



Twentieth
Century
Prophet

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The Messenger To The Laodicean Church

Age

By

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DEDICATION

"The Messenger To The Laodicean Church Age" is gratefully dedicated to those Christian friends and churches whose love for both the minister and the ministry has prompted them to generously publish and distribute this book, in the one hope that many may be enlightened concerning the very soon coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

L. Vayle, author

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PREFACE

It is no doubt true that **every generation** of Christian Believers from the time of the apostles has **attempted to apply** to itself the words of Jesus in Matthew 24:32, "*This generation shall not pass away until all these things be fulfilled.*" The purifying hope of the return of Christ must of necessity have been in the heart of every generation; but the actual physical return of Jesus could come only to the final, or end generation. **It is believed** by the vast majority of Christians that this end-time generation is now living. This is based upon the fact that certain historical events absolutely necessary to His return have but come to pass in very recent years. There is actually **no major prophectic event** that is now in progress or that must yet come to herald His return. **There is left to us only a breathless hush of waiting** as it was in the days of Noah when he entered into the Ark and the flood delayed yet seven days.

No major event in the plan of God has been without a witness to that impending event. **In the days of the flood**, the Ark was a testimony to the eye while Noah, preached the Word. **In the time of the Exodus** God sent Moses with signs and wonders and the Word. **In the days of the First Coming of Jesus**, there appeared a mighty prophet with the Word. **In these last days we are promised** (in Scripture) a forerunner to the event of the Second Coming of Christ. Hence this booklet now is written **to acquaint you** with the Messenger-Prophet who fore-runs the literal return of the Lord Jesus when He comes to take His people unto Himself.

Since there has **never been a time** in Bible History that the people were ready and willing to listen to the witness of God relative to coming events of great magnitude, it is believed that **only a few people will be even a little aware** of the witness God has **already given** to us and established as proof of His Coming. But it is hoped that every reader of this article will **think awhile** on the contents and ask God for guidance in this critical time.

The Messenger To The Laodicean Church Age

Chapter 1

FIXING THE CHURCH AGES HISTORICALLY

The Bible very clearly sets forth that God has **appointed a limited time** wherein He deals with faithfully unto Salvation with the Gentiles. In it He calls out **a people for His Name**. To do this **He (temporarily) turns from** Israel as a nation, **and calls to repentance individually** the Gentiles whom He foreknew of every kindred, tribe and nation. These statements are correct in every detail.

It is written... *"Then hath God **also to the Gentiles** granted repentance unto life." (Acts 11:18); **"It was necessary** that the Word of God should **first** have been spoken unto you: But seeing ye (the Jews) put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, **we turn to the Gentiles.**" (Acts 13:46). *"Men and brethren, hearken unto me: Simeon hath declared how God at first did **visit the Gentiles** to take out of them a people for His Name. And to this agree the words of the prophets, as it is written, after this I will return, and **will build again** the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down: and **I will build again** the ruins thereof and will set it up: that the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and **all the Gentiles upon whom my Name is called**, saith the Lord, who doeth these things. Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world."* (Acts 15:13-18).*

This Period (wherein God is calling out from among the Gentiles) is known as the **"Fullness of the Gentiles."** Again the Bible says, *"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."* (Romans 11:25). This period will end when the last elected Gentile member of the Body of Christ is brought in. Romans 11:7-12 says, *"What then? **Israel has not obtained** that which He seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and **the rest were blinded**, (according as it is written, **God hath given them** the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see and ears that they should not hear) unto this day. And David saith, let their table be made a snare, and a trap and a stumbling block, and a recompense unto them; **let their eyes be darkened** that they may not see, and bow down their back alway. I say then, **have they stumbled that they should fall?** God forbid, but rather **through their fall Salvation us come unto the Gentiles** to provoke them to jealousy. Now if the fall of*

them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them be the riches of the Gentiles, how much more their fullness?"

"**The Fullness of the Gentiles**" is itself the larger part of another well known period of time which is ending right now and is called the "**Times of the Gentiles**". Luke in his Gospel writes, "*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.**" It should be noted immediately that these **two periods** run concurrently, But one is **political** and the other is **spiritual** in connotation.*

The Times Of The Gentiles

The "**TIMES**" of the Gentiles is the political period of time referring to Gentile Dominion over Israel. It began when Nebuchadnezzar carried Israel away captive, and ends when God restores Israel to world dominion.

It is written... "***In that day**, saith the Lord, I will smite every house with astonishment, and his rider with madness. And **I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah** and will smite every horse of the people with blindness. And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, The inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be my strength in the Lord of hosts their God. In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and **they shall devour** all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left; and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem. **The Lord also shall save** the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah. **In that day** shall the Lord defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as an Angel of the Lord before them. And it shall come to pass **in that day**, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. **I will pour** upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of Grace and 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." **This restoration** (prophesied by Zechariah) **ushers in the millenium.***

The Fullness Of The Gentiles

The "Fullness of the Gentiles" is **the spiritual era** of the Gentiles wherein we noted that Israel is blinded while Light appears to the Gentiles. **This period will end** when Christ comes for His Gentile Bride.

The "**Fullness of the Gentiles**" as set forth by Paul in Romans is identified in the Book of Revelation as "**The Seven Church ages**. They are one and the same. The proof of this is found in Revelation, chapters two and three. Therein is the Spirit speaking to the Messengers of the Seven Church Ages in Asia Minor. He **begins** with the Messenger to the Ephesian Church (Age) and **ends** with the Messenger to the Laodicean Church (Age). These are all Gentile Churches. At no time does the Spirit speak to the church which is at Jerusalem which is a Jewish Church. If He were addressing both the Gentile and the Israeli Churches He must of necessity speak to the Church at Jerusalem. But not so. The original church group is left out. This is exactly as it ought to be. **During this time**, (Fullness of the Gentiles and The Seven Church Ages) God has left off dealing with the Jews. **A few Jews**, through election, will come in, but not many. These will belong to the Gentile era.

See the perfection of this premise in **the type of Joseph meeting with His brethren** in Egypt. Joseph (perfect type of Christ) has been **betrayed by his brethren**. Now in Egypt they stand before him. They are very fearful; but in love he greets them. However, Joseph's **Gentile Bride** is not there when his brethren meet with him. She is hidden away in the palace. **So it is** when Christ comes before His brethren - they see His wounds and are full of fear. He treats them in love. But **His Gentile Bride** is not with Him. She is in the palace, for at that time God will have finished dealing with the Gentiles.

Now, it is not an easy or commonplace task to fix with certainty the Seven Church Ages as to their dates, duration, messengers and other pertinent characteristics. Who would arbitrarily announce himself the authority to do so? Certainly not this writer. Yet any Bible student knows that **a certain combination** would most effectively accomplish this work. **That combination** is a Scriptural study of history plus Divine Revelation.

No one can deny that certain of these Ages have passed into history. But since Christ has not yet taken His Bride home, it is evident that we are in one of the Ages still extant. The Ages that are gone can and will be verified **by the study of the Scriptures in the light of history**. (This is how we have ascertained much concerning the prophecies of Daniel). **The immediate Age** and its characteristics will be revealed by Divine Revelation. This is a **MUST** in order for the Church to know exactly where it is at. One can hardly expect the Church to be helped if all her information were historical. She would not know what was happening to her. Thus with the perfect combination of **history, Scripture and Divine Revelation** (Spiritual understanding, by the Spirit) we can assuredly know the Truth of the Seven Ages. Our course, at this time, is to **review the Ages** in the light of history and to ascertain where we are and then implore God to

send His Prophet to reveal the Scripture relative to this age in order that the Church know and perform the whole counsel of God.

But to begin with, we most certainly know from Scripture, itself, what **the First Church Age** was and who its Messenger was. The Age was **the Ephesian Age** and **the messenger was Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles**. It was *through Paul* that the complete revelation from God came to the Gentiles. His revelation was actually more abundant than that received by Peter and the other apostles relative to the Gentiles. Paul, in Galatians 2:6b-8 stated, *"For they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me, but contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter, for he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles."*

Paul was both the Messenger to the Ephesian Age and also the Pastor to the Church at Ephesus for he both founded it and cared for it. We cannot set an exact date as to when this age ended. there is not need for an exact date, as the Ages, like all other of **God's eras of time** seem to **overlap**. But it did not last too long for the power of God had abated through unbelief even in the early years. Judging by the actual wane of power this age was not longer than about 170 A.D.

Continuing to fix the Church Ages by referring to Scripture and history, examine Rev. 3:1-6. This is spoken to the Church at Sardis and is **the Fifth Age**. The key herein is found in verse two. *"Be watchful, strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die."* There was no strength in the Dark Ages. Except for a tiny flock, and that widely scattered, there was no strong evidence of True Christianity. But now in **this Fifth Age** (Sardis), **Martin Luther appears** and successfully nurtures the doctrine of Justification and the Light begins to glow again. The first show of strength in hundreds of years appears, showing definitely that this is **the Age of the Reformation** of which Luther was the Messenger without a doubt. It was said of him in Sauer's history, "Dr. Martin Luther was a prophet, evangelist, speaker in tongues, interpreter, in one person. endowed with all the gifts of the Spirit." This Age is well known to have existed from about 1550 to around 1750.

With the fifth age fixed, it is not difficult to go on and place **the sixth or Philadelphian Age**. Rev. 3:7-13, the Messenger to that golden age of brotherly love was no doubt **John Wesley**. This was **the Age of the open door**, missions, great teachers, tremendous revivals. the Holy Spirit was even more manifested herein than in the Fifth Age. God was truly giving Light, Life and Blessing. This Age lasted from about 1750 to the turn of the twentieth century.

Turning backward and leaving the Seventh Age to consider at a later time, it is certainly easy to establish in time **the Fourth Age**. This found in Rev. 2:18-29. Here is **the Age that knew the depth of Satan** (vs 24). The darkest of all the Ages to this date - little

Word -little power. Man had usurped the position and authority of God. The greed of Rome had dammed countless souls and in the Name of God they blasphemed the very Name and Word of God. This age lasted from about the turn of the sixth century to the middle of the sixteenth. It was **the Thyatiran Age**, and its Messenger was pronounced to be **Columba**, for he showed forth in his life that which most closely resembled the power and glory of God in the first century Believers. That is always the criterion.

The next Age that we can easily affix is **the Third Age**. Rev. 2:12-17 speaks to the Messenger to **the Church at Pergamos**. But Pergamos is where Satan's seat is. This is when **Satan's own religion** (ancient Babylonian religion) came out to the forefront. This religion that goes against the Word of God from the time of **Cain**, now, after the Nicean council, **invades the nominal church and introduces pagan rites, and holidays, etc.** It is no problem to fix the dates here, for this is the aftermath of the Nicean Council of about 325 A.D., and before the Dark Ages which of necessity must follow such perfitry. It last from the turn of the fourth century to the beginning of the seventh. **Its Messenger** on the same basis we try the various believers, was without doubt, **Martin**.

By the process of elimination, one readily sees that **the Second Age**, Rev. 2:8-11 which is called **the Smyranean Age** lasted from 200 to 300 A.D. No man defended the Truth more ably or believed God more firmly and thus manifested the Spirit of God more abundantly than **Ireneus**. He was well qualified to be **the Messenger** to that Age.

This finally brings us to the Age that we have reserved for the last because it is, indeed, **the last**. This Age also brings us a Messenger, as set forth in the Scripture. That we are now in **the Laodicean Age** is indisputable. **It is at the end of this Age that Israel must become a nation and no longer be trodden down of the Gentiles.** Today, Israel is a nation. She has her own government and all that pertains to being a full fledged nation. The "**Times of the Gentiles**" is all but over. Thus the "**Fullnes of the Gentiles**" is all but over. God's timepiece (Israel) has struck the Gentile midnight hour, when the Bridegroom cometh. This is the Laodicean Age and according to the Word of god, **this Age** has both **a Messenger and a Message** before it expires.

Chapter 2

A Scriptural Messenger

A careful student must admit that we know certainly who the **first messenger** was. It was Paul. He was a prophet who brought the Word direct from God to the people. He was an Apostle for he took the Word of God TO the people. That was his vindication. Gal.

1:12, "Neither was I taught it (the Word) but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." He continually called himself an "Apostle" or "sent one".

