY SHALL NOT COME**, **EXCEPT** there come a falling away first, and THAT MAN OF SIN **BE REVEALED**, the *son of perdition*.

When speaking of the end time Antichrist, Paul says the day of Christ cannot happen until this person appears. The day of Christ speaks of his literal return to the earth to establish his kingdom as foretold in Daniel 7:13-14. Also, chapters 19 and 20 of Revelation speaks of the same time.

In describing the Antichrist, the apostle calls him the man of sin and the son of perdition. The only other person specifically called the "son of perdition" in the scriptures was Judas Iscariot (John 17:12).

In reference to Judas being the son of perdition, Jesus literally called him "a devil" in John 6:70-71. The Greek word for *devil* in verse 70 is not "daimonia," which refers to demons in other scriptures in the KJV Bible where the word "devils" appears. The word is "Diabolos," which is the literal name for Satan, meaning "the Devil."

In the scriptures, demons are the ones most often shown possessing people, not Satan. Because Judas was the son of perdition, Satan literally persuaded and possessed him to betray Jesus (John 13:2,27). Likewise, Satan will possess and incarnate in the coming Antichrist and rule the entire world through him. The world will worship him (Rev. 13:1-18; 17:7-14). According to prophecy, this Antichrist will not only sit in the temple of God claiming to be a god (Dan. 11:36-37,45; 2 Thess. 2:4): he will also have great power from Satan, as shown in 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9.

And then shall that **Wicked be revealed**, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: *even him*, whose **coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders**.

As stated, there are various antetypes of the Antichrist throughout history. But, none of them has fulfilled the above scriptures; none has operated in the full power of Satan as this man who is to come. Thus, when considering 2 Thessalonians 2:1, Jesus cannot return to set up his earthly kingdom until the literal Antichrist first appears and fulfill prophecies in the books of Daniel and Revelation.

Not only did Paul mention this fact in 2 Thessalonians 2:1, the book of Daniel foretold the same. For example, in the Daniel 2:36-45, the prophet saw four historical world powers pertaining to Babylon, Medes and Persia, Greece, and Rome. In verses 41-45, he saw a rising 10 nations empire of the last day that is destroyed by Jesus (the Stone), which is also shown in Revelation 17:11-14. After

this empire is destroyed, Christ establishes the kingdom of God on the earth. Thus, the return of Christ and the kingdom of God residing on the earth cannot happen until the Antichrist first appears and unites with these nations..

As stated, Daniel 7:8 ultimately speak of the end time Antichrist, as also foretold by Paul and John. After verse 8 foretold the coming of the antichrist, verses 9-14 spoke of his destruction, the return of Jesus Christ, and the coming kingdom of God to this earth. Again, in view of these prophecies, Jesus and the kingdom of God cannot come to the earth until this end time Antichrist first appears, as verified by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:1.

Again, Daniel 11:36-45 speaks of the same Antichrist of the last days, who appears before the great tribulation and Christ's return during the time of the resurrection from the dead (Dan. 12:1-3). Because the prophecies of Daniel pertained to the last days, the rise of the Antichrist and the coming kingdom of Christ cannot happen until God's appointed time (Dan 12:4,8-10). Actually, Daniel 12:8 says the prophecy was closed and sealed to the time of the end. Only the Lord Jesus can unseal the prophecy.

Thus, when Jesus opens the first seal, he ushers in the appointed time for the end time Antichrist to rise from the bottomless pit (Rev. 17:8), be crowned as a king (dictator), and eventually conquer nations and establish a new world order. The Antichrist could not have appeared and done the above feats until Christ opens the first seal. Only Christ can open this seal by putting into motion those events.

By allowing the Antichrist to rise during the first seal according to prophecies written in the books of Daniel and Revelation, Jesus was unleashing prophecies leading up to his return and the coming kingdom of God to the earth, which is foretold to follow the other events.

Remember, Genesis 3:15 foretold that Jesus could not bruise the head of Satan until he was first bruised by him on the cross. Likewise, Christ cannot return to the earth to establish his kingdom until he allows the Antichrist to rule the world for 42 months as foretold in prophecy. After this is completed, Jesus Christ has every right to retake the earth from Satan and the Antichrist after the seven sealed title deed is fully opened (information taken from "The True Biblical Gospel of Jesus Christ Volume III." Further details concerning this subject is discussed in that book).

The opening of seals two through six

Now that we recognize the opening of the first seal pertains to the end time Antichrist, we may now realize the rider of the red, black, and pale (in Greek, pale green) horses in the second, third, and fourth seals could be the same person. Or they can represent the unleashing of events after the ascension of the Antichrist. Remember, Christ is the only one who can put into motion these end time events as he opens the seven seals to fulfill biblical prophecies foretold in the book of Daniel.

Thus, the white horse rider of the first seal, which subtly resembles Christ's return on a white horse (Rev. 19:11), may represent the beginning of the Antichrist's peaceful rise to power as a false humanitarian messiah,

accompanied with great signs and wonders to deceive the world to accept him (Dan. 8:23-25; Matt. 24:24; 2 Thess. 2:9-10; Rev. 13:11-14). Daniel 8:25 says he will destroy many by peace (1 Thess. 5:1-3).

Moreover, the first seal shows that after a crown was given the white horse rider, he went forth conquering and to conquer. Eventually the end time Antichrist will be crowned as a great leader and begin his conquest of the earth to bring a new world order. Antiochus Epiphanies, who is an antetype, came in peaceably before killing tens of thousands of Jews (Dan. 11:21-33, see "Antiochus IV Epiphanies" – Wikipedia).

The red horse rider of the second seal may represent the Antichrist's abandoning all pretense of peace and utilizing unmatched wars to achieve his goal of world conquest (Dan. 11:36-45; Rev. 13:7-8). The black horse of the third seal may signify the Antichrist utilizing financial upheavals, inflations, food shortages (famines), and hunger to gain control of the economy and persuade people to receive his mark to buy and sell (Rev. 13:16-17).

The fourth seal says the riders (death and hell) were given power over *one-fourth* of the earth to kill people by wars, hunger, attacks from wild beasts, and death (other means of deaths, such as pestilences and natural disasters – Matt. 24:7; Luke 21:25-26). This seal may relate to the Antichrist using his military and satanic powers to bring destruction upon countries attempting to resist his rule, which may include Russia (King of the north) along with China and other eastern countries (Kings of the East), as shown in Daniel 11:44 and Revelation 16:12.

In Revelation 6:9-11, when the fifth seal is opened, John saw the souls of martyrs who were killed for the word of God and their testimony (Rev. 1:9). They were told to rest a little while longer until other redeemed martyrs are killed like them. After the Antichrist had conquered the world through false peace and persuasion, bloody wars, financial and economic upheavals, and inflicting various types of death, there will be a group who will not be deceived and succumbed to the Antichrist. However, they will be killed by the Antichrist during the great tribulation, which consist of converted Israelites and others from among the nations (Dan. 7:25; Rev. 7:14,9-14; 12:17; 13:7-9,15; 14:3; 20:4, see Comments on pages 52-53).

In Revelation 6:12-14, when the sixth seal is opened, a massive earthquake occurs that is followed by a complete blackout of the sun as the moon becomes red as blood during the night. Then, great masses from outer space (e.g., stars, comets, asteroids) will begin to fall upon the earth. According to Isaiah 13:9-11, these events introduces the Day of the Lord, which is the time period whereby he punishes sinners of the world for their evil deeds.

During this time, the earth's surrounding atmospheres are shaken while every mountain and island are physically moved from their places. This violent shaking of heaven (outer space and atmospheric spheres – Gen. 1:6-8,14-18) and earth were foretold in Haggai 2:21-22 and Hebrews 12:25-28. This shaking is the sign that the kingdoms of the earth shall be overthrown and destroyed in preparation for

the literal coming of God's kingdom upon the earth.

Daniel 2:44-45 tell us that during the reign of the last Gentile's rule on the earth (referring to the Antichrist's empire), the God of heaven shall set up a kingdom upon earth that shall never be destroyed. It will break in pieces and destroy every other man-made kingdom.

Moreover, Revelation 6:15-17 says that when the leaders of governments (kings), leaders of militaries (chief captains), leaders of corporations (rich men), influential people (great men), soldiers (mighty men), and every human (bondsmen and freemen) beheld the judgment signs of the sixth seal: they knew the wrath of God had finally come. They will try to hide themselves from the impending doom. Considering Malachi 4:3, by the time Christ and the redeemed physically return to the earth for the 1,000 years reign, the wicked shall be ashes under the soles of their feet, which signifies conquest of the earth (Joshua 1:3).

Before the opening of the seventh seal

Before Christ opens the seventh seal of the title deed to the earth in the eighth chapter, Revelation 7:4-8 tells us that God seals 144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel. Why? They are sealed from the oncoming wrath of God as he prepares to bring more destruction upon a wicked world by four angels (vs. 1-4). God is making preparation for the coming kingdom age when his redeemed saints shall take, possess, and forever have dominion over the entire earth, as foretold in Daniel 7:18,22, and 27.

After the 144,000 Israelites are sealed, John saw a vast multitude of people from every nation standing before God's throne. They were washed in the blood of Jesus Christ and came through great tribulation (Rev. 7:9-17).

There are differences of opinions whether these people represent Christ's raptured church who experienced many tribulations throughout history (Acts 14:22; 2 Thess. 1:4; Rev. 1:9; 2:9-10), or people particularly saved during the great tribulation (Matt. 24:21-22), or represent both groups.

Nevertheless, several facts are certain about this group: (1) They stood before the throne of God and the lamb – vs. 9, (2) They were countless – vs. 9 (3) They were clothed in white robes – vs. 9, (4) They worshipped God and praised him for salvation – vs. 10, (5) Their sins were washed away by Jesus' shed blood on the cross – vs. 14 (Rev. 1:5; 5:9), (6) They came through great tribulation – vs. 14, (7) They will forever reside in God's presence – vs. 15, (8) They shall hunger and thirst no more – vs. 16, and (9) The light and heat of the sun shall be upon them no more.

Please notice, Revelation 7:17 speaks futuristically of this group when it says Jesus shall feed and lead them to fountains of living water and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. These future expectations not only speaks of the time when Jesus shall reign on the earth for 1,000 years, but ultimately about the new heaven and new earth (Rev. 5:9-10; 19:1,11-14; 20:1-6). Why do I say this?

The reason being, Revelation 21:1-7 and 22:1-5 clearly shows that the time when the sunlight shall shine no more on these saints, or the time Jesus shall feed his people from the tree of life and lead to fountains of living water, and

God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes: particularly happens on the new earth during the coming kingdom age.

Therefore, this innumerable company of believers is waiting for Christ to open the last seal of the title deed to the earth. Why? So he could fully claim the inheritance that Adam and Eve had forfeited and they can enjoy paradise on earth, as it was before the fall (Gen. 2:4-15; 3:22-24).

Remember, John saw a number of people that no one could count (Rev. 7:9), which fulfills God's promise to Abraham regarding his seed [(Gen. 13:16; 15:5)—for more details, read *The True Biblical Gospel of Jesus Christ*, Vol. I, pages 141-147]. So then, this multitude could represent all the redeemed of God, whether they came through tribulations in the past or the pending future (Rev. 20:4).

Understanding the opening of the seventh seal

During Jesus' first coming, he established the spiritual kingdom of God on the earth through the Holy Spirit (Rom. 14:17; Col. 1:13). The physical aspects of his kingdom had not yet come (John 18:36). However, the redeemed of God (represented by the 24 Elders, 144,000 Israelites; countless multitude, and large host in heaven – Rev. 5:8-10; 7:4-17; 15:1-4; 19:1-3) are awaiting the time when Christ shall establish his literal kingdom on the earth. To do so, the Savior must open the last seal to the title deed of the earth.

In Revelation 8:1, when the final seal to the title deed is opened, there is a scripturally unprecedented solemn moment in heaven as everyone becomes silent for half an hour. Even the cherubims and seraphims that constantly praise God day and night go silent. Likewise, the praises of the twenty Elders, who surround the throne of God, goes silent (Isa. 6:1-3; Ezek. 1:4-28; Rev. 4:7-11).

Such an unparalleled act of silence could only mean one thing. Something great had happened or about to happen that is unmatched in history. What could it be? Well, as studied in Chapter Two, a few speculative answers are provided. Charles Taze Russell says it pertains to unfolding truths that will be completely revealed by the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7, referring to himself and his message (see pages 59, 117-119).

Uriah Smith says there is silence in heaven because the Lord has left his throne to gather his people on the earth (see pages 60). William Branham views are similar to those men (see pages 59-60, 117-119), from whom he may have gotten his teachings that includes Clarence Larkin's comparison of the seven seals with Christ's discourse in Matthew 24:4-30 (pages 53-59). Although some people accept the above views of Smith and Russell, the scriptures does not synchronize nor support these interpretations.

So, what do we know about this opened seventh seal? Well, Jesus had officially reclaimed the earth that Adam and Eve forfeited because he possess a fully opened title. Therefore, he has legal right to removed all squatters from the earth. As stated, a squatter is a person who unlawfully occupies a land without a title deed. The Devil and wicked men are squatters because they tried to occupy God's earth (Psalm 24:1) without the title deed (Job 9:24; Luke 4:6).

Because Jesus opened the seventh seal in Revelation

8:1, the following verses 2-6 shows judgment striking the earth as seven trumpet angels prepare to unleash God's wrath on a wicked world. This is done in preparation for Christ to reclaim the kingdoms of this earth (Rev. 11:1-5). He will retake the earth from Satan and ungodly men in the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:14-16; 19:11-21), and set up his earthly kingdom (Zech. 14:9; Rev. 20:1-6).

As we shall soon study, when the last of the seven angels blows his trumpet in Revelation 10:7 and 11:15, the nations of the earth officially become Satan's kingdom. Before this time, the nations belonged to Satan's kingdom (Luke 4:6), not Christ's kingdom (John 18:36).

The official reclaiming of the nations during the days of the seventh angel is the result of Christ opening the last seal of the title deed. This opening gave these angels legal jurisdiction to bring judgment upon those occupying the Lord Jesus and the saint's inheritance, who shall eventually possess the kingdom (Dan. 2:44; 7:13-14, 18, 22, 27; Rom. 8:17; Luke 1:32; Rev. 2:26-27; 5:10; 20:4-7).

Silence in heaven is scripturally unprecedented. But, in Zechariah 2:13, God commands all flesh on the earth to be silent before him (also Hab. 2:20). Why the silence? This verse goes on to say "...for he is raised up out of his holy habitation." So then, the Lord commanded silence because he had risen from his throne (perhaps figuratively) and was about to do something.

The verses before Zechariah 2:13 futuristic shows God coming to dwell in Israel, which includes many people from among the Gentile nations.

Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, **I come**, and I will **dwell in the midst of thee**, saith the LORD. And *many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people*: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee. And **the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land**, and shall choose Jerusalem again. Zech. 2:10-12

As shown, God tells the earth to be silent as he comes to possess his inheritance in Israel. This prophecy was not fulfilled in the days of Zechariah, even though God came by his Spirit to help the Jews to repossess their inheritance, complete the rebuilding of the temple (Ezra 5:1-4; 6:14; Zech. 4:1-10), and later helped Nehemiah to complete the rebuilding of the walls surrounding Jerusalem (Neh. 6:1-16) after their Babylonian captivity. But, during that time, God did not literally dwell in Jerusalem, neither did many Gentile nations joined him and became his people. This happens in the New Testament's era (Rom. 3:29; 9:24).

Thus, the prophecy of Zechariah 2:10-13 will not fully happen until Christ opens the title deed, two prophets appears to modern day Israel, and the seventh angel blows his trumpet (Rev. 11:1-15). Then, Christ shall return and literally inherit the throne of David and dwell in Jerusalem in the millennium according to the prophecy.

So then, does the silence on earth has any connection to total silence in heaven in Revelation 8:1? Yes, as both pertains to the same events and something long foretold by many prophets of old, as we shall see in the next chapter.

Chapter Fifteen

William Branham's Erroneous Teachings Regarding Revelation 10:4 and 7

Our prior investigation of William Branham have uncovered some serious issues such as repeated plagiarisms, false teachings, failed visions, failed prophecies and predictions, and failed *Thus saith the Lord*, along with unverifiable supernatural experiences and embellished stories. In this chapter, we shall continue to examine chief errors found in the teachings of William Branham regarding the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7.

Seven Thunders and Seventh Angel of Revelation 10:4 and 7 Misinterpreted

As studied (pages 116 -119), Branham's alleged claim of fulfilling Revelation 10:4 and 7 was one of the pinnacles of his ministry. Along with the claim of having restored the church to its original faith as Elijah of Malachi 4:5-6, his fulfillment as the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7 was to reveal all the mysteries of the Bible. Including those of the seven seals and seven thunders shown in verses 3 and 4.

Now this messenger of Malachi 4 and Revelation 10:7 is going to do two things. **One:** According to Malachi 4 he will turn the hearts of the children to the fathers. **Two:** He will reveal the mysteries of the seven thunders in Revelation 10 which are the revelations contained in the seven seals. It will be these **Divinely revealed 'mystery-truths'** that literally **turn the hearts of the children to the Pentecostal fathers**. Exactly so. *An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age*

It was in the end-time period that the seven thunders of Jesus came forth. Revelation 10:3-4, "And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not." **What was in those thunders no one knows.** But we need to know. And **it will take a prophet to get the revelation because God has no other way of bringing out His Scriptural revelations except by a prophet.** *An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age*

Branham definitely believed he was the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6, the Son of man coming of Luke 17:30, and the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7. So sure that he spoke such "*in the name of the Lord*," as shown below. Yet, in less than a month, he was dead (Deut. 18:20-22)

God has promised His Word, how It would be fulfilled and how It would come to pass when He chose His Bride, how it would be done. **It's happening right before you**, *in the Name of the Lord*, and that's by the original Word! **The evening-time Message is here.** How many remembers Haywood when he

wrote: It shall be Light about the evening time, The path to Glory you will surely find. Yes, **the evening promise of the Seven Seals, of Revelation 10, Malachi 4, Luke 30** and 10. *Trying To Do God A Service Without It Being God's Will, 11-27-65B*

Again, Branham was so sure he was the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7 that he falsely wrote in his book "*Thus saith the Lord*" to strongly convey unto his followers that this prophet-messenger was already here (even though over 54 years have transpired and Christ have not returned).

But now according to the time wherein we stand in the Laodicean Age, **the 'Prophet-messenger' of Revelation 10:7 must already be in the land.** Once more "*Thus saith the Lord*" **must be here**, ready to be manifested with infallible vindication. *An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Nine - The Laodicean Church Age*

As the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6 and the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7, Branham confidently believed he revealed the seven thunders of Revelation 10:3-4.

Something happened the other day. You read, or heard the tape, "**the seven thunders**," What Time Is It, Sir? See? **It happened the other day.** You know these things. **The time is at hand, church.** The time is at hand. Don't, don't, don't wait any longer. *God Hiding Himself In Simplicity 04-12-63E*

As shown left, Branham said "*the seven thunders... are the revelations contained in the seven seals.*" During a question and answer section, he said, those seven thunders were revealed during his seven sermons on the seven seals.

395. **Have the seven thunders which equals seven mysteries already been revealed?** Were they revealed in the seven Seals, but are yet—but are yet not known to us as the thunders yet? No, **they were revealed in the seven Seals**; that's **what the thunders was about.** *Questions And Answers #4, 08-30-64E*

When preaching the First Seal, Branham said the seven thunders will produce rapturing faith. So then, if the seven seals are the seven thunders, why has it not produce rapturing faith in followers after 57 years (see pages 161 -162)? Why? Because Branham's teachings on Revelation 10:4-7 is false, as this study shall show. Sadly, he deduced the 7 thunders to messages plagiarized from several Bible teachers and books of the past, as studied in Chapter Two.

And then there is **coming forth seven mysterious Thunders** that's not even written at all. That's right. And I believe that, **through those Seven Thunders**, will be revealed in the last days in order to **get the Bride together for rapturing faith.** *The First Seal 03-19-63*

During a sermon preached in 1964 entitled "The Feast of the Trumpets," Branham realized that chapter 10 of

Revelation occurs between the sixth and seventh trumpet angels. In chapters 8 and 9, the previous six angels unleashed unprecedented havoc on the earth. In attempting to become the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7, Branham had to find a way to explain how the previous six trumpets were already fulfilled. He does so by telling the gullible audience that six trumpets had already sounded during Israel's gathering to their homeland in 1948 due to persecutions by Hitler and others. He gave no historical evidences to verify his statements because there are none.

As we shall study, there are historical facts verifying that Branham's final interpretation of the trumpets is wrong just as his initial one was flawed. Initially, during the first seal's sermon (of which he claimed divine inspiration from an angel), he taught that one of the seven trumpets was blown during each of the seven church ages accompanied by one of the seven seals being opened and one of the seven vials of plague being poured out (see page 36). But, in the 1964 sermon, he dumps this befuddled interpretation.

Nevertheless, the World War II era by no means came close to matching the horrific calamities unleashed by these six trumpet angels. The havoc they shall unleash upon the earth is still futuristic. But, as shown below, Branham mentions the first trumpet without explaining how the calamities foretold in it were historically and factually fulfilled over 72 years ago during Israel's 1948 gathering..

Now, this calling, of the Feast of the Trumpets, the approaching of something. Notice **Revelation 8:7**, if you want to write down. We notice **the First Trumpet, there scattered hail, blood, fire, upon the earth**; just **exactly with Exodus, when God was calling His people out**, of the exodus. _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M

The—the gathering of Israel is the Trumpets. **The Trumpets is to gather Israel**. Notice, the very **First Trumpet** sound; **blood, fire, hail, and everything, scatter the ground**. See? What was He doing? **Bringing Israel out of spiritual Egypt**, see, **back into his homeland**. _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M

So, according to Branham, the first trumpet was God calling the Jews out of spiritual Egypt to their homeland, in 1948 using disasters similar to the days of Moses (likely borrowed from Larkin, see pages 56-57). But, he provides no facts. Afterward, he does not even mention the second, third, and fourth trumpets. He briefly mentions the fifth trumpet without providing any explanation or historical facts of its fulfillment; other than to say that Lucifer through the Pope is the king of the bottomless pit.

Revelations 9:1, under the Fifth Trumpet, their king ... Notice, Revelations 9:1 now, the king of this great group of two hundred thousand horses. They had a king over them, and, if we notice, it was a fallen star. "Why art thou fallen from heaven, **O Lucifer?**" _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M
"Beast which was, which is not, which is; which is not, which is." Don't change its order; **it's pope**, the same time, everything. Everything has to go in the same system. And it shall come where? "**To the bottomless pits.**" And the Bible said here, that, "**The leader of these fellows was from the bottomless pits, and that was their king,**" and **he sets with a triple crown**, and joining the **Protestants with him**. _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M

Branham does not read the actual scriptures to his audience in chapters 8 and 9 about the trumpets because some of them would easily see that Israel's return to their homeland in the 1940s did not fulfill those shown in these chapters. After providing no explanations about the first and fifth trumpets, and saying absolutely nothing about the second, third, and fourth trumpet: Branham jump to the sixth angel and told his church that the sixth trumpet were blown during Hitler and Stalin's persecution of the Jews, which was based on an old belief he taught since 1956.

Note, in Revelation the 9th chapter and the 13th verse, now notice real close, under the **Sixth Trumpet. Revelations 9:13**, under the Sixth Trumpet, note, there was **two hundred thousand horsemen** that had been bound in the river of Euphrates, was turned **loose under the Sixth Trumpet**. _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M

And notice **what happens under that Sixth Trumpet**. They were **turned loose on the Jews**; the persecution of the Jews. **Supernatural devils**, nearly two thousand years, then **loosed by Stalin, Hitler, upon the Jews**.. _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M

...Seeing God hardening the hearts of **men like Stalin, Hitler, Mussolini**, and all those **to persecute the Jews**, and **run them back to the homeland**, we know the time is at hand. _The Handwriting on the Wall 09-02-56, Par. 35

As shown, Branham told his audience that the 200,000 demonic horsemen loosed upon the Jews were the armies of Stalin and Hitler. He miscalculated the numerical total of horsemen in Revelation 9:16. The correct total is two hundred million (200,000,000). To make the claim that a prophet has the divine interpretation of God's word and miscalculate a simple multiplication undermines his claims.

After sabotaging the true meanings of the trumpets by placing them in history without any factual proof of their fulfillment, Branham finally arrives at the tenth chapter. In this chapter he can now join Moses and Elijah between the sixth and seventh trumpets after placing the other trumpets' fulfillment during the WWII era. So now, he can claim to be Revelation 10:7, Malachi 4:5-6, and Luke 17:30.

When finished, at Laodicean Age, **according to Revelations 10, the mystery of all the Bible would be known to the Bride**. Is that right? [Congregation says, "Amen."—Ed.] Revelations 10. Listen close now. Uh -huh. Bride, called out by the Word; Christ Himself calling out the Bride, making plain Hebrews 13:8, that He's "the same yesterday, today, and forever," does the same, is the same. "He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also." See? Luke 22... Or, **Luke 17:30**, and **also Malachi 4**, Hebrews 4:12, all these Scriptures that's promised, **this is to be between the Sixth and the Seventh Seal**, and the **Sixth and the Seventh Trumpet**. _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M

Now notice, the ministry of Moses and Elijah will... Now, everybody get it? Let me say it again. **The ministry of Moses and Elijah, between the Sixth and Seventh Trumpet**, will be two prophets that will... they... Israel always believe their prophets. _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M

Notice, watch here, **the ministry will be Moses and Elijah**, changing and **calling Israel from the Jewish traditions**. _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M

Now, the same as those two prophets did! **Remember, the Gentile Bride is to have a prophet, called Elias, Elijah,** that's to call them out of their traditions, **the Bride**; just the same as these prophets called Jews out of Judaism, to Christ, the Atonement. _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M

The seven... Listen! The **Seventh Church messenger**, the **Seven Trumpet messenger**, is **all prophets**. Now, that's right. _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M

And **between the Sixth Trumpet and the Seventh Trumpet**, there is a **prophet to appear** before **the Gentiles**, to call the people back to the original pentecostal Doctrine; and the **two witnesses of Revelations 11 appear to the Jews**, to send them to Jesus, while the Church is being taken up. **All of them, prophets!** _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M

As further misuse of the scriptures, Branham says Moses and Elijah calls the Jews by the mystery of the seventh trumpet rather than a literal angel actually blowing this trumpet in Revelation 11:15.

And the Jews is called by the **mystery of the Seventh Trumpet, which is two prophets, Elijah and Moses**, and they come back. _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M

Branham is totally wrong. Actually, when the seventh angel blows the seventh trumpet in Revelation 11:15, verse 12 says these two prophets are already gone. They have nothing to do with this seventh trumpet.

And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And **they** [the two prophets] **ascended up to heaven in a cloud**; and their enemies beheld them. Verse. 12

Disproving Branham's Claim of Revelation 10:7

In providing biblical evidence that William Branham was not the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7, this study shall scripturally prove that the tenth chapter happens between the sixth and seventh trumpets. By doing so, facts will show that Branham could not possibly be the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7. Why? Because the six trumpets leading up to the tenth chapter has not yet happened. These seven trumpets, which are blown by seven literal angels, will unleash unprecedented destruction upon the earth. The information shown below is mainly taken from my book "The True Biblical Gospel of Jesus Christ Volume III." [537]

The first evidence against Branham's claim as being Revelation 10:7 is that these seven trumpets occur *after the seventh seal is opened in Revelation 8:1-2*. If Branham claimed to open all seven seals in 1963, then how could six trumpets have been blown during Israel's return to the homeland in the 1940s before the seventh seal is opened. But, he said the seventh seal has not yet opened because it is the coming of the Lord. Then again, he claimed to open all seven seals (see quotes on pages 60, 65, and 221).

And I was brought East, **to open the Seven Seals for God**. _Standing In The Gap 06-23-63M

The **Seventh Seal hasn't opened yet**, you know. That's **His Coming**. _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64

Branham also said the church will not go through the

great tribulation. But, it will be raptured at the end of the seven church ages in the third chapter. The seventh seal in chapter eight occurs after the tribulation period has begun in chapter seven, which has not yet happened. So, how could he claim to open the seventh seal when the great tribulation period has not begun, or the sixth seal of natural disasters has not yet happened? Or, how could he claim to open the seventh seal or be the seventh angel in the tenth chapter if the church is raptured at the end of the third chapter and does not appear again until chapter nineteen?

Notice, John, being taken up immediately after the church age, was a type of the raptured Church. **Immediately after the church age is over, this Laodicean Church Age, then comes the Rapture.** _Revelation, Chapter Four #1, 12-31-60

The first is the first three chapters, pertains to the Church, the Message, the angel... to the angels of the Church. And from... And then **She disappears right there in the 3rd chapter, does not appear again until the 19th chapter**, in the 19th chapter She returned. **Between this time, God is dealing with the Jews.** _Revelation, Chapter Four #1, 12-31-60

John caught up in the 4th chapter to see things which was, which is, and which is to come. But the **Church finishes at the 4th chapter**, and **Christ takes up the Church**, caught up in the air to meet Him, and **does not appear again until the 19th chapter when He comes back** with—as King of king and Lord of lords with the Church. _The First Seal 03-16-63

Also, after the seventh seal is opened by Christ, seven angels were given seven trumpets (Rev. 8:2). As each angel blows a trumpet, the unmatched disasters released on the earth disproves Branham's claim that these were fulfilled during Israel's return to the homeland in the 1940s.

The **first angel sounded**, and there followed **hail and fire mingled with blood**, and they were cast upon the earth: and the **THIRD PART of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up**. Verse 7

When the first angel sounded, verse 7 tells us that a third part of the world's trees and grasses were burned by an unprecedented hailstorm consisting of ice, fire, and blood. The total land mass of the earth is approximately 57.5 million square miles. [538] A third part of the trees and grasses being consumed would be the combined sizes of Russia, China, United States, Canada, Mexico, and India, which would equal the size of three continents: North America, South America, and Australia. [539] Based on historical records, this prophecy has not yet happened.

And the **second angel sounded**, and as it were a **great mountain burning with fire** was cast into the sea: and the **third part of the sea became blood**; And the **third part of the creatures** which were in the sea, and had life, **died**; and the **third part of the ships were destroyed**. Verses 8-9

When the second angel sounds, an enormous burning mountain (perhaps a comet or asteroid) falls into the sea and causes great destruction to marine and human lives. As a result, one-third of the world's ships and aquatic life are destroyed, while one-third of the sea becomes blood. Discounting battleships, one-third of today's cargo ships are nearly 17,000; and one-third of the seas becoming

blood would be the size of the Atlantic Ocean plus one-half of the Indian Ocean. Never has one-third of the world's ship and aquatic life been destroyed by a comet or asteroid that caused one-third of the seas turning into blood.

And the **third angel sounded**, and there fell a **great star from heaven**, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the **third part of the rivers**, and upon the **fountains of waters**; And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and **the third part of the waters became wormwood**; and **many men died of the waters**, because they were made bitter. Verse 10-11

When the third angel sounds, a great burning star named Wormwood falls from the sky and poisons one-third of the rivers and underground aquifers, resulting in the death of many people. In the United States alone, one-third of its 250,000 rivers and tributaries, which are 3.5 million miles long, would be 83,333 rivers poisoned. Based on historical records, this prophecy has not yet happened.

