

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



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By Mike Oppenheimer

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| | |
|---|-------------|
| Introduction: They called him the Prophet..... | p.3 |
| 1. Why it is so important to know about William Branham..... | p.5 |
| 2 The Latter Rain begins to fall all over again | p.63 |

Section 1 on William Branham's childhood, conversion and early ministry

| | |
|--|---------------|
| 3. Shining the light on the beginning..... | p.126 |
| 4. The Paradigm shift of William Branham The 1933 baptizing at the Ohio River.... | p. 151 |
| 5. How William Branham was baptized in water and Spirit..... | p.167 |
| 6. The Turning Point The Oneness paradigm shift – Mishawak..... | p.171 |
| 7. The Creation Story according to William Branham | p.186 |
| 8. God as nature..... | p.194 |
| 9. When does life begin?..... | p.202 |
| 10. Pre-existence and predestination..... | p.213 |
| 11. How man was first made -The creation of Adam and Eve..... | p.231 |
| 12. Pre-existence as spirits – spirit men who are God..... | p.253 |
| 13. The three Bibles-The Zodiac, the pyramid and the Bible..... | p.281 |
| 14. Confusing the basic core teachings..... | p.306 |
| 15. Knowledge and education..... | p.323 |
| 16. Knowing God without the Word..... | p.341 |

Section 2 Theology, Christology

| | |
|--|--------------|
| 17. The nature of God as 7 spirits..... | p.348 |
| 18. The Jesus of Branham..... | p.359 |
| 19. Jesus being a Jew denied | p.386 |
| 20. The Holy Spirit as an angel..... | p.396 |
| 21. The Trinity according to Branham..... | p.409 |
| 22. The Melchizedek Mystery The confusion of when God became flesh..... | p.449 |

Section 3 His Own Angel

| | |
|---|--------------|
| 23. The Healing commission of the angel | p.455 |
| 24. Is the Angel of the Lord the angel that visited Branham..... | p.477 |
| 25. Branham's Pillar of fire - God's glory appearances in the Old Testament..... | p.495 |
| 26. The Many Healing ways..... | p.529 |
| 27. The Operation of Occultism - The Gift..... | p.557 |

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Section 4 The Exclusive revelations

- 28. Serpent seed teaching.....p.584**
- 29. The Latter Rain teaching of the Manifest Sons of God.....p.606**
- 30. The word faith teachings of Branham compared to today.....p.629**
- 31. Revisiting Genesis - From the fall of Noah Cain and civilization.....p.658**

Section 5 Prophets

- 32. A tale of a bridge.....p.697**
- 33. Elijah the prophet.....p.702**
- 34. The definitions of a Prophet.....p.726**
- 35. Am I your prophet? The Prophet for the last days church.....p.732**
- 36. God always sends a prophet.....p.739**
- 37. Testing a prophet.....p.751**

Section 6 The claim of being the 7th Angel to the Laodicean church

- 38. The 7 church ages.....p.760**
- 39. The 7 angels to the church.....p.759**
- 40. 7 seals opened by Branham the prophet.....p.786**
- 41. Prophecy of the end times I predict, not prophesy! Pt.1.....p.824**
- 42. Pt. 2 The 7 successive visions.....p.831**

Section 7 The Influence in Todays church

- 43. Strange and even stranger Teachings.....p.855**
- 44. The ways of deception.....p.887**
- 45. More than a movement – a cultp.893**
- 46. The conclusion- Branham's last message.....p.900**

Much gratitude and thanks to those who helped in grammar and suggestions. Jeff Smith, Sandy Simpson and others. Also to Peter Duyzer and John Keenan for taking my questions on William Branham and correcting my understanding when it was needed.

This book is an addition to those who have worked tirelessly researching to find out the facts and flaws of William Branham to help free those who are being misled into a different mystical Christianity.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Introduction

They called him "The Prophet"

In the history of modern miracle, healing ministries one person stands out more than any other, William Branham. Over fifty years after his death there are few men that continue to influence the Church and today's modern healing ministries. Branham's influence is more extensive today than in his day when he was alive, There are very few people that have risen to prominence that has had this much error and heresy in their ministry. It is a rarity for someone that is Charismatic not to be enamored by Branham. His ability to diagnose sicknesses is coveted by those who have an attraction to the supernatural. Branham is often mentioned as the greatest and most gifted healer and looked to as the source and inspiration for the healing ministries we see today.

He was warmly received by such notables as Demos Shakarian (founder of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International), Oral Roberts, W.V. Grant, A.A. Allen, Gordon Lindsay (founder of Christ for the Nations), O.L. Jagers, George Warnock, and numerous other contemporaries. Branham is the main influence for the Latter Rain movement in the late 1940's that infected so many Pentecostals. He left us the legacy of the healing revivals, he is also one of the primary sources of the "river" that is flowing today that is the resurgence of the Latter Rain movement.

Branham did not make use of TV. Certainly if his ministry was taking place today he would far exceed the popularity of people such as Benny Hinn or others at their peak. If one becomes familiar with Branham's teachings and practices they can recognize his footprint in today's

churches that carry his errors that have an even greater influence than when he was alive.

I first became aware of Branham's teachings in the late 80's as his books and pamphlets were given to me. My concerns then were seeing his influence grow to where his teachings and practices would commonly be used. This has happened.

This book was both challenging and tedious to write. It will also be challenging to read, especially for those who side with Branham.

In my 30 years of reading his writings I began going into a deep discovery from 1999. I rigorously did research because I know how it relates to the many errors practiced today. I certainly cannot say I understand everything he said but I tried my earnest to do so.

For those who gravitate toward supernaturalism Branham is a strong magnet. The supernatural power exhibited in his services is held in awe by numerous Charismatics and Pentecostals that want to see the same *spiritual power* work through them. Numerous Pentecostals were willing to embrace Branham as the "prophet/healer" simply on his display of the miraculous at the same time overlooking his aberrant teachings. Branham was certainly not wrong on *everything*, but because he implemented a NEW INTERPRETATION for so many important teachings including core doctrines, one can correctly make the case that he was not holding to the Christian distinctive, but promoted aberrant and heretical teachings.

Many are satisfied with his exhibition of words of knowledge and miraculous power without

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



knowing what he really believed. Branham vehemently denied the Trinity and adopted his own unique modalistic view from the Oneness Pentecostals. He claimed Jesus never said He was the Son of God. That there was no eternal Son of God that had pre-existence; He had a beginning. He taught that God in all ages had skin on him - even before the incarnation. That it was the Angel of the Lord leading Branham in his teaching and miracles and he assumed He was Jesus. He believed from his experience[s] that he was the forerunner, Elijah the prophet. As John the baptizer was Elijah for Jesus, he was Elijah the prophet, chosen to be the last messenger to the Church before the Lord comes back. As the prophet he prophesied that the end of the ages would be in 1977. Branham taught that Eve's sin in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3) was a sexual sin, she was seduced into a sexual relationship with the serpent, who is Satan. That Cain was the offspring of their illicit affair (known as the serpent seed doctrine). He believed in three Bibles; the Scripture, the Zodiac and the pyramids were all revelations of God, even a fourth that included nature. He taught vigorously that denominations were abominations. That Joel 2:23 - the "latter rain" - he identified as the neo-Pentecostalism of his time, that God's promise to restore what the locust, cankerworm, caterpillar, and palmerworm had eaten, would be the "restoration" of the Church out of denominationalism. Denominationalism was the mark of the beast spoken of in the Book of Revelation. Anyone belonging to any denomination had taken "the mark." Branham also believed in annihilationism, that there was no eternal hell.

Branham's followers are seen as more committed to Branham than they are to Jesus and his word. The Branhamites are loyal zealots for their prophet and do not entertain any opposition well. They do not like it when one points out from the Scripture that Branham contradicts it.

Critics of Branham are often told that they are not "hearing what the Spirit says," because they choose NOT to "hear what Branham says." However when we look at the Bible we find the words of the Spirit are plain, not cryptic. That the Bibles teaching on Christ and salvation are plain and consistent to be easily understood. Most followers refuse to believe that Branham taught such error: thus this book will produce the proof from his own words spoken, not once, but numerous times.

Branhamites insist that we have a need for a prophet of our age; that prophet is William Branham. Like the mistake found in the Cults, they have set up their interpreter as the one who tells us about Scripture, instead of the Scripture itself mediated by the Holy Spirit. This is done by the Catholic Church, Jehovah's Witnesses and the Mormon religion as well as others.

How serious were his doctrinal errors since they did not affect his ministry exhibiting power. This is the crucial question that must be answered before any other. They hold him in high esteem today because of what appeared as results. This is *the end justifies the means* but the means was certainly not Biblical.

William Branham said of himself "it will take a prophet to get the revelation because God has no other way of bringing out His Scriptural revelations *except by a prophet*. The Word always came by a prophet and always will. That this is the law of God is evident by even a casual search of Scripture." (Rev. William Marrion Branham "Exposition of The Seven Church Ages")

The mistake of the Branhamites is Branham's as well. 2 Chron. 20:20: "*Believe in the Lord your God, shall ye be established; believe His Prophets, so shall ye prosper.*" They claim the Word always has and always will come to the prophet first and then to his people. This is NOT how the New Testament operates with the believers since the Holy Spirit was poured out on the church at Pentecost. We are given the

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Holy Spirit individually to make us all wise in what Jesus said, not in another prophet's words or interpretation. This was the abuse that became the failure of the Latter Rain Movement. What they do is run to the old covenant to prove their points that Branham taught about himself. They like Branham, neglect to understand that this was changed by God himself, by Jesus Christ and the new covenant.

THE BIBLE Heb.1:1-2: "*God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.*" Notice former times (past), now (Jesus, His word written).

Both Peter and Jude admonish the same words: 2 Peter 3:2: "*that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior.*" Jude 1:17: "*But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

The words of Jesus are given by the apostles and are written for all and to all subsequent generations. I Jn. 5:13: "*These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.*"

Paul writes "*For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'*" (Rom 1:17) Later in Rom. 10:17 Paul writes to us "*faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*"

Branham put his visions and revelations equal to the Word of God and interpreted the Word by them. In a prayer line, Mr. Branham said, "*You, sitting here in front, you believe me to be God's prophet? A prophet is a messenger to an age. You believe I have God's message?*" (Discerning

the Body of the Lord, Aug.12, 1959, tape #59-0812).

A prophet is not a but to a people. The prophets were specifically sent to a nation – Israel. They came from Israel, they were Jews including the final revelation of the apostle prophet, priest and king Jesus Christ.

Branham has become an enigma. At certain times it seems unclear what was in operation, whether the power was from God or some other source; at other times it is obvious it was not God. When looking at the overall teaching it becomes hardly favorable to the claims made by a man who was led by an angel (who he thought was Jesus) into so much false doctrine. Branhamite's claim that as "The Prophet" he never failed in prophecy. They have one of two choices; if they cannot face the fact he did fail in prophecy, he certainly failed in teaching the truth in doctrine, which makes him a false teacher, which then makes him a false prophet. Either way Branham cannot be accepted as a representative of God as a teacher, neither can he be the prophet Elijah, or a type.

This book is a documentary of Doctrines held by the Healer William Branham. A Biblical refutation is applied even to the obvious of errors. Using his own words from the audios recorded. Everything will be checked by the Scripture to ensure accuracy and authenticity.

We often hear what Branham believed in general terms, but what did he *really teach* about himself and the Bible? We take a journey into his spiritual experiences that shaped him and his doctrine and practices from an early age.

Sometimes great men in history are not known for what they did right. Other times men are called great for what they did not actually do. As a man who is revered by Pentecostals and Charismatic's we dismantle the legend that has grown around him. It will put in perspective what was at work and why the church accepted it then and still today. To avoid getting wrapped

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



up in revisionism, we will go to the primary sources to learn what did or did not happen.

We kept the quotes as large as possible to show they are not out of context. Because of the length of certain quotes they will be abbreviated or referred to in passing until we get to the actual subject and cover it in both the depth and detail that it deserves.

When labeling something as being unbiblical we mean it is not found in Scripture or connected to Scripture. The words used may be in the Scripture but the meaning, the application is not.

This book should make anyone who has scintilla of Bible knowledge to pause and understand that what Branham taught on numerous core doctrines were not the position of the Bible written by the Holy Spirit through the prophets. Ask yourself as you read this book, does God give miraculous power, and do spectacular miracles through false teachers; those who are wrong on His nature and other core teachings. This is the premise to discovering the source of power operating in ones ministry.

I have tried to put the events in his life in the best order, in sequence as much as possible, to make the most sense. Sometimes it was more than difficult.

There are numerous topics so one does not have to read it sequentially. We have tried to present the clearest quotes that were spoken consistently. We have focused on what Branham has said consistently, two, three or more times. If he is quoted as saying something only once it is because it is significant. A number of references are include alongside the main quote that is given. This is done because they have the same content. There is repetition because of the quotes having a relationship to different subjects. Numerous main statements of Branham are listed to show you the consistency of his teaching. These may be repeated in this book

because they apply in different ways to different subjects.

What you will find is that so much of what Branham taught and practiced have become the mainstay in the church today unknown to many.

My hope is that this compendium will be a help to researchers, apologists and those who expose error, false prophets, Latter Rain and word faith teachings and have believers return to the doctrines of Scripture.

Let's look at the man and his teaching that that so many admire, and covet his power and anointing.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:
A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 1

How the Latter Rain movement arrived in the church today

Why is it important to know about William Branham?

One cannot understand William Branham's ministry without the prior Pentecostal practices from Azusa Street. Branham began in the early 1930's as a pastor. As we will see, many participants from the Pentecostal revival were still active.

The Azusa Street LA revival began in 1906. Vinson Synan writes, "The Azusa Street revival is commonly regarded as the beginning of the modern Pentecostal movement." (Synan, *The Holiness-Pentecostal Tradition*, pp. 105,130).

The 312 Azusa Street Mission in downtown Los Angeles was likened to the upper room in Jerusalem where the apostles were gathered. It became the most famous place in modern Pentecostal history. It was, as many perceived the beginning of the Latter Rain.

It was David W. Myland in 1907 that appeared to have coined the term "Latter Rain Movement" first, in a book of songs entitled "Latter Rain Songs."

The Azusa St. revival laid the groundwork for the healing revivalists who were there, such as John Lake, Jack Coe, Smith Wigglesworth along many others. In 1910 Myland then wrote his book "The Latter Rain Covenant" where he associated the rainfall in Israel with the manifestations of the Holy Spirit that occurred at Azusa. He also wrote of the concept of deeper truth found in the Scripture and different levels of interpretation.

Zion city

Alexander Dowie arrived in America from Australia in 1888 and began in San Francisco, already convinced of divine healing. By 1890 the First General convention of the Branches of the American Divine Healing Association convened with more than 5,000 members. It was onward and upward from there. Dowie insisted (like those in Christian Science church founded in 1879) that those who seek prayer for healing abandon their medicine and exercise faith.

In 1896 his teaching on salvation healing and holy living formed a new denomination, *The Christian Catholic church*. Dowie was called the apostle of healing of his day, He established the largest divine healing home known in the world, and was intent on making a Christian utopian community – the city of Zion in Chicago. By 1899 Dowie purchased 6,500 acres of land north of Chicago to build his city vision of utopia, called the city of Zion. The city grew with 10,000 residents. They named streets after prophets, such as "Elisha Avenue" which was known as *Apostles row* as many church officials lived there to be near Shilo house, residence of Dowie. These were expensive mansions at the time.



His mission was to pave the way for the return of Christ which he believed was imminent. In 1901 he claimed that he was the prophesied Elijah and began to wear High-Priestly robes. This

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



caused many followers to leave.

The vow to which the members of the Zion Restoration Host subscribe is given on the blank form for application. *"I vow in the name of God, my Father, and of Jesus Christ, His Son and my Saviour, and of the Holy Ghost, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, that I will be a faithful member of Zion Restoration Host, organized at Shiloh Tabernacle in the City of Zion on Lord's Day, September 21, 1902, and I declare that I recognize John Alexander Dowie, General Overseer of the C. C. C. in Zion, of which I am a member, in his threefold office, as the Messenger of the Covenant, the Prophet foretold by Moses, and Elijah the Restorer.* (John Alexander Dowie and the Christian Catholic Apostolic Church IN ZION. A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE GRADUATE DIVINITY SCHOOL IN CANDIDACY FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT OF CHURCH HISTORY ROLVIX HARLAN PRESS OF R M ANTES EVANSVILLE. WIS 1906)

Then in 1904 he told his adherents to expect a full restoration of apostolic Christianity and that *he was divinely called to be the first apostle of this renewed end time church.* In 1905 Dowie was struck with a stroke and accused of financial mismanagement and lost control of Zion city.

His imitators were abundant and furthered his unbiblical Pentecostal views, some became famous leaders in this new Pentecostal restorationism called the Latter Rain.

The *Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements* notes that many of the most famous Pentecostal evangelists went out from Zion (p. 368). There were dozens of Parham's followers at Zion joined the Assemblies of God at its formation in 1914. Three of the original eight members of the AOG general council were from Zion City (p. 370). Those who arose from Zion City to become influential in the Pentecostal movement included F.F. Bosworth, John Lake, J. Rosewell Flower, Daniel Opperman, Cyrus

Fockler, Fred Vogler, Marie Burgess Brown, William Piper, F.A. Graves, Lemuel Hall, Martha Robinson, Raymond Riche and Gordon Lindsay.

F.F. Bosworth's family moved to Chicago to be part of Alexander Dowies church when he was young. When in Zion City, he began to play his cornet again, and was made the band director in John Alexander Dowie's church. He then met John G. Lake at Zion City, and they became close friends for several years.

During 1948 when Branham began to take his healing ministry to the churches Bosworth came out from semi retirement at the age of 70 and joined with him in his campaigns of Pensacola, Miami, Seattle, Houston, Mt. Zion and S. Africa. All these men had varying degrees of heresy that affected their view of God and man. For example the famous healer John Lake:

A former Methodist believed in entire sanctification. With salvation came a complete deliverance from illness Lake believed, *"...one could only be healed in Dr. Dowie's Healing Home."*

(<http://www.christianhistory.org/lake.html> : Christian Historical Preservation Society. John G. Lake: A Man of Healing)

Lake's wife was said to be healed under the ministry of Dowie in 1898. Lake became an associate with Dowie and served as an elder in the Zion Catholic apostolic church.

Lake claimed that sin was the cause of sickness and adopted Dowies view that anyone who went to a doctor was as a heathen. He had this belief as the basis for his divine health: *"It is not honoring to Jesus Christ that sickness should possess us. We do not want disease. We want to be gods"* (John G. Lake: *His Life His Sermons, His Boldness of Faith*, Kenneth Copeland Publications, 1995, p13).

After Lake's first wife died, he was contacted by a woman with a bad eye. Lake described this

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"Spirit" coming over him while she was sitting in a chair and:

"She arose from her chair, her eyes quite shut, and came in my direction. I got up and moved my chair. She walked right around and came to me. She slipped her fingers down, gave me a little chuck just like my late wife would have done, and said, 'Jack, my Jack, God is with you all the time. Go right on. But my baby, my Teddy, I am so lonesome for him, but you pray so hard, you pray so hard.'" (John G. Lake: His Life His Sermons, His Boldness of Faith, Kenneth Copeland Publications, 1995, p.133)

Lake believed this to be his deceased wife talking to him. This experience is similar to Spiritism or what is called channeling today. Lake did not test the spirit to know the Word says contacting the dead is wrong. He excused it by saying, "Listen, it is not dragging spirits up, and it isn't dragging some spirits down. There is nothing about calling spirits down from God in the Word; only about calling them up out of the depths" (ibid.)

"Now I want you to fix this in your mind. The blood washed always go there [3rd heaven] and if you ever talk to anyone that is over there you will go to them. They are not going to leave the throne, but they will say, 'Brother, come up here'. That is the only way you will ever communicate with them" (ibid.)

God forbids contact with the dead (Deut. 18:9, 10, 11, 12) even saints. But Lake ignored the warnings and transgressed into an area that is very harmful to his relationship with Christ. Here we have someone who is revered telling people they can go on trips to heaven. Nothing of this sort is spoken of in Scripture (this includes Paul's one time revelation 2 Cor.12, where he saw what was in heaven and said it is illegal for him to speak what he saw and heard) Lake had sought God hard for the baptism of the Holy Spirit and tells us that after nine months the power of God came upon him (1907).

The Holy Spirit can come upon us and often does as we step out in faith in service to the Lord. It is not something we must *strive for*. God promises to give his Holy Spirit to those who obey him (Acts 5:32). This idea of striving is mostly found in Oneness Pentecostals as they strive and seek this gift with tongues as evidence for their salvation, sometimes waiting years for it to occur. I can't think of something more detrimental than to think you are not saved because you haven't had this experience. The Scripture states salvation is by faith. Eph.1:13, and God is willing to give it freely to all who believe, which means you receive the Holy Spirit's indwelling. We also can receive subsequent fillings.

Here is how Lake describes it: *"I prayed for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit for nine months, and if a man ever prayed honestly, and sincerely in the faith, I did. Finally one day I was ready to throw up my hands, and quit. I said, 'Lord, it may be for others, but it is not for me. You just cannot give it to me.' I did not blame God. One night a gentleman by the name of Pierce said, 'Mr. Lake, I have been wishing for a long time you would come over, and we would spend a night in prayer together. We have been praying for the Baptism for a whole year and there is not one of us baptized yet. Brother, I do not believe that you are either, so we can pray for one another.'" I was so hungry to pray, so I went with all intentions of praying for the rest, but I had not been praying five minutes until the light of God began to shine around me, I found myself in a center of an arc of light ten feet in diameter, the whitest light in all the universe. So white! Oh how it spoke of purity. The remembrance of that whiteness, that wonderful whiteness, has been the ideal that has stood before my soul, of the purity of the nature of God ever since."*

"Then a Voice began to talk to me out of that light. There was no form. And the Voice began to remind me of this incident, and that incident of disobedience to my parents, from a child; of my obstinacy, and dozens of instances when God brought me up to the line of absolutely putting

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



my body, soul, and spirit upon the altar forever” (pp. 16-20 'John G. Lake - Apostle to Africa', by Gordon Lindsay).

Lake finally had a spiritual experience that CHANGED HIS LIFE - he called it the baptism of the Spirit. But no one in the Bible describes it in these details. In fact we are warned of Satan coming as angel of light, a minister of righteousness. This is uncannily similar to Williams Branham's experience with a light. It seems that there is a consistency with men who exhibit these great supernatural powers seeking an experience, and a light is often involved. There are too many stories of this same light bringing a different revelation as it did to Joseph Smith and others.

One of the more aberrant teachings, Lake believed that Christians are to become "gods." Lake said: "*The power of God, the Holy Ghost, is the Spirit of Dominion. It makes one a god.*" (ibid. p. 13)

God does not see us as gods. Neither do we see the apostles exercising dominion as Lake taught.

Lake: "*I want you to hear what Jesus said about himself. God was in Christ, wasn't He? An incarnation. God is in you, an incarnation, if you were born again. You are incarnate.*" (ibid. p. 196).

Incarnate from what? We did not exist as God before we were born which is what this means with Jesus. Lake did not correctly understand the incarnation. (This is repeated by almost all those in these supernatural movements)

Lake: "*For God's purpose through Jesus Christ is to deify the nature of men and thus forever make them like unto, ... Thus he becomes the Son of god, a Savior and redeemer forever*" (Ibid. p. 304).

Can man become an only begotten son, which makes him the savior? Again Lake exhibited a poor even heretical understanding of the core teachings of God and man. "*I am the Lord, and*

there is no other; besides Me there is no God” (Isaiah 45:5-7) "*And there is no other God besides Me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none except Me. Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.*" (Isaiah 45:21-22).

Lake also exhibited nearly identical descriptions of what we see in today's revival meetings of Rodney Browne and Toronto. Early on in his ministry "*In 1908 I preached in Pretoria South Africa, when one night God came over my life in such power, in such streams of liquid glory and power, that it flowed consciously off my hands like streams of electricity. I would point my finger at a man and that stream would strike him. When a man interrupted the meeting. I would point my finger at him and say, "Sit down!" He fell as if struck, and lay there for three hours..."* (Copeland, Kenneth. John G. Lake: His Life His Sermons, His Boldness of Faith, Kenneth Copeland Publications, 1995, p.488) Copeland further writes -"*At other times the anointing on him became so strong that people would fall under its power simply by coming within six feet of him.*" (ibid. p. xxi)

Lake was just one of many examples that went wrong from the Asuza revival, yet he is considered one of the great healing ministers today. It is claimed Lake healed thousands and as he moved to Portland Oregon had a vision of healing centers but he was prevented by his own health issues and he died from a stroke in 1935.

I have taken a short detour to show a small portion from the originators of what many believe today, they were word faith before it was termed "word faith."

Gordon Lindsay's parents were members of Dowie's city of Zion when he was born. Lindsay was converted at a Parham meeting and came under John Lake's influence (who was a former resident of Zion city). Lindsay travelled with Lake through California and the southern states. Gordon Lindsay was an influential Assemblies of God minister, who managed William

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Branham's campaigns. He was the editor of *Voice of Healing*. He wrote Dowie's biography and gave him credit for influencing "a host of men of faith who have had powerful ministries," referring to generations of Pentecostal preachers. John Dowie's heretical teachings prepared the way for Charles Parham who traveled to Chicago to study the ministry of Dowie and to examine Zion City firsthand. Parham, a former Methodist minister from Kansas taught justification by faith, but sanctification was a second work of grace, along with divine healing, and a pre-millennial second coming of Christ. In 1898 after his visits with Dowie and Sandford, he began a healing home in Topeka where students studied the Scriptures together. Parham established the BETHEL BIBLE SCHOOL in topeka Kansas. It was patterned after Sandford's ministry and was opened in October 1900 in a 30-room building called "Stone's Folly." Named after the owner Stone. They were unable to complete the building. By 1905 he moved his school to Houston, Texas where his Apostolic Faith missions preached a Pentecostal message. Parham adopted the heresy that Anglo-Saxons are Israelites which came from John Dowie. He associated often with the Ku Klux Klan and believed that interracial marriages caused the flood of Noah (Martin, *The Topeka Outpouring of 1901*, p. 19).

Parham was the first Pentecostal preacher to pray over handkerchiefs and mail them to those who desired his ministrations (James Goff Jr., *Fields White Unto Harvest*, p. 104).

"Parham's youngest son died at age one of a sickness that was not healed, two months after the outbreak of "tongues" at Parham's Bethel Bible School in Topeka. Another son died at age 37. Most of those who attended Parham's meetings were not healed. In October 1904 a nine-year-old girl named Nettie Smith died. Her father was an avid follower of Parham and refused medical treatment for his daughter. The little girl's death turned local public opinion against Parham because her sickness was treatable and the community considered her

death unnecessary. Parham himself suffered various sicknesses throughout his life and at times was too sick to preach or travel. For example, he spent the entire winter of 1904-05 sick and bedridden." (source: James Goff Jr., *Fields White Unto Harvest*, p. 94).

Parham believed Christ's premillennial return would come from a worldwide revival (Latter Rain). That tongues were the proof of people being baptized in the spirit which made them instant missionaries. That these divinely trained missionaries with apostolic power restored would prompt the start of this expected global revival.

Parham believed that only those who received the latter days Spirit baptism and spoke in tongues would make up the bride of Christ and were "sealed for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb." He did not believe that black people could be sealed as part of the bride of Christ.

There was Benjamin Irwin who went further and taught that it was necessary for the Christian to seek the "baptism of fire" for power and perfection. Parham observed the meetings of Irwin, founder of the Fire-Baptized Holiness Church. Influenced by Irwin's "third blessing" doctrine (1.the blessing of salvation, 2. the blessing of power, and 3.the blessing of sinless perfection).

Pentecostal historian Vinson Synan writes "THE FIRE-BAPTIZED HOLINESS CHURCH SERVED AS AN IMPORTANT LINK IN THE CHAIN THAT LATER PRODUCED THE MODERN PENTECOSTAL MOVEMENT. By teaching that the baptism of the Holy Ghost was an experience separate from and subsequent to sanctification, it laid the basic doctrinal premise of the later movement. It is probable that Charles F. Parham, the man who initiated the Pentecostal revival in Topeka, Kansas, in 1901, received from Irwin the basic idea of a separate baptism of the Holy Ghost following sanctification. Indeed, for a time in 1899, Parham promoted the 'baptism of fire' in his Apostolic Faith magazine"

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



(Synan, The Holiness-Pentecostal Tradition, p. 59). Underline mine.

On New Year's Eve, 1901, Parham and his students planned to pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit. After midnight of January 1, Agnes Ozman asked her mentor to lay hands on her and pray specifically so that she could be filled with the Holy Spirit, so that she might speak in tongues. According to Stanley Frodsham's book entitled, "With Signs Following--The Latter Day Pentecostal Revival", "On 11:00 p.m. January 1, 1901, Agnes N.O. Ozman La Berge, who began attending Bethel Bible College in Topeka, Kansas (Stone's Folly or Mansion), requested that hands, most likely those of Charles Parham, be laid upon her so that she would receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, while typically praying the benediction of Hebrews 13:20-21.

"On the eve of the twentieth century. We have for long believed that the power of the Lord would be manifested in our midst, and that power would be given us to speak other languages, and that the time will come when we will be sent to go into all the nations and preach the gospel, and that THE LORD WILL GIVE US THE POWER OF SPEECH TO TALK TO THE PEOPLE OF THE VARIOUS NATIONS WITHOUT HAVING TO STUDY THEM IN SCHOOLS" (Topeka State Journal, Jan. 7, 1901).

So began the Latter Rain outpouring that so many anticipated, or so they thought. Frodsham's book also states that Agnes Ozman-La Berge said: ... it was as [if] hands were laid upon my head that the Holy Spirit fell upon me and I began to speak in tongues, glorifying God. I talked several languages, and it was clearly manifest when a new dialect was spoken. I had the added joy and glory my heart longed for, and a depth of the presence of the Lord within that I had never known before. It was as if rivers of living water were proceeding from my innermost being. ("With Signs Following--The Latter-Day Pentecostal Revival, Stanley Frodsha")

According to her fellow students reported that a halo had surrounded both her face and head and that she started speaking Chinese. Not long after, Parham and thirty-four other students also began speaking in unknown languages. It is said that Ozman could not speak English for three days and was only able to write in Chinese characters. The group went off from Kansas City to spread the news.

Parham concluded that missionaries would no longer need training in languages. "One need only receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit and he could go to the farthest corners of the world and preach to the natives in languages unknown to the speaker." (Fields White Unto Harvest James Goff, Jr., p.75; also Vinson Synan The Holiness-Pentecostal Movement in the United States p.111)

Parham himself describes what his students were doing the day after Ozman began speaking tongues:

"The next day I went down town and upon my return found ALL THE STUDENTS SITTING ON THE FLOOR TALKING IN UNKNOWN TONGUES, NO TWO TALKING THE SAME LANGUAGE, AND NO ONE UNDERSTANDING HIS OR HER NEIGHBOR'S SPEECH" (Topeka Mail and Breeze, Feb. 22, 1901).

Thus we have an example of the Bethel Bible Schools manifestation of "tongues" being confusion, whose source cannot be God (1 Cor. 14:33).

In their zeal to speak in tongues they were not exercising the biblical gift, because it was not conducted in a biblical manner.

Numerous Pentecostal missionaries went out believing they had the gift to speak in the languages of those to whom they were sent. These Pentecostal claims were well known at the time.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



S.C. Todd of the Bible Missionary Society investigated eighteen Pentecostals who went to Japan, China, and India 'expecting to preach to the natives in those countries in their own tongue,' and found that by their own admission 'in no single instance have [they] been able to do so. *as these and other missionaries returned in disappointment and failure, pentecostals were compelled to rethink their original view of speaking in tongues*" (Robert Mapes Anderson, *Vision of the Disinherited: The Making of American Pentecostalism*).

Later in her life Agnes Ozman admitted that she had been wrong to believe that all people would speak in tongues when they were baptized with the Holy Spirit. Writing in *The Latter Rain Evangel* of January 1909 she wrote, "*Some time ago I tried but failed to have an article printed which I wrote calling attention to what I am sure God showed me was error. The article maintained that tongues was not the only evidence of the Spirit's Baptism. When that article was refused I was much tempted by Satan, but God again graciously showed me He had revealed it to me, and satisfied my heart in praying that He might reveal this truth to others who would spread it abroad. For awhile [sic] after the baptism I got into spiritual darkness, because I did as I see so many others are doing these days, rested and reveled in tongues and other demonstrations instead of resting alone in God.*" ("When The Latter Rain First Fell: The First One to Speak in Tongues". In *The Latter Rain Evangel*, January 1909, p.2. Available online at http://pentecostalarchives.org/digitalPublications/USA/Independent/Latter%20Rain%20Evangel/Unregistered/1909/FPHC/1909_01.pdf

William J. Seymour was a black holiness preacher from the south. Seymour believed that the true church was being restored in an end-times miracle revival. In 1903 he attended Charles Parham's Bible school in Houston, Texas. He then began to teach a Christian must be subsequently "baptized in the Holy Spirit with the initial evidence of tongues." Though

Seymour did not pray in tongues, but he insisted others do. In early 1906 Seymour was invited to Los Angeles to pastor a small holiness group which was pastored by Julie Hutchins. The group was formed of people who had been disciplined out of the Second Baptist Church for believing the "second blessing" was *a sinless perfection*.

Arriving in Los Angeles Seymour preached only a few times. He found himself locked out of the church that had invited him. His doctrine that tongues-speaking was the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit was not well received Seymour had his meetings in a home and then moved to an abandoned building on Azusa Street. *Strange phenomena began to be evidenced. The meetings began in the mornings and continued for at least 12 hours. There was no order of services and usually no one leading. People sang at the same time but "with completely different syllables, rhythms, and melodies"* (Ted Olsen, "American Pentecost," *Christian History*, Issue 58, 1998).

The services were characterized by much confusion: dancing, jumping up and down, falling, trances, slaying in the spirit, "tongues," jerking, hysteria, strange noises, and "holy laughter." One visitor described the meetings as "wild, hysterical demonstrations." The seekers would be "seized with a strange spell and commence a gibberish of sounds." A Times reporter noted that the participants "work themselves into a state of mad excitement in their peculiar zeal." A very sympathetic biographer of William Seymour admits that "at times the meetings would become so boisterous that the police were called" (Martin, *The Life and Ministry of Seymour*, p. 188).

These meetings went on for three years, as numerous people visited Azusa Street for the "Pentecostal experience" and then take it back to their homes and church's. Does this sound familiar? Our modern day participants of the excesses of Toronto airport Vineyard saw the very same experiences.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



In fact, George Fox began preaching in 1647 and within 3 years he had thousands following him. He taught of *the Inner Light* that men should be guided by a direct access to God. The early Quakers that had many of the same manifestations, visions healings and prophecies, and they also said it was liken to the first century Pentecost.

One man shook so violently under Seymour's ministry that an ambulance was called. When the man who was shaking told the doctor, "Don't touch me, this is the power of God," the doctor wisely replied, "*If that is the power of God it is giving you a devil of a shaking*" (Larry Martin, *The Life and Ministry of William J. Seymour* p. 306).

Sound Familiar? It was at the Brownsville revival we saw this example of girls shaking as they spoke about it being God.

Slain in the spirit was also a large part of the Azusa Street meetings. When Seymour laid hands on Edward Lee, he "*fell to the floor like a dead man*" (Ibid., p. 143).

When Parham visited the meetings in October 1906, even he was shocked by the confusion of the services. He was dismayed by the "awful fits and spasms" of the "holy rollers and hypnotists." He described the Azusa "tongues" as "chattering, jabbering and sputtering, speaking no language at all" (Synan, p. 102). The Azusa Street meetings were so wild that Parham condemned them with the term "sensational Holy Rollers." He testified that the Azusa Street meetings were largely characterized by manifestations of the flesh, spiritualistic controls, and the practice of hypnotism (Sarah Parham, *The Life of Charles F. Parham*, Joplin, MO: Tri-state Printing, 1930, p. 163).

Parham never accepted the Azusa Street experience as genuine. Parham in his first sermon told the people that "God is sick to his stomach" because of what was occurring at

Azusa (Charles Shumway, *A Study of the "Gift of Tongues,"* A.B. thesis, University of California, 1914, pp. 178,179; cited by Goff, *Fields White Unto Harvest*, p. 131).

Parham never changed his opinion. To the end of his life, Parham, often called "the father of Pentecostalism," denounced Azusa Street as a case of "spiritual power prostituted." Thus the "father of Pentecostalism" rejected what was taking place at the Azusa Street meetings as phony, manipulated, and demonic. However so many Pentecostals gladly trace their heritage directly from those meetings! There was a better more safe place to trace ones heritage and its found in the Bible.

In 1906 Seymour received an invitation to preach in a black Nazarene church in Los Angeles pastored by a woman preacher, Reverend Mrs. Huchinson. When he arrived in Los Angeles in the spring of 1906, Seymour found the city of 228,000 growing at a rate of 15 percent a year. Many strange religions and a multiplicity of denominations occupied the religious attentions of the city. Los Angeles was a melting-pot metropolis with large numbers of Mexicans, Chinese, Russians, Greeks Japanese, Koreans, and Anglo-American inhabitants.

The religious life of the city was dominated by Joseph Smale, whose large First Baptist Church had been transformed into the, "New Testament Church" as the effects of the Welsh revival which were being felt in Los Angeles at the time. Another important religious influence in the city was Phineas Bresee, who had founded the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene in 1895. He had served as a leading minister for some thirty years and attempted to preserve the teaching of holiness which he felt was dying out in the Methodist Church. Starting his work at the Peniel Mission in the very poorest section of the city, Bresee was repeating Wesley's work of an earlier century in England by ministering to the disinherited of Los Angeles society. His

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Nazarene followers were rapidly becoming the largest holiness church in America.

In the black community, a rich social and religious life had developed during the last years of the century with numbers of Methodist, Baptist, and holiness churches located in the black community that centered around Bonnie Brae Street.

Seymour and the other preachers at the Apostolic Faith Mission on Azusa Street all were united in their 5 core beliefs Salvation by Faith (which is good). Sanctification (or completed Holiness) of the believer (not true, which was exaggerated). Tongues as evidence of Baptism with the Holy Spirit. Was a necessary embellishment to fit in their Latter Rain view. Healing was part of God's redemptive process, which is also not guaranteed. And the "very soon" return of Christ. Which is good to believe but can be abused by false prophets as Jesus warned in Mt.24. It was potpourri of both right and wrong.

Within this time period William J. Seymour became the central figure of the Azusa street revival and will always be remembered as the vessel chosen of the Lord to spark this worldwide Pentecost revival. Yet, little that he wrote has been preserved for posterity. Frank Bartleman, a participant had recorded what had happened (1871-1935). In 1925 he published a book, *How "Pentecost" Came to Los Angeles--How It Was in the Beginning*, describing the Azusa meetings. It was reprinted in 1955 and again in 1980. Bartleman was a licensed Baptist preacher when, in 1897 he accepted the doctrines of healing in the atonement and entire sanctification and joined the holiness movement. Though he fully believed God had promised physical healing, he was often sick, at times despondent to the point of suicide. His oldest daughter, Esther, died in childhood in spite of his faith in healing (this seems to be a common occurrence with those who hold these teachings).

Bartleman wandered about from group to group--Salvation Army, then Moody Bible Institute, then Wesleyan Methodist, then the Pillar of Fire organization led by woman preacher Alma White, then back to the Baptists, then to the Azusa Street where he became a participant of the Pentecostal meetings led by Seymour. *Finally he was baptized into the "Jesus only" movement which denied the ancient biblical doctrine of the Trinity. Bartleman described the same experiences which are common among Toronto and Laughing Revival proponents today. Bartleman himself was "slain in the spirit" for one-half hour in front of a congregation where he had been preaching. On another occasion he said he felt "electric shocks" to the point that he fell unconscious.*" (Frank Bartleman, *Azusa Street*, introduction by Vincent Synan, p. xiii).

Jesus only, the fruit of experiential Pentecostalism

The Pentecostal movement was from its inception Trinitarian. When this modern day revival had first occurred with the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues, it was upholding Trinitarianism, that is until.... a message first delivered to the Pentecostals at a camp meeting in Arroyo Seco, California in 1913. Hundreds of preachers were in attendance. Evangelist R.E. McAlister was selected to preach on the subject of water baptism. The truth of the Oneness of God accompanied the new revelation of baptism in the name of Jesus. McAlister began with the accepted baptismal message and spoke on the different modes of baptism, mentioning trine immersion by which the candidate was immersed three times face forward. He summed it up by "they justify their method, by saying that baptism is in the likeness of Christ's death, and make a point from Scripture that Christ bowed his head when he died." that to them, it was necessary to baptize once for each person in the Godhead (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



“He concluded his message abruptly by saying that the Scriptural answer to this was that the Apostles invariably baptized all their converts once in the name of Jesus Christ. He ended by stating the words Father, Son, and Holy Ghost were never used by the early church in Christian baptism.” (Reference: *The Trinity and Eternal Sonship*, p.29 by Bob Ross).

John C. Scheppe came to the United States from Danzig, Germany in 1913, Scheppe heard McAllister speak and later had a revelation of the name Jesus. He influenced Frank Ewart, G.T. Haywood, Glenn Cook, and others convincing them of this teaching. By the spring of 1914, Ewart reached the conclusion that the singular “name” in Matthew 28:19 was Jesus Christ. He came to believe that the one true God had revealed himself as Father in the Son, and as the Holy Spirit was none other than Jesus Christ. To support this view, he pointed to Colossians 2:9, which states that in Jesus dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. When Ewart explained his discovery to other Pentecostal ministers, some rejected his teaching, but others enthusiastically embraced it. On April 15, 1914, Ewart rebaptized Glenn A. Cook, his assistant and a veteran evangelist of the Azusa Street Mission, in the name of Jesus Christ, and Cook rebaptized Ewart. This action divided the Pentecostal movement between the Trinitarians and the Jesus Name, or Oneness, believers. Both Ewart and Cook began to rebaptize thousands of Pentecostals with the new found formula “in Jesus name.”

Frank Ewart said this message it was *“the shot had been fired, and its sound was destined to be heard around the world, as Christendom would soon be shaken by this new doctrine.”*

But it was hardly new, it was a revived ancient heresy of Sabellian that was dealt with so long ago by those pastors and apologists who held the faith early in the church.

What Mr. McAlister introduced in 1913 was indeed a *“new thing,”* namely a *new baptismal formula* “in Jesus name,” with no mention of the

Father and the Holy Spirit. At that time, it was not the *entire* “Oneness” theology that McAlister introduced, *only* the *“baptismal formula.”* Foster *claims* an earlier practice by Parham, but it was abandoned (Foster, p.121.)

Until this event in 1913, Pentecostals believed to be the “baptism by the Spirit and speaking in tongues,” which took place at Topeka on the *first day* of 1901, when Miss Agnes Ozman had the experience. All were *Trinitarian in faith* and the practice of baptism according to Matthew 28:18-20 was practiced.

This new movement began to sweep through the Church's, especially the newly formed Assembly of God. The issue of baptism in Jesus name was debated at the general council in 1915. Trinitarians within the Assembly of God stood their ground, opposing the new doctrine and embraced the traditional formula. A “Statement of Fundamental Truths was drawn up adopting a Trinitarian statement in 1916 as a basis for membership.

According to the new revelation of Oneness, these are all titles of modes or roles of the Spirit (who is Jesus). They wanted the church to believe we are baptized into a role, an office God plays at different the times. However, each time a role is used, it is a person who is according to them the one God. Since God is a *person* would not these titles also be persons, therefore making them three persons? (Malachi 3:6 makes it plain “I the Lord do not change.” When each appear separately in Scripture, they are a person, yet Oneness insisted that when all three are together, none of them are different persons, but only one person. Try to figure this out Biblically without a brain freeze!

Because the name of Jesus or Lord is used throughout the book of Acts for baptism, they reinterpret Mt.28 as saying the name is Jesus for all three, with no distinctions of persons being possible. Disregarding the plain reading in the Mt. 28:19 passage. There is overwhelming evidence throughout the whole body of Scripture that there is a distinction of three persons, they

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



are all eternal, and they communicate to each other. There is no justification to interpret the name Jesus as the singular name used for the Father, and Holy Spirit as it is for the Son. Jesus did not. Jesus did not say, baptize in Jesus' name, naming all three as himself. Jesus knew the Father as another than himself before his incarnation and during it. These are not titles of one person, but an explaining a relationship between different persons who are the one God. They all have different positions and some distinctions in functions but all share of the same essence that is God.

Why is this significant? Branham along his religious path accepted oneness and rejected the Trinity, adopting the same Sabellian heresy of Oneness. "He was on earth the Son of God manifested, same God in flesh; and now He's in the form of the Holy Spirit: the same God in three offices, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, making Himself... That's the reason Matthew said baptize in the Name of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. It was the fatherhood, sonship, and Holy Ghost, the same God using three different offices: God" (62-0712, We Would See Jesus, Open Bible Standard Church, Spokane, WA).

"I believe in the trinity, the--the three attributes of God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, but not three Gods.... They're just three attribute. Or other, three offices of God. God lived once in the Fatherhood, Sonship, and now the Holy Ghost. It's the same God in three offices." (Manifested Sons Of God Wednesday, 18th May 1960 Branham Tabernacle in Jeffersonville)

That is clearly modalism, Oneness

Most people who are discerning point out the various errors of Branham but they do not give an in-depth explanation why these are errors, serious doctrinal breaches.

The first principle we need to understand is that God does not rest his power on individuals that are in serious Bible error, what He first does is correct them. If they do not respond, there is no

reason to use them as His vehicle for healing. It does not matter how many prophecies they are correct on, whether their diagnosis of disease is accurate. This is not how we confirm that someone is a representative of the Lord Jesus Christ. Neither does it matter if they are humble or sincere or live a modest life or really mean well in their intentions.

So many point to what he was accurate on (much is dubious) by taking the word of those that never discerned or tested the claims that were clearly a breach on the Bible. It did not matter if he understood it wrong. The fact is, he was teaching this as a prophet correcting the church.

This kind of obvious violation should have disturbed those who watched his rise in popularity as they were supposed to know sound doctrine. Even more important is that today it can all be put together and people still overlook the errors on the nature of God: the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Branham not only denied there was a trinity (Triune nature) but called the Trinity demonic. And yet he denied at the same time that he was teaching what Oneness was teaching. "*And I'm not a oneness. No, sir. You trinitarian people get that away from you. I am not a oneness. No, sir. I'm not a oneness, neither a trinitarian. I believe what the Bible says... how the Father was in Christ. He was a man; He was a God-man.*" (54-0515 Questions and Answers, Jeffersonville; *I am not a "Jesus Only."*.... *I am not a trinitarian; I'm a Christian.*" (61-0425B The Godhead explained, Chicago IL)

But he was teaching Oneness and denying the Trinity. And the Bible teaches the Father sent the Son from heaven, not himself.

This is why knowing history and its repeat of errors is so important.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Furthermore. Branham taught the ancient heresy of Adoptionism "*Jesus immediately anointed with God, **He was just a man till that time, but now He becomes the God-man.***" (55-0806, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, Methodist Campgrounds, Campbellsville, KY)

Branham taught God came to dwell in him at his baptism, that is when he became God. Therefore, he is not in the Godhead, but the Godhead is in him.

This opened the door to the Latter Rain teaching of manifest sons of God teaching (which will be covered fully later). Which teaches God dwelling in us is the same as God in Jesus' incarnation. This is teaching that to be born again is the same as the incarnation (which the word faith teachers also teach)

Fruits of the tree

Faith healer evangelist Maria Beulah Woodworth-Etter (1844-1924) had a vast influence in the early Pentecostal movement. The *Dictionary of the Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements* says that "she was a monumental figure in terms of spreading the Pentecostal message" and notes that "most early Pentecostals looked at Woodworth-Etter as a godsend to the movement and accepted her uncritically."