Now except for our study of history we found it Scripturally impossible to designate who the messengers to the Church Ages actually were. But hold a minute. There is an obscure passage in Revelation wherein we have a direct allusion to the **Messenger To Laodicea**. God most certainly has let us know who the Messenger to the First Church Age was, and just as certainly He can and will let us know who the last Messenger to the Last Age is. Paul stood vindicated through an infallible ministry in the Spirit - 1st. Corinthians 2:1-5, "*And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you save Christ, and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power, that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of man but in the power of God.*" THUS, in the Last Age this Messenger of whom God speaks **MUST** and **WILL HAVE** a vindicated ministry in the **WORD** and **POWER** of God as did Paul, or we cannot know him.

This Messenger is set forth in Rev. 10:7. "But in the days of the Voice of **the SEVENTH MESSENGER**, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished as He hath declared to His servants the prophets." **This verse** clearly relates, NOT to an heavenly angel sounding on a trumpet, but **it is the MESSENGER (a man)** to the Laodicean Age **SPEAKING TO US THE WORD OF GOD**. The proof of this is amply set forth in Rev. 9:13 and Rev. 11:15. **HERE** are the two heavenly trumpeters. "*And the **SIXTH angel** sounded and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God saying to the **SIXTH angel** which hath the trumpet.*" Rev. 9:13). "*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, etc.*" **NOTICE** that with the **SIXTH** trumpet the terrible woes that come upon the earth in judgment. **NOTICE** in the **SEVENTH** trumpet that Christ is set forth as taking His rightful kingdom. **BUT** in Rev. 10:7 the Messenger there is still sounding, and his sounding is declaring the Mysteries of God to the Church.

Notice, too, that in Rev. 10:1-6 we do not have the Lord Jesus taking a throne but He is portrayed here as standing on earth with His head in heaven. "*And I saw another **Mighty Angel** come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud; and a rainbow was upon **His head**, and His face was as it were the sun, and His feet as Pillars of Fire: And he had in His right hand **a little book open**; and He set his right foot upon the sea, and His left foot upon the earth, and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth; and when He had cried, **Seven Thunders** 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. And the Angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up His hand to heaven.*"

This is exactly what Stephen said in Acts 7:47-51, "*But Solomon built Him an house, Howbeit the Most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands, as saith the prophet, Heaven is my **throne** and earth is my **footstool**: What house will ye build me? saith the Lord: Or what is the place of my rest? Hath not my hand made all these things? Ye stiff necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost, as your fathers did so do ye.*" This is a picture of Jesus building His Church on earth. That is what Stephen said referred to Jesus portrayed standing on earth (footstool) with His head in heaven (throne). **At the time of Rev. 10:7** the Message is still going out. it is the last days, however. Time will be no longer delayed. But He is still calling His people unto Himself, but **not for long**. Yes, this shows us very clearly that this one we call The Seventh Angel, is no spirit being. He is a man. He is a MESSENGER, and since he is the Last Messenger, being the Seventh Messenger, he is the MESSENGER TO THE LAODICEAN AGE. SURELY WE CAN AND WILL KNOW HIM AND LISTEN TO HIM AS ATTENTIVELY AS DID THE EPHESIANS TO THEIR MESSENGER, PAUL.

We must now begin **our search** for this Messenger. There is but one way to do it. **We must study the Scripture** and see what **the word** demands of him. When such a man appears, *thoroughly vindicated by the word*, we have our Messenger. It is that simple. Yet it is **often in simplicity we fail** as did the Jews when they failed to recognize both the Messenger (John) and Jesus the Christ.

Since the Truth of the **Seventh Age Messenger** receiving special attention is found in **Rev. 10**, we will study that portion as one of **the keys** to his identity. **According to verses 1-3** a part of the Book of Revelation is **unwritten**, for John heard the Voices of the Seven Thunders but was forbidden to write what he heard. The Scripture says, "*And I say another **Mighty Angel** come down from heaven, **clothed with a cloud**; And a **rainbow** was upon His head, and **His face** was as it were the sun, and **His feet** as pillars of fire: And He had in His hand a little book **open**; and He set **His right foot** upon the sea, and **His left foot** on the earth, and cried with a loud voice, as when a **lion** roareth; and when He had cried, **seven thunders** uttered their voices.*"

Students of prophecy admit that **there must come** a time when the content of those **seven voices** will be **revealed**. Realizing that **we can't "add to" or "take away"** from what's written in the Word, **These Seven Voices** must be '**a revelation**' of something that is **already written** but **presently hidden** from our eyes. At present they are **sealed up**. They are **a mystery** to us. But it is declared in **Revelation 10:7** that **ALL Mysteries** will be finished at the end of the "Fullness of the Gentiles". That is our day.

Therefore, it will be **in** this age that the **Voices of the Thunders** must be heard again and this time **revealed**. **BUT SINCE THE WORD OF THE LORD COMES ONLY TO AND THROUGH THE PROPHET** (Amos 3:7), we can now see an evident Truth in Rev. 10:7 wherein it said, "*...As He (God) hath declared to His servants the **PROPHETS**.*" This makes the Messenger to Laodicea a Prophet, even as Paul was a Prophet. This man

will be a **Prophet-Messenger** in order to receive the unrevealed Word of God and give it to us. It is going to take a Prophet to **unseal** the written words of Daniel's Revelation. How much more will it take a Prophet to receive the **unwritten** words of the Seven Thunder voices.

In order to **further magnify** this thought, let us approach these verses from another way. We go back over the verses Rev. 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."* Now here is a great mystery. **The revelation must be complete** and yet we are cut off from knowing what was said. We know that sometime or other we will have to hear them. That time is in the end time.

To Whom Does The Mystery Of God Come?

We now ask ourselves, *"Who will receive from God the mystery? Will it be the Pope? Will it be the Patriarch? Will it be the president of the World Council of Churches? Will it be the chairman of some denomination?"* The answer is, **NO!** There is **ever only one way** that God can give His Word for He is the same yesterday, today and forever. **It is in Amos 3:7** *"Surely the Lord will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto his servants the prophets."* That is exactly what **Rev. 10:7** says, *"His servants the prophets."* Further *Proof that the Endtime ministry will be a Prophet, is indicated by the fact that When the "Mighty Angel" of Rev. 10:1 descends in the lasts days, His cry is "as when a Lion roareth" (Rev. 10:3). In Amos 3:8 the "the roaring Lion" is symbolic of the ministry of a Prophet.* Thus **this Messenger** of the last Church Age **will be** a prophet! A **Prophet-Messenger** he will have to be in order to reveal the mysteries that have been hidden from us.

But hold a moment! Does it not say in **Rev. 22:18b** *"If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues, that are written in this book."* **How** then can any man add unto this book? Surely if he hears and writes the voices of the thunders, he will be adding, to this book. **NOT SO.** For the voices of the thunders are **SEVEN** and **since one CANNOT ADD, it is apparent that what the thunders said, are ALREADY contained in the Word but have remained as seven mysteries** to us through the ages. And that is exactly what it all means.

Is it not so that a PROPHET reveals and APPLIES the Word to the people? Thus, there will come a Prophet-Messenger to **reveal and conclude** the mysteries of the Word. And since it is the Word that gives Life and Power and understanding, **this final**

revelation will bring the believing, receiving ones to a **readiness** to meet the Lord. What other reason could there be? God is always utilitarian in His works.

The Earmarks Of A Prophet

We must now satisfy ourselves as to what the **earmarks of a prophet** are. We must also determine from Scripture what **specific manifestation** a prophet to the Laodicean Age would be required to have. To clarify the last premise, simply recall that **Moses had different vindicating manifestation than did Elijah**. Both were prophets but in **different periods** of history, so of course they must needs have qualifying and differentiating phenomena.

To examine the earmarks of a prophet: These are set forth irrevocably in **Deut. 13:1-5**, and **Deut. 18:20-22**.

13:1 "If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,

13:2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto you, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;

13:3 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.

13:4 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 to Him.

13:5 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, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the Lord thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

18:20 *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.*

18:21 *And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken?*

18:22 *When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: Thou shalt not be afraid of him."*

It is evident from these verses that God has placed **men** in this world with the **ability to foresee** the future or **to reveal hidden** present things. Now, it is **absolutely impossible** for any man to know the future for a certainty **unless** he is dealing in a power that can **bring the prediction to pass**. Also, no **man can of himself** perform acts of power that lie outside the realm of human possibilities, **unless** he is in touch with **some force** that will do the miraculous for him **at his command**. But this ability may be common to two groups of men: - Those who are of **God**, and those who are of **Satan**. A good **example** of this is found in the Book of Exodus where **Moses, with the Anointing of God** upon him was contending with the **magicians of Egypt who were under another anointing**. Moses **demonstrated** a supernatural power through faith in God; and the Magicians **duplicated** the miracles by Satanic ability. BUT eventually the Power and Anointing upon Moses prevailed. Yet, there is no doubt that **God has His Prophets and Satan has his**.

But please **note carefully** the Scriptures presented to You (above) from Deut. Chapters 13, and 18. **The prophet who is of God will lead and keep men true to God by God's Word, but the false prophet will lead men astray**. Today we can **still apply** the same test. The **true prophet** will be a man of the WORD and will **insist** that all men make the Word the criterion. He will lead men to Christ. **His life** will be exemplary in **obedience to the Word**, and his **motives** pure. **He will not** deal in miracles and foretelling for the sake of material good, but will every time point men and women to Christ and a greater spiritual depth. **He will always exalt the Lord Jesus Christ** in thought, word and deed. This is so, **because** the spirit of prophecy is truly the Spirit of Christ.

The Contrast - True Prophet Vs. False Prophet

A good illustration of what is set forth here is seen in the lives of **two men**. They are **two prophets** - Moses and Balaam. **See the concern of Moses** who is ready to give his life and his all for the sake of the glory of God and the eternal good of the people he leads. **Here is a man** crying out against sin, **pleading** with mankind, and **glorifying** God. Here is **one who can say**: "**Have I ever** taken anything from you? **Have I ever** told you a lie? **When** I prophesied, did it ever fail to come to pass? **Have I ever** led you astray or held anything back from you that you ought to have had? **Have I not always** led you to God and thought always of your good? **Have I not been** faithful to both God and you?" Sure! Moses was faithful in his calling.

But Balaam was just the opposite. In his haste to get money for divining he almost broke his leg as the ass rubbed it severely against a stone wall. In blind greed he tries to **make merchandise** of whatever gift he possessed. And when he could not get enough power or authority to do Israel harm he conceived a plan to destroy them. This plan was to lead Israel into fornication with the Moabites at Ball-Peor. This was **one hundred percent contrary** to the Word of God. **He led them FROM God**. To lead man away from the Word of God is to lead man away from God.

This man, Balaam, actually had no time for the Word of God, or God, or of God's people. **He was a self-seeker, a destroyer**. But a **true prophet** all through the Word is set forth as a servant, a seeker of other men's welfare above his own. **He does not** curry favor with authority, nor does he look down on the lowly. He says and does the Word of God. His devotion to God is in and through the Word, which he personally demonstrates by his ministry and his conduct.

From what we now know **it behooves us to shun** power that comes from, or through lives of wrong-hearted and wrong-acting men. **Shun** the words of those (though they speak ever so highly) **who would by-pass the Word of God** or be in any way contrary to the Written Scripture God has breathed to us for our life's welfare.

In The Last Days.....

Two Spirits So Close - Deceive The Very Elected If Possible

It would be well to remember that **the two Simons** are with us yet today: Simon Peter and Simon the Sorcerer. There is the great one of God and the other great one who has neither part nor lot with God. **There are always two** men or two groups who demonstrate

power, **but one** has a wrong source of power. The **spirit of Antichrist** is here as well as the **Spirit of Christ**. **The spirit of Antichrist in Satan's prophets is so close to the real and true Spirit of God that only the VERY ELECT will escape the deception.**

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF: **Matt. 24:22-24**

It is Written...

*24:22 "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but **for the elect's sake** those days shall be shortened.*

24:23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

*24:24 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.**"*

These **true elect ones take the Word**. When these true Elect Ones **see** the prophet and his acts of power, and **see** that he is right with the Word and never deviates, **they know** that he is of God **and** receive him. All that prophet says and does leads them **closer to Him** Who is coming soon. They look for no other vindication. This is the vindication.