And the **fourth angel sounded**, and the **third part of the sun** was smitten, and the **third part of the moon**, and the **third part of the stars**; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the **day shone not for a third part** of it, and the **night likewise**. Verse 12-13

When the fourth angel sounded his trumpet, one-third of the sun, moon, and stars were smitten so that a third part of the daytime was darkened, and a third part of nighttime was daylight. As a result, one-third of the daylight turned to night time for nearly 4 hours, and one-third of the night became daylight for nearly 4 hours. As shown, the blowing of these trumpets are futuristic.

After the fourth angel blew his trumpet, another angel appeared and issued a dire warning to the people of the earth. In Revelation 8:13, please notice that the sounding of the trumpets of the seven angels are called "voices."

.....woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other **VOICES of the trumpet** of the THREE ANGELS [referring to the 5th, 6th, and 7th angels], which are yet **to sound**.

We now come to the ninth chapter (Rev. 9:1-12) when the fifth angel sounds *his voice* by blowing the trumpet. During these days, demonic creatures in the bottomless pit are released upon the earth and torment people for five months. At this time, which occurs in the great tribulation period, Revelation 9:6 says: "...in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them." These evil creatures have a king over them whose very names means destroyer. This five months occurrence, when people seeking death cannot die, has not yet happened.

In Revelation 9: 13-21, when the sixth angel blows his trumpet, more misery comes upon the earth as four angels bounded in the river Euphrates are loosed. They will kill one-third of the world's population with an army of 200 million demonic beings. Using current census estimate, nearly 2.53 billion people will die. When loosed, these four angels will achieve their horrendous destruction within one year, one month, one day, and one hour (391 days).

During this time, the people who were not killed by

these demonic beings refused to repent from their evils. Branham said this trumpet was Hitler and Stalin's murder of the Jews. But, the fact that 2.53 billion people have not yet been killed by an army of 200 million demons (or humans) within 391 days proves it has not yet occurred.

After the six trumpet angels have finished releasing God's wrath on Satan's kingdom in preparation for Christ's return, Revelation 11:15 says the seventh angel's trumpet announces God's kingdom on the earth. Thus, Branham is not the 7th angel because none of the above have occurred.

Understanding the Mystery of the Seventh Angel

Before the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7 blows his trumpet in Revelation 11:15, the other six angels have completed their missions in the 8th and 9th chapters. Also, before the seventh angel appears, Revelation 10:1 says a mighty angel descends from heaven with a little book in his hand. He sets one foot in the sea and the other on the earth and spoke aloud as a lion roars.

Revelation 10:4 said seven thunders uttered their voices in response to this angel's voice. John heard what the thunders had spoken, but was told not to write what they said. Verse 7 said this mystery would be finished in the days of the voice of seventh angel of Revelation 11:15, when he begins to sound.

But in the days of **THE VOICE** of the **seventh angel**, when he shall begin **TO SOUND**, the **mystery of God should be finished**, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets [**mystery foretold in the Old Testament**]. Rev. 10:7

The "voice" mentioned in Revelation 10:7 is the same found in Revelation 8:13, where they refer to the "blowing of trumpets" by literal angels. It does not refer to an end time prophet bringing a message to the church, as William Branham erroneously claimed.

...woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other **VOICES of the TRUMPET** of the THREE ANGELS [referring to the 5th, 6th, and 7th angels], which are yet **to sound**.

Moreover, the Greek word for "sound" in Revelation 10:7 actually means "to sound a trumpet." This is the same Greek word used when the other seven angels "sounded" their trumpets in Revelation 8:7-8,10,12 and 9:1,13; 11:15.

Thus, the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7 is the seventh trumpet angel of Revelation 11:15. He is a continuation of the previous trumpet angels in the 8th and 9th chapters. The paraphrased renderings (in bold letters) of Revelation 10:7 would say:

But in the days of **the trumpet** of the seventh angel, when he shall begin **to blow his trumpet**, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

But in the days when the seventh angel of Revelation 11:15 blows his trumpet, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets [mystery foretold in the Old Testament].

The tenth chapter of Revelation is a lull between the sixth and seventh trumpet angels. Why? I do not have adequate space to provide a complete answer in this book

(fully discuss in my book "The True Biblical Gospel of Jesus Christ Volume III"), but one of the reason for the lull is that Revelation 11:1 -13 must occur before the seventh angel blows his trumpet. In these scriptures, God sends two prophets to testify to Israel for 3.5 years to help fulfill the seventy weeks foretold by Daniel (Dan. 9:24-27). After this time elapse, then the seventh trumpet angel mentioned in Revelation 10:7 blows his trumpet in Revelation 11:15.

But in the **days of the VOICE of the SEVENTH ANGEL** [of Rev. 11:15], when he shall begin **to sound** [in Greek, "to trumpet"], the mystery of God should be finished, as **he hath declared to his servants the prophets.** Rev. 10:7

And the **seventh angel** [Rev. 10:7] **sounded** [the voice of the trumpet]; and there were great voices in heaven.... Rev. 11:15

Notice, when Revelation 11:15 occurs, verse 10:7 says the mystery of God declared unto the prophets will be finished. What is this mystery and its completion? First, it is not Branham claiming to reveal all the mysteries of the Bible that he borrowed from past biblical writers (see chs. 2-4). But, to find the answer, we must consider what the prophets of the Old Testament declared. When considering 1 Peter 1:10-11, these men not only foresaw the sufferings of Christ, they also saw "...the glory that should follow...."

What was the glory that followed the first coming of Christ? Well, the prophets foresaw Christ's first coming as the Savior of humanity and his second coming as the Messianic King of the earth. 1 Peter 1:11 says they were searching and trying to find the time that God would bring to past the sufferings of Christ and his glorious kingdom.

Thus, the mystery of God pertains to Christ and his coming kingdom on the earth. For this reason, after Jesus' resurrection, he spent forty days teaching his disciples about his coming kingdom. Afterward, they wanted to know the time this would occur (Acts 1:3,6).

Amongst the Jews there were much discussions and anticipation about the coming kingdom of God to the earth. Why? Mainly because the prophets of the Old Testament extensively foretold its coming. Based on Revelation 10:7, the hidden truths of what they foretold would be finished in the days of the voice of the seventh trumpet angel.

The concept of God's messianic kingdom on earth was foreshadowed throughout the Old Testament, especially during Solomon's reign. But, what God explicitly declared to the prophets regarding this kingdom can be found in: Numbers 24:15-19; 2 Samuel 7:12-17; Psalm 2:1-12; 45:1-17; 72:1-20; 89:3-4,19-29;35-37; 110:1-7; 132:11; Isaiah 2:1-4; 9:6-7; 11:1-9; 65:17-25; Jeremiah 23:5-6; 30:1-10; 30:1-10; Ezekiel 37:15-28; Daniel 2:44-45; 7:13-14,18,22, 27; 12:1-3; Joel 3:17-21; Amos 9:11-15; Obadiah 1:15-21; Habakkuk 2:14; Micah 4:1-4; Zephaniah 3:13-20; Haggai 2:21-23; Zech. 14:1-21; Mal. 4:1-3, and Luke 1:30-33.

In the Old Testament, the prophets foresaw the first coming of Christ as the Savior who redeems his people. They also foresaw his second coming as the King, the Son of David from the tribe of Judah, who will rule the world.

Considering these facts, the mystery of God declared unto the prophets concerning the literal coming of God's

kingdom to this earth is finished in the days of the voice of the seventh trumpet angel. When this happens, the kingdoms of this world, which is ruled by Satan and ungodly men (Job 9:24), literally becomes God's kingdom. The earth is rightfully restored to its legal heirs: Christ and his saints (Dan. 7:13-14,18,22,27; Rom. 8:17) before their actual arrival in Zechariah 14:4-9 and Revelation 19:11-21.

And the **seventh angel** [Rev. 10:7] **sounded** [the voice of the trumpet]; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, **THE KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD ARE BECOME THE KINGDOMS OF OUR LORD, AND OF HIS CHRIST; AND HE SHALL REIGN FOR EVER AND EVER.** Rev. 11:15

Now please do not misunderstand, Daniel 4:25-26 says the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men and gives it to whomsoever he will. God made king Nebuchadnezzar an example that heaven rules. However, even though God ultimately rules, the kingdoms of the earth are still under the domain of ungodly men and Satan—the prince of this world (Luke 4:6; John 14:30; 2 Cor. 4:4; Gal. 1:4; Eph. 2:2; 6:12; 1 John 5:19). This evil domain will remain until Jesus' return, who is God's rightful heir from the human race. He will overthrow and remove all squatters from the earth on the behalf of his redeemed human family.

So then, Daniel 4:25-26 speaks of God's kingdom ruling over a wicked world still under the domain of Satan and demons (Eph. 6:12). But, Revelation 11:15 speaks of the nations of this present evil world literally becoming God's kingdom on the earth and soon ruled by Christ and his people, rather than Satan and ungodly humans.

The kingdom of God foretold by the prophets was also taught by the apostles in the New Testament. Although the apostles spoke of the spiritual aspects of God's kingdom as presently being under the rule of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 14:17; Col. 1:13), they also spoke of its literal coming to the earth (Acts 14:1 Cor. 6:9-10; 15:24-28; Gal. 5:21; Eph. 5:5; 2 Tim. 4:1,18; Heb. 12:28; Jas. 2:5; 2 Pet. 1:10-11; 3:13; Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 11:15; 19:11-16; 20:1-6; 22:3-5).

When proclaiming the kingdom of God, Paul would refer to the Old Testament prophets (Acts 28:23). Even John the Baptist proclaimed this kingdom (Matt. 3:1-2; Luke 16:16). Likewise, the Lord Jesus spoke often of the kingdom of God, sometimes using parables to conceal its mysteries (Matthew 4:17,23; 5:3,19; 6:10,13,33; 8:11-12; 10:7; 11:11-12; 12:25-28; 13:1-53; 16:28; 18:3-4,23; 19:12-14,23-24; 20:1-16; 21:31,43; 22:1-14; 23:13; 24:14; 25:1-46; Luke 17:20-25; 19:11-12; John 3:3-5). Actually, the mystery of God's kingdom goes back before the world began (Matt. 25:34) and the patriarchs (Heb. 11:13-16).

Before this world's system is terminated, Jesus says the gospel of the kingdom must be preached to all nations as a witness (Matt. 24:14). This witness must include the message of Christ's death on the cross for our sins, his burial, and resurrection on the third day (1 Cor. 15:1-4,11).

How can anyone purport to preach the kingdom of God without telling people how to enter therein? Anyone doing so is not proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom that the apostles preached (Acts 20:17-25; 28:23). In Matthew 16:18, the Lord gave Peter the keys to the kingdom of

heaven, and he used them in the book Acts by preaching the gospel before anyone was water and Spirit baptized.

So then, in the days of the trumpet (voice) of the seventh angel mentioned in Revelation 10:7 and 11:15, the mystery about the Messianic kingdom of God's arrival to the earth that he declared unto the prophets will be finished.

In Mark 4:11, Jesus told his disciples: "...Unto you it is given to know *THE MYSTERY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.*" 1 Corinthians 15:24-28 speaks of the coming kingdom of God at the end of the age and how Christ shall subdue all enemies and deliver it unto the Father.

Thus, the completion of this mystery is the earthly kingdom that Adam and Eve lost being restored (Gen. 1:26-28; Psalm 8:3-8; 115:16; Heb. 2:5-11). It is restored to Christ the last Adam (1 Cor. 15:45) and his redeemed church who are his rightful heirs (Rom. 4:13; 8:16-17).

So then, the first Adam and Eve lost the inheritance, while the last Adam and Eve [of whom the church types (2 Cor. 11:1-3; Eph. 5:27; Rev. 19:7-9)] are restored. Christ and the redeemed shall reign on the earth in the future kingdom age of the world to come (Dan. 7:13-14, 18, 22, 27; Matt. 19:27-28; Rev. 2:26; 3:21; 5:9-10; 20:6). In Psalms 2:6-12, God promised to give his Son—the newly coronate king—absolute dominion of the heathen for an inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for a possession.

Furthermore, when considering the mighty angel of Revelation 10:1, the descriptions seems to point to Christ or a representative of him. Why do I say this? Well, first, this angel is clothed with a cloud; which in times past, God had appeared in a cloud (Exodus 13:21-22; 14:24; 16:10; Matt. 17:5). Secondly, this angel had a rainbow upon his head. In the scriptures, the rainbow represented God's covenant with mankind (Gen. 9:8-17) and only associated with him (Ezekiel 1:26-28; Rev. 4:3).

Thirdly, this angel's face shone as the sun. Revelation 1:16 says Jesus' face shines as the sun. Fourthly, this angel's feet looked like pillars of fire. Revelation 1:15 says Jesus feet look like brass, as if they burned in a furnace. Fifthly, this angel roared as a lion. Revelation 5:5 refers to the Lord Jesus as the lion of the tribe of Judah, which speaks of his kingship.

As studied, Jesus is by no means an angelic being nor Michael the archangel (page 203). The Hebrew and Greek word for "angel" also means "messenger." The Lord Jesus is not a literal angel; but, as an apostle sent by God (Heb. 3:1), he is the messenger or bringer of the New Testament (Isa. 52:7-10; Mal. 3:1). Deuteronomy 18:15 and Hebrews 1:1-3 speaks of him as being a prophet and the final messenger of God (Fully discussed in *The True Biblical Gospel of Jesus Christ*, Volume III, pages 317-318).

Notice! In Revelation 10:1-4, when John saw what figuratively appears to be Christ with the open title deed in his hand, the earthly possession under his feet (Josh. 1:3), and speaking out loud as a roaring lion (the King of the earth): he then heard seven thunders responding by uttering their voices. It is important to note that Christ does not physically appear on the earth; this scenario is mostly metaphoric or spiritual (Matt. 24:23-28, see pages 26-28).

When John was about to write what the seven thunders had spoken, he was forbidden to do so. Instead, he was told the mysteries of the thunders and the one that God declared to the prophets would be finished in the days of the "voice" of the seventh trumpet angel (Rev. 10:5-7; 11:15).

Remember, Revelation 8:13 says the "voices" of the seven trumpet angels were *the blowing of their trumpets*. These voices were not literal words. However, the voice (trumpet) of the seventh angel of Revelation 11:15 is also accompanied by literal voices: "*The seventh angel sounded and there were GREAT VOICES in heaven SAYING....*"

Based upon scriptures, it appears the great voices in heaven in Revelation 11:15 may be the same voices of the seven thunders in Revelation 10:3-4, or connected to them: "*and when he had cried, SEVEN THUNDERS uttered their VOICES*" (vs. 3). Why? Because Revelation 10:5-7 says the mystery of God spoken by those seven thunders were to be finished in the days when the seventh angel blows his trumpet. Therefore, it must happen as God had spoken.

Thus, if John had written what the seven thunders said in chapter 10 before the appearing of the seventh angel, it would have been scripturally out of place. Why? Because those thunders could only occur at the proper time in chapter 11 due to the announcement they had to make.

Now please keep in mind the book of Revelation was not written to conceal mysteries, but to reveal them unto God's people (Rev. 1:1-3). Daniel was told to seal his book to the time of the end (Dan. 12:9). But, in Revelation 22:10, John was told not to seal the sayings of the prophecy of this book because the time is at hand.

In scriptures, God's voice is likened to thunder (Job 37:4-5; John 12:28-29; Rev. 4:5). So then, what do these great voices reveal during the days of the seventh angel? They announce the mystery that no one knows except God. A mystery that not only speaks of Jesus' return, but the time he sets up his earthly kingdom after saving his elects from among modern day Israel during the great tribulation period, as shown in Zechariah 14:1-9, Matthew 24:29-36, Romans 11:15-28, and Revelation 7:1-8 and 11:1-14.

Thus, these great voices announces the time of Christ's earthly kingdom, saying: "**THE KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD ARE BECOME THE KINGDOMS OF OUR LORD, AND OF HIS CHRIST; AND HE SHALL REIGN FOR EVER AND EVER.**" They divulge an answer denied to the apostles about the kingdom's arrival.

Jesus answered [Pilate], **My kingdom is not of this world**: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: **but NOW is my kingdom not from hence.** John 18:36

When they therefore were come together, **they** [the apostles] **asked of him**, saying, Lord, wilt thou **at this time restore again the KINGDOM to Israel?** And he said unto them, **It is NOT FOR YOU TO KNOW the TIMES or the SEASONS,** which the Father hath put in his own power. Acts 1:6-7

At the end of the great tribulation period shown in Matthew 24:21 and 29, Jesus says in verse 31: "...he shall

send his angels with a GREAT SOUND OF A TRUMPET....” Verse 31 further says these angels will gather his elect throughout the earth—which are from Israel and those saved among all nations (Rev. 7:1-17). During this time, verse 30 tells us the people of the earth shall mourn when they see the “...*Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*”:

In Matthew 24:36, the day and hour of Jesus’ second coming that no one knows except God speaks of the time when he returns in the clouds to set up and establish his kingdom on the earth. During this time, Revelation 1:7 says every eye shall see Christ’s coming in the clouds and shall mourn. In Daniel 7:13-14, the prophet saw the same event in a vision. He saw Christ’s return to the earth in the clouds of heaven as the Son of man. He was brought before God to receive dominion, glory, and a kingdom.

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like unto the **Son of man came with the clouds of heaven**, and came to the ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

And there was **given him** dominion, and glory, and a **kingdom**, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed

Please notice, Matthew 24:30 and Daniel 7:13 speaks of Jesus’ returning to earth in the clouds as the “*Son of man.*” As studied, he was born of a human mother for the purpose of redeeming us. By doing so, he became the Son of man; that is, a literal human of the lineage of Abraham and David (Matthew 1:1). On the earth, Jesus referred to himself as both the Son of God (John 3:16; 5:25; 9:35; 10:34-36) and the Son of man (Matt. 8:20; 9:6; 12:40).

As Son of God, Jesus was the promised One foretold in scriptures to rule all nations (Psa. 2:7,12; Prov. 30:4; Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Matt. 1:18-23). As the Son of man he became Abraham’s seed and our kinsman redeemer, a genuine member of the human family: thereby having legal rights to redeem us based upon God’s redemption laws (Lev. 25:47-49; Psalm 49:7-9; Jer. 32:6-10; Heb. 2:16-18; 9:11-12).

The term “Son of man” verifies the fact that Jesus came literally in the flesh (John 1:14; 2 John 1:7) and not as a theophany, as when God physically appeared and literally ate food with Abraham (Gen.18:1-8). This term verifies that he was born the son of a human family (see page 228).

In Revelation 12:1-5, Jesus is called the “man child;” the one born among humans from the nation of Israel (Isa. 66:7-9), who will rule all nations with a rod of iron (absolute dominion). In verse 5, the term “man child” speaks of his humanity as the Son of Abraham and King David; the one who would possess the enemy’s gate (Gen. 22:15-18) and sit upon David’s throne (Luke 1:32-33).

So then, in Daniel 7:13-14, when the prophet saw Christ’s second coming, he saw him returning not only as Lord and King as did John (Rev. 19:16). Daniel saw him as the Son of man our kinsman Redeemer, a legit member of the human race. In Daniel’s visions, he saw this Son of man being brought before the Ancient of Days (God) and

receiving a kingdom. Not only for himself, but along with the saints (1 Cor. 1:2), as shown in verses 18,22, and 27.

As stated in the previous chapter, Revelation 5:1-10 clarifies Daniel’s visions. Daniel saw this Son of man coming before God’s throne and given a kingdom prior to returning to earth. Likewise, Revelation 5:1-6 shows Jesus our kinsman Redeemer—the Son of man and Lamb of God—coming before God’s throne prior to his return.

During this time, Jesus received the dominion, glory, and kingdom that Daniel foretold (Dan. 7:14). How? By taking the seven sealed title deed from God’s right hand as stated by John (Rev. 5:7,12). Among the entire human race, Jesus as the Lamb of God and our kinsman redeemer was the only one worthy to receive the title deed on the behalf of his human family. As a result, Satan’s earthly kingdom was now doomed after Christ acquired the title deed.

In comparing Jesus’ return in Matthew 24:29-36 with Daniel 7:13-14, the day and hour of his second coming, which no one knows except God, speaks of his return in the clouds to set up and establish his earthly kingdom with the saints. Matthew 24:31 says this glorious event will be accompanied by a GREAT SOUND OF A TRUMPET.

So, in Revelation 10:7, the mystery of God finished in the days of the voice (trumpet) of the seventh angel will be fulfilled in Revelation 11:15, which officially announces Jesus’ earthly kingdom. This declaration may be the sign of the Son of man, which appears before his actual visible coming (Matt. 24:30) in Revelation 19:11-21.

So then, is the seventh trumpet of Revelation 11:15 the same one that occurs during Christ’s return in Matthew 24:31? It appears not, even though chapter 19 mentions no blowing of a trumpet at that time. There are questions if the trumpet in verse 31 is the same as the raptured church in I Corinthians 15:52 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16, or does verse 31 refer to the gathering of tribulation saints among Jews and Gentiles (Rev. 7)—discussed in Volume III.^[540]

Nonetheless, several other things happens when the seventh angel blows his trumpet, such as: (1) the 24 elders (representatives of the redeemed who will reign with Jesus on the earth – Rev. 5:8-10) worship and thank God for using his great power to reign over the earth – verses 16-17, (2) the nations are angry because God used his divine power to rule the earth, which were displayed during the catastrophes of the six trumpet angels – verse 18, (3) the time for God to bring his wrath on the earth (displayed in the seven vials of wrath – Rev.15:1) – verse 18, (4) the time for the dead to be judged and rewards be given to prophets, saints, and those who fear God’s name – verse 18, and (5) the time for God to destroy those who destroyed the earth (Satan and the kings of the earth – Hag. 2:20-22).

In Revelation 11:15, when the seventh angel blows his trumpet, the finished mystery involves great voices from heaven announcing that the kingdoms of this world has become the kingdoms our Lord and his Christ (John 18:36). Revelation 10:7 shows this coming kingdom to be the same foretold by Daniel and other Old Testament prophets.

Also, Isaiah not only saw this coming kingdom, he spoke of a trumpet being blown before its advent. In Isaiah

27:1, the prophet speaks of a time when God shall punish and kill Leviathan the crooked serpent and the dragon in the sea. These scriptures depict Satan the crooked serpent and the kingdom of the Antichrist in the last days, as shown in Revelation 12:3-17 and 13:1-18. During this time, Isaiah 27:12-13 says a great trumpet shall be blown as God gathers the Israelites at Jerusalem to worship him.

And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the LORD shall beat off from the channel of the river unto the stream of Egypt, and **ye shall be gathered** one by one, **O ye children of Israel**. And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* **THE GREAT TRUMPET SHALL BE BLOWN**, and **they shall come** which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and **shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem**.

As shown, Isaiah 27:12-13 tells us those of Israel who were ready to perish in hostile countries (represented by Assyria and Egypt) shall return and worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem. Hence, the blowing of the trumpets appears to be the same in Matthew 24:31 and Isaiah 27:13. Each scripture shows the elect among the Israelites gathering to the returning Christ in Jerusalem.

The blowing of trumpets were significant among the Israelites. They had a special holy day called “the Feast of Trumpets” that occurred in the “*seventh*” month. During this time, trumpets were blown to introduce a day of rest and the gathering of a holy convocation (Lev. 23:23-25).

Again, in Number 10:1-10, God told Moses to use two trumpets to assemble the people. Also, the year of Jubilee was another sacred event that involved the blowing of a trumpet every fifty years. Everyone who heard the sound of the trumpet were freed from slavery and had every lost property restored (Lev. 25:8-13).

So, what is the mystery of God that these great voices announce during the time when the trumpet of the seventh angel in Revelation 10:7 is blown in Revelation 11:15? They reveal that the kingdoms of this world, which was once ruled by Satan since the fall of Adam and Eve (Luke 4:5-6), has literally become the Lord’s kingdom. This declaration is done in preparation of Jesus’ literal return to this earth to set up his everlasting kingdom (Dan. 2:44).

Remember, Jesus cannot setup and established his earthly kingdom until he subdue all nations and make them his footstool (1 Cor. 15:24; Heb. 10:12-13). After the great voices in heaven announces the kingdoms of this world has now become the kingdom of God: Christ now has all rights to violently and completely remove all squatters from his property. Why? Because he has the opened title deed and now possess the earth (Rev. 5:7-9; 6:1; 8:1; 10:1-2; 11:15).

Why are the nations angry? Because they do not want God to rule them. But, their unwillingness to accept God’s rule will be settled at Armageddon; called in Revelation 16:14 “... *the battle of the great day of God Almighty*.”

Actually, chapter eleven of Revelation show the official end of Satan’s earthly rule and should be chronologically followed by chapters 15 and 16. These chapters speaks of the final phase of God’s wrath (seven vials) against an ungodly world before Armageddon. This wrath includes

the destruction of Babylon the Great (Rome, the city of 7 hills), which will be the headquarter of the united false religions of the world during the reign of the Antichrist (Rev. 13:8,15; 19:20), as described in chapters 17 and 18.

In fact, chapters 12, 13, 14, and 17 goes back and gives further details during the period leading to the seventh angel in Revelation 11:15, when he blows the trumpet that announces the kingdom of God on the earth after the appearance of the Antichrist (Rev. 11:7). These chapters provide details about the rise of the Antichrist and his rule over all nations, the persecution and overthrow of Israel by the Antichrist, the rise of an united global religious system, and the beginning of God’s wrath. Sadly, Branham was so confused in this book that he believed the three angels who appears during or after the tribulation (Rev. 14:6-12) were Martin Luther, John Wesley, and himself (Mark of The Beast and the Seal of God # 2, _02-17-61, par. 41-42).

As stated, chapter 18 describes the destruction of Babylon the Great that occurs after the vials of God’s wrath are poured upon a wicked world. This chapter is followed by chapters 19 and 20, which shows the literal return of Jesus to overthrow Satan and world leaders to remove them completely from the earth and establish his kingdom.

Mystery of Seventh Angel Foretold by Daniel

As studied, the mystery that God declared unto the prophets of the Old Testament in Revelation 10:7 pertains to the coming kingdom of God on the earth, as shown in Revelation 11:15. In Acts 3:20-21, the prophets spoke of Christ’s return and the restoration of all things—before Adam and Eve’s fall. Particularly, Daniel spoke of the mystery pertaining to Revelation 10:7, as shown below.

Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. And *one* said to **the man** clothed in linen, which **was upon the waters of the river**, How long *shall it be* to the end of these wonders? And I heard the man clothed in linen, which **was upon the waters of the river**, when he **held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven**, and **swore by him that liveth for ever** that *it shall be* for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, **all these things shall be finished**. Dan. 12:5-7

And **the angel** which I saw **stand upon the sea** and upon the earth **lifted up his hand to heaven**, and **swore by him that liveth for ever and ever**, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the **mystery of God should be finished**, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets. Rev. 10:5-7

When comparing Daniel 12:5-7 with Revelation 10:5-7, both spoke of the same end time event. Daniel saw a man upon the waters lifting his hands to God and swearing that the remaining time for the completion of the vision would be 3 ½ years—a time (one year), times (2 years) and an half (½ year or 6 months).

Likewise, John saw an angel upon the waters lifting his hand to God and swearing that the remaining time for the vision's completion would be no longer. He says it would be finished in the days of the voice of the seventh angel.

Now notice, the man (angel) in Daniel's vision said the time for the vision to be finished would be 3 ½ years. This 3 ½ years is completed after the power of the holy people are scattered, referring to the nation of Israel.

Who will destroy Israel as a power in the Middle East? To better answer this question we must briefly consider Daniel's vision in the seventh chapter because it correlates with Revelation 10:7 and the mystery of the seventh angel. Remember, Daniel's visions mainly address his people, the Israelites (Dan. 9:24; 10:14; 12:1).

First, both John and Daniel saw the coming Antichrist and his kingdom as a ten horned beast (Dan. 7:7 -8,24; Rev. 13:1-6). In Daniel 7:25 and Revelation 11:1-2, they both saw the Antichrist conquering and persecuting the nation of Israel during the great tribulation for 3½ years (42 months).

So, the coming Antichrist is the person who scatters the power of the holy people for 3 ½ years in Daniel 12:7. Actually, Daniel 11:36-45 shows the Antichrist invading and conquering many countries in the Middle East, including Israel. After this happens, Daniel 12:7 says "... *all these things SHALL BE FINISHED.*"

From Daniel's perspective, the mystery about the coming kingdom of God on this earth would be finished. Why do I say this? Well, Daniel 7:25 and 12:7 shows the Antichrist scattering Israel for 3 ½ years. After this, Daniel 7:26-27 shows his earthly dominion being destroyed and the kingdom of God being established on the earth.

Do you see it? John and Daniel spoke of the same end time scenario. In Revelation 10:6, when the angel declared that time would be no longer, but says the mystery would be finished in the days of the seventh angel: the time from that point of the angel's declaration in verse 6 to its actual fulfillment in Revelation 11:15 is a total of 3 ½ years.

During this time, both Daniel 12:7 and Revelation 11:1-2 shows the Antichrist overthrowing the nation of Israel and treading it under feet for 3 ½ years. However, Revelation 11:3 says God sends two prophets (verse 10) during this time to prophesy (verse 6) to Israel for 3 ½ years (1,260 days). Verse 3 refers to them as "witnesses" because they have a testimony (verse 7). Their testimony is about Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:2,9; 12:17; 19:10), which is a terminology referring to the gospel's message of salvation through him (1 Cor. 1:6; 2:1; 2 Tim. 1:8).

So then, when considering Romans 11:25-32, these two prophets will proclaim unto the nation of Israel the gospel's message that Jesus is their Messiah who died for their sins, was buried, and rose from the dead on the third day (1 Cor. 15:1-4,11). When Israel realizes this truth, they will repentantly accept the crucified and risen Savior.

And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and **they shall look upon me whom they have pierced**, and **they shall mourn for him**, as one mourneth for *his only son*, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that

is in bitterness for *his* firstborn. **In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem**, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon. And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart...all the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart. Zech. 12:11-14

During this time, many Israelites will recognize Jesus' work of redemption on the cross in Jerusalem (Zech. 13:1 - 7; Rom. 11:25 -27; Rev. 7:3 -8; 12:17; 14:1 -5). When this happens, the prophecy of the seventy weeks spoken by Daniel is fulfilled, as shown below —which speaks of Israel's salvation and complete restoration in the last days,

Seventy weeks are determined upon **thy people** and upon thy holy city, **TO FINISH** the transgression, and to **make an end** of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and **to seal up the vision and prophecy**, and to anoint the most Holy. Dan. 9:24

When these two prophets complete their mission, Revelation 11:13 shows a great earthquake and those who remained alive repented and turned to the true God.

And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and **the remnant were affrighted, and GAVE GLORY TO THE GOD OF HEAVEN.**

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, **until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in**. And so **ALL ISRAEL SHALL BE SAVED**: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: for this is my covenant unto them, **when I shall take away their sins** [see Hebrews 10:10-17]. Rom. 11:25-27

Immediately after the gospel of Christ is preached to Israel and the elect are saved from among them (thus completing Daniel's prophecy of seventy weeks): the seventh angel blows his trumpet in Revelation 11:15 during the Antichrist's ruled over Israel for 3 ½ years.

The seventh trumpet announces the kingdom of God on the earth, which is actually established during the 1,000 years reign of Christ and the new heaven and earth, as foretold by Daniel the prophet and John the apostle.