During her message at the 1904 World's Fair, Evangelist and Prophetess, Maria Woodworth-Etter fell into a trance. For 3-days her body remained frozen in its spot at Union Station, in downtown St. Louis. The following is the prophecy given to her from the Lord: "*It was a good time to gather the children of the Lord together in [St. Louis], where we might receive the...Latter Rain in the same month. The called and chosen would scatter out from here to all parts of the world.*" (Diary of Signs and Wonders, Marie Woodworth-Etter)

Maria Etter held tent meetings as at Bosworth's church in Texas for many months in 1912." The list of influential Pentecostals who flocked to Dallas was like a 'Who's Who' of early Pentecostalism" (Ibid., p. 365). Etter's meetings were characterized by spirit slaying, prophesying, trances, and general pandemonium. "*She often went into trances during a service, standing like a statue for an hour or more with her hands raised while the service continued.*" (*Dictionary of Pentecostal*, p. 901).

Dubbed the "trance evangelist" Woodworth-Etter wrote that during January and February of 1916 at her meetings in San Francisco, "*the angelic host were heard singing by a number of saints, the most marvelous music.*" *This has become more common in the Latter Rain circles, this is also claimed to be happening today. Job 38:7, refers to the foundation of the world where, "the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy."* *But on earth the only time we read of angels singing is in Luke 2:13-14 when the Messiah was born announcing it to the shepherds in the field, "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God.'"*

Many overlooked she falsely prophesied that the San Francisco Bay area would be destroyed by an earthquake and tidal wave in 1890. ("Maria Woodworth-Etter, For Such a Time as This," 2004, Bridge-Logos) "*I devoted an entire chapter to the prediction, "Here Comes the Tidal Wave."* *I found lots of material as the Bay Area newspapers had almost daily reports of the prediction. The disaster was set for April 14, 1890 and an estimated thousand people fled the area for nearby hills.*" (post <http://www.sparkletack.com/2009/01/19/san-francisco-timecapsule-011909/>)

She was well known by John G. Lake who referred to her in his sermons as "Mother Etter." The influence went through the Assembly of God Pentecostal church and others.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Finis Dake

Finis Jennings Dake who wrote Dake's annotated Reference Bible (1963) became the pastor of The Christian assembly of Zion in 1932. Enamored with the former Dowie, Dake had his church board to purchase the home of Alexander Dowie to establish "Shilo Bible Institute."

Dake taught the ancient adoption heresy Jesus Christ was not the Anointed Son of God until He was baptized by John the Baptist "who became the Christ or the "Anointed one" 30 years after he was born of Mary." Jesus was not the Son of God from all eternity, but was appointed with the office of Christ at His baptism. Jesus became the Son of God when placed into the womb of Mary.

Many speak highly of Dake, especially in the word faith camp. He taught God "He is a person with a personal spirit body, a personal soul, and a personal spirit, like that of angels." Indistinguishing literal from figurative he wrote, He has physical parts (pp. 96-97). God the Father has a physical body similar to man's; that he eats, wears clothes and lives on a planet called heaven; that Adam and Eve flew back and forth to the moon; that Christians will continue to have children throughout eternity; and even that there will be segregation between races in heaven. (*Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: New Testament*, 280; cf. *Old Testament*, 622).

We see many similarities in Branham's teaching. This will be covered in detail after we look at Branham's teachings on man and God.

Many of these men's doctrines from the early Latter Rain movement were accessible to Branham to hear, or he could have come to the same wrong conclusions because of his lack of learning the correct way for Bible interpretation. Nonetheless we find many of the same heresies in Branham's teaching and accepted by his believers and admirers.

Like Branham, Kenneth Hagin claimed a personal angel and had eight personal visitations from Jesus. In 1958 "the Lord Jesus suddenly appeared" before him, with an angel standing three feet behind Him. In *I Believe in Visions he reveals*, "He [Jesus] said, 'This is your angel.' 'My angel?' I asked. 'Yes, your angel, and if you will respond to him, he will appear to you as I will at times; and he will give you guidance and direction concerning the things of life...'" (Kenneth Hagin, *I Believe in Visions* (Tulsa, OK: Kenneth Hagin Ministries, 1984), p. 93).

Few today (the undiscerning) point to these men of Azusa for their inspiration or teaching, though it is clearly the birthplace of much of the Pentecostal antics that we see today. Names have come and gone but there is one that clearly remains, that stands among all the others as the iconic figure for Charisma, healing and miracles: William Branham.

Fast forward to the Healing Revivals of the 1940's

It is impossible to understand current events without linking them to the teachings of the Restoration Movement and Latter Rain heresies of Branham who followed his predecessors from early in the century. Few people realize just how influential the Latter Rain movement of Azusa was, and how firmly entrenched its teachings have become in Charismatic/Pentecostal churches. It was the Assembly of God that finally stood against its resurgence and rejected it by 1950, today it's a very different story. It never went away it has come alive with a vengeance on all those who know nothing of the past. These Pentecostals view from the beginning of Azusa was that it was an end times revival, dubbed the Latter Rain.

Branham was certainly aware of the Early Pentecostals' beliefs, he knew some of these men from the earlier revival personally. So we can surmise Branham was not an originator but stands on the shoulders of these certain Pentecostals before him.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Azusa's hibernation morphed into the Latter Rain Revival that sprung from William Branham. Nearly everything we see today in the new revivals has originated from William Branham. He is admired and has become the gold standard for neo-Pentecostals (unlike classic Pentecostals). Branham is considered the greatest healer of modern times, to some, greater than the apostles in the apostolic era.

The quiet before the Message

When he began his healing campaigns the sermons were not recorded. Branham had no messages recorded before 1947. He had 44 meetings in 1947, only 6 were recorded as he spoke in Pentecostal or "Full Gospel" churches in various cities.

On April 1947 at the Oakland Municipal Auditorium he recorded *Faith Is The Substance*, nearly 1 hour and 20 minutes as his first message. He announced *we're getting some new gadgets for recording* (47-0412, Faith Is The Substance, Oakland Municipal Auditorium, Oakland, CA). Branham was able to use modern technology that was not there previously and began to tape his sermons (it is explained that it was very expensive then).

Even with this equipment we are told "*This recording is very poor and many portions are inaudible; and therefore, unable to be transcribed*--Ed. (50-0827A, Prodigal, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

We are told most did not have the equipment to record which was made on phonograph records at the time. But that would not stop people from taking notes. We have no record of what he was teaching from that 1933 baptism until 1947. It's one thing to have a few recordings, but to have no record of anything for 14 years is perplexing. 14 years of silence. Why? The answer is apparently explained by an angelic visitation. Branham says he officially began his healing ministry after having a visit from "The Angel"

in May, 1946. Very little is known prior to this date.

As his meetings were recorded Branham would preach long sermons that went from 2 hours to 225 minutes.

Branham's official Spoken Word Publications was changed to The Voice of God Recordings, Inc.,

The Branham library has nearly 1,200 sermons that have been kept and published in audio and transcript form (though many are repeated). Since 1998 the Voice of God Recordings has printed and shipped to Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Moldova, Uzbekistan and other Russian - speaking countries over 3 million books and tracts. We have distributed over 400,000 [Branham] Messages to believers in Russia this year alone. (Catch the Vision, December 1998, p. 2)

A 1986 unofficial estimate, based upon literature distribution, estimated 300,000 members worldwide (Weaver, p. 149), some say it is 1.5 million. From my estimates these numbers are way off and more in number range of from 3-9 million worldwide and far more are exposed to his continual teaching.

It's undeniable that his influence has been steadily growing, though there may be more sympathizers than ardent believers in his message. 10-20 years ago not many would know of him but now it is reversed, there are only a few that do not know of him. Branham and his messages are promoted online by zealous dedicated followers. If one does a "google search" they will find 478,000 results for pro William Branham websites and in opposition to Branham 187,000. (Aug. 2011)

As of 2018, type in his name it yields 1,180,000 results. In support there are nearly 200,000 websites, Opposition yields 75,200 results. The difference can only be explained by a different algorithm today.

As of 1999, there were "1,602 Spanish-

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



speaking Message churches” (plus over “over 300 Portuguese-speaking”), and that Peru alone “has 240 churches following the Message and now receives more books and cassettes than any other country in South America. A total of 1,287,536 books and 103,777 tapes have been sent.”

In Africa, translation is rapid, hundreds of Branham cassette tape libraries supply untold numbers of Branham churches across the continent. (To give you just an idea, in September a single VGR shipment weighing over 23 tons left Indiana for South Africa, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.) Beyond this, VGR maintains 45 foreign offices and distribution centers!

In 2011 there are over 66,000 William Branham churches. They have nearly 350 offices in at least 130 countries around the world (Argentina, Afghanistan, Albania, Benin, Brazil Canada, Finland, Costa Rica). Today I honestly doubt it is less but more.

Previously they have published 155 million books over 8.5 million cassettes and 8.5 mp3 sermons mailings to 173 countries with the Message of William Branham in 65 different languages.

Today, they have “*printed and distributed about 195 million books, 8.6 million cassette tapes, and an almost innumerable amount of sermons in MP3 and M4A format.*” The Message is now in more than 70 languages, and there are over 4,600 foreign translated sermons available. *Over 5,000 Hero Tablets have been distributed and 8,000 Agapao Tablets built in-house at the end of 2017.*” (<https://branham.org/en/aboutus>)

The reason the message is now more popular than when Branham was alive is because of loyal believers using technology. They are serious about disseminating his message, disregarding the evidence of him being in any error.

Today his messages can be listened to or read on the web which multiplies the numbers of people exposed to his teachings. We are now seeing this reach and influence millions to believe in “his message.”

Branham founded the *William Branham Evangelistic Association* in October of 1965 the year he was killed in a car accident. It began as a missionary project to promote his Message around the world. Branham's followers speak of spreading the gospel which ALWAYS entails a Message book. After William Marrion Branham was gone, the Vice-President, Branham's eldest son, Billy Paul Branham, assumed the position of President of the Association. Joseph Branham now holds the position of Vice-President.

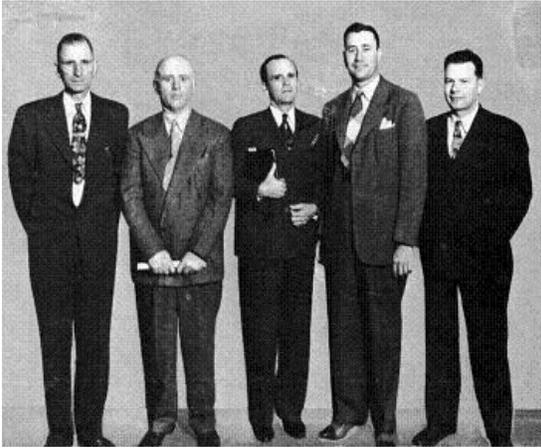
“God honored Brother Branham's willingness to believe every word in the Bible, and He is using Brother Branham's Ministry to save millions of souls throughout the world. Today, the Voice of the Seventh Angel is sounding out as loud as It ever has. Upwards of 1.5 million people worldwide believe Brother Branham's Message.” <http://branham.org/> retrieved Sept. 2011)

Throughout the 1940'-50's hundreds of thousands attended the Branham campaigns that went out throughout the world and they claim that thousands were healed. Contemporary evangelists such as Oral Roberts, T.L. Osborne, W.V. Grant and A.A. Allen started their own healing revivals from inspiration of Branham. This became known as the era of healing.

**The Healing revival started
by William M. Branham**

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



1948 Tent Meeting, Kansas City, Kansas. Left to Right: Young Brown, Jack Moore, W.M. Branham, Oral Roberts, Gordon Lindsay.

Along with Gordon Lindsay and Ern Baxter, F. F. Bosworth, and Jack Moore were his managers prior to hiring Roy Borders.

Ern Baxter was a Canadian Pentecostal evangelist who accompanied William Branham on many campaigns between 1947 and 1953 acted as William Branham's campaign manager. During this period William Branham's meetings were often called the Baxter-Branham meetings, as Ern Baxter would often preach.

William Branham himself approached Ern and told him that he had been praying and had met the angel of the Lord who had appeared to him and told him to invite Ern Baxter to become his companion and manager. They worked together for seven years. While Ern said he saw some of the greatest miracles, signs and wonders during his time he began to become concerned at the error that was coming out from Branham's Healing Movement. In 1957 Ern found it necessary to withdraw from ministry with Branham.

<http://ern-baxter.blogspot.com/2007/09/who-is-ern-baxter.html>

Baxter wrote, "when he would speak, especially in those early days, he would say some things that were terribly provocative. To me, (they were) unnecessarily so. So when we talked together, we agreed that apart from his giving testimonies and relating his life story, I would do all the speaking and he would do all the ministry to the sick. That was the way it was when we were together" (New Wine Magazine, Dec 1978, p. 56).

Baxter in an Interview said "Branham saw himself as a teacher of some kind of "in" truth. To me, some of it was quite esoteric. I became aware early in his ministry that there was a mixture. I urged him not to say some things in public. As long as we worked together he refrained. One of the reasons for my leaving him was that he was starting to say some seriously wrong things. When that, coupled with other circumstances, eventually became unbearable, I resigned.

<http://ern-baxter.blogspot.com/2006/12/happy-christmas-to-one-and-all-i-do.html>)

Baxter said, "Many of the subsequent healers received their initiative from him. He was really the fountainhead of the healing revival of the 50's and 60's. (ibid.)

Baxter did carry the Latter Rain teaching as he taught later on in life the defeat of Satan by a new breed of overcomers in spiritual warfare.

"God's people are going to start to exercise rule, and they're going to take dominion over the Power of Satan. They're going to bring diabolical princes down. The dark powers that hover over the Parliament buildings of the nations are going to be paralyzed by the corporate prayer of an authoritative community. As the rod of His strength goes out of Zion, He'll change legislation. He'll chase the devil off the face of God's earth, and God's people together, doing the will of God, will bring about God's purposes and Gods reign " (Ern Baxter, National Men's Shepherds Conference, Kansas City, Missouri, September, 1975.)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



T. L. Osborn was not first convinced that William Branham's healing ministry was genuine. His wife helped convince him. Shortly after hearing William Branham speak in 1947 T. L. Osborn and his wife Daisy were inspired to begin their own miracle-ministry



William Branham with T. L. Osborn

Osborn was so convinced of Branham's calling that at William Branham's funeral service *he said God has visited His people, for a great prophet has risen up among us*" (excerpt T.L. Osborn, William Branham's Memorial Service). Osborn called William Branham a prophet, he did not call him Elijah. Osborn further stated, "He [referring to God] came down in human flesh, and we call him William Branham." (Tommy L. Osborn, A Tribute to William Marrion Branham [Bartow, FL: Spoken Word Outreach Center, Inc., n.d.], 18; cf. 11, 13, 17; also see "Praise the Lord" program on TBN [19 June 1989].

Branham "met Gordon Lindsey, who was a young Assemblies of God pastor in Oregon. "Soon afterward, Lindsay became his manager (1947) Gordon Lindsay arranged for Branham to hold a series of meetings in Vancouver, B.C., during the fall of 1947. On

that first day of this campaign, W. J. Ern Baxter was added to Branham's team. According to Gordon Lindsay, 70,000 people attended the fourteen-day campaign, which was held in four cities in the North west. The meetings were "inter-evangelical" and characterized by many hours of prayer for the sick and supernatural occurrences. The meetings in Vancouver were attended by a few pastors and teachers from North Battleford, Saskatchewan, who returned to supply the spark that ignited the controversial "Latter Rain" movement. which also quickly spread throughout the world, emphasizing the laying on of hands, both for the bestowal of the miraculous gifts of the Spirit and for personal prophecy" (20th-Century Revival Movements, R. Riss, p. 106).

Lindsay's parents were disciples of John Alexander Dowie, the father of healing revivalism in America. Lindsay was converted by Charles Fox Parham and was directly influenced by John Lake when he was young. At the age of eighteen he began his ministry as a traveling evangelist conducting meetings with these Pentecostal groups. Lindsay accepted a call to become pastor of a church in Ashland, Oregon. In Sacramento he first heard William Branham and, after meeting with him, Lindsay was asked to be Branham's campaign manager. In 1947 he resigned his position to become William Branham's manager. The first issue listed William Branham as the publisher, Gordon Lindsay as Editor, Jack Moore as Associate Editor and Anna Jeanne Moore as Circulation Editor. It was called *The Voice of Healing, An Inter-Evangelical Publication of the Branham Healing Campaign*, (Vol. 1, No. 1, April 1948)

Gordon Lindsay in *The Voice of Healing* newsletter...*It all started with this poor, uneducated, stuttering man who had an angelic visitation and received a healing anointing....He moved in more accurate realms of revelation than almost anybody else that I know of, other than Jesus."*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Branham presented himself as a simple man with humility which put many at ease to overlook his unbiblical actions and teachings.

Lindsay's publication, [The Voice of Healing](#), appeared in 1948 to promote Branham's the campaign. But in July 1948, Branham announced he was stepping away from the revival circuit for a time. (The Voice of Healing, An Inter-Evangelical Publication of the Latter-Day Sign-Gift Ministries, Vol. 1, No. 4, July 1948)

The news came as quite a blow to Lindsay who had just begun the revival publication to cover Branham's meetings.

It was Lindsay's decision to report on the other revivalist healers that seem to have caused a rift between him and Branham which had them go separate ways in 1948. He then organized meetings for other healing evangelists, such as Jack Coe, Oral Roberts, and A. A. Allen began to appear in the magazine as it circulated nationwide.

Branham was no longer the publisher (October 1950) but became an associate editor. The following editors contributed: Gordon Lindsay – Editor, Jack Moore - Co-editor, Anna Jeanne Moore - Managing editor. These others were associate editors F. F. Bosworth; T. L. Osborn; Wilbur Ogilvie; O.L. Jagers; Harvey McAlister; Dale Hanson and Gayle Jackson. Many of these men grew in the popularity and left the fellowship to establish their own organizations, publishing their own literature. One of Lindsay's last visions before his death was a bible training institute in Dallas, Texas. [Christ For The Nations Institute](#) began in 1970 and has trained thousands of students from around the world. The magazine "The Voice of Healing" changed its name to Christ for the Nations.

Dutch Sheets who is involved with the New Apostolic Refromation that began under Peter

Wagner is the current executive director of Christ for The Nations Institute (CFNI). Sheets left Christ for the Nations Institute, to returned to his alma mater in 2012 to serve as executive director reported in

<http://www.charismanews.com/us/43767-dutch-sheets-resigns-from-christ-for-the-nations-cites-limited-window-for-change-in-us>

Dr. O.L. Jagers

O.L. Jagers was part of the original group of healers and miracle workers in Branham's time.

“Among the visitors to [William] Branham's services were Pentecostal evangelists and pastors eager to watch the new man of miracles perform. Some had started their own healing campaigns when they first heard of the widespread public response to the Branham ministry, and they visited the services to learn as much as possible about his methods. ... after observing a Branham performance, they hurried home to resign their pastorates and start assembling a faith-healing team. The Reverend O. L. Jagers attended one fo [sic] the early Branham services and later established a healing ministry that eventually became an independent church.[Morris, James (1973). The Preachers. St Martins Press. p. 58.]

He was called Dr. Jagers. Unlike his fellow evangelists he held the following degrees: Doctor of Science, Doctor of Biology and Divine Physics, Doctor of Literature, Doctor of Divinity, Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Nuclear Biology, Ph.D. Professor of Human Genetics in the University Research Fellow of Biblical Manuscripts ... all presumably granted by the University of the World Church! His church.

In 1957, O. L. Jagers married his first cousin, Velma Jagers at the World Church. ["Pastor O. L. Jagers Marries First Cousin; Wedding Witnessed by 7500 Persons, Filling Church and Crowding Entrances" \(Los Angeles Times \(Times Mirror](#)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



[Corporation\): p. A3. Jul 22, 1957. ISSN 04583035.](#)¹

They did not have children in their marriage.

Jagger's came up with a whole new way of salvation where he taught one would never physically die if they were born again the right way, his way. This is done through an intricate system found in their church only "*This baptism takes one through all the death processes and the grave, and then into the resurrection of a new life body creature.*" This is called the mighty transformation communion miracle (also transubstantiation of communion) where one can receive divine health and immortal life.

He established a whole church teaching around this spirit outpouring as a new gospel. The Gospel of the Kingdom, ladies and gentleman, is the deliverance message of healing the nations. Healing them of their sins, healing them of their sicknesses and their diseases... To have a kingdom within us gives us all the unlimited power, authority, priceless treasures and gifts that come with the kingdom. We're members of the royal family. ... when the Holy Spirit comes into us and we're filled with the fullness of God, or baptized with the Spirit, He brings with Him a kingdom. (Gospel of the Kingdom audio on file). What he actually was teaching was dominionism along with another Latter Rain doctrine called, the Manifestation of the Sons of God. The belief is that some will obtain immortality before Christ returns.

William Branham said of Jagger, "*I remember O. L. Jagger. ... he was so skeptic. Oh, my. He was beating it down, and all the time I knew he believed it in his heart, but he just wanted to see what I was going...?... So he, Brother O. L. Jagger, he's a bosom friend*" (William Branham "Faith" April 27, 1956 the Abundant Life Center in Charlotte, North Carolina 56-0427)

William Branham considered Jagger's a powerful preacher, and was mentioned in a number of sermons by Branham where he honored him and said he prayed for him. "*Then there's Brother O. L. Jagger from the World*

church down there, another fine man" (55-1115, Blind Bartimaeus, Tent Meeting, San Fernando, CA)

Though he believed he was serving God Branham rebuked him for what he was teaching in 1961. "*I told him not long ago; I said, "Brother Jagger, if I could preach like you did, I'd never even have a healing service." But he had got all that blood and wine and stuff when he first started over there.*"

...Now, brother," I said, "I love you, and you're my brother." And I said, "Brother Jagger, you're going to get on a limb after while that you can't get back off of. Come back to your church, and come back and stay with the Gospel." And I said, "Don't build it upon sensations." I said ... For now, he's got--he's baptizing to Eternal Life. You know, every time you baptize, you go back to a young woman or man. Now, that's going to... He ain't going never die, so that is he on the end of the limb right now, them vitamin pills out of the Dead Sea... You see, but that's what it is, brother" (61-0425B, The Godhead Explained, Holiday Inn, Chicago, IL)

What Branham was referring to Jagger's teaching. Miss Velma said, "*The new Revelation of Mamre is the greatest gift ever given to a people by almighty God*" (The Mighty Miracle of the new Revelation of Mamre p.7)

The claim is that through this revelation of Mamre no one will have sin, sickness, disease, senility and death. We are not to die but stay eternally young in our bodies. "*It is essential for us to let go of the old motto that we must grow old, then die and go to heaven to meet our maker. That is a lie of the devil. He lied at the beginning, and he will continue to lie until the very end.*" (Ibid. p.46) For more info you can read <http://www.letusreason.org/Cults2.htm>

How did this become confirmed? "*A voice thundered and uttered these words "This is my*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



daughter in whom I am well pleased. As Jesus, my son, paid the price through his faithfulness upon the cross.. my anointed daughter, Miss Velma, has paid the price through her faithfulness at the golden altar. Therefore, all who will believe in her, will receive my gift of eternal youth which is new revelation Mamre." (The Mighty Miracle of the new Revelation of Mamre p.49-50) *"Miss Velma has paid the price! She has become the sacrificial offering required by God that all of mankind may reap one of god's greatest rewards, new revelation Mamre"* (ibid. p.51)

O.L. Jagger's was part of the original group of healers and miracle workers in Branham's time. Jagger established a whole church teaching around this as the true gospel. He built a holy of holies replica on earth liken to the one in heaven, with the Golden altar (that was not made of real gold) and the 24 elders on earth and a three fold way to be born again, which if received will bring the promise of bodily immortality escaping death now. The Hawaii fellowship of the Universal World Church in Waipahu claims they have the Golden altar now on earth (which is not real gold). This group has built an elaborate replica and claims it is the most powerful instrument known in the history of man on earth. But there is another copy in LA They too claim to have the 24 elders in the church on earth, and a three fold way to be born again, which if received will bring the promise of bodily immortality now. *"prayer, along with faith in Christ and believing on the Lord Jesus Christ alone, can never perform the new birth in anyone."*

Miss Velma has anointed thousands at the golden altar with the oil of youth for the impartation of Gods eternal youth! This means none of these people should ever die. I can only wonder what they said about the people in the church who supposedly received this miracle that did die. Which I presume already took place several times over.

Nonetheless, O.L and his wife experienced death like all others before them. Dr. O. L. Jagger's

passed away at the age of 88 in Glendale, CA. January 10, 2004. Velma Jagger's died August 21, 2004 Miss Velma passed away at the age of 84. Both are interred in the Sanctuary of Prayer, in the Freedom Mausoleum at Forestlawn Memorial Park in Glendale, CA. <http://www.forestlawn.com/Visitors-Guide/Interment-Locator.asp>

Their exclusive revelation failed. It failed for every follower that participated in their elite new birth revelation and it failed for them. They did not overcome death.

Of all people to visit his church in LA, it attracted Rock and roller provocateur Frank Zappa, who said, *"I had actually seen O. L. Jagger on TV once--he had a local 'religious' program that ran for a short time. During the show I saw, he stood by a blackboard and drew diagrams as part of the 'answer' to a letter he claimed to have received from a deeply troubled viewer. The letter requested a theological explanation of UFOs, and the reverend obliged with this answer:*

"Flying saucers are nothing more than cherubim and seraphim. Because of the great, speed at which they travel, their tiny bodies begin to glow when they come in contact with our atmosphere."

So, I went to the World Church. It was a large Quonset hut near Temple and Alvarado. Instead of an altar it had a stage with flowers and fake gold knickknacks, displayed between an all white piano and an all-white organ.

Over the stage was an enormous cardboard cutout of Jesus, posed like Superman in the takeoff position, projecting out, over the audience.

...As I was about to leave, I heard him announce (into a handheld Neumann U-87), during the third collection, "Jesus just told me that you have another thousand dollars in your pockets." A bunch of people got out of their seats and marched down the aisle, like zombies, dishing up wads of cash. As their reward, he said, *"I'm now going to rain down the fire of the Holy Ghost on you!"* They put their fingertips up and

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



started wiggling them, while Dr. Jagers shouted: "Fire! Fire! Fire!" (into a crowded room?)

The people responded by going, "Ooooo! Wooooo," as if it was **really getting all over them**. The organist played scary music and the red and blue lights flashed on the cardboard Jesus. (Frank Zappa himself in *The real Frank Zappa book*, (1990) Simon and Schuster. pp. 61-63. ISBN [9780671705725](https://www.amazon.com/dp/9780671705725). Retrieved 2011-03-15 from web)

Dr. Jagger authored over 300 books: Omnipotence is Yours! Or How Deity Places Himself In the Lives of Men; Everlasting Spiritual and Physical Health; How to Rid the World of Red Communism, and The Atomic and Hydrogen Bomb in Bible Prophecy. But he was most well known for his ground breaking book that gave a Christian perspective on the UFO phenomenon "*Flying Saucers!*"

O. L. Jagers who began the Universal World Church was one of many who started explaining flying saucers in his book published in 1952. At this time they were called flying saucers, not UFO's. In it he relates his understanding of the UFO phenomenon establishing the fact that UFO's exist. He then states that UFOs are the "wheel within a wheel" spoken of by the Prophet Ezekiel. Equating them with Cherubim and Seraphim and expounds upon the purpose of their manifestation.

The cherubim and seraphim have appeared over the US signaling impending judgment for America because of her sinfulness and the uncleanness of the American church." *There are terrible signs in the heavens warning of this, the flying saucers which are the supernatural angelic beings of God, along with the perplexity of nations, the sea and the waves roaring, and many other supernatural signs in the heavens, will continue to warn this world of the end of this age, and the wrath of Almighty God is set to fall upon this Christ-rejecting world.*" (p.33 *Flying Saucers*, O.L. Jagers)

"THE SERAPHIM ARE FLYING TODAY as a warning that God's judgments will fall upon the church, which has refused to follow God all the way!" (P.46 *ibid.*)

The book concludes with a call to action for the church. The church is the only hope for America and the only means of averting God's wrath as manifested by these angelic agents.

Lindsay was one of the first to correlate UFO phenomenon with the fallen Angels/Nephilim in Genesis 6. He wrote several books about the subject, as well as articles in the Voice of Healing Magazine. *The Mystery of the Flying Saucers published in 1954* "It is believed that an unnatural and illicit affinity developed between the anti-diluvian race and creatures of another order. This belief is based on Gen. 6:4, and is held by a remarkably large group of sound Bible scholars." [...] "If true, then this illicit affinity which played a prominent part in anti-diluvian apostacy, may well have its parallel in the days in which we are living." (p. 87)

Then there was also W. V. Grant, who wrote "Men in the Flying Saucers Identified - Not A Mystery!" This booklet dates from the later 1950s, written by a revivalist preacher. A transcript is given of what a contact told him at a revival meeting concerning experiences of a 'Flying Saucer' and conversations with aliens. Grant responds with a paragraph by paragraph refutation and a biblical proof text. He is swift to point to the DEH [...Demonic Eschatological Hypothesis] and is clearly affected by the anti-Communist angst of America of that time, believing that ETs and communists are co-operating..."

"He also believes that 'aliens' are here, incognito, in their thousands, and enjoy frequenting dance halls and public houses. The aliens are eventually pointed back to the Nephilim (Genesis 6:4, 'The Nephilim were on the earth in those days - and also afterward - when the sons of God went to the daughters of

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.), and are said to be their spirits which survived the flood."

<http://www.equinox.org.uk/?p=83>

W. V. Grant's "Men from the Moon in America." "The pilots in the flying saucers represents evil powers who will take over the world dominion. Same theme as in the writer's 1958 edition."

Gen.6 solidified itself as a revelation to those involved in the healing camp and the improved Pentecostalism called the Latter Rain. They were considered Christian pioneers to include the Nephilim, fallen angels, the giants are part of God's prophetic plan.

At the same time O. L Jagger's, W. V Grant and others were teaching on UFO's, Franklin Hall who already known from his previous book on prayer and fasting was the "start of the great healing revival.' He now offered answers for the flying saucers, except his was not at all biblically based.

In 1955 "Flying Saucers: Space Travels, Signs in Heaven and on Earth: Ether Ships; "Hydrogen Bombs - Ether Ships." "Franklin Hall recognized the theory of "ether ships" as in line with the biblical description of "the air" and its occupants (Signs in Heaven and on Earth: Ether Ships).

Branham also spoke on these flying saucers. Branham quoted Jesus who said *before He comes there will be signs in the heaven above.* And UFO's certainly fit this category, no doubt these are all types of signs in the heavens.

"So God always sends angelic beings to warn the world. He... I believe that there's angelic beings in the earth today, are warning the world of judgment to come. I could go a little bit on your flying saucer here just for a few minutes, but I won't take that much time. But anyhow, did you notice, before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, which is a perfect thing of today,

God sent Angels down there to call Lot out? Is that true?" (53-1122, The Resurrection Of Lazarus, Evansville Coliseum, Evansville, IN).

But then he said these flying saucers were not from God but a threat "*One rocket bomb, one of those cobalts, or hydrogen bombs could... The whole nation is on an alert. You seen in the paper the other day where they're requiring the Pentagon to answer the flying saucer. It wasn't a myth; it wasn't something you'd imagine; it was real. It was an intelligence. They flew in battle formation.*" (56-1125e)

Jesus said, "*As it was in the days of Sodom, so shall it be in the coming of the Son of man." And before the destruction of Sodom, and fire fell and burned the city and the plains up; there was Angels sent from heaven who looked in and searched out to find out if these things were true or not. And would it not be just like God to send back His Angels to investigate and to find out just before the great destruction comes.*" (58-1130, Watchman, What Of The Night? Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville IN)

Branham was sure what they were and held this view to his death "*We know it's investigating judgment Angels (You see?)* (65-0815 And Knoweth it Not).

Which sounds like it was taken from 7th Day Adventism.

Contrary to Branham's view that UFOS are God's angels, we have too much evidence to the contrary, especially the communication people receive which falls into the Occult category.

Besides him teaching of these angels coming down he also spoke of us going up – by UFO's. "*You see these little pockets going through the air, they call "saucers," so forth. People so... That, well, we better leave that alone. "Hear all these people come up missing?" you say. Don't hear from them; they're standing there, and they're not there. That's the way the Rapture is going to be. One of them will drop right down,*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



and this terrestrial body will take on a celestial body. And they'll be... hide, hair, or bones left; it'll be transformed in a moment of time, dropping right out of space and taking Home that. We see all this going on now, and the — and the Pentagon wondering about these lights, and mystic lights, and everything they're seeing in the — in the sky. You seen they had one here in the paper at Jeffersonville this week, and so forth, "a mystic light." So, oh, they don't know what that is. But listen, little children, It's going to pick you up, one of these days. See?" (65-0822M Christ is Revealed In His own Word).

This was the talk of many speakers. Hall later wrote "The Return to Immortality," explaining that Christians can become immortal through stages of spiritual growth, through experiences with what he calls UHO's, (Unusual heavenly objects).

He claimed such people would attain to immortality, would never have to wash their bodies or clothes, and could bring down upon themselves the "visible glory."

This was described as an, "Immortal Substance...claimed to be seen on those who attended his meetings, as a fine gold and silver, sparkling material that emanates from sometimes visible" things which he called by various names--"IHO's" (Immortal Heavenly Objects), "UHO's" (Unusual Heavenly Objects), and "UFO's" (Unidentified Flying Objects). (The Return of Immortality, by Franklin Hall, (Phoenix: Hall Deliverance Foundation, 1976, p. 60.)

That the power behind the saucers was an "Immortal Substance" that came on those who attended his meetings. This substance was gold and silver dust. Hall; "The sparkling shining FINE GOLD and SILVER are seen upon their SKIN. This sparkling material Hall called, "The shiny metal like, Jesus' substance.

Sound familiar? It should, as the new revivals incorporated many Latter Rain concepts and

practices such as gold dust falling. Hall left orbit with his teachings on these matters:

'So much has been said about the travels of the astronauts, about conquering space and even going to Venus or Mars, about the power behind the saucers. The overcoming saints, however, are hundreds of years ahead of our scientists. These heaven projected saints will be so clothed and covered with the Immortality, supernatural, ZOOMING sparkling Substance, that it will be no more trouble at all for them to take off. "Where will they go? "They will fly right into the Glory Cloud residence of our Lord and Savior, Heaven in Him. Into His Cloud Fire Body. (Rev.12:5) "What distance will they go? "The distance, at first, may not be very far away, however, as the 8th church from out of the 7 churches of revelation, called the 'overcomers,' become more and more adjusted and acclimated to Holy Ghost Space flight, great distances taken, will seem like no distance at all.'

Thus we have his legacy today, the blend of occultism with Christianity. Trips to heaven, visitations and glory manifestations on earth are all found in the Latter Rain revival. The practices were in primitive form in the Latter Rain movement in the 40's. Today they are more sophisticated.

Atomic Pentecostal power

Latter Rain proponent Franklin Hall (who made famous the fire baptism) wrote a book on fasting and prayer (1946) that became a major influence of those in the new healing revival ministry, which birthed the Latter Rain movement. William Branham and Oral Roberts, O.L. Jagger's, Gordon Lindsay, A.A. Allen, W. V. Grant, Tommy Hicks, Oral Roberts all read his book Atomic power through prayer and fasting, and took to his teachings.

These men were oblivious to the synthesizing of the Bible with the occult, or just didn't care because of results that occurred.

T. L. Osborn: "Brother Hall, we wanted you to know, we do appreciate your vision, and the

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



tremendous way you have stirred the world with fasting and prayer. We are going to handle your books at our meetings."

Gordon Lindsay: "We know of no writer whom God has so signally used to bring out Scriptural truth on fasting as Evangelist Franklin Hall. We feel that "Atomic Power with God" is the book of the hour for believers.

In the fall of 1946, Franklin Hall built a "major fasting and prayer daily revival center" established in San Diego, California. Among the many that helped were Jack Walker, father of child evangelist "Little David" Walker, teaching of fasting as a means of bringing about revival and the "restoration" of the Church. Also Dr. Waltrip (Kathryn Kuhlman's husband). He taught that fasting would bring revival and the "restoration" of the church. Hall claimed, "without fasting, prayer becomes ineffectual." (Franklin Hall, "Atomic Power With God Through Fasting And Prayer" (Phoenix, Arizona: Hall Deliverance Foundation, Inc., 5th Ed., 1975, p. 9). Hall "made claims that even the prayers of pagans would be answered if they fasted. He explained that the "American Indian tribes sought revelation from the Great Spirit through prayer and fasting. When the Indians had famines, food shortages, lack of rain, etc. the Great Spirit was then sought through prayer and fasting and their prayers were also answered." This demonstrated, according to Hall, that there was power in the act of prayer and fasting." (Discernment newsletter Vol.4, 1998).

Hall taught *Fasting is a CORNERSTONE of the Christian religion,"... "in the Mohammedan religion, that they claim it to be one of the four pillars of the Mohammedan faith."*

Hall wrote several books after, including *Glorified Fasting* (1961), *The Fasting Prayer* (1947), *The Body-Felt Salvation* (1968), *Formula for Raising the Dead* (1960), and *Our Divine Healing Obligation*. Hall instituted "open-eyed" prayer claiming that "immortality

blessings" come in more successfully because closed eyes destroy faith.

Prayer was not enough, Hall said, "To see our loved ones saved, souls converted and a sweeping revival come in our midst; to have God work miracles, and heal our diseases, and pour out His Holy Spirit, we must start a fast and prayer in the home." To Hall this combination was the release of power,

Hall's 1946 book *Atomic Power with God through Prayer and Fasting*" became popular among the growing new Pentecostalism, as he claimed that God was restoring all the sign gifts back to the Church. He began teaching God was going to cause a group of super-saints to arise, believers who would be physically immortal (again the Latter Rain teaching of manifest sons of God).

"The man-child group of the sons of God will be required 'to rule all nations with a rod of iron' (Revelation 12:5)." (Franklin Hall, "Subdue The Earth, Rule The Nations" (Phoenix, AZ: Franklin Hall Ministries, 1966), p.57)

An example is O.L. Jagers who taught, "This, Jesus said, 'would come when our inherited authority to personally use that great atomic or deific force hath been taught and demonstrated to all the people of all the nations of the earth."

"Jesus, as we all know, has taught and demonstrated that great force to each one of us. It was this force with which He raised Lazarus from the dead. With this authority over this mighty force, Jesus was enabled to heal the sick, the crippled and the blind." "When I asked Jesus why I was not able to do the same work that He was doing while He was in the world, Jesus answered me and said it was because I prayed too little and ate too much." (O. L. Jagger's the kingdom of God tape)

Franklin Hall was a major influence on the Sharon orphanage where the Revival broke out, along with William Branham. In the late 1940s

A Man and his Angel

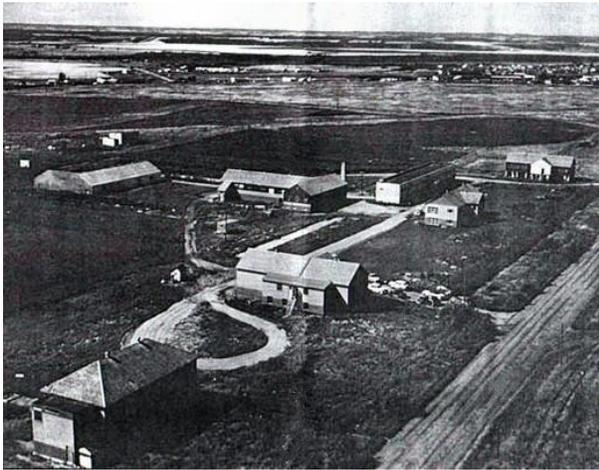
A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Branham began preaching about the coming Latter Rain movement and the manifest sons of God. As Branham explained it, God "*promised that there would be a latter rain in the church, the church spiritual. In the last days He'd pour out both former and latter rain.*"

William Branham Web site, http://www.williambranham.com/former_and_latter_rain_600303_2.html (accessed November 19, 2008).



The site of the initial outbreak of the Latter Rain revival in February 1948.

The Pentecostal Church of God formed 1919 at the Sharon Bible School, which later became the area of the Latter Rain in 1948 via William Branham.

Ern Baxter ministered with Branham for several months each year from 1947 until 1953. "*At this time they'll want you to meet my Canadian manager anyhow. This is Reverend Ern Baxter from British Columbia, which will be in the Canadian meetings, seeing that it's to go across Canada and overseas.*" (49-0718, I Was Not Disobedient To The Heavenly Vision, Grace Missionary Church, Zion, IL)

It started in Ern's home town of Saskatchewan, Canada by men who were hungry for God and for gifts of the Holy Spirit prayed and fasted (as Halls book was read). George Hawtin, George Warnock and Percy Hunt took Branham's

teachings on Apostolic Restoration of the Church and disseminated these teachings to thousands through their Bible School called Sharon in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada.

The first drops of acid rainfall

The modern-day Latter Rain Movement began in late 1947 and early 1948 in Saskatchewan. Witness George Warnock wrote, "*Three buildings on the Airport at North Battleford, Saskatchewan, composed Sharon Orphanage and schools at its beginning in the fall of 1947. About 70 students gathered to study the Word of God, and fast and pray. After about three months, the Revival suddenly began in our largest classroom where the entire student body was gathered for devotional exercises.*" (George H. Warnock, *The Feast of Tabernacles the Hope of the Church* (North Battleford, Saskatchewan: Sharon Publishers, 1951), as quoted in Bill Hamon, *The Eternal Church* (Phoenix: Christian International Publishers, 1986), 250.

In 1947, Herrick Holt, a pastor of the North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Church of the Foursquare Gospel had been preaching that God was going to be doing a "new thing" in accordance with the prophecy of Isaiah 43:18-19. They had been prepped by previously reading Franklin Hall's book, "*Atomic Power with God Through Fasting, and Prayer,*" and began to practice his methods. Influenced by the teachings of both Franklin Hall several people from the school visited one of Branham's meetings in Vancouver, B.C.. They had Branham lay hands on some of them. They then came back to Sharon and the supernatural manifestations began shortly after. It took Branham's impartation to make their ministry the focal point of the Latter Rain Movement.

It is important to point out that Branham promoted being slain in the Spirit and drunk in the Spirit. He said it was the power of God continuing in the church, the new wine. He gave an example of him laying hands on a person who

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



fell under the power of God (this is covered in strange and stranger teachings.)

In 1948 a week before the Latter Rain revival broke out a woman prophesied a great move of God coming from Sharon in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada. Ernest Hawtin tells us the Holy Spirit fell with great power. It was called, "The Last Great Outpouring that was to consummate God's Plans on this Earth."

During this meeting a prophetic word was received in which God said, "These are the last days, my people....The gifts of the Spirit will be restored in my Church.'...Soon a visible manifestation of gifts was received when candidates were prayed over, and many as a result began to be healed, as gifts of healing were received." (George H. Warnock, *The Feast of Tabernacles the Hope of the Church* (North Battleford, Saskatchewan: Sharon Publishers, 1951), as quoted in Bill Hamon, *The Eternal Church* (Phoenix: Christian International Publishers, 1986), 251-252.

Reported in the April 1949 issue of the "Sharon Star," the official publication of the Latter Rain, we are given an example of both Hall and Branham's teachings "Suddenly without warning a mighty wind swept through the building, Brother Crane was standing teaching the class when he was almost swept off his feet ... This great demonstration was accompanied by a vision of the Manifest Sons of God in the last days of this dispensation. This mighty army was seen conquering all before it. Sickness and disease were vanishing and all evil spirits were scattered before the triumphant power of God's people." (George Hawtin, "Editorial, "Sharon Star, Dec.1948, p.p.2,3) underline mine

After spending their time in fasting and prayer, the folk in North Battleford made a discovery:

'Soon we found that the familiar doctrines previously taught and the subjects studied had a strange sense of being REMOVED FROM US,

as though they had become PAST TRUTH instead of PRESENT TRUTH. (Letter of George Hawtin, December 15, 1987 to Wayne Warner, Assembly of God Archives).

In 1948, Branham was also greatly influenced by Franklin Hall's teachings, especially Hall's Atomic Power With God Through Fasting and Prayer. Ernest Hawtin of the Sharon Orphanage spoke of Franklin Hall's influence as: *The truth of fasting was one great contributing factor to the revival. One year before this we had read Franklin Hall's book entitled, "Atomic Power with God Through Fasting, and Prayer". We immediately began to practice fasting. Previously we had not understood the possibility of long fasts*" Richard Riss also records that Branham also stated "The revival would never have been possible without the restoration of this great truth through our good brother Hall" (Richard Riss, 'The Latter Rain Movement of 1948 and the Mid-twentieth Century Evangelical Awakening' (Vancouver, B.C.: Thesis), p.86

A side note on today: revivalist Lou Engle in his book "the Jesus Fast: the Call to Awaken the nations" speaks of atomic power. He quotes favorably on the Latter Rain repeating Branham "the revival would never have been possible without the restoration of this great truth through our good brother Hall." (From Digging the Wells of Revival, Lou Engle)

They believed that the long drought was over for Pentecostals, the gifts that gradually declined since Azusa at the turn of the century was now back. Out of this resurgence came the doctrine of Restoration. Lost truths were supposedly being restored and God was revealing new revelation to the church. Signs and Wonders and moving in the Supernatural realm became the modus operandi.

A new emphasis began from the laying on of hands, "The movement was characterized by many healings and miraculous phenomena . . . There was an emphasis on spiritual gifts which, were to be received by the laying on of hands."

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



(Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements)

The revival carried influences of the teachings of both Franklin Hall and William Branham. It is said that George Hawtin, Percy Hunt and George Warnock took Branham's teachings on Apostolic Restoration of the Church and disseminated these teachings to 1,000's through their Bible School called Sharon in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada. 1,000's of Pentecostal believers left the 4 major Pentecostal denominations and joined independent Pentecostal organizations now teaching these restored truths.

The same presumption nearly 40 years earlier was repeated "*The thing that makes us know that this "latter rain" that is flooding the world with the glory of God is of the Lord, is because the devil is not in such business*" (Seymour The Apostolic Faith May 1908).

The timing was right and they coalesced. The gifts that gradually declined since Asuza returned as a new Latter Rain was birthed. Identical concepts were given, such as new prophets and apostles established. The spiritual seed of the "Latter Rain" from the early 1900's was transmitted to the people of his time. Current participant Randy Clark who was involved in the "Toronto Blessing" *writes like many streams flowing into one great river of God, the 1940's brought the revival ministry of William Branham 1946 and the Sharon orphanage revival of 1947* (p.89 There is More)

An excerpt taken from their newsletter that the Sharon Star recorded the Branham meeting: "*All the great outpourings of the past have had their outstanding truths. Luther's truth was Justification by Faith. Wesley's was Sanctification. The Baptists taught the premillennial coming of Christ. The Missionary Alliance taught Divine Healing. The Pentecostal outpouring has restored the Baptism of the Holy Ghost to its rightful place. But the next great outpouring is going to be marked by all these*

other truths plus such a demonstration of the nine gifts of the Spirit as the world, not even the Apostolic world, has ever witnessed before. This revival will be short and will be the last before the Rapture of the Church." (Richard Riss, Latter Rain, Honeycomb Visual Productions, pp. 56-57) underline mine

This is exactly what Branham's message developed into. He was taught by his personal angel, that he was the Elijah before the 2nd coming. That he was the messenger of the last Church age, Laodicea. Branham becomes a key figure in the Latter Rain scenario that many in the Pentecostal Church are operating in today. This is why they acknowledge him, yet few know about Hall who influenced both Branham and the Latter Rain rebirth.