The Last Age Messenger Will Be.....

Both Prophet And Messenger

Now to **examine what the Scripture sets forth** as to the ministry of this prophet and messenger to the **Laodicean Age**. He is BOTH Prophet and Messenger. Actually **he is the MESSENGER** to the AGE. **He has a MESSAGE**. But he could hardly come on the scene as a Messenger and be approved as such without being basically a prophet with whom is the Word and the Power. **The office of a prophet** qualifies him to be called the Messenger. This is **as it was with John the Baptist**.

Jesus said...

*"What went ye out for to see? A Prophet? Yea, I say unto you - **More than a prophet.** For **this is he of whom it is written, Behold I send my MESSENGER before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.**"*

This Messenger **preceding the First Coming of Christ was predicted** in the Bible, **but not called by name.** Nowhere do we find the name of John the Baptist in the Old Testament. **BUT** John in his ministry was a **direct fulfillment** of Old Testament Prophecy. **By Faith** the Believers in that day **recognized it.** They **saw the Word fulfilled** in John's Ministry. **AMEN! The same will apply** to the Messenger preceding the Second Coming of Christ. **His name** will not be mentioned in Scripture **BUT his ministry** will be a direct fulfillment of BOTH Old and New Testament prophecy. **The Scriptures prophesy of a Messenger** to come in the last days; and **that Messenger, like John,** will have the office of a Prophet which will **vindicate his position** as MESSENGER to the age, and that is exactly what **Rev. 10:7** says:

*"In the days of the voice of the **seventh messenger,** when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets."*

No other age has this said about its messengers. There is not a hint at any other age except the **first and last** having a **Prophet -Messenger.** **The other five ages had messengers.** They were **not Prophets.** They were **Reformers.** All had messages. All had some revealed light. **None of that five** had a vindicated, "Thus saith the Lord." But Paul, the **first Messenger** to the **first Church Age,** did have a "Thus Saith The Lord" ministry. Now **in this last day** when the Mystery of God should be finished we're suppose to **receive a messenger who is also a prophet,** and " **Thus saith the Lord**" will again be with us as it was with the Apostle, Paul.

This Prophet-Messenger **must have already** been on the scene, for **Israel has returned** to her native land; The **Day of Vengeance** of Our God is dawning upon the earth; The "**Times of the Gentiles**" is soon over; therefore, the Fullness thereof must be about completed. There is therefore even now, somewhere, **some evidence,** that this mighty **Prophet- Messenger** to this dying age, has **already come** and given to the Elected Bride of Christ **an Eternal legacy** of the Word of God which was **OPENED** and **REVEALED** in and through his ministry. This legacy will meet the need of the Elect Seed of God in this hour.

How Will We Know This Prophet Messenger?

But how will we **recognize him?** This may not be the easiest to discover **because we are** so complex in our thinking, and so in **our own ideas** as to how he should come, and

what he will be like, and what he will say and how he will act. But if we will **just consider the Messenger of the First Coming** we ought to find help regarding the **Messenger of the Second Coming**.

John came apart from every school of religious thought. **He was not** a priest, though he was entitled by birth to be one. **He was not** a Pharisee, **nor** was he a Sadducee. **There is no record** that he belonged to the Essenes. **He was not educated** either formally or religiously by men. **He was, however**, filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb, and that same Spirit that Filled him taught him. **His aims** were so different from those round about him that he was **NOT ONLY misunderstood** but violently **repudiated**. He was not truly understood by his own disciples, and much less understood by the groups who came to question him. His coming, his actions, his preaching - all caused more confusion than apparent illumination. **He seemed more against men than for men**. In all realms, except that of the Spirit, he was absolutely **a non-conformist**. Except for the Very Elect of that day he was either **repudiated or held in doubt**. Now then, is it not **more than possible** that the Messenger who foreruns the Second Coming of Christ will be every bit such a man? Surely we must credit Bible history when it shows profusely that **every major prophet** and messenger of God was both **misunderstood and finally rejected** by all except a bare minority in whom was the same Spirit of God.

Only a **very small** minority will recognize this Prophet-Messenger **because** only a very small minority have **the courage** to face up to Scriptural Proof and **accept the Truth** even when it is contrary to **their own** ideas. **STOP! Consider** WHAT you are believing! **Is it** the real genuine Revelation (by the Spirit) of the Word of God, **OR** is it **your own interpretation** of that Word?

God interprets His own Word by bringing it to pass. All we're doing in this study is showing you What God has interpreted, "HAS" brought to pass, and "IS" bringing to pass.

A factual study of the spiritual conditions of the last day or Laodicean Church will give us much insight as to what kind of a person this Messenger will be. In Rev. 3:14-22,

14. *"And unto the messenger of the church of Laodicea write, These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;*

15. *I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot. I would thou wert cold or hot,*

16. *so then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*

17. Because **thou sayest** I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; **and knowest not** that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked,

18. **I counsel thee** to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19. As many as I love, **I rebuke and chasten:** be zealous therefore, and repent.

20. Behold **I stand at the door** and knock: **if any man** hear my voice, and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him and he with me.

21. To **him that overcometh** will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my father in his throne.

22. **He that hath** an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

According to what is set forth here, the last church of the last age is the most deplorable of all ages, and climaxes its shame and confusion in utter apostasy for Rev. 3:20 says

"Behold I stand at the door and knock and if any man hear my voice and open the door I will come in to him."

This is none other than **Christ shoved out of His own church**, and he is now outside trying to regain admittance. **This is not** a far-fetched interpretation, but **the desolate truth** - "**He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit is saying.**" Verse twenty has been **used** for so long **on sinners** by well meaning but wrong believing personal workers that we have **failed to see** the Spirit of God is **foretelling** the **exact condition** of the Laodicean Age Church. **It Finally Becomes CHRISTLESS.**

Now do not be confused. **The reason we have failed to see this truth** is because of another failure in our reading the Word of God the way it is written. Read again **carefully**, Revelation, chapters 2 and 3. Notice that in every single age **the Spirit is speaking to those** who are **true Christians** and those who are **pretenders**, or unbelievers. **On one hand He lashes out** at their gross sin and **on the other He commends** them for their piety, faith, suffering, understanding, etc. **How is this?** The answer is simple. All Israel is not Israel. Therefore, **All Christianity is not Christian.** As

Israel means, 'Prince with God', there were multitudes who bore the name as in the days of Elijah, but that did not make them truly Israel. Perhaps there were as many as **five million** in that day that were Israelites after the flesh, but there were only **seven thousand true Israelites** that had not bowed the knee to Baal.

Today we have **an identical situation** in the Church. All who bear the Name "Christian" are **not truly WORD BORN, SPIRIT FILLED CHRISTIANS**. **They identify with the church, profess to believe** in God, the Virgin Birth and basic Christian Doctrines **BUT they are NOT** truly Christian - Christ-like. They were just caught in the Gospel net; **A fisherman** goes forth to cast a net. **All kinds come in**. There are eels, serpents, turtles, crabs, lobsters, shrimp, water spiders, frogs, etc., that get in that net - but also there are FISH. **A shepherd** has a flock, both sheep and goats. **A farmer** has a field - it contains wheat and tares. Today we have second, third, fourth, fifth, tenth, twentieth, and thirtieth generation Christians. But **God does not have grandchildren, only children**. The REAL BODY OF CHRIST - the REAL CHRISTIAN is **only a small part** of all that professes to make up Christianity, and **it is spiritual** as were the seven thousand in the days of Elijah. But as Israel after the flesh purported to speak for God, and worshipped God, and regulated the religious life for their day, even so now does the present **nominal church** purport to speak for God, worship God and regulate worship as we know it today. **BUT Jesus**, knowing that **the church** would become **lukewarm** and **spiritually blind**, asked the question: *"When the Son of Man cometh, will He find Faith on the earth?"* (Luke 18:8). **Will He find someone** to believe in the **Whole Body** of revealed Truth as **restored and revealed** by the **Prophet-Messenger** to the age.

In spite of being **lukewarm and spiritually blind** the church today is **rich**. She has vast holdings in real estate and stocks and bonds. Her pastors have retirement funds of multiplied millions. She is **rich in worldly goods but poverty stricken in the spiritual**. She is so far from God spiritually that **God calls her** wretched, blind, and naked and she doesn't even know it. Yet for all her **apostasy** she says she speaks for God. God says, *"You can't speak for me. You are lukewarm. You won't take a truly righteous stand though you claim to believe the major truths of the Word. Thus you are no longer my mouthpiece - I spue you out of my mouth."*

Not only is this so, but the organized religious moves we have today is so all-embracing that **Christ is forced to step outside** the church, for light and darkness cannot mix. **The Protestants** are getting back with **the Roman Catholics** in the ecumenical and charismatic moves. The Patriarch and the Pope have come into fellowship. Millions of Protestants and Roman Catholics are already finding common ground to unite on. **The one thing which they consider expendable in this unity is the WORD OF GOD**.

They are sacrificing the **WORD** for unity. **America** has already had **one Catholic president** and no doubt will have **more to follow**. When Americans voted for it's first Catholic President in 1960 it was an indication of the shift which had taken place in American religious thinking.

The leaders of each of the religious groups have repudiated the Word and drawn up their own creeds and dogmas as a substitute so that people live no longer by the Word of God, but by a Church creed.

Yet, in spite of all of them **denying** the holy and **infallible Word of God**, these same people dare to say that they speak for God. **Some** go so far as to say they are the vicars of Christ. **This is truly antichrist.** Christ must needs leave the church to its bankruptcy. As He leaves He has a word of warning to His own:

"Come out of her my people and be not partakers of her sins. Wherefore, come out from among them , and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you." Rev. 18:4 and 2 Cor. 6:17.

To reject the Word is to **reject Christ.** When Eve **allowed Satan to change but ONE WORD** of the commandments of God, she opened the door to the floods of sin and misery that have dogged the ways of mankind for all these thousands of years. **The very last words of Jesus to the church warns,** "Don't take away one word - don't add one word - leave it exactly as it is, and go by that." **But the church has not listened. She has changed the Word of God to suit herself.** Why right now there is a conclave of students from the Jews, Catholics and Protestants who are rewriting the Bible to suit all three groups.

No wonder Dr. Billy Graham said that if the Holy Spirit left the church, she would be so unaware of it that she would go on doing ninety percent of what she is now presently doing, and would not miss Him.

And that is exactly right. For **when the Word is rejected the Spirit is rejected, for the Word and the Spirit are ONE.** You can't have God apart from His Word. It is impossible.

Now since these are the true conditions of the church, **what kind of a man will the messenger be** who comes to this age? **He will not** be from ANY ORGANIZED group. That would be **impossible** for these organizations are coming together and are bereft of God. **He will not** be from any so-called REPUTABLE religious source. **He will stand alone,** and that FOR GOD and WITH GOD. **His manner of life, speech and attitudes** both spiritual and material will be unlike others. **He will appear to be** the same misfit as was John and just as controversial. **He will not** be popular.

In fact any popularity he gains in the early days of his ministry he will lose when he begins to speak the truth as it is given him from on high.

But he will be God's man, and the **Elect will know him** as they have always through the ages. This man's ministry will **open wider** the eyes of the elect but it will close and

make even blinder the eyes of those who have become hardened. *This is how it was in the days of Jesus.*

In the days when Jesus walked the earth, those who **had a measure of light** and righteousness were the Pharisees. **BUT when they** began to **question** and **doubt** and **reject**, all their **light turned to darkness** and they were utterly darkened until **they killed their very Lord**. But on the other hand there was a **Samaritan lady of ill fame** who saw Him at a well. **In her sin she believed** in Him, and all **her darkness became pure light** and she lived through His GRACE while the Pharisees died. Hear, then, this Prophet-Messenger when he comes with the Word, and close not the ears, **lest your light become darkness**, and the Spirit of God speak no longer to you.

Having seen this much, **let us go further in finding what scripture has to say** about this messenger. Since this man **must come to us in the last day** just before Jesus returns, **let's examine** in the Light of Scripture, **the conditions** which will exist on the earth at that time. Let's see if we can find more illumination on this messenger. **Jesus, Himself, gave us the key in Luke 17:26-30**. The **characteristics** of two **specific periods** of time will reappear at the endtime. Those characteristics are from the days prior to the flood and the overthrow of Sodom.