And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, **shall be given to the people of the saints** of the most High, **whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.** Dan. 7:27

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, **The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ;** and he shall reign for ever and ever. Rev. 11:15

Blessed and holy *is he that hath part in the first resurrection*: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and **shall reign with him a thousand years.** Rev. 20:6

And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no

candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and **they shall reign for ever and ever.** Rev. 22:4-5

In considering the above study, scriptural evidence clearly shows that the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7 has nothing to do with William Branham or his alleged message. He has been dead for over one-half century and this scripture remains to be fulfilled by a literal angel.

Conclusion: Branham's Words Disproves His Claim

As shown, William Branham's teachings concerning the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7 is biblically wrong. Yet, he told followers that he did not make this up, but rather says "Thus saith The Lord" to an obvious error.

Now, you see, **I'm just not making that up.** That's what... **It's THUS SAITH THE LORD.** I'll read it to you out of the Book: the sounding of the seventh angel's message, the mystery of God should be finished that's been declared by His holy prophets. That's the prophets who has wrote the Word. At the sounding of the seventh church age, the last church age, all the loose ends that through these church ages have been probed at, will be wound up together. And when the Seals are broke and the mystery is revealed, down comes the Angel, the Messenger, Christ, setting His foot upon the land and upon the sea with a rainbow over His head. **Now remember, this seventh angel is on earth at the time of this coming.** _The Breach Between The Seven Church Ages And The Seven Seals 03-17-63E

Then, between that, then there was **to be a seventh angel's Message, that had been preaching and condemning the Pentecostals.** And Jesus had been put out; wouldn't have no co-operation with nobody, be put on the outside, rejected. The Bible said so. For, it's Christ made manifest among us, Jesus among us all, made manifest in the purity of His Word, making It known. And if that's... **This is not just make-up,** friends. This is **THUS SAITH THE LORD,** the Scripture. _The Feast of The Trumpets 07-19-64M

As studied, scriptures clearly show the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7 to be the literal angel of 11:15 who will appear after the arrival of two prophets in Israel during the great tribulation. But, even if this angel was an end time prophet, Branham would still not be him. Why? Because he said in the above quote that the angel of Revelation 10:7 would be on the earth during the time of Christ's coming in verse 1. He said verse 1 spoke of Christ's second coming, and the resurrection and rapture of followers. Yet, Branham has been gone since 1965.

When that **Angel, of Revelation the 10th chapter,** puts one foot on land and one on the sea, and a rainbow over His head, He swore, "time shall be no more." **When that time comes, you'll rise up from among the dead.** While the rest of them lay there, **you'll go in.** _ Shalom 01-19-64

Another factor disproving Branham's claim as the alleged seventh angel who reveal all the mysteries in the last days is that he revealed none. The mysteries that he claimed to reveal were already written in various books.

As studied (pages 29 -122), Branham's teachings on the seven seals, seven church ages, and nineteen other

allegedly revealed subjects were not original. He most likely plagiarized some or all of these teachings because what he taught was written in those books. Some of those authors he mentioned by name and admitted to reading their books, but pretend to disagree with their views (see pages 29-32). Nonetheless, there are many revelations supposedly revealed by Branham that are absolutely unscriptural. For example, in Genesis, he taught:

- (1) There was a time when God was not God until he created angelic beings to worship him (Go, Wake Jesus 11-03-63, Par. 147). However, Psalm 90:2 NKJV says: "...*Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.*" This verse says God was always God (see Gen. 21:33; Psa. 93:2).
- (2) Branham taught that the Hebrew word for God is Elohim, which means "self existing One" (The Mighty God Unveiled Before Us 06-29-64, Par. 67-69). However, this word means God or gods. The Hebrew word YHWH (Yahweh, Yehowah) means self existing or eternal.
- (3) Adam and Eve were first spirit beings (Gen. 1:27) before receiving earthly bodies (Gen. 2:7) [Souls That Are In Prison Now 11-10-63, Paragraphs 38-40]. But, chapter 2 only provides more details to chapter 1. Genesis 2:1-4 says creation was finished in chapter 1 and God rested.
- (4) Eve was not in the original creation and Satan designed her (Marriage and Divorce 02-21-65M, Paragraphs 107, 125), whereas Genesis 1:27 and 2:22 says God created her on the same 6th day as Adam (Gen. 1:23,31).
- (5) The tree of life and the forbidden tree were not literal (Questions and Answers on Hebrews #1 09-25-57, Par. 183) But, Genesis 2:9 says God made *every* tree to grow from the ground that included those two trees. Revelation 2:7 and 22:2 shows a literal tree of life that bears fruits every month and eaten for the healing of the nations.
- (6) God told Adam not to eat of the forbidden tree, which was Eve (Marriage and Divorce 02-21-65M, Paragraphs 217-218). But, this command came to Adam in Genesis 2:16-17 before Eve was created in verse 22.
- (7) Before the fall of Adam and Eve, children were to be created rather than being born through sex (Does God Change His Mind? 04-27-65, Par.93), whereas God told **them** to be fruitful before the fall (Gen. 1:28; Psa. 127:3).
- (8) Cain the son of Eve and the serpent was conceived in the garden of Eden (The Serpent Seed 09-28-58E, Paragraphs 157-160). But, Genesis 3:22-24 and 4:1 says Cain was the son of Adam and conceived after they were expelled from the garden.
- (9) Cain and Abel were twins (Invisible Union Of The Bride Of Christ 11-25-65, Par. 80), whereas other examples of double birth in Genesis called them "twins" (Gen. 25:24; 38:27). Thus, Cain and Abel were not twins (Gen. 4:1-2).
- (10) Enoch lived 500 years and was raptured during the lifetime of Noah shortly before the flood (The First Seal, Paragraphs 122-127). However, Enoch lived 300 years and was already gone before Noah's birth (Gen. 5:21-32).
- (11) Serpent seed (Cain's lineage) came over the flood by the wives of Noah's sons (Serpent Seed, Par. 197). But, the seed comes by the male. Thus, the only seed and bloodline after the flood was Noah's (Acts 17:26).
- (12) Abraham and Sarah bodies were transformed. They were old, but turned back young to birth Isaac (Power of Transformation 10-31-65M, Par. 316). But, the Bible says they bore Isaac and died as old people (Gen. 21:2,7; 23:1; 25:7-8; Heb. 11:11-12).

Chapter Sixteen

William Branham's Erroneous Teachings Regarding the Gospel and Salvation

As studied in prior chapters, William Branham had many unscriptural teachings. When researching Branham's sermons pertaining to the gospel and salvation, he had a mixture of various concepts. In this chapter we shall consider his doctrines regarding these very important subjects.

Understanding Branham's Message of Salvation

Although Min. Branham spoke of Jesus' death and shed blood as the bases for salvation (Living, Dying, Buried, Rising, Coming 03 -29-59), his sermons shows from April 9, 1950 to December, 12, 1965 that he taught remission of sins by repentance and water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ according to Acts 2:38. He mostly taught this at his home church before going public in the 1960s.

Then Peter said unto them, "**Repent, and be baptized**, every one of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost; for the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to them that's far off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." _Baptismal Service 04-09-50

Therefore, people, and here's how we come to the church, **by repenting, being baptized** in the Name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of our sins**, and a promise that we will receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. _Five Definite Identifications Of The True Church Of The Living God 09-11-60E

Father, may the people see it and be **obedient to water baptism, for the remission of their sins**. _The Spoken Word Is The Original Seed 03-18-62

And now, Father, I pray that all that will receive You at this time in their hearts will settle it forever at this hour that they're finished with sin, that will arise and make preparations now for **public confession of baptism** in the Name of Jesus Christ, **for the remission of their sins**, to show that they believe that God has forgiven them, and they take on the Name of Jesus Christ. _The Sixth Seal 03-23-63

Repent, every one of you, and **be baptized** in the Name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**." What for? **What are you baptized** in the Name of Jesus Christ for? **For the remission**; to remit! "Not another name under Heaven given among man." For the remission of sins! "_The Token 11-28-63

So then, even though Branham occasionally said the right words about believing in Christ as shown below, his method for salvation was repenting and being baptized according to Acts 2:38.

So on the day of Pentecost, he wrote the prescription. Let's see what he wrote. Doctor Simon Peter, let's see what your **prescription is for salvation**. Let's see what it was wrote out for. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their hearts, and said unto Peter and... the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what can we do? (Watch out, you got the keys.) Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized** every one of You in the Name of Jesus Christ for the **remission of sins**, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to them that's far off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. **That's the Prescription**. _Five Definite Identifications Of The True Church Of The Living God. 09-11-60E

If you will come, **believing, repenting, being baptized** in the Name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of your sins**, and believing on God, God is obligated to fulfill that prescription, right, 'cause He's the doctor. And He'll fulfill it if you will—if you will obey it. _Does God Change His Mind? 04-27-65

As shown, Branham believed Acts 2:38 was the means for forgiveness and salvation. As earlier studied, he tried to take credit for revealing the baptism in the name of Jesus Christ (or Lord Jesus Christ), while attempting to separate himself from the Apostolic Oneness who baptized this way since 1914 (see pages 111 -113). How? By saying he believed the blood of Christ and repentance saves, while the Oneness movement believed water baptism saves.

Now, some of you **Oneness people** come around and—and baptize that, wrong. **You baptize that unto, for salvation. Water don't save a man; it's the Blood, repentance**. Not through baptism to regeneration. _The Revelation Of Jesus Christ 12-04-60M

They baptize for regeneration in the Name of Jesus Christ; I do not believe that. I do not believe that water saves you from sin. **I believe it's the Blood of Jesus Christ is regeneration.** But the **Oneness people baptize unto regeneration**. The Name of Jesus, **just baptize** them in Jesus Name, and that's —**they're saved**, because he said 'Repent, and be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins.'" **But what comes first? Repentance, godly sorrow for your sins, then turn away.** _God Being Misunderstood 07-23-61E

Now some of you **Oneness people** baptize wrong. **You baptize for regeneration as though being immersed in water saved you.** Regeneration does not come by water; it is a work of the Spirit. The man who by the Holy Ghost gave the command, "Repent and be baptized every one in the Name of the Lord Jesus," did not say that water regenerated. He said it was only an evidence of a "good conscience toward God." That was all. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter One - The Revelation Of Jesus The Christ

Like I could go up here take each one of you and **baptize you** in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, **that won't remit your sins**. No, no! No, I don't believe in water baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ unto regeneration; I believe the Blood is regeneration, see, not—not the waters. But, see, I could baptize and baptize, but you **only go down a dry sinner, come up a wet one**; see, **until you have thoroughly repented**. Repent, and then be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ. See? And that's what **I different** with the **Oneness movement**. Not baptizing to regeneration, **no; I believe it's the Blood that cleanses, not the water**. See? **Repentance, and then be baptized** in the Name of Jesus Christ. _On The Wings Of A Snow-White Dove 11-28-65E

Neither do I believe **that the baptism** of Jesus Christ (in the Name of Jesus Christ) in **water does forgive your sins**. I do not believe that you... I believe you could be baptized all day long... Now, I know that there's perhaps people sitting here who come from the **Apostolic church**, I mean, or the **United Pentecostal church**, which they teach that. But, you see, **I—I do not believe that the water forgives sins**. Or, if it was, then Jesus died in vain. See? I believe that it's only an ordinance of God, see, to show that you have been forgiven. But to be baptized for regeneration, no, I—I—I don't believe that. I don't believe that water forgives sins. _Communion 12-12-65

As shown, Branham wanted to be different; he did not want to be labeled as an Oneness. He attempted to hide this association by claiming they baptized differently and that he was originally a Baptist.

And a **many Oneness** of the... **Now, I'm not Oneness. I don't believe in the "oneness" the way they do**. I don't believe in Jesus like they'll say, "Jesus"; **there is a lot of Jesuses**. It's the Lord Jesus Christ. That's right. Now, and I don't... I believe that differ from what they do. **They baptize in the name of Jesus, in the name of Jesus for regeneration** that "Being baptized (regeneration) brings in Christ to you for your water baptism." I don't believe that. I believe regeneration comes by the Blood of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. That's right. Baptism is only an outward act to the inward work of 'generation that's done been done. See? So, I don't agree with that. That's all right, but they're all my brethren. **When I first started out as a Baptist preacher**, they come around saying, "Brother Branham, you come over here, we —we— we got It and we carried It over here." I said, "Neither one of you, I stand right between the two groups and say, 'We are brothers!'" Don't care what, I don't care if a man disagrees, that don't make one speck of difference to me, he's still my brother. _The Smyrnaean Church Age 12-06-60

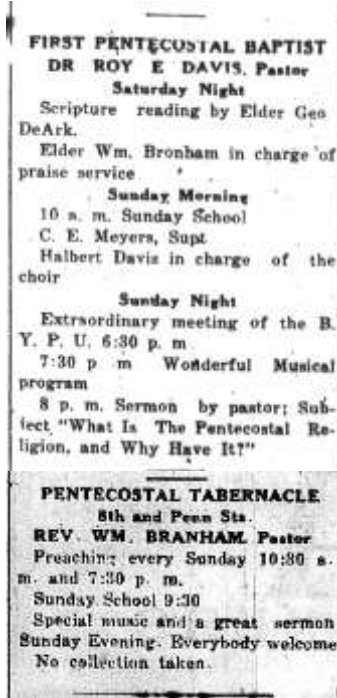
So, Branham initially pretended to be an outsider of the Pentecostal movement to hide his Oneness view of baptism from Trinitarians. How? By originally claiming to be a Baptist; more specifically, a "Missionary Baptist."

And **Doctor Roy Davis was, Missionary Baptist Church that ordained me** into the **Missionary Baptist Church**, was the one who sent him to me —the one who first told me I had a nightmare, when the Angel of the Lord came to me. Now he's preaching Divine healing himself. _The Angel Of The Lord 004-53

I was a Missionary Baptist, ordained a Missionary Baptist, by **Doctor Roy E. Davis**, from Fort Worth, Texas. _A Court Trial 04-12-64

About seventeen years after that, I was, had become a minister, a Baptist preacher, of the **Missionary Baptist Church**. **Dr. Roy E. Davis ordained me** as one of the local pastors, give me rights then, by the state, to marry, bury, baptize, so forth. And the Missionary Baptist Church burned down, which I was assistant pastor, at the time. _A Trial 04-27-64

As shown, Branham told his audiences that he was originally a Missionary Baptist. However, a research of the city's directory, newspaper clippings, and court documents (title deeds) performed by *Searching For Vindication* show that the name of the church attended by Branham under Dr. Roy Davis was "First Pentecostal Baptist," not a Missionary Baptist church (see page 126).



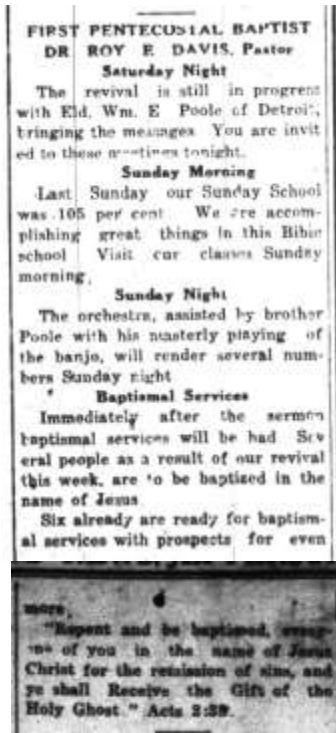
For example, the church's name appeared in a "Jeffersonville Evening News" ad on February 18, 1933 that showed William Branham was in charge of the praise service, (shown left).^[541]

Again, the above documents showed that the name of Branham's church in Jeffersonville was initially "Pentecostal Tabernacle" before being changed to "Branham Tabernacle." An ad in the same newspaper on August 17, 1935 showed the name of Branham's church. (shown left).^[542]

So then, the facts shows Branham was a Pentecostal minister, not a Missionary Baptist as he claimed. Furthermore, during a 1950 written testimony in the "Voice of Healing" Magazine, Dr. Roy Davis confirmed the fact that he pastored a Pentecostal church, not a Missionary Baptist.

First, I am the minister who received **Brother Branham into his first Pentecostal Assembly** he ever frequented. I baptized him, and was his pastor for some two years. I also preached his ordination service, and signed his ordination certificate, and heard him preach his first sermon. **I was the first man** on the earth whom Billy **saw anoint and pray for a sick person**. I feel I can write more intimately about Billy Branham than any living minister, as **he also received** his Baptism of **the Holy Ghost in my humble home** in Jeffersonville, Indiana. (see endnote ^[542] for link to full online article).

Moreover, Branham was not only Pentecostal, he may have been or influenced by Apostolic Oneness. Why? Because the church he attended under Dr. Roy Davis appeared to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ based on Acts 2:38. An ad on July 22, 1933 in the same newspaper shows six candidates preparing to be baptized and closes with a quotation of Acts 2:38 (shown on next page).^[543]



Perhaps Branham wanted to hide his Apostolic background because there was a great schism between Trinitarian Pentecostal and Oneness churches. Branham's evangelical ministry may not had the success filling auditoriums if he did not pretend to be neutral. So then, to distance himself from Apostolic Oneness, he accused them of not preaching repentance before baptism.

Yes, the Oneness group do believe water baptism saves a person. But, like Branham they also claimed to believe the blood of Christ was the bases for forgiveness

and a person must repent. So, whether Branham says repentance saves or the Oneness says the water saves may be difficult to distinguish since both believed obeying Acts 2:38 was for the remission of sins. But, as we shall later study, they both failed to realize that repenting to believe the gospel of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection in verses 22-36, 41,44 saves (Mark 1:15; Acts 16:31; Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:17-18,21; 15:1-4,11; Eph 2:8).

So then, based upon Branham and Oneness' doctrine on remission of sins, when people came to be baptized by either, who could tell what candidate had repented or not. Seeing that it was assumed they had done so because they wanted to be baptized for the remission of their sins.

So then, Branham's teaching about Acts 2:38 was basically the same as Oneness. Even though he tried to be different by saying forgiveness was more so in repenting rather than the water. However, in the following quotes, Branham is talking about repentance while pointing to water baptism as being necessary for remission of sins; even up to 1965—the year of his death.

Now, the first step is " **repentance towards God** ." And then follows after that, is water baptism, "water baptism," "Repent, and be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ." See, **water baptism** follows, showing that repentance was genuine. Or , to "**remit**" **our past sins**, that has nothing to do with future sin. **It only remits**. "**Repent, and be baptized** in the Name of Jesus Christ." **What for? "Remission."** **Taking away of past sin** has nothing to do with the future. _The Future Home Of The Heavenly Bridegroom And The Earthly Bride 08-02-64

You are baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ, **what for? The remission of your sin**, sins remitted in the Name of Jesus Christ. _ It Is The Rising Of The Sun 04-18-65M

Thus, as shown above, Branham preached Acts 2:38 as the means of forgiveness and salvation . But, from 1953 to 1965 he taught three works of grace called justification, sanctification, and baptism of the Holy Ghost.

When we're born in the Body of Christ, there's three elements it takes to bring our birth. And that's the three elements that came out of the life of Christ when He died. There come from His body, water, Blood, Spirit. Is that right? Three elements, and that's the elements we go through when we're born again: **justification, sanctification, baptism of the Holy Spirit** . Now, that can all be in one act, but it takes... But you can be in a justified state without being sanctified. You can believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and still carry your filth with you. But you can absolutely live in a both justified and a clean holy life, and without the Holy Ghost. _ Demonology, Physical Realm 06-08-53A

And that's the same thing it takes to make up the new birth: water, blood and spirit: **Justification by faith**, believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, cleansing up, the **sanctification through the Blood**, and then the **baptism of the Holy Spirit** , _A Hidden Life In Christ 11-10-55

Branham was not the originator of the doctrine regarding the three works of grace. The two works of grace was mainly taught by John Wesley and Methodist churches. The three works of grace was predominately taught by some Pentecostals after the Azusa Street Revival in 1906-1909. [544] [545]

In the 1950s and early 60s, Branham claimed to believed a person was justified by faith (trusting) in Jesus Christ. But, he still taught that remission of sins came through obeying Acts 2:38.

I never unchristianize no man or person for their ideas of Scripture. I **base it upon if they're saved they're trusting Jesus Christ**, whether they are Catholic, Protestant, Jew, or whatever they are. You're saved because you're born of Christ. But you've asked me a question, "**Why, Brother Branham would you baptize in the name of Jesus Christ?**" All right. "**And why would you disregard Father, Son, and Holy Ghost?**" That's your question. And as your brother, and as a servant of Christ, I'm duty bound to answer you. All right. _The Water Baptism 01-20-61

As shown, no matter what Branham said about faith in Christ, he always pointed people to water baptism based on Acts 2:38 as necessary for remission of sins. Actually, he associated water baptism with justification.

Now look. In the... That constitutes the natural birth. When a woman is giving birth to a baby (Listen to this.), what's the first thing happens to a woman, what breaks forth? Is, **first, is water**. "**Repent and be baptized**, in Name of Jesus Christ," **justification**. What's the second thing happens to the woman? Blood. That right? [Congregation says, "Amen." —Ed.] Blood; sanctification. Then what's the next thing? Life. Water, blood, spirit. _The Restoration Of The Bride Tree 04-22-62

And now that's the way you come, **through justification, to believe God**. You were **baptized unto repent**, or, to, **for the remission of your sins** . You confessed your sins before God, and He forgave you for it. And you was baptized, to show that you had been, you had been forgiven; confessing to the people,

and showing to the world, that you believe that Jesus Christ died for you. Things That Are To Be 12-05-65

Moreover, Branham taught justification, sanctification, and baptism of the Holy Spirit mostly from a historical perspective rather than a present day reality. Why do I say this? Well, he said Martin Luther preached justification by faith, John Wesley preached sanctification, and the Pentecostals preached the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Thus, if you lived during Wesley days, being justified was not enough, and if you lived after the Pentecostal revival in 1906, sanctification was not enough.

The church has had a three-stage journey. Luther, Wesley, pentecost; three-stage journey. God will give them a message, **justification, Luther**, he hung onto it; then come **sanctification through Wesley**; then the baptism of **the Holy Spirit, with pentecost.** Does God Change His Mind? 04-27-65

Justification served its time, in justification **under Luther**, then it had to become sanctification **through Wesley**. And **sanctification served its time**, till it become the baptism of the Holy Ghost. And **the baptism of the Holy Ghost served its time**; until the Holy Spirit (which, there's only one God) blends into the Church, and the Church into Christ, and it makes **Jesus Christ reflected on the earth**, what **He promised here in the Bible.** There Is A Man Here That Can Turn On The Light 12 - 29-63M

As shown, Branham introduced a fourth work after the baptism of the Holy Spirit. In the latter years, Branham began to view himself as Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6, the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7, and the Son of man of Luke 17:30. As a result, he began to downgrade the three stages of justification, sanctification, and baptism of the Holy Spirit by adding another stage. This fourth stage involved his ministry and message to a special group called the "Bride."

Once the carrier of a true word, **justification**; then it become a carrier of **sanctification**; then it become a carrier of the **baptism of the Holy Spirit**, restoration of the gifts. But then when He goes on and keeps going back, try to **eat something, manna from another day, it's rotten. It's no good.** A genuine eagle of this day knows that was alright. **But we got that, plus**, until **Jesus Christ is made manifest in the fulness of His power, as He promised to be in this last day.** The Seed Is Not Heir With The Shuck 02-18-65

God has lotted His Word to each age, so much to each age, and we must notice that **one age cannot carry over into another age.** It just won't work. For instance, as I've said, I believe last night or... I'm constantly speaking, night after night, places, and sometime I make a remark the second time. I don't mean to repeat myself. But I say this: What would... good would it have done Moses to try to preach Noah's message? Or what good would it been... would have done Jesus to try to preach Moses' message? Or **what good** would it done **Martin Luther to continue on with the Catholic message?** What good would it done **Wesley to continue on with the Lutheran message?** What good would it done **Pentecostals to continue on with the Methodist message?** Or what good will it do **Pentecost to continue on when the Bride's being called?** See, we're right up into the seed time, we're here at the end time. Modern

Events Are Made Clear By Prophecy 12-06-65

Jesus couldn't have come with Moses' message; **Luther couldn't come with the Catholic message**; **Wesley couldn't come with the Luther's message**; the **Pentecost couldn't come with the Wesley age message.** And **the Bride can't be formed in the Pentecostal denomination**, it just can't do it. Leadership 12-07-65

So, according to Branham, only through his message can the bride of Christ reach the fourth stage, which is the rapture. Branham believed his ministry and message would produce what he called "rapturing faith."

And then there's coming forth seven mysterious thunders that's not even written at all. That's right. And I believe that **through those seven thunders will be revealed in the last days** in order to **get the Bride together for rapturing faith.** The First Seal 03-18-63

And **I am looking for a time of a break forth**, of the Spirit of God, **in these last days** that we're now living in; for another surge of the Holy Spirit, **into the Church; for a rapturing faith**, just before it comes. The Token 11-28-63

And the **Church has come**, look how it's come up; **through justification, sanctification, baptism of the Holy Spirit**; and now right into **the rapturing time**, to get the Church ready. Just exactly the way it promised, just the way the Church Ages are lined out, and we seen that, everything coming right down, and right down. Jehovah-Jireh #1, 04-02-64

Notice, there is still three stages to perfection. Just like He redeems the world; same way He redeems His Church. He redeems the people in three stages. Now look. **First is justification, like Luther preached; second, sanctification, like Wesley preached; third, baptism of the Holy Ghost.** That's right. **Then comes the Rapture!** Who Is This Melchisedec? 02-21-65

When Branham used the term "Bride," he is referring to the people who believe and follow his message.

Now, the same as those two prophets did! Remember, the **Gentile Bride** is to **have a prophet, called Elias, Elijah**, that's to **call them out** of their traditions, **the Bride.** The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64

People didn't love me at all; nobody had any use for me. And now, by the help of God, I believe that **I'm directing the Bride of Jesus Christ.** Questions And Answers #2, 08-23-64E

The very word, church, means "called out of." As Moses called a nation out of a nation, the Holy Spirit **is calling a Bride out of a church**; a Church out of a church; members, from every denomination, **making up a Bride**, Bride tree. It's in the —in the tape, The Bride Tree. A Bride coming out, call, and that's the one that the Bride tree is. The —**the Bride**, rather, is the One that's **going to be in the Rapture; that, alone, nothing but the Bride.** the elected ones foreknown by God from the beginning, the Father's spiritual genes. The Rapture 12-04-65

In view of Branham's statements, the bride are only those who follow his message. They are the only group in this generation who will go to heaven when Christ returns. As studied, this belief is similar to Charles Taze Russell from whom he apparently copied many of his teachings.

Remember, Mr. Russell was the founder of the organization that later became the Jehovah's Witnesses. In a 1918 posthumous book "The Finished Mystery," Russell likewise referred to the group who followed his teaching as the "Bride-classed," which consisted of 144,000 elects.

Of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues. "As the number of **the Bride of Christ is to be 144,000...144,000** would be quite a host for each individual of the **Bride class** to look after.—*Question Meeting*. Page 138

14:4. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. —"All Bible exponents of the Protestant kind recognize there are **two Women** especially mentioned In Revelation; **the one the true Woman, the Bride class**, the other the **false Woman**; and Protestants In general understand that false Woman to represent the papacy. Then again other Protestants understand that the Scriptures **which refer to the mother and daughters refer to the papacy, and these denominational daughters, or systems**, which sprang from her, and have more or less of her nature, disposition and characteristics. Page 218

Such are sure to respond and to come out of Babylon; others who remain, in spite of seeing the light, **fall to be overcomers of the highest class** —fall therefore to be In **the elect Bride class**, and must be counted In with the Great Company, which will come through great tribulation, and will get out of Babylon only when she has been cast as a great millstone into the midst of the sea. Pages 276-277

[And] whosoever will, let him take of the Water of Life freely.—"Now the **prospective members of the Bride' class** **have the Lord's Spirit in them**, 'a well of water springing up unto everlasting life.' (John 4:14.) By Page 338

So, even though Branham talked about justification by faith, sanctification, baptism of the Holy Spirit, and Acts 2:38 as the means for salvation and remission of sins: like Russell, he is referring to the bride group who believes his message. All denominational churches are excluded.

And so will the Church come through **Justification, Sanctification, Baptism of the Holy Ghost** (restoration of gifts), **right on into the formed image of Christ**. Christ is the Bridegroom, the **Church is the Bride**, and the Bride is a part of the Bridegroom. It'll have to be a Word Church, **not a denominational church**. **It'll be the Word Church, the Word that's made known, and by the vindicated Word of God.** *Modern Events Are Made Clear By Prophecy* 12-06-65

Did you notice how Branham cleverly added to his teachings on salvation. Besides justification, sanctification, baptism of the Holy Spirit, and Acts 2:38. Branham now included his alleged vindicated message. So then, it does not matter if people believed on the Lord Jesus according to the true biblical gospel preached by Paul and the apostles (discussed in the next chapter), Branham believed they cannot be Christ's bride without his message. As earlier stated, he said the word preached on the day of Pentecost and the apostles' teachings will not work for this day. Yet, in Acts 2:39, Apostle Peter says the promise offered on the day of Pentecost is for everyone whom the Lord shall call.

What are you going to do with Him, **this Jesus called Christ**? Christ is the Anointed Word. See? What are you going to do

with It? **It's the Message of the hour**. The day is here, *What Shall I Do With Jesus Called Christ?* 11-24-63M

The Word of Moses' time did not work in the days of Jesus' time. The Word, **the Word in the days of the apostles does not work in this day**. **It's a promised Word for this day**. *Shalom* 1-12-64

There'll be a **new heavens and a new earth**. He'll prove it, because His Word said so. And only the righteous will be there. He'll prove it, too. That's right. **Only the ones** that's been **made part of this Word** (see, will be their part and their position in **this Word for their age**) will be the **only one will be there**. *Proving His Word* 08-16-64

The believers of this age has to believe This, **what He promised today**. Just the same as they had to come into the ark, to be saved; go out of Egypt to be saved; they have to come into Christ, **to be saved now, into the Word Message**. *God's Chosen Place Of Worship* 02-20-65

The Word that fell on the Day of Pentecost will not work this day. No, sir. That was for Pentecost. **This is for the Bride, going Home of the Bride**. **We got something different**. *The Invisible Union Of The Bride Of Christ* 11-25-65

As shown, even though Branham claimed to preach a salvation based on the three works of grace and Acts 2:38, he believed his message was necessary for salvation or to be raptured. He believed all denominational churches were the harlot Babylon the Great, including the image and mark of the beast (see pages 99-106). As Chapter 17 shall prove, whenever an additional requirement becomes necessary for salvation, Paul refers to this concept as a false gospel. Why? Because it denies that faith in Jesus' finished work on the cross ALONE is the ONLY means of salvation.

In the early years of William Branham's ministry, he welcomed all biblically sound Pentecostal and mainstream Protestant churches, even the Roman Catholic Church.