The new Latter Rain Doctrines were: The restoration of the office of the Apostle and Prophet to lead the Church. Restoration of all the supernatural gifts, especially prophecy (meaning a direct revealed word from God through His prophet or prophetess). The Casting out demons from Christians. The defeat of physical death by ascended believers called Manifest Sons of God. Unity of the Body, i.e. all churches submitting the Apostolic and Prophetic authority, denominationalism was frowned upon.

George Warnock was Ern Baxter's Personal Secretary and right-hand man, and became a main promoter in the Latter Rain teachings. He later became part of a Shepherding group that was called the "Fort Lauderdale Five."

He produced a book that became as axiomatic as Franklin Hall's "Atomic Power." "The Feast of Tabernacles" was written in the late 1940's and reprinted in 1951 by Bill Britton. A teaching inherited from William Branham that became a main teaching of the Latter Rain is that certain members of Christ would become "The Manifest Sons of God." George Warnock presented in his book *The Feast of Tabernacles*, the evolutionary model of the church as seen by the Latter Rain adherents. The "Feast of Tabernacles" was a

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



manual for Latter Rain Doctrines & Practices, in which he laid out a specific doctrine for the Latter Rain Movement. This showed the pattern for the progress of the church through time. *“Starting at Passover the church supposedly had been passing through the different feasts, over the years, to Pentecost. He taught that the Church was about to usher in the completion of God's feasts through perfection of the saints and their dominion over the earth. Three great annual feasts of the Lord in Israel's worship (Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles) typify the whole Church Age, beginning with the death of Jesus on the cross, and consummating in “the manifestation of the Sons of God”-the “overcomers” who will become perfected and step into immortality in order to establish the Kingdom of God on earth.* (George Warnock, *The Feast of Tabernacles* pp. 14-20, 1951

The book proposes a pattern that the three major feasts of Israel are the stages of development of the Church. Passover - was deliverance from sin; Pentecost - was the former rain, or individual empowering; Feast of Tabernacles - will be when God indwells his people spiritually and causes them to rule.

Warnock states that we, the church, still have yet to go through the day of Atonement, the Feast of Trumpets and then come into the Feast of Tabernacles, where God will finally dwell within His people.” These three feasts (Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles) pre-figure and fulfill in type the whole Church Age, from the death of Jesus on the cross, and consummating in “the manifestation of the Sons of God.” When we come into Tabernacles, God will finally dwell within His people.

Biblically, the feasts do show a fulfillment in the Messiah and a prophetic scenario but his application of the feasts were spiritualized and taken out from their original prophetic context which changed both the meanings and application.

He taught the “overcomers” who will become immortal and establish the Kingdom of God on earth.

“Enoch did it, so did Elijah. And so shall the sons of God. The Word of Faith shall grip the hearts, and they shall reach out and appropriate the Resurrection and the life, even now in this life. If they do not, Christ will never return to the earth. For God hath said 'Sit thou at my right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool' (Ps 110:1) And the last enemy is DEATH. (George Warnock *"Feast of Tabernacles"*)

Immortality had become a large focus in the Latter Rain doctrines. Years after in 1975 Ern Baxter said: *“We are talking of man coming into the fullness of his self realization, into his ultimate destiny as the image of God. This beloved One came to become the Pattern Son to become the Ideal Man after which he would pattern a whole community of redeemed ones. What he was in his incarnate power and life, they become in their corporate power and life.”* (Ern Baxter, National Men's Shepherds Conference, Kansas City, Missouri, September, 1975).

Franklin Hall's influence also continued, publishing *Miracle Word* magazine. By 1965 it reached a peak circulation of 24,000. In *Miracle Word* he, tells of how well-known preachers of his day received his message: Rev. Walter Frederick, former Assembly superintendent in Canada, sent Brother Hall's literature to every Pentecostal preacher in Canada *“A few of the others (not too well-known then) ministers who had major fasting experiences by our writings in the 1946, 1947 to 1950 fasting era and who also became famous are: Wm. Freeman, Gordon Lindsay, A.A. Allen, O.L. Jagers, Gayle Jackson, Oral Roberts, David Nunn, Wm. Branham, W.V. Grant, Wm. Hagen, Dale Hanson, [and] Tommy Hicks.”*

Hawtin wrote a letter explaining himself and what is taking place To the Assembly of God. *“There is an election according to the wisdom*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



and grace of God who are called to see the marvelous progress of the Spirit from glory to glory. That which was begun by the Holy Spirit in 1948 will end with the MANIFESTATION OF THE SONS OF GOD AT THE END OF THE PRESENT AGE. THE ADOPTION of which Paul spoke so often, is FULL MATURE SONSHIP. The great apostle told us clearly in Romans 8:23 that the whole creation is groaning in travail waiting for the ADOPTION, to wit, the redemption of the body. The redemption of the body is this corruptible putting on incorruption and this mortal in immortality and death being swallowed up in victory.

Hawtin continues, "I well remember one day when I was feeling somewhat bewildered about the many false teachings that had arisen and the many who had returned to the bondage of the denominations. which once they had gladly left behind, and sorrowing over the greed and avarice manifested by so many, and false prophets that had arisen, teaching all manner of perverse things to lead away disciples after themselves, that in my momentary bewilderment I said to a friend of mine, Brother Young, "Why do you suppose the Lord started this great move in the first place?" And he with simplicity replied, "TO GET THE SONS OUT." That was one of the most confirming statements I have ever heard; and that, dear child of God is the purpose for which our Father in heaven sent us this glorious outpouring - that the TRUE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST MIGHT BE FORMED, the sons of God to be manifested at the end of the age."

"The revival that began at Pentecost two thousand years ago has never ended. Century after century saints were being purified and made white by great tribulation. The elect were being gathered and light was increasing. The next great event in order is the manifestation of the sons of God, the resurrection and the long-awaited kingdom of God that will shine its gladsome rays over all the earth, till the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as

the waters cover the sea." (LETTER FROM GEORGE R. HAWTIN TO THE ARCHIVES OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, Dec. 15, 1987)

It was "In 1949, Assemblies of God and Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada rejected the revival and the revival was forced out of the Assemblies of God church. The reasons for denouncing the revival according to the Assemblies of God were" (1) it relied too heavily upon present-day apostles and prophets (i.e., a self-appointed charismatic leadership); (2) it practiced the confessing and pronouncing of forgiveness by one member upon another; (3) it advocated the practice of bestowing spiritual gifts by the laying-on-of-hands; and (4) it distorted Scripture so as to arrive at conclusions not generally accepted by members of the Assemblies" (Melton, 84).

In response to the excesses of the Latter Rain, the 23rd General Council of the AOG passed a resolution expressing official disapproval of its teachings in 1949.

"It is being claimed that the Pentecostal Movement is passing through a new era. That now we are receiving the Latter Rain, whereas forty years ago the outpouring of the Spirit was merely the Former Rain: now we are receiving an enduement or power, "after that" the Holy Ghost has come upon us. whereas forty years ago we received merely an anointing of the Spirit: that this enduement of power is received through the laying on of hands: that now, through the laying on of hands and prophecy, the nine gifts of the Spirit are bestowed upon or confirmed to believers. and calls to service in home and foreign fields are given and confirmed: that God is now setting the ministry gifts in the body through the prophetic gift, and those upon whom hands have been laid are designed as apostles, prophets, Evangelists, etc.: that an apostle and a prophet should be present to officiate in this laying on of hands, so that there may be the exercise of the prophetic gift. There is much more that is being claimed for

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



this new order of the Latter Rain, but this simple statement will suffice for the moment.

The claims of the New Order Movement. Full publicity has been given by radio each day of the happenings of the previous day, making it possible for the recording of the claims and reports coming from Bethesda Tabernacle. A number of these recordings have been sent to us for examination so that we have accurate, testimony which cannot be refuted, and are in a position to judge the teachings of the "new order Latter Rain" movement in the light of the Scriptures. We can state with confidence that these wire recordings contain misapplications and perversions of Scriptural truth which should be plainly evident to anyone who is familiar with the Word of God.

It has been brought to our attention that when one pastor consented to the ministry of laying on of hands it brought such a crisis into his church that the church was threatened with disruption.

The true test of any movement is whether or not it will stand up under the light of the Word of God. We cannot depend alone upon the testimony of spiritual blessing, which many claim to have received under the "new order". When the "Jesus Only" issue swept over the country in the years 1914-1917, there was constant testimony that this was a revelation from God accompanied by great spiritual blessing. The movement was judged, however, not on the testimony of spiritual blessings, but on its adherence to the Scriptures. When it was found that its claims did not conform to sound doctrine, its message was rejected.

These prophecies, which we believe to be perversions of the true gift, are often of an inflationary nature. They exalt the human spirit into an ecstasy with such messages as, "Yea, the Lord God hath called and chosen thee. Thou shalt prophesy before kings and shalt witness before many nations. The Lord God shall give thee great boldness so that none shall be able to withstand thee. Go forth in the power of His

might, for the Lord God is with thee." When such prophecies are accompanied by the assurance of the bestowment of spiritual gifts, it is no wonder the person involved feels a spirit of exaltation and blessing.

It was stated to us that there should be an apostle and prophet present for the ministry of laying on of hands. The apostle and prophet have, of course, been confirmed as such by the laying on of hands of other apostles and prophets, tracing back to the brethren of North Battleford, Alberta, where the movement started. This statement is not imaginary, but is taken from the personal testimony and wire recordings of those who claim to have received this apostleship.

We Are Living in the Time of the Latter Rain. It has been the teaching of the Pentecostal Movement from the beginning that we are now living in the time of the Latter Rain, that the Latter Rain has been falling in copious showers ever since the turn of the century. The Latter Rain is necessary for the ripening of the harvest, and must precede the coming of our Lord. We believe that the coming of the Lord is close at hand (Jas. 5:7, 8) and that showers of the Latter Rain should increase in intensity. These showers of rain should be characterized by conviction of need, confession of sins, restitution, and a mighty baptism in the Holy Ghost. That the showers of Latter Rain must be confined to a particular mold is unthinkable.

If any group of believers will call a solemn fast and the people will humble themselves before God and seek His face there will without doubt be a mighty moving of the Spirit of God, and there need not be the excesses of imparting gifts and callings, including the designations of men as apostles and prophets in a new order.

There are evidences that God is answering prayer for a revival in many parts of the world. We shall continue to pray on and to believe that the showers we have been receiving will increase until there is a mighty deluge of Latter Rain power and blessing in all the earth. When

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



the prayer of God's people is fully answered, we have a conviction that the revival will stand up under the light of the Word of God without question. Zech. 10:1.

(From the Executive Office of the General Council of the Assemblies of God April 20, 1949 (published in full in Discernment Newsletter Volume 8, Number 1, January 1997) The 1949 General Council of the Assemblies of God USA declared in its Resolution #7:

We disapprove of those extreme teachings and practices, which being unfounded scripturally, serve only to break fellowship of like precious faith and tend to confusion and division among members of the Body of Christ, and be it hereby known that this 23rd General Council disapproves of the so-called 'New Order of the Latter Rain'... (Nichol, John Thomas (1966) Pentecostalism, New York: Harper & Row.)

After this renouncement neither the AOG nor other Pentecostal churches guarded themselves as they should have, so it continued to grow among certain Pentecostals in piecemeal. Some of the Latter Rain teachings began to resurface again in the charismatic movement of the early 1960's. *"The Latter Rain revival died in the early 1950's, but its' influence did not. When the Charismatic Renewal broke upon the scene in the 1960's, some of the churches which had been influenced by the Latter Rain began to participate in the activity created by the new charismatics. The fact that these churches had Latter Rain roots was lost for the most part in the excitement created by the new revival. Most of the doctrines forged during the Latter Rain years were carried over in the new move. As a consequence, teachings from the 1948-1953 period were carried into the 1960's and 1970's. While newcomers may not have known the common Latter Rain thread those who had participated in the Latter Rain revival even as youngsters, recognized the common features. Some Latter Rain leaders moved into positions of prominence with their past roots forgotten (excerpted and adapted from "Kingdom Now," Gordon Anderson, Paraclete, Summer 1990, Vol. 24, Number 3).*

Richard Riss writes: *"By 1952, the Latter Rain as a recognized movement was clearly beginning to fade, although a number of strong congregations continue into the present day. Also, a number of Latter Rain teachings became major parts of the Charismatic Renewal movement that blossomed starting about 1967"* (Riss 1987:140-43).

Presently many of the Assemblies of God churches that originally rejected the Latter Rain have allowed its teachings to again flourish and infiltrate their churches and it has crossed denominational lines. This movement which brought havoc and was renounced by the Assemblies of God in 1949 has resurfaced with a face lift and these same teachings have come back with a vengeance taking on a life of their own. Today it is sometimes identified as the third wave.

Franklin Hall's influence

Franklin Hall, gained notoriety for his teachings on what he called, "God's Seventh Church Age" (supposedly the final move of God before the manifestation of His Kingdom on earth), something Branham also taught.

Hall's "Christianized Astrology," the Zodiac theory put forth by Franklin Hall, was spoken of in 1893 by historian E.W. Bullinger in his book, "The Witness of the Stars. Hall said that in 1848 the Aquarian Age was introduced. Hall disseminated new breakthrough revelations. Hall also taught on the Great Pyramid of Giza, Branham gravitated toward both of these teachings of Hall's. Branham believed that the Word of God was given in three forms: the Zodiac, the Egyptian pyramids, and the written Scriptures.

The idea that the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt was constructed by God (through Enoch) is at least as old as the Zodiac theory, and is popular with the Dawn Bible Students, an

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



offshoot of the early Jehovah's Witnesses. This will be further covered as Branham spoke extensively on this.

Throughout Hall's teaching, he presented a number of ideas showing his belief that the Zodiac, a study based on astrology, was a valid way of interpreting God's revelation to man. In his book, he stated: *"In the Zodiacal sign "Scorpio", which is the eighth sign of the Zodiac, we have a picture of the scorpion with it's stinger lifted ready to strike. This is the sign of death, and is supposed to govern the sex area. Just before the sign of the heavens there is the sign of the judge. Jesus, who is the giver of life, proceeds toward death and pulls the STING OUT OF DEATH. O Death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"*

Apparently Branham did not get his similar revelations from Scripture but from other men who influenced him.

Hall taught The "fire of the Holy Spirit" would eliminate the potential for sickness, tiredness, and even body odor (*Dictionary of Pentecostal*, p. 346)

Branham likewise said and *"He comes tonight in that way. He can come down into a human body, drive out the power of cancer, tumor, cataract, tuberculosis with fire, heavenly Holy Spirit Fire falling from God out of heaven ... If He can burn inbred sin out, how much more can He burn cancer out by the same Holy Spirit. Amen."* (51-0502, *The Angel Of The Lord*, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA) underline mine

Hall actually wrote, *"Body-felt salvation has revolutionized my physical body. I get sick no more. There simply are no more headaches. If I should slam the door on my hand or foot it does not hurt or harm me. I have no more accidents to my body. I have no colds, fevers or sickness any more and have not 'had since getting the miracle upon my body. This is more than perfect health or even divine health. My body has been*

saved from the root Adamic sickness that all are born with.

*There is good news concerning the fulness [sic] of a complete and perfect work of salvation that is coming about in the last. ... There is the former rain and there is the Latter Rain. It will be complete and full. It will be in such abundance that it will be **POURED OUT UPON (UPON, UPON, UPON, MIND YOU) ALL FLESH** (Acts 2:17 and Joel 2)*

Here Hall is teaching the very basis of the Latter Rain.

Hall's main point in his immortalization theory, is *"the sleeping, so called, unfoundationally built church "must awaken to "a real cause and calling, that when God's word is completely acted upon and complied with, will result in bringing about the real gushers and torrents of the long, past due, **RAIN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**, a rain of **IMMORTALITY UPON THE EARTH** that so many prophets have written about and portrayed in their prophecies".* (Franklin Hall, 'The Return of Immortality', pp.2-3.)

In his book, *Subdue the Earth, Rule the Nations*, Hall quotes Revelation 12:5, and equates the man child of the sun-clothed woman with the overcomers: *"The man-child company will have dominion of this planet first. Those who possess a house may decide who shall occupy it. In the same manner, as a group from the church take up their authority and rulership of the planet that God gave them, they will likewise be able to choose whom they will, to occupy it"* (Franklin Hall 'Subdue The Earth, Rule The Nations' (Phoenix, AZ: Franklin Hall Ministries, 1966), p. 11).

Long fasts didn't help Hall stay in sound doctrine. In later books, he also taught the Manifested Sonship and Manchild doctrines conjoined with outright occultic ideas. *"The man-child group of the sons of God will be required 'to rule all nations with a rod of iron'*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



(Revelation 12:5). (Franklin Hall, "Subdue The Earth, Rule The Nations" (Phoenix, AZ: Franklin Hall Ministries, 1966) p.57).

In Scripture this is said of Jesus, not of men. Ps. 2:8-9 "Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel." (see Rev.2:27;19:5)

Hall: "Jesus taught a small, but precious group of His followers - those who were able to bear it, that gravity would be completely loosed from them, in the last days, when they learned how to train their appetites into a different channel. We must learn to labor for the meal that endures unto everlasting (IMMORTAL) life. The meat that draws us away from gravity holding things. Jn.6:27.

"Gravity-freed, great people will run up walls, not break rank, and if they fall on a sword, the Immortality power from Jesus' body, on them, will protect them. It appears that, they also can walk or run upside down. See Joel 2:3-11." (excerpt from Al Dager's Latter Rain and Kingdom Theology)

He taught "Only one part of our salvation has seemingly been taught. The sin problem, eliminated by Jesus' shed blood. The "SHORTNESS OF GLORY" portion (See Romans 3:23) "...The latter portion is the most important for full redemption attainment, yet it has deplorably been left out."

"Attention was called to the reader above. At least three persons who fasted much did enter into a portion if not all of the "shortness of glory" covering Comforter Baptism of Holy Ghost Fire! The restoration of lost Garments of Adam and Eve! "The Garments of Salvation" (Is. 61:10) The "glory that is seen upon one" (Is. 60:1-5, 21, 22) also the protective ingredients (illustrated above) outlined in Isaiah 4:5: (1) CLOUD, (2) SMOKE, (3) FIRE, (4) and LIGHT.

Hall "Salvation in our heart is not enough. Salvation upon us heals, protects from all harm and is accident sickness prevention!"

It should be noted, "The ministry of Dr. C. Franklin Hall was lectured on in C. Peter Wagner's and John Wimber's Signs and Wonders course at Fuller Theological Seminary. Such was the influence and effectiveness of Dr. C. Franklin Hall!" (posted on www.franklinhall.org, website page, no longer available)

In spite of everything he said, Hall, went the way of all flesh, suffered infirmity in his body and died. No one who learned his immortality teachings was able to raise him from the dead or stop themselves from dying. This does not stop people from continuing to believe his new revelation even though he could not produce what he said.

We can trace the Latter Rain and the anointed class in its embryonic form, even before this 1948 outbreak. If we go back to the teachings of C. T. Russell of the Jehovah's Witnesses cult. In their early teachings they believed that the body of Christ would be become the mighty God corporately, they would be sinless and share in Christ's rule becoming part of is nature. I don't think he came up with these teachings by himself.

"The Scriptures present that when we gave ourselves to the Lord and He gave us His Holy Spirit, we there passed through a transformation and became embryo spirit beings..." (Watchtower, 10/15/1913, p. 309)

"The New Creature does not need any imputation of merit,' for the New Creature is sinless ... The New Creature needs no justification because it does not sin ... Would the merit of Jesus be involved in the forgiving of the New Creature's trespasses? No! Jesus has nothing to do with atoning for sin on the part of New Creatures... There is no atonement for New

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



drink, to drink, to drink [tongues]. We drink [tongues] [he laughs]. O yea, yea, yea, yea, yea, we don't worry about what other people say. No, it doesn't matter what they think. Ha, ha, ha, ho, oooh (They then speak to each other in tongues and laugh as if someone told a joke)." (Video tape)

The fire baptism of the Spirit

Franklin Hall taught, *"When intensified, the operation of the Gifts of Healing by deliverance preachers makes a person become very warm or hot, wherever the healing power operates. The sick area has a hot feeling right on and over the disease. Sometimes the healing fire ignites, so to speak, the very area of deadness or illness, consuming it away"* (Franklin Hall, 'Atomic Power With God Through Fasting and Prayer').

"I have said that impartation prayer is not really prayer, but a commanding of fire upon the person being touched by the "anointed" man of God. This, too, reflects Hall's teaching on the ability to command fire upon those touched, describing how a skeptic was converted after having allowed Hall to lay hands on him, (here we have the explanation of a fire impartation)

Hall states:

As Dr. Jumper stood before me, I commanded the Holy Ghost fire to descend and come all over him. The cloven tongues wrap around clothing did come upon nearly every part of Brother Jumper's body. He testified to it being hot upon his physical flesh."

John Lake explains his experience when visiting a sick lady at her home: *The Spirit said, 'I have heard your prayers, I have seen your tears. You are now Baptized in the Holy Spirit.' Then currents of power began to rush through my being from the crown of my head to the soles of my feet. The shocks of power increased in rapidity, and voltage. As these currents of power would pass through me, they seemed to come upon my head, rush through my body, and through my feet into the floor...* (John G. Lake -

Apostle to Africa', compiled by Gordon Lindsay, and told in Lake's own words. pp. 16-20).

This description is similar when one experiences the Kundalini force through yoga and meditation. These same descriptions are found with those who have been attending meetings of Toronto, Brownsville and Rodney Browne's (testimony) meetings. God does continually fill us with his Spirit to be active in service but pursuing a baptism of the Spirit is nowhere found in Scripture. The baptism of the Spirit came to all who believed (Acts 2, 8, 10), and there was no fire baptism produced.

Bill Hamon an apostle has been teaching along these lines for some time. In his book "The Eternal Church" He writes: *"... New recruits are now being drafted and trained and older soldiers and generals are being put through intensified training for the next advancement of the Church Army. They are being purified by the Baptism of Fire... Are you ready?"* (p. 374 Christian International Publishers, 1981)

Kenneth Hagin says: *"He went on instruct me that when I would pray and lay hands upon the sick I was to lay one hand on each side of the body. If I felt the fire jump from hand to hand, and evil spirit or demon was present in the body causing the affliction. ... If the fire, or anointing, in my hand does not jump from hand to hand, it is a case of healing only ... When the fire, or the anointing, leaves my hands and goes into his body, I will know he is healed."* (Hagin, Kenneth, I Believe In Visions, p. 51.) underline mine

The Fire of the Latter Rain has returned

What was before is now again ... Rodney Browne who went to Kenneth Hagin's Rhema college described his fire baptism as:

His anointing all began when he received what he calls the "baptism of fire" in 1979, at the age of eighteen. Rodney H. Browne, (The Touch of God, p. 71).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



He says that he spoke to God, "I knew that there was more, much more... "He told me that I had to hunger and thirst. At first I said-to him, 'Why don't you just give it to me? I have served you all my life. I have been a good boy. I haven't done this, I haven't done that as others have. God I deserve it."

He said, 'I'm not a respecter of persons. You come the same way everyone else does. You come in faith and you get hungry and you desire it. Then I'll give it to you.'

"You have to desire it like a man who has been in the desert three days desires water. ... If a man walks up to him and offers him half a million dollars, he will push him aside and shout, no, water, water, water! He wants water more than life itself, because the only thing that is going to save him is water." (he got fire not water)

Browne says he was saved at an early age (5) but didn't receive the "baptism of fire" until 1979 as a teenager. Desperate for an experience he says, "In July of 1979, I cried out to God in sheer desperation. I wanted Him to manifest Himself to me and in me. I was hungry...As I prayed that day, I told the Lord, "Either you come down here and touch me, or I am going to come up there and touch you." I was desperate. I must have called out to God for about 20 minutes that day. Suddenly, the fire of God fell on me. It started on my head and went right down to my feet. His power burned in my body and stayed like that for three whole days. I thought I was going to die. I thought, 'He has heard my prayer, 'Either you come down and touch me or I will come up and touch you', and now He has come down here and touched me and He is going to kill me and take me home.'

"I was really praying, 'Lord I'm too young to die.' In the fourth day, I am not praying, "O Lord send your glory," I am praying, "Please lift it off me so that I can bear it." I was plugged into heaven's electric light supply and since then my desire has been to go and plug other people in.

"My whole body was on fire from the top of my head to the soles of my feet. Out of my belly

began to flow a river of living water. I began to laugh uncontrollably and then I began to weep and then speak with other tongues."

I was so intoxicated on the wine of the Holy Ghost that I was beside myself. The fire of God was coursing through my whole being and it didn't quitBecause of that encounter with the Lord, my life was radically changed from that day on" (Rodney Howard Browne, The Touch of God, pp. 73-74.)

Browne described this same incident at his camp meeting (July 18, 1994), he said *it was as though all of a sudden somebody had taken gasoline and put a lighted match to it. The fire of God fell upon Him instantaneously, and he was immersed in the liquid fire of the Holy Spirit. He became completely inebriated in the Holy Ghost. He was beside himself. Overflowing, he laughed uncontrollably. He went from laughter to weeping to tongues, back to laughter and weeping again. Four days later, the glory of God was still upon him, and by this time he was saying, "God, lift it. I can't bear it any more...Lord, I'm too young to die, don't kill me now."* For a two-week period he was convince that he felt the presence of God.

Rodney Howard Browne says, one day "Suddenly the fire of God fell on me. It started on my head and went right down to my feet. His power burned in my body and stayed like that for three whole days."

The similarities Hall are certainly there. "*I was plugged into heaven's electric light supply...my desire has been to go and plug other people in. My whole body was on fire. (Rodney Howard Browne. "The Touch of God" pp. 73-74.)*

Where does the Bible ever teach to seek an experience and demand for God to show up? Jesus scolded those who wanted this produced for them. Twice he addressed this, in Mt.16:4 and Mt. 12:39-40 "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah."

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



The descriptions of fire are not unlike the Kundalini experience of Hindu adepts. In fact, this is the same description many describe when their charkas are opened; fire spreads from the crown of the head to ones feet and consumes them. A bolt of electricity passes through the body, the hands or different parts of the body can vibrate as if they were taken over by a powerful impersonal energy that feels like its cleansing. The fire can be passed from one person to another and make the recipient shake violently. Different emotions can surface, screaming, shaking, crying, fainting.

Browne yells "the fire, the fire" as he imparts a fire power to others. Many others do the same. Steve Hill charging through the crowd screams: "Fire--Fire--Fire--Fire!" Steve Hill uses the mantra technique, repeating "More, Lord!" and "Fire! Fire! Fire!" To pass on the spirit at the Brownsville "revival." He then transfers by "touch" this "spirit of fire" to someone else. But no one runs out of the building from this fire, instead they run toward the man who will transfer this experience to them. An interesting note, John Kilpatrick's ministry was called the 'Feast of Fire.'

Fresh Fire was an experience the Toronto airport Vineyard (Randy Clark, *Catch The Fire* 1994). Clark claims that the "*greatest revival of all times*" is now a reality. That "*people are being raised from the dead and temples are being hit by lightning or fireballs and knocked off their things. It's all over. Germany and Africa. It's everywhere. God's doing it.*" (Randy Clark, "Catch The Fire: Questions and Answers", TACF, 10/14/94, audiotape).

In their mind this is a spiritual normality.

At Brownsville David Hogan was speaking "and he, after hearing her request, limply and repeatedly hit her on the head with his handkerchief saying, "Fire of God, Fire of Heaven" ..."Then he tells the crowd at Brownsville that he is asking Jesus to do that right there for them. "tells them he is

"exploding with fire." People began to scream, cry and wail. Hogan tells them, "You all are easy targets" and begins to scream: "Fire! Fire! Fire!" as the Brownsville students surged forward. Hogan ordered his men: "Get 'em" as the "impartations" are eagerly anticipated. As the session concludes there is no smoke, no clouds, not even a mist, just a lot of people in a frenzy and wailing. Mercifully, the tape fades to snow and finally ends" (The Remarkable Exploits of David Hogan by G. Richard Fisher, Personal Freedom Outreach)

The Fire is everywhere

Laverne Tripp on TBN in front of Paul Crouch channeled Jesus in the first person and stated to all watching, "*For the fire has come. The fire has come to burn out all the chaff, .. to burn out all the disease,... the sickness,... to burn out all the enemy has done. For this is My Day. This is MY DAY. For the Day of the Lord has Come!*" (TBN telethon 1997).

The Day of the Lord is another term for the Tribulation, so either God is mixed up or Tripp gave a Latter Rain false prophecy; I believe it is the latter.

Hall's the idea of impartation by speaking and commanding or decreeing is done by various promoters of this experience, but none more often than Benny Hinn.

On This Is Your Day telecast Hinn told his viewers, "*That incredible anointing that hit at one point in that service is something that I'll never forget as long as I live.*" And then divulged, "*Listen saints, what we're about to show you we rarely ever show on any program. The fire of God hit and the Lord kept saying to me, 'Say, Fire! Speak the word, Fire!' And as I did you're about to see the results. You may never be the same again after this. "There's coming a time in our lives as believers when we're going to have a fresh revelation of who He is. And we're going to come into a new walk with Him. Remember, He declared we would be*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



baptized with fire. Fire ... Ladies and gentlemen, I want you to know, the day will come when the fire of God's presence will visibly appear in public meetings. You may have never heard that before - it's biblical.... We've known the baptism of the Holy Ghost, but we have not yet known the fire. And I'm here to tell you in Southern California, God is about to visit you and the whole Church with fresh fire." (November 1998 airing of This Is Your Day program)

This is the same concept Branham spoke of.

Benny Hinn says "we have not known the fullness of fire. The anointing as fire is coming to your life." Hinn tells us that this new "fire" anointing will burn away bondage and sin."

And you thought that is what the blood shed was for, not according to the Latter Rain teachers. Hinn who endorses this fire experience also expressed concern when this fire hits him it's not so pleasant. "I'm on fire my body is burning up." (This is your Day Oct. 25, 1999) Hinn describes it: "my God there's fire here. ahhh arrggh "My skin is about to explode your body will tinkle from the top to the bottom lift your voices lift your hands and ask him for it." (TBN with Paul and Jan Crouch Sept. 13, 1999 viewing of the Denver crusade)

Hinn growling and with tongues becomes completely out of control and is trying to pass on this power that is on him. He says "Fire on you and your ministry, bring those preachers, bring those preachers, bring those preachers, bring those preachers, My God. FIRE, FIRE, FIRE, FIRE, FIRE on you. Bring Paul Crouch here, Kent get up here Kent get up here (this is all done in an foreign voice not his own that is growling) My God fire on you Paul , FIRE. Fire on you Kent fire, pick up Kent FIRE (tongue) fire pick him up fire on ya, pick Paul up, pick Paul up (Hinn now become very agitated in his ordering the catchers) fire that's fire on ya paul, that's fire on ya, that's FIRE on Kent, that's

FIRE on ya my (preacher bunch) get over here lift your hands play in the holy ghost. that's fire on Tim, come're, come're, come're (Hinn now is in ecstatic pain) , fire on ya,(he growls in pain) come're, Mr. ___come're, growls fire on ya, (whispers the fire presence is here) growling argh, FIRE on ya," (Crusade shown on TBN with Paul and Jan Crouch Sept. 13, 1999)

Hinn on the video is completely out of control and trying to pass on this power that is on him, almost to relieve himself.

Later that years on TBN Hinn explains, "Paul, when, when, when I felt this atmosphere on me, and I spoke of a word, FIRE, like that. They were thrown in the air, began to, to roll real rapidly, and they went into the, what do you call that, like when a baby, a fetal, fetal position, with their bodies vibrating from head to toes violently, almost to the place you thought something was going, something physically was wrong with them" (TBN, Oct.23 1999).

Just like Franklin Hall describe the fire baptism Hinn is able to speak and watch an immediate reaction on the people.

In the video Hinn releasing his anointing says, "Let the power in the Fire, fire, fire, feel the anointing. Let go, sweetheart - hallelujah! ... That glory on this face. Pick up this young man. Keep playing. Pick up this kid here. ... Lord, I give you these kids. I give you these young people.... Fire, fire, fire, fire, fire. Whoa. Everybody pray. Pick him up. Pick up the other young man. Quick, bring him right here. That's fire on these kids. Bring them here. That's fire on these kids. Pick him up. Fire. He's being electrocuted by God's power. This young man is being electrocuted by God's power. Fire. Pick him up. Fire on you. Pick him up. Fire on you. Fire on you. ... That's glory.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



That's glory. That's glory. That's glory. That's fire. That's fire. That's fire on you, my friend."

"See the, look, look, look at this kid just enjoying God's power on him. Kent, it's marvelous on you, Kent. It's marvelous on you, Kent. It's marvelous on you, Kent. It's marvelous on you. Look at that anointing. Huh? Kent, come here, you fireman, you. Bring that fireman here. Electrocute him in the Spirit!"

After watching this video (words do not describe the mayhem exhibited) one can only wonder if this is what the apostle's meant by being anointed, was it liken to what the gurus and occultist meant by Shakti - pat?

I was present at Hinn's crusade in Hawaii as he said "Are you ready for the fire of the Holy Ghost ... The prophecy is coming your way." "Speak it out in Jesus' name." "Many of you feel the power like that of fire. Others feel like electricity just rushing through your body." "Quickly ... Don't wait for me to call on to you. Many of you begin to get healed even earlier than the service. You begin to feel a mighty fire when we're holding the service."

Electricity, heat, fire, surging power all are descriptions found in the modern Latter Rain movement.

"A pillar of smoke and a pillar of fire appeared and I could feel this energy in the room. I stuck my hand out and it felt like it was going into an electrical force field." (Todd Bentley A FIERY ANGELIC VISITOR)

In one of his meetings in Strader's Carpenter's Home church, Rodney Browne describes the anointing as being electricity: "Not only is it tangible but transferable. ...The anointing of God as wonderful as it is, **is electricity.**"

Carol Wimber wife of the late John Wimber founder of the Vineyard Church describes what she interpreted as a visitation from God. "I got up and started stepping over bodies and putting

my hand next to them. I could feel the power, like heat or electricity, radiating off their bodies" (Counterfeit Revival, p.200 Hank Hanegraaff)

"To John it was spiritual power came from his hands like electricity." (Ibid. p.204).

The concept of electricity and fire as the Holy Spirit seems to be a common denominator in these experiences which prove they are not a biblical power but an occult one. The Bible says nothing of a fire experience like these. These are commonly found and used in other religious systems and the occult.

Steve Brock prophesying on stage at Hinn's crusade, "*for the fire of my spirit shall burn, shall burn. Yes, it shall start in those who have cried out in the secret of places. It shall burn so brightly and so powerfully that it shall consume the darkness and iniquity that has plague so many of our people that is in the church. And yes, it shall burn, it shall burn, it shall burn, it shall burn. Yes, like a wild forest fire, it shall go out of control. yes, yes." (Steve Brock prophesying in the first person) "I say I am the lord your God. I am the lord that delivers you from the enemy and the evil that comes before you. I am he that knocks down the mountains. I am he that lifts you out of the valleys. Lift thy hands and worship me. For my spirit and my power is upon you as never before. Ask what thee wants you will. Ask what thee wants you desire. For I have poured out my spirit upon my servant. become like bowls of fire (unclear words). ... For the fire ... For the fire of the Holy Ghost is upon you, saith the lord." (Benny Hinn, Honolulu Blaisedell Jan.21, 1999)*

Indeed it has gone out of control and to those it touches, they lose control.

Hinn says "*For I have poured out my spirit upon my servant. Become like bowls of fire (unclear words). The word he has spoken are my words. Be healed in the name of Jesus. Be delivered in the name of Jesus. Be set free in the name of Jesus. For the fire ... For the fire of the Holy*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Ghost is upon you, saith the lord." (Benny Hinn, Honolulu Blaisedell, Jan.21. 1999) Really, is that what the Lord said?

Kenneth Copeland has also said, "*When the fire of God begins to burn and the rivers of the Spirit start to flow...*"

"..the spirit of God shall become one with them and the flesh will be made pure by the Holy Spirit that shall upon them like the flowing river of golden fire." (Messiah and the 2nd coming John David and Naomi Rice 1982 Coptic press Wyoming MI)

Going back to Franklin Hall, the method of receiving the body-felt salvation is through the impartation of the "fire baptism" through the laying on of hands. Hall's writings explain: As the Holy Ghost Fire comes about by IMPARTATION FAITH, so likewise will the Holy Ghost LIQUID STREAMS OF LIQUID LIGHT of LIFE SUBSTANCE come forth, along with other Bible and FAITH factors. The Saints will begin not only feeling the Fire but also will "Arise and Shine." The healing fire cloud, is going to actually bring about the very perfection needed.

Benny Hinn states at his crusade "*you feel a tremendous anointing on you like fire*" "*many of you feel like fire going through you as I'm speaking.*" At one point Hinn ran off the stage and started slapping his hands on people's ears in the first row and violently pushing them over saying, "*fire on you.*" He brought all the children up slays them all and gives them the fire. (This is your Day Jan. 29, 2002)

Hinn has consistently taught on this unbiblical and dangerous impartation that comes from the Latter Rain. "*Many of you feel a tremendous anointing on you like fire.*" Hinn then brought up in front of the stage the Japanese and the Koreans who came to visit and then has fire go on them by repeating "fire" about a dozen times (Blaisedell Crusade Jan.11, 2002)

Hinn describes a vision where "heavy rain began to fall on them like and outpour of rain, heavy, heavy downpour." ..."*now fire, liquid fire began falling on them, then I woke up. I knew it was from the Lord.*" (crusade at Blaisedell, Hawaii Jan.10.2002)

Bob Jones (who was one of the original Kansas city prophets) also states that his alleged healing power came upon him when he was struck by lightning and saw "*a ball of fire danced all over that basement, and didn't hurt me. But from that time forth my hands worked funny.... Anytime God is going to start a fire, he starts it with lightning. And you can take a little of that fire and impart it wherever it is needed. And it will start a God's fire*" (Bob Jones, Visions and Revelations, 1988.)

It is Bible Doctrine that gets burnt up right on the spot by these unbiblical supernatural experiences.

Jessie-Penn Lewis in the book "War on the Saints" records a Minister during the Revival in Wales writing, "*The counterfeit of the Presence of God is mainly felt upon the body, and by the physical senses, in conscious "fire," "thrills," etc... The person affected by this counterfeit will be moved almost automatically to actions he would not perform of his own will, and with all his faculties in operation. He may not even remember what he has done under the "power" of this "presence"* (Jessie-Penn Lewis War On the Saints, p.153).

Considering how we see Benny Hinn (and others) act under compulsion from this fire it would fit this description perfectly.

Toronto was all about catching the fire ...Choo Thomas who wrote about going to heaven. She attended Toronto and later said, in "*1994 He anointed me my entire body with Holy Fire, then a month later, He showed me with His visual presence at the church during worship service.*" *We read of the occult ascended masters: "Beings called Yan yin, Mary Diana angels of*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



sacred fire, the legions of the angelic hosts all are called upon for service and power to release and distribute the flame.

Hall said "this divine healing precious and priceless substance is the light of fire of life substance of the Holy Ghost from Jesus Christ. (Fasting and prayer)

The Occult "I AM presence"

In the occult, calling upon the "I AM Presence," is activated as a purifying fire to burn undesirable personal conditions away (much like many are calling for the baptism of fire. A wide variety of decrees for handling both personal and social situations are used by I AM students. Most controversial are the several negative decrees which target specific conditions for annihilation, to be blasted from existence.

The "I AM Presence" is invoked by the use of repetitive decrees, affirmations which are commands for the "I AM Presence" to initiate action. In calling upon the "I AM Presence," the violet flame pictured around each person is activated as a purifying fire to burn undesirable personal conditions away. A wide variety of decrees for handling both personal and social situations are used by I AM students. (The purpose of ascended masters "I AM activity" (Mrs. G. and D. Ballard).

In calling upon the "I AM Presence," the violet flame pictured around each person is activated as a purifying fire to burn undesirable personal conditions away. (what is called sin?)

Notice the concept of repeating decrees, i.e. fire, fire, fire in these occult decrees. Phrases like "come now, come now, come now," or "burn, burn, burn," or "consume, consume, consume" would be repeated. They are summoning angels that are not of God to do psychic spiritual work in the earth. In this occult practice Saint Germaine, one of the many ascended masters is called upon specifically for healing fire, as he is the guardian of the violet ray for the ascended

masters. The flame is able to extinguish illnesses and balance and prosper any situation.

"The more you understand the reality and the presence, the more you can accept the presence of these healing violet flame angels, the closer, they will come and the greater their strength and power of that sacred fire wrapped around you" (I Am Healing Decrees, Saint Germaine press 1976 p.6)

An angel of fire is also mentioned in Gnostic writings. We find angels of power being mentioned throughout various occult practices. In the occult worldview there is certain forces of nature used, four elements (fire, air, water, earth) *"The Holy Spirit ... is the ingredient of Life which is the Fire of Cosmos"* (Climb the Highest Mountain pp.346).

"[T]hose who seek to evoke the Shamballa force, are approaching close to the energy of fire" (Esoteric Astrology, 1st ed. [1951], pp. 586-587).

To evoke is much like decreeing or repeating or speaking into the heavenlies what you want to come to pass.

The prophets of the new apostolic order are also teaching about this fire and sending fire.

Dutch Sheets: *"this joining the river and the fire figures that one out we only heard last night about it being a river of fire."* (Dutch Sheets, National School of The Prophets, Mobilizing the Prophetic Office May 12, 2000)

Mike Bickle at the same conference proclaims, *"Loose then spirit of burning! Fire! Fire! Fire! Fire!"* (Mike Bickle May 12, 2000 National School of the Prophets)

Uncannily they all seem to be same thing even though it is unbiblical.

Cindy Jacobs speaking at the National School of the Prophets asks Mike Bickle to share: *"In*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Daniel 7:10, the fiery stream, or the river of fire that breaks fourth out of the throne of God, I believe is the person of the Holy Spirit. And when the fire comes forth, the fire is not just judgment. The fire is the revelation of the burning desire of God's heart for people. Now, with that burning desire, when rebellion rises up against it, the fire removes that which hinders love, and we call it judgment. But the fire breaks forth. His name is the Holy Spirit, and when this fire comes through history, Malachi 3 says, "The forerunners at the end of the age are going to loose the burning fire." The spirit of burning is the manifestation through the House of God in prayer, of this river of fire called the Holy Spirit. And this thing broke out in the early church in the upper room in Acts chapter two. The river of fire broke in upon them in Acts 2. Tongues of fire baptizing them afresh. It's the anointing of the forerunner's spirit, and the thing ends in Revelation chapter 15. On the sea of glass, worshipping God, mingled in flaming fire with the harps of God in our hands. The church, the bride of Christ, that got a down payment in Acts 2, a room of a hundred and twenty with fire, is going to end up with these thousands and thousands and thousands, Revelation 15, verse 2 and 3, mingled with the same fire of Acts 2, the river of God, the Holy Spirit, clothing us with fire, bringing us into that kind of union, that intimate bridal partnership that we call intercessory worship. Amen."

(Cindy Jacobs speaking again) *"Hallelujah! The Holy Spirit is fire and where does He abide? In here. That we begin to decree and declare what's going to happen. There's gonna be a fiery issue out of our mouths. The fire of God. The glory of fire, the Holy Fire, whatever you want to call it. The fire of the living God that came in us at Pentecost, you see, we just didn't receive tongues, we received fire at Pentecost. And the fire of the Holy Spirit is coming. And it's going to issue out from us into the nations of the earth" "Lord, we declare the fire that is released, the fire, the Michael force of angels is going in, come down, we cry out."*

Amazingly she is saying nearly the same thing that the I AM society of ascended masters say about the fire and angels.

Cindy speaking again. *"Father, in Jesus' name we decree and declare that you're going to carry this back, for the, for the anointing of revival. We speak of fire, God, right now. Right now, right now, fire of God. Ho, ho, ho, ho, ho. Yeah, yeah, the fire of God. The fire of God. We release it and we declare it."... Lift up your hands. "Receive the fresh fire for the nations," says the Lord. Fresh fire. Just coming, fresh fire. A new fire for the nations. "I'm sending you fire," says the Lord. "A fresh new fire is coming down." She then looses the fire all over the world, Hong Kong, Australia, South Africa... "Now let the fire come. Let the fire come. California, wave your hands at me. Where are you? The fire of God is falling on you right now. Ohh. Hallelujah. It's a holy mess. It's a glorious disarray. When God is comes he shakes everything up. Let the fire come. Oh, yeah, yeah. More fire. Let the fire burn. Let the fire fall. Come on. Hallelujah. Let the fire fall. Ohh, let the fire fall. Ohh, hallelujah, Lord. Hallelujah. Mike Bickel, come here. Now I want you to loose that intimacy, that bridegroom thing, with the fire upon him."*

The Lord showed me the fire. You see, that's what happening. You don't understand. We, we don't understand about the Holy Spirit. We're talking about the river of God, but this river of fire, we don't understand be baptized in fire. We don't understand this part of Pentecost. We don't understand what happened, and out of that fire, what happened." (Thursday, May 11th, 2000 National School of the Prophets tape #6).

The word fire was repeated hundreds of times ad nausea.

John Bevere refers to seeing this experience from waves of God's presence, *"I watched one young girl, no more than seven years old, wring her hands profusely as though they were on fire. Her uplifted face was bathed in tears as she*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



cried out. You could sense God on these children so strongly that the ushers did not touch them after initially helping them. They just stood, watched, and cried" (p.6 A Heart Ablaze, John Bevere)

Is this supposed to be a good thing? What scripture do we reference for this?

The "fire" theme is an old - but persistently revisited Pentecostal cliché. Benjamin Irwin founded the Fire Baptized Holiness Church in 1895, claiming to impart a "baptism of fire" in which people would see balls of fire or feel burning in their bodies.

Franklin Hall said *"To those "not accepting this invitation into Holy Ghost Light of fire, there is but one alternative: the opposite to light is DARKNESS. The Light (if Life will be to them a blinding and consuming fire of destruction!"* (Hall's emphasis) (Subdue The Earth, Rule The Nations, p. 57 Hall.)

Al Dager comments, *"Many prominent teachers credit the empowerment for their ministries (especially healing ministries) in his book on fasting and prayer. It's clear that Hall's teachings are a blend of occultism with Christianity. And since his teachings formed the basis of those that came after, and since the influence of those teachings upon neo-Pentecostalism is so great, close scrutiny of every ministry they touched is necessary"* (excerpted from Al Dager's work on Latter Rain and Kingdom Theology.)

"Forerunners of FIRE are emerging now. The real and fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit with fire will soon spread to the corners of the earth bringing the manifest presence and power of God into view of all. It will bring great empowerment to the humble and sudden destruction to the pride and loftiness of man. The progressive transformation to the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven is now being clearly seen by God's people. The gospel of the kingdom is restored and being widely proclaimed. The FIRE of the Spirit of Christ is

coming upon Holy Spirit-indwelled people bringing God-empowered LIFE (Ron McGatlin, "1. God's Kingdom Tribal Lifestyle: Part 3 – Spirit to spirit: Chapter 7 - THE FIRE OF GOD COMES," OpenHeaven.com Digest, Nov. 4, 2011. Posted by Herescope)

Kirkpatrick, pastor of Brownsville Assembly of God in Pensacola. . . *"After a time I told the people to stand to their feet and get ready for the fire of God to fall, for where sin is removed, there is where the fire falls," Reid said. "I also told them that what God was doing in Pensacola, He was going to do at East Calhoun. We stepped out in faith, and the fire of God fell. People were slain in the Spirit wall to wall," Reid described, "Some were shouting, dancing, jerking, and falling beneath the power of God."* (Lesia Henderson, "Revival Fires Burn In Small Georgia Town." (Charisma, June 1999), p. 24 quoted in "[Anointing - or Apostasy ? The Latter Rain Legacy by Charles Graves](#)")

What Does the New Testament Say about fire?