It is written...

17:26 "And as it was in the **days of Noah**, **so shall it be** also in the days of the Son of man.

17:27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the days that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and **destroyed them all**.

17:28 Likewise also as it was in the **days of Lot**; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded.

17:29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and **destroyed them all**.

17:30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed."

Natural insight alone will surely confirm to the reader that we are living in the days like unto the "days of Noah" and the "days of Lot". **Those with spiritual insight** will surely answer with a resounding "AMEN!" The conditions of the world and the world

systems have waxed worse and worse until it is like the days of Noah and Lot (Sodom). Even **more so because** it is on such a larger scale.

*BUT **what does it profit us to recognize the condition the world is in if we FAIL to recognize what God HAS done and IS doing to give us the Faith that pleases Him in this day?***

The above Bible reference **clearly shows us** what the world will be like at the time of the Second Coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ. BUT remember, there are **always TWO SIDES** to consider. **We know** what the world was doing in the "days of Noah" and the "days of Lot" **BUT what was the True Seed (children) of God doing during those times?**

In the days of Noah there were **two groups**. There were **the wicked who perished**; but there were also **the righteous who escaped**. In the days of Lot there were **three groups**: 1. **The dwellers** in Sodom, 2. **Lot** and his family, 3. **Abraham** and his family. Now **if our days** are to be an **exact parallel** to those days we must look to **see WHAT GOD WAS DOING** then and **apply that** to ourselves in this day. As God was on the scene in the days of Noah and Lot, so also God comes on the scene today. Paul in his Epistle to the Romans (15:4) reminds us that *"Whatever things were **written in earlier times** were written for our learning....."*

Look at the days of Noah. Here is **not only** a preacher of righteousness but a **PROPHET** for the Word of God came **to him and through him** for that day. **He warned** and preached. **He built** the ark. This was in obedience to the whole counsel of God and thereby he and seven others were saved. The Spirit of Christ was in this man. But **even before Noah** there was a **prophet** called Enoch. Jude speaking about Enoch said that in the desperate time before the flood this man spoke of the **SECOND COMING OF CHRIST**. Imagine that. **Enoch had spoken of The Second Coming when there had not even been a First Coming**. Here, indeed, is something we ought to know about for we are waiting for the Second Coming right now.

Way back there, where for many, many years they had gone against God and His holy Word **there arose a PROPHET**. There, when the sons of God had defiled themselves with the daughters of men - when knowledge was so great, and men so renowned - a period when **they were rich** and lacked nothing, yet **spiritually they were wretched and blind as in this day** - yes in those days there came a **PROPHET with the WORD** of the Lord.

*And since our day is to pattern after that period, we will not only look and see the **increase of sin**, and the **lack of spirituality** amongst those that claim to be Christians, but we will **ALSO look for that Prophet** who **MUST come to fulfill Malachi 4:5-6 and Revelation 10:7**.*

As Enoch blasted out against sin and iniquity, he also **preached about the Second Coming** of Christ **just before** the earth was destroyed by water. So will it be soon. **That age** of the flood, then, is **a type** of today when the Coming of the Lord draweth nigh. In Noah's day **God sent a Prophet** with the WORD to **catch the righteous and save them** from destruction. God did it. **The wicked perished. That will all happen again . But don't ever forget, as they had a Messenger who was a prophet we have had one also.**

Take now the **days of Lot** when Sodom was destroyed. The whole story is in Genesis Chapters 18 and 19. Again **we must not** have eyes only to see the wicked. **We must see** what is the portion of the righteous. When the enemy comes in like a flood, **God raises up a standard.** In Isaiah 59:19 we read, "*So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.*" Well, **the enemy has come in** - let us then look for that standard.

In the **days of Lot** when the cup of iniquity was filled, **God did not forget** His own elect. They had His special care. What was that care? **God Himself** appeared to Abraham. There in the heat of the day as Abraham sat at the door of his tent he saw **three "men"** approaching. He ran and fell at the feet of **ONE of them** and cried "**MY LORD**". For a while Abraham sat and had fellowship with these three "men". **BUT towards Evening** "two" of these "men" rose up and went toward Sodom. **The "third" "man" stayed with Abraham.** He began to converse with His prophet, Abraham, revealing to him the Word. In Gen. 18:17, God said, "*Shall I hide from Abraham the thing I am about to do?*" **No,** He could not do that **because God reveals His secrets unto His servants, the prophets.** And as He is **revealing to Abraham** about the **coming destruction** He also tells him about **the COMING SON** for whom FAITHFUL Abraham longed.

And notice this. **Here is God appearing in human flesh,** revealing to Abraham the time of that Coming Son. As He does so, **Sarah** (in the tent behind Him) **laughs in her heart.** And God, with His back to the tent, knows that she laughs in her heart and **He speaks out revealing her very thoughts, even the thoughts of her heart.** God the GREAT PROPHET HIMSELF read the heart of Sarah. And this is exactly as it should be.

In Hebrews 4:12 we read.....

"For 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, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

That is what the Word does. It discerns the thoughts and intents of the heart. But the Word is God. Thus **the Manifested Word (God)** in the presence of Abraham **discerned the thoughts and intents** of the hearts of those present.

This is **exactly what Jesus did** when He came 2000 years ago. And we know that Jesus was God manifested in flesh. **It was this sign** (discerning the **thoughts** and **intents** of the heart) that **made the elect accept Him** as the Messiah.

Read what the Bible says in **John 1:40-51**.....

1:40 "One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

1:41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

1:42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jonas: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

1:43 The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow Me.

1:44 Now Phillip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

1:45 philip findeth Nathanael and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law and the Prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

1:46 And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

1:47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

1:48 Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

1:49 *Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.*

1:50 *Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? Thou shalt see greater things than these.*

1:51 *And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."*

See from these verses that **this sign** (discerning the **thoughts** and **intent**s of the heart) caused Nathanael to **immediately claim** this man of Nazareth to be the very Son of God, the King of Israel. Likewise **the woman at the well** received Christ as the Messiah **on the same basis**.

In John 4:14-29 we read.....

4:14 *"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*

4:15 *The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.*

4:16 *Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.*

4:17 *The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:*

4:18 *For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.*

4:19 **The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.**

4:20 *Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; And ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.*

4:21 *Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.*

4:22 *Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.*

4:23 *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*

4:24 *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

4:25 *The woman saith unto him, **I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.***

4:26 *Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.*

4:27 *And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? Or, why talkest thou with her?*

4:28 *The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,*

4:29 *Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?"*

She knew that He had to be a prophet. She knew that when Messiah would come He would do that. That would be the **SIGN of the Messiah**. That would be His Vindication. The SIGN which Nathanael and the Woman at the well saw Jesus manifest in the New Testament, Abraham saw that same SIGN in the Old Testament. This is true. **Read in John 8:56...** "*Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day, and he saw it and was glad.*" Jesus was talking about himself at that time. He said that Abraham actually saw His day - the day in which He was, right at that time.

This is what He meant by that statement. Twice in the Old Testament **God appeared to Abraham in human form**. The first time was when He appeared after the battle of the kings, and was called the King of Salem. Then, later, He appeared at the tent of Abraham immediately prior to the destruction of Sodom. **In the first instance** His appearance typed Him as the High Priest, the office of which He assumed after His resurrection. **But**

at the tent He typed out His ministry as the PROPHET, which office He would assume during the days of His flesh. In **Deut. 18:15-19** we find these words...

18:15 *"The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;*

18:16 *According to all that thou desirest of the Lord Thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.*

18:17 *And the Lord said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.*

18:18 *I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.*

18:19 *And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him."*

And what He was at the tent, He was on earth and so He is right now. **The sign does not change.** Only **now it will be the Spirit in the Prophet bringing that same sign back to earth.** It has to be by way of the **prophet**, for as Israel cried unto God, "*Let us not hear your voice audibly or see the fire visibly, but **speak to us through a man**, even Moses ."* God hearkened and has **since then** spoken only by and thru the prophet. **That last day Prophet- Messenger is duty bound to produce that sign** if we are in the day that EXACTLY parallels the days of Lot and the destruction of Sodom.

Now while we are dwelling on that, Christian friend, elect of God, remember that Abraham was not mixed up down there in Sodom. He was **separated** unto the Lord. **God's elect are always a separated people.** (Come out of her my people) They are not of the world. Lot was down there, but then, he was **not elected.** God had not called and separated him. He came along only on the invitation of Abraham. He was a good man, to be sure, but **God did not appear to him.** God sent two angels with a message, warning him to get out of Sodom.

*Lot was **not truly separated** and neither were his children. They are a **type** of the nominal Christians who go through the **tribulation**.*

The Sodomites, of course, are the wicked, and they are destroyed as it says in Malachi - they are burned to ashes. But **how wonderful it is to know** that right now God is **dealing with His elect as He did with Abraham** who is our father in the faith. He has appeared to

His elect of the last days in a **prophetic ministry**, showing the **same sign** He showed to Abraham and his group. Truly Abraham's seed is blessed with Abraham, and visited by God through the Spirit.

Since it is absolutely impossible to deal with a prophet relative to the Second Coming of Christ without considering Elijah, we will do so now. Matt. 17:10-13,

17:10 "A nd His disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?"

*17:11 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias **shall** truly first come and restore all things.*

17:12 But I say unto you that Elias is come already, and they knew him not but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise also shall the Son of Man suffer of them.

17:13 Then the disciples understood that He spake unto them of John the Baptist."

It will be **noted here immediately** that the prophet Elijah must certainly return to this earth. But it is also immediately noted that Jesus termed John the Baptist, Elijah. John was not the reincarnation of Elijah. He was John with the **same Spirit** upon him that was upon Elijah. This is the same case as is seen when Elisha prayed for a double portion of the Spirit that was upon Elijah and he received that double portion of the same Spirit. This did not make Elisha to be Elijah. It simply gave him the ministry by the Same Spirit.

Now follow this **up to our time**. Will we not also have a prophet upon whom this same ministry by the Holy Ghost descends? Will such a one come at the end of this church age? Look at Malachi 4:5-6,

*4:5 "Behold, I will send Elijah the prophet **before** the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:*

*4:6 And **he shall turn** the heart of the **fathers** to the children, and the heart of the **children** to the fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."*

Here is one of those **most peculiar scriptures** that in **one sweep encompasses two widely separated events** dealing with one person. The person involved is Elijah. **The two events** are his manifestation before **both the comings of Jesus Christ**. Now of

course this is **not** Elijah himself, but only **the "Elijah ministry"** for there is **no reincarnation in the Bible**. In fact the Word explains these two events. **Malachi 4:6a** "*And he shall turn the hearts of the **fathers to the children**,*" is a reference to **John the Baptist** as set forth in **Luke 1: 17**.

4:6a "*And he shall go before Him in the spirit and power of Elias, 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.*"

This one upon whom the Holy Spirit comes in such a way as to designate an Elijah ministry is **the very same in Malachi 3: 1a**,

3:1a "*Behold I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me.*"

John the Baptist fulfilled Malachi 4:6a and Malachi 3:1a. **Notice** what Jesus said in **Matthew 11:7-10**.

11:7 "*And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?*

11:8 "*But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothinly Pire in kinos' houses.*

11:9 "*But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet.*

11:10 "*For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.*"

Now as it has been pointed out in Malachi 4:6 **only the first part of that verse** referred to John the Baptist upon whom the Elijah ministry had fallen. **The last part obviously belongs to another messenger** with the same ministry, who will at some time turn the hearts of the **children to the fathers**. They will not be the same person. They will be **different men, ages apart**. Indeed, if this prophet appears today, he will be **the Elijah for our day**, living 2000 years after John.

Now to understand the meaning involved in Malachi 4:6 let us **study carefully** the thought, "*He shall turn the hearts of the **Fathers to the children**.*" John, with the "Elijah ministry" for that day was turning the hearts of the **Pharisee, Sadducee fathers** to the **children** who were being **made ready** to receive the Meseiah when He came. It was the

children (spiritual) of these 'fathers' who believed on John and then went on to follow Jesus. And this ministry of John had to do with the FATHERS of these elect children.