Jesus is not going to ask me if I was Methodist, Lutheran, Baptist, or Pentecost: He's going to judge me to what I was in my heart. That's right. And that's what He will judge us all by. So now, **don't think it's just one church**. **We represent all the churches**. And many of the people that come into the line are Methodist, Baptist, Catholic, they, all kinds, every kind of... *Ministry Explained* 07-11-50

I thought you was a Nazarene." He said, "Then I seen the most of the people were Pentecostal, and somebody told me you were Pentecostal. And now you say you're a Baptist." Said, "I don't get it." I said, "Oh, that's easy." **I said, "I'm a Pentecostal Nazarene Baptist."** That's—that's right. All right. No, **we are one in Christ Jesus**, by the Holy Spirit making us one. *Demonology, Physical Realm* 06-08-53A

And look at the next **man across the street and recognize him as your brother**. Yes, sir. That's right. **No matter what church he belongs to**. If he is a **Methodist** and got the Holy Ghost, shake his hand and say, "Hello, brother." **Baptist, Presbyterian, or Roman Catholic**, no matter what he is, if he belongs to the **Church of God, Assemblies of God, Pentecostal United church, or whatever they are**. **Everybody's brothers in Christ Jesus** when we become borned again of the Spirit of God. That's right. And **there's no difference in us**. *Palmerworm, Locust, Cankerworm, Caterpillar* 06-12-53

But, in the latter years of Branham's ministry, he began to condemn all churches because they rejected his end time message. Branham wanted people to receive him as the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6, the seventh angel of Revelation 3:14 and 10:7, the fulfillment of the Son of man ministry in Luke 17:30, along with a host of questionable and erroneous doctrines (e.g., serpent seed, no eternal hell).

The Bible warned the Israelites and Christians to test those claiming to be prophets (Deut. 18:19-22; 1 John 4:1). The Lord Jesus commended the church for testing those who claimed to be apostles (Rev. 2:2). Paul told the church to prove all things (1 Thess. 5:21). Jesus told the Pharisees to search the scriptures regarding his ministry (John 5:39). Likewise, the Bereans tested Paul's ministry by the written scriptures (Acts 17:10-12).

As proven in this book, Branham's ministry had some serious issues. His error prone ministry and message were filled with plagiarisms, false claims, false teachings, failed visions, failed prophecies, failed predictions, and failed "Thus saith the Lord." But yet, he accused the churches of this generation of committing blasphemy because they refused his ministry, false claims, and erroneous doctrines.

Therefore, **I indict this bunch of clergy today** . I indict **this generation**, in the Name of Jesus Christ, under the authority of God's Word. You are crucifying Him again. Notice, "He's the same yesterday, today, and forever," **God's Word a vindicated in a man**. _ The Indictment 07-07-63

That's the reason **I indict this generation**, of guilty, of crucifying, **blaspheming the manifested Son of God** as was promised by all the prophets, and Christ Himself, to be **in the last days**; like it was in the days of Noah, in the days of Sodom. **Blasphemy!** Which, they crucify, to the people, the Son of God afresh, **His a vindicated Word. One word against It can never be forgiven**. _ The Indictment 07-07-63

Then, they're guilty of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. And I indict them by the Word of God, that God has... "How do you indict them, Brother Branham?" **I indict them**, that God has clearly **identified Himself in His Word, in the last days**, and made Himself to know that He is still the same yesterday, today, and forever, and they've coldly turned It down. And **you're guilty** of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, **by blaspheming the Holy Ghost. That's right**. _ The Indictment 07-07-63

And through your creeds, and **your organizations**, and **your denominations**, with your form of godliness, still talking. Your forms of godliness, you've denied the power of His resurrection. **But the hour has arrived, the last days are here, when God promised, according to Malachi 4, that He would raise up in the last days**, "and would turn the hearts of the people back to the original blessings and the pentecostal Faith of the fathers." And you can't deny it, and you can't withstand it. **Now I condemn you, guilty, and challenge you, and indict you before God**, that with wicked, selfish, denominational hands you've crucified the Word of God before the people. And **I call you guilty and ready for the Judgment**. Amen. Yes, sir! _ The Indictment 07-07-63

I indict them, as **prostitutes of the Gospel** . _ The Indictment 07-07-63

As shown, Branham accused everyone who questioned his teaching of committing blasphemy against the Holy

Spirit that can never be forgiven. But, by making such a statement, he equaled himself with the Holy Spirit and claimed to be greater than Christ. Why? Because Jesus said anyone who speaks against him can be forgiven.

And whosoever **speaketh a word against the Son of man**, **it shall be forgiven him**: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the *world* to come. Matt. 12:32

By Branham saying everyone who speaks against his teachings has committed blasphemy and can never be forgiven: he is trying to equate himself with the inerrant Holy Spirit of truth, who cannot lie (John 16:13; 1 John 2:27; 5:6). Branham's statement is wrong because of the many scriptural errors and discrepancies in his ministry.

Using fear to suppress truth is contrary to scriptures (Deut. 18:22; Prov. 29:25; Isa. 29:13; 57:11) as we are told to search the scriptures, test the spirits, and prove all things. Why? Because false Christs and false prophets will deceive many people in the last days (Matt. 24:5, 11, 24).

As stated, Christ commended the church for testing some men who claimed to be apostles (Rev. 2:2). Also, in the Old Testament, God forewarned his people not to listen to a prophet who went astray from his written word, even if they foretold a correct prophecy.

If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, and the **sign or the wonder come to pass**, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for **the LORD your God proveth you**, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and **keep his commandments**, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. And **that prophet**, or that dreamer of dreams, **shall be put to death**; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God.... Deut. 13:1-5

As earlier stated, neither Christ nor Paul were above scrutiny as they had to provide infallible proofs of their claims (John 5:39; Acts 1:3; 17:11; 2 Cor. 13:3). But, Branham tried to instill fear within people not to question and speak against obvious errors. Personally, I have no pleasure in having to publically expose Branham's errors. But, who can hold their peace when seeing obvious errors and so many innocent people being misled.

So then, in naming a few errors, how can we not speak against the inaccuracies and multiple changes Branham made to his seven major visions of 1933 to fit trending events? Or the fact Branham was not hunting when the alleged angels shown in the cloud of Life magazine appeared on February 28, 1963; even though he claimed to be there? Or the fact that scientific evidences suggest and reputable astronomers concluded that this cloud most likely was the aftermath of a destroyed Thor missile launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California?

Do Branham expect no one to question the fact that he said the Associated Press and local newspapers carried the story of a supernatural light appearing over him and a voice

commissioning him as the forerunner of Christ when baptizing the 17th person in the Ohio River? Only to discover no such evidence exist in the archives other than a four line article on the front page of a local newspaper saying 14 people were converted during that time?

Yet again, do Branham expect people to believe his vision of 16 men falling from the Municipal Bridge and drowning during its 1920s construction actually happened? When no documentation in the Coast Guard's log books, newspaper articles, or historical records shows such an incident—but, actually proves this event did not happened?

Are people not allowed to question why his "Thus saith the Lord" prophecy of the tent vision—a cornerstone of his ministry—failed to happen. This failure drove some followers to expect his resurrection to fulfill its prophecy.

Once more, are people not allowed to question why his "Thus saith the Lord" visions of Africa and the brown bear failed? Or the stories of Donny Morton and King George being healed only to discover they died a year or two from their diseases? Why did he claim even angels revealed the seven seals to him, only to discover he copied information from Clarence Larkin, Charles Russell, Uriah Smith, and other writers of the past? Why did he claim to reveal the seven church ages and 19 other alleged revelations? Only to discover that he plagiarized some of these same writers?

Are Branham's followers not allowed to question his unscriptural teachings on the serpent seed, no eternal hell, and husbands can divorce wives for cutting their hair. Or Christ is both God and Michael the archangel at the same time? Are no one to question his false statement during his sermons on the seven seals that Christ left his mediatorial work in March of 1963, and there is no more sacrifice blood, and grace? Are people not allowed to question his teachings on the seventy weeks of Daniel when he offered opposing views without ever correcting the error?

Are people to naively accept Branham as being the seventh angel of Revelation 10:7, when it is scripturally impossible for him to be thus because there is no historical records showing that six disasters of the six trumpets in chapters 8 and 9 had occurred during Israel's return to their homeland (page 254). The list goes on and on.

Branham oftentimes attempted to hide some of his teachings from the general public by having the audio recorder turned off or editing his tapes. As earlier stated, after preaching the seventh seal, he went to a motel and recorded a different ending to hide his teachings.

Now, when that gets on tape, which it is, that'll probably send ten thousand of my friends away from me, 'cause they're going to say that Brother Branham's trying to put himself and make himself a servant, or a prophet, or something before God. _Seventh Seal 03-24-63E

[You have just finished hearing **the original "Seventh Seal"** as it was preached in its entirety on Sunday evening, March 24th, 1963 at the Branham Tabernacle in Jeffersonville Indiana. **Brother Branham did not want this original recording released. The next day, Monday, March 25th, 1963, Brother Branham went to the motel room** of Brother Fred Sothmann and Brother James Maguire who were at that time in charge

of making the tapes. Brother Branham told these brothers, **"I don't want this message sent out the way it is."** **After listening to the tape himself, he instructed the brothers to stop the tape at a certain point, and at that point**—(beginning of paragraph number 261)—**recorded a new portion of approximately twenty minutes in length**—(paragraph 377-415). **This new portion was then used in place of the original ending**—(paragraph 261-373). This recording was the only released version of the "Seventh Seal" until 1966. _The Seventh Seal 03-24-63E

As churches became aware of Branham's doctrines, they stopped inviting him. During an interview, even Ern Baxter, an associate of Branham during the healing revivals in the late 1940s and early 1950s, said he resigned because Branham began to teach error (shown below).^[546] Branham mentions the name "Baxter" 515 times on recorded tapes.

Branham saw himself as a teacher of some kind of "in" truth. To me, some of it was quite esoteric. I became aware early in his ministry that there was a mixture. **I urged him not to say some things in public.** As long as we worked together he refrained. **One of the reasons for my leaving him was that he was starting to say some seriously wrong things.** When that, coupled with other circumstances, **eventually became unbearable, I resigned.** I think there can be a lesson in this. Branham, as a miracle worker, had a real place. Branham as a teacher was outside of his calling. The **fruits of his teaching ministry are not good.**

Although many of Branham's followers believe no one can be saved outside of his end time message, he believed some could be saved as "foolish virgins." That is, if they had not fought against the bride—the followers of his message. According to Branham everyone else will be thrown into the lake of fire. This includes those who had believed on the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior based on the true biblical gospel preached by the apostles and taught sound biblical truths, but had rejected his false teachings.

It is the second resurrection wherein the five **foolish virgins** come up. Notice that they were virgins. They did not have the Holy Spirit **so they missed being in the bride**, while the **five wise who had oil became a part of that bride** But these people, being a separated, God-loving people, and trying to abide in the Word, according to what they knew of it, and being a help in the work of the Lord will come up at the end of time. They will miss the millennium, which you can begin to see by these truths is much more important and wonderful than we have ever thought or believed. All these people had their names in the Book of Life and their names remained. But whose names did not remain? **Those of the world system churches who fought the bride** will be those **whose names are removed.** That is **who will lose out.** They will be **cast into the lake of fire.** _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Seven - The Sardisean Church Age

When examining Branham's teachings pertaining to salvation, he subtly made the reception or rejection of his message the means of being saved or damned. According to Galatians 1:6-9, this is a false gospel. As we shall soon study, the Judaizers tried to bring the New Testament church into the same bondage by saying they needed to be circumcised and keep the laws of Moses to be saved (Acts

15:1-5). They tried to make the church believe that faith in Jesus Christ through the gospel was not enough to fully save a person. In Acts 15:6-34, the apostles and elders of the church rejected the Judaizers' false teaching.

Furthermore, in an effort to replace the blood of Jesus Christ as being the token of salvation with his end time message: Branham began to teach that the token of salvation for the bride is the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

... **The Bride**, together, has been made up through justification, sanctification, and the **baptism of the Holy Ghost, which is the Token.** _Token 09-01-63

A person may not see anything wrong with the above quote, seeing that the Holy Spirit is the earnest (a deposit) of our salvation and inheritance. Yes, receiving the Holy Spirit is the verification that we have an inheritance in Christ. But, Exodus 12:13 says the token was the blood of the Passover lamb, which foreshadowed the blood of Jesus Christ, the Passover Lamb of the New Testament Church (1 Cor. 5:7). Also, the Holy Spirit comes upon those who believe on Jesus through the gospel taught by the apostles (discussed soon), not through Branham's message.

That we should be to the praise of his glory, **who first trusted in Christ**. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, **THE GOSPEL of your salvation**: in whom also **AFTER that YE BELIEVED**, ye were **SEALED with that HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE**, Which is the **earnest of our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. Eph. 1:12-14

So, what is the problem with Branham's statement that the token of salvation is the Holy Spirit? Well, in the following section, we shall see how Branham taught followers to believe the evidence of the Holy Spirit was to believe his message. Therefore, if the token is the Holy Spirit and proof of salvation, and if the evidence of the Holy Spirit is accepting his teachings: then Branham had successfully replaced salvation through Christ's blood with his erroneous end time message.

Evidence of Salvation: Branham's Message, not Jesus' Blood

In Exodus 12:13, God instructed Moses to tell the Israelites to place the blood of a lamb upon the lintel and doorposts of their houses. This blood was called a token because the death angels bypassed every home displaying it. In 1 Corinthians 5:7, Paul identifies Jesus Christ as the New Testament's Passover lamb whose blood saved us from the coming wrath of God (Rom. 5:8-11).

On November 28, 1963, William Branham preached a sermon at the church of Jack Moore (his close friend) in Shreveport, La. entitled "The Token." At the beginning of the sermon, he properly dealt with the subject by comparing the blood of the Passover with that of Christ's. But, as Branham continued to preach, he began to subtly change the entire scope of the token as being different from the shed blood of Jesus on the cross, as shown below.

The Blood of Jesus Christ, **and that Token**, as identification

that it has been purified. Amen. **That's the Token of the Bride**, wearing the ring. _The Token 11-28-63E

Today, every church, every individual, that isn't and cannot display **that Token, of the Holy Ghost**, is **spiritually dying and will die**. **No matter how much you believe in the death, burial, and resurrection**; no matter how much you can repeat the Apostles' Creed, repeat it, or whatever you might do; no matter how well you're educated, and what a theological experience you've had; you might have doctor's degrees, and Bachelor of Art, and whatever more, a DD, LD, Doctor of Latin, or whatever you might be, or literature, but **that won't do it. There must be the Token displayed**. _The Token 11-28-63

As shown, Branham changed the token from being Jesus' shed blood. Instead, the token becomes the Holy Spirit, which is evident upon receiving his teachings, as we shall see. As a result, he says every church and individual are spiritually dying without the token, even if they believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

First, Branham separated the token from the gospel's message of salvation through believing in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, as proclaimed by the apostles (Romans 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:17-18,23; 2:2; 15:1-4,11). Next, he introduces his false version of the required token necessary to escape the coming wrath of God.

Israel coming out, **just as a sign like it is today**. Watch what Israel got in their exodus. **The first thing** they got, to thoroughly identify that the hour was at hand, **was a prophet with the message**. **Moses came down with the message**. **The Word of God was with Moses**. The next thing, **Moses had to be identified**. And he was **identified by a Pillar of Fire**. That identified his work, that God had sent him. And **Moses had the Word of God**, even to create things and to bring them upon the earth. And **the token** that God give them, **by the blood**, was the identification, or the assurance, rather, that they would be passed over in the time of death. _The Token 11-28-63E

The same thing has happened today, same thing. The Word of God has been brought to us; **the Pillar of Fire is among us**, identifying Jesus Christ raised from the dead, "the same yesterday, today, and forever"; and the assurance of the baptism of the Holy Ghost upon our hearts, putting our love to God. **The exodus is on again**. Israel coming out, as I said, **is a type like the Church coming out, or the Bride coming out of the church. The Bride will be the remnant, will be the little group, the selected, the predestinated.** _The Token 11-28-63E

When Branham is speaking of Moses in the above quote, he is subtly pointing the people to his ministry as a last day prophet vindicated by a pillar of fire (picture of halo over head, which he wrongly said that George J. Lacy claimed to be a supernatural being, pages 127-130).

So then, Branham believed the token of today involves accepting his end time message like Israel did Moses'. As the unsuspecting audience listened, Branham continued to separate Christ from the token of the last days.

So, today, you might be a professed Christian, you might be a covenant, **with covenant with Christ**; but **unless that Token is displayed in this late hour** that **we're coming to now**, **there is no way for Him to pass over**. The Token must be displayed. It must be on. _The Token 11-28-63E

As shown, Branham said that even if a person believed in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, was in covenant with him, and professed to be a Christian: it would not matter without the token. Why? Because Branham believed the token of the last day was no longer the blood of Christ. The Savior's blood is applied to a person after being justified by faith (Rom. 3:24 -25; 5:1,9) according to the gospel's message of salvation through his death, burial, and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1-4,11).

So, Branham believed the exodus of today is professed Christians coming out of churches and every denomination and receiving his alleged end time message (The Third Exodus 06-30-63M, Par. 297-302). Therefore, the token for today is the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which according to Branham's teaching is evident by receiving his message.

And if He has never give you the **baptism of the Holy Ghost**, yet, then He hasn't confirmed your faith that you say you have. But the **Token is the confirmation.** _The Token 02-08-64

There's **only one evidence of the Holy Spirit** that I know of, and that is a **genuine faith in the promised Word of the hour.** _ Questions and Answers #2, 08-23-64E

I say, in **every age the evidence was the same.** Those who had the **Spirit**, the Teacher, heard the Word, and that Spirit in them took the Word and taught it (revealed it) to them; and **they were of the group that heard the messenger and his message and took it and lived it.** _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Four - Smyrnaean Church Age

Now we have been constantly saying that the **true evidence of being baptized with the Holy Ghost is for the believer to receive the Word for the age in which he lives.** _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Four - The Smyrnaean Church Age

The evidence of receiving the Holy Ghost today is just the same as it was back in the day of our Lord. It is **receiving the Word of truth for the day in which you live.** _The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Five - The Pergamean Church Age

...And count the covenant of the Blood, wherewith they were sanctified with..." The chemistry there sanctifies. It ain't the Token. **The Blood is not the Token now. The Life is the Token.** The life could not be there, 'cause it was an animal. The chemistry was the token, you'd have to have literal blood applied on the door. **But now it's the Holy Spirit.** We're coming to it, just in a moment, to prove that, see. It's the Life that is the Token. _Token 09-01-63M

As shown, Branham says the token of salvation **is not Christ's blood**; it is the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which is only evidenced through receiving and living by his alleged message. In doing so, Branham by definition becomes an Antichrist (1 John 2:18; 4:1 -6; 2 John 1:7 -11) because this word means to be "against Christ" and putting something "*in the place of Christ.*" Branham departed from the Apostles' teachings in the Bible that faith in the death, burial, and resurrection Jesus Christ by the gospel is the *only* means of salvation. As shown below, Branham connects the token of salvation to his end time message.

"But when I see the Token, I'll pass over you." **It's God's requirement of the hour.** The **evening-time Message**, is to **apply the Token.** _ Token 09-01-63

Therefore, by connecting the token of salvation and the evidence of the Holy Spirit to his end time message, Branham departed from the biblical teachings of Jesus and the apostles. They connected receiving of the Holy Spirit to believing in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior by the gospel (John 7:37 -39; Acts 2:36 -39; 11:15 -17; Gal. 2:2 -5,13-14; Eph. 1:12-14; 1 John 4:13-15). On Page 267, Branham said: "***We got something different***" from the apostles.

So then, even if individuals are saved according to the teachings of the apostles, they do not have the token of salvation without the evidence of Holy Spirit by accepting Branham's message. As shown below, he likened them to Judas Iscariot who was justified by believing in Jesus as personal Savior, sanctified, and his name placed in the book of life, but was lost because he never received the baptism of the Holy Spirit—which is now evidenced by accepting his alleged end time message.

...Look. **Judas Iscariot** followed those same tracks. **He was justified by believing on the Lord Jesus** and then accept Him as his **personal Saviour. He was sanctified** and give power to cast out spirits; **put his name on the Lamb's Book of Life**. **But when it come to Pentecost and the baptism of the Holy Ghost, the fullness of the Word, he showed his colors.** That's exactly what the Canaan spies did; that's exactly what Esau done. That's exactly what Satan done to Eve in the garden of Eden: "Surely God will not..." But she said, "God said..." He said, "Yeah, I know that says that; I know it says this, but surely..." See, the same thing all the way down through, and **so is it today.** _ Questions And Answers #3, 08-30-64M

As shown, Branham subtly replaced the blood of Christ with his message during his sermon "The Token." He also did the same when preaching "The Indictment" (07-07-63). In paragraphs 98 -110, he begins by saying God will meet with a person of any denomination under the shed blood of Jesus Christ. But, beginning in paragraph 111 to the end of the sermon he condemns everyone who rejects his end time message (see quotes on page 268), even those he claimed could meet with God under Jesus' shed blood.

Also, in paragraphs 46 -47 of "God's Chosen Place of Worship" (02-02-65), Branham says being in Christ is God's only place of worship. But, in paragraphs 108-112, he subtly shift that place to his message: "*There shall come light about the evening time. God's only place of worship. Oh, what's this message come to...*" (par. 112). He earlier said, "*they have to come into Christ, to be saved now, into the Word Message.*" (par. 91). Thus, Branham subtly and falsely made the criteria for salvation and acceptance with God his end time message rather than Jesus' shed blood.

Before Accepting Christ, Predestinated Followers were Always Saved

As studied, William Branham believed the token of salvation was the Holy Spirit, and receiving his message was the evidence that a person had received this gift. Thus, he subtly replaced the gospel of salvation with his flawed message. He further removed salvation from the shed blood, death, and resurrection of Christ by telling followers that they were always in God before they met the Savior.

If you are a Christian now, a **genuine predestinated seed**, you was in God before there was a... **You always was in God**. The germ of your life, which is an attribute of God, which was His thought. _Power Of Transformation 10-31-65M

What made you desire It, in the first place? Because **down in your soul there was a predestinated seed** which was Eternal Life, always laying in there, always was in there. "All that the Father has given Me will come to Me. There isn't any of them going to be lost." _ A Thinking Man's Filter 08-22-65

As shown, Branham taught followers that they always had a predestinated seed within them before they met the Savior. But, Jesus, Peter, and Paul says the seed, which is the word of God, was sown into our hearts by the gospel (Psalm 126:6; Luke 8:11-15; 1 Cor. 3:5-7; 1 Peter 1:23-25). As shown below, Branham also taught followers that they always had eternal life before they met Jesus Christ.

The Spirit can be there, the real, genuine Spirit. The Holy Spirit can anoint you, that still don't mean you're saved. **It's that inside soul that never dies**, it's got Eternal Life. **It always was Eternal Life**. See? It come from God, it goes to God, it's the soul. _ Works Is Faith Expressed 11-26-65

Branham's teachings are wrong. The Bible says we were dead in our sins and the children of disobedience until we receive eternal life through accepting Jesus the Savior by the gospel (John 3:14-18; Eph. 2:1-10; 2 Tim. 1:9-10).

Again, Branham continued to belittle receiving Jesus Christ as Savior. How? He told followers that they were not saved on a particular day since they were always saved.

...With Eternal Life, with the predestinated that never did start. It never started on any day. **You wasn't saved on any day. You was always saved.** Amen. Jesus just come to redeem that; but **you was saved, from the beginning**, because you had **Eternal Life, to begin with**. _The Future Home Of The Heavenly Bridegroom And The Earthly Bride 08-02-64

I have heard Branham's followers repeat this *lie* that they were always saved. But, the Bible speaks of a day of salvation when a person receives Jesus the Savior (Luke 19:9; 2 Cor. 6:1 -2). As stated, the Bible called us sinners before we met the Savior (Rom. 3:23 -25; 5:8; Eph. 2:1 -5; Col. 2:13-15; 1 Tim. 1:15). Thus, there was a time in our lives when we as sinners were without Christ and alienated from God (Eph. 2:11-13; 4:17-24; Col. 1:12-14, 20-23).

Based on the gospel preached by Apostle Paul, no one can be saved without believing in the death burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 1:17 -18,23; 2:2; 15:1 -4,11) and confessing him as Lord and Savior (John 10:32; Rom. 10:8-13; 1 John 4:15). Every message contrary to this truth is a false gospel (2 Cor. 11:1-4, 13-15; Gal. 1:6-9).

Well, what about predestination? Based on Branham's teaching, most followers believe a person have no choice regarding election since God either ordained people to be saved/raptured (by Branham's message) or lost. Yet, Branham also taught that a person had a right to choose.

Unless that was **God's seed, His gene from the beginning, predestinated, you're finished**. I don't care how much you shout, speak with tongues, run, shout. That has nothing to do with it. _ The Rapture 12-04-65

If He put Adam and Eve on **free moral agency so they could choose**, and then they made the wrong choice, and, see, He can do no more to you than He did to them. He's got to put you the same thing **so you can choose or reject**. _Leadership 12-07-65

In an apparent inconsistency, Branham said those who are not predestinated seeds from the beginning are finished (lost) as if they have no choice. But, in another sermon 3 days later, he says people have a choice. He said God predestinates by foreknowledge since he already knows peoples' decisions (The Harvest Time 12-12-64, Par 124).

So, if people have a choice, then they cannot have eternal life or always saved (as Branham taught) until they choose to accept Jesus as Savior (not Branham's message). Thus, Branham's statement that predestinated followers were not saved on a particular day is contradictory.

The Bible does say God chose us in Christ before the world began (Eph. 1:4 -5). Also, Romans 9:11 -24 seems to say the elect were chosen by God before birth. If these verses are not rightly divided (2 Tim. 2:15), a person may conclude that people have no choice. Why do I say this?

Well, if God ordained people to be lost, why does the Bible say he gives people an option to choose life or death, which began with Adam and Eve (Genesis 2: 16-17; Deut. 30:15-19; Josh. 24:15; 1 Kings 18:21). He even gave Cain a choice to do good and be accepted, whom Branham called serpent seed (Gen. 4:6 -7). As shown below, if decisions for humans to either be saved or lost were left to God, he would certainly choose to save everyone.

Say unto them, As I live, *saith the Lord God, I have NO PLEASURE* in the *death of the wicked*; but that the wicked **turn from his way and LIVE**: turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel? Ezekiel 33:11

Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that **God is no respecter of persons**: but in **EVERY NATION he** that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, IS **ACCEPTED WITH HIM**. Acts 10:34-35

And the times of this ignorance **God** winked at; but now **commands*** ALL MEN every where to **REPENT**. Acts 17:30

Who [God] **will have ALL MEN to BE SAVED**, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 1 Tim. 2:4

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **NOT WILLING that any should perish**, but that **ALL should COME TO REPENTANCE**. 2 Peter 3:9

As shown, everyone would be saved if decisions were left to God. So, why aren't everyone saved? It is because God has given people the freewill to choose. So does the biblical teaching of freewill contradict predestination? No! God is not responsible for making anyone choose good or evil. But, he being infinite in knowledge knows beforehand what a person will choose (Gen, 18:17 -19; Jer. 1:5; Psa. 139:2; Isa. 46:10; Acts 15:18). He knows the end of us all.

But there are some of you that believe not. For **Jesus knew FROM THE BEGINNING who they were that believed not**, and who should betray him. John 6:64

God's vast insight gives him the ability to predestinate according to his infinite foreknowledge. The scripture says in Romans 8:29: "For whom he did *FOREKNOW*, he also *did predestinate*..." Again, 1 Peter 1:2 says:

ELECT according to the FOREKNOWLEDGE of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.

As shown, God *elects* us based upon *foreknowledge* by the Holy Spirit's help to obediently accept the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Therefore, he predestinates a person based upon the decision he knows that individual will make in the future regarding Jesus Christ. Thus, God will allow people to choose whatever they desire. If people want evil, they can do it. But, if they desire righteousness, they shall find it (Matt. 5:6; Gal. 6:7).

For example, God foreknew that Jesus the Savior was coming and promised salvation and eternal blessings to his people before he created the world (Matt. 25:34; Rev. 13:8). But, these were not effective until they actually happened (Romans 16:25-26; 2 Tim. 1:9-10; Titus 1:2-4).

Well, did not Ephesians 2:8 say the faith that saved us by grace is a gift from God; or that salvation through grace and faith is the gift of God? Either way, we as sinners were unbelievers and did not have saving faith. But, God bestowed faith and salvation upon us by the conviction of the Holy Spirit (John 16:7-13; 1 Cor. 12:3) as he drew us to Christ (John 6:44; 12:32) by the gospel (2 Thess. 2:14).

Romans 10:13-17 says saving faith comes by hearing God's word through the preaching of the gospel. Thus, God imparts saving faith through the seed of his word (Luke 8:11-15), which is the gospel (1 Cor. 4:15; 1 Peter 1:23-25). This happened on the day of Pentecost and other places in the book of Acts (e.g., Acts 2:22-41; 4:4; 6:7; 9:35-38; 10:34-48; 15:7; 14:7, 21-22; 17:1-4; 19:8-20).

Once we understand that people's own choices will send them either to heaven or hell, then we cannot blame God for bad decisions. Therefore, God is just for sending sinners to hell when they refuse his mercy and salvation. However, since God knows their decisions beforehand, he can ordain them *to wrath* to fulfill his purposes like Pharaoh (Rom. 9:17-24). Actually in chapters 9-11, Paul is giving a reason why God blinded Israel to save both Jews and Gentiles.

For *God* hath concluded them all [both Jews and Gentiles] in unbelief, that he *might have mercy upon ALL*. Rom. 11:32

Sadly, Branham gave followers a false hope by saying a predestinated seed of God will receive his message.

If not, then **there's coming one with a message** that's straight on the Bible, and quick work will circle the earth. **The seeds will go in newspapers, reading material, until every predestinated Seed of God has heard it.** None of them will come unless the Father has drawn them, and every one the Father has drawn will hear it and come. That'll be **the predestinated Seed will hear the Word.** _Questions And Answers 05-27-62

And if you wasn't in God... **If you believe** the message of the Bible, and **the present Message of the day**, a vindication of it; the reason **you are sitting here, because you were**

predestinated to set here. You wouldn't have been here, otherwise.... _Power Of Transformation 10-31-65M

The true prophet of God in this last day will proclaim the whole Word. Denominations will hate him. His words may be as harsh as John the Baptist who called them vipers. But **the predestinated will hear and be ready for the rapture.** The Royal Seed of Abraham, with like faith as Abraham's will hold to the Word with him, for they are predestinated together. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Five - The Pergamean Church Age

As shown, Branham taught that a predestinated seed will receive his message. But, the Bible says those who are predestinated will trust in Christ by the gospel of salvation (Eph. 1:3-15). Jesus said everyone whom the Father has given him will come to him (John 6:37,39). Christ further said his sheep will hear his voice through the teachings of the apostles (John 10:1-18; 17:20; Acts 2:42), not by an alleged message that contained gross errors about salvation and other teachings. Nonetheless, Branham believed his recorded sermons will call out the predestinated seed.

See, **I'm talking on tape**, too, you understand. And many of it... And I don't say here in the church; we are all come out, suppose. But there maybe be **thousands times thousands will hear the tape.** see. And, that, it's a ministry. There'll be somebody to slip into Jericho, you know, **with a tape**, so we want to—**we want to catch that predestinated Seed**, when it goes in there, see, 'cause the wrath is coming. _Token 09-01-63

But one little harlot. There must have been some **tape boys slipped in there and played some of the tapes.** The—**the predestinated seed caught it and believed it** So, anyhow, they got in there for a message. They had church that night in her house. She used her house for a church, **to receive the message.** _The Token 11-28-63E

But, Apostle Paul says the elect will be called to obtain glory by the gospel (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:17-18; 15:1-4,11).

Whereunto **he CALLED YOU BY OUR GOSPEL**, to the **obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.** 2 Thess. 2:14

As shown in this section, Branham taught a dangerous message of salvation by predestination. He told believers of his message that they were always saved and had eternal life before accepting Jesus Christ as Savior through the true biblical gospel. For this reason, many of his followers are not saved according to the biblical gospel (studied in the following chapter). Instead, they are trusting in Branham's false words that they are predestinated seed because they had received his end time message. Paul warned the church of the dangers of receiving a false gospel (2 Cor. 11:3-4; Gal. 1:6-9)—studied later.