Is it biblical to say there is a fire anointing or a baptism of fire? It's crucial to find this out lest you receive another spirit masquerading as the Holy Spirit that gives you an experience to convince you. The Bible speaks of trials like fire in our lives to mature us in faith but it does not once tell us about an experience of fire, having a burning sensation as if it were a function of the Holy Spirit. Yet Scripture does mention a baptism of fire.

I sympathize with people who have gone for this. As a new Christian I too prayed for the baptism of fire not knowing what I was asking. When I was trained in the Word I found this was not a good thing and quickly abandoned it.

The Bible says, "There is ... one baptism" (Eph. 4:4-5). This can only mean Spirit baptism that puts a believer in the body of Christ and the Spirit in the believer (1Cor.12:13). Where do we have an example of any apostle or anyone in

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



the church baptized by fire? There is NO fire anointing, or fire baptism for the believer from God.

Jesus said in Luke 12:49 "*I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!*" This will take place at his second coming to set up his kingdom. "In flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thess. 1:8-10).

No Christian should be passing a fire to another believer or receiving it, it is exclusive for unbelievers at the judgment. Nor can they pass on the Spirit.

Fire as they were teaching is not a Bible concept for the believer, occult energies are like fire. Being formerly involved in the new age movement I experienced the energy released in spiritual experiences and they are just like what I see taking place in these revivals. There is no biblical precedent for this and the energy does not set one free but brings them into bondage.

Fire was associated with judgment. The only apostles who wanted to bring fire down like Elijah were John and James. Jesus rebuked them when they wanted to call down fire "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. "For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them" (Luke 9:55-56). In the epistles fire is also linked to judgment, We are to "save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh" (Jude 23). Do you know what spirit these men are? Have you tested them by the Word of God?

Hinn reminiscent of John and James says "*You know what days these are? The days of Elijah. We are in the days of Elijah! Fire is falling down from heaven!*" (May 24th, 2000 - This Is Your Day)

Is it? In Elijah's day fire fell once and consumed the altar and the sacrifice given to a false god,

what kind of fire is falling today service after service on Christians?

Hinn is like those before him, that speak of a fire on believers.

We see the disciples baptized in the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 (fulfilling what John said) but we never see the baptism of fire. No one received a baptism of fire or felt fire. This fire only appears once in the New Testament (on the day of Pentecost as a one time event with the apostles gathered together with the people), almost all the other times fire is mentioned it's of judgment. (the glory of God appeared above their heads this one time only to validate to them this was the promise of God fulfilled).

What actually is the baptism of fire?

Matthew 3:10-11: "*Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*" Fire is God's judgment V.12 "*He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.*"

In Matthew 3:11-12, (also Luke 3:16, 17) John was speaking to a mixed multitude-believers and unbelievers-he mentions both the baptism of the Spirit and the baptism of fire. When, he was speaking to believers only, the baptism of fire is not mentioned (Mark 1:8).

John who is preparing the people to receive the Messiah is juxtaposing believers with unbelievers. John says that Jesus will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (believers) and fire (non-believers). It is NOT the Holy Spirit AND fire or the Holy Spirit that IS the fire. John continues by saying that Jesus will gather His wheat into the barn BUT burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire, (which Jesus later describes as a fire that is never quenched Mk.9:43-).

John 15:6 "*If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



they are burned." Jesus is speaking about branches not connected with him that did not produce fruit.

It is the tares that are associated with the fire. Both those who do not abide in Jesus or those who do not bear good fruit (which comes by abiding) experience fire.

John (Matthew 3:11-12) distinguishes his baptism (by water) and the Messiahs baptism of the Holy Spirit that came later in Act 1:4-5, Acts 2:2-4 on the Day of Pentecost when believers were baptized into the body of Christ. No true believer will ever experience the baptism of fire. The believers are to be baptized by the Holy Spirit ONLY, it is the unbelievers that are baptized by fire.

To be baptized **with fire**. Luke 3:17, makes it clear that the baptism of **fire** is a baptism of judgment, it is for the chaff. There the Lord is pictured as a winnowing of grain. The chaff is blown off the sides of the threshing floor. Then it is swept up together and burned. Matthew 3:12 the wheat is gathered into the barn; the chaff is burned up with with unquenchable fire.

Here is how Jesus explains it in a parable. Matt 13:24-30: "Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;" but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way." But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. "*So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'*" He said to them, "*An enemy has done this.*" The servants said to him, "*Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'*" "*But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.'* Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "*First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.*"

Matt 13:36-40 And His disciples came to Him, saying, "*Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.*" He answered and said to them: "*He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. "The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. "The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. "Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age."*

Luke 3:17 Jesus says they "will burn with unquenchable fire" (see also Heb. 10:27; II Thess. 1:8). The word is asbestos (#762) - used of eternal hell fire to punish the condemned.

Mark 9:43-44 Jesus speaks of hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched--"where 'Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.' Fire is not quenched is the same word in Greek-asbestos.

Each time fire is used it is a warning from Jesus. Jesus repeats this for numerous continual sins. We need to look at Jesus' other statements to come to grips with what this means. Luke 12:49: "I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! He was talking about the end of the age with judgment.

In the Judgment Jesus says 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels' (Matthew 25:41).

Matthew 13:40: "Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age." This is after the 2nd coming when Jesus judges the nations, He separates the sheep from the goats (Matthew 24:31 he sends his angels to gather the elect.

The fire is clearly about the eternal judgment of God. God's people will not see that fire. The whole order of things is burned.

What kind of fire do we need? God says Jeremiah 23:29: "*Is not My word like a fire?*"

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



says the LORD, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?" The Word is a fire that would remove all this false teaching.

This fire falling in gatherings today can certainly be understood as strange fire, since there is no descriptions or even a hint of it on the bodies of people, on the day of Pentecost it was seen above the disciples heads, not felt.

The Bible has a lot to say about strange fire, is a coincidence that the new revival promoters say fire? I think not. It began with fire and it just may end in fire in the chaff, something to really think about.

Many describe this feeling of transference as well in their hand as did Branham. He had his first experiences with fire.

"As the light was spreading. . . I became excited and started from the chair, but as I looked up, there hung that great star. However, it did not have five points like a star, but looked more like a ball of fire or light shining down upon the floor." (From "A Man Sent By God" by William Branham)

Branham would later describe watching a Pillar of fire move around the building from one person to another when praying for the sick. *"He accordingly went out into the woods and falling upon his knees called for a long time upon the Lord for wisdom and knowledge. While engaged in prayer a light appeared in the heavens, and descended until it rested upon the trees where he was. It appeared like fire. But to his great astonishment, did not burn the trees. An angel then appeared to him and conversed with him upon many things."* Is this William Branham? No, its William Smith describing Joseph Smith's experience in the woods (William Smith On Mormonism, By William Smith, Joseph Smith's brother. p. 5 (1883).

The pillar of fire is not just found in the pages of the Bible, in fact many people claim to have experienced a pillar of flames or fire. In

Mormonism *"The Angel Moroni, descended in a brilliant pillar of light and repeatedly instructed Joseph in the next steps of the restoration of the true gospel Smith, claimed to have been led by angel to the spot where the golden plates on which the Book of Mormon had been written were buried. Some of the witnesses of the Book of Mormon, who handled the plates gave testimony they conversed with the angels of God"* (Journal of Discourses:164 1859).

This shows one can be deceived even if something spiritual takes place. In fact it will nearly always be accompanied by something supernatural.

Joseph Smith described his encounter in a similar way *"**A pillar of fire appeared above my head; which presently rested down upon me... A personage appeared in the midst of this pillar of flame, which was spread all around and yet nothing consumed.**"* Another personage soon appeared like the first: he said unto me thy sins are forgiven thee. He testified also unto me that Jesus Christ is the son of God. *"I saw many angels in this vision"* (The Papers of Joseph Smith: Autobiographical and Historical Writings, Vol. 1, pp. 125-127).

It is necessary to know that Branham was well acquainted with Mormonism *"I've been in their temples many times."* (54-0515 Question and answer)

"In 1993, Dr. Cho, pastor of the world's largest church in Seoul, Korea was conducting a meeting in Seattle, Washington. He was praying for revival in America. "God are you going to send revival to America, or is she destined for judgment?" While he was praying the Lord told him to get a map of America. He did so and the Holy Spirit told him to point his finger at the map. As he did, he felt his finger drawn to the Florida panhandle and to the city of Pensacola. "I am going to send revival to the seaside city of Pensacola and it will spread like a fire until all of America has been consumed by it," said the Lord to Dr. Cho. Dr. Cho shared his experience

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



with others and the word predictably spread to many of the pastors in the Pensacola area." (Brownsville Revival web site at: <http://www.brownsville-revival.org/choprop.html>)

A fire catches onto anything that will burn, it is indiscriminate on what it will destroy.

Wrapped in fire

In "The baptism of fire" DVD by Emerson Ferrell, husband of Ana Mendez - Ferrell, (a general in Peter Wagner's apostolic spiritual warfare army), he advertises it as:

"Many Christians believe that the most important thing Jesus did was to die on the cross and be resurrected. Although this was necessary for our salvation, Jesus' purpose did not stop there.

Before the fall of Adam, Adam lived in God. Once sin took place Adam was separated and lived outside of God and humanity needed to be restored.

*In this powerful DVD by Emerson Ferrell, learn how being Baptized in the Holy Spirit **and fire** restores you in Christ."*

Emerson gives lip service to Jesus' death on the cross. How do I know this ... On their website is posted a portion of the DVD ... With a background of dramatic music Emerson states: ***"Its more important than the crucifixion... more important than the resurrection... The baptism of the Holy Spirit is more important than anything else in the Bible. The power of the Holy Spirit is so beyond what we have imagined. When you start to honor the presence of the Holy Spirit your going to see amazing things happen inside of you. Because when the Holy Spirit starts to reside inside of you, you start to have two spirits instead of one."***

"And he's going to baptize you in a new dimension. Jesus understood his purpose, and you need to understand your purpose. You must reveal the righteousness of Christ in the earth wherever you go. When you start to see yourself

baptized in the fire of God your not afraid of anything, ..."

"Being baptized in the Holy Spirit is not just to give you a language, It's to give you the authority and the power to perform all righteousness in the kingdom of God wherever you go."

It ends showing the book "the Baptism of fire." http://www.voiceofthelight.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=82&Itemid=151

Emerson says, this is more important than Jesus dying for sin and resurrecting! More important than the GOSPEL that ALONE saves us! This is more than a deviation from sound doctrine – by Biblical standards it is heresy! The sacrifice of Jesus (His blood) is THE central theme throughout the Scripture. Sacrifices were from Adam on until the last one Jesus Christ died for the redemption of mankind. The baptism of the Spirit is not prophesied since Adam, apart from a few mentions of the Spirit in Ezekiel and Isaiah the baptism of the Spirit is a New Testament introduction, and that is not a baptism of fire.

In fact we wouldn't have a Spirit baptism without believing the gospel (Jesus' death and resurrection). To tell people the Holy Spirit baptism is greater than all diminishes the work of Gods salvation by Jesus Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. But to be accurate what he is describing as a baptism of fire isn't the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Let me ask you, are we going to be in heaven praising the baptism or Jesus and what He did to save us? One only needs to read Revelation 7:10;19:1 to see the answer.

If you are baptized in fire the Bible says you are chaff and going to hell. No disciple was baptized in fire, but in the Holy Spirit (see the book of Acts).

Churches were permanently changed and continued to go further away from Scripture by

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



pursuing fresh revelation. But to understand what they are promoting as the new and improved version we need to understand the original. The Latter Rain movement that started in 1948 influenced almost all Pentecostal churches. We can look back on this and see the revival was short but did not produce what they had hoped for. Today there is a whole new armada of Latter Rain believers to bring to life what went dormant. The original Latter Rain in the beginning of the 20th century left a small bridge for those to walk back to. Because of the Latter Rain interpretation of God pouring out his spirit on all flesh NOW, via visions and dreams, the church has been reshaped. Now there is a drought of teaching the truth of the actual word; expository preaching is lacking, instead of equipping people for giving the gospel to answer the religious and secular opposition they face people the focus is on experiences, power, dreams and visions for themselves.

On the Scripture "*behold I will send you Elijah the prophet*" Bill Hamon, a Latter Rain promoter from the 40's and part of the new apostolic reformers of Peter Wagner calls this a John the Baptist group. "*In our generation, years ending with eight have been significant in restoration movements - in 1948, the Latter Rain Restoration Movement began* (Hamon *Prophetic Scriptures Yet to be Fulfilled*)

Bill Hamon "*John came in the power and spirit of the PROPHET Elijah. Just as one PROPHET, John the baptist prepared the way for Christ's first coming, now a COMPANY OF PROPHETS will prepare the way for Christ's second coming. That COMPANY OF PROPHETS is being raised up in the 1980s. God revealed to me that there are 10,000 PROPHETS on the North American continent alone being prepared to be released within the Church. This COMPANY OF PROPHETS will come forth in the power and spirit of Elijah. They, as a corporate body of PROPHETS, will fulfill the prophecy of Malachi in relation to Christ's second coming as John the Baptist fulfilled it in relation to Christ's first coming. A*

single PROPHET prepared the way for the Messiah of Israel and Redeemer of mankind. The COMPANY OF PROPHETS will prepare the way for Jesus the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. *The one PROPHET prepared the way for Jesus to come and usher in the Church Age; the many PROPHETS will prepare the way for Jesus to come and usher in the kingdom age* ("Prophets And Personal Prophecy").

There are approximately 6,000 years of recorded biblical history not more than 30 individuals are named in Scripture as God's prophets. Even with more that are unnamed it is over a very lengthy period of history.

We are told God revealed 10,000 Elijah type prophets. Wow, one would be enough, in fact the Bible says only one, but Hamon has new revelation that speaks a new interpretation of this Old Testament verse.

Hamon's revelation is more in concert with the warning of Jesus who said in Matthew 24:11-12 "*Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.*" V.24 "*For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.*"

What began with Branham as the single individual is applied to the many.

Dr. Bill Hamon explains, "*The restoration of the Elijah Company of the prophets is so dear to the heart of Jesus, for it will be this company of the last day prophets that prepare the way for His Second Coming ... the prophets will also help restore and call forth Apostles of power and restoration for the Church unity and perfection...*" (source discernment ministries newsletter Mar/Apr. 1993).

This "Elijah Company" consists of many who plan to set up the Kingdom here on the earth first, after this is accomplished they will be cordial enough to invite Jesus to come to sit on the throne.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Branham's Latter Rain teaching

Branham taught on Joel 2:23 as the "Latter Rain" he identified it as the neo-Pentecostalism of his time. He taught that God's promised to restore what the locust, cankerworm, caterpillar, and palmerworm had eaten, would be the "restoration" of the Church out of denominationalism, which he taught was the mark of the beast in the Book of Revelation. Anyone belonging to any denomination had taken "the mark of the beast." He openly preached the non-Trinitarian views of the Jesus Only Pentecostals. Clearly looking back on this one can deduce he was more than just wrong.

The Latter Rain was not something Branham occasionally mentioned... *The former rain, the first one, when He was here, come down into this group that people thinks is crazy, and confirming that the latter rain has been poured out in these last years, and has formed this great full Gospel church. The former rain's moved right into it like God said and will both be in the same month. Here we are: former rain with the latter rain.* (59-1122, Who Is This?, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, San Jose, Ca)

"So the hour has come for the repeat of the Bible, and the fulfilling of the Word. Now, God promised that He was going to send a former rain and a latter rain. And He promised the former and the latter rain in the latter rain, in other words, a double portion. Like the garment of Elisha. When Elijah dropped it, Elisha picked up and had a double portion. He was a type as a type of the Church and Christ. Christ was taken up. And the same Spirit that was upon Christ is on the Church tonight, the Holy Ghost. See?" (48-0304, The Angel Of God, Phoenix, AZ)

He prayed for it *"O God, send the rain, former and latter rain together that the trees might grow, O Lord, coming up in this blistered sin-cursed, damnable world, may it be done to fulfill which was spoken by the prophet Joel. I believe that You'll do it."* (53-0612, Palmerworm,

Locust, Cankerworm, Caterpillar, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN)

"And the hour has come now that when the great drama picture of God set forth of the latter rain. Joel said, "In the last days, it shall come to pass, that I'll pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; ... Jesus said in there, "These things that I do, you shall do, and greater than this, for I go unto My Father." (49-1225, The Deity Of Jesus Christ, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)
"But God in this last days is sending the latter rain now (That's right.), the power of the Holy Ghost coming back. ...

But there's a new birth coming on. The latter rain's being poured out in these last days: power, signs and wonders... and God's pouring out the latter rain upon us. And it's bringing forth fruits of what: healing, salvation, baptism of the Holy Ghost, restoration of the gifts, all these different things, manifestations are coming; it's on this tree over here, just as fundamental, both of them are, but God is a vindicating this one with the restoration of the gifts ... I say this today, if you believe me to be God's servant, you are now living in the day of the restoration of the faith that was once delivered to the saints, living under the power of the latter rain of the Holy Ghost Church that's raising up today..." (53-0830A, Why I Am A Holy-Roller, Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, Chicago, IL)

"And isn't it just the same Holy Spirit tonight, if He promised He would send in the last days these things? Did He promise He would send this in the last days, "and it shall come to pass in the last days," saith God? ... then He promised the former rain and the latter rain. And we're living now, have been for years, under the latter rain." (50-0405, Expectation, Glad Tidings Tabernacle, New York, NY)

"Then, in His sovereign mercy in the last days, as He promised, when the last days... "I will pour out My Spirit." There'd be a former and latter rain; and in the latter days, He would send forth a great blessing to the people.." (51-0718,

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



The Angel Of The Lord, Civic Auditorium, Toledo, OH

"... He promised that the things that He did, that He would grant it also, and there'd be a former and a latter rain, and in this last days that these things would come to pass." (51-0727, The Church Of The Living God, National Guard Armory, Erie, PA)

"We're on the verge, brother. Somebody's come back from Canaan; the grapes are good. It's our land. God give it to us. We can take it, God said so, didn't He? God said we had it; it's ours. And we're living in the last days; don't you believe it? He said, "In the last days I'll send down the rain in abundance like that. Both former and latter rain will fall in this day. And what they had back there plus what God's going to give us is right now at hand... If they want to push back, let them push back. But we're going forward. Amen. It's ours. God said, "It's yours; now go in there and take it" (53-1213E, Faith, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL)

Here we see the result of the Latter Rain, kingdom now dominionsim.

"we call it the former rain and the latter rain. And it's a rain, pouring out of God's Spirit, upon His Church." (65-0725M, The Anointed Ones At The End Time, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Have we, or, are we seeing the Latter Rain that the book of Joel predicted? Let's pause to get the actual truth from the Scripture of what the Latter Rain actually is.

There are **three facets** to keep in mind to have a correct interpretation of (Acts 2:17) which refers to (Joel 2, 3).

1. **Time**
2. **Place**
3. **Recipients**

All three need to be accurate to determine if in fact this Latter Rain outpouring has or is taking place.

1. **Time** - This occurs in the tribulation period near the end, so it is impossible for this to be happening now.
2. **Place** - It begins in Israel specifically Mt. Zion (Jerusalem).
3. **Recipients** - It is to the Jewish people first, primarily for them to be saved.

If all three elements are not taking place then it has not happened as the Scripture records and it is not fulfilled prophecy.

Latter Rain adherents have a movement that believes in a last day's revival unlike any other in history. This revival they speak of is for the church to have power. They incorrectly apply eschatological passages specifically for Israel to the church. The common mistake is taking the Scripture in (Acts 2:17) which says: '*God will pour out His Spirit on all flesh,*' to substantiate what is happening in the new revivals today. This is not the meaning of this verse and cannot be applied today for the above mentioned reasons.

If we go back to the book of Joel, we find that the timing of these events are just before the great and dreadful Day of the Lord, which is the day He, Jesus comes back (Armageddon). The location where this takes place is the land of Israel. The people being referred to are the Jews. Peter himself is in Jerusalem and speaking to the Jews at Pentecost. (Joel 3 states: '*for behold in those days and in that time...*') It then goes on to speak of Armageddon and judgment). This is also mentioned earlier in (Joel 2:10-11). So we see that this is speaking specifically to the Jewish nation concerning a future event. What Peter is referring to in Acts 2 does not include all of what is to happen in Joel 2-3. It is a partial fulfillment at Peter's time and the complete fulfillment will be at this later date. There is a main similarity that Peter explains, to say this is what Joel spoke of - it has to do with the pouring

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



out of the Spirit (a manifestation of the Spirit among the Jewish brethren).

We should also notice that Peter quotes Joel, mentioning that the sun is darkened and the moon is turned to blood-red: *'Blood and pillars of smoke before the coming of the great and terrible Day of the Lord.'* This is referring to a specific time – a future event. Those at Pentecost were experiencing a glimpse, a taste of what would happen by the Spirit at the end of the tribulation period, which would bring revival to Israel as a nation.

All of the book of Joel is uniquely linked to the national salvation of the Jews preceding Christ's return which takes place in the Tribulation period. In (Joel 2:23), we find the phrase 'the Latter Rain' that has been used and is still being ascribed to revival: *'Be glad then you children of Zion and rejoice in the Lord your God, for He has given you the former rain faithfully and He will cause the rain to come down for you.'* The former rain and the latter rain is in September, the first month of the fall feast days. *"The threshing floor shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.'* The fall feast days begin in September in the Jewish calendar, it is a harvest time.

In Joel 2:27, the phrase 'former rain' is used in the spring, and the 'Latter Rain' denotes the autumn. In Israel you have two rainy seasons called the former and later rain. At the end of the spring rain you had a harvest that was for grain, at the end of the Autumn season you had a harvest which was for fruit. But you also have a long hot summer in Israel. Israel basically has two seasons. Israel is agriculturally reliant on its water supply because it doesn't rain in summer. To understand this now spiritually. The former rain, the latter rain are two rains and they correspond to the 7 feast days given in (Lev 23). In the first portion, the former rain, 4 feasts of Israel were fulfilled in the spring season by Jesus' first coming, the last feast was Pentecost. The last three feasts come after the summer season of planting. They will be completed by

his 2nd coming, as He literally comes to earth to bring His kingdom and rule to the nations.

The clock is now stopped and we are in the time of the Gentiles and it corresponds to the summer period on the Jewish calendar, the in between time of planting for the last harvest. It is a time of working and plowing the ground getting the land ready for the next great harvest. In the end the 2nd rain is greater because it is both the former season and latter season *together*. Many Jews were saved in the beginning of the Church and all will be saved in the end as Romans 11:26 says. This is the spiritual application of former and latter of the two rains. It is the Latter Rain that is so abundant that it is like two seasons put together. This Spirit is poured out primarily on Israel, they are first to be affected. On Pentecost three thousand were saved at this first harvest, after this he says (Joel 2:28), He pours out His Spirit on all flesh. What flesh? Specifically all of Israel's for their salvation. In (Acts 2) The words 'your sons, your daughters, your old men, and your young men' are all referring to the fact that God is speaking to Israel then and also in the future. When Peter quoted this, it was to the Jews who were there in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost. The future fulfilment also refers to the Jews in Israel. This is not directly applied to the unsaved Gentiles but to all the flesh of Israel (Rom.11:25).

(Zech. 12:10): *"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they have pierced; they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son."*

The timing of this event is in the Tribulation (Joel 2:31) before the great and awesome day of the Lord. In (Rev. 6:12) it relates this event with the sixth seal of the tribulation. It is the remnant that calls upon his name.

(Joel 3:1) says "in those days" and "at that time." This describes the time period which leads to Armageddon, as all the nations are gathered into the valley of Meggido for battle and judgment. In (Joel 3:12-15) God enters into

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



judgment which is found in (Rev.14:18). In (Joel 3:13) he puts in the sickle for the harvest (found in Rev.19:15). In (Joel 3:15) the sun and moon grow dark and the stars become dim (also found in Mt. 24:29, Rev. 6:12). It is in these days that the complete fulfilment will occur.

The only way one can apply this to any revival today in the church is to spiritualize or allegorize this passage, removing it from its actual intended context. Which changes its meaning. Which is exactly what we find these teachers for the new revival doing, as they apply it to themselves. Joel's book is about the tribulation period and Israel, so there is no justification for his prophecy being fulfilled before the Tribulation or toward the Church today. Once one accepts the Latter Rain being poured out on the church now, instead of Israel later. They become open to all kinds of false teachings.

Branham taught the Latter Rain is for the church which is what is being taught today. "...we're living in the very day that God has promised that He'd pour out His Spirit on the Gentile Church. He poured out His Spirit upon the Hebrew Church that day at the beginning at the day of Pentecost. He said, "There'd be a former rain and the latter rain." The two different people, the Jew and the Gentile. And in this last days, He'd pour out His Spirit upon the Gentile Church" (56-0902, The Handwriting On The Wall, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

The error is that the Spirit is poured on the Jewish people FIRST for Salvation, not the church that believes. This is how we know this is not the genuine Latter Rain. The Latter Rain is actually for unbelievers, not the church. It begins in Israel, not by Branham's ministry and not by the Sharon's orphanage in Canada.

Branham not only told people were to experience the Latter Rain he told the people it was now!

"There'd be a former and latter rain together. We are seeing it. We should believe with all of

our heart. Here's His Word; It proves it. His Spirit comes nightly, shows the supernatural, knowing that it's got to be Spirit" (55-0817, Jehovah-Jireh, Unknown, Karlsruhe, Germany)

He said, "And it shall come to pass in the last days, I'll pour out My Spirit." ... And in the latter rain, both former and latter would come together," a double portion. Hallelujah. Then if we see what the former rain produced, how much more will the latter rain produce? When God pours out His Spirit, there'll be signs and wonders take place." (56-0405, The Resurrection Of Jesus, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL)

"Brother, if this is the latter rain, that must have been the former rain. Hallelujah. What is it? The same Holy Ghost, the same Pillar of Fire, the same Redeemer. Walking in the Light, moving on, what a time." (55-1007, The Power Of Decision, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

Branham said the Latter Rain was taking place "O God, truly, by stretching forth Thy hand to heal, that signs and wonders might be done in the last days to prove that this is the former and latter rain. The power of God is here. The Son shone at the day of Pentecost on the Eastern people. It's shining on the Western now. Thou art here today. You're here, for the closing hour, for even greater blessings, "for the former and latter rain should come together." (55-0731, The Uncertain Sound, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"The former rain, the first one, when He was here, come down into this group that people thinks is crazy, and confirming that the latter rain has been poured out in these last years, and has formed this great full Gospel church. The former rain's moved right into it like God said and will both be in the same month. Here we are: former rain with the latter rain." (59-1122, Who Is This?, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, San Jose, Ca)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"What you scared about? God promised these things in the last days, and we're seeing them. Wake up. The time of visitation is at hand, from the Lord, the refreshing that He promised: that both former and latter rain both would be poured out in the last day." (56-0427, Faith, Abundant Life Center, Charlotte, NC)

"The Pentecostal church is living in the final of all times. The time has come. The time has come for the signs to follow the believers. We're at the end time. We're in the latter rain." (56-1002A, Father, The Hour Has Come, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

Branham would pray for it come *"May it come again like it did years ago, Lord; bring forth the former and the latter rain together."* (59-1120, A Prophet Like Unto Moses, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, San Jose, Ca)

The Bible said, *"The Pentecostal church is living in the final of all times. The time has come. The time has come for the signs to follow the believers. We're at the end time. We're in the latter rain"* (56-1002A, Father, The Hour Has Come, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

"God promised these things in the last days, and we're seeing them. Wake up. The time of visitation is at hand, from the Lord, the refreshing that He promised: that both former and latter rain both would be poured out in the last day." (56-0427, Faith, Abundant Life Center, Charlotte, NC)

He described this as *"the Bible said in this last day there come a former and latter rain together. And today across the nations, from one--east to the west, from north to south, is one constant great revival of Divine healing, the powers of God. Hallelujah."* (56-0108, God Hath A Provided Way, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"But God in this last days is sending the latter rain now (That's right.), the power of the Holy Ghost coming back.... But there's a new birth

coming on. The latter rain's being poured out in these last days: power, signs and wonders.

... and God's pouring out the latter rain upon us. And it's bringing forth fruits of what: healing, salvation, baptism of the Holy Ghost, restoration of the gifts, all these different things, manifestations are coming; it's on this tree over here, just as fundamental, both of them are, but God is a vindicating this one with the restoration of the gifts. And the other ones are setting moaning and going on about it and saying we're a bunch of holy-rollers." (53-0830A, Why I Am A Holy-Roller, Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, Chicago, IL)

Branham's view was signs and wonders are proof of the Latter Rain, overlooking that there were always signs and wonders taking place in history. But more importantly he was neglecting Jesus' warning of signs and wonders in the latter times that would be FALSE.

"today across the nations, from one--east to the west, from north to south, is one constant great revival of Divine healing, the powers of God" (56-0108, God Hath A Provided Way, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville)

Branham's preaching of the Latter Rain

Branham began preaching about the coming Latter Rain movement and the manifest sons of God. As Branham explained it, God *"promised ... In the last days He'd pour out both former and latter rain."* (William Branham Web site)

"We've had a revival. ... We fuss so much about latter rain, had movements called latter rain; latter rain, former rain, inner rain, outer rain. I was reading the other day. Do you know what former rain means in the Hebrew word? I can't call it right now; I never wrote it down; it skipped my mind. But "former rain," the first rain, means "a rain of teaching." The second rain is the Spirit that comes upon what's been taught and produces the crop." (62-0705, Jehovah-Jireh #1, Municipal Auditorium, Grass Valley, CA)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



That is not what it means, the rain is literally related to the spring and fall season for the crops; when it is applied to salvation both rains come for the last harvest.

In response to a question, Branham made reference to the coming of Joel's Army. "Yes, Brother Copp, I am sure that you are referring to Joel's prophecy in the Old Testament, Joel 2:28, how that he prophesied that in the last days he would pour out his spirit upon all flesh, the sons and daughters would prophesy, the old man would dream dreams and the young men would see visions." Video broadcast on William Branham Web site <http://www.williambranham.com/>

"We--the Church in this day, that glorious Church that's to be here on earth when Jesus comes to receive a glorious Church... We're receiving the latter rain to pour out a double portion of the Holy Ghost is coming on the earth and is sweeping every nation, and revival fires are burning on every hill. In China and Japan, from Korea to dark Africa, and everywhere, the Holy Spirit is being poured out upon the people. God made a way." (56-0304, Making A Way, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Where does the New Testament speak of a double portion? It doesn't. Why? Because the spirit indwells the believer. According to the Bible the church is transformed into glory by Jesus' return. He comes for a holy church, set apart, not of the world, an unblemished church.

He said there would be "a church in these last days, that will receive both former and latter rain. It'll be scattered throughout the world in this Laodicean Age. It'll be a church that's called back to the original faith in God. It'll be a church that'll have Jesus Christ walking in it, manifesting Himself; the shout of the King will be in it...." (60-1113, Condemnation By Representation, Branham Tabernacle)

Branham later added himself into the proof of the Latter Rain with the activity of his personal angel. "the former rain coming over the latter

rain, east and west meeting together, both rains falling together, Divine healing plus the Angel of God revealing the secrets of the hearts and bringing everything to pass." (60-0308, Discernment Of Spirit, First Assembly Of God, Phoenix, AZ)

After a few years the Latter Rain movement was losing traction Branham began corrections and tried to distance himself from it, "they formed a little cult called the Latter Rain, moved up into Canada and out into California, but it fell through. 'Course it can't go. Why was it? The only thing they know; they come out of those things, and they got a little touch of it." (60-0911M, As I Was With Moses, So I Will Be With Thee, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Canada is where it began -- from him.

According to Branham this rain started just at the turn of the twentieth century. A return of dynamic power as many began to speak in tongues and manifest gifts of the Spirit. "It was then believed that this was indeed the long awaited RESTORATION. It was not, for the latter rain can come only after the former rain which is the spring or TEACHING rain. The latter rain, then, is the HARVEST rain. How could this be the real thing when the Teaching Rain had not come? The Prophet-Messenger who was to be sent to TEACH the people and turn the hearts of the children back to the Pentecostal fathers had not yet come. Thus what was thought to be the restoration and the final quickening unto the rapture had not come." (An Exposition of The Seven Church Ages)

It was Branham that was known as The Prophet-Messenger, the last messenger to the church. Toward the end of his life he said,

"I believe you're seeing the last thing that'll happen to the church before the rapture. That's exactly. I believe it. The rain is over. Just read the first three chapters of Revelations and you'll see what's promised to the church. That's what's

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



promised, church, right there--the church ages. You noticed the other day when we started them trumpets, the Holy Spirit said, "That don't belong here." See, see? (64-0823M, Questions And Answers #1, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham spoke of himself "Now I want you to be very careful here and see this. God has promised that at the end time Malachi 4 is going to be fulfilled. It has to be for it is the Spirit-quickened Word of God spoken by the prophet Malachi. Jesus referred to it. It is just before Christ comes the second time. By the time Jesus comes all Scripture must be fulfilled. The Gentile dispensation will be in its last church age when that messenger of Malachi comes. He will be right with the Word. He will take the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation. He will start at the serpent's seed and carry on to the messenger in the latter rain. But he will be rejected by the denominations." (An Exposition of The Seven Church Ages -Church Age Book)

Clearly Branham was insinuating himself.

"... Watch this carefully now to see it in the Word. John was the forerunner of Malachi 3. He planted the former rain and was rejected by the organizations of his day. Jesus came and had a Mount Transfiguration show down. The second forerunner of Christ will sow for the latter rain. Jesus will be the showdown between the denominations and creeds, for He will come to back up His Word and take His bride in the rapture." (Church Age Book)

"And the hour has come now that when the great drama picture of God set forth of the latter rain. Joel said, "In the last days, it shall come to pass, that I'll pour out My Spirit upon all flesh...." (49-1225, The Deity Of Jesus Christ, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham also believed this prophecy on the Latter Rain was repeated throughout church history.

"[W]e're expecting God to do great things with the Methodist people, to pour out His Spirit upon them again and give them another old fashion revival like they had in the days of--of Whitfield and Wesley, back in those days. And they were the latter rain of that day. That's right. They were the latter rain then. When the Baptist come along, they were the latter rain to them: it just keeps moving on down. And now, I guess we're all latter rains to the rest of them. After while, maybe, if Jesus tarries, there'll be more and more." (54-0321, What Think Ye Of Christ?, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL)

Is that what the Bible teaches about the Latter Rain or is this what Branham wanted it to teach to fit his message. The fact is more and more continue to make the same error.

I said, "Latter rain?" I said, "Mrs. McPherson was latter rain too." She was. She was the latter rain to the Assemblies. The Luther was the latter rain to the Catholic. The Baptist was the latter rain to Luther. The Methodists was the latter rain to them. The Pentecostals a latter rain to the Nazarenes. Latter rain, latter rain" (58-0617, Behold, I Stand At The Door And Knock, Textile Hall, Greenville, SC)

If they are all Latter Rain movements over hundreds of years than it is not the same LATTER RAIN that the Bible describes that begins in Jerusalem for Israel's salvation.

"Each one becomes a latter rain to the other. See, Luther was a latter rain to the Catholic. And John Wesley was the latter rain to Luther. The pentecost was the latter rain to the denomination. Now the Pentecostals are organized, now what's going to happen? See? See? See? (63-1117, Once More, The Rock Church, New York, NY)

That is what Branham thought he was doing, bringing unity to the Pentecostals preparing for return.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



The Bible said, "*Except there come a falling away, the man of sin won't reveal Himself.*" *The Pentecostal church is living in the final of all times. The time has come. The time has come for the signs to follow the believers. We're at the end time. We're in the latter rain.*" (56-1002A, Father, The Hour Has Come, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

"And He's coming on a white horse, and not a white cloud, or..." so forth, till the Holy Spirit's pulling right on out from that now (That's right.), coming out, and bringing the church, not into a latter rain or something, He's already in the latter rain." (60-0722, Watchman, What Of The Night?, Lake County Fairgrounds, Lakeport, CA)

Many wanted Branham to stay away from teaching but to keep to the signs and wonders, the words of knowledge and the healings. This is because when Branham began to teach what he actually believed, it made many people uncomfortable, worried.

But Branham's criteria for the Latter Rain that he claimed was taking place was teaching and signs and wonders together.

The Transformation of man on earth Manifest Sons of God

Branham taught before Adam fell he was made as a god to rule over the earth. "*Man was made to be a god. His domain is the earth. The whole earth's awaiting now for the manifestation of the sons of God to be made manifest.*" (60-0731)

"When He come, He fulfilled what the prophets said. And when He's coming in the last days in the latter rains of God, when both former and latter rain will be poured out, He's coming just exactly the way it was prophesied of Him: "It shall be Light in the evening time." What was to happen? Immanuel, the same Son, the same Light, the same God that come to dwell in flesh with His people at the day of Pentecost, will

come in the like manner in the last days, for it shall be evening Light. What is it? There shall be a sign, an everlasting sign: God with us, God in us, God through us, man and God becomes one." (59-1227M, A Super Sign, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Here Branham spoke of the manifest sons of God teaching that was incorporated in the Latter Rain teachings.

"God in you, like He was in Jesus Christ. Because, what all God was, He poured into Christ; and all Christ was, He poured into the Church. See, that's God in you, "He that's in you." (63-1110E, He That Is In You, Branham Tabernacle)

Branham said of Jesus "*He was the first Son of God to come to full maturity, to be in God.*" (65-0418M)

"He was a manifested Son of God. That's what we're to be one of these days." (61-0416)

"before Jesus comes again, the full manifestation of the person of Jesus Christ is to be manifested in flesh." (65-1206)

One of the key promoters of what is called the Manifest Sons of God doctrine that came out from the Latter Rain of the late 40's makes it plain "*I want you to know he's coming to the church before he comes FOR the church.*" (Paul Cain: Nov 88, Tape: "My Father's House")

Paul Cain, this "glory "will be seen visibly as in the days of old." I had thought that this is what happened with the tongues of fire over the apostles heads in the upper room on the day of Pentecost. ..."and I tell you God is going to suddenly appear in his House and the whole world is going to say 'don't try to lead me to your God, don't try to tell me where he is, I SEE him, he's living in you..." (Cain: November 1988. Tape: "Given As a Token")

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Were still waiting for this to be shown, not by talking. The manifestation of the Sons of God, which means the Lord is coming to his church but this time in power and glory to indwell his people, and be seen by all. It is likened to the return of the Ark to the Temple, or the return of the Shekinah Glory.

These concepts were carried by those under Cain. Bob Jones "His Son was Alpha Son, your children are the Omega sons and daughters." Mike Bickle interjects here, "Jesus was the beginning, but our children and us, we're included in this... we're the end of this thing." ("School of Prophecy")

Others were influenced from Franklin Hall, like O.L. Jagger's. He established a whole church teaching around this spirit outpouring, a new gospel. With the Golden altar, the 24 elders and a threefold way to be born again, which if received will bring the promise of bodily immortality now (see [Hawaii Universal world Church](#)). If you want to know the new thing that is being propagated today just listen to the older thing these men were teaching. Unfortunately none of these men were able to claim their immortality despite their teaching others on it. Only a few are still alive. Jagger and his wife are not one of them.

Those associated with Branham and the latter Rain continued to be involved in healing and miracle ministries. They adopted certain errors and developed them into further heresy (such as the seed faith of Oral Roberts).

One can hear the echo of Branham's experiences in the charismatics and Pentecostals that seek spiritual experiences today. They picked up on Branham's teachings and ran with it. Much of it is found in word faith teachings of those today. Some have more, some have less.

Benny Hinn, Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland, Creflo Dollar, Fred Price, Robert Tilton, Norvelle Hayes, Steve Munsey, Mike

Murdock, Jerry Savelle, Joyce Meyers, Marilyn Hickey, Morris Cerullo, Roberts Liardon, T.D. Jakes, Yonggi Cho, Francis Frangipane, Rod Parsley, Jesse Duplantis, R.W. Shambach, Rodney Browne, Kim Clement, Bill Hamon, Tommy Tenney, Gwen Shambling, John Bevere, Larry Hutch, Peter Wagner, Ray Mcauley, William Artega, Cindy Jacobs, Chuck Pierce, John Eckhardt, Earl Paulk. This is especially true for those in the Kansas City prophets that merged with Peter Wagner's modern apostolic and Prophetic movement. Paul Cain, Mike Bickle, Rick Joyner, Dutch Sheets, Jim Lafoon, Mary Crum, Barbara Yoder, Jack Deere, Ed Silvoso, the list can go on and on. In India and other countries he is extremely popular. Famous Indian Evangelists who followed William Branham's message and got re-baptized in the Lord Jesus Christ: Paulaseer Lawire (Manujothi Ashram), Dr. D.G.S Dinakaran (Jesus Calls), Dr. John Joseph (Christ for Every Soul).

It appears that one cannot rise to prominence without approving Branham. In fact it is as if his books and teachings are required reading in these circles.

The new Latter Rain Doctrines (of our day) are: The restoration of the office of the Apostle and Prophet to lead the Church. The Pastor, Teacher and Evangelist were to function under them. Restoration of all the supernatural gifts, especially prophecy (meaning a direct revealed word from God through His prophet or prophetess). The defeat of physical death by realized believers called Manifest Sons of God. The casting out demons from Christians and cleansing areas. The rejection of a rapture replaced with the dominion of the world by the Church which includes rebuilding the *Tabernacle of David*. The unity of the Body, i.e. all churches submitting the new Apostolic and Prophetic authority.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 2

The Latter Rain begins to fall all over again

The modern sequence of deception[s]

The Latter Rain movement that started in 1948 influenced almost all Pentecostal churches and groups in the 1950's. But the so called revival was short and did not produce what they had hoped for. But today there is a whole new army to bring about what went dormant.

The latter Rain was the first organized heresy movement that affected the church at large. This movement which brought havoc and was renounced by the Assemblies of God in 1949 that took a stand on the latter Rain and by 1952 went into remission. Although it was removed and faded, it has resurfaced with a face lift, and these same teachings have come back with a vengeance taking on a life of their own.

By 1967 Latter Rain concepts were found in the Charismatic Renewal movement. Jewel Grewe in her booklet on 'Joel's Army' writes its heresies included 1) an overemphasis on "imparting" spiritual gifts and 2) the erroneous teaching that the Church must be built on a foundation of present-day apostles and prophets. Leaders at that time included William Branham, George Warnock, Ern Baxter, and George Hawtin. This cult eventually developed connections with the Shepherding and Charismatic Renewal movements, and the "Kansas City Prophets."

The Charismatic Movement was said to have begun by a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit. "The movement is usually dated from the Sunday morning in 1959 when Bennett announced to his congregation in Van Nuys, Calif., that he had been

baptized with the Holy Spirit and had spoken in tongues" (Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements p.53).

In 1960, Father Dennis Bennet, an Episcopalian priest in St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Van Nuys, California, published his personal testimony of being baptized in the Holy Spirit and it wasn't long before he was forced to resign by the denomination. In the late 1960's Roman Catholics started receiving the baptism and the Catholic/Charismatic Movement was born. It was accepted as genuine by certain Charismatic Protestants that the Roman Catholic Church that taught salvation-by-sacrament, people who were practicing idolatry, who believed they were "born-again" by "baptism" into the church as an infant, were now baptized in the Spirit. Except their *Spirit Baptism* (the Spirit of Truth?) led them to say prayers to "Mary and the saints," participate in the reoffering of Christ in the Mass, praying to the Eucharist, a greater veneration of the Pope, and a greater submission to the Catholic Church. Nothing changed.

Rodney Browne who began the laughter movement, said "*The Healing revival was awesome. It was followed by the Latter Rain Movement in the fifties. Then, in the sixties, we saw the Charismatic movement break out...*" (p.14 The Coming Revival).

Richard Riss writes: "*By 1952, the Latter Rain as a recognized movement was clearly beginning to fade, although a number of strong congregations continue into the present day. Also, a number of Latter Rain teachings became major parts of the*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Charismatic Renewal movement that blossomed starting about 1967." (Riss 1987:140-43).

Bill Hamon in his book *The Eternal Church* states that "*the Charismatic movement IS the extension of the Latter Rain Movement*" ("*Eternal Church*" p. 239, 1981).

Therein lies the problem. Besides Hall and Branham there were others who continued to campaign for the Latter Rain, John Robert Stephens, Sam Fife, Bill Britton, George Warnock, the Hawtin brothers, which influenced the Charismatic Revivalism of unity through the 1960's and 1970's.

Heading up this effort is Harald Bredesen, one of the original founding members of the board of the "700 Club" and a long-time confidant and advisor to Pat Robertson. A group of charismatic leaders had proposed giving him the "Prince of Peace Prize." The following is a brief excerpt from Bredesen's September 29, 1988 letter to the Pope:

Your Holiness and dear Pope John Paul II, Too many Protestant Evangelicals have long since made up their minds about Roman Catholicism...They fail to notice the mighty Gospel wind that also moves with such force [in Roman Catholicism]...

My heart is moved by a dream, Your Holiness. It is this: that what has already been discovered by men such as David and Justus DuPlessis, Billy Graham, Pat Robertson, Richard Neuhaus...regarding the riches and depth of Catholic piety, must become common knowledge among Evangelical Protestants everywhere...."

Cardinal Bea was Pope Pius XII's personal confessor, close advisor to several other popes, and president of the Secretariat for Promotion of Christian Unity. He sought out David DuPlessis (known as "Mr. Pentecost"), whom he invited to the third session of the Second Vatican Council. Bea saw the charismatic movement as a vehicle for Rome's ecumenical goals and DuPlessis and other leading Protestant charismatics took the invite like Bees to honey.

Cardinal Suenens recipient of the 1976 Templeton Award for Progress in Religion called Cardinal Bea one of "the 'prophets' of our own age." Suenens was given a special mandate to oversee the worldwide charismatic "renewal movement" in the Catholic Church, an assignment that was reconfirmed by John Paul II.

In May-June, 1977 a "covenant relationship" was entered into with Cardinal Suenens, stating:
We, as a Council, are committing ourselves to work together with the Cardinal for the restoration and unity of Christian people and world evangelization in projects to be mutually agreed upon. In each project, headship, authority and method of functions will be mutually determined by the Cardinal and the Council in the light of the requirements of each situation.

Popes, John Paul II, Benedict, and Francis, have supported this renewal within the Catholic Church. They have dubbed this "the greatest move of unity in history." Which translates into Protestant-Catholic "unity" but attached with it the newer Pope and his church call Islam, their Muslim brothers.

Today the same people in the Latter Rain movement find unity with those Catholics who they see as gifted who are unsaved, and unreceptive to the gospel of grace getting baptized in the Holy Ghost, speaking in other tongues. Rodney Browne comments" *Many Pentecostals couldn't swallow that. No. Its impossible for a Catholic to get baptized in the Holy Spirit" ... But people were filled with the Holy Spirit anyway.*" (p.15 *The Coming Revival*)

If they stay in the Catholic Church and continue to practice the same teachings can this be the Holy Spirit?

These are some examples of Latter Rain assimilations is their lowest common denominator. Even Branham would have rejected this, yet many who participate hold to Branham as their Pentecostal model.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Another example of Unity with Roman Catholicism:

In 2014 Anglican Episcopal Bishop Tony Palmer (emissary of the Pope) said before numerous pastors meeting at Kenneth Copeland's church, the "*Catholic and Charismatic Renewal is the hope of the Church.*" Palmer said those words are from the Vatican. Before playing a video message from Pope Francis to Kenneth Copeland and Charismatic attendees, Palmer told the crowd, "*I have come in the Spirit of Elijah ... The spirit of Elijah is the spirit of reconciliation ... We know for a thousand years, there was one church called the catholic church ... He later said "Brothers and sisters, Luther's protest is over. Is yours?" "God will sort out all our doctrines when we get upstairs."*

Which is contrary to the Bible that tells us to know our doctrine now on earth: 1 Timothy 4:16; Titus 1:9; 2:1; 2 Timothy 4:3.