Something had to be done to turn the hearts of the fathers to them. **It would come** through the ministry of John. **And it did come** through that ministry. For when John appeared the fathers were not taking God's Word but their own. They were sinning and calling it righteousness. They had made the Word of God of 'no effect' by their traditions. John came thundering on the scene. Out of the desert he came dressed in skins, and rough and coarse was his exterior. Bold and cutting were his ways. **He slashed with the Word and Spirit of God.** And they being stronger than the gates of hell cut at men's hearts and brought many to the baptism of repentance and faith that **the MESSIAH was about to appear.**

This ministry in the Spirit that **John** began was taken up by **Jesus**, for **John had to decrease while Jesus increased.** The hearts of the fathers being tuned to the **Word (written)** - it was not so great a step now to turn to the **WORD (Manifested).** **These disciples**, who were **children then**, later became the **apostles** and **they in turn became the fathers** of the church, for the Gentile church is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets.

2:19 "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God:

2:20a "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets."

John had, in forerunning the First Coming of Christ, " **Turned** the hearts of the **Fathers** to the **Children**". NOW, **2000 years later** we look back to those "Children" as being the "**Fathers**" of the Gentile Church. But **since** the "**fathers fell asleep**", **the church has drifted from the Original Word.** Once more the Word has been left and men have accepted tradition in its place. Now, **there was need for a man**, a prophet, like ELijah, Elisha and John to come and fulfill **Malachi 4:6b** - "*Turn the hearts of the CHILDREN back to the original Church Fathers*" - **back** to the Word originally preached, **back** to the signs that follow the Word. **This last-day Prophet** with the Elijah Ministry **will forerun** the Second Coming of Christ wherein Jesus comes to catch away His Bride.

Yes, a Prophet-Messenger **was prophesied to come** and indeed that Messenger **has come** to bring the Bride back to the Word and the mighty works that follow the believers. **According to Rev. 10:7**, through his Ministry and Message he will "**finish the Mystery of God**" and **forerun the Second Coming of Christ.** The Message of this **Endtime Messenger** has **revealed the Mystery** that have been hidden in God since the foundation of the world. This may sound like a large order. It is, but yet **it has come to pass.**

This generation **needed** this type of ministry and this generation HAS RECEIVED it. **WHY the desperate need?** Paul, The **First Messenger** to the First Church Age, had "*Thus saith the Lord*", on the Scriptures. He was **God's vindicated spokesman** for that age. **BUT** as the church progressed into the Second and Third Ages **DARKNESS overtook it**. The **spirit of Anti-Christ** which was present in the First Age (**1st. John 2:18**) began to lead the people **away from the True Word** into Creeds and Dogmas of **man-made religion**. Since then man has been divided over the interpretation of Scripture. **But God promised to RESTORE** back that which the Church had lost through the DARK AGES. Therefore, in this last age, we needed a Messenger to arise with, **NOT** "Thus saith the Church or Theologian" **BUT** "*Thus Saith The Lord.*" To **TURN** the hearts of the **CHILDREN** to the exact Truth of the **FATHERS**.

It was **abiding in that original WORD** that brought the power. We have to **get back** to the TRUE meaning, TRUE Interpretation of the Word and then **ABIDE** in it. **Only by abiding** in the Word can we become WORD Believers, ready for the Second Coming of Christ and the Rapture (Catching Away) of His Bride. **T**his messenger to the Laodicean age **had a tremendous burden** placed upon him. It was with him as it was with other prophets, especially **Moses**. The people were oppressed under Pharaoh.

For Moses to come and declare himself a prophet of God and worthy of attention and obedience to the Word of God in his mouth, he would of necessity have to **gain their attention through some vindication** by God that would defy all dispute.

This can be easily understood. The Hebrews **had not had a prophet** for about **400 years**. Such a length of time would see **several generations without the truth of God in their midst**, and **the result was ignorance** of God's Word and ways. **Moses would need supernatural vindication** of his ministry to **catch their attention** and **TURN** their hearts to the TRUTH of God's Promise for their day - A Promise of Deliverance (**Genesis 15:13-14**) .

This is the very **same situation** when both **John and Jesus** came. Israel was **without a prophet** for another **400 years** and the **TRUTH** had in human hands **deteriorated into human tradition**. How **very difficult** it would be to **TURN** Israel to Truth by a prophet. **Thus when God sent Moses He sent him with two signs**. If the people refused the first sign (the rod made into a serpent) they would hearken to the voice of the second sign (the hand placed in the bosom, turning leprous and then clean.) Ex. 4:8

4:8 "*And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to **the voice of the first sign**, that they will believe **the voice of the second sign.***"

Did you notice? God said that **His signs had a voice** with it. God **NEVER** sends a **Sign WITHOUT a Voice**. The SIGN is meant to attract your **attention to the VOICE**. There's bound to be a Message to follow the Sign. Don't focus on the Sign only **BUT Listen for the Voice** - it's a Message from God.

The Voice of the Sign usually does **Two things**. It will **open the eyes of some** and bring them closer to God and **harden the hearts of others** more and more **as they reject** what the Voice is saying. In Egypt Pharoah's heart was hardened, but Moses wasn't discouraged. He knew that the **VOICE of the SIGN** was a Scriptural Voice. It was **"THUS SAITH THE LORD"**. The VOICE that cried out of the burning bush spoke the Word of God as it had been given to that great Prophet, Abraham. It said, **"I remember my promise to my people."** So Moses listened and obeyed, and in so doing he brought the promise of God for the people of that generation.

Now when God spoke by that sign there was only one avenue left. Israel had to move out of Egypt - the Exodus had to come. **So also in this Age**, there has been a **final vindicating sign** with a **final vindicated Message** announcing that *"Time shall be no longer delayed"* (**Rev. 10:6**). It is **Finished!** It is **done!** The Second Coming of Christ, the Resurrection and the Rapture is about to dawn in all it's fullness and glory upon the endtime Believer. Indeed, we are caused to asked **"What hath God wrought in our generation?** We are exhorted to **take heed** lest it happen to us what happen in the days of John the Baptist.

In Matthew 17:12 it is written...

"But I say unto you, that Elijah is **come already**, and **THEY KNEW HIM NOT**, but have done unto him whatsoever they desired.....",

Think of it! The forerunner of Jesus' First Coming, had arrived on the scene but **THEY KNEW HIM NOT** - They **killed** him! Then they **killed** the one whom he was trying to introduce to them. **Blinded** by tradition, creeds and man-made religion **the majority** of Professing Christians in **this Age has failed to recognize** the Messenger-Forerunner of the Second Coming of Christ. And if we miss the Forerunner we shall surely miss Christ's Second Coming and be **left to weep** in the Great Tribulation.

As John the Baptist cried, **"Behold the Lamb of God "**, the Messenger-Prophet to this last age continues to cry out, **"Behold the Bridegroom cometh."** **As** the apostle Paul **declared the mysteries of God** in the First Age, **it produced Faith** for Salvation, Healing and even **Martyring Faith** - Faith to die for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **Even so now**, the *Mysteries of God revealed* through **the Elijah Ministry** of this day **IS producing Faith** for Salvation, Healing and **the Rapture** - The Message of This Hour, will in God's time and season give us **Faith to walk of the earth without seeing death**. *That's the Promise for This Day* (**1st. Thess 4:17; 1st. Cor. 15:51-52**).

*Unfortunately, most people today are more apt to believe in science-fiction rather than the Promise of the Word for this day. In **Luke 18:8**, Jesus said, "**When the Son of Man cometh, shall He find Faith on the Earth?**"*

So spiritually blind with creeds and man-made religion would man be in this hour, that **Jesus questioned** whether or not anyone would be found to Believe the '**whole body**' of **revealed Truth** to receive **Rapturing Faith**. **WHAT** a Day! **WHAT** an Hour!

God made Promises concerning this hour and **God HAS** and **God IS** fulfilling those **Promises**. **God Promised** us a Prophet Messenger to forerun His second Coming and **God HAS sent that Prophet**. Without a doubt, most Professing Christians will acknowledge that **we are in the last days** BUT many do have doubts as to **WHO** the Endtime Prophet-Messenger really is. **WHO IS HE? WHERE IS HE?**

Who is that man so vindicated by God with visions and signs and wonders? **Who is that man** who never yet had a revelation fail? **Who is he** who leads men to God through the Word and **never leaves** the Holy Writ?

Such a man we look for. **According to** the signs of the times, **such a man** even now must be in our midst, OR has he **already come and gone?** - a Prophet of prevailing truth! **Come with us** into Chapter Three as we discover **WHO** this Vindicated Messenger really is.

CHAPTER THREE

THE VINDICATED MESSENGER

(THE MANIFESTED VINDICATION)

Convinced by the Word that there is a Prophet- Messenger to this last age, we now begin our search for that prophet. We're looking for A Man Sent From God with a **Prophetic Ministry**, YES, with an **Open Vision Ministry**. Thus would he be known.

According to our understanding of Scripture **this man will not be recognized by the religious systems** and orders of the day, so we cannot look for him there. **He will not be** numbered amongst the ecclesiastical mighty. In fact he could well be **as obscure as was John or Jesus**. *His birth* would no doubt be as humble as that of all the other prophets.

Without a doubt **much of his ministry** would be **disputed** while a **part of it** would be **welcomed**. And if he is the Messenger he will, of course, run true to the **Bible pattern**.

In the recent history of the Evangelical Healing Revivals of the modern world, there were no doubt **hundreds of Evangelist** who hung out their shingles, **declaring themselves** to be 'God's man of Faith and Power' or 'God's man of the Hour' **BUT, which of these "ministries"** will fit the description of the "ELijah Ministry" spoken of in **Malachi 4:5-6** and **Rev. 10:7? Which of these ministries** bore the earmarks of a Prophet with Prophetic **vindication?**

In 1975 Professor David Edwin Harrell, Jr. Published (Indiana University Press) a history of the Healing and Charismatic Revivals in Modern America under the title All Things Are Possible. It's an excellent, clear, uncluttered account of the Revivals of the 1940's, '50's and early '60's. After extensive research **he singled out "The Ministry of One Man"** as the initiator of the great healing revival. He said...

"Most of the participants of the 'healing revival' which erupted in 1947, looked upon this man as its initiator. Out of his massive union meetings in 1947 spread reports of hundreds of miracles and marvels. He seemed an unlikely leader. He had been a pastor in a small independant Baptist church; his preaching was halting and simple beyond belief. But he became a prophet to a generation. A small, meek, middle-aged man with piercing eyes, he held audiences spellbound with tales of constant communication with God and Angels. Night after night, before thousands of awed believers, he discerned the diseases of the sick and pronounced them healed."

Another church historian, Gordon Lindsay, who worked closely with many of the Evangelists of the Revival, also wrote an historical record of the Revivals. In his books "My Story" and A Man Sent From God, he also **singled out one ministry AND ONE MAN** which stood out among all the others. Concerning this ministry he stated.....

"The story of the life of this 'Man Sent From God' is so out of the ordinary that were there not available a host of infallible proofs which document and attest its authenticity, one might be well excused from considering it far-fetched and incredible. But the facts are so generally known, and of such a nature that they can be so easily verified by any sincere investigator, that they must stand as God's witness to His willingness and purpose to reveal Himself again to men as He once did in the days of the prophets and the apostles. The story of this Prophet's life - for He Is A Prophet - indeed witnesses to the fact that Bible days are here again."

Another contempory of "This Prophet" said,

"Place the Man Sent From God in one side of the scales of Power and Anointing, and it would take the combined efforts of most of the Evangelistic ministries of our day to tip the other side of the scales."

Truely, he was absolutely **Scripturally vindicated** as being the Prophet-Messenger to the Laodicean Age. **He has met every requirement as set forth in the Word.** His ministry is accepted in part, and in part rejected. His birth, upbringing, education, preaching, teaching, ministering in the Spirit, has every scriptural qualification and he is thus vindicated.

WHO Is This Man?

He is **William M. Branham**, He was the first born to a very young couple on **April 6, 1909**, in a most humble log cabin in Burksville, Kentucky. For two days after his birth his fifteen year old mother, eighteen year old father, and visitors saw **hanging over his crib, a white hazy light** that had come in through the window, and stood over his head at birth. No one understood the significance of it, and no one, therefore, put any stock in it relative to his future life.

As long as he could remember, **he received visions** that he could not understand, and yet whenever a vision was of a future event, it **never failed to come to pass** exactly as he saw it.