Mistaken Beliefs about Faith, Justification, New Birth, and the Gospel

After examining the sermons of William Branham about salvation and justification, it appeared that he did not have a clear biblical understanding of these vital subjects. Why? As stated, he believed a woman who had sex before marriage could be forgiven, but never justified. He also

believed illegitimate children could be saved, but could not go to heaven in the rapture as a predestinated seed — followers of his alleged end time message (pages 218-219).

308. Dear Brother Branham, if a baby is born of a—out of wedlock, can this child ever **be saved or go in the rapture?** Saved? Why sure, I believe the child could be... The child can't help what's been done. That is true. But I... **About going in the rapture... Saved, I'd say, "Yes." But in the rapture it's a predestinated seed that goes in the rapture. And I can't believe that adultery was a predestinated seed.** You understand? See? I **believe** the people can —**the baby can be saved**; it has no —no rights of its own. It's a awful act and things. _ Questions And Answers #2, 08-23-64E

If she would mar them, **she is defiled for lifetime.** No matter how much **she is forgiven, she can't be justified.** I'll strike that in a little bit. Got a Scripture on that, in a few minutes. **She can be forgiven for her defilement, but she cannot be justified in this life.** It's always with her. Notice now. She's been given this. **She may be forgiven, but not justified** . _ The Invisible Union Of The Bride Of Christ 11-25-65

As shown, Branham did not appear to have a biblical grasp of the term “justification by faith” (Rom. 5:1). If he did, he would not have preached condemnation on those whom the Lord had forgiven and “declared righteous” (Rom. 8:1,31-34; Heb. 10:17), which is the meaning of the word “justification.” In Branham’s mind, forgiveness and justification were different. He did not know that being declared righteous (justified) incorporates forgiveness of sins (Acts 13:38-39; Rom. 3:21-31). But, since he believed in four stages of grace, simply being justified in this age cannot save a person, which contradicts Romans 5:8-11.

Branham’s misunderstanding of justification brought lasting condemnation and guilt among women followers who had committed this premarital act and those born of illegitimacy. Likewise, his definition of the word “faith” left many followers without the assurance of salvation through the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross and the confirmation of his resurrection. How? He mystified the subject by telling followers that faith was a revelation.

Faith isn't something that's imaginary thing. I want you to get it. **Faith is a direct revelation.** See, if you only accept Christ as your Saviour by an intellectual, *you haven't got it yet.* You cannot say that Jesus is the Christ, until the Holy Spirit has revealed it to you. See, **intellectual faith**, that... Oh, if I could only get that one point right now to go down home in every heart. I'm thankful for this place, position right now. See? Oh, if you can only see this, you'll see the greatest thing you've seen in years. Look, not because I'm standing here saying it, but if you can understand how it is that **faith is not something mentally perceived, but it is a revelation**, a revelation of God, by faith, not intellectual, but by his heart. _ The Faith That Was Once Delivered To The Saints 05-01-55E

How did Abel know what to do in order to offer a proper sacrifice to God? By faith he received the revelation of the blood. Cain didn't get such a revelation (even though he had a commandment) so he couldn't offer the right sacrifice. It was a revelation from God that made the difference and gave Abel eternal life. Now you might take what the pastor says, or what the seminary teaches, and though it might be taught to you with

eloquence, **until God reveals to you** that Jesus is the Christ, and that it is the blood that cleanses you, and that God is your Saviour, you will never have eternal life. It is the **Spiritual revelation that does it.** _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter One - Revelation Of Jesus The Christ

Branham’s teachings about faith instills uncertainty of salvation among his followers. How? Well, as shown in the above quotes, even if a person had accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, he or she could still be unsaved . Why? Because it may be mentally perceived or intellectual faith, not a revelation. Once again, Branham removes the power of salvation from simple faith in the finished work of Christ (Rom. 10:4-17). He made salvation a mystical revelation based on his message rather than believing God’s word.

Now, you can see now, **the end-time Message**, why **It's rejected.** Can you? [Congregation says, "Amen." —Ed.] Now, no denomination, but **the revelation of His mystery** . See, no denomination. **The revelation!** God is not known by denomination. **He is known by revelation.** _ Christ Is The Mystery Of God Revealed 07-28-63

Branham tried to separate faith from intellect and mental perception. But, if a person have a brain and knows how to read and reason, intellectual and mental understanding are part of the process of receiving God’s word (Matt. 13:15,19,23). Then, who actually knows the difference between revelation and perception when both are basically the same and produces the same end result. You cannot have a revelation without intellect (mental understanding).

However, Branham lacked a complete formal school learning (he had a seventh grade education) and was against education and intellect. As earlier stated, he blamed his lack of education on the basis that he had to quit school and support his mother and siblings after his father’s death. However, the official death certificate shows that his father died in 1936 at the age of 53. At that time, Branham was already 27 years old and a married man, a pastor, and had two children (see endnotes ^[322] ^[323]).

Knowledge, science, education, is the **greatest hindrance** that God ever had. **It is of the devil.** _ The God Of This Evil Age 08-01-65

Now let me prove to you that **education** and **civilization come from the devil.** _ Power Of Transformation 10-31-65M

Why, my, how education and wisdom of this world has turned the church into a bunch of ragweeds! The... Its education and the **educational system, science and civilization, is of the devil.** It's the devil's civilization. The Bible said so... The Rapture 12-04-65

Oh, you see, it's **this intellectual day** that we're living in. **Education, civilization**, and the modern trend of the day, is **all of the devil.** "Civilization of the devil?" _ Leadership 12-07-65

So then, William Branham’s teaching on faith is based on mysticism rather than believing plain scriptural truths. Mysticism is the apprehension of spiritual knowledge through contemplation or meditation. Roman 10:17 says faith comes by hearing the word of God. So then, the only revelation anyone needs to know about salvation is to fully

believe what the Bible says about the subject.

Therefore, if God's word has declared a person to be saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and not by works (Eph. 2:8-9): then that person is saved if he or she believes on him according to the scriptures (John 7:38) through the gospel (Rom. 1:16; 10:8-17; 1 Cor. 15:1-4,11).

Another important subject matter that Branham did not clearly define to his followers was the issue about being "born again" (John 3:1-7). Similar to his open end teaching on faith, he likewise taught that the new birth is a revelation of Jesus Christ. Particularly, it is the revelation of Christ based on the word made manifest—his message.

What is the new Birth then? You'd say, "Well, Brother Branham, what is the new Birth?" **It is the revelation of Jesus Christ personally to you. Amen! See?** Not you joined a church, you shook a hand, you done something different, you said a creed, you promised to live by a —a code of rules. But Christ, the Bible, **He is the Word that was revealed to you..** _ Christ Is The Mystery Of God Revealed 07-28-63

The new Birth is Christ, is a revelation. God has revealed to you this great mystery, and that's a new Birth. Now what are you going to do when you get all that group together, **where the revelation is perfectly in harmony, and God expressing it through His Word** by the same actions, the same things that He did, **making the Word manifest!** _Christ Is The Mystery Of God Revealed 07-28-63

As shown, Branham's teachings on justification, faith, and the new birth are very vague. However, the Bible is clear on these subjects so that believers do not have to wait for a mystical experience to receive salvation. Rather, they do so through Jesus our Savior by the gospel (1 Cor. 4:15; 1 Pet. 1:23-25; 1 John 5:1, studied in the next chapter and three volume series about the gospel, see pages 316-318).

Now, we come to another major fault in Branham's teachings. In examining Branham's sermons, he did not understand the correct message of the gospel in Mark 16:15, which say: *"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."* However, in a 1961 sermon, there is a very rare instance where he correctly identified the gospel's message as pertaining to Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

Brother Jim Sink here **believes in this Gospel that we preach**, the Son of God, to believe that **He is truly the virgin-born Son of God.** Is that right, Brother Sink? **You believe that He died and rose again the third day**, triumphed over everything, and setting at the right hand of God, in the center of God's power on high, ever living to make intercessions for us? _Christianity Versus Idolatry 12-17-61

Nevertheless, Branham mainly believed the gospel in Mark 16:15 pertained to demonstrating the power of God.

To demonstrate the power of God is preaching the Gospel. Now, go ye into all the world and **demonstrate the power of the Gospel.** _Has The Lord Spoken Only To Moses? 11-30-55

"Go ye into all the world and manifest the power to all nations": **Mark 16. Preach the Gospel, not teach the Word;** preach the Gospel. **The Gospel is not through teaching the Word; it's the Word made manifest.** _The Hand Of The Lord Came Upon Him 04-30-54

But His commission to the Church was, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel." And **the Gospel is not altogether the Word, but It's making the Word come to Life.** _ The Philadelphian Church Age 12-10-60

How many knows what the Gospel is? Not the "Word." Paul said, **"The Gospel come to us not in word only, but through the power and manifestation of the Holy Ghost."** The Gospel is the power of God to make the Word act what It says It'll do. Preach the Gospel all the world. Preach the Gospel to just the white people or just the brown, yellow, black? **"To every creature."** Amen. Every creature: you believe that means that? I seen God **baffle a bull** one day. I seen Him **cause hornets not to sting.** I seen Him **raise up a opossum** that'd been laying dead all night. Ev ery creature... **The Gospel will take effect upon anything that you ask.** _Five Definite Identifications Of The True Church Of The Living God 09 -11-60E

In the above quotes, Branham did not believe the gospel should be taught. He believed the term "preach the gospel" meant "demonstrate the power of the Holy Spirit," even to animals and insects. Consider additional quotes that show his lack of understanding about the gospel in Mark 16:15.

The last commission, "Go into all the world, **preach the Gospel.** He that believeth and is baptized..." **Let me quote it the way it should be**, the way it's broke down. "Go ye into all the world and to every nation and **demonstrate the power of the Holy Ghost** _Five Definite Identifications Of The True Church Of The Living God 09-11-60E

Now, **He never said, "Go teach the Word."** He said, **"Preach the Gospel."** And the Gospel is demonstration of the risen Christ; that's the Holy Spirit. Paul said, **"The Gospel** come not in word only, but through the power, manifestation, **demonstrations of the Holy Spirit."** It would have to be to fulfill Mark 16. _ A Greater Than Solomon Is Here 04-12-61

The Bible said, **"The Gospel** came to us not in word only, but through the power, manifestations of the Holy Ghost." **In other words, "It's the Holy Ghost taking the Word of God and making It manifest.** _Confirmation Of The Commission 01 -22-62

Now, He said, **Mark 16,** "Go ye into all the world and **preach the Gospel. (In other words, demonstrate the power.)** And these signs shall follow them that accept the Gospel." See? Not just say intellectual words, no, no. They couldn't do that with intellectual words. That Word has to be made flesh, manifested. _ Putting On The Whole Armor Of God 06-07-62

...Jesus said in **Mark 16,** "Go ye into all the world and **preach the Gospel,**" **means to demonstrate the Power!** Cause, just preaching of the Word, alone, won't bring it. You've got to accept It, and **then It demonstrates**, "these signs shall follow them," because it is the Word. See? _Investments 08-30-63B

"The Gospel came not in Word only, but through power and manifestation of the Word." That's what the writer said, "Power and manifestation." In other words, **"The Word, vindicated, is the Gospel,"** see, Mark 16. _ A Paradox 04-18-64B

As shown, Branham believed the gospel of Mark 16:15 is solely the demonstration of God's power. He failed to connect verse 16 that says those who believes its message and are baptized will be saved. He did not know it had a

literal message that save s those who believe (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:1-4,11). In 1Thessalonians 1:5, Paul makes a distinction between the gospel and the power of God by saying: “For our gospel came not unto you in **word only**, but **also in power**, and in the Holy Ghost....”

According to Paul, the gospel is more than power; it also come through proclaiming the word of God. Even after Christ commissioned his disciples to preach the gospel of salvation in Mark 16:15-16, verse 20 says he confirmed “**the word with signs following.**” The signs that followed the gospel were not the gospel. It has a clear-cut message consisting of the words of salvation, as stated in Acts 13:26: “...to you is the **word of this salvation sent.**” Thus, the gospel has a precise message. So, what is that message? We shall study this subject in the following chapter.

What’s Next For Branham’s Followers?

Based upon this investigative study, it is evidently clear that William Branham was not the fulfillment of end time scriptures. Neither were Branham’s words infallible as his two sons claimed: “**I believe every word of Bro. Branham is Thus saith the Lord**”^[547] and “**God’s prophet make s no mistake. This is a perfect message.**”^[548]

Neither is Branham’s message errorless as the former pastor of 46 years in Jeffersonville claimed: “**There is no flaw in this message. There is no mistake in this message. I’m here to tell you that after following this message all these years, there is no error in it. It is every word the gospel truth**”^[549] Any honest person who has studied Branham’s message knows these statements are false.^[550]
^[551]^[552]^[553]^[554]^[555]^[556] There are many evident errors.

Our research of William Branham have uncovered repeated plagiarisms, failed visions, failed prophecies and predictions, failed Thus saith the Lord, alleged supernatural experiences, embellished stories, and erroneous teachings.

Considering Deuteronomy 18:20-22 and Branham’s words on pages 131-132, failed prophecies spoken in the name of the Lord has disqualified him as a true prophet. In the scriptures, false prophets are strongly condemned (Deut. 13:1-5; Jer. 5:13,31; 14:14-15; 23:15-40 Ezek. 13:1-16; 14:6-11; Micah 3:5-6; Zech. 13:4-5; Matt. 7:15-23; 24:11,24; 2 Pet. 2:1-3; 1 John 4:1; Rev. 19:20; 20:10). Thus, again we must consider Branham’s dire warning.

I’ve got to leave here. You’ve got to leave here. And if I go as a false prophet, I’ll lose my own soul and lose yours with me.
_Questions and Answers On The Holy Ghost 12-19-58

Not only did Branham warned followers that their souls were lost if he died as a false prophet (Matt. 7:15-23), he was also nonchalant about being an antichrist and cast into hell if this was God’s will, as shown below. No one should follow a person with this attitude and risk eternal damnation. Rather, people should trust in the finished work of Jesus’ cross for salvation (John 19:30; Rom. 10:4).

And there was a certain person said to me, **he said, "I believe you're an antichrist."** I said, "if that would be pleasing to my Lord, that's what I want to be" I want to be whatever He wants me to be. I love Him. And **if He should cast me into**

hell, I still will love Him , if I go with the same spirit I have now." He looked at me kind of strange. _Christ Is Revealed In His Own Word 08-22-65M

As stated on page 271, Branham may be an antichrist since the word means “in the place of Christ,” of which he placed himself and message. With so many of Branham’s teachings and prophecies proven wrong by the scriptures or archived facts: followers still believe his false claims.

But, the obvious errors shown in this investigative study have provided enough evidences against Branham’s misinterpreted claims that he was Elijah the prophet of Malachi 4:5-6, who restored the elect to the original word of God as a forerunner of Christ’s second coming; or the seventh angel of Revelation 3:14 and 10:7, who revealed the seven seals and every hidden mystery of the Bible in the end time; or the fulfillment of the Son of man ministry of Luke 17:30, who revealed Christ in human flesh; or that his alleged message fulfilled the shout of Christ’s return in 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

Considering the above, Branham’s erroneous teachings are both dangerous and irreparable. The only alternative for organizations, leaders, pastors, churches, and individuals proliferating his alleged end time message is to follow the example of the Worldwide Church of God—adherent to the teachings of Herbert W. Armstrong (see page 235).

Although Mr. Armstrong viewed himself fulfilling the role of Elijah, after his death the leaders of his religious organization later rejected his false teachings and claims. They moved the Worldwide Church of God toward mainstream biblical Christianity, which led to a major split in the denomination. Wikipedia says:^[557]

Within a few years after Armstrong's death in 1986, the succeeding church administration completely reversed the denomination's doctrines and teachings to be compatible with mainstream evangelical Christianity, while many members and ministers left and formed other churches that conformed to many, but not all, of Armstrong’s teachings.

Eventually, the Worldwide Church of God removed Armstrong’s writings from print and the former dean of the organization’s college declared him a false prophet and heretic (Titus 3:10). A video documentary entitled “*Called To Be Free*” highlights the organization’s dramatic journey from the bondage of Armstrong teachings (see endnote for link to online video).^[558] Wikipedia says:^[559]

Eventually **all of Herbert Armstrong's writings were withdrawn from print** by the Worldwide Church of God. In the 2004 video production *Called To Be Free*, Greg Albrecht, **former dean** of WCG’s Ambassador College, **declared Herbert Armstrong** to be both a **false prophet** and a **heretic**

In conclusion, whether people continue to view William Branham as a gifted evangelist, or as a prophet who went astray in his latter years, or as a false prophet from the very beginning, or if he died saved or lost: is for each to decide. But, the final judgment belongs to the Lord (1 Cor. 4:5). Because Gordon Lindsay forewarned Branham of pending death if he continued claiming to be Elijah, I hope that he repented before passing away in the hospital—see Ch. 13.

Chapter Seventeen

The True Biblical Gospel of Jesus Christ Versus William Branham's Message

As studied in the prior chapter, William Branham's teachings pertaining to salvation consisted of diverse beliefs. He claimed to preach justification by faith, sanctification by the blood, baptism of the Holy Spirit, and remission of sin through obeying Acts 2:38 as the means of salvation. Nonetheless, from the early 1960s until death, Branham believed that obeying his end time message (consisting of many unscriptural legalistic views followers must observe) was the only criteria by which God's elect—the Bride—could be saved and raptured to heaven, as shown in the next section.

Saved By Branham's Message or Biblical Gospel?

As stated, during the latter part of William Branham's ministry, he condemned every church and denomination.

And **my indictment is against the churches of today**. Now I—I'm not bringing the sinner into this. I'm just speaking this to the church. And it's—it's to be in the—the—the tapes now, and I—I'll try to get through as quick as I can. **I indict this generation** for the second crucifixion of Jesus Christ. _The Indictment 07-07-63M

And **I'm indicting**, this morning, the **federation of churches**. I'm indicting the **Pentecostals**. I'm indicting the **Presbyterians**, the **Baptists**, and **every denomination in the world**. By wicked, selfish greed you've took the Word of Life and crucified it before the people, and blasphemed It, and called It "fanaticism," which God has raised up in our midst to prove that He's the same yesterday, today, and forever. **I indict this generation!** _The Indictment 07-07-63M

And in the hour when I see **all the churches**, their great glamour, "and rich, and have need of nothing," they say; and see them, miserable, wretched, blind; then patting you on the shoulders, want you to compromise with them. **I was born for a purpose, that's to condemn that thing** and to call out. This I do. _The Feast Of The Trumpets 07-19-64M

Branham condemned all churches for crucifying the Word of life (referring to his message), not for rejecting the gospel of Christ and biblical teachings. He viewed them as Babylon, the mark and image of the beast (pages 99 - 106), and lodges (Does God Change His Mind? 04 -27-65, Par. 56). But, his message was filled with plagiarisms, false claims, false teachings, failed visions, failed prophecies, failed predictions, and failed "Thus saith the Lord."

By condemning every church in the entire world, Branham did not respect those who had accepted Jesus as Savior based on the teachings of the apostles. Unless true professing Christians had the token (Holy Spirit) of the last days through accepting his message: they were lost, even if they believed the true biblical gospel of salvation.

I don't care, you might have cast out devils. You might have healed the sick by your prayer of faith. You might have done all these things. **But if that Token is not there, you're under the wrath of God.** You **might be a believer**. You might stand in the pulpit and **preach the Gospel**. _Token 09-01-63M

If He has never give you the **baptism of the Holy Ghost**, yet, then **He hasn't confirmed your faith** that you say you have. But the **Token is the confirmation**. _The Token 02-08-64

There's **only one evidence of the Holy Spirit that I** know of, and that is a **genuine faith in the promised Word of the hour**. _ Questions and Answers #2, 08-23-64E

I say, in **every age** the **evidence was the same**. Those **who had the Spirit**, the Teacher, heard the Word, and that **Spirit in them** took the Word and taught it (revealed it) to them; and **they were of the group that heard the messenger and his message and took it and lived it**. _ An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Four - Smyrnaean Church Age

As shown, accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior based on the true biblical gospel of the apostles was not Branham's evidence for salvation near the end of his life. Branham taught that only those people who came out of denominations and followed his end time message would be saved, raptured, and partake in the new world to come.

There'll be a **new heavens and a new earth**. He'll prove it, because His Word said so. And **only the righteous will be there**. He'll prove it, too. That's right. **Only the ones** that's been **made part of this Word** (see, will be their part and their position in **this Word for their age**) will be the **only one will be there**. _ Proving His Word 08-16-64

The believers of this age has to believe This, **what He promised today**. Just the same as they had to come into the ark, to be saved; go out of Egypt to be saved; they have to come into Christ, **to be saved now, into the Word Message**. _God's Chosen Place Of Worship 02-20-65

The whole world belongs to it, see, the denominations. And, you say, "I'm a Christian." "What denomination do you belong to?" Well, **if I belonged to a denomination, I don't believe I'd be a Christian**. Now, that's a big word... The Bible calls, for this last days, **for Christians to come out of that prostitute**, that's tree of good and evil. _The God Of This Evil Age 08-01-65

The—the **Bride**, rather, is the One that's **going to be in the Rapture; that, alone, nothing but the Bride**, the elected ones foreknown by God from the beginning, the Father's spiritual genes. _The Rapture 12-04-65

People didn't love me at all; nobody had any use for me. And now, by the help of God, I believe that **I'm directing the Bride of Jesus Christ**. Oh. "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound!" _Questions And Answers #2, 08-23-64E

Branham believed his followers were the wise virgins in Matthew 25:1-13, who had the Holy Spirit because they received his message. However, he did believe that some clean living people who had not the Holy Spirit — evidenced by believing his message — could be saved as foolish virgins through the great tribulation. Every other church that had spoken against his message and followers—the Bride—will be thrown into the lake of fire.

Now we have been constantly saying that the **true evidence of being baptized with the Holy Ghost is for the believer to receive the Word for the age in which he lives.** _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Four - The Smyrnaean Church Age

It is the second resurrection wherein the five **foolish virgins** come up. Notice that they were virgins. **They did not have the Holy Spirit** so they **missed being in the bride**, while the **five wise who had oil became a part of that bride**. But these people, being a separated, God -loving people, and trying to abide in the Word, according to what they knew of it, and being a help in the work of the Lord will come up at the end of time. They will miss the millennium, which you can begin to see by these truths is much more important and wonderful than we have ever thought or believed. **All these people had their names in the Book of Life and their names remained.** But **whose names did not remain? Those of the world system churches who fought the bride** will be those **whose names are removed**. That is **who will lose out**. They will be **cast into the lake of fire**. _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Seven - The Sardisean Church Age

In Branham's view, only followers and foolish virgins were in the book of life. The gospel of the apostles could no longer save a person. His message had become thus.

The Word of Moses' time did not work in the days of Jesus' time. The Word, **the Word in the days of the apostles does not work in this day**. It's a **promised Word for this day**. _Shalom 1-12-64

The Word that fell on the Day of Pentecost will not work this day. No, sir. That was for Pentecost. **This is for the Bride**, going Home of the Bride. **We got something different.** _The Invisible Union Of The Bride Of Christ 11 - 25-65

So, in Branham's view, his message superseded the words of the apostles. Their teachings will not work for this day. As a result, true Christians who had believed in Jesus Christ as Savior according to the gospel preached by the apostles will be thrown into the lake of fire because they rejected his proven error filled message. However, Branham's followers are the ones who are in danger of hell's fire if they trust his message for salvation or rapture rather than faith in Christ through the apostles' gospel. After the last quote, Branham was dead within a month.

Jesus said we would believe on him by the apostles' words (John 17:20). Also, Paul said every gospel contrary to his message is accursed (Gal. 1:6-9) and must be avoided (Rom. 16:17-18). He warned so-called prophets that his words were from God (1 Cor. 14:37). The apostles are so important to Christ that he said they would eat and drink at his table and sit on twelve thrones in his kingdom

(Luke 22:29-30). Even the 12 foundations of the wall surrounding heavenly Jerusalem have their names etched into them (Rev. 21:14). All who disobey the gospel of the apostles will suffer eternal damnation (2 Thess. 1:7-10).

So then, whose teachings of salvation is correct for today's Christianity, the apostles' gospel or Branham's alleged message of the hour? Undoubtedly, the apostles' gospel will be the standard by which God shall save or judge everyone (Rom. 2:16; 1 Pet. 4:17). Satan is trying to hide this true message of salvation (2 Cor. 4:3-4).

Therefore, to clearly settle the question what is the true biblical gospel of salvation, we shall consider the teaching of Christ's apostles regarding this subject. The following information is taken from Volume I of a three part series that I wrote, entitled: "The True Biblical Gospel of Jesus Christ (Why the Devil Fears It and Why You Should Believe)" [560] For more information see pages 316-318.

The Biblical Gospel: The Precise Message

As studied, Branham's understanding of salvation was complicated, confusing, misleading, and wrong. It defies the warning that Paul told the church: "...so your minds should be corrupted from the *simplicity* that is in Christ" (2 Cor. 11:3). Branham also had a poor understanding of the gospel's exact message. He did not know what it meant to preach the gospel. As studied (page 275), he believed preaching the gospel meant demonstrating the power of God rather than declaring a clear-cut message of salvation.

Now, **He never said, "Go teach the Word."** He said, **"Preach the Gospel."** And the Gospel is demonstration of the risen Christ; that's the Holy Spirit. Paul said, "**The Gospel come not in word only, but through the power, manifestation, demonstrations of the Holy Spirit.**" It would have to be to fulfill **Mark 16**. _A Greater Than Solomon Is Here 04-12-61

As shown, Branham got the gospel's message of salvation in Mark 16:15-16 confused with the signs that follow believers in verses 17-20. Also remember, Jesus said many false Christs and false prophets will perform great signs and wonders in the last days that will deceive many people. Christ even forewarned that some people who had performed signs in his name will be rejected in the Day of Judgment (Matt. 7:21-23; 24:5,11,24).

Thus, Branham's belief that the gospel of Mark 16 pertains to demonstrating the power of God is erroneous. This view has set the stage for followers to believe his false gospel of power for salvation that allegedly vindicated his flawed message, rather than the true biblical gospel that proclaimed a clear message of salvation through Christ.

So, what is the precise message of the true biblical gospel? Based upon Jesus' commission in Mark 16:15-16 and Paul's statement in Ephesians 1:13, the gospel must be accepted before a person is baptized in water and by the Holy Spirit (Acts 15:7-9). As shown below, Paul provides a precise and concise description of the gospel's message.

Moreover, brethren, **I declare** unto you **THE GOSPEL** which **I PREACHED** unto you...by which also **ye are SAVED**... [1]

how that Christ **died** for our sins according to the scriptures; [2] and that he was **buried**, [3] and that he **rose again** the third day according to the scriptures...so *we preached*, and so *ye believed*. 1 Cor.15:1-4,11

As shown, the gospel that Paul preached declared: (1) Jesus died for our sins, (2) was buried, and (3) rose from dead on the third day. Again, in 1 Corinthians 1:17-18 and 2 Timothy 2:8, he defines the gospel as the preaching of Jesus' death on the cross (1 Cor. 1:23; 2:2) and his literal bodily resurrection. In Mark 16:15 and Luke 24:46, Jesus Christ also identified the gospel to be the same when commissioning his disciples to preach the gospel along with repentance and forgiveness of sins in his name.

And he said unto them, Go ye into **all the world**, and **PREACH THE GOSPEL** to every creature. Mark 16:15

And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved **Christ to suffer** [on the cross], **and to rise from the dead the third day**: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name [the gospel message are these – 1 Cor. 15: 1-4] among **all nations**, beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 24:46-47

So then, the gospel preached by the apostles tells the story of redemption how Jesus Christ the Lord and Savior died on the cross for our sins, was buried, and arose the third day. This message, when mixed with faith (Heb. 4:2), becomes God's power unto salvation (Romans 1:16).

In Luke 24:46 and 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, both Jesus and Paul says Christ dying for our sins was written in the scriptures, which most certainly includes Psalms 22:1-22 and Isaiah 53:1-12 (a detailed studied found in Volume I, pages 175-184). Why is Jesus Christ's sacrificial death for the sins of humanity so important? It is important because sin is the root of every problem facing the human race. As stated in Volume I, sin caused the downfall of Lucifer, who became Satan (Ezek. 28:16; 1 John 3:8); the downfall of angels, who became demons (2 Peter 2:4); and the downfall of humans, who became sinners (Romans 1:18-32; 5:12).

Sin is the reason people worship false gods, lie, steal, cheat, covet, commit sexual acts outside of lawful biblical marriage, hate, and kill one another (other acts of sin are shown in Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 4:25-29; 5:5-9; 1 Tim. 1:8-11, Rev. 21:8; 22:14-15).

Moreover, sin brought forth condemnation, guilt, a corrupt fleshly nature, evils in the world, death, the grave, hell and eternal wrath, and the lost of an earthly paradise. Besides Christ, no human can resolve the sin problem. The following summary applies to every human.

- Adam's sins made everyone sinners – Job 31:33; Romans 5:12,19
- Every human is conceived and formed in sin – Psalm 51:5
- Every human is unclean and born in sin – Job 14:4; Psalm 58:3
- Every human is born with a sinful nature – Romans 7:18-19,21

- Every human is sold under sin – Romans 7:14
- Sin dwells in every human – Romans 7:17,20
- Every human has personally sinned – Eccl. 7:20; Romans 3:23
- Every human is controlled by sin – Romans 7:23-24
- Every human is enslaved by sin – John 8:34; Romans 6:16-17
- Every human who sins is of the Devil – 1 John 3:8
- Every human is dead in sins – Ephesians 2:1,5; Colossians 2:13
- Every human is convicted of sin – John 16:8-9
- Every human must die due to sin – Romans 6:23; Rev. 21:8

As shown in the above bullets, every human is conceived and born in sin and sentenced to second death (Rev. 21:8) if not redeemed by God. This redemption was foreshadowed through sacrificial animals in the Old Testament until Jesus arrived in the New Testament to shed his blood on the cross (Heb. 9:9-25; 10:1-20). Thus, Branham's teachings that followers of his message, who he called predestinated seed, were always saved and had eternal life before the world began are totally false.

If you are a Christian now, **a genuine predestinated seed**, you was in God before there was a... **You always was in God.** _Power Of Transformation 10-31-65M

What made you desire It, in the first place? Because **down in your soul there was a predestinated seed** which was **Eternal Life, always laying in there, always was in there.** _ A Thinking Man's Filter 08-22-65

...Eternal Life, with the predestinated that never did start. It never started on any day. **You wasn't saved on any day. You was always saved.** Amen. Jesus just come to redeem that; but **you was saved, from the beginning**, because you had **Eternal Life, to begin with.** _The Future Home Of The Heavenly Bridegroom And The Earthly Bride 08-02-64

When Jesus Christ died on the cross, Titus 2:14 says he "...gave himself for us, that he might **redeem us from all iniquity**..." Thus, he redeemed us from ALL sins. By doing so, Jesus removed the sins of those who would thereafter receive him as Savior, as shown below.