The Spirit of Elijah happens to be what Branham claimed to receive as he was told in 1933 when baptizing others, a voice spoke "*Like John the Baptist went as a forerunner to Jesus Christ, so would this Message be the forerunning just before the coming of Jesus Christ.*" (53-1129E, *Testimony*, American Legion Hall, West Palm Beach, FL) "*As John the Baptist was sent to forerun the first coming of Jesus Christ, so are you sent...*" (63-0127A, *Absolute Phoenix*, AZ)

Branham wanted us to believe Elijah, like John the baptizer was now sent to America, to the church, when John was sent to the Jews. Elijah is a Jew -- William Branham was a gentile. How does that work? Nonetheless, there are others that speak of this same Elijah anointing today.

The video of the Pope was played before the Pastors assembled at Copeland's church, here is what the Pope said "*Families that come together and families who separate themselves. We are kind of...permit me to say, separated. Separated because, it's sin that has separated us, all our sins. The misunderstandings throughout history. It has been a*

long road of sins that we all shared in. Who is to blame? We all share the blame. We have all sinned.

Joseph's brothers began to starve from hunger, they went to Egypt, to buy, so that they could eat.

They went to buy. They had money. But they couldn't eat the money. But there they found something more than food, they found their brother.... But we have to encounter one another as brothers. We must cry together like Joseph did. These tears will unite us. The tears of love. I am speaking to you as a brother."

This portrayal of the group he was addressing (Protestants) as starving and having a need to go to Joseph. The Pope compared himself with Joseph and Protestant Charismatics with Joseph's brothers. Joseph, is a "type" of Christ. His exile to Egypt in order to save his brethren is a portrayal of Jewish reconciliation.

Latter Rain and word faith teacher Kenneth Copeland was extremely exhilarated saying, *the Pope is filled with the Spirit*, and that, "*Heaven is thrilled over this ... You know what is so thrilling to me? When we went into the ministry 47 years ago, this was impossible.*"

The Popes' invitation and intrusion into Pentecostals would have never been welcomed back then because they had more appreciation and dedication to the Word, not any longer. The people cheered.

The next step was to personally meet the Pope. Under the guise "The Miracle of Unity Continues," Roman Catholicism's "new evangelization" was at work.

Here is the photograph of the delegates from Left to Right are: Carol Arnott, John Arnott (Partners in Harvest), Brian Stiller (World Evangelical Alliance), Kenneth Copeland (KCM), Pope Francis, Thomas Schirrmacher (WEA), Geoff Tunnicliffe (WEA), James & Betty Robison (Life Outreach International) and Tony Palmer (The Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches & The Order of the Ark Community).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:
A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



The very people who have promoted the Latter Rain message have become co – belligerents to Rome. Why is that? As we will see almost unanimously those who are involved in the Latter Rain accept anyone who they see as baptized in the Spirit, who speak of Jesus as their brothers and sisters.

Some of the largest churches today are what is called Latter Rain churches, or now known as third wave as named by Wimber and Wagner. But many do not know that it was Branham who began this whole movement in the late 40's.

Whether you know it or not there are those wanting to transform your church into being part of the Latter Rain, 3rd wave and come under their new apostles and prophets.

All roads lead to Branham

The NEW Latter Rain Connections

The 1980's Vineyard movement of John Wimber

John Wimber (a former Quaker) had separated from the fellowship of Calvary Chapel and aligned himself with several other churches. During this time he became associated with Lonnie Frisbee a young hippie who had been a key figure in the Jesus People Movement in Costa Mesa Calvary Chapel as a teen. He was severed from Calvary because of his

extreme Pentecostal practices that were concerning Chuck Smith (also learning he was a homosexual).

Wimber invited Frisbee to give his testimony at his Mother's Day service and there was an unexpected outbreak of strange physical manifestations, along with speaking in tongues. *"I asked one boy, who was on the floor, "What's happening to you right now?" He said, "It's like electricity. I can't move." I was amazed by the effect of God's power on the human body.*" ("Carol Wimber, A Hunger for God." Kevin Springer, ed. Power Encounters. Harper and Row. 1988.)

"Frisbee invited all the young people 25 and under to come forward and invited the Holy Spirit to bring God's power into their lives. Witnesses say it looked like a battlefield as young people fell and began to shake and speak in tongues. (David A. Roozen, James R. Nieman Balmer. [Church, Identity, and Change: Theology and Denominational Structures in Unsettled Times - Page 134](#). Retrieved May 18, 2007)

Wimber was stunned and did not imagine such kinds of physical manifestations could occur. In prayer he asked God if the seeming pandemonium that swept through the congregation was of divine origin. Unaware of what had transpired at Wimber's church, a pastor friend from Colorado called early in the morning saying that he had been divinely instructed to call and to tell Wimber "It was Me."

Wimber later fired Lonnie when he learned of his lifestyle. But what he had seen through Frisbee and others stuck.

Wimber was seeking power and became more dependent on the experience rather than Scripture, and he took it all to a "new level." This led him into practicing pragmatism (if it works, it must be from God). His experience formed his theology, he did not use theology (the Bible) to approve what he experienced. Several years later, they formed officially as the Association of Vineyard Churches. John Wimber said, "So in 1978 I left the Charles E. Fuller Institute of Evangelism and Church Growth to become pastor of what is now called the Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Anaheim,

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



California. It was in this environment, a small group of fifty people, that "I first tested my theories of power evangelism."

Wimber was a pragmatist, instead of standing on the Scriptures he allowed experience to shape his theology, or maybe it should be called feelology. His Tested theories = pragmatism, which means if it works, it is accepted as valid and from God. True faith says that I only accept and believe what is based upon God's written Word, the Bible. These two practices are diametrically opposed to each other.

Wimber then came to the conclusion that the Gospel is largely ineffective without signs and wonders. "Primitive peoples often need to see the superior power of the gospel demonstrated for them to believe." (Power Evangelism, p. 54).

From this experimentation the "the third wave" developed which carried the Latter Rain practices as being more acceptable. They did not look to Azusa, but to the Latter Rain of the 40's for their model which came to them via Paul Cain and the Kansas City prophets.

Latter Rain adherents who are also called *third wave* believe they are recipients of another Pentecost, a "spiritual second coming" of Jesus who incarnates into their "many-membered" body of believers. These believers will have the gifts working fully in them, healing and all types of signs and wonders, some that have never been seen. This spiritual return of Jesus will be birthed in the body of Christ which is the manifest sons of God doctrine of Rom.8.

Where did these ideas come from? William Branham.

Consider what Branham taught; that power and the manifesting of Christ would be restored.

"The works that Jesus did is reoccurring in the Church, showing that He's coming... For years after years after years as the church come down, the

power of God growing closer and closer, till now it's just about to take on the image of Jesus Christ. His Church is, in the power of His resurrection. All the signs that He did has reoccurred in the church again. We're at the end time." (59-1126, Jehovah Of Miracles, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, San Jose, Ca)

Wimber books and statements show him as a spiritual pragmatist, and Peter Wagner, on page XIX of the introduction in John Wimber' 1986 book, *Power Evangelism*, he tells how Peter Wagner and his book, *Look Out! The Pentecostals are Coming* changed his own thinking. Wimber wrote:

"I had always avoided Pentecostal and charismatic Christians, in part because it seemed that often controversy and division surrounded their ministries. Also, my judgment of their ministries was colored by a presupposition that charismatic gifts like tongues, prophecy, and healing were not for today. (As a dispensationalist, I believed the charismatic gifts ceased at the end of the first century.) But in Dr. Wagner, I encountered a credible witness, an accomplished missionary and dean of Fuller Theological Seminary's School of World Mission, who wrote that healing and deliverance from evil spirits were happening in South America today. Further, he proved that these miraculous encounters resulted in large evangelistic harvests and church growth. His book forced me to reconsider my position on the charismatic gifts, though I was still skeptical of their validity today." Underline mine

"Once I accepted the fact that all the spiritual gifts are for today I found a key for effective evangelism: combining the proclamation with the demonstration of gospel There is unusual power and effectiveness in this form of evangelism, which is the reason that I call it "power evangelism" (Wimber, Power Evangelism. San Francisco: Harper & Row 1986, xx).

Wimber believed he did not need a Scriptural basis for the strange manifestations taking place because they took place in his church. Subsequently he said in Charisma magazine in 1995, "There is nothing in

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



scripture that can support these kind of phenomena that I can see and I can't think of anything throughout the church age that would. So, I feel no obligation to try and explain its just phenomena, its just people responding to God" (Charisma Feb. 1995 p.26).

What needs to also be mentioned that Wimber gave much credence to Roman Catholic sources for establishing the validity of miracles. (Power Healing, p. 7)

The Paul Cain's connection to Branham

There's more to this than anyone could imagine, because Cain at age 8, like William Branham (age 7) was being visited by an angel. His discipler Branham and his story become so similar at times one can scarcely know which is which. Cain is absolutely sure *"I heard an audible voice and, of course, often the Angel of the Lord-it might have been the Lord Jesus Christ -but anyway when he speaks it's rather awesome"* (Paul Cain, The New Breed, audio tape (Kansas City, MO: Grace Ministries, undated)

Paul Cain is one of the few still alive that knew William Branham personally and participated in the Latter Rain of the 50's and still promotes it. Cain considered William Branham more than the greatest prophet in the 20th century, Branham was, *the greatest prophet that ever lived, and any of my generation, or any of the generations' revival that I've lived through...*" ("Joel's Army," Paul Cain, p. 3)

This would make Branham greater than Elijah, Elisha, Jeremiah, Daniel, David, or any of the apostles, just to name a few who have their inspired words written as Scripture. Can the greatest prophet that ever lived," teach as Branham did, that the doctrine of the Trinity was "of the Devil?"

In 1947 Paul Cain at age 18 began to hold "healing meetings." Branham spoke of Cain in 1951, *"I just met the--another man that's to come in after tomorrow night, the Reverend Mr. Cain. And he's to*

take services Thursday night and go on through: Paul Cain. It's Cain, I believe, was that, Cain, Cain, C-a-i-n." (51-0508, Faith Is The Substance, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

Branham said that *"Cain, is going to continue the revival on, beginning tomorrow night at the regular time, I guess, of seven-thirty. You're all accordingly invi--cordially invited out to Brother Cain's meeting."* (51-0509, Testimony, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA). In the 50's Paul Cain traveled and ministered for Branham. Branham also spoke of Cain as *"a great ministry"* (58-0613, The Queen of The South, Tent Meeting, Dallas, TX).

Paul Cain was an essential part of the Latter Rain movement that sprung from William Branham. Paul Cain who worked with Branham when he was young adopted his Latter Rain view.

His theology is Latter Rain with an emphasis on the Manifest Sons of God. Cain is known for his the introduction of the "New Breed," a new term describing the Manifest Sons of God theology originating from Branham. *"God's raising up a new standard, a new banner, if you will, that's going to radically change the expression, the understanding of Christianity in our generation...God has invited us to have a role in establishing a new order of Christianity...God is offering to this generation something He has never offered to any other generation... beware lest old order brethren rob you and steal this hope from you."* (Paul Cain, "You Can Become the Word!" 1989, Vineyard Prophetic Conference -- Discernment Newsletter.) Underline mine

Cain taught that certain believers become immortals on earth before Jesus comes. "There will be a manifestation of the sons of God ... there's going to be a great company of overcomers prepared for this mighty ministry which I call the prize of all the ages." (From Paul Cain's tape Joel's Army)

This is what is called the manchild company (overcomers). Within the Manifest sons of God teaching the whole body of Christ will manifest

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Christ at the end and take over the world as Joel's army which was the revelation personally delivered to him by the Lord. He explains "Many years ago... I have come to the crossroads of life and I saw a vision of an illuminated billboard on which was written: Joel's army in training. "It was on these crossroads with an arrow pointing to the spot-though there was no building on it then! I believe God has shown me that here he is going to raise up an army. This army is not a destructive army but a deliverance army..." (David Ptyche's, Some Said It Thundered, p.132)

When someone leaves a legacy, it shows what their influence was on others. The Latter Rain began to surface again by a group called the Kansas City prophets. They consisted of Mike Bickle pastor of the Kansas City Fellowship, Bob Jones, John Paul Jackson, Rick Joyner, Francis Frangipane, Ruevan Doran, Larry Randolph, Jim Goll, Jack Deere who later joined the Vineyard.

The Kansas City prophets unanimously endorsed Paul Cain as their prophet over the prophets. Under Paul Cain and through the Kansas City prophets came this new form and standard for Christianity.

Aside from Paul Cain, Bill Hamon is considered to be one of the most direct links to the Latter Rain movement of the late 40's.

Some called Cain the greatest prophet in the church today. Paul Cain would be familiar with these and other teachings that came from this era and became a bridge to the modern carriers of the Latter Rain.

"and the power of God came down mightily. Everyone began to sense the "manifest presence of God" powerfully in the room. Mike was speechless...There were many spontaneous healings and miracles and much revelatory information during sixty to ninety intense, power-packed seconds ... Suddenly there was the sound of sirens as two fire engines screeched to a standstill outside the center ... Mike shook his head ... "There is no fire here", he said. "Oh, yes; There's a big one somewhere! Down at the station all the signals

possible have blown and set off the alarm system. There are signs of a tremendous power surge," said the leading fireman, hardly waiting in his frenzied rush to find the fire ... No fire could be found anywhere ! ... After the meeting Paul turned quietly to Mike and apologized. "I'm so sorry about the fire scare. I should have warned you that that does sometimes happen when there is a lot of divine power about!" (David Pytches, "Some Said It Thundered p.52)

Appearances of the Holy Ghost in fire and smoke were spoken of by Hall 25 years prior: "*Once or twice the fire department was briefed by folk seeing the Holy Smoke and Fire through the windows upstairs. They came running up the steps with the hoses to put out the fire. Some of the firemen, seeing that it was not a natural fire, sat down in the large revival center hall and worshipped the Lord getting saved" (Franklin Hall, "Miracle Word" (Phoenix; Hall Deliverance Foundation, Inc., Summer, 1985) p.10.)*

In an interview with Kevin Springer, Paul Cain spoke candidly on working with Branham.

"when I said that he was the "greatest prophet of the 20th century," I was not referring to his doctrine or teaching abilities. I was referring to his gifting in the word of knowledge and I was also thinking of him in his early ministry when he seemed free from unorthodox views that he later became dogmatic about. During that time thousands came to a saving knowledge of Christ in his meetings."

ES: "You have been quoted from a taped talk as saying, "William Branham was the greatest prophet in the 20th Century." How could this be true if he denied the historic, orthodox view of the trinity (he taught the "Jesus only" view), and if he taught the so-called "serpent seed" theory of original sin (that Eve's sin involved sexual relations with the serpent)? How could he teach such serious error and have a genuine gift?"

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Paul Cain said: *"He never spoke against the Trinity in the days that I knew him. I never discussed the Trinity with him. It wasn't until apparently the latter days of his life that he began to see all churches as apostate and that he felt that the Trinity doctrine had been invented by what he considered an apostate church."* (Equipping the Saints Vol. 4, No. 4 Fall, 1990 Interview with Paul Cain Conducted by Kevin Springer)

We have documented that Branham did speak against the Trinity *all though his ministry*, so Cain is wrong. Cain knew him starting from the early 50's. Mike Bickle who had Paul Cain as their head prophet, equivocates as he discusses William Branham with him, *"Branham ended up in some doctrinal heresy, although never to the extent of denying Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior or doubting the authority of the Scriptures. While affirming the deity of Christ, he denied the Trinity."* (Bickle, Mike "Growing in the Prophetic" 1996 Charisma House (Lake Mary, Fla) p. 63)

This idea that heresy came later in Branham's career persists today, but when one looks at the record it is not true, it was there from the beginning, he only got more outspoken, even vociferous. Branham corrected everyone on nearly every doctrine, especially on the nature of God. Showing that he was the 7th angel messenger to the church of Laodicea.

The Vineyard church meets the Kansas City Prophets

The Latter Rain was introduced to the Vineyard by this group of self-proclaimed "prophets," the Kansas City Fellowship, which consisted of Bob Jones, Mike Bickle, and John Paul Jackson,

At the time Paul Cain said the Lord promised that he would stand before a new breed of men. Cain after a long sabbatical stepped back into ministry was in search for the *new breed of men* (a Latter Rain teaching). Kansas City prophet Mike Bickle described this as "a Samuel looking for a David."

Cain sought leaders out leaders of other nations. He traveled to Seoul Korea and met with Yonggi Cho of the largest church in the country, but he was not the one. Jimmy Swaggart, several other leaders in America, James Robison, Pat Robertson were not the one. By the time he met Wimber he was discouraged wondering where this will come from.

Here is How Peter Wagner explains what took place with Paul Cain contacting John Wimber "...now **were getting to 1989** and we have this going, and all of a sudden John gets in touch with the Kansas City Prophets. Now at that time Mike Bickle, who is one of our speakers here, why he was the pastor of the Kansas City Prophets and Paul Cain was one of the prophets and John Wimber didn't know a thing about them see, and so God figured John should know, so I'm talking about prophets see, so Paul Cain calls up John Wimber on the telephone and he says John the Lord has told me to visit you in California. He never been, Paul Cain had never been there, so the Lord told me to visit you in California and John said "Well wonderful y'know" ... (C. Peter Wagner, National School Of The Prophets - Mobilizing The Prophetic Office, Colorado Springs, CO, May 11, 2,000 Tape 1)

An earthquake occurred nearby, this was apparently enough to convince Wimber that Cain is a prophet. On Feb. 12, 1989 from Wimber's pulpit Cain proclaimed *"That I have found that leader that's going, before he dies to usher in a new move of God, a new wave. And not just a little gathering here and not a few vines out there but its going to be more than a cluster, listen to me buster- I mean its going to be more than a cluster. I mean in spite of all your blunders God's gonna still give you signs and wonders."* This began the Vineyards rejection of God's word for Latter Rain teachings and experiences from the prophets.

In August 1989 conference in Denver, Colorado, Wimber called on Vineyard pastors to receive their ministry. Paul Cain, was elevated to a super prophet status, a prophet above prophets among his association of fellow prophets.
www.letusreason.org/Latrain5.htm.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Wimber stated, "Paul was given a mission, the mission as he states it is to initiate the end time ministry."

"In a surprise announcement, he [Wimber] said that Bickle and his associates had agreed to submit themselves to his oversight and become part of Wimber's Vineyard Ministries. The KCF network of fellowships would become Vineyard churches." ("Resolving the Kansas City Prophecy Controversy," Lee Grady, Ministries Today, Sept.-Oct., 1990, p. 51).

As the Kansas City prophets were incorporated in the Vineyard prophet Bob Jones prophesied that Wimber was to "introduce to the body of Christ the apostles that were yet to come in the 90's."

Many were taught through Wimber that there would be a new apostolic leadership, that they were living in a restoration like the days of the apostles. "In these last days is raising up and restoring completely apostolic leadership, apostolic authority-the hope of the church, the hope of the world, is the apostolic ministry...So here God is raising up a new standard, a new banner, if you will, that's going to radically change the expression, the understanding of Christianity in our generation ... God has invited us to have a role in establishing this New Order of Christianity ... God is offering to this generation something He has never offered to any other generation before. He's giving us an open invitation to participate in something that will lead to the prize of all the ages ... It's greater than anything He's ever done from Adam clear down through the millennium" (Vineyard Prophecy School 1989, cited in Beware of the new prophets, p. 32 by Bill Randles).

Wimber was also involved in various aspects of the Latter Rain heresy, and we can see this was either carried over to Wagner or Wagner carried it to him, or both, only they know. He taught, "Something so astounding, something so marvelous that God has kept it as a mystery, as it were, behind His back and He is about to reveal it to the ages. He is about to

reveal it. With the judgment of all mankind will come this incredible incarnational enduement of God's Spirit and we will see the Elijahs ... This End time Army will be made of the Elijah's of the Lord God." (John Wimber, Docklands England, October, 1990).

"You know this message is 35 years old and I'm just preaching it again, Thank God I've found somebody to preach it to. I told you about the vision, what I've had... See, I've been wanting to share this so long and find somebody - how would you like to have something on the back burner for 35 years and nobody had any - boy this is, I mean this isn't leftovers. I mean this has been hot with me all these years, but everywhere I tried to preach it, they cooked my goose. Don't you boo me. This kind of fiery preaching is a lost art today except in a very mild degree." (Joel's Army cassette from Kansas city prophets)

The source of this message (35 years at the time said) is none other than the Latter Rain heresy, that being from William Branham.

"For quite a while I have been embarrassed to say anything about the Latter Rain, because you are associated and identified with something that people don't seem to appreciate in certain evangelical circles. So I have played it cool and haven't said much about it. But I don't care what they think any more ... I believe we are going to have the Latter Rain and I am looking forward to it." (Paul Cain, Toronto church May 28, 1995)

Cain stated in 1989 that God was raising a new standard and the understanding of Christianity that would radically change us and our generation God has him to have a role in establishing this New Order of Christianity,

"God's raising up a new standard, a new banner, if you will, that's going to radically change the expression, the understanding of Christianity in our generation...God has invited us to have a role in

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



establishing a new order of Christianity ... God is offering to this generation something He has never offered to any other generation ... beware lest old order brethren rob you and steal this hope from you." (Paul Cain, "You Can Become the Word!" 1989, Vineyard Prophetic Conference quoted in Discernment Newsletter)

We see what that order is through Wimber's legacy in Peter Wagner.

The red carpet was laid out for the "new" prophets to come into the Vineyard and use this church as a vehicle for experimentation since it was a seed already in this mode of Charismaticism.

The Wagner Wimber connection, not happenstance

Wagner attributes "A key part of my own spiritual pilgrimage was my close friendship with John Wimber, which began in the mid-1970's" (The Third Wave of the Holy Spirit p.27).

John Wimber, founder of the Vineyard Christian Fellowship, was invited by his friend Peter Wagner to become an adjunct teacher at Fuller. They began to develop the concept of signs and wonders evangelism not willing to continue within the biblical boundaries found in the Scripture. "One of our adjunct professors, John Wimber, who is a pastor of Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Yorba Linda, California, came to us recently with a suggestion that we offer a course in Signs, Wonders and Church Growth. I agreed to cosponsor the course with him, and early in 1982 we experimented with it." (On The Crest Of The Wave, p.131-132, C. Peter Wagner, 1983.)

Wagner and John Wimber, co-instructed the course "Signs, Wonders and Church Growth" MC510 at Fuller Seminary. It should be noted that "The ministry of Dr. C. Franklin Hall was lectured on in C. Peter Wagner's and John Wimber's Signs and Wonders course at Fuller Theological Seminary. Such was the influence and effectiveness of Dr. C. Franklin Hall!" (posted on www.franklinhall.org, no longer available)

Peter Duyzer interviewed Vern Middleton and his wife who attended the MC510 course (Healing ministry and church Growth) of Peter Wagner and John Wimber at Fullerton. In the syllabus on page 60 it mentions William Branham's ministry and video clips of his healing and exorcism were shown and studied. Which puts to rest how long Peter Wagner was into the Latter Rain teaching. (p.16, The Legend of the Fall, Peter Duyzer)

It was after Wagner met Wimber he got on board with the new move of the Spirit. "God began doing signs and wonders through John Wimber and the people in his church that I previously had thought could be done only through Pentecostals" (Wagner, The Third Wave of the Holy Spirit p.25).

Wagner describes, "I'd go down to the Vineyard to get charged up, and then the next Sunday they would come to my congregational church and discharge and then they would go down ... about every, every, every new thing that came into the Vineyard uh 3 months 4 months later 6 months later I mean it was right there in that congregational church and the 120 fellowship" (C. P. Wagner National School of the Prophets May 11, 2000.)

Consider Wagner visited Wimber since the mid-1970's and brought every new thing that came into the Vineyard into his church. That would include the latter Rain teachings.

"Because I trusted John, I never doubted that what was happening at Vineyard Christian Fellowship was authentic New Testament Christianity. The upshot: I teamed up with John to offer a new course in Fuller Seminary, MC510, first called "Signs, Wonders and Church Growth," later renamed "The Miraculous and Church Growth." (Wagner, The Third Wave of the Holy Spirit p.24).

Wagner refused to discern because of his friendship. This trap is the same for others today. It brought Wagner to accept whatever he saw from Wimber as the real thing. So what Wimber approved of, Wagner would essentially approve of also.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Again a reminder of Wimbers comment in Charisma magazine in 1995, "*there is nothing in scripture that can support these kind of phenomena that I can see and I can't think of anything throughout the church age that would, I feel no obligation to try and explain its just phenomena, its just people responding to God*" (Charisma Feb. 1995 p.26).

It became standard practice to wave their hands in circles over a person's head or toward a person's body, to pass the anointing that was in the air toward them. More lord was the phrase used to get "it."

Peter Wagner who was friends with Wimber picked up on this teaching. Like Wimber, Wagner's philosophy is pragmatic "... we ought to see clearly that the end **DOES** justify the means. What else possible could justify the means? If the method I am using accomplishes the goal I am aiming at, it is for that reason a good method. If, on the other hand, my method is not accomplishing the goal, how can I be justified in continuing to use it?" (C. Peter Wagner, "Your Church Can Grow - Seven Vital Signs Of A Healthy Church", 1976, p.137 - emphasis in original).

In 1993, doctors discovered a malignant tumor in Wimber's nasal pharynx. The cancer and subsequent treatment reportedly caused Wimber to lose more than 100 pounds. None of the gifted healers in his church or elsewhere were able to reverse it.

John Wimber died 11/17/97 at 63 years of age from a brain hemorrhage caused by an accidental fall at 63 years old.

From Wimber to Wagner

Orrel Steinkamp write's, "*In response to an article of mine that Wagner found on the net, he wrote me a personal letter. On June 5, 2001 prior to Orrel writing his article called "Spiritual Warfare Evangelism - How Did We Get Here?" (The Plumblin, volume 6, No. 5, November/ December 2001).*

This is a portion that article:

Wagner states: "***So I never even heard of the Latter Rain, Kingdom Now .. Manifested Sons of God or any of those things...Now since I have become an advocate for contemporary apostles and prophets, all of these things have been coming up, but I haven't had any historical hook to hang them on. I've asked Bill Hamon and he has tried to explain it to me, but I never really was able to make sense of it until I read your article.***" Bishop Bill Hamon is clearly one of the few living links with the Latter Rain. In his writings and especially his book, "*The Eternal Church,*" he clearly and accurately portrays the development of the Latter Rain from its beginning, in the late forties, to its current expression today. Reading Hamon's book would give anyone all the information needed regarding this teaching."

Orrel points out "*the startling revelation in the letter is that he admits to no knowledge, whatsoever, regarding the Latter Rain and its teaching.*"

C. Peter Wagner: "***Now, like I say, 50 years ago this process of coming to where we are now began after WW2 but it sputtered. And now we hear terms like "The Latter Rain Movement" we hear terms like "The Restoration Movement" we hear terms like "The Shepherding Movement" maybe you don't even know anything about those terms because you've come into that later like me I mean I didn't know anything about those movements. But those people in those movements, now, Latter Rain, Shepherding, Restoration, all of that they were the pioneers everybody and pioneers are very important to get us to where we are now but one of the things that goes with the territory with pioneer is pioneers always make mistakes. Did they make a lot of mistakes? Made a lot of mistakes! ... And the only thing is that so much criticism came because of the mistakes that they made that for awhile the movement was kind of crushed. Then it began resurging again, um, in the early 1990's. And so this is where we have uh been and where we're going. Cause in***

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



the early 1990s God began speaking the same things and by this time the dust had settled, you know, the pioneers had made their mistakes and criticism had come and then God began speaking again. I myself knew nothing about those previous efforts I mean I couldn't even spell "latter rain". None of my professors in Fuller Seminary or Princeton Seminary ever taught me about that, Congregational Churches didn't know anything about all that stuff that was happening, and um, so I, but in 1993 then God drew me into the process and I began hearing about these things even though I never experienced them now." (Global Harvest Ministries Presents: Apostolic Church Arising, Atlanta Metropolitan Cathedral, Atlanta, GA, June 14-16, 2001)

In his explanation he makes the excuse of Latter Rain heresy likened to pioneers making "mistakes"? I would not call them pioneers who recycle errors that have been rejected. False teaching is not a mistake.

Wagner is not being totally honest on his Latter Rain connections which actually began with Wimber years prior. It was expressly spoken and practiced in Wimber's church which he participated in and was joined at the hip with.

Notice that Wagner claims God began speaking these Latter Rain things again. How he can say it was in 1993 he began hearing about this when he has said he brought every new thing that came into the Vineyard into his church (from the 70's on.)

As the Kansas City prophets and Paul Cain reshaped the Vineyard many called for "correction," but Wimber never stopped promoting the erroneous teachings of Paul Cain, Mike Bickle, Bob Jones, and John Paul Jackson. However, by 1991 Wimber stopped promoting Bob Jones, but not because of heresy, but because of immorality.

Wimber denied the official corporation of the Kansas City prophets. They were eventually put outside the Vineyard but their influence left a formula for many pastors. The influence of the new

prophets in the Vineyard was a paradigm shift that rippled throughout the world. But there was so much more to come by this new openness in Charismatic leaning churches.

The Third Wave

Postmillennialism and Dominionism are fused into the belief system of the Third Wave Pentecostals and Charismatics. The continuity of the Latter Rain that Branham began comes by his fellow traveler Paul Cain and early adherent Bill Hamon. The Third Wave is really a new substitute name for the Latter Rain. Paul Cain called this the "Third Wave" as did Peter Wagner and others.

Wagner attributes "A key part of my own spiritual pilgrimage was my close friendship with John Wimber, which began in the mid-1970's" (The Third Wave of the Holy Spirit p.27).

John Wimber wrote the forward of Wagner's book published in 1988 "The Third Wave of the Holy Spirit."

Paul Cain, tells us most of the participants agree this new move of the spirit will "contain the good of all the previous moves (of God) and much more." This will be all encompassing and will cross all barriers. When God "releases His mighty wave it's going to engulf everybody from the Baptists to the Episcopalians and from the Episcopalians to the Catholics and every denomination on the face of the earth" (Paul Cain, "God Speaking the Second Time," Leadership Conference, Grace Ministry, 1990)

Cain is well aware of Branham's narrow view of the second Pentecost i.e. the Latter Rain of the 40's which did not bring unity. So his point of this next move engulfing all: Baptists, Episcopalians and Catholics certainly sounds more like the charismatic renewal.

There are various definitions to the waves. "The first wave was known as the Pentecostal movement,

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



(p.16) *the second, the Charismatics* (p.17), and now "I see the Third Wave distinct from, but at the same time similar to the first and second waves." (p.18)

Although Wagner says those in this new move have not chosen to be identified with the either group, they are joined with them. (C. Peter Wagner "The Third Wave of the Holy Spirit").

Calling Peter Wagner

There is no doubt that Wimber's philosophy of ministry lives on in Wagner and his new apostolic reformation (now handed off to Chuck Pierce).

Wagner was appointed an apostle by prophetess, Cindy Jacobs. "As far as I can find back in the prophetic journal the first prophecy I ever had that used the word apostle came from Cindy Jacobs." In July in 1995, at a meeting in Colorado springs, at a voice of God conference "Cindy said "The lord would say today my son Peter I put the anointing of apostle of prayer upon you, I put the mantle of an Abraham, a patriarch, and I'm calling you forth into the land of promise. And I call you Doris, Sarah, says the Lord, and calling you forth to give you many, many spiritual children." So that's the first time I can recall or look up that somebody using the word apostle when they prophesied over me." Wagner then says "a few months later in September one of our three intercessors name Margaret Mobely from the Dallas area she wrote the letter and she said an apostolic door has been sovereignly opened for you by the Lord Himself neither man nor demon will be able shut it." (C.P. Wagner May 11, 2000 National School of the Prophets)

So Wagner had his confirmation from a false prophetess who later joins his apostolic network. Cindy Jacobs tells a story when she was in Bogota, Colombia. "Mike and I were sitting at a restaurant with Peter Wagner, and the Lord gave me a word for him, that God was going to use him to do something that would change the face of Christianity. And he said, "Well, I'll probably never tell anybody that." Oh, yeah, right, Then, well,

right. That's the second part. I was gonna say that. In fact, the Lord, the Lord, and the word of the Lord said, "It will be, it will be like unto what Martin Luther did" (Cindy Jacobs National School of the Prophets, subtitled "Mobilizing the Prophetic Office May 11th, 2000).

Wagner describes how he was told "you are now about to face the greatest challenge of your life, you are being called to reshape the face of Christianity." (National School of The Prophets Mobilizing The Prophetic Office, C. P. Wagner May 11, 2000).

The birth of the New Apostolic Reformation movement is a continuation of the Vineyards paradigm shift into the Latter Rain under Wimber.

They came by Laughing

Before this new organization of church government with apostles and prophets forms another movement was beginning to surface.

In 1991 at a Benny Hinn Crusade we see Rodney Browne on stage and being called forward by Hinn. "Rodney, God has given you a great anointing for this. Let the holy laughter hit them in Jesus' mighty name... (excitedly Hinn says) *it's coming [zaps him]...* Hinn laid hands on his forehead (transferring the anointing) and Browne goes down. He then inaugurates him into ministry by saying "pick him up. Now release it on the people, Rodney!" "go ahead Rodney."

Rodney starts off by awkwardly saying, "Be filled right now. In the name of Jesus, I command you to laugh right now. I loose the joy of the Lord right now. In the name of Jesus, let it bubble out of your belly right now in Jesus' name. Let the joy of the Lord bubble out of your belly. Lord make everybody drunk in the Holy Ghost. Make everybody drunk in the Holy Ghost. In the name of Jesus [repeats this 10 times] ... "

He repeats this over and over ad nauseam at his meetings. This first time is not the polished stick

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



that the world was exposed to when he aired on Praise the Lord program with the Crouches on TBN, or at the Carpenters Home Church. It was raw and clumsy but it worked. Nonetheless, those with weak minds were willing to receive a suggestion to think this experience is of the Holy Spirit.

Browne went to Hagin's Rhema Bible School and Ray Mcauley's church which is entrenched in the word faith movement. In 1987, Rodney Howard Browne left South Africa for United States. Rodney Browne had now introduced himself to the Church in America (and the world through TBN) as the Holy Ghost bartender serving the new wine at Joel's place. That you can drink as much as you like and get *drunk on the spirit*. According to Browne and others, the first Pentecost was the former rain, and now today God is giving us the Latter Rain a "new Pentecost." A new experience was added to this outpouring, laughter, uncontrollable laughing.

Browne had said about the new Pentecost he was promoting, that *"Eyeballs will form, legs and arms will grow out, people will leap out of wheelchairs..."* (Rodney Howard Browne, *The Coming Revival*, p. 27)

At Copeland's meeting Rodney Howard-Browne prophesied: *"This is the day, this is the hour," saith the Lord "that I am moving in this earth. This is the day that I'll cause you to step over into the realm of the supernatural. ... The drops of rain are beginning to fall to the glory of God."*

What drops of rain is he speaking of? The Latter Rain! The words fire and glory were often used to assure the audience this is of God.

He went on, *"For this is the day of the fire and the glory of God coming unto His Church. Rise up this day.... To drink, to drink [goes off in tongues]. We drink [more tongues] [he laughs]."* Kenneth Copeland then speaks Rodney speaking in tongues. Facing Kenneth Copeland, Rodney answered him back in tongues apparently understanding what he said. Copeland then laughs

in response, Rodney heartily laughs back as if they understand each other's tongue. And it assumedly is a joke (rightly so), this goes on for a great portion of the service.

What is a tongue? It is man speaking to God, not each other and there is no joking involved, it is to be praises from the heart. Whatever they were drinking, it's very powerful and got everyone drunk.

Browne went on *"Enter into the fullness of the Holy Ghost. For it is being outpoured, right now. Even as it was on Pentecost. It is happening in this place, this moment at this time, saith the Lord. [... Look, look, look, look, look, look, look, look saith the Lord. Cloven tongues. Look, look, look, cloven tongues like as of fire. Look, look, look saith the Lord. It is happening right now. 'When will Pentecost [come]?' It is happening right now. 'When will the outpour[ing] come?' It is happening right now. Feel, feel, feel, feel, feel the wind, the wind, the wind, the wind is blowing. Yes, yes, yes, cloven tongues like as of fire. Get up. Get up. See-see the glory. See the shekinah. You are in the midst of angels. You are in the midst of the shekinah cloud. You are in the midst of the fire. For the glory of the Lord has descended, and you are beholding, yes, yes, you are beholding my face. You are seeing into the Spirit realm."*

Here we see the Latter Rain mysticism in action, what is taking a false experience attributing it to God's glory as Browne introduced people to a new anointing, a spirit realm is entered as Latter Rain us manifested.

Drinking at Joel's Place

Browne claims the Lord told him to get the people drunk on the new wine, to get them inebriated. With Pandemonium in the background Browne pronounces *"This much chaos, this must be the unseen one, this must be the third person of the Godhead, this must be the Holy Ghost, this must be the Holy Ghost, this must be the Holy Ghost."*

Browne says *"I believe we slipped over the edge into this great outpouring in 1990."* In his meetings,

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



this is what he claims happened at the first Pentecost, so this is clearly a reference to the Latter Rain. He goes on to say, agreeing with Paul Cain that *"This coming revival will be a culmination of all other revivals"* (p.24 "The Coming Revival by Rodney Howard Browne)

"Take another drink...the bar is open....Be filled! We loose the power! Have another drink!" (Rodney Howard-Browne, Charisma, August 1994, pg. 24).

Browne recommends not to pray about it, just jump in the river, drink it in. *"Stop praying now and let the joy bubble out your belly. Joy. Joy. Joy. Don't pray! Laugh!"* (Media spotlight Holy Laughter, Albert James Dager, 1996)

"I loose the touch, there it is, there it is, there it is, let that go right through you, fill that's it fill that's it, fill, that's it, there it is let it bubble out your belly, let it bubble out your belly, there it is. that's right lady, DON'T PRAY let the joy bubble, fill YOU CAN PRAY WHEN YOU GET HOME, let the joy bubble YOU TOO STOP PRAYING let the joy bubble out your bubble ... IF YOUR PRAYING WOULD HAVE HELPED, IT WOULD HAVE HELPED YOU. I said joy, STUBBORN PEOPLE, people come all serious and pray, NO ITS NOT TIME TO PRAY ITS NOT A PRAYER MEETING, get in the joy. IT'S NOT A PRAYER MEETING, YOU CAN PRAY AT HOME. DON'T ANALYZE IT, you can't understand what God is doing at these meetings with an analytical mind. The only way you're going to understand what God is doing is with your heart." (audio tape)

Browne declares *"You can't understand what God is doing in these meetings with an analytical mind. The only way you're going to understand what God is doing is with your heart."* *Get out of your minds. Step over into the river of God."* Also he tells people to *"step over into the realm of the supernatural."*

Nowhere does the Bible teach us to enter into a realm of the supernatural. A term more associated with how spiritualists and mystics describe other worlds.

Browne and others insist not think, not discern, not pray. You don't suppress your mind to experience the Spirit. If we put our minds at rest or in neutral, we become passive. By his repeating words such as get them drunk, fill, fill, ho ho, ho, it becomes a mantra that shuts off the mind which puts one into an altered state. We can become like a sponge soaking up whatever is given to us. We are to guard our hearts because even our own heart can deceive us. Much more could be said of Browns spiritual manipulation. What he created is a river ride that was headed for the waterfall.

Joel says *"Awake, you drunkards, and weep; And wail, all you drinkers of wine, Because of the new wine, For it has been cut off from your mouth"* (Joel 1:5). What was good for the priests in Israel's day can certainly be applied to the Church today.

It doesn't say anywhere to get drunk in the Spirit but the very opposite. Ephesians 5:18 says: *"Do not get drunk on wine which leads to debauchery, but be filled with the Holy Spirit."* From this verse come Browne's doctrine of being drunk in the Spirit. Rodney Howard-Browne says: *"There's a way to get drunk in the natural so there must be a way to get drunk in the spiritual."*

Paul says to be filled with the Spirit gives us self-control. He is making a CONTRAST. Being filled with the Spirit does not produce the same effects as alcoholic beverages but is just the opposite. The opposite of the true biblical filling is to be out of control as a rag doll on the ground, drunk and incapacitated. When "being filled with the Spirit" takes away one's self-control, it is NOT the Holy Spirit but our fallen nature (flesh), or, another spirit in action. To be filled with the Spirit means we are under the control of the Holy Spirit that does not make us act like this. Not once do we find a description of this behavior from the apostles. Yet we see sardonic laughter, violent shaking, dumbness, incoherency, paralysis, along with being as drunk at these meetings.

Can one be filled of the Lords Spirit and be out of control of their faculties and body?

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Gal. 5:18-26 Paul explaining about being led by the Spirit v. 19 "Now the works of the flesh are evident, among the obvious mentions is also drunkenness, revelries, and the like." He then contrasts these with v. 22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, v.23 "gentleness, **self-control**." V. 24 "And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." V.25 "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

The fruit of the Spirit is not feelings, but how we live and act.

Paul admonishes, "And **do not** be drunk with wine." Drunks are self - centered people, concerned with having a good time, they are obnoxious and mostly out of control. Rodney Browne had said *there's a way to get in the natural so there must be a way to get drunk in the spiritual*. The only way one can validate this behavior is to use the flat bible approach. Slide two scriptures over to each other, to mix to match. Joy of salvation = laughter. But the Scripture says the joy of the Lord is our strength, **not** weakness.

If one is going to apply the scriptures on wine and joy and drunkenness they cannot just take the positive ones (of which I haven't really found any), but need to look at it the way God does, it was a visit of judgment.

Isa. 29:9-13 "Pause and wonder! Blind yourselves and be blind! They are drunk, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with intoxicating drink. For the LORD has poured out on you the spirit of deep sleep, and has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets; and He has covered your heads, namely, the seers. The whole vision has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one who is literate, saying, "Read this, please." And he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed." Then the book is delivered to one who is illiterate, saying, "Read this, please." And he says, "I am not literate. "Therefore the LORD said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far

from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,"

What kind of wine is it that is not a drink but makes one stagger? That prevents one from reading and understanding the Word and gets the same rebuke from the Lord as hypocrites.

Rodney Howard-Browne was the first to claim that the disciples in Acts 2 must have been drunk on the new wine because the people (mockers) said they were drunk, filled with new wine. However, others clearly heard praises to God in their own languages. Prov.20:1 calls wine "a mocker! Browne got his teaching from the mockers. Those who say this is a Holy Spirit phenomenon are mocking God's word.

The word drunk appears 3 times in the book of Revelation which has to do with the end of time. (17:2, 6 :18:3)

It states that all nations and inhabitants of the earth will be made drunk with the wine of the harlot church's adultery (Gr. *Methistemei* - meaning to turn away or seduce through trickery or travesty. Just as in Jer. 51:7 Babylon was a golden cup in the Lords hand that made all the earth drink and the nations drank her wine.

What is not new is Rodney's teaching on Jesus, it demoted him. Like other Latter Rain teachers that lay down the premise the supernatural works were all by the Spirit in Jesus and we can do the same "Nothing Jesus did was because He was the Son of God. The Bible says He laid aside His royal robes of Deity and when He walked on earth He did so as a Prophet under the Abrahamic Covenant." (Rodney H. Browne, the Touch of God p.13,14)

Jesus according to the apostles teaching was, and is forever God, He never stopped being God. So what Jesus is this that is serving new wine to those at Joel's bar?

Many word faith teachers get their theology from Dake's Annotated Reference Bible "He did not claim the attributes of God, but only the anointing of the Spirit to do His works" (Dake's Annotated

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Reference Bible, Finis Jennings Dake, New Testament, p. 218.)

As we will see this concept runs through the Latter Rain teachers

Browne promoted that there is a day coming when all one will have to do is raise their hand in the air and people will come to Christ to have their sins forgiven. This becomes another Gospel, we are to preach and teach not just wave our hands in the air like a magician.

Pastor of Carpenter's Home Church in Lakeland, Florida, Karl Strader and his wife Joyce were in Hawaii for a Worship conference in 1993. Norvel Hayes prophesied that a tremendous great wind of the Spirit was about to come to them. (Ministries Today July/August 1993, p. 38),

In early 1993, Rodney Howard-Browne spent a total of thirteen weeks at Carpenters home church, and Christian leaders from many parts of the United States. As word got out people flew in from all over the world to attend these meetings.

Among them was *Richard Roberts, chancellor of Oral Roberts University, came to the meetings to observe and participate, and minister in the new anointing.*" (Charisma Aug. 1994, p. 24)

Strader under the new anointing said *"If I thought all church people were going to go to heaven I wouldn't want to go to heaven.... If all the church people that attend Sunday morning were in the rapture what a terrible place heaven would be..."* he then speaks of a mystical bride, those who really love Jesus. I'm glad it's not up to Strader to decide on who is allowed in heaven.

Among loud sardonic laughter Strader tells his people *"God is doing a new thing in our midst, its not going to get better by those that are religious if you are thinking better or worse. For those of you who are religious its going to get worse but for those us that are under the anointing its going to get better..."*

Well looking back we see it did not get better from Strader nor anyone under the new anointing.

In 1994, Daniel Strader, one of Karl Strader's sons, was arrested on fraud charges and was later convicted. Daniel Strader had sold false securities and defrauded investors out of \$2.3 million. He was found guilty in 1995 on 238 counts of securities fraud and was sentenced to 45 years' imprisonment. Carpenter's Home Church membership dwindled, and it became impossible for the church to maintain its large facilities so they lost the building. So it goes when you are not awake and under attack.

Modern historian of charismatics Richard M. Riss writes: *During the early 1990s, a revival, or reawakening of Christian faith, became evident in many parts of the world. Receiving its initial impetus from the ministries of many people, including Claudio Freidzon of Buenos Aries, Argentina, Rodney M. Howard- Browne, a South African evangelist ministering in the United States, Mahesh Chavda of Charlotte, North Carolina and Cindy Jacobs of Colorado Springs, Colorado, this outpouring of God's Spirit touched a large number of people in many places. An unusual visitation among the Vineyard Churches which originated in Mississauga, Ontario, outside of Toronto, on January 20, 1994 also brought this new anointing to many people in mainline denominational and non-denominational churches throughout the world.* (A HISTORY OF THE WORLDWIDE AWAKENING OF 1992-1995 Richard M. Riss, Eleventh Edition, October 15, 1995)

"In a 1994 sermon Mike Bickle reported that the laughter had started seven years before, with Freidzon. ... (Holy Laughter, Charles and Francis Hunter, p.17)

The Hunters, who wanted to know what the phenomenon was, asked their good friend Lester Sumrall what he thought:

"Dr. Sumrall said, 'What you experienced in your service is holy laughter.' Then he continued, 'Anything that is of God is holy and anything that is

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



holy has power connected to it.' Now we began to understand why the unusual healings took place because it was a supernatural move of God and it brought supernatural healing power with it. Hallelujah!" (Holy Laughter, pp. 21-22).

Charles and Frances Hunter responded: "*Could this be the way God is bringing us into the final great revival before the return of Jesus? Whether it is or not, we can feel the Holy Spirit moving -- and we're going right along with Him! Don't stick your toe in to test the water! Don't wait! Jump all the way into this flowing river" (Holy Laughter, p. 159).*

On the back of Browne's booklet "the Coming Revival" it says "*The Last revival has Begun.*" The Bible says the last revival is in the Tribulation period where an untold number of people get saved (Rev.7), this is not that.

Along came Toronto

"In the early 1980s, Vineyard movement leader John Wimber spoke a prophetic word over Clark—predicting his ministry would help people worldwide operate in the miraculous power of the Spirit" ([Randy Clark: The Healing Miracles Preacher](#) Mar. 2015 Charisma Magazine).