The Voice In The Whirlwind

One day **when he was but seven years of age**, as he was carrying ing water for his father, he was startled to hear **the sound of wind** in the leaves of the tree under which he was resting for a moment. He looked up, but there was no visible movement. As he started to leave, **the sound came again**, but this time it was louder. Looking up he saw a whirlwind in the tree, and **out of the whirlwind** there came an **audible voice** saying, *"Don't ever smoke, or drink, or defile your body in any way, for there will be a work for you to do when you are older."* He was naturally frightened and ran screaming into the house. Somehow he was unable to tell his mother the experience, so she concluded that William was a very nervous boy and needed rest.

Vision Of The Ohio Bridge Disaster

A few weeks later while outside playing, a vision broke across his eyes and he saw a bridge being built over the Ohio river (he was now living in Jeffersonville, Indiana) and as men worked he saw a span fall, takingco death a number of workmen. **Twenty-two years later** when the bridge was being built at that exact spot as seen in the vision, a span did break away, hurling those men to their death.

Tempted To Smoke And Drink

Since he did not come from a spiritual home (his father often bootlegged whiskey) he did not realize that God was dealing with him. Thus, when **social pressure** was placed on him by his father and companions, he would try to drink, smoke and go to dances, etc. But his trials were failures, for **each time he tried to smoke or drink he heard the peculiar sound of the wind blowing and felt the presence of an unseen being.** Being frustrated and nervous he tried to keep away from the peculiar life that was his, but he could not.

Experiences With Astrologers

As a young man, he was twice **approached by astrologers** who attempted to explain to him that he was born under a sign. **They both told him** that he was the possessor of "a gift", though neither told what it was. One of them told him that **she saw a Light following him.** To explain these things, one of the astrologers went into the Scriptures to give him details. Later he understood about astrologers and mediums and rebuked the spirit by which they operated, taking authority over them in the Name of Jesus. BUT it's entirely Scriptural that these should recognize the gift of God before the clergy and professed servants of God. (Note: **Acts 16:16-18; Matthew 8:28-29**).

His Conversion

Not being born again, these things would at times **trouble the young man.** He was already aware of **the Light** that stood over him at birth, the **visions**, the **Voice** in the Whirlwind and the **strange rushing sound** of wind when he tried to smoke and drink whiskey. But **he did not understand** all these things **in the Light of Scripture** because he didn't know what the Bible said.

William Branham, the boy, though he had these **remarkable manifestations** in his life, yet he was not converted. For a time **he still resisted the call of God** on his life. At the age of fourteen he was seriously wounded while hunting and had to spend seven months in hospital. God dealt with him then, but still he did not take heed. Nevertheless the urgency of the call became more and more conscious to him. Inasmuch as his parents were not Christians he did not get any encouragement from them. As he became older the enemy tried to stifle that 'still small voice' that was ever speaking to his heart.

He Goes West

When he had reached the age of 19, he decided that he would go out West to work on a ranch. **In September of 1927**, he told his mother that he was going on a camping trip to Tunnel Mill, about fourteen miles north of Jeffersonville. He told her this, knowing that if she were aware of his true intentions to go West, she would plead with him not to go. When his mother finally heard from him, instead of being in Tunnel Mill, he was far away in Phoenix, Arizona. In reality, down in his heart, he knew that he was running away from God.

Of his experiences in the West and the call of God which was ever upon his heart he says.....

I remember the first herd of cattle I helped drive out of the mountains. I thought I was a real cowhand. **When evening came** I rode off that horse, got my blanket and used my saddle as a pillow. And there was an old guy there we called Slim. And another guy from Texas with a guitar, and they were playing songs. Old Slim was playing a comb with a piece of paper behind it. The herd was all settled down for the night. And after a while they begin to play "*Down At The Cross Where My Saviour Died; It was down there for cleansing from sin I cried.*" My heart begin to jump. **I took the blanket and pulled it over my head to keep from hearing it because I was a sinner.**

I lay there pretending I was asleep. But when I pulled the blanket down, I thought, "Now, it'll all be over, because they've stopped playing their music and gone to bed..." But when I looked up, them big stars was hanging just above me. Something said: "Who put them up there and Who's holding them in place?" Just then the wind come through those whispering pines and it seemed like there was a voice that said, "There's a land beyond the river that they call the sweet forever. And we only reach that shore by faith's decree." I got my blanket and pulled it around my ears again.

Brother, God is so great He will find you, I don't care where you are. Don't try to hide from Him. you're fighting a losing battle.

And a 'losing battle' it would be for William Branham. This life, chosen of God, would eventually succumb to the Heavenly Father's Will. Almost beaten into the dust from whence he came, Bro. Branham would rise on wings of faith to serve his God.

A Sad Message Arrives

One day **the young man received a letter from home** informing him that one of his brothers was very ill. It was Edward, the one next in age to him. He did not think the illness was serious and believed everything would be alright. However, one evening a few days later, he returned to the ranch from the city, and as he was coming through the mess hall, there was a message given him which read, "Bill, come to the north pasture. Very important." He immediately walked out to the pasture and the first person he met was an old Lone Star renger whom they called "Pop." He had a sad expression on his face and he said, "**Billy boy, I have sad news for you.**" At the same time the foreman came walking up. They told him that his brother, Edward, had died.

You can **imagine the shock** this was to the young William Branham as he realized that he would never again see his brother alive in this world. **Events begin to move swiftly** from then on. **Each time he resisted God, tragedy or sorrow of some kind would**

come to him. When he yielded and obeyed God, the Lord would bless and prosper him. Would that we all could learn by what others suffered, rather than by our own bitter experiences.

In his own words, Bro. Branham explains his thoughts at the time and how he felt.....

When I realized the news of my brother's death, for a moment I could not move. It was the first death in our family. **I remember wondering about whether or not he was ready to die.** As I turned to look across the yellow prairie, tears ran down my cheeks. **I remembered how** we struggled together when we were lads and how hard it was for us - not enough food to eat and not enough clothes to wear. **BUT , Oh how I remember that day** when mother gave us Pop corn in our school lunch. That was a real treat. So to be sure that I got my share of it, I went out before noon and took a good handful before my brother got his share. **How I wished** I could have told him that I was the one who took it. Thinking of these things, there on that prairie, **God began to deal with me again** - but as usual I kept pushing it to the back of my mind.

I made ready to return home for the funeral. During the funeral services, Rev. McKinney of Port Fulton church preach and exhorted those not right with God to accept Him as their Lord and Saviour then and there. **God began to deal with me again.** Oh, how I grasped my seat, resisting the call of God.

After the funeral, I wanted to go back to the West but mother begged me not to go. I agreed to stay if I could find work. I did get work with the Public Service Company of Indiana.

Sickness Strikes

About two years later, while testing meters in the meter shop at the gas works in New Albany, I was overcome with gas, and for weeks I suffered from it. I went to all the Doctors I knew. I could get no relief. **I suffered with acid stomach caused by the effects of the gas.** Finally, two specialists in Louisville, Kentucky said it was my appendix and advised surgery. I didn't understand it because I had no pain in my side. Still, **they insisted on surgery.** Agreeing to have it done, I insisted that they use local anesthetic so I could watch the operation.

After surgery, when they were taking me from the table to my bed **I felt myself getting weaker** and weaker all the time. **My heart** was hardly beating. I felt death upon me. **My breath** was getting shorter. I knew I had reached **the end of my road.** Oh, friend, wait until you get there, then you will think of a lot of things you have done. **I knew** I had never smoked, drank, or had any unclean habits, **but I also knew** I was not ready to meet God.

God Speaks In The Hospital room

It began to grow darker in the hospital room, as though it were a great woods. **I could hear the wind blowing through the leaves**, yet it seemed a great way off in the forest. You have probably heard of a puff of wind blowing the leaves, coming closer and closer to you. I thought, "Well, this is death coming to take me." Oh! my soul was to meet God; I tried to pray but could not.

Closer the Wind came, **louder** and louder. **The leaves rustled and all at once I was gone!** It seemed that I was back again a little barefooted boy, standing in that lane **under the same tree**. I heard that **same Voice** that said, "Never drink or smoke." And the leaves I heard were the same that blew in that tree that day so many years ago. **But this time the Voice said**, "I called you and you would not go." The words were repeated the third time. Then I said, "*Lord, if that is you, let me go back again to earth and I will preach your Gospel from the housetops and street corners. I'll tell everyone about it.*"

When this vision had passed, I found that I felt better. My surgeon, who was still in the building, came into the room and looked at me with a surprised look. He said, "*I am not a church-going man, my practice is so great, BUT I know God has visited this boy.*" After a few day I was allowed to return home. This time I would not forget the call of God's warning.

I started out to seek and find God. I went **from church to church** but **found nothing** to satisfy the hunger and thirst in my heart.

One night I became so hungry for God and a real experience that I went out to the old shed, at the back of the house and tried to pray. I did not know how to pray, so I just begin to talk to Him as I would to anyone else. **All at once there came a Light in the shed and it formed a cross.** A **Voice from the cross** spoke to me in a language I could not understand. It then went away. I was spellbound. When I came to myself again, I prayed, "*Lord, if that is you, please come and talk to me again.*" I had been reading my Bible since I had returned from the hospital and I had read in 1st. John 4, "*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God.*"

I knew that something had appeared to me, and as I prayed **it appeared again**. Then it seemed to me that there had been a thousand pounds lifted from my soul. **I jump up and ran** to the house and it seemed as though I were running on air. Mother asked, "*Bill, What has happened to you?*" I replied, "*I don't know but I sure feel good and light.*" I just couldn't stay in the house any longer. I had to get out and run.

Not long after this experience of conversion, William Branham sought and found excellent fellowship and teaching with the Missionary Baptist Church. Shortly thereafter **he was ordained to preach the Gospel**. God gave him good success for his **tent** often had crowds of 3000 and there were many people truly born again.

Pillar Of Fire Appears

It was during **June of 1933** that as he was baptizing the converts in the Ohio River that a most amazing and **well documented phenomenon** occurred. As he was baptizing the seventeenth person **before a crowd estimated at about 4000 there appeared a blazing whirling star out of heaven with the sound of rushing wind audible to all**, and it came and hovered over him. As **many ran** in fear, and **others knelt** in prayer, **a voice spoke out of the pillar of fire** to him and said...

*"As John the Baptist was **the forerunner** of the first coming of Christ, so your message is **the forerunner** of the second coming of Christ."*

Of course **he alone heard the words though others heard the sound**. This is exactly as it was when Paul was blinded by God and heard His voice. Others heard a sound but not the actual voice or the words of the voice.

Being a firm believer in the whole Word of God, and standing firm on the fact that **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever**, he did not hesitate to pray for the sick. Thus **all through his ministry** he sought to help the infirm. The results were most gratifying until even the hospital personnel admitted to the power of God and knew that when the "**little Baptist preacher**" came, someone was going to get well. **Now that he was firmly in the Word, it might be expected that the visions would cease. On the contrary they became multiplied** and with tremendous results for good, for the visions usually indicated a great need that was going to be met by God, and surely it would take place with **never a failure - no not one**. Whatever he saw in the vision he would tell, and the results were invariably what the end of the vision indicated. It was a literal "Thus saith the Lord". It was then clearly established that he must be one of whom it is said, "*Your young men shall see visions.*"

Not only did he see visions that always came to pass relative to his personal ministry but **he had many recorded visions (which he also related) which dealt with world wide affairs that must come to pass before the return of Christ**. Perhaps the most remarkable of these were the following seven:

The Seven Visions

In **June of 1933** when Brother Branham was conducting his services in the old Masonic hall on Meigs avenue, **seven major events** which are to come to pass before the return of the Lord came to him by way of a vision. It was on a June morning just before he was to teach a Sunday school class that this series appeared while he was in a trance.

Vision One:

He saw in a vision that the dictator of Italy, **Benito Mussolini**, would invade Ethiopia and **according to the voice speaking to him**, Ethiopia "would fall at his (Mussolini's) steps". However, the voice continued and prophesied a dread end of the dictator, for he would have a horrible death and his own people would literally spit on him.

Vision Two:

The next vision indicated **America would be drawn into a world war against Germany** which would be headed up by the Austrian, **Adolph Hitler**. The voice predicted that this terrible war would overthrow Hitler and he would come to **a mysterious "end"**. In this vision he was shown the Siegfried line whereat a great toll of American lives would be exacted.