- He became a perfect sacrifice for their sins – Hebrews 10:12
- He was wounded for their sins – Isaiah 53:5
- Their sins were laid upon him – Isaiah 53:6
- He bare their sins – Isaiah 53:11; 1 Peter 2:24
- He was made sin for them – 2 Corinthians 5:21
- His soul was made an offering for sin – Isaiah 53:10
- He is the propitiation for their sins – 1 John 2:2
- He suffered and died for their sins – 1 Cor. 15:3; 1 Peter 3:18
- He forgave their sins - Ephesians 1:7; Acts 26:18
- He remitted their sins – Matt. 26:28; Luke 24:47; Acts 10:43

- He washed away their sins – Revelation 1:5
- He cleansed their sins – 1 John 1:7
- He purged their sins – Hebrews 1:3
- He put away their sins – Hebrews 9:26
- He took away their sins – John 1:29; 1 John 3:5
- He saved them from sin – Matthew 1:21
- He blotted out their sins – Acts 3:19
- He freed them from sin – Romans 6:18
- He made them dead to sins – 1 Peter 2:24; Rom. 6:7
- He will never remember their sins – Hebrews 10:17
- He put off the sins of their flesh – Colossians 2:11
- He delivered them from sin’s dominion – Rom. 6:14

As shown, Jesus’ death on the cross is the centerpiece of the gospel’s message of salvation for humanity. But, Christ’s burial and resurrection provided proof verifying his Messianic claims (Mark 16:9-14; Luke 24:1-46) and that redemption had occurred on the cross (Acts 17:31; 1 Cor. 15:12-20). Thus, the proof of Jesus’ resurrection gave every believer assurance of justification (Rom. 4:24 -25), salvation (1 Peter 3:21), their resurrection and victory over death and the grave (1 Cor. 15:21-22,50-58; Rev. 1:18), and the hope of a heavenly home (1 Pet. 1:3-4).

Thus, Branham’s message is not needed to obtain the above eternal blessings. Again, Romans 10:1-10 shows the simplicity of the gospel that speaks of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the only means of salvation.

In Romans 10, Paul says that true righteousness and salvation (verses 1-5) is attained by: (1) believing Jesus is Christ the Lord who came from heaven (which is the implied response to the question asked in verse 6); (2) believing he is the one who died and arose from the dead (which is the implied response to verse 7); and (3) believing and openly confessing these truths (verses 8-10)—that Jesus is the Lord from heaven who died and arose from the dead, as shown below.

That if you confess with your mouth **the Lord Jesus** [verse 6], and believe in your heart that God has **raised Him from the dead** [verse 7], **YOU WILL BE SAVED**. Vs. 9 (NKJV)

For with the heart one **believes** unto **righteousness** and with the mouth **confession** is made unto **salvation**. Vs. 10 (NKJV)

Considering verses 14 and 15, a person cannot confess Jesus Christ unto salvation and believe unto righteousness except someone preaches the gospel. Therefore, to properly obey Romans 10:9-10, one must hear the true biblical gospel regarding Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross for our sins, and his burial and resurrection.

But, verse 16 says not everyone claiming righteousness has obeyed the gospel. Why? Like the followers of William Branham, verses 3-5 tell us that people have established their own righteousness instead of submitting to God’s righteousness by faith in Jesus Christ through the gospel.

When verse 9 speaks of believing “...that God has *raised Him from the dead*, **YOU WILL BE SAVED**,” it is clear that believing in Jesus’ literal bodily resurrection is necessary for justification (Romans 4:24-25) and salvation

(1 Cor. 15:12-20) after a person had heard of his sacrificial death on the cross for our sins. So then, what did Christ’s death on the cross—confirmed by his burial and resurrection—accomplish for his followers?

- The judgment of God’s righteous **laws** that convicted, cursed, and condemned them as sinners, he nailed to the cross by satisfying its righteous demands for justice (Matthew 5:17-18; John 19:30; Romans 3:19-20; 4:15; Gal. 3:10-14; Ephesians 2:15-16; Col. 2:14).
- The **sins** that sentenced them to death, he bore on the cross and removed by his shed blood (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 9:22-26; 1 Peter 2:24).
- The **guilt** and shame that condemned their remorseful consciences, he cleansed by his shed blood on the cross (Heb. 9:14; Rom. 8:1; 10:11).
- The penalty of **death** they deserved, he cancelled by dying as a substitute on the cross (Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 6:23; Heb. 2:9,15).
- The **Devil** who they could not defeat, he conquered forever (Col. 2:14-15; 1 John 3:8; John 16:11; Rev. 20:1-3,10) through his death (John 12:31-33; Hebrews 2:14), shed blood (Rev. 12:9-11), and proven by his resurrection and ascension (Eph 1:19-22; 1 Pet. 3:22).
- The evils of the **flesh** and **world** that held them in bondage, he overcame during his lifetime and crucified on the cross (John 16:33; Galatians 1:4; 2:20; 5:24; 6:14; Ephesians 2:1-6; 1 John 5:4-5).
- The penalty of **hell** (Hades) they were worthy of, he annulled when he redeemed them from sin on the cross: proven by the fact that he personally visited this foreboding region and rose from its midst (Luke 16:23; Acts 2:31; 1 Peter 3:18-19; Psa. 86:13; Matt. 16:18; Rev. 1:18).
- The sorrow of the **grave** from which they could not escape, he revoked when he paid the price of redemption on the cross: proven by the fact that he forever rose from its midst on the third day, never to die again (Psa. 49:7-9,15; Isa. 26:19; Hos. 13:14; Luke 24:1-53; Rom. 6:9-11).
- God’s **everlasting wrath** in the lake of fire that was to befall them, he forever appeased on the cross (Revelation 14:10-11; 20:6,10-15; 21:8; Isaiah 53:3-6,10-11; Matt. 27:46; Romans 5:9-10; 1 Thess. 1:10).
- The **lost eternal inheritance** forfeited by Adam and Eve, he redeemed by his death on the cross (Col. 1:4-6, 12-14, 20-23; Eph. 1:11; Heb. 9:15; 1 Peter 1:3-4).

After considering the above scriptures, we can plainly see that William Branham’s message is unnecessary for salvation and entrance into heaven. The above truths show that redemption was fully completed on Jesus’ cross (John 19:30), and the power of salvation is found in the message of his death, burial, and resurrection. To underscore this point, a study of the book of Acts shows a central theme: the gospel preached by the apostles told the world about the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

For example, in Acts 2:22-35, Apostle Peter—who had

the keys to God's kingdom (Matt. 16:19) —preached Jesus' crucifixion and death (verses 22-23), burial and resurrection (verses 24-32), and ascension to heaven (verses 33-35). Conclusively, he said in verse 36: "... *God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.*"

Three thousand Jews were convicted by the simple preaching of the gospel. First, they heard the message of Christ's *crucifixion, burial, and resurrection*. Secondly, they repented. Thirdly, they believed Peter's message (Acts 2:44 said "all that believed") and accepted Jesus as Lord and Christ (verse 36). After accepting the gospel, they submitted to water baptism in his name and received the Holy Spirit (verses 37-41). On that day, Peter had set forth an example of obeying Jesus' command in Mark 16:15-16 to preach the gospel before baptizing.

In two other examples that occurred shortly after Pentecost, Peter was once again preaching the gospel to thousands of Jews by declaring Jesus as the Son of God and Savior, and spoke of his *crucifixion, death, and resurrection*. The first was before a crowd that had gathered after a great miracle was performed, of whom 5,000 believed. Then secondly before the illustrious Jewish Sanhedrin Court (Acts 3:12-26; 4:4,8-12).

Once more, when Peter was preaching the gospel to the Gentiles for the first time, they believed as he declared Jesus Christ as Lord and spoke of his *crucifixion, death, resurrection*, and remission of sins by faith in him. After this, they received the Holy Spirit and were baptized in water (Acts 10:34-48; 15:7-9).

Again, in Paul's first recorded message of preaching the gospel, he declared Jesus as Savior and spoke of his *crucifixion, death, and resurrection*. He concluded by telling the people to receive forgiveness of sins and justification by faith in Jesus, and many believed (Acts 13:23-39,43,48).

Further evidence from the book of Acts that shows the gospel preached by the apostles (Acts 8:25; 14:7,21; 15:7; 16:10; 20:24) declared Jesus as Savior and Christ, and spoke of his *crucifixion, death, and resurrection* is found in Acts 5:29-32; 17:1-4; and 26:19-23.

The books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John briefly speak of Jesus' birth and childhood, and then focused on his messianic ministry. However, each of these books ended with the story of *his crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection*. Those events are the very message of the gospel preached by the apostles. Perhaps this is why these books are called *The Gospel according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John*—because they tell the story of redemption.

So then, the gospel of the apostles (1 Cor. 15:1-2) proclaims: (1) "we preach Christ crucified" – 1 Cor. 1:23, (2) "the preaching of the cross" – 1 Cor. 1:18, or (3) "Jesus Christ and him crucified" – 1 Cor. 2:2, or (4) "Christ died for our sins...he was buried...he rose again the third day..." – 1 Cor. 15:3-4. As stated by Paul, the preaching of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing. But, it is the power of God unto salvation to those who are saved (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:17-18,21).

The Biblical Gospel Proclaims Christ's Finished Work of Redemption

As studied, the gospel preached by the apostles tells the story of redemption how Jesus Christ the Lord and Savior died on the cross for our sins, was buried, and arose the third day. Immediately before Christ's death on the cross, he said: "*It is finished.*" (John 19:30). In Volume I of "The True Biblical Gospel of Jesus Christ" (page 154), nine words were used to summarize the finished work of Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross, which are:

- (1) **Redemption** – Acts 20:28; Rom. 3:24-25; Rev. 5:9
- (2) **Forgiveness**– Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 10:17,
- (3) **Righteousness** (justification) – Romans 3:22; 5:1; 2 Cor. 5:21
- (4) **Salvation** – From our sins (Matt. 1:21), from God's wrath (Rom. 5:9)
- (5) **Reconciliation** – Rom. 5:10; 2 Cor. 5:19; Col. 1:20
- (6) **Eternal life** – John 3:14-16; 2 Timothy 1:10; 2:8-10
- (7) **Sanctification** (cleansed and set apart to God) – Acts 26:18; Heb.10:10-14; 13:12
- (8) **Deliverance** – Galatians 1:4; Col. 1:13; Heb. 2:15
- (9) **Eternal Inheritance** – Eph. 1:11-14; Heb. 9:15

The above eternal blessings are the direct results of Jesus' sacrificial death and shed blood according to the gospel. For example, Hebrews 9:12 says we obtained eternal **redemption** by Jesus' blood on the cross. Colossians 1:14 says we obtain **forgiveness** of sins by his blood on the cross. Romans 5:9 says we are **justified** (declared righteous) by the blood of his cross; this verse also tells us the same blood **saved** us from God's wrath.

Moreover, Colossians 1:20 says Jesus made peace and **reconciled** us to God by the blood of his cross. Hosea 13:14 says he redeemed us (by his blood) from death. As a result, John 3:14-16 and 2 Timothy 1:10 tells us that Jesus abolished death and brought **eternal life** by being lifted up on the cross. Hebrews 10:10 and 13:12 says we were **sanctified** by Jesus' blood through his sacrificial offering on the cross.

Furthermore, Galatians 1:4, Hebrews 2:14-15, and Revelation 12:11 says Jesus **delivered** us from the world and the Devil by his death and shed blood on the cross. Lastly, Hebrews 9:14-17 tells us that Christ brought in a new testament (a "Will") and gave us an **eternal inheritance** by his shed blood and death on the cross.

As shown, Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross undeniably completed redemption whereby true believers can now rest assuredly in his finished work (Matt. 11:28-30; Heb. 4:1-11). As stated in Volume I (page 6), by means of Jesus' finished work of redemption on the cross and resurrection, the gospel has been scripturally proven to be the grace-bestowing (Acts 20:24), blood-redeeming (Eph. 1:7), sin-cleansing (Heb. 10:10-18), soul-saving (1 Peter 1:9-12), death-abolishing (2 Tim. 1:10), grave-conquering (1 Thess. 4:14), hell-liberating (Rev. 1:18, Matt. 16:18), kingdom-entering (Matt. 16:19), heaven-assuring (Col. 1:5-6; 1 Peter 1:3-5); life-giving (2 Tim.

1:10; 1 Pet.1:23 -25); life-renewing (2 Cor. 5:17 -21), heart-purifying (Acts 15:7-9), mind-changing (Eph. 4:23; Col. 1:21-23), spirit-reviving (Rom. 1:9), guilt -removing (Rom. 8:1; Heb. 9:14), Holy Spirit -sending (Gal. 3:14; Eph. 1:13), blessing and glory -obtaining (Rom. 15:29; 2 Thess. 2:14), inheritance-restoring (Eph. 1:11-14; Heb. 9:15), religion-freeing (Gal. 1:11-16), world-delivering (Gal. 1:4), Devil-defeating (Col. 2:13-15; 1 John 3:8), and bondage-destroying (Romans 8:15; Col. 1:12-14) **“POWER OF GOD unto salvation”** to everyone who believes (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:17-18,21) **in Jesus Christ the crucified and risen Savior** (1 Cor.15:1-4,11).

Thus, Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross provided true believers with an absolute finished work of eternal redemption (Col. 2:10; Heb. 9:12; 10:10-14). Hence, exposing Branham’s message as totally unnecessary for salvation or entrance (rapture) into heaven.

Historically Identifying the False Gospel

As studied, the simplicity of the gospel preached by the apostles tells the story of redemption how Jesus Christ the Lord and Savior died on the cross for our sins, was buried, and a rose the third day, as repeatedly shown in the book of Acts . However, a false gospel was circulating among churches during the first century . In Galatians 1:6-9, Apostle Paul addresses this false gospel.

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto **ANOTHER GOSPEL**; which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would **PERVERT THE GOSPEL** of Christ.

But though we, or an angel from heaven, **preach a ny other gospel** unto you than that which we have preached unto you, **let him be accursed**. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel...**LET HIM BE ACCURSED**.

In verses 11-12, Paul says the gospel he preached could never be changed because it came directly from the Lord . According to Paul, anyone failing to proclaim the same gospel of the apostles is *“accursed”* (damned to everlasting punishment – Matt. 25:41). As shown below, they are promoting *“another gospel,”* and *“another Jesus”* initially preached by false apostles sent by Satan (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

For if he [false apostles in verses 13 -15] that cometh preaches* **another Jesus**, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive **another spirit**, which ye have not received, or **ANOTHER GOSPEL**, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him [you put up with them]. 2 Corinthians 11:4

As shown above, a perverted gospel is dangerous. One subtle form of this distorted gospel de-emphasizes justification (righteousness) and salvation based on grace and faith through Jesus Christ. Rather, emphasis is shifted to justification by good works through self-righteousness—as seen in the alleged message of William Branham.

The gospel of self -righteousness is based upon a person’s ability to perform good works instead of *trusting entirely* in the finished work of the Savior on the cross by God’s grace (e.g., Rom. 3:21-31; 4:1-16,20-25; 5:15-21; 9:30-32; 10:1-13; 11:5-6; Gal. 2:16; and Eph. 2:8-9).

When defending the gospel against those trusting in self-righteousness, Paul warned the church of a group he called the *concision* (Phil. 1:7,17; 3:2). These were some Jewish converts to Christianity, mainly from the Pharisees . They had accepted Jesus as Messiah, but believed salvation could not be attained without being circumcised and keeping the laws of Moses (Acts 15:1-6,24; 21:18-22).

The Judaizers, as they were called, attempted to persuade the church, especially Gentile believers , to keep the laws of the Jews’ religion (called “Judaism”). These purported believers had a difficult time accepting God’s salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. They said: *“...Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, YE CANNOT BE SAVED* (Acts 15:1).

The problem with the Judaizers mainly started when Paul proclaimed the gospel in the province of Galatia (Acts 14:7,21). Telling both Jews and Gentiles that they could receive forgiveness of sins and righteous ness (justification) by faith in Jesus Christ through his crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection (Acts 13:26 -39). During Paul’s discourse, he made no mention of being circumcised or keeping the Mosaic laws. Instead, he told his audience that believing in Jesus can justify from *“all things”* (all sins), which could not be done by the law of Moses (vs. 39).

Paul’s message of justification and salvation by faith infuriated the Judaizers and set off a firestorm of debates, mostly regarding the uncircumcised Gentiles (Acts 15:2 ,7). Before the conversion of the Gentiles, circumcision and keeping the law were not major issues since believers in Christ were Jews and Samaritans who had already been circumcised and abiding by some aspects of the law.

But, the Gentiles’ conversion led to a major council in Jerusalem (Acts 15:5 -35). Even after the gospel’s message of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ was unanimously agreed upon by the Apostles and Elders (verses 24-29), the Judaizers continued to teach their false doctrine.

Pharisaical Jews believed righteousness was attained only by keeping the laws of Moses. The doctrine of the Judaizers, being more deceptive, taught that righteousness was attained by accepting Jesus as Messiah along with circumcision and the good works of the Mosaic laws.

If the Judaizers’ and Branham’s concepts that salvation through Jesus Christ alone is not enough, then according to Galatians 2:21: *“...if righteousness come by the law [good works], then Christ is dead in vain.”* That is, Christ’s death was useless if people can become saved and righteous by any other means than *trusting entirely* in his finished work on the cross (John 19:30; Acts 4:12).

The teachings of the Judaizers greatly affected the Gentile churches in the province of Galatia. Paul, who was sent to the Gentiles (Acts 26:15 -18), calls them accursed and false brethren (Gal. 1:6-9; 2:4). He denounced the Judaizers for preaching a perverted gospel and dedicated the epistle of Galatians in refuting their false teachings.

The teachings of the Judaizers also affected the Gentile churches in Corinth. In 2 Corinthians 11:22 -23, Paul describes them as being Hebrews, Israelites, descendants of Abraham, and professing ministers of Christ. But , he also

calls them false apostles, ministers of Satan, and deceitful workers pretending to be ministers of righteousness and the apostles of Christ. He denounced these men for preaching another Jesus and gospel (2 Cor. 11:4,13-15).

The Judaizers were taking advantage of the Corinthians and trying to undermine Paul's authority as an apostle of Christ (1 Corinthians 9:1-6; 2 Cor.10:7-12; 11:12,17-21; 12:11-13; 13:3,5-6,10).

Even on the island of Crete, Paul warned Titus about some people who were trying to impose upon the Gentiles the false teaching of salvation by circumcision and keeping the Mosaic laws (Tit. 1:9-11). Likewise, Message Believers are trying to persuade churches that they need Branham's alleged end time message to be saved or raptured.

In Titus 1:14, Paul tells Titus to sharply rebuke the Cretians. Why? So they could be sound in the faith, and not listen to Jewish fables and commandments of men that turns away from the truth.

Again, in Philippians 3:2, Paul denounced the Judaizers by referring to them as dogs and evil workers. He also calls them the concision (cutters) instead of the circumcision. Why? They were circumcising men as a requirement for salvation when such an act was no longer necessary to attain God's righteousness. They were defying the New Testament's teaching of spiritual circumcision (Rom. 2:28-29; 1 Cor. 7:18-19; Col. 2:11; Gal. 6:15; Phil. 3:2).

Historically Identifying Enemies of the Cross

In Philippians 3:18, Paul referred to the Judaizers and anyone who trusted in good works or other means for salvation as "*enemies of the cross of Christ.*" These individuals, who themselves did not keep the very laws they boasted of and trusted in (Gal. 6:12-13; Phil. 3:19), were not enemies of Jesus because they had allegedly accepted him as Messiah. They were enemies of Jesus' cross. Why? Because the Judaizers believe Christ's death on the cross could not entirely save anyone through faith without the Mosaic laws: They accepted Jesus as Messiah, but rejected *trusting* in the finished work of his cross as the only means of true salvation (Rom. 10:4).

In Philippians 3:5-6, Paul challenged the Judaizers and those who trusted in self-righteousness through good works by enumerating his outstanding credentials as a Pharisee. He did so as a means of disproving their false doctrine.

To convey the point, Paul impressively declared that (1) he was circumcised on the eighth day according to the strictness of the law, (2) he was not a proselyte, but a true Israelite from the tribe of Benjamin, the covenanted people of the true God, (3) he was a full-blooded Jew born of genuine Hebrew ancestry, (4) he was a Pharisee, the most legalistic sect of the Jew's religion that fervently defended, observed, and taught the law; also Paul was educated by a renowned teacher of the law named Gamaliel (Acts 5:34; 22:3), (5) concealing zeal, he once persecuted the church for not upholding the law and Jewish traditions, and (6) regarding the righteousness of the law, he was outwardly blameless; no one could accuse him of living ungodly.

Considering Paul's exceptional pharisaical credentials, if anyone had the rights to claim justification and salvation by good works, he certainly did. But Paul unmistakably told the church that he had to count all of his religious achievements loss to gain the true righteousness that Christ offers by faith. Why? Because in reality even with all of his pharisaical accomplishments, he was still a sinner like everyone else (Rom. 3:9,23).

Paul had not only disobeyed the very laws he claimed to have upheld (Romans 3:19-20; 7:4-25), but he also called himself a blasphemer, a persecutor, a violent person (injurious), and a chief of sinners because he persecuted the Church (1 Tim. 1:13-15). After Paul realized the futility of trying to save himself by condemning laws, that could not be kept (Act 15:10), he accepted God's righteousness and salvation by faith in a loving Savior who died for his sins and arose again (Gal. 2:20), as shown in Philippians 3:7,9.

During the lifetime of the apostles, they warned believers that false doctrines would invade the church after their death. Paul warned the Elders of grievous wolves speaking perverse things (Acts 20:28-30). Peter said these men would teach damnable heresies that even deny the Lord Jesus (2 Peter 2:1-3). John and Jude, being the last of the apostles to die, saw the great apostasy already occurring in their day (1 John 2:18-19; 2 John 1:7-11; Jude 1:3-4).

Based on history, the church gravitated from salvation by faith in Christ through the gospel and eventually shifted toward salvation through baptismal regeneration and good works. Even though some tenors of the gospel remained throughout church history (for the church never stop believing that Jesus died on the cross, was buried, and rose the third day, as stated in the historical document called the "Apostle Creed"), the majority stopped believing that this alone could save through grace and faith.

Like the Judaizers of the first century, many people throughout church history believed Jesus was the Savior who died on the cross. But, they no longer believed his sacrificial death had the power to save without the performance of other religious deeds or observances.

Hence, the once powerful truth as taught by the apostles regarding salvation: "*The just shall live by faith*" (Rom. 1:17), was nearly lost in the Dark Ages and did not come to the forefront of mainstream Christianity until the Reformation Age in the 1500s.

Identifying William Branham's False Gospel

As shown, a false gospel has been identified as being any message that purports to proclaim salvation other than "*exclusively*" through grace and faith in Jesus Christ's death on the cross, his burial, and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1-4,11). If any other teaching is added to this message as being necessary for receiving salvation, it becomes a false gospel condemned by God and the apostles (Acts 15:1-35; Gal. 1:6-9). Using this simple scriptural guideline, we can now identify the false gospel taught by William Branham.

First, as studied in Chapter 16, Branham did not accept that believing in Jesus by the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4,11) was

enough to save. His salvation was based upon four stages of grace: justification, sanctification, baptism of the Holy Spirit, and receiving rapturing faith (or salvation) by his message. But, the simplicity of salvation is shown in Acts 16:30-33 NKJV, when a jailer asked Paul and Silas how to be saved. They said: **“BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ, and YOU WILL BE SAVED, you and your household.”**

As we shall see, Branham believed the first three stages of grace were ineffective without the evidence of salvation (the token) that comes by obeying his message. However, Branham and followers often pretend they believed the gospel for salvation. For example, during a 1960 sermon, Branham spoke of a vision about future judgment whereby he claimed to have preached the same gospel that Paul preached (The Pergamean Church Age 12-07-60, Par. 273).

But, when Branham’s followers are given the litmus test if they believe in Christ’s cross and resurrection as the ONLY means of salvation and rapture *without his end time message*, they will digress. They will revert back to his message as being mandatory for attaining one or both of these. This is a false gospel because it denies Christ’s finished work on the cross (John 19:30; Rom.10:4; Heb. 10:10,14) for salvation (1 Cor. 1:17-18) and rapture to heaven (John 5:24-25; 11:23-27; 1 Cor. 15:20-23; Col. 1:4-6; 1 Thess. 4:13-14; 1 Pet. 1:3-4, see pages 161-162).

Also, even Branham and followers’ claim to believe in salvation through justification, sanctification, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and Acts 2:38 appear to be false. Why? Because it only pertains to their group. Like the Judaizers who believed salvation was not possible without being circumcised and obeying the laws of Moses (Acts 15:1,5), Branham and followers either believe salvation or rapture cannot be attained without his alleged end time message.

Thus, to believe Branham’s message makes a person an antichrist and enemy of Jesus’ cross. Why? Because it denies that Jesus’ shed blood can **ALONE** redeem, forgive, justify, save, reconcile, impart eternal life, sanctify, deliver, and provide an eternal inheritance (including rapture to heaven). Branham’s message have replaced Jesus’ cross.

So then, the bottom line in recognizing a false gospel is identifying any message proclaiming salvation or rapture other than **“exclusively”** through grace and faith in Jesus’ death on the cross for our sins, his burial, and resurrection on the third day (1 Cor. 15:1-4,11), and confessing these according to Romans 10:6-13. ***If people do not 100 percent trust in these scriptural truths as the only means of their forgiveness, righteousness, salvation, eternal life, and entry (or rapture) to heaven: they believe a false gospel.***

Thus, individuals who believes they need the alleged message of William Branham to be saved or raptured to heaven are the victims of a false gospel. To believe such a lie is saying Jesus Christ’s death on the cross was not enough and the gospel preached by the apostles is useless.

Remember, in the latter years of Branham’s ministry, he said the words of the apostles and what they preached (the gospel) on the day of Pentecost will not work for this day. He further said: **“We got something different.”** Thus, in defiance of Paul’s clear warning that anyone who

preached a different gospel from the apostles is accursed (Gal. 1:6-9), Branham openly admitted in 1964 and November 25, 1965 (nearly a month before death) that he preached a different gospel (see quotes on Page 278).

Therefore, Branham’s followers have the choice to either return to the gospel preached by the apostles (John 17:20, 1 Cor. 14:37-38; Gal. 1:11-12; 1 Thess. 2:13; 1 John 4:6), or face God’s wrath on judgment day for preaching and believing a false one (Rom. 2:16; 1 Cor. 9:16; Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 1 Peter 4:17; 2 John 1:9-11; Rev 22:15).

Did Branham Omit the Gospel in Acts 2:38?

As stated on page 263, Branham said obeying Acts 2:38 was the prescription for salvation. Thus, from 1950 to 1965, he repeatedly taught (without mentioning the gospel) that people received remission of sins through Christ’s blood when they repented and were baptized in his name according to Acts 2:38 (see quotes on pages 263-265).

But, of course, Branham is mainly talking to followers. Why? Because in the latter years, he condemned every church that did not have the evidence (token) of salvation (the Holy Spirit) through obeying his message (see pages 277-278). He even condemned Apostolics who discovered baptism based on Acts 2:38 in 1913 (see pages 112, 263-264). Thus, this verse meant nothing without his message.

So, Message churches generally proclaim remission of sins through Acts 2:38 that include the necessity of having Branham’s message either for salvation or rapture. Before baptizing, they commonly omit telling converts to believe Jesus died for their sins on the cross and rose according to the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4,11). Some simply proclaim God sent a prophet and baptize candidates for remission of sins.

However, before departing from Branham’s followers, I taught some pastors and their churches in the latter 1980s and early 1990s the importance of preaching and believing the gospel, and confessing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior based on Romans 10:9 before baptizing converts. Years later, I gave some of them copies of my book about the gospel. Yet, currently (prior to this book’s release), they still believe Branham’s message is necessary for rapture.

Nonetheless, we must ask an important question when considering Branham’s belief that individuals received remission of sins through repentance when water baptized. That vital question is: **“Can turning from sin through repentance and being water baptized save a person without believing the true gospel?”** As we shall study, Branham did not distinctively include the preaching of the gospel in his teachings about Acts 2:38, as did Peter on the day of Pentecost. Actually, as shown on page 275, he viewed the gospel as only being the power of God. But, as studied, the gospel has a message that says Jesus died for our sins on the cross, was buried, and rose again the third day. After believing the gospel, a person should be water baptized, as Christ commanded (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16).

But, the very fact that Paul put a difference between the gospel and water baptism when he said, **“For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel...”** illustrates

that repentance and baptism is not the gospel's message, but responses to it. Therefore, when considering Mark 16: 15-16 (where Jesus told his disciples to baptize those who believed the gospel), anyone who is water baptized without believing the biblical gospel of Christ will not receive scriptural salvation. Why? Romans 1:16 says *the gospel* is the power of God that *saves everyone* who believe.

Again, 1 Corinthians 1:17-21 says the preaching of Jesus' death on the cross by the gospel is the power of God that saves those who believe. Also, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 and 11 says we are saved by believing the gospel. Thus, believing the gospel saves, not simply repentance and water baptism as stated by Branham. In Mark 1:15, Jesus said: "*Repent, and believe in the gospel.*" (NKJV).

Moreover, Peter wrote in his epistle that the salvation of God foretold by the prophets was now being declared through the preaching of the gospel (1 Peter 1:9-12). He also says that people are spiritually born again through the gospel, which he calls the incorruptible seed (1 Peter 1:23-25)—fully discussed in Volume I of *The True Biblical Gospel of Jesus Christ* (pages 79-93).

Once more, Peter asked a question in the same epistle further showing that hearing the gospel is necessary for salvation, when he said: "...what shall the end be of them that *obey not the gospel of God?*" (1 Peter 4:17)

When considering verse 18, Peter is implying by this question that if the righteous will scarcely be saved by obeying the gospel, then anyone who does not believe its truths is indisputably doomed. Paul clearly answers Peter's question when he said the Lord Jesus will come:

In flaming fire *taking vengeance* on them...**THAT OBEY NOT THE GOSPEL** of our Lord Jesus Christ. Who shall be *punished with everlasting destruction....* 2 Thess. 1:8

Thus, anyone who does not obey the biblical gospel of Christ shall suffer God's wrath of everlasting punishment. Paul says "...*woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel*" (1 Cor. 9:16) Sadly, many people were baptized without hearing and believing the gospel, and confessing Jesus as Savior according to Romans 10:8-13 (Acts 8:35-37). Also, as we shall study, repentance is essential, but it cannot replace believing the gospel as the only means of salvation. Thus, repentance and baptism is futile without believing in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior according to the gospel.

As shown in the book of Acts, Peter always preached the gospel of salvation before telling people to be baptized. For example, before telling the Gentiles to be baptized, he declared Jesus as Lord and Christ (Acts 10:36) and spoke of his crucifixion, death, and resurrection. Peter ended the discourse by telling them that "remission of sins" comes by "believing in Jesus," as shown below.

And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they **slew and hanged on a tree** [death on the cross]; Him God **raised up** the third day, and shewed him openly. Acts 10:39-40

To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever **BELIEVES* IN HIM** [the Lord Jesus Christ] **shall receive REMISSION OF SINS.** Verse 43

As shown, Peter says remission of sins comes by believing in Jesus through the gospel rather than by water baptism. Years later, during a controversial meeting in Jerusalem among all the apostles and elders (Acts 15:5-30), Peter clearly tells this church council that God *purified* the Gentiles' hearts *by faith* when they believed the gospel, even before they were water baptized, as shown below.

...Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that **the Gentiles** by my mouth should hear the word of the **GOSPEL**, and **BELIEVE.** Acts 15:7

And God, which knows* the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us. And [God] put no difference between us [the Jews] and them [the Gentiles], **purifying their hearts BY FAITH** [in the gospel]. Verses 8-9

The Greek word used for "purifying" in Acts 15:9 is the same word used for "purged" in Hebrews 1:3, where it says of Jesus: "...when he... *purged* [purified] *our sins*, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." This Greek word is also used in Hebrews 9:22, where "purged [purified] with blood" of sacrifices is comparatively the same as remission of sins.

Therefore, the Gentiles' hearts being purified by faith in Jesus Christ after hearing the gospel meant that God had purged them from sin by his blood. Simply said, they had received "remission of sins" by faith through the gospel and not by water baptism. God proved they had received remission of sins by faith. How? By giving them the same gift of the Holy Spirit as he did on the day of Pentecost. Remember, all this took place before water baptism.

During this meeting, all the Apostles and Elders agreed with Peter (Acts 15:25; 16:4). Thus, remission of sins by faith in Jesus through the gospel is the true doctrine of the apostles confirmed by them all. Remission of sins only by repentance and water baptism, as Branham viewed Acts 2:38, were not mentioned in their discussion.

Someone may ask: if the Gentiles received remission of sins before water baptism, why did Peter say, "*Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?*" and commanded them to be water baptized in the name of the Lord? (Acts 10:47-48)

To clearly understand this statement we must realize the church only consisted of Jews and Samaritans. During that time Jews were forbidden to enter the houses of Gentiles (anyone who was not circumcised and a Jew) or to eat with them (Acts 11:1-3). God sent Peter to break these centuries old prejudices against the Gentiles after revealing his divine will through recurring visions (Acts 10:9-23,28).

When Peter arrived at the Gentiles' residence (the home of Cornelius) accompanied by several Jewish believers in Christ, he preached the gospel and they believed (Acts 15:7). God immediately bore witness of their forgiveness through faith by giving them the same Holy Spirit he gave the Jews on the day of Pentecost. Those who came with Peter were astonished that God gave the *uncircumcised* Gentiles the same gift of the Holy Spirit.

After seeing God's approval, Peter then spoke to his

Jewish Christian brethren: “*Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?*” Actually, Peter was telling the brethren that due to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit they couldn’t forbid the *uncircumcised* Gentiles from being water baptized as members of the New Testament church. Why? Because God had accepted them through faith in Christ by the gospel, as also shown in Ephesians 3:6.

That the **Gentiles** should be **fellow heirs**, and of the **same body**, and **partakers** of his **promise** in Christ **BY THE GOSPEL**.

Thus, Peter confidently and boldly told the Gentiles to be water baptized, being assured that God had put his approval on their conversion. Later, many Jewish believers in Judea and Jerusalem confronted Peter when they heard he went to a Gentile’s house and ate with them. But Peter told them what had happened (Acts 11:1 -16) and how God confirmed his approval of the Gentiles’ conversion.

Forasmuch then as God gave them the **like gift** [the Holy Spirit] as he did unto us, **who BELIEVED** on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, **that I could withstand God?** Verse 17

Did you see it? Like the Jews on the day of Pentecost, God gave the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles when they **BELIEVED** on the Lord Jesus Christ . Acts 15:7 said they believed on Jesus through the gospel preached by Peter. Acts 15:9 said their hearts were purified from sin by believing the gospel preached by Peter. Acts 10:43 said they received remission of sins by believing in Jesus Christ through the gospel preached by Peter. These took place before they were water baptized in Acts 10:47-48.

Now do you understand why Peter said, “Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized?” Those words were not spoken because the Gentiles needed water baptism to receive remission of sins; they were spoken because no one of Jewish heritage had a right to stop the Gentiles, *who were uncircumcised*, from being baptized as fellow members of the church because of God’s approval through faith in Jesus by the gospel.

The very fact that Peter said “*remission of sins*” for the Gentiles came through believing in Jesus through the gospel in both Acts 10:43 and Acts 15:7 -9 appears to contradict what he told the Jews about “*remission of sins*” coming only by repentance and water baptism in Acts 2:38. Did Peter contradict himself or did Minister Branham and the Oneness movement misinterpreted his words?

When Peter spoke of the Gentiles conversion through faith by the gospel (Acts 15:7 -9), he told the council, who were all Jews, that they were saved by the very same means as the Gentiles, saying: “*But we believe that through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ WE [the Jews] shall be saved, EVEN AS THEY [the Gentiles]*” (verse 11).

Let us consider the facts. When comparing Acts 2:22 - 36 with Acts 10:34 -40, Peter preached the same gospel to the Jews as he did to the Gentiles. He preached Jesus as Lord and Christ, and declared his death, burial, and resurrection. He also told both groups to be baptized in the name of the Lord; and both groups received the same gift

of the Holy Spirit. The similarities do not end here.

We will now prove the remission of sins that Peter preached unto the Gentiles through faith in Christ by the gospel instead of water baptism is irrefutably the same he preached unto the Jews. That is, the same keys he used to open the door of the kingdom unto the Gentiles were the same ones used to open it unto the Jews (Matt. 16:19).

Before examining Acts 2:38, where Branham believe Peter is preaching remission of sins through repentance and water baptism rather than faith in Jesus Christ by the gospel, we shall consider two examples. In these examples, Peter preaches remission of sins without mentioning water baptism as the criterion for having sins forgiven.

The first example occurs shortly after the day of Pentecost when Peter was once again preaching *remission of sins* to the Jews —nearly repeating Acts 2:38—saying: “**Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...**” (Acts 3:19). During the discourse he tells the Jews to repent, but there is no mention of water baptism blotting out sins. However, he did preach the gospel.

...the God of our fathers, hath **glorified his Son Jesus** ...But ye denied **the Holy One** and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you. Acts 3:13

And **killed the Prince of life** [death on the cross], whom God hath **raised from the dead**; whereof we are witnesses. Vs. 15

In the second example of Peter preaching *remission of sins* to the Jews, he says of Jesus : “*Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Savior, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins*” (Acts 5:31). Once again repentance is mentioned, but not water baptism forgiving sins. But, in Acts 5:30, he did preach the gospel.

The God of our fathers **raised up Jesus**, whom ye **slew and hanged on a tree** [death on the cross].

In the above examples, Peter spoke of remission of sins without mentioning water baptism. But, he did mention repentance after preaching the gospel that Jesus the Son of God, the Holy One, the Prince, and the Savior : was crucified, died, and rose from the dead (1 Cor. 15:1-4,11).

As stated, similar to Peter’s uncomplicated message of salvation, Paul and Silas (a prophet – Acts 15:32) told a jailer enquiring about salvation to simply “...**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.**” Even though Paul baptized this man and his family, their salvation came by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 16:30-33 (NKJV)

Dear readers, are you beginning to understand? There is a connection between remission of sins and the preaching of the gospel as illustrated in the two examples. Remission of sins is the same as being justified by faith. To be justified by faith is to be forgiven of sins because the word justification means to be “declared righteous.” No one can be declared righteous by God without the remission of sins.

Therefore, after carefully examining the scriptural evidences provided, Peter and Paul preached remission of sins (*justification*) by faith in Jesus Christ through the gospel and not by repentance and water baptism, which are responses to its saving message.

In 1 Corinthians 1:17, Paul said Christ sent him to preach the gospel, not to baptize ; even though he did baptize people (verse 16). In verses 18 and 21, he goes on to say the preaching of Jesus' death on the cross according to the gospel saves those who believe, not water baptism.

After considering the evidence , the time has come to understand Peter's *true* message of salvation on the day of Pentecost and the truth regarding the water baptism he proclaimed. Notice! Before Peter instructed the Jews to be baptized, he told them to REPENT (Acts 2:38).

On page 263, Branham said the word "repent" in Acts 2:38 pertained to turning away from sin through godly sorrow. This belief is partly correct, but not the full extent of this word in this verse. Simply turning from sin through godly sorrow and being baptized is not enough to save. Notice! The Jews were already sorry for their sins in Acts 2:37. Yet, Peter still told them to repent in verse 38. As we shall see, Peter is telling them to repent by believing the saving message of Jesus Christ through his sacrificial death on the cross for our sins, and his burial and resurrection.

In considering many of the world's religions, some of them turn from sinful deeds and engage in washing rituals to spiritually cleanse themselves. But, without the saving message of Jesus Christ through the gospel, their efforts are in vain. Likewise, if professing Christian churches omit preaching and believing the gospel in their messages of salvation, they are powerless to save (Romans 1:16).

Before considering the full extent of how repentance is used in Acts 2:38, let us consider the general meaning of this word. In the scriptures, the act of repenting is very important; it always precedes remission of sins. Along with preaching the gospel and baptizing believers (Mark 16:15 - 16), Jesus told his disciples to also preach repentance and remission of sin in his name (Luke 24:47). Therefore, repentance is essential in God's plan to redeem humanity.

Jesus preached repentance during his earthly ministry from the very onset, telling the people to "...Repent, and believe in the gospel" Mark 1:15 (NKJV). Matthew 9:12 - 13 says he came to call "...sinners to repentance" and sent others to do likewise (Mark 6:12). He told some Jews that they would perish as sinners without repentance (Luke 13:1-5). He also said heaven rejoices when one sinner does repent (Luke 15:1 -10). Both Peter and Paul preached repentance (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 5:31; 20:21; 26:20).

In Acts 17:30 and 2 Peter 3:9, God commands every human to repent. Since repentance is *vital* to receiving true salvation and eternal life (Acts 11:18), we must ask: What is repentance? The word "repent" is a simple, but powerful word. It is often misunderstood because people add more to its meaning than what was intended in the *original* Greek and Hebrew definitions.

Some people believe repentance only involves outward changes by reforming their lives by good works before being saved. However, in Greek, the word "repent" mean: "*to change one's mind* (Thayer's Greek Lexicon ^[561]) or "*to think differently*" (Strong's Concordance #3340 ^[562]). In Hebrew, the definitions are: "*to be sorry*" (Strong's #5162) and "*to turn back*" (Strong's #7725).

In 2 Timothy 2:25, repentance implies a changing of the mind to acknowledge God's truth. When pertaining to salvation, repentance is a godly sorrow that truly changes a person's mind to turn unto God from the condemnation of sin by accepting his forgiveness after hearing the gospel's truth about Jesus Christ the Savior.

Even before there is any outward changes of lifestyle as visible signs of repentance, a person can have a genuine positive change of the mind and attitude toward God and be saved by believing the gospel. This inward change is true repentance. The positive outward changes in lifestyle that follows genuine repentance during spiritual growth are only visible manifestations (fruits) of that inner change (Luke 3:8; Acts 26:20). By repentance and faith in Christ through the gospel (Acts 20:21,24; Heb. 6:1), a person can be saved by grace without works (Eph 2:8-9; Gal. 2:16).

Furthermore, 2 Corinthians 7:9-11 tells us what is involved in true repentance. Although Paul was speaking of an incident that had occurred in the church, we can still understand what is involved in genuine repentance, when he said: "*ye sorrowed to repentance.*" He went on to say that "*godly sorrow works repentance to salvation.*"

Thus, godly sorrow leads people to repentance, and repentance leads people to turn unto God by accepting his salvation. People will not truly turn to God for salvation until they see themselves as wrong and condemned sinners according to his words. This awareness of truth about their sinfulness brings godly sorrow. Simply joining a church for religious and social reasons is not repentance. As long as people enjoy their present lifestyle, whether religious or ungodly, they have an unwillingness to change.

Godly sorrow is the heavenly influence of the Holy Spirit that works deep convictions of sins within people's hearts to bring them to true repentance, as did King David (Psalm 51:1-14). Jesus said the Holy Spirit would "...*reprove* [convict] *the world of sin... of sin, because they believe not on me*" (John 16:8-9).

Thus, when the gospel is proclaimed, the Holy Spirit will convince people of their sinful condition and show them the need for the Savior. That is, if they are willing to hear and accept. In Hebrews 4:7, God says: "...*Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*"

True repentance occurs when people recognize they are sinners who are living contrary to God according to the Holy Bible and desire to do what is right. What God looks for in repentance is a broken and contrite heart (Psalm 51:17). Somewhat as King David, these people become sorry for their sins: "*For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin*" (Psalm 38:18).

Thus, in true repentance, individuals experience a remorseful attitude toward God and his word because of their sins. This contrition works a repentance that leads them unto salvation through the preaching of Jesus Christ the Savior by the gospel., as we read earlier: "[1] For godly sorrow [2] **works* repentance** [3] TO SALVATION...."

As a summary, the act of repenting is simply the changing of one's mind (way of thinking) to accept God's truth, but usually involves:

- **Conviction** of sin - a realization of one's guilt of sinning against the true God of the Holy Scriptures that is sometimes accompanied with regret, the sense of doom, and pending judgment.
- **Contrition** - a person's showing remorse for committing these sins, which includes a genuine resolve to change. Paul called this remorse "godly sorrow" (2 Corinthians 7:10).
- **Confession** - a person's acknowledgement of the fact that he or she is a sinner before the true God.
- **Conversion** - a person's turning away from sin to follow the true God by receiving Jesus Christ the Lord as Savior by faith according to the gospel.

On the day of Pentecost, the preaching of the gospel brought godly sorrow to the hearts of those Jews who realized the One they had crucified was both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36-37). As a result, they repented by turning from the 1400 years religion of their forefathers (Judaism) and accepted Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified fifty days earlier, as their risen and promised Messiah.

So then, when Peter told the Jews to repent in the examples shown in Acts 2:38, Acts 3:19; and Acts 5:31, he was telling them to turn from sin unto God by changing their minds to accept the gospel he had preached. When he told the Jews to repent in Acts 2:38, he was telling them to accept the truth (2 Tim. 2:25) by changing their wrong beliefs regarding Jesus of Nazareth by believing what he preached in Acts 2:22-36. Let us consider what Peter was asking the Jews to repent and believe.

- He was asking them to believe that Jesus, from the town of Nazareth (a town despised by many Jews because it was located amongst Gentiles) [Matthew 4:15; John 1:45-46; 7:52], did not haphazardly die on the cross as an insurrectionist, but according to God's messianic plan foretold in the scriptures (verse 23).
- He was asking them to believe the man crucified fifty days earlier as a rebel (Luke 23:2,5) was actually their long awaited Messiah foretold by the prophets (vs. 23).
- He was asking them to believe Jesus had not only died and was buried (which they already knew of), but that God literally raised him from the dead in a physical body according to the messianic promises found in Psalm 16:8-10 (verses 24-32).
- He was asking them to believe God had not only raised Jesus from the dead, but exalted him to heaven to sit on his right hand as Lord and Christ according to the messianic promises in Psalm 110:1 (verses 33-35).
- He was asking them to believe God had made this Jesus who was crucified in their presence: both Lord and Christ (verse 36).

So, the word "repent" is the key to understanding Acts 2:38. In view of the above, Peter was asking the Jews to repent and believe the gospel (Mark 1:15). For the Jews to repent they had to believe Peter's message about Jesus of Nazareth. The fact that Jesus' tomb was empty made it impossible for the Jews to prove he was still dead. In view

of Mark 16:15-16, they repented by *hearing* and *receiving* the gospel of salvation through the crucified and risen Savior before being water baptized.

Ye men of Israel, **HEAR these words** [the gospel]; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you.... Acts 2:22

Then they that *gladly* **RECEIVED his words** [the gospel] **were baptized**.... Acts 2:41

Verse 40 says Peter spoke many other unrecorded words exhorting the Jews to be saved. But, the words that God wanted recorded declared the gospel's message of Jesus' crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection.

Those who received Peter's message and continued in the teaching of the apostles "believed" because Acts 2:44 says, "And *all that* **BELIEVED** were together, and had all things common." Also, as stated, Acts 11:17 said the Jews who received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4 and 39) **believed** on the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Jews had to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ before being water and Spirit baptized, which occurs *after* a person believe the gospel (Mark 16:15-16; Eph. 1:13). The words of the gospel the Jews received and believed from Peter are the same words the Gentiles later believed.

[Peter retelling the story of the Gentiles' conversion] ...an angel... said unto him ...Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter; who will **TELL you WORDS** by which you and all your household **WILL BE SAVED**. Acts 11:13-14 (NKJV)

As shown above, Peter was sent by God to tell the Gentiles words whereby they would be saved. What were those words? As shown below, those words were the message of the gospel.

... God made choice among us, that *the Gentiles* by my mouth should **HEAR the WORD** of the **GOSPEL**, and **BELIEVE**. Acts 15:7

While Peter yet spake **these WORDS** [the gospel], the Holy Ghost fell on all them [*the Gentiles*] which **HEARD the WORD** [the gospel]. Acts 10:44

And the apostles and brethren...heard that *the Gentiles* had also **RECEIVED the WORD of God** [the gospel]. Acts 11:1

Once again, what were the actual words the Gentiles heard, received, and believed to be saved (Acts 11:14) before receiving the Holy Spirit and being water baptized? The answer is shown below.

- They heard that Jesus of Nazareth is Christ and Lord of all, and that the Jews crucified and killed him - Acts 10:36-39
- They heard that God raised him from the dead on the third day, and showed him openly before witnesses - Acts 10:40-42
- They heard of receiving remission of sins through Jesus' name by believing in him - Acts 10:43

Do you see it? Based upon our study, Peter preached the same message to Jews and the Gentiles,.

- Both groups heard the word of God - Acts 2:22; 10:44
- Both groups particularly heard the gospel's message

about Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection – Acts 2:22-36; 10:38-42; 15:7

- Both groups were told about receiving remission of sins – Acts 2:38; 10:43
- Both groups believed – Acts 2:44; 10:43; 11:17; 15:9
- Both groups received – Acts 2:41; 11:1
- Both groups were water and Spirit baptized – Acts 2:38-39; 10:47-48; 11:16-17

According to our study, three major things occurred when the Gentiles believed the gospel:

- They were saved – Acts 11:14; 15:11
- Their hearts were purified (from sin) – Acts 15:9
- They received remission of sins – Acts 10:43

If believing the gospel saved, purified, and forgave the sins of the Gentiles before water baptism, then it did the same for the Jews on the day of Pentecost. Why? Peter used the same keys of the kingdom and told all the church leaders the same gospel that saved the Gentiles also saved the Jews, as previously stated (Acts 15:7-11).

Someone may ask: How were the Samaritans saved? Although the Samaritans had received God's word before Peter's arrival, he preached unto them the same gospel shown in Acts 15:7. Acts 8:25 says Peter and John "...preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans." What words did they believe before Peter's arrival? Acts 8:5 says Phillip "preached Christ unto them."

How do we know Phillip preached the gospel of Jesus' crucifixion, death, and resurrection to the Samaritans? First, Philip is referred to as an evangelist (Acts 21:8). The Greek word for gospel is "Euaggelion" and the Greek word for evangelist is "Euaggelistes," which means "a preacher of the gospel." Phillip's very ministerial title and gift from God proved he preached the gospel to the Samaritans.

Secondly, when Philip met a man returning to Africa, Acts 8:35 says he "...preached unto him Jesus" based on Isaiah's prophecy about his death and resurrection (verses 30-34). In verse 35, the Greek word for preach is "Euaggelizo," which means *the gospel*. Also, in verse 12, the word "preaching" is the same word "Euaggelizo." This Greek word is translated as "preached the gospel" in verse 25. Thus, the same Jesus whom Philip preached in verses 5, 12, and 35 by the gospel is the same one that Peter and John preached to the Samaritans in verse 25 by the same gospel.

Thus, the Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles received the same gospel of Jesus' death and resurrection for salvation before being baptized by water and the Holy Spirit.

Based upon our studies, the Jews repented and believed the gospel before being water baptized. Now, any true interpretation of the Bible must be consistent. We cannot have Peter preaching remission of sin by baptism on the day of Pentecost, but he is proclaiming remission of sins and salvation by repentance and faith in Christ through the gospel in all other places of the Bible (Acts 3:13-19; 4:4; 5:30-31; 10:43; 11:14,17; 15:7-9; 1 Peter 1:9-12,23-25; 4:6,17-18). This would create a major conflict in the scriptures.

Branham misconstrued Peter's words in Acts 2:38 by

overlooking the gospel preached in verses 22-36. He assumed the remission of sins was only in repenting of sins and baptism, instead of repenting to believe in the crucified and risen Savior by the gospel (vss. 41, 44; 1 Cor. 1:17-21).

So then, when Peter told the Jews to "repent" to have their sins blotted out in Acts 3:19, he was telling them to change their former beliefs and believe the gospel of the crucified and risen Savior he had preached to them in verses 13-18. Also, when he spoke of repentance and forgiveness of sins to the Jews in Acts 5:31, he was telling them to change their former beliefs and to believe the gospel of the crucified and risen Savior proclaimed in verse 30.

As shown in the above verses, there is no mention of water baptism for remission of sins. Instead, Peter taught remission of sins by faith in Jesus Christ by the gospel (Acts 10:43; 15:7-9), which is followed by water baptism.

Therefore, when Peter spoke of repentance and remission of sins to the Jews in Acts 2:38, he was telling them to change their former beliefs and believe the gospel of the crucified and risen Savior. Remember, Acts 2:41 says the Jews gladly received his word before being baptized. What word? The gospel he proclaimed in verses 22-36.

When considering Acts 2:38, if the Jews repented by believing Peter's message of the crucified and risen Lord preached in verses 22-36, they would receive remission of sins by obeying his words. But, they would receive it not by baptism, but through justification by faith in the Savior based on the gospel (Rom. 1:16-17; 3:22-5:2; 9:30-32).

Remember, Acts 2:44 and 11:17 says the Jews on the day of Pentecost believed in Jesus. Remove "repent" from Acts 2:38, which implies turning from sin by believing the gospel in verses 22-36: you then remove the power of forgiveness. Why? The scriptures declare the gospel as God's power unto salvation to everyone who believes, not water baptism (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:17-21; 15:1-4,11).

So then, in response to Christ's command, the apostles preached the crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:22-41, Acts 3:13-4:4; Acts 4:6-12; 5:29-32; Acts 8:32-35; Acts 10:34-48, Acts 13:23-39,43,48; Acts 17:1-4; Acts 26:19-23) throughout the book of Acts by the gospel (Acts 8:25; 14:7,21; 15:7; 16:10; 20:24; Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:17-18; 15:1-4,11; 1 Peter 1:23-25; 4:17) as the means of salvation through repentance (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 5:31; 20:21; 26:20) and faith (Acts 2:44; 4:4; 6:7; 8:12-13,37; 9:42; 10:43; 11:17,21; 13:12,38-39,48; 14:1,22,27; 15:7,9,11; 16:5,30-34; 17:4,12,34; 18:8; 19:2,4,18; 20:21; 21:25; 22:19; 24:24; 26:18,27; 28:24).

After believing on Jesus as Lord and Savior according to the gospel, converts were baptized in water (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:36-41; 8:12-13,16,35-39; 10:39-48; 16:14-15,30-33; 18:8; 19:1-7; 22:13-16).

Sadly, many people have misinterpreted 1 Peter 3:21 where it says "baptism doth also now save us" to contradict Peter, Paul, and John's clear-cut teachings of forgiveness, righteousness, salvation, and eternal life by faith in Jesus Christ, and not by water baptism [John 20:30-31; Acts 10:43; 13:38-39; 15:9; 16:30-31; Rom. 3:22,25, 28,30; 4:5,13-25; 5:1-2; 9:30-32; Gal. 2:16; 3:7-12, 22-26 (verses

27-28 speaks of Spirit baptism, not water – 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil. 3:9; 1 Peter 1:5,9,21; John 5:1, 5,10-13].

Also, even though Christ and John the Baptist preached repentance and baptized people (Matt. 3:1 -17; 4:17; John 3:22-23; 4:1), both proclaimed salvation and eternal life by faith (Luke 7:47-50; John 3:14-18,27,35-36; 5:24; 6:40,47).

After declaring baptism saves us, Peter said it does not put away the filth of the flesh (wash away sins). Thus, Peter's very words explain the "save us" that he speaks of in verse 21 is being baptized as "... *the answer of a good conscience toward God...*" That is, after people believe on Jesus by the gospel, as he taught in the book of Acts.

Remember, when Peter used the illustration that Noah was saved by water (vs. 20), we must realize that Hebrews 11:7 says that he "**BY FAITH**" (through God's grace – Gen. 6:8) prepared an ark to the "**SAVING of his house.**" This scripture goes on to say that Noah "...*became heir of the RIGHTEOUSNESS which is OF FAITH.*"

Therefore, Noah's "faith" in God's word made the difference. Faith not only moved Noah to build an ark to save his household, but it also made him an heir of righteousness. Genesis 6:8 -9 and 7:1 shows that Noah by his faith through God's grace was already *righteous* and *saved* in building and boarding the ark before the water appeared. If Noah had not obeyed by faith, he would have perished in the water with the ungodly (2 Peter 2:5).

Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6). Thus, since Noah became an heir of righteousness by faith through building and entering the ark of salvation (which symbolizes Jesus Christ), the water was instrumental in separating him from an old, ungodly world unto a new beginning and a new life. Likewise, in Romans 6:1-15, baptism symbolizes a believer's new beginning in Christ.

Thus, water baptism is a person's response to the gospel after obtaining a good conscience by justification (declared righteous – Rom. 8:33) through faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 13:38-39; 15:7-9; Rom. 3:26-30; 4:5; 5:1; Gal. 2:16).

In conclusion, Peter, Paul, and the apostles preached the gospel for salvation on the day of Pentecost and throughout the book of Acts. Yet, Branham told followers "***We got something different.***" Beware, everyone failing to preach and obey the gospel of the apostles will suffer God's wrath (1 Cor. 9:16; Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; 1 Pet. 4:17).

Errors of Branham's Four Stages of Grace

As studied on pages 265 -267, Branham believed in four stages of grace for salvation: (1) justification by faith, (2) sanctification by the blood, (3) baptism of the Holy Spirit, and (4) rapturing faith by obeying his end time message.

It's the plan of redemption. **You are redeemed.** You're... **When you get the baptism of the Holy Spirit,** that's **the earnest of your salvation.** _Moses 01-10-50

Now, the **soul is redeemed,** because it was in sin. So God came down, by a **process of justification, sanctification, baptism of the Holy Ghost,** and **redeemed your soul.** _The Future Home Of The Heavenly Bridegroom and the Earthly Bride 08-02-64

He **redeems** the people in **three stages.** Now look. **First** is

justification, like Luther preached; second, sanctification, like Wesley preached; third, baptism of the Holy Ghost. That's right. **Then comes the Rapture!** _Who Is This Melchisedec? 02-21-65

As shown, Branham did not believe people were redeemed until they got the Holy Spirit, which according to his teaching is evident by accepting his message. For this reason, some followers believe a person can be justified, but not redeemed to be the bride of Christ, even though justification and redemption are the same in scriptures. Romans 3:23-25 shows we are redeemed by Christ's blood when justified by faith. In Ephesians 1:7 and Colossians 1:14, being redeemed is the same as being forgiven of sins.

However, since Branham believed it took *four stages* to be *redeemed* and *raptured*, he lightly regarded justification by faith during which we receive God's forgiveness, salvation, righteousness, eternal life, and redemption in Jesus Christ through the gospel proclaimed by the apostles (see scriptures on page 281 -282, 289-290). Also, as pages 161-162 shows, faith in Christ by the gospel has made us worthy of rapture to heaven due to his death and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20-23; 1 Thess. 4:14; 1 Pet. 1:3-4).

But, since the days of John Wesley, Branham viewed justification by faith as useless without sanctification. He said sanctification is the doctrine of holiness that cleanses a person of all sinful habits and desires of the world.

Sanctification brought back the bark, **doctrine of holiness.** _The Restoration Of The Bride Tree 04-22-62

It's water: justification by faith, believing on God, receiving Him as your personal Saviour, and being baptized. **Second, is sanctification** of the Spirit, that God **cleanses** the spirit from **all elements of the world, and the desire of the world.** And **then the Holy Spirit comes** in and **gives new birth** and fills up that sanctified vessel. _Birth Pains 01-24-65

Then the **sanctifying power** of God **cleansed all the habits out of your life.** You used to smoke, drink, do things that wasn't right, tell lies, everything. Then the **sanctifying power of the Blood of Jesus Christ** comes into your life and takes all the things away from you. _Things That Are To Be 12-05-65

Branham believed that being justified by faith was not enough for redemption without sanctification. So, he really believed in salvation through works (Eph. 2:8-9) by misapplying the doctrine of sanctification by Jesus' blood. How? He believed being sanctified by the blood is not referring to Jesus' cross (Col. 1:20; Heb. 13:12), but being washed in the *bleeding word* by forsaking all sinful habits.

Because Branham said this bleeding word must be vindicated, followers view this word as his message, which also cleansed them from the filth of denominational churches (called prostitutes below). Thus, people living in this generation cannot be sanctified without his message.

Think. Your garments, washed by the Water of **the bleeding Word!** The **Word become Blood**. The **Word bled** for you, and you are **washed in bleeding Word.** The **Word, bleeding!** The **Life of God in the Word,** and the **Word was bled** for you, that **you might be washed from the filth of these prostitutes,** and **be cleaned and sanctified** by the **washing of the Water**

of the Word, and makes your mind and heart stayed on God and on His Word. Now, **how you know It's true?** When God comes down and **vindicates It and prove.** _ The Invisible Union Of The Bride Of Christ. 11-25-65

As stated, Branham believed converts cannot receive the Holy Spirit until first cleansed by self sanctification of "**all the habits out of your life**" and "**all elements of the world, and the desire of the world.** **And then the Holy Spirit comes.**" Based upon his teachings it could take a lifetime to be sanctified as believers are always growing in Christ (Eph. 4:11-16; Heb. 5:12 -14; 6:1 -3; 1 Pet. 2:1 -2; 2 Pet. 1:5 -10) and laying aside sinful ways (2 Cor. 7:1; Heb. 12:1-11).

But, the scriptures says we are sanctified by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:16; 1 Cor. 6:11; 1 Pet. 1:2) rather than waiting to be sanctified to receive him. The Holy Spirit is a free gift from God (Luke 11:13; Acts 2:39). When Acts 5:32 says God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey him, it is referring to believing the gospel in verses 29 -31, not self efforts. So, based on Branham's teachings, the Holy Spirit must be earned through self sanctification. But, based on Jesus, Peter, Paul, and John, we receive the Holy Spirit by faith after believing the gospel (John 7:37 -39; Acts 11:16-18; 15:7-9; Gal. 3:2,5,14; Eph. 1:13; 1 John 4:13-15).

As a result, 1 Corinthians 1:30 says Jesus is our wisdom, righteousness, *sanctification*, and redemption. How? When people truly believe the gospel of Christ and baptized, they are identified with him How? God imputes these blessings to them by faith (Acts 15:9; Rom.. 3:9-31; 4:1-25; 5:1-21).

For example, (1) when Jesus was crucified, we were crucified with him and the world was crucified unto us - Gal. 2:20; 6:14; Rom. 6:6. (2) When Jesus died on the cross, we died with him - Rom. 6:7-8; Col. 3:3; Heb. 2:9. (3) When Jesus was buried, we were buried with him - Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12. (4) When Jesus became a curse on the cross for us, the blessings of Abraham came upon us - Gal. 3:13-14. (5) When Jesus became a sin offering on the cross for us, he also became our righteousness - 2 Cor. 5:21. (6) When Jesus shed his blood, he sanctified us - Heb. 10:10, 14; 13:12. (7) When he was made alive, we were quickened with him - Isa. 26:19; Rom. 6:8-11; 8:11; Eph. 2:5. (8) When he arose, we arose with him - Col. 3:1-3. (9) When he ascended to heaven and sat on God's right hand, we did the same - Eph. 1:20; 2:6. (10) When he is glorified, we will be glorified with him - Rom. 8:17,30; Col. 3:4.