Clark became a part of the Vineyard in 1984. Randy Clark heard of the manifestations at Rodney Browne's meetings. He was reluctant to go because of his theological differences with Hagin and struggled to go. He says God rebuked him, "You have a ... *denominational spirit if you think you can only drink of the well of your own group.*" God then asked Clark a very pertinent question: "*How badly do you want me?*" (Randy Clark, Catch The Fire '94) "*Test Me Now ... I will Back You Up, TACF, 10/13/94, audio).*

Apparently believing he had to go somewhere and to someone to get more of God, he relinquished his will to the voice and went to attend Rodney's meeting in Hagin's Rhema Bible Church in Tulsa Oklahoma. Browne laid hands on Clark and the

anointing was transferred (that is not from God.) He received the "anointing" he desired. He then goes back to his church and the same manifestations break out in his church the weeks following. (Just as it happened with Branham at the Sharon Orphanage).

John Arnott had been seeking more spending a great portion of '93 seeking a "fresh anointing." John Arnott, pastor of the Toronto Airport Vineyard is also close friends with Benny Hinn. A year before he went to maple leaf Gardens in Toronto where Benny Hinn was ministering, it was there where Hinn ministered to both he and his wife and she became drunk in the Spirit.

In Oct. 1993, Happy Lehmann asked Randy to share at his church and a limited outbreak occurred. Then in November Happy shared what happened at a Vineyard board meeting with John Arnott. Arnott convincingly impressed went home and immediately invited Randy Clarke to come to speak in a four day conference at Toronto Airport Church. Clark comes in Jan. 20 1994 (hoping that something might break out there as well).

What was born was the newest and will become the most famous outbreak known now as "the Toronto blessing." "*Everybody catches it if they soak in it, but were still working under Randy's anointing." Arnott says.* (A History of the Awakening of 1992-1995 – Richard M. Riss)

Yes, but is Randy's anointing the same as the Holy Spirit?

They call it "Revival" and is labeled a "sovereign" move of God's Spirit. The visits begin and it is then labeled the Toronto blessing disconnecting itself to its original carrier of the Latter Rain virus Rodney Howard Browne.

When the "Revival" breaks out at Toronto Vineyard Jan. 20 1994 there is no mention of Browne's connection with Toronto through Clark, however Arnott does explain how it is transferred from his

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Church to others. *"What happens is, there's a transference of His anointing where, not only do you see it, not only do you experience it for yourself, but you're going to take it home to your people."* (John Arnott, Pastor of the Toronto Airport Fellowship, pastor's Meeting, October 19, 1994)

This proves it is not a sovereign move of God but people have to travel to get it, to bring it back to others, so they get it. It is passed on by impartation, laying on of hands. Many agree without Randy Clark (or Rodney Browne), there wouldn't be a Toronto Blessing.

Clark states, *"This is the most powerful revival that has hit this country since Azusa Street. It will be the greatest revival we've ever seen before it's over. It won't surprise me if it lasts 20 years."* And claims that the *"greatest revival of all times"* is now a reality. He tells credulous Christians that *"people are being raised from the dead and temples are being hit by lightning or fireballs and knocked off their things. It's all over. Germany and Africa. It's everywhere. God's doing it."* (Randy Clark, "Catch The Fire: Questions and Answers", Toronto Airport Church Fellowship, 10/14/94)

By 1995 (a year after it began) people from almost every country of the world had come to the Airport Vineyard, more than 200,000, many who were leaders of churches. The Toronto blessing was brought from Toronto to England through Eleanor Mumford, assistant pastor of the South-West London Vineyard. (Vicar Sandy Millar, Holy Trinity Brompton Anglican Church May/June 1994)

Through the Toronto Airport Vineyard Church a spiritual virus called a revival which contained drunkenness, uncontrollable laughter and animal farm activities with people clucking like chickens, grunting like pigs and screeching like birds. They were crawling on the floor in frenzied laughter with violent head jerking claiming that this was a "new move" of the Spirit, but was actually the same old responses of the 1940's Latter Rain movement recycled. They ignored that in the occult this and other uncontrollable exhibitions are seen when a

guru touches the recipient and they receive Shakti pat.

John Arnott was so changed that he has stated, *"We can never go back to Church the way is use to be, never."*

This could hardly be recognized as church.

Dr. Fruchtenbaum comments on the activity of animal behavior. *"Daniel four, where God made Nebuchadnezzar act like an ox. Here, again, the Lord's action here was not a blessing for Nebuchadnezzar, but, rather, a judgment on an unbeliever who saw himself as a god. In other words, from a purely biblical perspective, people acting like animals is not a sign of any divine blessing from God; on the contrary, if God is involved at all in such an event, it is a sign of judgment. But the fact is that God is not involved at all, Satan is probably involved to a great measure (he, too, is symbolized by a lion in I Peter 5:8-9) and most people on the lay level who are involved in the Toronto Phenomenon have been deceived by false teachers, becoming self-deceived victims of mass hysteria and mesmerism."*

John Wimber kept a wait-and-see attitude *even with* the animal sounds and accompanying behavior. It was later Wimber eventually had to distance himself when the manifestations in the Toronto Airport Vineyard took over. Wimber never did officially reject the laughing revival and he endorsed John Arnott's book, *The Father's Blessing*.

As the initiator Rodney Browne insisted *"I'd rather be in a church where the devil and the flesh are manifesting than in a church where nothing is happening because people are too afraid to manifest anything...Don't worry about it. And if a devil manifests, don't worry about that, either. Rejoice, because at least something is happening!"* (Rodney Howard-Browne, *The Coming Revival*. 1991, p.6)

Browne may feel comfortable seeing both because it means something is taking place, but no mature

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Bible believer who stands on the Word of God would.

What makes this all the more ironic is that Benny Hinn tried to distance himself from all the unbiblical behavior in Toronto. In Hawaii someone in his service started to howl and he said we will have none of that here. On TBN's PTL show he came right out and said *"You have so much today that is pure flesh, yet people have labeled it as the Spirit. It's not the Spirit, because it's not centered on Christ. It's pure emotionalism. Some of what is happening today, some of these manifestations where people are barking, making sounds of animals - I can tell you, that is not the Holy Spirit. It is purely demonic. The Holy Ghost does not bark. Only a devil barks. If somebody barks in my meeting, I'll cast the devil out of that man."* (PTL July 4, 1997)

It was Benny Hinn who inaugurated Browne by laying hands on him and giving him the approval of spreading the uncontrolled laughter and fire of God to the people. So we have Hinn calling what he began with Rodney Browne and displayed at Toronto demonic.

Infected and infecting others

So many people are now connected to the new Latter Rain outbreak. Christian Harfouche was ordained by Dr. Lester Sumrall and is called apostle doctor and prophet, among other titles. He is the senior pastor of Miracle Faith Center Global Church, housed on 14 acres in the heart of Pensacola, Florida. Rodney Howard-Browne helped dedicate their new facility "The Christian Faith Center" on November 22, 1998.

Harfouche talks about the third move, he too wants to take people to the realm of the supernatural.

Harfouche writes *"millions came to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ during the Healing Revival, when great men of God like Jack Coe, William Branham, A. A. Allen, Oral Roberts..."* (The Miracle Ministry of the Prophet p.75)

Harfouche mentioned in one meeting A.A. Allen and Smith Wigglesworth as great men I attended. He then tells a story of how he was shocked at what they would do under the anointing. But the "Holy" Spirit was telling him to do the same! He related a story about how God spoke to him to punch a woman in her deteriorating jaw. So he punched her in the face. She hit the floor out cold, when she came too she was healed by the power of God. He punched another in the stomach and healed a tumor

In his July 1, 1999 service at First Assembly of God in Hawaii laughter broke out everywhere, it was Rodney Browne's handprint in Harfouche, there was no difference.

A prophecy was given which was almost word for word reminiscent of Rodney Browne's, the influence is undeniable, in a paraphrase - I will, shake the earth, the last house will be greater than the former, I'm going to fill my church to overflowing my power my glory I'm going to reach the world with the fire of God.

This has all been said before from the mouths of Browne, Copeland, Hinn and other Latter Rain prophets. **Nowhere** does scripture say the fire of God is the impetus or what will reach the world. Both Jesus and Paul said it was the Gospel, a clear presentation of our sinfulness and Christ's holiness being the reconciler and forgiver of it by his death and shed blood, being raised on the third day. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation, not the fire (1 Cor.1:18).

He says. *"I'm asking the Lord for a raise at the time of the Latter Rain."* Harfouche who runs a Latter Rain school is a firm believer and says the Lord told him to raise an army of 400,000 miracle workers for the end time harvest.

He has a school where he claims 100,000 have gone through to learn how to do signs and wonders, he proclaims *its Latter Rain time...* *"We are raising up an army of disciples dead men raising dead men healing devil busting bible believing god pleasing men and women of faith"*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



“This is the hour when the mighty River of God will overflow the banks, when the streams whereof will reach every habitation. Chains will be broken and yokes destroyed. The world living in darkness will see a House dwelling in great Light, experiencing the opposite; when the enemy is embarrassed, the Lord is exalted, and our victory procured” *“God’s people – his army, his generation, his miracle workers – are not scattered. We are not called to be on the defensive”* (Elijah List).

David Yonggi Cho’s prophecy

Yonggi Cho is another player in the signs and wonders movement, also saturated in word faith and visualization practices. Many had read and respected Yonggi Cho’s book “The Fourth Dimension,” even though it was filled with promoting new ageism and visualization. He wrote *“I discovered the reality of that dynamic dimension in prayer that comes through visualizing.... Don't try to understand it. Just start to enjoy it! It's true. It works. I tried it.”*

Visualization is one of the fastest ways to open oneself up to the spiritual realm—Cho teaches praying is not sufficient, that *“We should always try to visualize the end result as we pray.... If you have not visualized clearly in your heart exactly what you hope for, it cannot become a reality to you....”* *Through visualizing and dreaming, you can incubate your future and hatch the results”* (The Fourth Dimension, Volume Two, pp. 25-28, 68, p. 44)

David Yonggi Cho prophesied in 1980 about a revival that would take place in Pensacola, Florida. Many believe the fulfillment of this was the “Brownsville Revival.” He went on to say that the last move of God would move on from Florida to the center of the Western Hemisphere, naming St. Louis as the place that it would start.

In May of 1992, nearly two years before the Toronto Blessing began Mark Dupont of Mantle of Praise Ministries reported a vision of water falling over and onto an extremely large rock. The amount of water was similar to Niagara Falls. Part of Dupont’s lengthy prophecy read: Toronto shall be a place where the much living water will be flowing with great power, even though at the present time both the church and the city are like big rocks-cold and hard against God’s love and His Spirit. The waterfall shall be so powerful that it will break the big rocks up into small stones that can be used in building the kingdom (www.tacf.org/prophecy).

Prior, Dupont told the Arnott’s to move to Toronto *“in order to prepare for what God had in store for them.”* Dupont joined them with a part-time position.

Dupont was of many prophets to predict that something was about to happen in Canada. Toronto was the chosen city of whom David Yonggi Cho of Korea prophesied nearly five years earlier (April 24, 1987) that *“the last great move of the Spirit will originate in Canada, and ... will be brought to the 210 nations of the Earth before Jesus returns”* (Riss 1987). Four years later, *“In 1991, David Yonggi Cho gave a prophecy in Seattle. He was praying, and said, ‘Lord, you have segregated America for Judgment? Or are you going to pour our your Spirit?’ ... And in his motel room, the Holy Spirit spoke to him and said, ‘Take a world atlas.’ And he took out his atlas, and the Holy Spirit told him to point. And his finger went right to Pensacola, Florida. When he did that, the Lord spoke to him and said, ‘I will start revival in America, in this seaside city. It will burn like a match, head first. It will burn hot first. Then it will spread to Mobile Alabama. Then it will go all the way over to the Mississippi River. It will fan up the East Coast. It will come back down through the North and Midwest. Down in the Southwest and up through the Northwest. And all of America will be ablaze with the glory of God.’”* (new-wine@grmi.org: June 27, 1996)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Renee DeLoria (1997, p. 16) wrote about her prophecy which led her to relocate from the Seattle area to Pensacola in 1989:

"All around me in that airport in Wichita, Kansas, people were looking at me strangely, but I knew the force backing me into that wall was the power of God. I had been walking down the corridor, minding my own business, when an incredible force pushed me backward like a feather being swept by a strong wind. I had to obey ... As I was pushed farther and farther to the floor, God spoke to my spirit in an almost audible voice, clearly saying, "Azusa Street: Pensacola, Florida. Azusa Street: Pensacola, Florida. That day in January, 1989, I knew that God was going to send revival to Pensacola, Florida. I realized even then that this revival would somehow touch the world just as the Azusa Street Revival in Los Angeles had changed the course of Church history in the early 1900s." (Quoted in Christian Millenarianism From Early Church to Waco by Stephen Hunt)

Passing it on one to another it continues

By 1995 The Toronto airport Vineyard dismissed from Wimber's Association of Vineyard Churches; and they had changed their name to the Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship.

Their occult manifestations continued. It was reported gold fillings and golden flakes were taking place there; the phenomenon spread quickly to other churches open to the Latter Rain revival.

Then came the "Pensacola Revival" which is the directly linked to Toronto outbreak.

Both Steve Hill and the leadership of the Brownsville AG had gone to Toronto to receive the "anointing." Hill receive the "impartation" that would become the basis for the "Pensacola Revival." Hill had first read about HTB in an article in Time magazine titled Laughing for the Lord, August 15, 1994.

Lindell Cooley also visited Toronto prior to becoming the Brownsville worship leader.

"Strange, unusual and wonderful things started happening after Brenda Kilpatrick came back from the Vineyard church in Toronto, ... signs of early revival started manifesting in the spring services ... What had been seen in Toronto started happening among the people of Brownsville ... Brenda explained how she had a drastic change in her prayer life. 'I could never be the same again after I returned from Toronto.'" (The Source of "The River" By Pastor Bill Randle)

Hill staying in the home of a charismatic Roman Catholic couple who sought out Sandy Millar asking that he lay hands on him. Millar did so and Hill was knocked down and received at that time the "revival spirit" the same he has manifested at Brownsville AOG. Here again is the Toronto connection because Sandy Millar received his "anointing" at the Toronto Airport Church.

Steve Hill arrived at the church during the prayer meeting, amazed at the sight of it: *"I stepped over bodies to get to the pastor. When Sandy touched me, I fell to the ground ... I was like a kid at Toys-R-Us ... Then, I got up and ran to a couple and said, 'Pray for me, man, this is good!' They touched me and WHAM! I went back down. Some of you, God is going to hit in a powerful way. If you are hungry, get prayed for a dozen times."* (From the Father's Day video, June, 1995.)

I guess if it doesn't work the first time be opened to eleven more until it gets you.

Imagine the apostle Paul walking over bodies on the floor and participating in this circus at church. He rebuked the Corinthians for far less than its palsied "chicken walk," and shake, jerk and fall manifestations. Even the prayer teams themselves were manifesting some form of the jerks, twitches.

Stories are numerous *"Few know that John Kilpatrick and his wife would get up at 5 AM on*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:
A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Sunday mornings to watch TBN services from CHC and cry out for revival in Brownsville. I'm told that the revival actually began when John's wife's prayer group got hit with the laughter, and then John got hit by the power in a restaurant, weeks before Steve Hill came to Brownsville. Few know that Joyce Meyer, Marilyn Hickey, Happy Hunters, Richard Roberts and Kenneth Hagin Sr., were all dramatically impacted by the revival with Rodney that flowed out of Lakeland's CHC. (Stephen Strader: The Story Behind Carpenter's Home Church- ministry today)

At Brownsville Steve Hill enthusiastically moves from one seeker to another touches the forehead yelling, "More, Lord!" and "Fire! Fire! Fire!" Now Lord! More! More! More! Jesus! Fire! Now! repeating. (same as Toronto, same as the Latter Rain fire baptism). Rodney Browne states Fill, fill, there it is, the fire etc.. Coincidence, not really. The result was the same-the spirit impartation causing participants who open themselves to shake, laugh, roar, fall out, etc. all the same things at Toronto.

Steve Hill repeats what Browne says with a stronger emphasis on coercion, "*Don't analyze this "move of God", and you had better receive it if you don't want a stamp of disapproval from Jesus.*" (Neal & Darlenn H visit to Brownsville AOG., 2/19/97)

"This is NOT a PREACHING REVIVAL" (Rev. John Kilpatrick Leadership Meeting Oct. 1996, Kerrville, Texas).

When Kilpatrick announced that his so-called revival had no connection to the preaching of the Gospel, it had nothing to do with the unsaved. Instead, through strange manifestations that Scripture doesn't record was for the church. Which does not make it a revival. The apostles had signs and wonders following their preaching the Word but the Gospel was always clearly defined and repentance was spoken. But not here, not now, not any longer!

In the Latter Rain revivals signs and wonders follow the preaching of signs and wonders.

We began to hear of 'wonderful signs' such as being frozen in one position for hours! This is the very same occurrence in RHB at Carpenters Church in Florida.

"The time had come for God to allow His move at the Pensacola church. [Brenda explains] 'We had a friend named Steve Hill . . . He called us about his impartation that he had received from England. He was just on fire with a new anointing of what God had given him. We were so excited and said, 'Maybe this will bring revival when Steve comes . . .'"

Thus the concept of carrying the anointing proves it is a revival through a man and not a sovereign move of God.

Cathy Wood of the Brownsville A/G Church (Pensacola, Florida) described another equally dramatic episode: *...I cannot possibly explain but it was like a bolt of lightning hit me and I hit the wall and slid down it and shook and jerked uncontrollably for I don't know how long. It took my breath away and I was taking DEEP gasps over and over. As each breath came in...my head would jerk to the back ... I was being filled with a fresh anointing of the Holy Ghost. This continued all the way home (have no idea how I drove). I would start wailing out loud then would jst grin a few minutes and then back to wailing Oh, I just love being filled with the Holy Ghost. Hector said before he prayed for us that God wanted us to filled [sic] with the Holy Ghost even to the point of being drunk.... God can use a person filled to overflowing with NEW WINE. (Cathy Wood. "Cathy Wood Reports" Pensacola FL. Internet message dated July 14, 1996).*

What we are seeing today is what Mike Bickle and the Kansas City prophets spoke of in 1989. *"what's going to be coming down in the next twenty years you and I have no frame of reference for understanding. It is going to be so unusual you are not going to be able to look at the Word for every manifestation and find one there because the Spirit of the Lord has so many manifestations that you and*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



I know nothing about" (Divine Appointment [Introduction], Mike Bickle, 3/29/89, cassette tape)

The manifestations that were seen: Involuntary bodily movements such as jerking, muscle twitching, spasms, uncontrolled shaking and trembling. Intense heat or cold on the body, numbness. Feeling a force pushing one into postures or movements that are unusual; frozen poses. Spontaneous laughing and sobbing, uncontrollable hiccoughs or bending.

Others acted as if they were drunk, staggering around. Individuals collapsing and remaining unconscious for hours at a time, frozen to the floor unable to move. Or feeling itching, vibrating. Some began howling, crowing, roaring where they explained these as prophetic illustrations. Some would crawling around on all fours with a dog collar and leash around their neck and it was said the Lord will lead them. Blissful sensations, euphoria, ecstasy, out-of-body experiences, being transferred to heaven or hell, visions and dreams, contact with angels hearing outer and inner voices.

All of these responses and reactions that accompany occult mystical supernatural experiences were seen in the churches participating. These must be scrutinized by Scripture for our safety, but they were not.

The ancient saying "There is nothing new under the sun." What was will be again, and again until...

Building a New Apostolic foundation for the church: Government Latter Rain style

Certainly one can wonder how Wagner could bring so many people from all over the world together under his leadership. C. Peter Wagner states "*I believe that the government of the church is finally coming into place and that is the, the scripture teaches in Eph. 2 that the foundation of the church is apostles and prophets*" (CBN interview Jan.3, 2000).

Wagner, "*The second apostolic age began in the year 2001*"... nothing has happened because the

government of the church has not come into place. ... *And the only way to overthrow a government is with a government*" (C. Peter Wagner Arise Prophetic Conference Gateway Church San Jose, CA 10/10/2004) (emphasis mine)

Think of what he's saying, the church has had no governing! He will install a government that will overthrow another.

Peter Wagner has written a book called *the Second Apostolic Age*. In it He writes "*In the Second Apostolic Age, we are already living through the most radical change in our way of doing church since the Protestant Reformation.*" http://www.regalbooks.com/2nd_age.pdf

Peter Wagner now calls it the "NEW APOSTOLIC REFORMATION," a movement that he previously referred to as post-denominationalism. Wagner says that this is the most radical change in the way of "doing church" since the Protestant Reformation.

"Every time Jesus began building His Church in a new way throughout history, He provided new wineskins. The growth of the Church through the ages is, in part, a story of new wineskins," says Wagner. "These new wineskins appear to be at least as radical as those of the Protestant Reformation almost five hundred years ago." (Arise Magazine Article: *New Apostolic Reformation* posted September 1, 2,000)

In *Signs & Wonders Today*, one of the many books written by Dr. Peter Wagner, he gives his own definition: "*There is no question that a new and exciting era has come upon Christianity in the twentieth century. It started with the Pentecostal movement at the beginning of the century, a movement which continues to multiply under God's blessing. It was joined by the Charismatic movement soon after mid-century. And now in these latter decades the Spirit is moving in what some of us like to call the third wave where we are seeing the miraculous works of God operating as they have been in the other movements in churches which*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



have not been nor intend to be either Pentecostal or charismatic."

In a brochure advertising C. Peter Wagner's conference in Brisbane Australia, the following was written: *"The New Apostolic Reformation is an extraordinary work of the Holy Spirit that is changing the shape of Christianity globally. It is truly a new day! The Church is changing. New names! New methods! New worship expressions! The Lord is establishing the foundations of the Church for the new millennium. This foundation is built upon apostles and prophets. Apostles execute and establish God's plan on the earth. ... This conference will cause the Body to understand God's 'new' order for this coming era. "* signed by Peter Wagner and Ben Gray. (Brochure For Brisbane 2000, as cited in *Jumping On The Bandwagon - Australian Christian Churches, Seduced by the Beat of a Different Drummer?* Hughie Seaborn, 1999, <http://members.ozemail.com.au/~rseaborn/bandwagon.html>)

Wagner is proposing the church was not being built on the apostles and prophets until now.

An appeal by John Eckhardt an apostle who has joined the apostolic movement of Wagner early on. *"Dear evangelist, pastor and teacher, don't fight the apostles and prophets the Lord is raising up. They are needed in order to fulfill the Great Commission, just as you are"* (p. 41-42, "Moving in the Apostolic").

"Paul warned the Church of what would happen when he departed. A picture of what happens when apostolic ministry is no longer present, this prophecy came to pass after the death of the early apostles" (ibid. p.30).

He is proposing we have been missing it since the first century. Bill Hamon says, *"The company of prophets will help restore the apostles back into their rightful place in the church. The full restoration of apostles and prophets back into the church will bring divine order, unity, purity, and maturity to the corporate Body of Christ."*

(Prophets and Personal Prophecy, God's Prophetic Voice Today" p. 53 by Bishop Bill Hamon, Destiny Image Press, 1987).

"Since the commission of the Church is apostolic, the Church needs apostles to be able to fulfill it" (ibid p.32). *With the restoration of the office of the apostle, there is a restoration of apostolic doctrine, apostolic binding and loosing, apostolic revelation, apostolic governments and apostolic boldness. According to the prophet Haggai, the glory of the latter temple (the Church) shall be greater than the former (see Hag. 2:9) (p.35) It will take the end-times anointing of the apostles and prophets to penetrate the darkness"* (ibid p.41).

Apostle John Eckhardt further writes, *"The apostle then establishes new churches and new revelation in these areas. Even where there are already churches in existence, an apostle can come in and establish new revelation. (p.56) "Wherever God sends His apostles, they will help change the spiritual climate of their assigned areas, whether those areas are cities, regions or nations. (ibid.) Those who come into contact with true apostles gain a better understanding of God's purposes as revealed in the Word of God. (Eckhardt 69). Apostles have the ability to steer the Church in the right direction. This is one of the reasons we need apostles today. The Church has always needed apostles, because it has a tendency to be influenced by the traditions of men and stray from the course ordained by God."* (p.78 John Eckhardt)

What Eckhardt is saying is what all Latter Rain teachers say, *"you lack God's purpose until you join yourself with an apostle."* Which is the same as what Bill Hamon is saying, *"Any local church which is established without an apostle or prophet ministry will not have a proper foundation for maximum growth."* (*Prophets in Today's Church*, Adapted from *Prophets and Personal Prophecy*, By Dr. Bill Hamon.)

Chuck Pierce (who is now the leader since Wagner died) *"Now, Peter (Wagner) mentioned to us how there is a great shift is going on, he calls it a*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



“reformation” some are beginning to call it a “revolution” that is going on and as this revolution/reformation goes on there is an increase coming in government...Now when the government of God begins to order and increase we will begin to see the government of the earth and the nations of the earth come into alignment... Let me say this, when the apostolic/prophetic government begins to rise up and come into order territorially they begin to actually, the word “father” is an apostolic term, they actually begin to father the government of their region. Now, we need to have a mentality that the church is not the church is not the tail but the head and can begin to set the course of their area.” (National School Of The Prophets (Mobilizing The Prophetic Office Chuck Pierce, 5/11/00).

“[T]he Apostles are being raised up. God has raised up these men to be very visible. We know a lot about a few Apostles in the New Testament. We will know a lot about a few Apostles in the New Jerusalem. We can get offended, or we can get on board.” (Finding Your Place in the Apostolic Vision Feb., 1999)

I see little difference in Wagners apostolic movement and the Mormon church that says: *“We solemnly affirm that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is in fact a restoration of the Church established by the Son of God...that it is built upon a foundation of apostles and prophets,... was restored under the hands of those who held it anciently....” (Proclamation to the World, the First Presidency, 1980)*

While Bill Hamon cites the scripture as a proof text for this movement, he departs in its actual interpretation. It says the apostles that Jesus chose were the foundation, Eph. 2:20, *“Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,”* past tense, the foundation had been laid down. The church continued to be built from that time on this foundation laid. We do not go back to rebuild the foundation, the church has been growing on this foundation for nearly 2,000 years. What it is not saying is that we must have *newer apostles.* 2

Timothy 3:16-17: the Scripture is given by God, so “that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” We do not need new revelation but be obedient to the revelation already written.

What is even more disturbing is hearing new apostle Eckhardt say, *“Apostles confront the false doctrines and teachings of men. They also confront tradition when it has made the Word of God of no effect.”* (“Moving in the Apostolic” p.81).

If this were true than we would not see so much false teaching coming from these apostles or prophecies that fail. So this confirms they are not apostles as they claim. Yet he concludes *“There are more apostles and prophets on the earth than ever before. We are living in apostolic times”* (p.67 *ibid.*).

And that is a problem. As Jesus warned about the false prophets increasing in the last days, saying there will be MANY.

Peter Wagner has stated – *“Apostles and prophets the foundation of the Church ... I identify as James an apostle as my function as a horizontal apostles to bring together the people of the body of Christ not only can I do it I love to do it, ... and these prophets many of whom are going to be speakers in this conference come under my guidance coordination and leadership as an apostle, they each have apostles in their own networks but I mean they're under spiritually But I'm the one that brings them together and when I bring them together things happen.”* (C. Peter Wagner National School of The Prophets Mobilizing The Prophetic Office May 11, 2,000 tape #1)

Certainly people wondered how Wagner could bring so many people together from all over under his leadership. Jim Lafoon apparently tells us *“People say how can Dr. Wagner in his age be with all these weird people, he's been on 14 year drunk, it's the only way to explain it, he's not been sober*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



for years.” (Jim Lafoon Mobilizing the Prophetic Office conference 2,000).

Barbara Yoder: “*God is raising up Dr. Peter Wagner, God is raising up Chuck pierce, God is raising up these leaders who are here to literally take us into a new place we've never been before.*” (Barbara Yoder, Tape #8 National School of The Prophets 0005209A May 12, 2,000)

Indeed. As the mixture of Gnosticism, mysticism, Latter Rain converges to create a new Church, a new Christianity by a leadership of new apostles and prophets.

Rick Joyner who is also involved as prophet says of these new appointed offices “*It was said of the Apostle Paul that he was turning the world upside down; it will be said of the apostles soon to be anointed that they have turned an upside down world right side up. Nations will tremble at the mention of their name.*” (The Harvest; Rick Joyner).

Wagner says. “*But people are now realizing that they have spent 30 or 40 years trying to pour new wine into old wineskins. They are attempting the impossible.*” (Charisma Online News Service, 2/24/04; Giant in the Faith' Theologian Encourages Pentecostalism)

Wagner explains our condition, *Old wineskins are strongly appealing. They offer a great deal of comfort and security. Jesus said, “No one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says ‘The old is better’” (Luke 5:39). Therefore, the majority of people will never desire to move into the new wineskins of the Second Apostolic Age.*

Consequently, they will never join the ranks of history makers. Why do they resist? Moving from an old wineskin to a new wineskin seems to be too much of a risk!

Wagner says “the whole movement based on prophets and apostles that has now emerged as the new wine skin that God is giving to the body of Christ is called the new apostolic reformation.”

(National School of The Prophets Mobilizing The Prophetic Office Wagner May 11, 2000)

Is this what Jesus meant, joining another (2nd) apostolic age? What second apostolic age? The Bible says absolutely nothing on this. It is a risk of unprecedented proportions to have a completely new way of doing church, a church that has no basis on the apostles teaching that was already delivered to the church. The Bible says the original apostles laid the foundation. We don't go back and change the foundation after nearly 2,000 years, all that was built on it will crumble.

Wagner also says, *Thirty years of attempting to pour the new wine of the power of the Holy Spirit and of theological orthodoxy into decaying old wineskins of denominational structures has now been seen as a well-intentioned but fruitless effort. The spirit of religion would like reform-minded leaders to do the same for another 30 years, rather than take the bold step of moving and establishing separate apostolic networks.*” (Wagner/2nd Apostolic Age p. 3 of chapter 11)

Wagner is so intent on establishing his apostolic leadership that he sees denominations are bad, so he wants to replace it with his “apostolic denomination” (which he calls a government) that will rule over ALL denominations. This is a repeat of what Branham preached, except he wants this done with evangelicals, Pentecostals, fundamentalists etc.

The fact is Wagner and almost all his associates under him are teaching Latter Rain doctrines. They instead call it 3rd wave so it is not as easily recognized. They can call it what they want, it does not change what they are and what they are teaching.

In Roger Sapp's book “The Last Apostles on Earth,” endorsed by C. P. Wagner, he proposes a scenario we are consistently hearing from the spiritual warfare practitioners, that after the evil prince spirits are defeated “*they will be eventually dethroned by the warfare of the Church. In contrast,*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



a man who is an apostle and submitted to Christ will now reign spiritually over that locality in place of the displaced evil prince spirit." (As quoted by Teri Lee Earl's book review) <http://www.harvestnet.org/reports/lastapostlesquotes.htm>

This certainly is a promotion of the end-time dominion church, all of it founded on the Latter Rain of the 40's and 50's.

A National Symposium on the Post-Denominational Church was convened by Dr. C. Peter Wagner at Fuller Seminary, May 21-23, 1996. Bill Hamon said that, "*this was a historical occasion in God's annals of Church history. It was prophetically orchestrated by the Holy Spirit to fulfill God's progressive purposes of bringing His church to its ultimate destiny... the consensus of the panelists was that there are still apostles and prophets in the Church, and there is an emerging Apostolic Movement that will revolutionize the 21st Century Church*" (Streams, Rivers, Floods, Avalanches, cited by Jewel van der Merwe, Discernment Ministries Newsletter)

Wagner resigned from his full-time teaching position from Fuller Seminary in 1998 to become Chancellor of the Wagner Leadership Institute (WLI). Working as the head of Global Harvest Ministries. The original officers of Wagner Leadership Institute besides Wagner are: Chancellor Jack D. Sytsema, Dean Members of the Board of Regents including: Ché Ahn, George Barna, Rice Brooks, David Cannistraci, Jack Deere, John Eckhardt, Gary Greig, Ted Haggard, Cindy Jacobs, Lawrence Khong, Chuck Pierce who had taken over Wagner's position before he died.

*George Barna heads up The Barna Group, a market research firm that study's faith and culture; the religious beliefs and behavior of Americans. Peter Wagner who began the National School of The Prophets credits Bill Hamon for many of his views, calling Hamon one of his "*closest prophetic colleagues for many years*" (p. 11 of Wagner's book Changing Church, 2004 and in the foreword Wagner wrote of Hamon's book *Apostles, Prophets and the Coming Moves of God*).

In his book *The Day of the Saints* Hamon endorses C. Peter Wagner (pp.3, 37, 44, 147, 165, 250, 286, 364). Hamon also serves on the faculty of the Wagner Leadership Institute and serves as both an apostle and prophet.

Wagner on p. 12 of his book "The Changing Church: How God Is Leading His Church into the Future." Wagner refers to a break off movement from Classic Pentecostalism in the 40's, "*some have given names like the "restoration movement, "healing evangelism and "Latter Rain."* He explains, one of the reasons this upstart movement was rejected by Assembly of God "*is that it affirmed the contemporary offices of apostle and prophet.*" He later concludes "*because the time was not yet ripe.*"

Contrary to Wagner's conjecture It is not because of wrong timing, it was because of wrong interpretation's from the Scripture.

These men, the new apostles and prophets are curators of a new Christianity that has no connection to Biblical New Testament Christianity except for the words they use. Words that they redefine for themselves by new revelation.

First let's hear from the participators of the Latter Rain "*And if you remember, John wrote the revelation. " 'In the new age each man will habitually use the power of God.' "The habitual use, the habitual use of this power will enable each individual of the church to accomplish his own purposes. Man will regain his power and his dominion over the elements. It is accomplished, says, by understanding how to use our inherited authority over this power of God or god power." "there is a new thing under the sun. And it is a new manifestation of God's power that, according to Isaiah 43." (O. L. Jagger's the kingdom of God - tape)*

This is the regurgitating that was brought into the Vineyard "*God has invited us to have a role in establishing this New Order of Christianity ..."*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



(Vineyard Prophecy School 1989, cited in *Beware of the New Prophets*, p. 32 by Bill Randles).

Rick Joyner says “*What is about to come upon the earth is not just a revival, or another awakening; it is a veritable revolution. The vision was given in order to begin to awaken those who are destined to radically change the course, and even the very definition of Christianity. The dismantling of organizations and disbanding of some works will be a positive and exhilarating experience for the Lord's faithful servants. A great company of prophets, teachers, pastors and apostles will be raised up with the spirit of Phineas...*” (Rick Joyner, *The Harvest*, "Joel's Army.")

Does God want to dismantle what he started as the foundation? Does he want to change the course of Christianity, or do certain individuals want this. Joyner with many others today want to see themselves become the leaders of this ameliorate Christianity. But it is a not a renewal of what is written but something quite different that comes by new revelation.

Many of the prophets associated with Wagner are saying that the new apostles and prophets will exceed the old ones in miracles and deeds

"There's Apostles, there's Imminent Apostles and there's MOST IMMINENT APOSTLES... There's various levels of Apostles and the Lord was showing that... out of This Movement there would be 35 apostles ... that will be of the highest level of apostolic ministry. . . the whole government of this movement in it's highest level in all places it goes" (Mike Bickle, *Visions & Revelations*, Kansas City Fellowship Audio Cassette).

“God is creating a more Biblical type of Christianity to carry out these huge changes. It is still based solidly on the Bible, and it still has strong leaders, but it's not a hierarchy” (Jim Rutz Article: Welcome to My Observatory. There's Room for You Up Here).

The very premise of a new church government being put into place is not a biblical model. Peter

Wagner who was friends with Wimber absorbed his teaching when the Kansas city prophets were there and has made this into a worldwide network. In fact many of them are now involved with Wagner's apostolic reform.

The spiritual father of the healing, signs and wonders movement

One would not be wrong to point to William Branham as the spiritual father of the signs and wonders movement. When you hear about the manifest presence, or come Holy Spirit or visitations, it can all be linked with Branham. We need to understand how important he is among the new breed of spiritual progressives that Branham spoke would come, that he called the manifest sons.

Today if one claims to be a prophet or an apostle more than likely they respect, admire or have learned from Branham exclusively, or one of many. Many of the statements from charismatics and Pentecostals today are almost word for word on what Branham taught on word faith or Latter Rain. People have been influenced by him directly and indirectly. Some by reading his books, and hearing his sermons, others by reading those who have been influenced by him and have passed on the concepts.

T. L. Osborn was tremendously inspired by Branham, he said *“The man we know as William Branham was sent to demonstrate God again in the flesh.... So God willing more abundantly to show us the immutability of His Council, did it again in the twentieth century. He did it again and I beheld it. His Glory.”* (Tommy Osborn 1966 at the memorial service of W.M. Branham in Phoenix, Arizona)

Here is what others had to say about Branham. In the book “Ministry of a Prophet” Kenneth Hagin calls William Branham a prophet (Kenneth E. Hagin, *The Ministry of a Prophet* (Tulsa: Faith Library Publications), 1979, p. 8).

Hagin was also influenced by the teachings of F. F. Bosworth, the famous healing evangelist of the

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



1920s who participated in the post-World War II revival as a member of the Branham party. Bosworth was a disciple of E.W. Kenyon and a fellow traveler with William Branham. (Stanley M. Burgess and Gary B. McGee, Editors, and Patrick H. Alexander, Associate Editor, "Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements." Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing House, 1988, p. 94.)

Bosworth who had influences from E.W. Kenyon from whom Kenneth Hagin plagiarized had this to say about Branham.

F.F. Bosworth - "*When the gift is operating, Brother Branham is the most sensitive person to the presence and working of the Holy Spirit and to spiritual realities of any person I have known*" (A Prophet Visits South Africa).

David Edwin Harrell Jr. - "*Most of the participants of the healing revival that erupted in 1947 looked upon Branham as its initiator. William Branham became a prophet to a generation. Night after night, before thousands of awed believers, he discerned the diseases of the sick and pronounced them healed. The power of a Branham service remains a legend unparalleled in the history of the Charismatic Movement*" (All Things Are Possible).

Ern Baxter a well known Pentecostal evangelist was with Branham from 1947 to 1954. Baxter wrote, "when he would speak, especially in those early days, he would say some things that were terribly provocative. To me, (they were) unnecessarily so. So when we talked together, we agreed that apart from his giving testimonies and relating his life story, I would do all the speaking and he would do all the ministry to the sick. That was the way it was when we were together." (New Wine Magazine, Dec 1978, p. 56).

Apparently that was not too often considering the many sermons a year Branham gave.

The Full Gospel Men's "Voice" Magazine (February, 1961) Demos Shakarian (founder of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship

International), said: In Bible Days, there were men of God who were Prophets and Seers. But in all the Sacred Records, none of these had a greater record than that of William Branham." ('All Things Are Possible', p.161).

According to Shakarian Branham is the greater than the prophets of the Bible, and he is not alone in this view.

The numerous modern endorsers of William M. Branham

Bill Hamon calls Branham a great man of God whom all these "new prophets" look to as their model. (Branham whom said the end would be the year 1977). William Branham is endorsed in Hamon's book *The Day of the Saints* (p.161) along with the 'Toronto Blessing' -- called a spiritual 'refreshing' (p.129), which came from Rodney Howard Browne.

These are only a few of the many who admire and promote William Branham. Paul Cain considered William Branham the greatest prophet that ever lived.

Thomas R. Nickel: "*In Bible days, there were men of God who were prophets and seers. But in all the sacred records, none of these had a greater ministry than that of William Branham, a Prophet and Seer of God, whose photograph appears on the front cover of this issue of Full Gospel Men's Voice. Branham has been used by God, in the Name of Jesus, to raise the dead.*" (Full Gospel Men's Voice, Feb. 1961)

To Nickel he was the greatest prophet that ever lived.

Mr. Yves A. Brault: "*In his early years, he (Morris Cerullo) was associated with William M. Branham who came to believe he was the prophetic messenger of the Apocalypse. This messenger emphasized healing in his work. Healing also became dominant in Cerullo's work.*" (Morris Cerullo: "End-Time Prophetic Messenger")

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Mike Bickle wrote in *Growing in the Prophetic* published in 1996 that William Branham was a TRUE prophet of God. Considering that the Kansas City prophets accepted Paul Cain as their head prophet gave impetus to this.

Benny Hinn is another who has been well influenced by Branham. In 1993, Hinn recounted an incident in the life of William Branham in which Branham began to demand his healing on the basis of Isaiah 45:11:

"Then he [Branham] said, 'Lord, if the Word is health to all my flesh, I will stand on Your Word that says "concerning the work of My hands, you command Me"' (Isa. 45:11). The Lord did not say to 'ask,' He said 'command Me.' And that is what Branham did. God promised it and the evangelist commanded Him to do it." (Lord, I need a Miracle pp.74-75). Hinn apparently rephrased many of Branham's statements on God and man.

Hinn's adulation of Branham is seen on one video where [he says](#), *"He experienced the third dimension where God used him in such ways. I have videos of it and I sit and tremble watching that man being used."*

William Branham was preaching when a halo appeared over his head in Louisiana."

Hinn then talks about a man who lied to Branham about him having cancer *"This man would read people's minds."* *"He said, you don't have cancer you've come to mock me. But you will have cancer you will be dead in 7 days the liar dropped dead."*

One can say they find this in the Bible by distorting the biblical account of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5) who lied to the Holy Spirit after they promised to donate to the church. This is not the same. To say God killed someone for this does not fit the biblical criteria of how God acts.

Hinn also spoke of Paul Cain to Trinity Broadcasting Network giving him approval as a prophet of prophets *"[Cain] is the most accurate*

prophet, I believe, on the Earth today. ... Thank God for such accurate prophets." (Praise The Lord Show, Nov. 20, 1996).

Paul Keith Davis: *"William Branham: A Forerunner Ministry and Prototype of the Bridal Company."* *During the early 1930s an extraordinarily gifted prophet began to emerge as a spiritual leader of a new ministry model."* (Elijah List, March 6, 2009)

Marilyn Hickey interviewed on the Sid Roth program "Its supernatural," tells him the doctor said she couldn't have a child at 26. She then went to William Branham's meeting in Dallas TX where he called her out of the audience.

She claims she saw a wheel with in a wheel lower on the ground as it turning I hear it going woosh woosh and came into her feet. Branham then tells her to go home and receive your child. *"It wasn't until 10 years later I got pregnant and I went to a doctor and said I think I'm pregnant, he examined me and said you're not pregnant that is impossible... you're going through a change."* She went to another doctor who said *'this is a 5 and half month pregnancy.'* (the sermon where this found in The Queen of the south June 13, 1958)

She did get pregnant. When look at the sermon We hear Branham *If God will tell me what you're here for, do you believe me to be His servant? You know something's going on? That feeling... Between you and I stands that Light. You're moving from me, and you're moving way away. I can tell you right now; you're not from around here because you're from a wooded country, where there's much heavy timber and woods. And you're suffering with a female trouble. And you've got a desire in your heart to have a baby, and you can't have the baby. And you've come from Denver, Colorado, THUS SAITH THE LORD. That's right. Go home and receive your child. God will give it to you if you believe."* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ub5NZT8pWCA>

To connect this with what Branham said *Go home and receive your child* and then 10 years later it

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



takes place, is a bit of a stretch to attribute it to his words.

Marilyn Hickey promotes Branham saying “*his influence continues today because of his teaching on prosperity and the power of the spoken Word.*” This show us is that Mrs. Hickey who is part of the word faith movement believes in Branham today.

The late Latter Rain promoter Earl Paulk said “*What God is doing today is raising up prophets. I don't have any doubt in my mind that Oral Roberts is a prophet to the Church to bring us back to the healings. Many of them Branham and many others ... I believe there are other apostles and prophets God is raising up.*” (Earl Paulk, “Praise The Lord,” TBN, March 4, 1986.)

Rodney Browne also reveres Branham. “*When the great healing Revival started in 1947 with great men of God were raised up*”... along with A.A. Allen, Jack Coe, William Branham, T. L. Osborn and Oral Roberts” (p. 13, “The Coming Revival,” R.H. Browne)

John Crowder is proud to be known as a mystic. He speaks of Branham in the highest regard “*No other evangelist had such prophetic authority or the ability to heal the sick with a spoken word, as did Branham. He was truly a forerunner ministry that has yet to be fully emulated to this day.*” (John Crowder, *Miracle workers, reformers and The New Mystics* p.327)

His representation of Branham is not even close to being accurate even though he admits “*his doctrines may have gotten bizarre, but he still carried an anointing.*” (ibid. p.330)

Branham said he did not heal anyone, his angel did.

Bill Johnson of Bethel church admires Branham so much he wants the anointing of William Branham, “*If I mention the name, William Branham, in certain circles, I mean, they almost want to, you know, stone me, because William Branham is known for the heresy towards the end of his life. And yet there*

are few men that have ever lived, and perhaps no one that has ever lived that carried the anointing and the power that this particular man had.”
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VbTCDk2CGNo>

It is often said Branham's heresy was at the end of his ministry, not so. It only became obvious at the end. It was present as a child before he even claimed to know the Lord and be employed in His service.

Kris Vollaton is the associate pastor of Bill Johnson's Latter Rain church (associated with the NAR prophets and apostles) Vollaton is a man that claims God spoke to him in response to a question of having what Branham had, God promised to give the Branham mantle to him and others.

“But, what I'm believing for is a generation – a generation that'll rise up with a corporate faith, a corporate anointing to press into realms because it's my conviction that as much as God put on a William Branham, or a Kathryn Kuhlman, or a Wigglesworth, He'll put far greater anointing on a company of people than He ever would on an individual. To do that, there must be that corporate sense of, ‘we have to deal with the issue of obeying the rules of this kingdom to tap into the resources of this kingdom’...we cannot use the principles of this world and expect to tap into unlimited resource of the kingdom of God”... ..so, I was in a prayer chapel and laying on the floor and I said, “God would you give me the mantle of William Branham?” And, He said, “Well, how could I do that? If I did that it would destroy you.” Then, I was layin' there and it was like, the Lord asked ‘how could I do that’ so then I said – I waited about a few minutes – I was thinking about and I said, “Well, you could put the same mantle on a whole generation then we wouldn't stand out from one another.” He said, “Alright, I'll do that.”

Isn't that awesome? That's what the Lord wants to do. He wants to put the, He wants – not just the mantle of William Branham, but how about the mantle of Jesus Christ? That's even a bigger one

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



there, and, uh, He wants to put it on every single person."

"So, wasn't that just a great word that Bill brought us right there..." (Aug. 15, 2010 sermon of Bill Johnson titled, "The Real Jesus")

No, it was not! It is only considered great if one sides with the Latter Rain heresy.

Barbie Breathitt: *"The Bride is Entering a New Cycle of Anointing - Releasing His Angels All Over the Globe"* *"The time to receive mantles like Katherine Kuhlman, Aimee Semple McPherson, John G. Lake, Jack Coe, William Branham and others has come! Ask the Lord to take you to higher heights to receive these heavenly mantles."* (Barbie Breathitt: "New Winds, Keys and Doors: What He Opens No One Can Shut, and What He Shuts No One Can Open")

Where are we taught to receive mantles in the New Testament? Because it mentions it once in the Old Testament with Elisha it now becomes the norm? No one else ever had a mantle passed on. This is how the Latter Rain teachers operate, they take unique and rare phrases or concepts and lift them out of their context, spiritualize them and make themselves sound spiritually applicable for all.

Some may not mention Branham knowing the controversy he still carries but they espouse the same teachings; the Shepherds Chapel (Arnold Murray) teaches the serpent seed doctrine is one example. It is doubtful you can find anyone today involved in healing and signs and wonders that has not read up on Branham and desires his gifting.