It might be well to mention here that a subsequent vision relative to this war predicted that President Roosevelt would declare war against Germany and in so doing would eventually be elected for a fourth term.

Vision Three:

The third part of the vision showed that though there were **three ISMS, Fascism, Nazism, Communism** in the world: that the first two would come to nothing but that Communism would flourish. **The voice admonished him to keep his eyes on "Russia" concerning future involvements**, for Fascism and Nazism would end up in Communism.

Vision Four:

The fourth vision that appeared to him was one in which there was predicted to be tremendous technological **advances right after the war**. This was symbolized by an **egg shaped car** with a plastic bubble roof, going down beautiful highways completely under perfect **remote control**. There was no steering wheel in the car and the occupants of the car appeared to be playing a game like checkers.

Vision Five:

The fifth scene that appeared involved the **womanhood of the world**. In this scene there appeared the **fast moral decay of women**. Starting back when she received her so-called liberty to enter into worldly affairs by means of the vote, she soon began to wear clothes that were too revealing. she bobbed her hair and adopted the clothing of men. Finally the vision showed her all but stripped naked and she merely covered herself with a tiny apron about the size and shape of a fig leaf. With her womanhood so little valued a terrible decay of all flesh came upon the earth and with it perversion even as set forth by the Word of God.

Vision Six:

Then **there arose in the United States a most beautiful woman** clothed in splendor, and **great power was given to her**. She was lovely of feature but there was a hardness about her that defied description. Beautiful as she was, **she was yet cruel, wicked and cunning. She dominated the land with her authority, she had complete power over the people**. The vision indicated that either such a woman would literally arise or that this woman of the vision was merely a type of an organization which is scripturally characterized by a female. Though the voice did not speak out and reveal who she was, **he felt in his heart that this woman represented the rising Roman Catholic Church**, and he inserted in parenthesis beside at the end of this vision which he had written out, (perhaps the Catholic church).

Vision Seven:

The voice bade him look once more. As he turned and beheld, **a great explosion** rent the entire land, and **left the land of America a smoldering, chaotic ruin**. As far as the eye could see there was naught but craters, smoking piles of debris, and no humanity in sight.

The vision then faded away.

Some fine scholars of scripture would warn him that his visions were not inspired of God. He was worried many times about this, and earnestly sought God to let this peculiar ministry pass from him. **Yet the visions kept breaking before his eyes and ever coming to pass**. No one was harmed by them, but on the contrary the children of God prospered because of them. At this point he had not realized that **even Jesus was accused of being of the devil**. Neither had he seen that his ministry being identified by astrologers was no different from the time that devils identified Paul's.

The Angel Appears To Him

The years passed by and he served God to the best of his ability both as a pastor and laborer. He was a game warden with the Indiana State Government. One day, **May, 7, 1946**, when he was leaving for a little hunting trip with a friend, **as he passed under a maple tree in his yard a mighty rushing wind broke loose in the top of the maple. It seemed that the tree would be torn badly. He staggered under the tremendous impact.** His wife ran to him, thinking he had become ill. He turned to her and said,

"For over twenty years I have not been able to understand this ministry or myself. I can't go on like this. I've got to know the answer. Is this of God? What is it all about? I've got to know. I'm going away, leaving you and the baby. I can't come back until I know the answer. I will seek God with my Bible and prayer, and find out or never come back."

What a difficult thing to say and to do. **What dedication to God - to know Him or die.**

Having thus made up his mind **he went alone to seek God in a secret place - A Cave near Green's Mill, Indiana**, - determined to know the answer and to find peace in his life. Hiding himself away from all, he cast himself down upon his face crying to God to forgive him of all his failures and earnestly committed himself to the full will of God. **When he had prayed his heart out, he sat up, waiting for the answer.**

About **the eleventh hour** he saw **a soft light** appearing. **There hung that great star.** It did not have points, but was more like **a ball of fire.** Then **he heard footsteps** and there approached unto him a man of large stature, perhaps 200 pounds in weight, dark of complexion, with shoulder length hair. His face was beardless. As he caught the eye of this fine looking stranger he was very fearful. But the stranger looked at him very kindly and said.....

Fear not. I am sent from the presence of Almighty God to tell you that your peculiar life and your misunderstood ways have been to indicate that God has sent you to take a Gift of Healing to the people of the world. IF YOU WILL BE SINCERE AND GET. THE PEOPLE TO BELIEVE YOU, NOTHING SHALL STAND BEFORE YOUR PRAYER, NOT EVEN CANCER."

Two Signs Given The Prophet

After explaining this to Brother Branham, the angel went on to say that **like Moses** he was to receive **two** peculiar signs, **one of which** would raise the people's faith, while **the other would be a sign** of the Second Coming of Christ. **The first sign** was to be given some time in advance of the second and would be a peculiar sign in his hand. This sign would be that as he grasped the hand of any person who had a germ-type disease his band

would be swollen and take on different shades of color whereby he would know the names of the diseases. If there were other diseases than the bacterial type, the Spirit would let him know by revelation what the trouble was. This gift has been seen by many people and is a tremendous faith builder. However, to simply read about it without seeing a visible manifestation of it is confusing. Yet it is a genuine gift.

The second sign which was to follow would be the ability **to know in the Spirit the secrets of men's hearts as well as their physical problems.** This sign has also been seen by countless numbers and not only raises faith, but since **that ability belongs to the prophet,** it is **a definite sign of the soon coming** of the Lord.

His Ministry Spreads

As it does not take long for news of such a great ministry to get around, it was not long until Rev. Branham was called to many places. **He held great meetings all over America** and in many parts of the world. Some of these meetings overseas are of particular moment for they illustrate the power of God in his life. For example it is well known that the late **King George the sixth of England** was healed of a leg condition. **The King's letter** of thanks and **praise to God** is in Brother Branham's files. Also, a great part of Finland knows of **the raising of a dead boy** while he was over there.

In Africa where Brother Branham held a service in Durban the crowd numbered over 100,000 and in one afternoon it was estimated that over 30,000 people received Christ as Savior. This tremendous move toward God came as **the heathen saw that the God of miracles still lives,** and that He is the only true God.

The healing was on this wise: Flanked by scores of preachers and many doctors, Brother Branham preached the Word and then called on those who needed healing. Amongst those who came was **a poor deformed creature** who shortly after birth had been so cruelly injured that he was never able to walk erect, but actually walked all bent over on both hands and feet, and was therefore much like an animal in movement. The ones who cared for him tried to make a living for him by exhibiting him in the streets as curiosity. They had put a chain and collar around his neck as one would a bear and he would prance up and down like an animal dancing and thereby hope to gain a few cents to live by.

As he came up for prayer **Brother Branham had a vision** of the man standing upright, healed by the power of God. **With this vision before him he then challenged the heathen and unbelievers to accept the Lord as Saviour if this man were to be made instantly well.** Many, if not multitudes, knew this man and his terrible predicament. He challenged the heathen, the agnostics, the church members, the various native tribes, and they all agreed that if this man were healed in Jesus Name, then Jesus indeed is God. **As soon as Brother Branham prayed the man stood upright.** How the people cheered and praised God. After the altar call which was given twice so that none could misunderstand the purpose, it was estimated that over 30,000 came for salvation, while 25,000 received their healing.

At the end of the services in that city, **the mayor** led in a great parade which featured **seven trucks loaded with crutches, canes, and other implements** once used by cripples to facilitate movement. As the vast throng marched through the streets they sang "Only Believe, All Things Are Possible, Only Believe">

In the city of **Bombay, India**, where it was estimated that 400,000 came to hear him, **he preached the Word of God with authority**, declaring they were far too superstitious and that their gods were powerless. **To clarify his point** he took the leading beggar of the city who was completely blind from gazing at the sun which he worshipped. This man was known to the mayor and all people of the city. In a vision Brother Branham saw who he was, where he lived, how he had become blind. In short he knew his whole personal history which he revealed to the people.

They were **amazed**, but this amazement was not as great as their wonder at what to do when **Brother Branham challenged all the leading priests** present to come and pray to their gods for the man's deliverance. He challenged the Buddhists; he challenged the Jains; he called upon them all. None answered this call. When all refused he said to them...

"Y our priests and leaders have all refused to come in the names of their gods. Today I have come in the name of my Lord Jesus Christ. They say their gods cannot heal this man. I say that my God can. Now, then, if, when I pray to my God this man gets healed, will you forsake all these powerless gods and come to Jesus as your Saviour?"

The crowd agreed that this was the thing to do. Then **according to the vision** that Brother Branham had of the man receiving his sight, he took the poor beggar in his arms and prayed. **The man suddenly screamed out that he could see** and demonstrated it by his actions. **Pandemonium broke loose as those poor people tried to reach Brother Branham, just to touch him and be healed.**

In Germany he who came out in force to frustrate his ministry. **They actually** succeeded in bringing **a huge black cloud over the tent** which with tornado force would rip it to shreds. **Brother Branham stepped on the platform and in Jesus' Name the cloud was instantly dispersed and the sun shone through.**

Of all Countries, **America was most privileged** to have had this ministry with us year after year. **Hundreds of thousands of Americans** were eye-witnesses to the majesty and power of God in His servant the Prophet. **America is without excuse!** God has indeed visited us in a most miraculous way - an open-vision Ministry. **The church world** has done unto him "whatsoever they listed".

The Editors of this Home Page recommend that you visit the following links for a more detailed account of what God has done in This Age...

[A Man Sent From God](#)
[The Acts Of The Prophet](#)

The Amazing Photograph

In **January of 1950** while Rev. Branham was conducting services in **Houston, Texas**, a most amazing event occurred which established forever the truth that accompanies his healing ministry. It so happened that **an enraged minister accused Brother Branham** of insinuating that he healed the sick. **He also contended that healing was not for today.** So insistent was he (along with some other ministers) that some of the official party decided that **a debate** was in order. This of course was the finest grist for the mills of the press. With what finally turned into a low caliber drama, the so-called **Rev. Best asked his photographers** (Ayers and Kipperman) to snap pictures while he thrust his fist under the nose of Rev. Bosworth. As he paraded up and down, he asked for several more shots. Finally when it was seen that Rev. Best and his group had won no points but rather that the audience was with the Branham party, the challenge kept coming for Brother Branham to come forward.

Now, Brother Branham is a **wise, humble** servant of God. **He knew** that if the actual demonstration of the power of the true Word would not cause men to see, a debate or argument certainly would not. But **finally** he came forward. **As he stood in the pulpit the photographers took one more picture, and that was of Brother Branham.** As the picture was taken, many people (most did not) saw a brilliant light appear over Rev. Branham's head. **When the film was developed** at the studio, **the eight or nine** taken of Rev. Best were **completely negative** but **the one with Brother Branham alone came clear, and there was the light above his head.**

This photograph was taken to **Dr. George Lacy who was then head of the F.B.I. laboratories.** He gave **two signed statements** that the **negative had not been tampered with and that there was no double exposure**, that every known test had been used and the verdict was that this was a true untouched picture. **He personally indicated that this picture was the only true picture of a supernatural being anywhere** in the world.

The Cloud Of Angels Appear

For many years **Brother Branham knew by revelation** that a time would come when God would demand of him that he move out West. Without receiving a direct revelation from God he felt that he would like to go to Tucson. He, therefore, planned accordingly.

On Dec. 22, 1962, as he was arising from bed a **vision broke before his eyes**. He saw himself out in Arizona standing on a mountain, overlooking Tucson. He leaned over to pick sand burrs out of his trouser leg. His son, Joseph, appeared to be standing near by. He stood upright, and as he did, **there came a blast out of heaven** from the south. It was such a blast that it **shook the mountains**, causing rocks to rumble down the slopes. Like a quake it rocked the hills. As this thunderous blast shook the earth, a blaze of light which turned into a group of **seven mighty angels swept him up with tremendous speed**. The impact of this vision was so great that he literally felt dazed for several days.

He wondered if it meant death. He thought he ought to discount that as Joseph was near him and unhurt by the shock of the blast.

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.