So, after considering Branham's erroneous views about justification, sanctification, and receiving the Holy Spirit, what are the correct biblical applications. This study do not have space to engage these subjects, but they are discussed in my books about the gospel (see pages 316-318).

Nonetheless, I shall briefly summarize sanctification to disprove Branham. As summarized in Volume I, we have already been sanctified by God (Heb. 2: 11) in Christ Jesus (1 Cor. 1:2) by his offering (Heb. 10:10 ,14) and shed blood on the cross (Heb. 13:12). This only happens through our faith (Acts 26:18) when obeying the truth (John 17:17) by being washed in water by the word of God (Eph. 5:26) through the gospel (1 Pet. 1:23-25)—which is being born of the water in John 3:5 (read pages 89-90 of Volume I).

Therefore, individuals becomes washed and sanctified through believing the gospel by confessing the name of Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:11; Rom. 15:16). Then, sanctification will outwardly become obvious as the Holy Spirit convicts (John 16:8; Rom. 9:1), guides (John 16:13) and empowers (Eph. 3:16) true believers to remove habitual sins from their lifestyles (2 Cor. 7:1; Heb. 12:1). The Holy Spirit puts God's moral laws in their hearts (Rom. 13:8-11; 2 Cor. 3:3; Heb. 10:16) to forsake sinful habits (Rom. 8:1 -14; Gal. 5:13 -26; 1 John 4:4), so we can effectively be used by God (Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Tim. 2:19-22).

So then, the truth of the matter is that we are instantly cleansed and sanctified by Christ's blood to receive the Holy Spirit after genuine repentance and faith in Christ through the gospel (Acts 20:21-24; Rom. 15:16; Eph. 1:13).

Also, as stated from the sermon "Birth Pains" on page 290, Branham believed the new birth cannot occur until people are filled with the Holy Spirit and cannot be filled until they are sanctified (cleansed from all sinful habits and desires of the world). Moreover, they cannot be sanctified without the bleeding word (his message). Thus, a person cannot receive the Holy Spirit to be born again without Branham's message. Actually, Branham taught followers that the only evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit is to *live* by his message (the alleged promised word of Malachi 4:5). So, the proof of being born again is to obey his teachings.

There's **only one evidence of the Holy Spirit** that I know of, and that is a **genuine faith in the promised Word of the hour.** _ Questions and Answers #2, 08-23-64E

I say, in **every age** the **evidence was the same.** Those who had the Spirit, the Teacher, heard the Word, and that **Spirit in them** took the Word and taught it (revealed it) to them; and **they were of the group that heard the messenger and his message and took it and lived it.** _An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Four - Smyrnaean Church Age

Branham also taught that the new birth is a revelation of Jesus through the revealed word (his end time message).

What is the new Birth then? You'd say, "Well, Brother Branham, what is the new Birth?" **It is the revelation of Jesus Christ personally to you. Amen! See?** Not you joined a church, you shook a hand, you done something different, you said a creed, you promised to live by a —a code of rules. But Christ, the Bible, **He is the Word that was revealed to you.** _ Christ Is The Mystery Of God Revealed 07-28-63

The new Birth is Christ, is a revelation . God has revealed to you this great mystery , and that's a new Birth. Now what are you going to do when you get all that group together, **where the revelation is perfectly in harmony, and God expressing it through His Word** by the same actions, the same things that He did, **making the Word manifest!** _ Christ Is The Mystery Of God Revealed 07-28-63

Sadly, Branham's vague teachings on such as essential subject in obtaining salvation is dangerous. So, what is the biblical new birth? As summarize in Volume I, to be born of **water** and of the **Spirit** in John 3:5 through Jesus' shed **blood** (1 John 5:8) is to be born of the incorruptible seed of God's word by the gospel (Luke 8:11; 1 Cor. 4:15; 15:1-4; 1

Pet. 1:23-25; 1 John 3:9) through the Holy Spirit's conviction (John 16:7-11; 1 Cor.12:3; 1 Pet. 1:22) to repent, believe, and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior according to Romans 10:9. When this happens, a person is washed and cleansed by the blood of Christ (Rev. 1:5; 7:14) by faith (Acts 15:7-9; Rom. 3:25) through the washing of the water by God's word (John 15:3; 17:17; Eph. 5:25-26).

Then, the Holy Spirit comes to indwell the converted heart (Ezek. 36:25-27; Acts 3:19-20; Gal. 4:6) after a person's faith and confession (Eph. 1:13; 1 John 4:13-15), and writes God's moral laws in the heart (Psa. 119:9-11; 2 Cor. 3:2-3; Heb. 10:15-16; Rom. 13:8-10). This person is now born of God by faith (John 1:12-13; Gal. 3:26; 1 John 5:1) through God's word (Jas. 1:18); symbolized by being water baptized (Rom. 6:1-7) and evidenced by a godly change in lifestyle (Titus 1:15-16; James 3:17-26; 1 John 2:29; 3:1-10; 4:7; 5:4,18)—see pp. 316-318 for more info.

Nonetheless, based upon Branham's false teachings, being justified by faith, sanctified by the blood, filled with Holy Spirit, and born again are useless in these last days without being followers of his message (called the Bride).

Justification served its time, in justification **under Luther**, then it had to become sanctification **through Wesley**. And **sanctification served its time**, till it become the baptism of the Holy Ghost. And **the baptism of the Holy Ghost served its time**; until the Holy Spirit (which, there's only one God) blends into the Church, and the Church into Christ, and it makes **Jesus Christ reflected on the earth** what **He promised here in the Bible**. There Is A Man Here That Can Turn On The Light 12-29-63M

Once the carrier of a true word, **justification**; then it become a carrier of **sanctification**; then it become a carrier of the **baptism of the Holy Spirit**, restoration of the gifts. But then when He goes on and keeps going back, try to **eat something, manna from another day, it's rotten. It's no good**. A genuine eagle of this day knows that was alright. **But we got that, plus**, until **Jesus Christ is made manifest in the fulness** of His power, as **He promised to be in this last day**. The Seed Is Not Heir With The Shuck 02-18-65

The believers of this age has to believe This, **what He promised today**. Just the same as they had to come into the ark, to be saved; go out of Egypt to be saved; they have to come into Christ, **to be saved now, into the Word Message**. God's Chosen Place Of Worship 02-20-65

Thus, Branham taught that believing in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection; being justified by faith and professing him, being in covenant with him and sanctified, and having one's name in the book of life: was useless without the token that is applied by his message. He likened those without the token as Judas and spiritually dying.

Today, every church, every individual, that isn't and cannot display **that Token**, of the Holy Ghost, is **spiritually dying and will die**. No matter how much you believe in the death, burial, and resurrection. Token 11-28-63

So, today, **you might be a professed Christian**, you might be a covenant, with **covenant with Christ**; but **unless that Token is displayed in this late hour** that we're coming to now, **there is no way for Him to pass over**. The Token must be displayed. It

must be on. The Token 11-28-63E

The Blood is not the Token now. The Life is the Token. Token 09-01-63

"But when I see the Token, I'll pass over you." **It's God's requirement of the hour**. The **evening-time Message**, is to **apply the Token**. Token 09-01-63

The Bride, together, has been made up through **justification, sanctification**, and the **baptism of the Holy Ghost**, which is **the Token**. Token 09-01-63

...Look. **Judas Iscariot** followed those same tracks. **He was justified by believing on the Lord Jesus** and then accept Him as his **personal Saviour**. **He was sanctified** and give power to cast out spirits; **put his name on the Lamb's Book of Life**. But **when it come to Pentecost and the baptism of the Holy Ghost, the fullness of the Word, he showed his colors**..." [section of paragraph removed – see full quote on page 271] See, the same thing all the way down through, and **so is it today**. Questions And Answers #3, 08-30-64M

As shown, during the latter years, Branham no longer believed the biblical gospel of receiving Jesus as personal Savior through his death, burial, and resurrection could save anyone without his message. The only exception was a group he called "foolish virgins" (see quote on page 269).

As shown on pages 277-278, Branham believed the apostles teachings were useless for this day. He condemned every denomination and church in the entire world to the lake of fire for the second crucifixion of Christ for rejecting his message. He called them "*prostitutes of the gospel*" (see quote on page 268), which refers to rejecting his message rather the gospel preached by the apostles (1 Cor. 15:1-4,11). He viewed every church that did not follow his message as belonging to the harlots of Babylon, the image of the beast, and the mark of the beast (see pages 99-106).

As shown, Branham made his message the assurance of justification, salvation, redemption, sanctification, baptism of the Holy Spirit, new birth, and rapture to heaven. By doing so, he denied the scriptures that Jesus's death and resurrection has already provided the above and everything that we need (Rom. 8:32; Eph. 1:3 Col. 2:10; 2 Pet. 1:2-4).

Thus, by definition, Branham became an antichrist for leaving the apostles' doctrines and putting his message in Christ's place (Col. 1:18; 1 John. 2:18-19; 4:1-6; 2 Jn. 1:7-9). Also, unfulfilled prophecies *spoken in the name of the Lord* made him a false prophet (Deut. 18:20-22; Jer. 14:14; Ezek. 22:28). Again, he became a false teacher by denying the Lord who bought us (2 Pet. 2:1-3) by down playing the effectiveness of Jesus' cross and blood without his message (see also pages 270-271). By saying the apostles' teachings will not work in this day, he preached a false gospel (Gal. 1:6-9). By using borrowed information solely as special revelations from God, he became a plagiarist (Jer. 23:30; 1 Cor. 4:7). Lastly, by confirming the scope of our research on page 10, his claims of fulfilling scriptures are untrue. So, what is next for Branham's followers (see page 276)?

In closing, after considering this chapter, have you received Jesus Christ as Savior according to the true biblical gospel of salvation. If not, please see page 319.

Endnotes

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But a seer of the Old Testament, which was referred to as a prophet, he was the one that foresaw things. He said, "If there be one among you who is spiritual, or a prophet, I the Lord will make Myself known unto him. And **what he says comes to pass, then hear him, but if it doesn't come to pass, don't hear that prophet, see, 'cause he's prophesying falsely.** But if I have sent him, **that'll be My identification,** what he says **will come to pass.** _ The Identification Of Christ In All Ages 04-09-64

The day will come when Phoenix will raise up, and maybe I'm gone on, but you'll know that that was **THUS SAITH THE LORD.** It is true. And how that the great Holy Spirit has a vindicated those Messages and foretold the things, **never to fail one time!** _ Shalom 01-19-64

"God, in sundry times," we read here. "God, in sundry times," that's old times, "divers manners," many ways, "identified Himself to His prophets by visions." **That was the characteristic of a prophet, was when he foretold things and it happened .** Now **that was his characteristic of his identification,** that God was with him. Then that give him the rights to interpret the Word for that day, because, "The Word of God come to the prophets," the characteristic of the prophet that He foretold. 85 The Bible said, "If there be one, and what he says comes to pass, then you hear him; but, **if it doesn't, don't believe him, don't fear him,** but My... if—if My Word is not in him. But if it does come to pass, then My Word is in him." **That's his identification .** That's the characteristic of a prophet. _ God Identifying Himself By His Characteristics 03-20-64

God said, "If there be one among you, who is spiritual or a prophet, and **what he says comes to pass,** then hear him, for I am with him. But if it don't come to pass, well, don't hear him." And it must not just be once, **it must continually all the time;** from prophets. _ Perseverant 03 -05-64

Now, then if someone writes a message that's been given in tongue s or given in prophecy, and laid upon the platform, it must be read by the pastor before the service starts, of **"THUS SAITH THE LORD"** from these people who spoke and interpreted. And if that comes to pass exactly the way the interpretation said, we raise o ur hands and give thanks to God for His Spirit among us. **If it doesn't come to pass, then don't do it anymore till that evil spirit's out of you . God don't lie, He's always truth.** _ Church Order 12-26-63

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Explanation Note:

As studied on page 225, Branham believed the fifth seal pertained to some Jews who had never accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior during their lifetime, but were saved after death. Also, on page 226, Branham believed everyone he loved and all who loved him will be saved. He based this belief on a vision. Again, on pages 271 -273, Branham told followers that they were always saved before the world began, evidenced by them receiving his message. This belief implies that they were saved before receiving Jesus as their Savior (John 1:12-13).

Likewise, in Branham's book: "An Exposition of the Seven Church Ages" (pages 274-280), he believed some people who never accepted Jesus as Savior during their lifetime will be saved at the white throne judgment seat of God. He based this belief on Matthew 25:31-46, of which verses 31-33 says:

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

In verse 34, Jesus says to the sheep:

...Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Considering verses 34-46, Branham believed these sheep are unsaved people who will be resurrected and solely saved in the Day of Judgment because they treated God's people well, not because they were believers. Thus, his followers believe some people who never accepted Jesus as Savior will be saved at the judgment if they treated them well as the Bride of Christ (Matt. 10:42). As stated on page 226, some followers believe unsaved family members will be saved by applying the token after receiving Branham's end time message.

To accept Branham's above beliefs, followers will have to disrespect, belittle, or deny the biblical message of salvation as proclaimed through the gospel; and trust in his message for salvation or entrance to heaven (studied in chapters 16 and 17).

Actually, when considering Matthew 25:31-46, one could assume that the sheep had never received Jesus as Savior. But, they were saved due to their good deeds toward God's people. I wish this interpretation was unquestionably true.

Nonetheless, the first question we must ask: "If Branham's interpretation is indisputably correct, then Jesus' statements that a person must be born again to enter the kingdom the God, or that no man can come to God without him are made void (John 3:1-7; 14:6). Again, in John 8:24, Jesus told the Jews that they would die in their sins if they did not believe in him (Luke 13:1-5). Likewise, as shown on page 225, Paul's and Peter's statements about salvation solely through Jesus are made void.

So, are the sheep in the above parable believers in Jesus the Savior or unsaved people who never accepted him during their lifetime? Well, there are a few interpretations to the above parable, of which, I do not have sufficient space to fully engage. For example, some Bible teachers believe the sheep are those who helped the Jews during the great tribulation.

Nevertheless, the first concept we must realize that Jesus sitting on his throne of glory in Matthew 25:31 occurs at the beginning of his 1,000 years reign on earth. The resurrection of unsaved dead people will occur at the end of his 1,000 years reign during the white throne judgment of God. (Rev. 20:1-15).

Therefore, the sheep and goats brought before Christ are not the resurrected dead of the second resurrection (John 5:28-29; Rev. 20:5-6), but living people who are left alive among the nations after the tribulation period when the Savior returns (Zech. 14:16-17; Rev. 20:1-3). Isaiah 2:4 says: "***And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people.***"

In view of John 10:1-5, Jesus says his sheep know his voice and follow him, which consist of both Jews and Gentiles (verse 16; Eph. 2:11-18). In verses 14-15, Jesus said he would die on the cross to redeem his sheep (Heb. 13:20). So, the sheep in the above parable has to be those who accepted Jesus as Savior and followed him. Another clue is that these sheep were called righteous in Matthew 25:37 and 46.

Thus, the question we must ask: "can anyone be righteous who never accepted Jesus as Savior? Can anyone be saved by good works? Justification and righteousness are the same Greek word. The following scriptures lets us know that righteousness (justification) can only come through accepting Jesus Christ as Savior, not by good works (Rom. 3:9-32; 4:1-25; 5:1,15-21; 9:30-32; 10:1-10; Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 2:16,21).

The very fact verse 34 says the kingdom was prepared for the righteous before the world began: pertains to the redeemed (Eph. 1:3-15). So, who are the sheep and goats in Christ's parable? Well, beginning with Matthew 13:37-43, Jesus said he would separate the wheat and tares at his return. The wheat represents the children of God and the tares characterize the spiritual children of the devil (not his physical children, as Branham taught through Serpent seed - see pages 205-211).

Again, in Matthew 22:1-14, Jesus put a distinction between true Christians and the unsaved in the parable about a man who entered the marriage feast without a wedding garment. Once more, in Matthew 24:36-41, Jesus made distinctions between his people and the unsaved at his return when referring to the days of Noah. He said two individuals will be in the field and working at the mill, where one would be taken and the other left. In verses 45-51, he also makes a distinction between the faithful and wise servants (true Christians) versus hypocritical servants who are rejected at his coming.

Then, in Matthew 25:1-13, Jesus spoke a parable of true Christians preparing for his return as wise virgins, while the foolish ones were left behind. Again, in verses 14-30, he spoke a parable about talents that compares faithful Christian workers with wicked and slothful servants. But, for some reasons, when it comes to the parable in verses 31-46, Branham interpreted the sheep as being dead unsaved people who never accepted Jesus as Savior. Following the context of scriptures, it appears that the sheep were believers in Christ, perhaps the foolish virgins and people who accepted Jesus during the great tribulation period (Rev. 7:1-17; 11:13; 13:8; 14:1-4). How do we know they were believers? Well, not only because the scriptures refers to them as Christ's sheep, as righteous, and heirs of God: but by the very fact they loved fellow believers, which is one of the main works that identifies true believers.

For example, in John 13:34-35, Jesus says his followers will be known by their love for each other. 1 John 3:14-15 says we know that we passed from death to life because we love each other. Those who fail to love abides in death and do not have eternal life. Why? 1 John 4:7-21 say everyone born of God will love each other. 1 John 3:16-17 says how can the love of God dwell in a person who see fellow believers in need and refuse to help? James 2:14-17 says a person's faith is dead if they are not willing to help fellow believers in time of need if they can do so. Thus, in Matthew 25:34-40, Jesus identified believers by their works (Jas. 2:18). So, Branham's belief is doubtful since it contradict other scriptures about true salvation.

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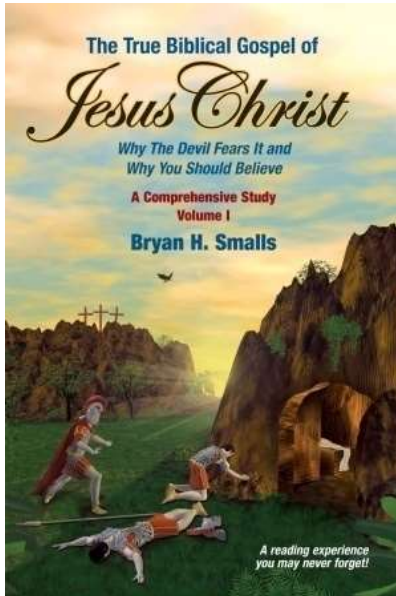
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The True Biblical Gospel of Jesus Christ (Why the Devil Fears it and Why You Should Believe)

Volume I Summary



In today's world of Christianity, a clearcut and easy-to-understand scriptural presentation of the true biblical gospel is often absent among professing believers, thereby making them vulnerable to unbiblical gospels and deceptions (2 Cor. 11:4; Gal. 1:6-9). Satan attempts to keep humanity in spiritual darkness about this vital subject (Luke 8:12; 2 Cor. 4:3-4).

So then, what is the correct message of the gospel as taught by the apostles? Inspired by the Lord Jesus—read Preface and Introduction—to write a dynamic book regarding the significance of his crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection: the author provides more than 3,500 scripture quotations and references that examines and irrefutably proves the gospel's precise message of salvation and eternal blessings.

This informative book proves the gospel's message of salvation to be: "Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose from the dead on the third day." From Genesis to Revelation this extensive biblical study proves the gospel to be the foremost message foretold by Old Testament prophets and the foremost teachings of the New Testament apostles. Eight (8) engaging

chapters provide soul-searching truths about the gospel. Sixty-four (64) subtopics explain the gospel's message and eternal blessings. Ten (10) Bible truths prove God planned the gospel before the world began. Scripturally identifies twelve (12) mysteries of God unveiled by the gospel.

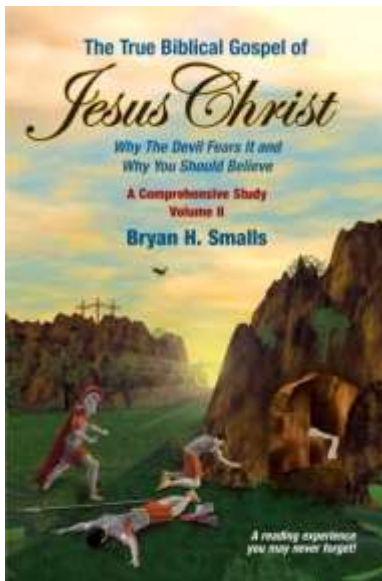
Moreover, this 232 -page comprehensive study of concise, penetrating, and reassuring truths examine nine (9) powerful biblical words that describes the finished work of Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross, while scripturally showing his decisive victory over ten (10) formidable enemies of humanity. Twenty -seven (27) Bible verses clearly prove salvation is impossible without the gospel. Twenty -two (22) biblical facts affirm the gospel's incredible saving power. Thirteen (13) biblical facts about sin unquestionably prove every human need the gospel to be saved. Twenty -two (22) biblical facts confirm God' s forgiveness through the gospel. Twenty (20) biblical facts show believers their new identity in Christ through the gospel. An exceptionally helpful resource for laypersons, seminary students, missionaries, and clergies.

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Volume II Summary



In today's world of Christianity, emerging new ideas from various religious factions and cults are persuading multitudes to depart from the true gospel of Christ once delivered by the original apostles. Inspired by the Lord Jesus to write a dynamic book regarding the significance of his crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection: the author presented more than 3,500 scripture quotations and references that irrefutably proved the gospel's precise message of salvation and eternal blessings in Volume I of a three-part series.

In Volume II, the writer provides over 5,000 scripture quotations and references that mainly examine the magnitude of Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross. This insightful book presents more biblical facts regarding this subject perhaps like none other single publication —with exception to the Bible and other comprehensive books.

This extensive study of 312 pages thoroughly compares Old Testament prophecies with New Testament fulfillments and provides compelling evidences why the apostles preached Jesus Christ and him crucified (1 Cor. 2:2). This volume also explains the amazing foreshadows of the gospel found in holy days, sacrificial offerings, redemptive names of God, the tabernacle, and biblical characters of the Old Testament. By understanding the power of Jesus' finished work on the cross, readers will discover his awe some victory over humanity's mortal enemies: sin, death, the grave, and hell. You will also learn of Satan and demons' decisive defeat and reasons they hate the gospel's soul-saving message (Luke 8:12; 2 Cor. 4:3-4).

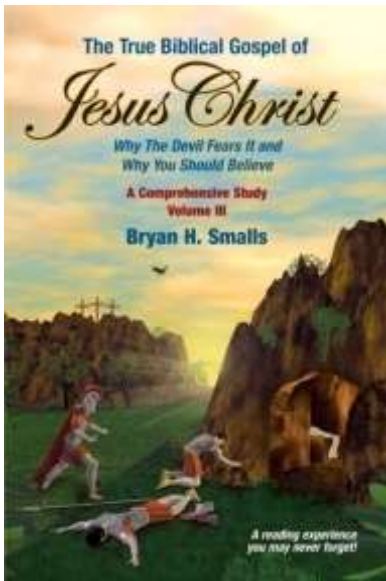
Moreover, Volume II identifies the bir thrights, blessings, and gifts provided by Christ's redemption and how these benefits are received through his glorious name. You will also learn biblical facts regarding true discipleship, the suffering of the cross, living a victorious life, and the true worship of God. This helpful resource also shows the reason we need Jesus as our heavenly High Priest, how to overcome generational curses and demonic bondages, and a clear -cut scriptural presentation about the true horrors of hell and how humanity can escape through the Savior. You will thoroughly enjoy this informative and easy-to-understand book.

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Volume III Summary



In today's world of Christianity, a full discourse of the gospel's entire story of redemption from Genesis to Revelation is seldom understood among professing believers. Inspired by the Lord Jesus to write a dynamic book regarding the significance of his crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection: the author provides a clear -cut scriptural and historical presentation of the gospel's amazing story of grace and salvation.

This final volume of a three -part series gives a dramatic overview of the gospel's story from Genesis to Revelation. It examines the longstanding conflict between God and Satan; the epic battle between Jesus, the Prince of heaven, and Lucifer, the prince of this world; the centuries-old struggle between light and darkness, and the last clash between good and evil.

This insightful study of over 2,500 scriptural quotations and references describes the world that existed before the birth of Christ and examines his decisive defeat of Satan and demons through his crucifixion and resurrection. Readers will discover the ultimate reason why the spiritual forces of

darkness fear the gospel and must stop it message in the last days —or perish forever. Readers will also learn of their ultimate overthrow when Christ returns to establish the everlasting kingdom of God on the earth.

This 360-page book also explains what happened to Christ's disciples between his crucifixion and Pentecost; the true purpose for the baptism of the Holy Spirit; how the gospel's message shook the kingdom of darkness and liberated lost souls, and the enemy's desperate plan for survival throughout church history.

Furthermore, this closing episode scripturally shows the true reason Jesus must open the seven -sealed book in God's right -hand before returning to the earth. It also provides in -depth study of Christ's literal 1,000 years reign on the earth and the coming new heaven and earth. Your faith will be strengthened by this inspiring and informative book.

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Receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior According to the True Biblical Gospel

1. What is the gospel? This word means “good news.” According to 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, it tells the story of redemption how Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose from the dead on the third day (See Chapter 17).
2. Why do I need the gospel? Romans 1:16, says it is the power of God that saves everyone who hears and believes its message about Jesus Christ the Savior (Acts 15:7-11).
3. Why do I need salvation? Romans 3: 9-10 says no human is righteous in God’s sight. Why is there no righteous person on the earth? Romans 3:23 says every human has sinned. What is sin? 1 John 3:4 says sin is disobeying God’s moral laws (Rom. 1:18-32). Romans 3:19 says the entire world is guilty before God for disobeying his laws.
4. So, why are we disobedient sinners? Romans 5:12 and 1 Corinthians 15:22 says the first man Adam brought sin and death upon the entire human race when he disobeyed God in the garden of Eden (Gen. 3:6). As a result, we were born in sin (Job 14:1,4; Psalm 51:5; 58:3; Prov. 22:15).
5. What is the penalty for our sins? Romans 6:23 says the wages (penalty) for our sins is death (Ezekiel 18:4), which eternally speaks of second death in the lake of fire (Rev. 14:10-11; 20:10-15; 21:8).
6. Nonetheless, Romans 6:23 also says God is offering the gift of salvation and eternal life through Jesus Christ.
7. How is God offering salvation and eternal life through Christ? Romans 5:8 says God demonstrated his love by allowing Jesus the Savior to die on the cross for us when we were sinners (Heb. 2:9,14-15).
8. Romans 4:25 says Jesus died for our sins (offences) and rose from the dead for our justification (righteousness).
9. How can I receive salvation and eternal life? Romans 5:1 says we are justified (forgiven and declared righteous) by faith in Christ (Gal. 2:16), while 2 Timothy 1:9-10 says he saved and brought eternal life to us through the gospel.
10. How can I accept salvation in Christ by faith? You should recognize that you are a sinner (Luke 5:32; 18:13; 19:10), then repent and believe Jesus died for your sins on the cross and rose from the dead (Acts 10: 39-43; 1 Cor. 15:1-4,11), then obey Romans 10:9,13 (as shown right).
11. What should I do after accepting Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior? According to Romans 6:3 -5, you should be water baptized to symbolically identify with his death, burial, and resurrection (Acts 8:35-38; 16:29-33).
12. After accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, begin to learn of him (Matt. 11:28 -30) by reading and obeying the Bible (Isa. 34:16; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3 :15-17; 1 Peter 2:1 -2), praying (Luke 18:1; Phil. 4:6 -7), and fellowshiping with true believers (Acts 2:41-47; 20:7; Heb. 10:25).

Dear friends, after considering the gospel’s true message of salvation studied in Chapter 17, and a brief account shown left: are you ready to believe on Jesus Christ the Savior (John 1:12; Acts 2:36-44; 16:30-31)? Based on Romans 10:8-13 and 1 John 4:15, are you ready to make a profession of faith unto salvation (Matt. 10:32-33; 12:37; Acts 8:35 -37; Heb. 3:1; 10:23)? If so, then say unto God (Luke 18:13-14; John 17:1):

“Heavenly Father, I now accept your gracious salvation through faith in Jesus Christ according to the gospel. I repent by acknowledging that I am a sinner and turn my life to you. I regret and confess all my past and present sins, including the dark secret iniquities and guilt of my heart. I believe the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God who was conceived and born of the Holy Spirit through a virgin birth, walked this earth as a man, was crucified on the cross on my behalf, shed his precious blood to forgive all of my sins, died and was buried for my sake, physically arose from the dead on the third day for my justification (Rom. 4:25; 1 Cor. 15:17), ascended to heaven to be my Intercessor —my High Priest, and I now accept him as my Lord and Savior. Therefore, according to Romans 10:9, I confess with my mouth the Lord Jesus Christ, and believe in my heart that you raised him from the dead. Therefore, as said by your words: I am saved, for it is written: *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”* (Rom. 10:13; Acts 2:21). And now gracious Father, in the name of Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior, I gladly receive your precious promise of the Holy Spirit based upon Galatians 3:13 -14; Ephesians 1:12-14; and 1 John 4:13 -15. In Christ Jesus’ name, I thank you for forgiveness of all my sins (Heb. 10:17), for imparting unto me eternal life by your grace, and saving me from sin, guilt, death, hell, and the powers of darkness. Amen.”

That if you **CONFESS** with your mouth **THE LORD JESUS** and **BELIEVE** in your heart that God has **raised Him from the dead, YOU WILL BE SAVED**. For with the heart one **BELIEVES unto righteousness**, and with the mouth **CONFESSION** is made **unto salvation**.... For whoever **CALLS ON** [confesses] **THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED**. Romans 10:9-10,13 (NKJV)

Congratulations! Now that you have received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, I implore you to attend a true Bible-believing church that preaches the true biblical gospel and receive water baptism as soon as possible. Why? As shown on page 289, not only was Jesus baptized as our example and did the same during his earthly ministry; but he also commanded his disciples to baptize. God richly bless you all. Amen.

About the Author

Pastor Bryan H. Smalls is an inspired Bible teacher endowed by God with vast biblical knowledge and insight; whose ministry and profound understanding of scriptures have touched many lives among various churches for decades. Some have referred to him as a walking Bible because of his ability to instantly locate scriptures from Genesis to Revelation regarding a subject and teach them. The scripture quotations and references of this book mainly came by this supernatural endowment of the Holy Spirit. He has helped, pioneered, and established several churches. He is also an entrepreneur,

inventor, and publisher; having a degree in electronic engineering along with various diplomas. He is near completion of his BA degree in Biblical Studies at Trinity College of the Bible and Theological Seminary and ultimately working toward a Doctorate. During multiple visions, he was instructed by the Lord Jesus to proclaim the gospel and to write an exceptional three-part book series entitled "The True Biblical Gospel of Jesus Christ" (see pages 316 -318). One key focus of his ministry is to help fulfill Matthew 24:14; 28:18 -20; Mark 13:10; 16:15 -20; Luke 24:46 -49; and Acts 1:8. His objective in writing this investigative book is to help people escape the bondage of cultism. How? By providing documented evidences exposing false beliefs and introducing the true saving grace of our Savior based upon the gospel of his crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection proclaimed in scriptures by the original apostles (Rom. 1:16 -17; 1 Cor. 1:17-18; 15:1-4,11). He also endeavors to share in-depth and life-changing biblical truths from God's word in easy-to-understand format.

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