MorningStar Publications and Ministries of Rick Joyner (who also uses an eagle) seems to desire to capture Branham's vision (especially having a freindship with Paul Cain). The book "Honoring the Life of William Branham" by Paul Keith Davis and Bob Jones is offered on Joyner's Morningstar ministries website (assessed Oct.29, 2011)

Joyner, pastor at MorningStar Fellowship has been deeply involved with the Latter Rain movement.

The following quote is taken from Joyner's book "The Final Quest", which he claimed was received in successive visions from God. Joyner without naming him describes a 20th Century evangelist that could only fit William Branham.

"I felt compelled to look toward one of the thrones beside me. Immediately I saw a man I recognized. He had been a great evangelist when I was a child and many felt that he had walked in more power than anyone since the early church. I had read about him and had listened to some of his recorded messages. It was hard not to be touched by his genuine humility and the obvious love he had for the Lord and people. Even so, I also felt that some of his teachings had gone seriously awry. I was surprised but also relieved to see him sitting on a great throne. I was captured by the humility and love that still exuded from him.

As I turned to ask the Lord if I could talk with this man, I could see how much the Lord loved him. However, the Lord motioned for me to continue walking and would not permit me to speak with the evangelist.

"I just wanted you to see him here," the Lord explained "and to understand the position he has with Me. There is much for you to understand about him. He was a messenger to My last-day church, but the church could not hear him for reasons that you will understand in due time. He did fall into discouragement and delusion for a time, and his message was distorted. It must be recovered, as well as the parts that I have given to others which were also distorted."

Branham and the Latter Rain connections

More similarities

Two influential men of the Healing revival era who endorse and use Branham as a model for the spiritual gifts are Oral Roberts and Paul Cain.

In 1947, Oral Roberts did a time of extensive fasting and prayer. By 1950, Roberts was traveling the country with tent meetings that were

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



simultaneous broadcast on TV stations, his healing ministry had begun.

In the fall of 1948 Roberts says God "*spoke to my heart and showed me that I would be the John the Baptist to my time in the sense that I would help prepare the way ... for a great healing to come to the body of Christ.*" Roberts, as well as other revivalists, believed that the healing revival was a precursor to the second coming of Christ. Unlike Branham, Roberts never developed the idea that he was the forerunner to Christ's return." (David E. Harrell, Jr., Oral Roberts: An American Life (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1985) 87, 149, 447-48.)

This was before Branham was telling the story of the 1933 angel's commission at the baptism in the Ohio River.

The angel told Branham (1946) about two signs that were to be given him. First was the gift in his left hand - with which he would detect diseases "*As the prophet Moses was given two signs, so will you be given two signs. First will be that you'll be able to detect diseases by your hand, taking the patient by the right hand in your left.*" (50-0813E, God Revealing Himself To His People, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

Oral Roberts also claimed his hand was anointed like Branham. Roberts understood his healing ability as he was conducting a one-night service in Nowata, Oklahoma. While praying for a small boy who was deaf in one ear, he heard God speaking as if He were standing by his side: "*Son, you have been faithful up to this hour, "and now you will feel My presence in your right hand. Through My presence, you will be able to detect the presence of demons. You will know their number and name and through my power, they will be cast out"* (Oral Roberts, *My Story*, 1961, p. 151).

Roberts: "*I was hearing God say to me that henceforth I would experience His presence in my right hand For sure, God's presence coming in my right hand was a sign to great numbers of sick*

people that there is a God and it is His nature to heal. When it came, it was unmistakable. I mean, it was there! When it was not there, I was so ordinary, everyone knew it was not there." (Roberts, Expect, pp. 92-96)

Since Roberts was with Branham it becomes suspicious that he would also have a healing ability through his hand, just a different hand. The Bible says nothing about anointed hands to heal.

William Branham, "*felt God" in his left hand* (David Edwin Harrell, Jr., All things Are Possible: The Healing and Charismatic revivals in Modern America, 1975, pp. 27-38.)

The angel ... said to Branham, "*As the prophet Moses was given two gifts, signs to vindicate his ministry, so will you be given two. He said, "One of them will be that you'll take the person that you're praying for by the hand, with your left hand and their right," and said, "then just stand quiet, and there'll be a physical effect that'll happen on your body. Then you pray. And if it leaves, the disease is gone from the people.*" (William Branham, *How the Angel Came to Me, and His Commission* (Edmonton: End Time Message Tabernacle), pp. 18-22.)

Branham explained how it worked for him "*Well, as soon as I took hold of her hand, there showed... When I was praying for them, I was using my right hand. Then on the left hand showed vibrations. And a few moments, the deaf spirit was cast from the lady, and she was looking, and I snapped my finger. She turned and looked. I said, "You hear me, don't you?" And her hearing was perfect."* (1947 Angel and His Commission Phoenix AZ Sunday 47-1102 E-23)

"*After Branham resumed his schedule of revivals, he attended one of Roberts' meetings in Tampa, Florida. In its report of the meeting, Healing Waters praised the divinely ordained work of both leaders of the revival and added: "He [Branham] said that Brother Roberts' sermon that night was the greatest sermon he had heard in all his life."* ("The

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Healer-Prophet William Marrion Branham” p.144
by Doug Weaver)

Along the way Branham and Roberts became good friends. *I was talking to Brother Roberts, here not long ago. And Brother Roberts said, "Brother Branham, what I have, a point of contact. I have the people to touch the radio, touch the--something." Said, "What do you think about that?" I said, "That's wonderful, Oral. That's fine." Anything that you can have a point of contact, something that you got faith to believe. Your ... It rests in your faith. Wherever you can start from, right there's where you begin, when you believe God. Is that right? Whatever it is, that's not to me to know. Now, to my meetings, it's a supernatural Being.*” (52-0720 Who Hath Believed our report. Hammond, IN)

Branham spoke well of Roberts promoting faith by way of contact, but with him he said it was a supernatural presence. Oral Roberts went on in his career to introduced the seed faith error, what the word faith teachers use to promote a way of financial support for their ministry and receive a blessing also.

Interviewed on the Larry King Live program Oral Roberts stated on the question of healing: *“... I don't know how to heal anybody, if the spirit of the Lord doesn't come upon me, come down my arms in my right hand, I can't do anything only God can heal.”*

Larry King: *What do you feel when you touch people?*

Oral Roberts: *“I feel the anointing I feel the presence of God its beyond my comp... it comes down my arm into this and my hand is like I have touched a live wire feel nothing in this hand.” Oral says, if he touched Larry with his left hand he'd feel nothing but if he used his right hand when the spirit is moving on me and you'd feel it go through you, and there's no explanation for it, its just simply God chose to do it and somehow he selected me.”* (Jan. 31, 2002 Larry King Live)

Bill Hamon, the last of the bridges to the Latter Rain of the 40's

In the late 1940's Bill Hamon was brought up in the Latter Rain camp. Hamon reflects on his own journey to being a prophet: *“February of 52' I started attending a Restoration church where they sang praises, worshipped God, prophesied, and believed in prophets. And I received my first laying on of hands and prophecy from a prophet. Then they released me and I started prophesying, so I started prophesying in 1952. ... Then in 1953 I went to a Bible college in Portland Oregon that was a Restoration Bible college where prophets and ministers were.”* (National School of The Prophets Mobilizing The Prophetic Office Bill Hamon - Friday, 5/12/00, 4 p.m. - Session 11).

Expressed in writings, especially his book, "The Eternal Church," he clearly describes the Latter Rain from its beginning, in the late forties, through its development to its current expression today.

Hamon plainly states *“in the 50's I'd go to Oral Roberts, William Branham, Jack Cole, Now we've raised up, hundreds and hundreds of prophetic ministries. Hundreds and hundreds of prophets. “Back in the 50's I used to go to those great William Branham and Oral Roberts and some of the great men of God of that day and I'd say “How do you heal the sick? How do you know you've got a word of knowledge? How do you move and prophesy? How, how, how, how? How many's every had some how, how, how? And consistently all those great men of God of the 40's and 50's were raised up at that time, all said the same thing “I can't tell you God's secrets.” And I'd say “Why?” “I don't know, the angel told me not to tell or God told me not to tell.” (Laughter) But in 1977 God told me to tell you everything I know, give you everything I got, and bring you to the fullness of what God's wants you to be. (Screaming and applause) And God released that reproducing anointing.”* (Mobilizing the Prophetic Office Bill Hamon - Friday, 5/12/00, Session 11)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



It was after Hamon read Franklin Hall's book "Atomic Power With God Through Prayer and Fasting" that he fasted for 7 days seeking God's will for his life. At the end of the fast he went to a service and a "prophet" was speaking there and laid hands on Hamon and prophesied over him. According to his book, this was the result: "There, the Lord began teaching this chosen vessel of God about the prophetic ministry, and involving him in it. . . Bill would be raised up as a pioneer and a worldwide leader in restoring the office and ministry of the prophet into Christ's Church with full recognition and authority." (Prophets and Personal Prophecy God's Prophetic Voice Today" Bill Hamon, Destiny Image Press 1987 p. 4)

Is it passed on by Impartation?

Some use certain Scriptures to prove the revival is passed on from person to person.

"And Moses went out, and told the people the words of the Lord, and gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people, and sat them round about the tabernacle. And the Lord came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him (Moses), and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied and did not cease." (Numbers 11:24-25)

Did God impart the spirit *from Moses* to the 70 Elders? No. What it means is that the same Spirit that was put upon Moses was extended to the others. Not *from Moses* but from God.

Acts 8:14-21 *"they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, "Give me this power*

also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit." But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!"

Some will be dishonest and say "the apostles placed their hands upon people's heads, notice what it says in v.16 *"For as yet He had fallen upon none of them."* It came from above just as it did in Acts 2.

The Holy Spirit did not come *through* the laying on of hands of Peter and John, they imparted nothing, what Simon the sorcerer saw was God's sovereign work.

The laying on of hands in the Old Testament was a symbolic act to pray for a blessing, or affirming ones call or position. At other times it accompanied the Word of prophecy being spoken or to affirm one into ministry. There is no Biblical basis for associating this laying on of hands with a transmission of a mantle or anointing from one person to another.

A transferable anointing cannot be given away by man. This is reducing the Holy Spirit to an inanimate force manipulated by men. When you claim you can transfer the anointing, the Holy Spirit by human hands, (by the will of man), you are denying both the deity and personality of the Holy Spirit.

The true anointing is NOT "passed on" from person to person by the laying on of hands. Whatever is being transferred from one person to another is not the true anointing. You cannot impart the Holy Spirit or a spiritual gift. It is the Spirit Himself that gives the gifts; *"But the one and same spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills"* (1 Corinthians 12:11). The laying on of hands was a public recognition or confirmation of what the Holy Spirit has either already done or wants to do (Acts 6:6; 8:17; 13:3; Hebrews 6:2). Acts 19 tells us that when Paul laid hands on some believers from Ephesus the Spirit came (Gr. *Epi*), upon them, from above, not (Gr. *dia*), through him.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



The real anointing is the Holy Spirit, who is a 'He', (God) not an 'it.' One cannot give 'Him' to anyone. They have called it catch the fire, spread the fire, the fire falling, Dominion fire, kingdom fire, fire anointing; just add fire to anything ... but they never considered that it might be *strange fire!*

This strange fire has come in God's living temple, the church, and it's not by two men (as with Abib and Nabihu) but thousands who have caught "it" and spread it to others. The laying on of hands to impart a spirit which is originally found in in occult circles or Hinduism by gurus has come into Christianity. They are experiencing the same Shakti pat, the Kundalini force described by those who do Yoga.

And then there was Lakeland....

Branham admitted his angel is a pillar of fire, light (this will become important as we look at Todd Bentley's experiences with angels and light). The angel that William Branham had was actually a powerful angel of light that masqueraded as the angel of the Lord. This entity appeared throughout Branham's life from early childhood.

Todd Bentley believes the pillar of fire that appeared to Branham is the same angel with him (others also believe this). He is the only person I can recall that has applied this since Branham's ministry ended.

It is crucial to understand what Bentley is claiming, he is renewing the call of William Branham. Bentley's acknowledgement of his angel as Branham's angel via Bob Jones (notwithstanding the many other angels that constantly visit him) puts his imprimatur on Branham being used of God. This is not that unusual. The difference is that Bentley is admitting this angel is the influence or power in his ministry.

Bentley's associations should be considered, they are from the prophetic movement and Latter Rain proponents. Bob Jones, Rick Joyner, Paul Cain, Randy Clarke, John Arnott (Toronto Airport

Christian Fellowship), Patricia King, Bill Johnson and a host of others that also hold to Latter Rain teachings. All the same Latter Rain participants are on the roster.

Once we identify the people Bentley associates with, (or they associate with him) the angels that work among him (which he claims to have constant experiences with) only then we can understand exactly what this is all about.

Bentley's own words of in experiencing the Pillar of Fire -- *screaming, shaking and vibrating- The fire, the fire! Burn up my flesh! I want to feel the fire!" I was screaming" "The fire, the fire, I'm burning up! The fire* is similar to what Rodney Browne described in his encounter with the fire, which is also like the Kundalini power found in the serpent fire of Hinduism enlightenment.

Rodney Browne has a story of him slapping a deaf person so hard the person fell flat on the floor. And it worked! The deaf person got up totally healed. (Flowing in the Holy Ghost p.53) Smith Wigglesworth's episodes are used almost as often as William Branham's. It seems the same stories get shared, as well as borrowed. Rodney H. Browne retells, "*Wigglesworth punched him in the stomach so hard he flew through the air and hit the floor dead! He killed him! Ten minutes later the man is healed, and running around the Church.*" (Flowing in the Holy Ghost, p.52 R. H. Browne)

God tells Bentley who is wondering why the person is not healed "*That's because I want you to grab that lady's crippled legs and bang them up-and-down on the platform like a baseball bat.*" (audience laughter). *I walked up and I grabbed her legs, and I started going, BAM! BAM! I started banging them up-and-down on the plat[form]! She got healed!*

And I'm thinking, God, why is not the power of God moving? He said, "Because you haven't kicked that woman in the face." (audience laughter)

And there is this older lady worshipping right in front of the platform. (audience laughter) And the Holy Spirit spoke to me--the gift of faith came on

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



me--He said, "Kick her in the face with your biker-boot." (audience laughter) I inched closer and I went like this [Todd Bentley performs a kick with his right leg and yells] BAM! (audience laughter) And just as my boot made contact with her nose, she fell under the power of God." (YouTube video titled, "Todd Bentley's Raging Revival." <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8XjObzfXM>)

From this he received the title of bam bam.

Bentley has anointed himself with tattoos from head to toe, and, he promotes violence to heal just like we read in the Scripture, right? WRONG!

Under the anointing Bentley shakes his head back and forth violently, his body physically shakes. His own manifestations of the Spirit to heal are violent. His signature statement is bam, bam, even in baptism. He waves his arms over the audience, shouting, "Fire! Fire! Fire." All of this is nearly identical to the Vineyard, to Toronto and Pensacola showing us that it is a continuation of the Latter Rain "false revivals." This is why he is well received by the participants.

An Important Angelic visitation

When the angelic visitations occur then it becomes even more dangerous. Bentley says: "*Then on December 5, 2000 an angel appeared to me and said he was the angel that appeared to me in April 1998 (before the Lord Jesus Christ came to me in the kitchen). He said that the day he came to me in 1998 was the day he was assigned to me. This time (on December 5th) the angel said, "I am the angel that has been assigned to your life. I am a healing angel ... You are going to take miracles, signs and wonders around the world."* Then it says "**I was with William Branham**" (the Voice of Healing movement), the angel said. He told me about William Branham's angelic encounter in 1946. "Two years later the Voice of Healing was born there was a revival." (Discerning the Call of God by Revivalist Todd Bentley - Part 2 of 2)

An angel saying to Bentley "*I am a healing angel . . . You are going to take miracles, signs and wonders around the world.*"

Sounds uncannily like what Branham was offered by "the Angel" – Who said "*I am sent from the presence of Almighty God*" that if he would remain faithful, this great spiritual move would shake the world. "*That you're to go to all the world and pray for the sick people.*" And said, "*And regardless of what they have ... if you get the people to believe you, and be sincere when you pray, nothing shall stand before your prayers, not even cancer*" (William Branham, How the Angel Came to Me, and His Commission (Edmonton: End Time Message Tabernacle), pp. 18-22; "A Man Sent By God" by William Branham.)

Because of this mandate from the "healing angel" and a multitude of other angelic experiences, Bentley prays "*Holy Spirit, come. Father let there be a release of angelic activity. I ask for the angels—the angels of intercession and healing, the different angels we see in your word Father. I ask for angels to be released to every one reading this.*"

"*The angel appeared to me again, February, 2001 in Albany, Oregon. He said, "I am the angel that was a part of the Healing Rooms . . . John G. Lake."* Next, my spirit was quickened when I read about the angel in the Bible—John Chapter 5.) *The word says there was a pool called Bethesda (v. 2) and multitudes of lame, blind, sick would come there and at a certain time, an angel of the Lord would come down and stir the waters. Whoever could get into the pool first would be healed. I started to understand the angel described in John Chapter 5 was one of many thousands of angels that are in heaven that are called to bring healing, not just through ministries, but in cities and in nations. This revelation resonated within me and in January, 1999 I was taken into the heavens and saw over 100 healing pools. I thought of several famous healing evangelists and also the Toronto Blessing and the revival in Pensacola. So I said, "Lord what are you saying?" He said, "I am going to release angels."*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



At that point I was taken into heaven and I was taken into a football stadium setting where I saw tens of thousands of angels in the stands. I was on the field and I had the ball. The time clock was running out of time. It was like the last play of the game and my first thought was, Why do I have the ball? I hate sports! (I was the last guy you'd want on your team. I just wasn't athletic.) Here I am thinking: I got the ball! It was the end-time game, there was just seconds left! The angels were in the stands yelling, "Go church go! Go church go! Go church go!" I realized they were healing angels in the stands. I thought, Lord, they are angels, just like the one I saw. "That is right!" He said. "Just like the one that was with Branham, just like the one that was with John Lake, just like the angel that was in Spokane ... You know in the Book of Revelation, the seven churches, each one of the churches had one angel assigned. There was an angel for the church of Philadelphia, and so on. The Lord said, "It is not a strange thing. I assign angels to churches. I assign angels to ministries. Look at John Chapter 5. An angel came down and stirred up the water." I said, "God!" Then, He said, "And there is a healing angel; I have assigned it to your life; and this angel will be at your meetings around the world." (DISCERNING THE CALL OF GOD by Revivalist Todd Bentley - [as edited by Kathy Thorne] Part 2 of 2)

Does God have healing pools in heaven?

Bentley's concentration on angels bringing power, naming them for their qualities and giving Bentley (and others) experiences reminds me of some books I read when I was into new age ideas i.e. Edmond Szekely and his Essene Gospel of Peace series. The Essenes according to Edmond Szekely's writings had communions with God through the angelic world, "Communions are a bridge between man and the angels" they invoked angels.

There was the Angel of Sun, (give us the Fire of Life), Angel of Water, Angel of Air, Angel of Power, Angel of Wisdom, Angel of healing etc.

Angel worship was couched in Bible type verses and terms by the Essenes who were Gnostic types (if in fact it was them or some other group). "We worship the Angels Who first listened unto the thought and teaching Of the Heavenly Father." "The Angel of Light, Who is truth-speaking," "Angel of Wisdom, Who guides us by means of thy Heavenly Order," "Blissful wisdom of the Holy Angels of Eternity."

"We do invoke the most glorious Law. We invoke the Kingdom of Heaven, The boundless time, and the Angels." "Through thy mystic insight Thou hast caused a spring of knowledge to well up within me, A fountain of power, pouring forth living waters, A flood of love and of all-embracing wisdom Like the splendor of Eternal Light."

So when Bentley speaks of Healing angels: "an angel appeared to me, the angel said, "I am the angel that has been assigned to your life. I am a healing angel" it must be scrutinized carefully by the Word of God.

Angels We Have Heard and Seen

A number of religions were started by angels, Mormonism, Islam and it certainly looked like the genuine thing to the recipients. Without honestly testing the appearances of apparitions one is left to believe whatever they experience as being from God. In this current so called Latter Rain Revival that expanded in Lakeland, we have testimony by participants of encountering angels. Not since the book "Angels on Assignment" by the Hunters has the church had such contact and interest in this. But the Latter Rain prophets (Joyner, Hinn etc.) have been saying all along angels are coming.

Todd Bentley was visited in Dec. 2000 by an angel who said "I am a healing angel . . . You are going to take miracles, signs and wonders around the world." "I was with William Branham."

"Now let me talk about an angelic experience with Emma. Twice Bob Jones asked me about this angel that was in Kansas City in 1980: "Todd, have you

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



ever seen the angel by the name of Emma?" He asked me as if he expected that this angel was appearing to me. Surprised, I said, "Bob, who is Emma?" He told me that Emma was the angel that helped birth and start the whole prophetic movement in Kansas City in the 1980s. She was a mothering-type angel that helped nurture the prophetic as it broke out."

<http://www.etpv.org/2003/angho.html>

Bob Jones tells us the prophetic movement is said to be started by a woman angel named "Emma," which the Bible certainly has nothing to say about. This same angel is said to be working with Bentley.

The problem with story is that Branham said his angel was the Angel of the Lord, who he also said to be Jesus, the Holy Spirit: now it's a she according to a modern prophet! There are no "female angels" mentioned in the Bible, not once. Every time an angel appears, they look like men. They are called *sons of God* as a collective group, not daughters of God.

Todd Bentley claims William Branham's mantle and William Branham's ministering angel is helping him. But if we examine William Branham's prophecies, teachings, healings, and the spiritual source of Branham it only proves Bentley is not biblically literate just as Branham was not biblically literate. It unequivocally proves that Todd Bentley is a false teacher by endorsing William Branham as the greatest healing evangelist and acknowledging Paul Cain who is a Latter Rain false prophet. Bentley willfully pointed to Branham and searched for any similarity of himself to him he could.

If we are to accept that this is Branham's angel, it proves that Branham was wrong, which proves Bentley is wrong because he has the same angel operating in his ministry and is telling something different (Which Bob Jones has identified as woman. Just like a woman to change her mind).

It is crucial to understand the roots of this whole movement that first went through the Vineyard

churches through John Wimber spread to the body of Christ. To befriend Bob Jones (who is one among many sordid characters he hangs with) is not good. Bob Jones telling Bentley the prophetic movement was started by a female angel may be more revealing than one would first think.

Bentley: *"has shown no sign of leaving since an angel, he said, visited him the day after he arrived. Prophetic minister Bob Jones told Bentley he believed the angel's name was "Winds of Change"--the same angel, Jones said, that visited healing evangelist William Branham in the 1940s."* (Paul Steven Ghiringhelli in Lakeland, Fla. Asst. News Editor, Charisma) <http://www.charismamag.com/news/archives/042208d.html>

Bob Jones had even more to say that connects the dots. *"On New Year's Eve, for 2008, God told Bob Jones that "the third wave was coming." Todd asked Bob what the third wave was. He said that Toronto was wave #1, Pensacola was wave #2, and the third wave is the "Winds of Change"--this move of God. This move will be a global move, traveling with signs and wonders all over the world! The third wave is here!"* (posted on <http://www.openheaven.com/>)

Bentley constantly speaks of angels visiting him *"Recently, I had an angel come to me in Kansas City. He said, "Todd, my name is Promise, and I've come to bring the fulfillment of God's promises.... "Two financial angels walk into the service and pour oil out on the pastor.""* I first saw the angel called *Healing Revival on December 5 of 2000 in Grant's Pass."*

He asks *"Holy Spirit, open the eyes of my heart and let the angels come right now. Let me feel the presence of angels, let me see the angels and let angelic activity be released here now."* You know why it is important to talk about heavenly things? *Because we actually call forth those things that are not as though they were. As I speak out the truths of the heavenly realm, I'm actually prophesying*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



angelic visitation. I wouldn't be surprised if you have a visitation of an angel today or if you have a prophetic dream. Angels can come in the natural and they can quite often come in your dreams." (Angelic Hosts Todd Bentley)

"The Holy Spirit confirms the word with signs following. When you honor and talk about the supernatural or you honor and talk about angels, guess what starts showing up? Angels." (Fresh Fire Ministries - Evangelist Todd Bentley -Teachings <http://www.freshfire.ca/teaching.asp>)

Bentley's ministry is concentrated on angelic visitations, encouraging others to do the same by teaching his own experiences of contact with the angels. This is a dangerous precedent, offering his (counterfeit) experiences to others. The reason one can say they are counterfeit is because Biblically they are foreign to how Scripture describes interaction with these beings. Because his is not a biblical teaching it is actually puts oneself in the position of being visited by angels of light, fallen angels who come to deliver new revelation and deceive by experience.

We are told by many of increased angelic visitations. One of the many is Rick Joyner, "*Angelic appearances will be common to the saints and a visible glory of the Lord will appear upon some for extended periods of time as power flows through them.*" (Rick Joyner, The Harvest, p.128-129). In his revelatory vision "the Final Quest," he meets an angel called WISDOM who teaches him to rise to the third heaven, we later find this angel is Jesus. Stories like these are common.

Bentley has so many stories of visitations which include journeys to heaven. He says, "*on three occasions over the past couple of years I've had a visitation from the Lord in which I've seen the angel of finance.*"... *I saw heaven open, and as I ascended a ladder into the heavens I saw full vibrant wings and feathers! ... and then I saw the angel standing, having a body like a man with six wings. I knew it was the angel of finance.*"

"Next, I saw a door called "treasure" and the door was open. Without thinking or considering what to do, I found myself in a treasure room in heaven. The only item in this room was gold coins, and I began stuffing those coins into my pockets until they were falling out. Then, after filling up another pocket, I opened my trousers and started filling my trousers with gold coins. After that, I stuffed them into my suit jacket. I even opened my shirt and started stuffing gold coins down my shirt!" "Still in the trance, I asked the Lord, "What am I doing?" "You're getting the offering!" (Heaven's Realities by Revivalist Todd Bentley [as edited by Kathy Thorne] Part 1 of 2)

So Bentley is supposedly in heaven and his first impulse is to steal. Of course this is presented as his money (or reward), so he is only getting an advance from God. Did not Jesus say, "*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*" (Mt 6:19-21). Apparently Jesus meant gold coins in heaven. Maybe Bentley was thinking of a pirate movie in his off time of consciousness. But God does not have any coins or currency in heaven.

Bentley is well read up on Branham - he describes how he conducted his services in detail in his article 'Living in the Supernatural' May 25, 2003.

AN ANGEL CALLED HEALING REVIVAL

"I first saw the angel called Healing Revival on December 5 of 2000 in Grant's Pass. The angel came to me again in Albany the next February. He stood in the church service with his body going through the ceiling of the church. Then the Lord told me the angel's name and that he was the same angel I saw in Grant's Pass earlier. God also revealed to me that this angel was involved in the ministry of John Lake, William Branham, and John

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Knox in Scotland. This angel, the Lord said, is from the North West Healing Revival and is manifesting again as a sign that God is restoring the Voice of Healing revival and opening up the ancient wells.
<http://www.etpv.org/2003/angho.html>

Grants Pass comes up again, and again -- Todd Bentley's angels are claimed to be the same that appeared to William Branham and to John Lake (he endorses the Healing rooms). I will not comment on John Knox because of Bentley's silly remark of including him with these men and this angel. As far as the angel in William Branham's ministry - if this is so then we now have validated a demonic connection from none other than Bentley Himself. For Branham denied the tenets of the faith because of his angels influence. Furthermore, Branham believed this to be The Angel of the Lord that appeared to Moses (same as Paul Cain believed). Now we have further Biblical problems escalating because The Angel of the Lord no longer appears since He became man as Jesus Christ.

Todd Bentley does Branham

"In our ministry over the last year, this angel has come frequently and on many different occasions. When He comes I get a gift—the ability to diagnose people's sicknesses with my left hand. At times this angel brings words of knowledge; I get very accurate details from God including people's first, middle and last names as well as nicknames, the year they were injured, the color of their vehicle and the state they are from." (ANGELIC HOSTS Revivalist Todd Bentley) In his post - GOD IS ANNOINTING AN END-TIME ARMY)

Bentley tried to pawn himself off as the new Branham. Considering the names of the angels and the invoking of them to do ministry as Bentley and others do, the similarities to the Gnostic counterfeit cannot be ignored. Like the Kabbala (a Jewish book of mysticism) that contains a chart with 72 names of angels, Bentley's angels are named Angel of promise, Angel of revelation, Angel called winds of Change, Angel of wisdom and healing.

Bentley's focus shows he was putting angels in the place of God. The worship of angels can occur when they are given more attention, when they are concentrated on as a source of revelation and power, which is exactly what was being done in his ministry.

Bentley introduced the Angel that carries the "Winds of Change":

"...the second night of the Lakeland meetings...he said he saw an angel he described as carrying the "Winds of Change." Asking him to describe this angel, Bentley replied that those familiar with the life of William Branham would recognize the angel from being a relevant factor in his healing ministry. He felt that this angel's appearance signaled a "shift in the atmosphere" for the meetings and felt that an openness for revival had been ushered in. (Teresa Neumann, Reports of Revival Breaking Out in Lakeland, Florida)
<http://www.freshfire.ca/index.php?Act=read&status=revival&Id=132&pid=954&bid=923>

When Bentley announced to the world that the same angel that ushered in the 1950s healing revival had come to Lakeland, the entire audience should have run for the exits.

Why didn't anyone correct this error from the pulpit? Godly leaders are supposed to protect the sheep from heresy, not spoon feed deception to them.

The resurgence of Paul Cain

Paul Cain was invited on stage at Lakeland, (who at the time was 78 years old). Bentley begins by ingratiating himself to Paul Cain, saying: "I saw the angel and when you came out here." "The angelic activity was released to the stadium and then I turned around and saw Paul Cain step upon the grass ... I realized the atmosphere changed when you came back out here tonight to step out on this pulpit the power of God came in, and the glory and his majesty and his holiness came in and I felt the presence of Jesus"... "I felt an impression that Jesus

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



*himself came to me and I felt the Lord came to me out of honour because he was pleased that you accepted my invitation to come **and release the prophetic word** and the prophetic blessing. Because I'm telling you right now God is redigging the well and there is a healing revival that is here - you saw it you had the recurring dream and you had the recurring vision. You received it right here in central Florida, and right here in central Florida something has begun and its going around the world its going global and you being here tonight is prophetic history and Paul I would be honored if you would release and pray a blessing of healing revival just over every hungry heart or soul watching on the television ... and I know you were with William Branham ... you did meetings you traveled with the greatest healing evangelist of the late 40's and 50's and those seeds, those healing seeds are in you Paul and I believe if you would release a prophetic blessing, a fathers blessing, a grandfathers blessing because you carried the words since the 70's and you delivered the word and for so many years and something has begun to come to pass and I would be honoured if you would release that, I feel a stirring in my heart Paul..."*

Paul Cain was promised many years prior "One day he would be allowed to stand before a new breed of men and women leaders." Was his waiting over?

Paul Cain: prays to the Father in the name of Jesus, "I thank you that you have answered my prayer that you have let me live to see tokens of this revival are be involved in it in some way or a participant if possible AND LORD YOU HAVE NEVER HAS ALLOWED ME TO SAY THAT I HAVE MET THE NEW BREED, ABSOLUTELY- MET THE NEW BREED. And when you brought Todd Bentley and I together the angel of the Lord said "you have found what you are looking for" this is a man without guile." Cain stutters in trying to pull together a Bible example using the man up in the tree Zachais and is helped by Bentley and those on stage to realize it Nathaniel: "behold Nathaniel in whom there is no guile. I couldn't believe when people were criticizing Todd that surely had some kind of guile in him and the lord spoke to me as clearly as he has

ever spoken before, and I've stood by the notables and the greats that had the greatest healing ministry of all times and I've never met anyone that has the integrity and the possibilities of leading this thing into a worldwide revival. And I just want to confer and bless whatever I can do, ... I just place to myself to hear from the Lord and to transfer and to give to my brother who has given so much to others and soo much to me, everything you have ever deposited into my life that I didn't know how to give away I'm giving it to my brother tonight to carry on this revival until the stadiums all over the world have been, uh... catching this, have been carriers of it and taking it from one end of the world to the other and thank you I'VE MET THE NEW BREED TONIGHT."

During Cains speech Bentley's head has been shaking violently back and forth. When finished Bentley says to Paul Cain and his audience "We honor a great prophet of the Lord, may God anoint every new breed that's out there tonight, anoint them (repeats "anoint them" about 10 times) ... raise up a new breed, raise up a healing army oh god, you said this day was coming a Joel's army being released. Its here, its now, and we're not going back."

After many years of no endorsement, it was Bentley's revival at Lakeland that Cain chose to get involved with. This is something he did not do for others. Not for Rodney Browne, Toronto, or Pensacola or any other. The question is why for Todd Bentley? It was his pure Latter Rain message, new breed, Joel's army and possibly the mentioning of Branham's angel.

Bentleys Latter Rain vision claimed stadiums would be filled in the "last days." Something Cain saw many years ago.

Cain endorsed Bentley and Bentley endorsed Cain.

Cain gave a typical Latter Rain description of Holy Spirit gifting when he said: "When I was a young man and first received the anointing, I could smell a cancer; I could smell a demon; I could smell

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



different types of sin. They all had a stench; they all had a different smell; they were identifying themselves. You could smell infidelity and adultery..." (Paul Cain, "The Seven Spirits of God," p. 1)

It was revealed several years prior that Cain was an alcoholic and involved in homosexuality. His own friends, the prophets, did not know this for years when he was among them, it was right under their own noses, they smelled nothing.

Cain was urged to submit to a specific restoration process by Rick Joyner, Mike Bickle and Jack Deere, because of the claims of drinking and homosexuality. www.letusreason.org/Latrain25.htm

At the meeting in Lakeland Paul Cain was on the platform. It is reported that he publicly said that there were "false rumors" about him and that he had lived a "chaste life." He told the audience that "allegations" of moral failings circulating about him were not true.

The gathering of the prophets and apostles at Lakeland to bless Todd Bentley

None of this mattered to the new apostles and prophets, all they heard was Latter Rain speech. Bentley had summoned the name above all other healers – Branham, and were quick to react in support of Bentley.

It was soon after the Apostolic government of Peter Wagner and friends came to give their imprimatur on the whole "Latter Rain revival."

With Paul Cain endorsing him, the new breed and Joel's army, the New apostles and prophets endorsed Bentley. After all they are all Latter Rain proponents. The apostles saw this as an opportunity to promote themselves to the world through this Toronto style repeat.

On June 23, 2008 Todd Bentley of the "Lakeland Outpouring," was commissioned as an evangelist in a ceremony, held in a 10,000-seat tent. Peter Wagner, leader of the International Coalition of

Apostles, read a statement about Bentley's need for apostolic alignment. He calls three apostolic pillars of the church:

Participating leaders at the ceremony included Rick Joyner, founder of MorningStar Ministries, Ken Greter who announced C. Peter Wagner, Che Ahn, Bill Johnson, John Arnott, Stephen Strader, Karl Strader, Jeff Beecham, Rick Joyner, Doris Wagner, Joseph Garlington, Sharon Stone, Paco Garcia, Clarice Fluitt, Richard Maiden, Mike Maiden, Joshua Fowler, Barry Bouchet, Wesley Campbell." (Todd Bentley "Commissioning," June 23, 2008, <http://www.freshfire.ca/?Id=1052&pid=993>)

Wagner invites the Holy Spirits power and presence to reside over them, and said to Bentley on the platform: "*This commissioning represents a powerful spiritual transaction taking place in the invisible world. With this in mind, I take the apostolic authority that God has given me and I decree to Todd Bentley;*

"I also decree that a new supernatural strength will flow through this ministry. A new life force will penetrate this move of God. Government will be established to set things in their proper order. God will pour out a higher level of discernment to distinguish truth from error. New relationships will surface to open the gates to the future" <http://vodpod.com/watch/835371-todd-bentleys-apostolic-and-prophetic-commissioning-14>

A higher level of discernment? Is this one of his jokes? There was none to be found for miles.

Ché Ahn, pastor of Harvest Rock Church in Pasadena, Calif.; John Arnott of Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship in Canada; and Bill Johnson, pastor of Bethel Church in Redding, California; laid hands on Bentley, approving him into their elite fold. It was called a true sign of unity by many. Peter Wagner called this "The Alignment Ceremony" where a total of 17 apostles participated (on stage) representing three apostolic streams: ICA, Revival Alliance, and Morning Star.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



John Arnott: *"We bless you today, Todd Bentley. You're a friend. You're a man of God. You're a man of prayer. You're a man of the spirit. You love the anointing. And I would say that it's not just the Lakeland revival, but the whole world that goes into revival. And you're leading an amazing charge. And, multitudes are getting in behind you and saying, "Come on. I'm gonna go with you." And so we bless all of that. Thank you, Holy Spirit, for raising up this young man, to lead such a mighty charge around the world, and to partner with God TV in all that has happened here in the last, uh, several months now, three months almost. We bless it in the name of Jesus, and we stand with you, and we encourage you, and we honor you."*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-A05WQYi7aQ>

Che Ahn who was involved in the "Toronto Blessing" showed his Latter Rain involvement as he previously told his friend Todd Bentley, *"He has prepared you for such a time as this ... there is a Branham anointing on you and a double portion of it!"* (Che Ahn to Todd Bentley (Lakeland Revival - April 24, 2008 - God TV).

Che Ahn: *"Recognizing that God has chosen you and appointed you to bear much and lasting fruit in this Lakeland revival, and revival around the world; Recognizing that He has called you as an Ephesian 4 evangelist and a revivalist moving in signs and wonders; Knowing that you have walked in a manner worthy of the Lord, pleasing Jesus in every way, bearing fruit in every good work, and growing in the intimacy and knowledge of God; We as your brothers and your friends, who have a deep love for you, Shonnah, your whole family, we just esteem you. We are here to stand with you, support you. And we are here to commission you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit--in the power of His name--with special oil from Chuck Pierce. It's called "Revival Oil." Chuck could not make it, so he sent this Fed-Ex, special oil for you. He's in Africa. And so we anoint you and commission you in Jesus' name."*

What an endorsement, lasting fruit, pleasing Jesus in every way and being given revival oil! Should we ignore the unscriptural concepts and practices

these men are introducing to the church via Bentley.

Rick Joyner: *"The worst state we can fall into is lukewarmness and God has sent you as an antidote for the that lukewarm spirit and the fire has been birthed here, its been released here, you have unstopped a well, you have other wells to unstop, in other cities and other places- this is just the beginning. And uh, there is longevity too, there is increase but there is also longevity coming, for many wells but also oil wells and they catch on fire they will be unstopped."*

Todd is sent to cure the lukewarm spirit? This is a birth, a beginning? Longevity is hardly the case at hand. There was no longevity here as it ended abruptly.

Stacey Campbell: *"... the Spirit came on me and said, Todd, because you asked like very few men on the face of the earth ask to see My glory, I will begin a revival through you that will pass beyond gifts into the very heart that moves God to release gifts to His children." "Todd, I have chosen you because of your background; because of your background; because of your background, to release My nature when you release My gifts; to become a living epistle like the Word that became flesh, and people saw the glory of God. And I will use you to father a movement that operates in such revival power, but it is coming out of the very nature and heart of God. ...And a whole generation will move in such signs and wonders and power, but everyone will give glory to God."*

She then speaks *"about a generation that would come on the earth that would do signs and wonders that would change society, and society would not change them. And you are a firstfruits of that generation of nation-changers that will release the glory of God in all its fullness, in Jesus' name."*

Stacey reveals the Latter Rain teaching that began from Branham. It is what she and others have embraced for so many years - a signs and wonders generation - Todd being the firstfruits of a generation means the "new breed." If this is a new

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



breed prophesied to release the glory can any of this be from God?

Bill Johnson: *“When David wanted Uriah killed, he sent him into battle and then withdrew from him. As a company of people, we refuse to do that. Many revivals through history have been cut short of their intention, God's destiny and intention over individuals, because of jealousies and fears that get stirred-up in the people of God, and we refuse to do that. We shape the course of history by partnering with you, giving honor where it's due. You welcome the glory as well as anybody I've ever seen in my life. I long to learn from you in that.”*

“And I bless you and I pray with the rest of these, that the measure of glory would increase; that Moses would no longer be considered the high-water mark, with the glory shown from his face, but instead the revelation of the goodness of God would change the face of the church,...”

What glory is Johnson speaking of that removes Moses from the Scriptural position to exalt Bentley to a position greater than his? In its place is another revelation. Yes, Bentley's voice has changed the face of the church and all these men are all reshaping the course of church history the wrong way.

His statement is wrong. Moses has not been the high water mark since Jesus came. Heb. 3:1-3: *“Consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house. For this one has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses.”*

This inauguration into the prophets and apostle network was by Joshua Fowler who prophesied over Bentley:

“Todd, the Lord has made you to be a detonator. I see cables going around the world to different nations. I see Great Britain being set ablaze by the power of God. I see even as you go into places that God says you'll go even with the glory even like

William Branham, and the Lord says you'll carry a portal anointing. And what ever city you go over, there will be a portal! 'There'll be a portal that will be opened up,' sayeth the Lord! The Lord says you'll detonate, and BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! There'll be a release of glory through the nations, says the Spirit of the Lord!”
http://legacylife.us/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=115&Itemid=96 8:15 into the video (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-A05WQYi7aQ>)

Really, is that what the Lord of the Scriptures said? Boom, boom, boom? Fowler and Bentley might as well be official Branham followers as they have such high esteem for him. (Bentley acknowledged Branham as the greatest healing evangelist who ever lived.)

Bentley began to start a “spirit” revival in Lakeland and was anointed by the apostles and prophets under Peter Wagner who wrote in February 2007, that Todd Bentley (www.freshfire.ca) *“had a prophetic experience where he was standing on the platform of a William Branham meeting in 1952. He believed it was a dream, and was watching Branham call people out and tell them the secrets of their hearts. Branham would experience a vibration in his left hand when the Angel was near him. Suddenly he stopped, looked at his hand, and turned to look directly at Todd. Todd started to wonder if maybe he was actually THERE. Branham walked across the stage to Todd and placed his left hand on his chest. The vibration went right through his body and he fell out under the power of God. When he awoke the next day he rang Bob Jones, who had “seen it all” during the night. Todd asked him; “Why 1952?” Bob replied: “That was the last year it was pure. It got corrupted in '53, and the Lord took it away in February '57.” Exactly 50 years before. The Lord told Todd this was a Jubilee season for the restoration of the Healing Ministry.”* (AboutAncientWells.org.au)

Putting aside the insinuation of contacting the dead and receiving the anointing from Branham. Then calling Jones who says he saw his dream and gives approval... how can one challenge this?

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Getting back to why Todd Bentley did not correct Paul Cain at his meeting, who basically lied about his indiscretions. And how could he? Unbenowest to the inaugurators that are both prophets and apostles Bentley was stepping out with his secretary.

The Lakeland revival's brakes screeched to a stop when he ran off with her and divorced his wife shortly after his inauguration. Thus Lakeland became LaLaland. On August 15, 2008 fresh-fires board of directors posted this softened statement "Todd Bentley has entered into an unhealthy relationship on an emotional level with a female member of his staff."

In Hawaii Cal Chinen, "*The Lord spoke to me while in Lakeland Florida and said, "This is My Holy Spirit 'Bird Flu.'" A divine virus that is now aire borne and highly contagious and highly infectious. He said, This one is incurable! This one will spread throughout the whole world!"* (Posted on ad for MOANALUA GARDENS MISSIONARY CHURCH on the web.)

In spite to what Cal Chinen spoke, this bird infection came to a halt when Bentley divorced his wife and ran off with his secretary. And none of today's so called prophets that were present knew this. God was something totally different to the new apostles and prophets of the Latter Rain.

Not one of these men who laid hands on him received a word about the sin he was in. And yet some wondered how this could have gone so wrong. Really? How could it not? Look at those involved. A teachable lesson for the church.

Bentley tried to have more supernatural experiences than all the apostles put together. Like immature children being tucked into bed. modern day charismatics openly accepted his supernatural stories as tales from a master of storyteller. But it was not Rod Sterling of the Twilight Zone, nor Alfred Hitchcock-- but Todd Bentley of the supernatural zone. The more they heard the more they became accustom to his storytelling and

forsook the Word of God. And the bewildered church leaders endorsed him just as they did Branham.

The Unity that binds

The Latter Rain adherents find unity in what is not Biblical. Number 12 of Bentley's Statement of Faith "We Believe in" ..., specifically FURTHER REVELATION - *We recognize that God is continually restoring truth and light to His Church. Therefore, we place no limit on further revelation; however, each must be substantiated according to the Scriptures."*
<http://www.freshfire.ca/index.php?Id=106>

This statement of faith in itself is an oxymoron, and in full disagreement with Christian teaching. But it does agree with the one of the tenets of the Latter Rain, new revelation.

God has already finished His revelation and does not continue giving more and more. Instead, we are to learn and understand what is already WRITTEN, which is not what is meant by the statement. To have further revelation means we have an open Bible. This has become the modus operandi of Bentley's ministry and lifestyle and was exhibited with his stories of going to heaven.

The third wave movement (as named by Wagner) spent so much time trying to hear God speak new prophetic messages that they have ignored what God has spoken and written (the Bible). That is why they are not on the same foundation as the church started by the apostles of Jesus.

Make no mistake about it- this is the Latter Rain teaching, as Bentley stated "*I'm releasing it back to where it all started in 1948 I'm releasing it back*" (he then talks about preaching on angels, not Jesus, because the church already believes in Jesus and needs to believe in angels and the supernatural (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4U2rHfRpyU>).

All this proves is what so many of us have been warning the church about for years - THERE ARE FALSE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS INSIDE

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



THE CHURCH. The prophecies spoken over Todd Bentley at the apostles and prophets commissioning service prove false prophets were deeply involved in this. None of these so called prophets knew about what was going on, this certainly speaks louder than all their achievements. They didn't know and were deceived. How can they be trusted to speak for the Lord?

The Latter Rain's Army of God Joel's Army - the manifest sons of God

Branham said, *"The prophet said there'd be a former rain and a latter rain; in the latter rain would be both former and latter rain together--a great church universal that would sweep from one side of the world to the other side of the world. A great message, great signs and wonders, would be accomplished by this church. ...That's exactly where we're living at in this day."* (61-0121, Mary's Belief, American Legion Hall, Beaumont, TX).

Branham was progressive in doctrine and gave birth to new concepts that were taken by others. *"But the Word's going to produce sons and daughters of God. Uh-huh, uh-huh. That's coming too. Watch, look at that great latter rain supposed to be done, how they would run over the wall, and leap over, and how they'd be an army coming."* (62-0318, The Spoken Word Is The Original Seed, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Paul Cain as a promoter of the Latter Rain also taught that certain believers become immortals on earth before Jesus comes. *"There will be a manifestation of the sons of God. And it won't be this baloney that we've heard of in the past;... I'm talking about a true manifested son of God;...and God wants us to realize once again in closing that there's going to be a great company of overcomers prepared for this mighty ministry which I call the prize of all the ages."* (From Paul Cain's tape Joel's Army).

"...they will also not die. They will have the kind of imperishable bodies that are talked about in the 15th chapter of Corinthians ... this army is

invincible. If you have intimacy with God, they can't kill you" (Paul Cain, "Joel's Army," 1990 p. 218).

This is also what is called in Latter Rain speak as the manchild company (overcomers).

Cain teaches that the whole body of Christ will manifest Christ at the end and take over the world as Joel's army which was the revelation personally delivered to him by the Lord. He explains *"Many years ago,.. I have come to the crossroads of life and I saw a vision of an illuminated billboard on which was written: Joel's army in training. "It was on these crossroads with an arrow pointing to the spot-though there was no building on it then! I believe God has shown me that here he is going to raise up an army. This army is not a destructive army but a deliverance army..."* (David Ptyche's, Some Said It Thundered, p.132).