Rev. Branham **moved to Tucson** immediately. And not being in meetings at the moment he **went hunting out in the mountains** with two friends, Gene Norman and Fred Sothman. The two friends did not go in the immediate company of Rev. Branham as they hunted, but were some distance apart. As Rev. Branham was on the mountain slope he **bent over** to pick a few sand burrs out of his trouser leg. As he did so, **a mighty blast came out of the south** rocking the mountains so that the boulders rolled down the slopes, and little rocks seemed to dance up and down. For a moment he was fearful that some hunter had shot him. He was so shocked by it all. Then **there came in reality seven mighty angels** like a pyramid or the letter "V", **swooping toward him** with the speed of light. He seemed caught up in them, and with their awful thunder. Then **a voice cried, "Go back east."** **He knew it was time to go back to Jeffersonville to preach the seven seals and reveal the unwritten mysteries of the thunders in the book of Revelation.**

Now here is the truth. The two men who were with him ran and tried to find him. **They had seen** the light but had not seen the angels in the blinding light. **They heard** the terrible thunder as it roared out of the south. **They saw the man of God shaken by the mighty vision.** This scene took place outside of Flagstaff, Arizona.

On the exact day and time of this tremendous event, what appeared to be a cloud formed in the sky. It was **thirty miles across** and **twenty-six miles high**. It was in that part of the atmosphere where no clouds ever form, nor can they form. On investigation (**many photographs were taken**) they found that there had been **no jets in the air** and they knew of no way the clouds could have been formed. **The meteorologists wrote a scientific paper on this peculiar oval shaped cloud** that was so

huge and **sped toward the east**. No one has any idea where it came from, how it got there, and where it went.

But the people who know the truth know about that cloud a cloud of angels that God allowed to manifest themselves **to puzzle the eyes of the world**.

Life Magazine of May 17, 1963 has four pictures of the cloud. **Science Magazine of April 19, 1963**, front cover, also has the picture.

In March Rev. Branham came back east to preach on **the Seven Seals**. From the 17th to the 24th he taught. **What he taught he had never previously known**. In fact, he taught in such a way as to **correct certain things** he had previously taught. The reason for the correction was, that **each day while he waited on God, that amber flame of fire appeared, and, out of the cloud the voice of God spoke revealing to him the exact truth of the contents of the Seals and what the Seven Thunders uttered**. *"Thus saith the Lord,"* in the mouth of a prophet has returned to this generation - the last generation - for all things are coming to pass **according to the Word of the Lord**.

His Visions - Public And Private

A constant flow of marvelous visions have passed before the eyes of this prophet of God. **Many Volumes could truthfully be written** on this man's **public** and **private** Ministry. But here in these pages we do not have the space or time to recount everything that has happen in his life. We invite you to visit the following **links** for a record of some of the **amazing and enlightening** things which have taken place (public and private) in his Ministry:

[A VISION: WARNING AGAINST SPIRITUALISM](#)
[THE MILLTOWN VISION](#)
[AN AUNTHENTICATED RESURRECTION](#)
[A DEAD BABY RAISED TO LIFE](#)

[BRO. EDMUND WAY BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE](#)

[HEALING OF SISTER BRANHAM](#)

[THE CARIBOU AND THE BEAR](#)

Chapter IV

Conclusions

Having set forth both the **Scripture and the unusual vindication** of the Prophet-Messenger, it is well to bring the two together and see in them **the marvelous works of God**. Think for a moment on the fact that this man is often self-vindicated. **In other words there have been times when he has given his testimony and asked others to accept him as a man sent from God**. There is not a prophet who appeared on the scene at any time but had to do likewise.

When Moses appeared before Israel he said, *"God spoke to me out of a burning bush."* He then **proceeded to prove it** by the two signs he had from God. The immediate reaction was twofold. **Some believed and others said, "We weren't there. How do we know that God spoke to you from a cloud of fire?"** But Moses was not discouraged. He kept on. **Moses knew** that God was with him in his calling, for the voice that he was obeying was a **Scriptural Voice**. A true prophet like Moses will always be **one with the Word**. **The Voice that cried out of the bush spoke the Word of God** as it had been given to that great prophet, Abraham. It said, *"I remember my promise to my people."* So **Moses listened and obeyed**, and in so doing he brought the promise of God for the people of that generation.

Think of John the Baptist, the greatest prophet, at least up to that time. What was his witness? **John 1:31-34.....**

"And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit from heaven descending like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not; but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost, and I saw and bare record that this is the Son of God."

Now here was **John with his witness**. He said *"God spoke to me and told me what I have just told you."* There again we have an immediate reaction that was two-fold. **Some believed and others said, "We weren't there, so we don't know if there was a voice or not, Furthermore, what sign can you show us?"**

Thus it is with **William Branham**. He speaks of seeing a light appearing over people. That light was actually photographed, and you can see it in this book. Yet very few have actually seen that light. **Now whether you accept his testimony or not it's up to you,**

but remember right now you have accepted that of John and he did not have the signs following him that most prophets had. Furthermore, it is with Rev. Branham as it was with Moses, for the pillar of fire is absolutely scriptural. And so is the voice, for it has never deviated from the Word. From him, then, we are bound to hear and learn the promise of God for this age.

William Branham also says that an angel appears to him. He even describes him. Your reaction is up to you. You can believe or disbelieve. But no man has a right to repudiate another, especially if the claimant is on strict, Bible grounds - angelic appearances are positively Biblical. A self-witness is absolutely Scriptural.

God backs up the revelation, As it was with Paul who came with the complete revelation to the Gentiles, God bearing him witness both with divers signs, and miracles and wonders and gifts of the Holy Ghost, so God has borne witness to William Branham for there has not been one time when the vision failed. Nor has there been one time when he has said "Thus saith the Lord", that the word in his mouth ever failed. Though one might be censured for the following, yet it ought to be said' There are very few scriptural evidences in the Bible to vindicate the revelation ministry of Paul. That God actually gave him the complete revelation he lays claim to has but little phenomenal proof from God. YET NO ONE DOUBTS, AND NO ONE SHOULD DOUBT THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE MAN HIMSELF AND THE REVELATION. And today, this man, William Branham has had literally thousands of manifested vindications from God, and with his life containing all the other factors that make up the prophetic office, HE OUGHT TO BE RECEIVED FOR WHAT HE IS, - HE MUST BE RECEIVED FOR WHAT HE IS.. "Thus saith the Lord" in his mouth by the Holy Ghost is absolutely no different from the "Thus saith the Lord" in the mouth of Paul, for it is the same Holy Ghost.

The Holy Spirit that spoke in the pillar of fire to Moses is the same Spirit that fell at Pentecost as a cloud of fire, and is the same light exactly that appeared to Paul and blinded him and spoke to him, and that Light or Fire is now with us again and the voice is the SAME VOICE for the SAME SIGNS ARE GIVEN as before, and the prophetic utterance never fails.

It is thus the rankest unbelief for men to come to this Prophet and hear him reveal without one mistake ever the various ailments and problems that beset the supplicant who comes for prayer, and then turn from that sign and say that he is a prophet only in discerning, but not a prophet in the Word. Oh, faithless one, can you not see that the sign is to attract your attention that you might believe the Word? It is the WORD that counts, and the sign is to lead you to it.

But man runs true to form as ever he did. When Jesus came He attracted them by the miracles of healing, the water turned to wine, the loaves and fishes multiplied. But when He began to teach a word that differed from theirs - when He laid out for them the true

doctrines - **they turned far from Him.** And so it was, that, **when Rev. Branham first appeared** on the scene, thousands were healed with never a miss. Nothing stood before him. **Then he came teaching the Word.** God had sent him with a message. But **the message differed radically from that of the organized churches' message.** For this he was repudiated. But God remains true. He that believes His prophets shall prosper.

The mighty experiences in William Branham's life are too numerous and Biblical to pass by. Take the time that he was baptizing in the Ohio River and 4000 saw the pillar of fire descend. **A voice came out of that cloud and spoke to him** saying, "*As John the Baptist was the forerunner of the first coming of Christ so your MESSAGE (and the world repudiates it) is to forerun the Second Coming of Christ.*" **Compare this with John baptizing in Jordan.** John was the prophet. **The Word always comes to the prophet.** There He (the Word) came manifested in flesh. **The forerunner and the King were face to face.** Soon the Christ was manifested for what He was and John decreased.

Think now of how **this Prophet in 1933** was baptizing in water. **He was a prophet, but unknown to be such amongst the people.** Now the SAME WORD again comes to the prophet, for the Word always comes to the prophet. **The same light that appeared to Paul and was seen by many once more appeared and was seen by many.** And as **only Paul heard that voice, so only Wm. Branham heard that voice, but he revealed what the voice said.** And soon that Manifested Word will return to take His Bride. **That is what the message is for. It is to make ready the people of the last day.** May those who hear it listen.

When this prophet of God spoke on the Church Ages he asked God for a sign that all that he had taught had truly been taught him by the Spirit. There for fifteen minutes 300 people saw the pillar of fire appear on the wall of the Branham Tabernacle in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

Since **this man's ministry is that of Elijah to this age,** then we can surely find ample scriptural description. **Examine Elijah's nature.** The nature of Elijah was that of a man of the wilderness. **He was neither sophisticated nor political in his approach** to the age in which he had lived. He was **boldly and bluntly** sold out to God and his speech was not known to go beyond a message from the Lord. **He separated himself from the religious order of the day** which was the school of the prophets and their adherents. He abhorred perverted womanhood and withstood the prophetess (**false religious systems**) of his day. Now then, when this ministry came upon Wm. Branham, we saw the very attitudes and responses in his life as we did in Elijah's.

Bring this down to John the Baptist and again we see the exact nature, attributes and manners of Elijah. With an ear to hear, and an eye to see, it should be the least of difficulties to find this man today who has the Elijah ministry. **There is no man living who has all this natural and supernatural vindication as does this man, William Branham, servant of the living God.**

To deny that God has raised up a prophet to reveal the mysteries of the ages to this day, and to deny that his voice is the voice of God to this generation is to deny that that voice of Paul was the voice of God to that day. This does NOT make a prophet literally God to the people. But it does clarify **Exodus 4:16b** "*And thou shalt be to him instead of God.*" **Moses was God to Aaron because the Word of God came through Moses to Aaron.** Aaron did not have the prophetic office (a gift from God) so he could not himself go to God for revelation. Moses did that. Aaron accepted it.

The same holds today. **God has told us in Rev. 10: 7** that it is a **PROPHET who is going to declare the mysteries of the ages** and reveal thereby the Seven Thunders that were sealed up. **THEN WE, TOO, MUST HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD THROUGH A PROPHET THAT WILL BE GOD TO US IN THAT CAPACITY. BUT THERE IS WHERE IT ENDS.** You **don't** go beyond that, but **neither** do you dare stay short of it.

Though all men, if so inclined, could repudiate his ministry and brand him false, their allegations would summarily crumble when faced with **his consecrated and blameless life.** No man walked with **such power and yet such humility.** He invariably **esteemed others better than himself.** The **needs of others** were always placed above his own needs. **He never** defended himself against an enemy, but committed all to God. **He never** asked or sought payment when defrauded. **It can never be said** that he refused to give when he had it in his power to do so. In a day when all men seek to be great, **he constantly** sought to be small, that God might receive all the glory. **He never sought** to have large programs. **He did not** enjoy large holdings of property. **He never** appealed for money. **Not once** did he asked to be served, but asked rather how he might serve others. **In times of bitter loss and total dejection, sorrowing and alone,** he worshipped and served his Maker, and loved and honored God's people. If one desires to look for fruit in abundance as a criterion, let him look to this prophet of God with admiration and be stimulated to follow in such footsteps. It was Paul who said, "*Follow me, as I follow Christ.*"

Finally, let it be said that if this man is such a man as has been contended, will he not cause **undue attitudes in some of those who follow with him?** That is so. **There will be some** who attribute to him what he is not. For them we are sorry. **There will be others** who denounce him and would destroy him. **For those we fear** remembering Miriam and the sons of Aaron and the Princes in Israel who railed against Moses. **To those who would not give him the place that God has chosen him to, we fear the most, for their hearts will no doubt become darker and their ways more adamant until they blaspheme the Holy Ghost.** But to those who receive a prophet in the name of a prophet we most signally recall to your minds the Word of God. "*YE SHALL RECEIVE A PROPHET'S REWARD,*" all that his office entails - in short, whatever God chooses to pour through him for the people - all that is yours by faith.