Both John Wimber and Jack Deere spoke of this invincible army.

Jack Deere who was part of the Vineyard under Wimber, he said: *"Jesus is coming in power and he's going to have an army that is powerful, and this is the army that he speaks of in Joel. No one can stop it, and it will strike terror into the hearts of everyone. He says in verse 6, nations are in anguish, every face turns pale. This is just like Stephen standing and preaching Jesus to the Sanhedrin in Acts 7, you know.... And so their faces are gnarled in anger and they gnash their teeth at him and they rush at him and kill him. They're gripped with pain as they stand before this man. That's what will happen with Joels' Army with only one difference, one difference, they won't be able to kill this army. They can't go against this army and suppress it. They will flee from it in terror ... nothing can stand in its way, nothing can hold you back, if you know that place, nothing can defeat you, not in this army. In times past, yes, but not in this army. This army is invincible."* (Jack Deere "Joel's Army" message preached in 1990, Vineyard Ministries International) underline mine

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Wimber also spoke of this Army "There will be a time where even as in Acts 2 suddenly, as they were gathered, in the midst of them, the Lord came and with an anointing beyond anything; that has ever been given to man before. Something so astounding, something so marvelous that God has kept it as a mystery, ... and He is about to reveal it to the ages. ... With the judgment of all mankind will come this incredible incarnational enduement of God's Spirit and we will see the Elijah's ... This END TIME ARMY will be made of the Elijah's of the Lord God ... and the characteristic of that ministry is the turning of the hearts of the fathers to the sons and the sons to the fathers ... Soon He will build the temple... There will be a filling of the temple... while we are doing the things that Jesus talked about - these things - the Greater Things will come. Suddenly, immediately, right-away a change - in a moment without notice - the twinkling of an eye the Lord will fill His temple and the anointing of God, the power of God will come. ... So this army has power over men; furthermore this army has power over nature and principalities ... power over nature, the creation of God ... the earth shall quake before them and the heavens shall tremble, the sun and moon be dark now those words "before them" means "at their direction." (He then likens Joel's Army to the Two Witnesses in Revelation, and continues) ... *I don't know if these are two literal men ... all I know that other scriptures will tell you is that what these men are endowed with is going to be placed in the BODY. The ARMY will know these things ... 'and I will give power to my two witnesses...and if anyone tries to harm them, fire comes out of their mouths and devours their enemy.'* And I don't know if it means a literal fire or [not]... ' (John Wimber, Docklands [England] October 1990).

Not only does this have Latter Rain teaching throughout it, it is what Branham and his disciple Paul Cain spoke. This will better understood as we cover these subjects later in the book.

Jack Deere states that...

" ...this army is totally unique. This army, there's never been one like it and there never will be one like it in ages to come. ... Its so mighty that there's

never been anything like it before. Not even Moses, not even David, not even Paul. What's going to happen now will transcend what Paul did, what David did ... what Moses did, even though Moses parted the Red Sea ... there'll be a numerous company. . . , Revelation hints at this when it talks about the 144,000 that follow the Lamb wherever He goes and no one, no one can harm that 144,000. See, that's a multiple of 12. What's 12? Twelve is the number of the Apostles, 12 is Apostolic government. And when you take an important number in the Bible and you multiply it, it means you intensify it. So, 12,000 times 12,000 = 144,000. [Wrong math]. That is the ultimate in Apostolic government. Revelation talks about that. Well, here Joel is talking about it now in different words, a powerful, a MIGHTY ARMY with many Paul's many Moses', many Davids." (VINEYARD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL 1990.)

Jack Deere converged Joel 2 with Ezekiel 9: "When this army comes, He says it's large and it's mighty. It's so mighty that there's never been anything like it before... 'begin the slaughter and begin it in the temple and begin it with the elders, the leaders of my people.' And they walk through the land and they start and they begin to slaughter and you know it's already started with the biggest names in His household? He has already started the slaughter...and it is coming now among the Church." (It Sounds Like the Mother of All Battles" (Jack Deere, VMI, Joel's Army, 1990, source "Joel's Army" Jewel Grewe)

The only thing that I notice getting slaughtered in the church today is Bible doctrine and the fact is, they don't seem to care.

Deere supports Paul Cain and Bob Jones. "You see why we're excited about someone like Paul Cain or Bob Jones coming on the scene? Or others that we've met... you know those two powerful witnesses in Revelation 11:3? You know what - they are first and foremost? They are prophets. He said they will prophesy for 1,260 days. He's going to end the last days just before His Son returns with a prophetic movement that will sweep the entire face of the

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



earth and will eclipse anything we have ever seen before...the significance of these signs and wonders..." (Jack Deere, "Joel's Army" p.7)

It is Jesus who warns about a prophetic movement in the last days, not promotes it.

Hamon combines the prophetic with Joel's army "The saints are being trained now in the military bases of international training centers and their local church armories. The goal is to have them taught, equipped and field trained to be the officers that lead God's army of prophetic evangelist saints during the coming Saints Movement. They will minister under the covering and leadership of fivefold apostolic and prophetic generals who trained them. These saints will function like God's army prophetically described by Prophet Joel (Joel 2:1-11). (Prophets and the Coming Moves of God, Hamon)

Hamon who is within the New Apostolic movement says: "Each restorational advancement of the Army of the Lord has established denominational forts that are given responsibility to maintain the purity and power of that truth... New recruits are now being drafted and trained and older soldiers and generals are being put through intensified training for the next advancement of the Church Army. A new government must be established, a new way of life for those millions of people. You are now ready to rule and reign on your overcomer's throne!" (Bill Hamon)

The Bible does not speak of a Joel 2 army as a good army. In the Tribulation period they come against Israel and ravage the land, it is destructive, it is a judgment, yet they are called God's servant because of his sovereignty.

The Miracles

Jack Deere echos Branham's criteria of "The latter rain's being poured out in these last days: power, signs and wonders" as he says that end time apostles and prophets who would "do greater works than the apostles, than Jesus, or any other Old Testament prophets." (Jack Deere, "Intimacy With

God and the End Time Church," Vineyard Christian Fellowship, Denver, 1989, audiotape, session 2A)

Which does fit nicely with the manifest sons of God teaching of William Branham.

Jim Rutz claims they "do types of miracles that aren't even mentioned in the Bible. Clearly, we are in the endgame described by the prophets of old (like Joel 2:28-30 quoted above). (Megashift, Rutz) Rick Joyner says these "Miracles which exceed even some of the most spectacular biblical marvels will cause whole nations to acknowledge Jesus." (The Harvest, p. 33)

The results of this army, "all the sick are gonna be healed, the dead are gonna be raised and nations are gonna turn to God in a day" (Bob Jones and Paul Cain, "Selections from the Kansas City Prophets," audiotape; from Discernment newsletter)

"There will be greater miracles of quality and quantity performed than have ever been recorded in church history" (Bill Hamon, *The Eternal Church* 1986, pp. 388-89).



Benny Hinn, another participator in the Latter Rain promises all will be healed as he too sees this day coming. "You're all gonna be healed before the rapture." (Benny Hinn, "Praise the Lord," 7/8/96).

"There will be no sickness for the saint of God" (Rise and Be Healed! 1991, p.14)

Hinn said, "under the anointing Miss Khulmann said the day will come when the anointing of God will so increase upon His Church that ever sick Believer will be healed by the power of almighty God. there will not be one sick Christian!..." "...You say, well can it happen again? The mighty wave of healing will hit the body of Christ and everybody gets healed" (Benny Hinn Honolulu Blaisedale Crusade Jan.21 1999).

While many believe Hinn is referring to Khulmann, he could be just as easily referring to Branham who

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



spoke these same things. Hinn's vision from the lord... *"Jan 3rd of the year 2000 we break ground for that healing center in Dallas Texas. Its going to have healing gardens, with healing statues of biblical healing saints from the Old Testament. Its going to have a healing fountain an eternal healing fire, its going to have places where people can come to and be prayed for in a healing cathedral and chapels in it."* (Aug. 24, 1999 This is your day, TBN).

Rod Parsley was invited to be on Hinn's program during this time and he prophesied "it will be easy "because it is prophetically in the timetable of God, it is the fullness of time," and why not as Parsley teaches *I believe in the last day God is raising up an endtime remnant PERSON to take their position on this planet to declare the great exploits of the Lord.*" Parsley teaches that Jesus was "injected" with sin and that His blood once tainted by sin became immunized and then capable of giving us salvation and healing. *Hanging from those nails, Jesus was also deliberately infected with all manner of sickness and sin, so to bring about salvation and healing, through His divine, immunized blood.*" (The Backside of Calvary)

Hinn's healing center did not materialize and Parsley's prophetic voice was not accurate.

Under "SIGNS & WONDERS MOVEMENT" on the Elijah list (website) Cindy Jacobs (also associated with Peter Wagner's new apostolic network) states *"A new signs and wonders movement is coming which is significantly greater than what was seen in the days of the post-World War II healing evangelists. Part of the fruit of this movement will be healing centers which will be built around the world, devoted to praying for the sick and casting out demons"*

"One of the distinctive of this movement will be raising the dead. This will break barrenness off the church and such great fruitfulness will result that whole cities will turn to Christ and be transformed. This move of God will be so powerful that the church will gather in stadiums to worship.... This

will grow out of what some call the 'Saints Movement', in which large numbers of ordinary believers will be mobilized to win the lost, to cast out demons, and to heal the sick" (Cindy Jacobs - 'Generals of Intercession').

Jim Rutz, a longtime advocate is proclaiming along with his fellow Latter Rain promoters *"We have asked for and received kings--too many of them. Now we have the Real King, and He is taking the reins as Lord of Lords. The kingdom is now, and now is the time to take your place in it."*(Megashift book p. 230).

Is it NOW? Without Jesus' physical return! This is serious error. As Rick Joyner so bluntly agrees *"Those who live in the reality and power of His kingdom now will preach the message of the kingdom. We do not wait for the millennium for Jesus to reign over us. His kingdom is already 'at hand'"* (A Prophetic Vision for the 21st Century, p. 163).

"The Government of God [sic] kingdom will be established through the apostolic and prophetic authorities in cities and nations. ... (Jim Goll, "Entering The New Millennium" End Time Prophetic Vision web site <http://www.doyou-love-me.org/wsomers/enewmill.html>.)

"The last day saints will wage and win a warfare against death. The last generation saints will come to translating faith in preparation for participation in the translation [Rapture]" (Hamon, "Eternal Church" p. 329).

Hamon states: *"At that time the sons of God will be fully manifested on the earth. Widespread spiritual warfare will result with the sons of God doing battle with Satan and company, the non-Christian nations of this world will also be defeated. Once the earth has been subdued, Jesus will come back to earth and be given the Kingdom that has been won for Him by this "manchild company."" (Prophets and the Prophetic Movement Bill Hamon).*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Branham's Latter Rain legacy

The manifest sons of God doctrine in infancy

From at as early as 1947 Branham spoke on the Latter Rain being poured out.

The New Breed Teachings (Paul Cain) are also part and parcel with the manifest sons of God teaching.

Hamon: "When the church has put under it's feet all enemies of Christ ... then Christ can be released from Heaven to return as the manifested head of His physically resurrected and translated church." (Prophets and Personal Prophecy, Bill Hamon)

"Now we have crossed Jordan and entered a war that will not cease until all the enemies of God are destroyed out of the Church's Canaan Land (earth) and Christ and His Church Army have established God's kingdom over all the earth." (Hamon "Apostles" p. 252)

So Hamon is saying we are made immortal and reign **before** Christ comes back. That Jesus will return after we have completed our unity and put all enemies under our feet.

Hamon's Latter rain church dominionism distorts the Bibles clear teaching. Heb. 2:8 "You have put all things in subjection under his feet" (Jesus' feet). Rom. 16:20: "And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly." also 1 Cor. 15:24-27)

It's not the church that puts God's enemies under her feet, Jesus does.

"The prophets are being brought forth to fulfill their part in preparing the Bride-Church for her day of presentation to her heavenly Bridegroom, Christ Jesus. Jesus is rejoicing with great joy over the part the prophets are playing in preparing his Bride. When the prophets have finished their ministry, He will be released to descend from heaven with a shout and be fully and eternally united with his Bride. Twentieth century prophets are very precious to Christ, for they are perfecting the Bride He died

to purchase, the church." (Prophets and Personal Prophecy, Bill Hamon, p. 25).

Really is that how the Scripture explains it. Or does Jesus come back and then Satan is vanquished, the kingdom commences because he rids evil on the earth (Mt.25) and only those saved go into the Millennium and He begins his rule over all the earth.

The Latter Rain denial of Jesus being the only God man

It is Finis Dake's Bible that is used by many teaches against the Eternal Sonship of Jesus: "As man and as God's Son He was not eternal, He did have a beginning, He was begotten, this being the same time Mary had a Son. Therefore, the doctrine of eternal sonship of Jesus Christ is irreconcilable to reason, is unscriptural, and is contradictory to itself. ... The word Son supposes time, generation, father, mother, beginning, and conception. ... If sonship refers to deity, not to humanity, then this person of the Deity had a beginning in time and not in eternity." This is exactly what Branham taught on the son of God.

Dake: "Jesus hadn't come to earth as God; He'd come as man. And, that Jesus lived on earth, "...not as God but as a man." He also teaches that Jesus prayed, "...not as the divine One who had authority as God but as a man..." And that Jesus never believed Himself to be "...the Most High God."

Kenneth Copeland "Why didn't Jesus openly proclaim Himself as God during His 33 years on earth? For one single reason. He hadn't come to earth as God, He'd come as man." (K. Copeland, Believer's Voice of Victory magazine, Aug. 8, 1988. p.8.)

Rodney Howard Browne "Nothing Jesus did was because He was the Son of God. The Bible says He laid aside His royal robes of Deity and when He walked on earth He did so as a Prophet under the Abrahamic Covenant." (The Anointing, p.15).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Creflo Dollar "Jesus didn't come as God, he came as a man, and he did not come perfect. Perfect in the sense that he didn't need to be added to."

"But Jesus didn't show up perfect, he grew into his perfection. You know Jesus, in one scripture in the Bible he went on a journey, and he was tired. You better hope God don't get tired. Isaiah 50 says, 50, 60, somewhere, says where we have a God who fainteth not, neither is weary (Isa. 40:28). But Jesus did, if he came as God and he got tired, he says he sat down by the well 'cause he was tired. Boy we're in trouble. And somebody said, well, **Jesus came as God.** Well how many of you know the Bible says God **never sleeps**, nor slumbers. And yet in the book of Mark we see Jesus asleep in the back of the boat."

"Y'all please listen to me, please listen to me. This ain't no heresy. I am not some false prophet, I am just reading this thing out to you the Bible. I am just telling you all these fantasy preachers have been preaching all of this stuff for all of these years and we bought the package. And the question mark was there" (Creflo Dollar Creflo Dollar's program "Made After His Kind", dated Sept. 15, 22).

While Creflo calls those who teach God came in the flesh as fantasy teachers showing he does not understand this core doctrine, he takes the side of the Latter Rain teaching which has more to do with the new age.

Bill Johnson has the same diminished view "While Jesus is eternally God, He emptied Himself of His divinity and became a man..." (Charisma Magazine Feb. 23, 2012)

"He laid his divinity aside as He sought to fulfill the assignment given to Him by the Father: to live life as a man without sin, and then die in the place of mankind for sin." (Johnson, Bill "The Anointing and the Antichrist Spirit." *When Heaven Invades Earth.* 2003; p 79)

"...Everything He did in His life and ministry **He did as man who, though He was fully God, had set aside the privileges of His divinity in order to show**

us a model of the kind of life He would make available to each of us through His death, resurrection, and ascension... (Johnson Heaven Invades, p 145).

The enigma of how Jesus cannot be God and God at the same time Johnson does not clearly explain. What is clear is the Latter Rain concept of each of us imitating what he did.

Bob Jones makes this clear "And the Church that is raising up the government will be the head and the covering for them ... "There is a ministry after the five-fold called the ministry of perfection - the Melchizedek Priesthood ... your children will be moving into the ministries of Perfection ... coming into that Divine Nature of Jesus Christ ... they themselves will be that generation that's raised up to put death itself underneath their feet ... because the Lord Jesus is worthy to be lifted up by a church that has reached the full maturity of the GOD-MAN!" (Bob Jones, Kansas City Fellowship tape from 1988)

Morris Cerullo *Jesus was the visible expression of God...now, who are you?"* The audience chants in unison, "Sons of God." *When you look at me, you are looking at Jesus.* Then the evangelist says, *"Jesus knew who He was, don't you think it is about time we know who we are?"*

Out of this Movement in the late 40's came the teaching of the "Manifest Sons of God". Other terms that were prevalent were: "Joel's Army", "New Breed", "Elijah Company", "Manchild", "Overcomers" etc. Modern day prophets are always quick to deny that they teach Manifest Sons of God teaching, but yet they continue to do so.

There are a few people that accurately speak what Branham spoke, Todd Bentley is one of them "...**The New Breed will be those that are partaker of the divine nature.** As you begin to grow into the likeness of Christ you're gonna begin to partake of the divine nature. And, once you begin to grow up in that-a-way you'll continue to mature until you look like Christ

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



all over the world. Jesus was one person. Now get ready for Jesuses [sic; plural of "Jesus"] all over the world" (MorningStar Ministries, Media Store, [VS19-000D](#). "Todd Bentley Healing and Impartation Service, 08-08-08" DVD. A truncated version is on Jones' site: http://bobjonesnew.unionactive.com/Docs/Words%20of%202008/2008-09-The_New_Breed.htm

Did not Jesus tell us in advance "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them." (Luke 21:8-9; also Mt.14:5; Mk. 13:6). Jesus repeated this warning 3 times, the other 2 gospels say I am Christ – anointed)

On the new breed:

*"[They] will possess the Spirit without measure – for they are the best of all the generations that have ever been upon the face of the earth. And the best of all generations are those ELECTED SEEDS that will glorify Christ in the last days. ...they will move into things of the supernatural that no one has ever moved in before. Every miracle, sign and wonder – they'll move in the power that Christ did.... ...**They themselves will be that generation that's raised up to death itself underneath their feet and to glorify Christ in every way and the church that is raising up in the government [NAR] will be the head and the covering for them...the chosen generation of history that will go beyond all the others in power... this generation of the young people that are coming are going to see the beginning of this world-wide NEW ORDER. ...it is going to change the expression of Christianity in the earth in a generation.***" [Caps as per original; emphasis added. See also see pp. 67-69 of Gruen document.]

Jewel Grewe ([Discernment Newsletters from September, 1990](#) [June, 1990 Discernment Newsletter](#), this same tape was referred to:

*"those ELECTED SEEDS... ...will move into the things of the supernatural that no one has ever seen in the Bible – they'll move in it consistently. ...**they themselves will be that generation that's raised up to put death itself underneath their feet.** ...a*

Church that has reached the full maturity of the god-man!" [6] [Caps as per original; emphasis added. See also see pp 59, 68-69 of Gruen document]

Bentley who also regurgitates both Toronto and the Latter Rain states "...**It's gonna come out of the birth canal – it's gonna come out of the womb – because there is a labor and there is a travailing that is going on in the spirit...**" "...**Under the anointing you make a declaration and it forms tonight...**" "...**We're going to go back into travail right now until Christ is formed. God promised a day where heaven and earth must retain Him until the restoration of all things. Heaven will hold back the coming of Jesus Christ until sons and daughters come into maturity. It's called the Manifestation of the sons of God. ..."I'm talking about a maturity tonight – and it's being formed in you. Let Christ be formed in maturity. Let the full man, let the fullness of God come forth, and let the womb open tonight... and let there be a great birthing...**" (Todd Bentley Lakeland Revival, Day 57 May 28, 2008) Originally accessed here: <http://injesus.com/index.php?module=message&task=list&GroupID-WB0062AX> website link no longer valid

This concept came from Branham who taught God fully indwelled Jesus which made him the God-man and now he has returned as the Holy Spirit to fully indwell the church, which turns us all into God-men.

Kenneth Copeland states we already are getting an upgrade "*Jesus is no longer the only begotten Son of God*" (Now We Are In Christ Jesus, p.24, 1980).

Kenneth Copeland, "*[The] believer is called Christ...That's who we are; we're Christ*" (Zoe: The God-Kind of Life, pp. 35-36, 41, 1989).

Christ was the pattern son, he was only the first of a kind of many, many more are to come.

"Heaven will hold back the Second Coming... A mature church manifests the glory of God. A

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



mature church manifests the Word of God in truth and power. A mature church walks in holiness and character. A mature church walks in miracles, signs, and wonders. (Todd Bentley, May 28, 2008 - at the Lakeland Outpouring)

No, a mature church does not listen to false teaching. The reason they teach this manifest sons is because they deny the rapture.

Hamon in an interview says the *"Rapture teaching is one of the most faith deadening teachings ever preached. It has the most neutralizing affect on a Christian's aggressive growth process. We have a lot to do in this Earth and there is going to be a lot of stuff that we need to do in eternity. If you don't have a big comprehensive vision, both restorationally and eternally, then what motivation is there to do much except try to win a few souls to get a big reward in heaven?"* ([Dr. Bill Hamon answers your questions about the eternal Church.](#))

This is also held by his other comrades of dominionism: Rick Joyner, *"the doctrine of the Rapture was a great and effective ruse of the enemy to implant in the Church a retreat mentality ... already this yoke has been cast off by the majority in the advancing church, and it will soon be cast off by all."* (Rick Joyner, THE HARVEST 1989 /1990 revised booklet on p.121. Joyner later changed it to be the pre trib rapture).

Paul Cain's view of a 2nd coming of the physical Christ to earth it is a 2nd coming of power manifested inside the church. The same view was held by Branham though he also said there would be rapture.

"I don't know what the Second Coming means to you, there's so many different returns of the Lord, or comings of the Lord, I don't know, we have a cardinal doctrine like that, but let me tell you he's coming to YOU. he's coming to his Church, he is coming to abide in you, to take up his abode in you." ..."I want you to know he's coming to the church before he comes FOR the church. ... it's not a trip to heaven, but it's really him coming to make**

his abode IN US." (Paul Cain Nov.88 tape "My Fathers house" quoted in Mainstream, spring 1995)

Actually it is the opposite, as we see all the wrong interpretations, false teachings and practices of the Latter Rain have engulfed the many denominations. There is none that has not been marred in some way by these teachings. Branham passed the latter rain teaching on and it continues the same way today.

The Elijah List

Now that communication has moved to the Internet the Elijah list website is where the prophets congregate and the majority are supportive of Branham. They try to make sense of his philosophy of the gift. They teach that even a psychic has a gift from God.

Don't let the name of a true prophet being used fool you. They have nothing to do with Elijah or true prophecy - they are a group of men and woman claiming to represent the Lord (as stated in Mt.24 on prophets) attributing to the Lord anything that comes to their mind.

We have an "Elijah company," "Elijah Generation," "Elijah Revolution," and Elijah airlines; -- okay not yet. Apostles Lou Engle and Jim Goll in *The Call of the Elijah Revolution* describe a generation that refuses "to compromise with the Jezebel spirit in the land."

This idea certainly opens up one to just about anything as being valid, not just from believers who confess and follow Christ Jesus.

Steve Shultz Founder and Publisher *The ElijahList & ElijahRain* magazine has numerous of the prophets featured endorsing Branham. Consider that they call themselves prophets you wonder how they can be so blind to Branham's departure of Scripture. It is objectionable that these men claim to be prophets (last day prophets) and are unable to discern or interpret Scripture accurately. An example is "...*God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.*" They are making the same wrong

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



interpretation Branham made. It has to do with God's faithfulness to Israel by his covenant. Not some a gift that we as individuals are born with. Branham claimed to have a gift as a child before he converted because he was given it in his pre-existence. Gifts of the Spirit come by the Holy Spirit regenerating a sinner. The gift is given by the Spirit when he indwells the person, not before.

Doug Addison is the founder of InLight Connection in Santa Maria, California and is the author of the book Prophecy, Dreams, and Evangelism. He is also featured on the Elijah list website. Addison is described as *"an experienced prophetic dream and tattoo interpreter, and a professional stand-up comedian."*

Elijah list Steve Shultz *speaks of two powerful words from Doug Addison and Catherine Brown about angels coming to bring revival to California and the U.S., Africa, and across the nations.*

Addison says *"God is moving in surprisingly powerful **new ways right now** and we need to have spiritual eyesight to recognize that He may come differently than we expect."*

Addison states that Oprah has a gift from God. He explains that she wanted to be a preacher and was wounded by the church (actually she was turned off by Jesus being the only way).

How does one who denies Jesus have a gift from Jesus? According to the "Elijah List", even psychics gifts are from God.

Steve Shultz Founder and Publisher *The ElijahList & ElijahRain* magazine on his website - *Prophetic TV, Frequently Asked Questions:*

Question: *Do psychics have a prophetic gift from God?*

After a weak explanation by use of Scripture to prove we are born with spiritual gifts (this is not true, we are born with natural gifts, one must be born again for a spiritual gift)

Answer: *"...God's gifts and his call are irrevocable." As you look around in society, you can see that there are people with many different giftings: in music, art, sports, politics, business, education, science, and many other areas of endeavor. Some of these people use their gifts for the glory of God, and some use their gifts for their own selfish, and even demonic, purposes.*

We believe that it is quite likely that people who end up operating as psychics were born with a prophetic gifting from God, which has been turned to a wrong use which the Father did not intend."
<http://www.prophetic.tv/faqs.php>

Notice not one gift mentioned was a spiritual gift. There is no Scripture to justify this. This idea certainly opens up one to just about anything as being valid and from God. So it is not surprising that they would accept Branham without any Biblical testing of doctrine.

On the Elijahlist website Shultz introduces Paul Keith Davis: "William Branham: A Forerunner Ministry and Prototype of the Bridal Company" by Paul Keith Davis: Mar 6, 2009: WhiteDove Ministries - From the desk of Steve Shultz:

"Paul Keith Davis takes us back in history to a time of William Branham, who was a minister during the earlier part of the 20th century. There is much to be learned from and sought after in this man's extraordinary prolific life with signs and wonders following him. As Paul Keith shares, we have much to look forward to in our present day generation:

Paul Keith Davis explains further on Branham: *"In this experience God gave William Branham a forerunner message for his life and ministry. **I believe he was a token or prototype of an entire body of people who will emerge as Jesus' bridal company.** By his own acknowledgment, Branham was a harbinger of something new and fresh the Lord planned for the last days. This supernatural dimension will be commonplace in end-time life and ministry."*

"His ministry was a forerunner model that foresaw the impact of a body of Believers who will emerge in our day and embody the living Word. The signs

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



and wonders that follow will release a bridal revival that will be identified according to John 14:12—a 'greater works' generation." (Mar 6, 2009: WhiteDove Ministries- From the desk of Steve Shultz)

"I believe he was a token or prototype of an entire body of people who will emerge as Jesus' bridal company. By his own acknowledgment, Branham was a harbinger of something new and fresh the Lord planned for the last days. This supernatural dimension will be commonplace in end-time life and ministry." (Paul Keith Davis)

This commonplace is what is identified as the prophetic movement - better known by those more astute in Bible prophecy as the apostasy.

This is what people are being taught on this website and from the Latter Rain promoters. We have a group of prophets all desiring to be like Branham. We live in the days of diminished discernment with an accompanying fear to judge their teaching.

The Spiritual Enigma of Last Day Elijah's

Steve Schultz, head of ElijahList, has a very unbiblical premise for the prophecies he sends out to his mailing list of 100,000 plus.

In an article "*Debugging the prophetic*" by Steve Shultz answers a question- "*How and where do you find accountability for the accuracy and fulfillment of prophetic words delivered by the prophets today? Who can I rely on?*"

Answer: "*When we post any word at all on The Elijah List website-- ANY word some think it's from God and some think it's NOT from God. So, that's the way it's supposed to work. Over time, you will decide literally for yourself which words you feel are trustworthy for YOU and/or which prophets you feel have the least or best credibility.*"

He goes on to say after making a case for prophetic accuracy. "*So, the bottom line is this: just work to decide for yourself which prophet/prophetess you*

most trust and which you don't and leave it at that. I believe this is the wisest course." (Steve Shultz: "DEBUGGING THE PROPHETIC--Questions and Answers with Steve Shultz", The ElijahList, 12/4/07)

Is this what we do, decide for ourself? Trust the person? This is not wise at all. First, the prophets ALWAYS spoke accurately what they heard from God. If the Lord has spoken, as they claim, there would be no question as to their "trustworthiness." Peter tells us "*that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*" (2 Pet. 1:19-21). We are to trust in the Lord with all our heart, and lean not on our own understanding. The God of prophecy is always right.

Choosing for yourself shows Biblical ignorance. All the prophets of the Bible whether they wrote much or not are important and are equal. Imagine saying that I choose these words from Jeremiah or from Isaiah or Amos and reject the others.

Why would ElijahList post messages allowing you to decide what is true for you? The fact is that Shultz, and those who read the ElijahList believe that ALL those who post prophecies are true prophets/prophetesses, REGARDLESS of them saying what is false.

Perfecting the prophetic by practice

Prophets who are partially right, makes them ALL wrong

Today's prophets say No one is 100% right, yet they say Branham's gifting was 100 percent accurate.

Rick Joyner sates, "*If one predicts something in the name of the Lord and it does not come to pass, he probably has spoken presumptuously and needs to be repented of, but that does not make him a false prophet. No one could step out in the faith required to walk in his calling if he knew that a single mistake would ruin him for life.*" (The Prophetic

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Ministry, The Morning Star Prophetic Newsletter, Rick Joyner, Vol. 3, No. 2, p. 2.)

Bill Hamon also agrees with this view *"The prophet who misses it occasionally in his prophecies may be ignorant, immature, or presumptuous, or he may be ministering with too much zeal and too little wisdom and anointing. But this does not prove him a false prophet. It is certainly possible for a true prophet to be inaccurate."* (Bill Hamon. Prophets and Personal Prophecy)

Prophecy is not ones best try -- it is exact, because it comes from God. Either one is getting their prophecy from the Lord or is not getting his prophecy from the Lord. The problem is that their words fall to ground every time the people open their mouths.

"Bind up the testimony (of the Prophets) seal the law among my disciples "To the Law and to the Testimony: if they speak not according to THIS WORD, it is because there is NO LIGHT in them" (Isaiah 8:20). This is in reference to the commands in Scripture and the testimony of the prophets. When they speak of new revelation they have departed God's word.

Rick Joyner, a prophet and receiver of visions tells us, *"There is a prophet named Bob Jones who was told that the general level of prophetic revelation in the church was about 65% accurate at this time. Some are only about 10% accurate, a very few of the most mature prophets are approaching 85% to 95% accuracy. Prophecy is increasing in purity, but there is a still a long way to go for those who walk in this ministry."* (The Prophetic Ministry, Rick Joyner- Morningstar Prophetic Newsletter. Vol. 3, No. 2, p. 2).

As established from God, prophecy is ALWAYS 100% accurate or it is not from God. Does this sound like the biblical prophets from the Bible? Does this sound like *"...I am the Lord, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself, who*

foils the signs of false prophets ... who carries out the words of his servants and fulfills the predictions of his messengers" (Isaiah 44:24-26)

Ezekiel 12:25 *"For I am the LORD. I speak, and the word which I speak will come to pass."*

"I foretold the former things long ago, my mouth announced them and I made them known; then suddenly I acted and they came to pass" (Isaiah 48:3).

Jesus used this point for himself in John 13:19 *"I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he."* Meaning as God spoke, he speaks.

Bill Hamon describes what he has done under the auspices of the Latter Rain anointing: *"we have trained over thirty eight thousand individuals in six continents of the world, nine thousand leaders and over a thousand prophets and prophetic ministers have been raised up and are now prophesying and flowing like a river.... I could take this group right here and take trainers and in one week I could every one of you flowing like a river in the prophetic. We've done it with thousands."* (National School of The Prophets Mobilizing The Prophetic Office Bill Hamon 5/12/00).

Nearly every prophet *God chose* had a hard time accepting the call; but today everyone is signing up and taking classes from the new prophets to be one. When Moses was commission he argued back, *"O Lord, please send someone else to do it"* (Exodus 4:13-14). When Jeremiah was picked he complained *"Then said: 'Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth"* (Jer. 1:6). Not so any longer ... Hamon has had his own school of prophets for many years (here in Hawaii affiliated with Grace Bible church). But he was not the first to have a school of prophets in modern times; Joseph Smith, who started the Mormons was. He had Lectures on Faith that was delivered to his *School of the Prophets* in 1834 and that worked out so well, didn't it.

Bill Hamon says, *"God released me in '73 with a constant flow of the prophetic. And I became in demand. Everybody wanted a prophet. And there's only two of us in the whole United States that was travellin' round in the early 70's that could prophesy by the hour - line 'em up and prophesy*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



from nine o'clock to three o'clock in the morn'n through two to three hundred people in one sittin." ("Battle of The Brides" Bill Hamon at 'New Life Church' Nov. 13 1997).

Here's where it gets real sketchy, does the Bible teach a constant flow of prophesy like this? I have seen tag team prophecy take place at their prophetic conference video where one is stopped (tagged) and the other picks up right where they left off, and then another is tagged. This become more like the new age stream of channeling than true Biblical prophecy.

Deere, a Vineyard pastor was present when the Kansas City prophets were incorporated in the Vineyard movement. He explains about modern day prophesy: "*But you know what? God is in the process of offending our minds in order to reveal our hearts. And I don't know any place where it's going to be 100% right. There's going to be stumbling blocks in every ministry that the Holy Spirit is really responsible for.*" (Jack Deere, TACF, 11/20/94, audiotape)

I know where there 100% right: the Bible, that is where the true prophet's words were collected. What Deere is saying the Holy Spirits cannot give words correctly because of our being human.

Deere has learned well from his mentor Wimber. Fresh inaccurate words from God didn't seem to bother John Wimber also, as he explains, "*Prophecy's first expressions will likely be infantile.*" (Wimber in the Vineyard's fall 1989 *Equipping the Saints* magazine that was devoted to embracing the prophetic movement)

"Babies are messy and they make messes." So the implication is if someone practices prophecy they will get better at it. Then problem is those who are left to clean up the messes; and I can tell you the word mess hardly does justice to the infractions and harm that occurs.

The reason they are not near 100% accurate, they need practice. But they not much better than 10-30%. So we are looking at mostly 70% that is flat out wrong or false. One could do just as well by guesswork. In fact psychics do exactly that.

"By the way false prophets are not the only problem. In the scripture we have false teachers and

false elders, false brethren - You wanna know a major problem in the last days? Its gonna be false brothers. Satan's gonna send 'em into the church to steal the children's bread, and without prophetic discernment in the church, a lot of us are gonna be feeding the wrong people who are never gonna change, never be any different, and they're gonna be stealing the children's bread. That' what's gonna happen in the last days. False prophets are gonna be a big problem in the church in the last days, but they are not a big problem in the church right now. The false prophets aren't really the problem in the church right now. Most of the false prophets are being raised up in the New Age movement right now." (National School of the Prophets Jack Deere, "Mobilizing the Prophetic office" May 11, 2000 11:30 AM.)

Why is Deere so intent on telling us false prophets aren't really the problem in the church now? Because he is speaking at a conference with those who are claiming to be apostles and prophets.

Regardless both Cindy Jacobs and Chuck Pierce who asks pastors to stand "*I wanna say to you pastors, I so admire you because the prophets have hurt you, evidently, - your prophetic people - but yet you still believe in it or you wouldn't be here. I am amazed.*"

We need to have a clean river. Prophetic people, we need to forgive. In the name of Jesus, I want you please just to identify - We forgive you. We've made a lot of mistakes. There's no excuse but we need to do better. But we forgive. You thought we had bad motives for what we did, when you didn't look at the heart. We spoke things that hurt. We forgive you, do you forgive?"

Pierce then stated "*And the second thing I wanna do is ask forgiveness from the prophetic realm. **There will come a time that we will be very, very accurate in days ahead. And I wanna ask forgiveness for immaturity and a lack of accuracy that has come to bring words into the Body of Christ that have not been accurate***"

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"Then I want to ask forgiveness for prophets all over the world, and all over this land, who have given words that are not accurate. ... pray for us that we will become intimate with the Lord in such a way that we will be so accurate that if we come to you and say "Beware, this is going to happen," you can count on it happening. I wanna take governmental responsibility and ask you to forgive the inaccuracy of the office. Then I want of ask you to forgive the inaccuracy of a gift being filtered through emotions that are not pure. Please forgive that. Its not the gift per se' but sometimes it gets filtered through fear. Sometimes it gets filtered through bitterness. Sometimes it gets filtered through condemnation. Sometimes it gets filtered through lust. Please forgive that darkened filter and ask the Lord to begin to cleanse the Body of Christ. Now Lord I say sweep us clean. Sweep us clean!" (National School of the prophets Chuck Pierce/Cindy Jacobs Sat. May 13, 2000)

Is this what we are to look forward to in the 2nd apostolic age, a promise to be more accurate in prophecy? Do we strive in a relationship with the Lord to "hear" accurately?

Mike Bickle recognizes that most of what passes as prophecy is of the flesh. But he leaves the impression that it doesn't matter how many times someone is wrong:

"Now, obviously, probably about 80% of what's in the Body of Christ that's called prophecy is fleshiness. And so we're in a day when we're in such all immature stage of this. SO Much of what is called prophecy is not truly prophecy. So we realize that; so what's our reaction to that? We don't throw out the baby with the bath water. We say, "Lord, we don't throw out prophecy. We ask You to mature it." We don't take it is serious in the early days as we will in the days to come

... And so, though we want to grow in prophecy, we don't believe everything that's said. We've been

given 10,000 prophecies, and I believe there's only a -small number that I've really cherished in my heart as from the Lord"

So do we get mad at the people that gave the other ones? No. We just let them go; just sit on the shelf, and let them just go oil down the river.

But I tell you, because there's immaturity in that gift does not mean the gift is invalid. ... we don't throw the gift; we ask God to perfect it.

We with patience and humility say, "Lord, do something more pure." And he says, "Wait till the nineties; wait till the year 2000; wait till 2010. You think the gift of prophecy's flowing-I Will Purify it because I said I would give it to my people."

This idea that a prophet can be wrong when they are claiming to have heard from the Lord and still be considered a prophet of God is part of the Latter Rain theology that is now found in New Apostolic Reformation (Third wave).

So with 10,000 prophecies and only few being from the Lord (far less than 20%) we have church prophesying falsely 8-9 times as much as any true prophecy. You would think with statements like this people would exit and not look back. But the promise of power keeps them there.

The Latter Rain dominionist doctrine that accompanied the Toronto Airport Vineyard the Brownsville Revival and the Todd Bentley Lakeland, Florida, has continued at IHOP through its leader, Mike Bickle as his association with the leaders of the Toronto Renewal continue.

But we must turn to Redding California's Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry which happens to be the new epi - center of the Holy Ghost dispensary.

Bill Johnson who is a friend of Todd Bentley, is another popular promoter of the signs and wonders today

Which is exactly how Latter Rain teachers operate.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



The NEWEST Toronto Bill Johnson's Bethel church

Bethel church was part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God until January 2006 when the church membership voted to withdraw their affiliation. The focus of Bethel church under Bill Johnson then shifted into training people in prophecy, healing and other "supernatural gifts," some of which cannot be found in the Bible.

Like Toronto, word began to spread and many people throughout the world traveled to Redding to attend the Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry. Bethel has become the center for new Toronto movement in America.

Gospel forum, a site that promotes Johnson, posts: "His greatest breakthrough in ministry came after attending two conferences in 1987 put on by John Wimber. He realized he needed to "put a demand" on what he believed – his risk factor had to line up with the boldness of his beliefs. As he did this there was an immediate change in his ministry, and healing and miracles increased."

<http://gospelforum.org/speakers/bill-johnson/>

The need for more power drives the Latter Rain adherents. Bill Johnson tells the story of when he knelt at the feet of Oral Roberts and asked him to impart on him his "healing anointing" (Christian Witness magazine the gospel according to Bill Johnson pt.2)

Guest speakers that speak at Bethel church are Bob Jones (deceased), Randy Clark, John and Carol Arnott, Heidi Baker, Georgian and Winnie Banov, Todd Bentley, Patricia King, Che Arn, John Paul Jackson (deceased), Jill Austin, Larry Randolph. The list embraces not a few but many of the revival participants in Toronto. And of course many who agree with Branham. Roland and Heidi Baker visited TACF in 1996. Roland esteems William Branham. He says next to Jesus, Branham's the Man. Jesus Branham is most admired and he has all

his sermons and teachings.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y88d-ZyqjO4>

From all these people we should understand the Charismatic and the Pentecostal church are now being filled with Branham followers, some may know the beliefs, others may not.

What started within the Vineyard, and from word faith teachers is now everywhere. Wherever there are Latter Rain (new age) influences, doctrine is the first casualty. This is clearly on display with Bill Johnson's ministry.

"... what I'm believing for is a generation – a generation that'll rise up with a corporate faith, a corporate anointing to press into realms because it's my conviction that as much as God put on a William Branham, or a Kathryn Kuhlman, or a Wigglesworth, He'll put far greater anointing on a company of people than He ever would on an individual." ...so, I was in a prayer chapel and laying on the floor and I said, "God would you give me the mantle of William Branham?" And, He said, "Well, how could I do that? If I did that it would destroy you." Then, I was layin' there and it was like, the Lord asked 'how could I do that' so then I said – I waited about a few minutes – I was thinking about and I said, "Well, you could put the same mantle on a whole generation then we wouldn't stand out from one another." He said, "Alright, I'll do that." Isn't that awesome? That's what the Lord wants to do. He wants to put the, He wants – not just the mantle of William Branham, but how about the mantle of Jesus Christ? That's even a bigger one there, and, uh, He wants to put it on every single person." (ChasingRiver" The Real Jesus – Part 4 – by Bill Johnson. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHcRI60j0HI&feature=related>; as accessed 07/03/11

Nearly everyone directly associated with Branham and the Latter Rain went off on tangents, some into serious error. All this error continues through what is now called the third wave of the Spirit and it is being advertised as the move of God to be welcomed into your church.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Todd Bentley learned much from his friend Bill Johnson, and vice versa. Bill Johnson was one of the main supporters of the Lakeland revival, or what is better known now as the fiery fiasco of Todd Bentley, the tattooed revelator affectionately known as *bam bam*. Bentley tried to bring Toronto 2.0 to Lakeland. Bill Johnson's Bethel church can be called Toronto 3.0.

Johnson has successfully conglomerated word faith, supernaturalism, mysticism, gnosticism taken from nearly every trend or wave of the spirit in the last 25 years. He has repackaged Branhamism, and the Toronto revivalism to the unsuspecting naïve and unlearned; those who have very little knowledge of the scripture or modern church history. This becomes a potpourri of danger to the youth that it is being disseminated to.

We could say with accuracy that they are continuing the Toronto experience. In this smorgasbord of beliefs Johnson has found his niche, adopting the teachings from all that has worked, broadening its appeal to those seeking experiences.

Bethel's Signs and Wonders have angel feathers, gold dust, diamonds, glory clouds, everything a biblical revival does not (same as Toronto did).

Bethel church finds a direct connection to the movement known as the Word of Faith. The Word of Faith doctrine teaches that faith is a force. It also teaches of a Jesus whose deity was left in heaven as he became man and a born again Jesus because he became sin.

In his book *When Heaven Invades Earth* from 2003, Johnson defines his theology:

"Jesus lived His earthly life with human limitations. He laid his divinity aside as He sought to fulfill the assignment given to Him by the Father: to live life as a man without sin." (Bill Johnson, "The Anointing and the Antichrist Spirit." *When Heaven Invades Earth*. 2003; p 79)

"Jesus Christ said of Himself, 'The Son can do nothing.'...He had NO supernatural capabilities

whatsoever! ...He performed miracles, wonders, and signs, as a man in right relationship to God...not as God." (Ibid.)

"...Everything He did in His life and ministry He did as man who, though He was fully God, had set aside the privileges of His divinity in order to show us a model of the kind of life He would make available to each of us through His death, resurrection, and ascension..." (Johnson *Heaven Invades*, p 145).

Once again this is the Latter Rain view of Jesus. So he teaches Jesus was powerless on earth, performed his miracles as a man because He was no longer deity?

As a modern poster boy for the Signs and Wonders movement in his book, *When Heaven Invades Earth*, he writes that there will be a great end-time revival that will be initiated by an "Elijah generation" (this is Latter Rain speech i.e. *Manifest Sons of God*). They will transcend all other generations of Christians in regard to their ability to do greater works of power. Others have previously called it the Joshua generation, the Joel generation (Vineyard), numerous other names have been used but it is all the same.

He believes in the Latter Rain teaching of an "outpouring of the Spirit in the last generation" (p.184 *When Heaven Invades Earth*).

Scripture does NOT teach it will be upon the church (his "Elijah generation") but will be on the people of **Israel** as they repent they call upon Christ to return. And the timing is crucial, for it takes place at the end of the Great Tribulation. (<http://www.letusreason.org/Biblexp100.htm>)

Johnson claims the following about himself and associates: "We will carry the Elijah anointing in preparing for the return of the Lord in the same way that John the Baptist carried the Elijah anointing and prepared the people for the coming of the Lord" (p.184, *When Heaven Invades Earth*).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



All the Latter Rain promoters refer to Elijah. We should not overlook that it was Branham who claimed the Elijah anointing, being Elijah (and said there would be others). *[A] generation is now forming . . . that will walk in an anointing that has never been known by mankind before, including the disciples.*" (Bill Johnson, *The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind: Access to a Life of Miracles* (Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image Publishers Inc., 2005, Kindle edition).

Johnson goes even further, *"I live for the revival that is unfolding and believe it will surpass all previous moves combined, bringing more than one billion souls into the Kingdom"* (p.23).

Once you are open and convince yourself that you can do all that Jesus did (even the apostles were unable to duplicate his miracles) you have officially joined with the Latter Rain movement.

No, this is Not King Arthur's court, it is Bill Johnson at his Bethel Church.



This is a Facebook photo of husband and wife kneeling before Bill Johnson with palms raised upwards toward heaven, as Johnson and associate "anoints" them with a large sword.

Proving: WHERE THERE IS AN ABSENCE OF DISCERNMENT HERESY THRIVES!

This attitude would never have been accepted in the apostles day or even centuries after. Only now with the Latter Rain influence being a mainstay in many church's these antics become acceptable.

What was once known as discernment is today labeled heresy hunting and a critical spirit. We have found ourselves in a new atmosphere developed around certain individuals that have become the *untouchables*. They are free to dispense the new wine to their more than willing thirsting audience. And...They are wanting to transform your church into Latter Rain, 3rd wave and come under their apostles and prophets.

How to close the door

Branham followers (that attend a "Message church" or not) claim to adhere to the Word, love the Word but when they must decide what the Word says that is different than what Branham has said they always side with Branham. Why? Because he is their prophet, he is THE last day's messenger/prophet to the church.

The people that promote or desire the same ability Branham had are all doctrinally aberrant. Which means they really do not care what the Word says, they do not let the Holy Spirit be the arbiter of truth to a matter, their prophet has the last word.

Whenever the latter Rain and any of its doctrines show up, practical, biblical Christianity is dismantled. It was the Latter Rain movement that challenged the Word of God and prophecy the way it was written. Once the Latter Rain movement was denounced by the leading Pentecostal denomination of the day (50's), it was a crush to Branham's ministry because they were in conflict and indirectly rejecting Branham who instigated it.

Escaping the Latter Rain movement and return to practice real Christianity is not easy.

For example instead of letting go of Branham when he was killed, and go back to the Word, they instead

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



baptized themselves further into Branham's teachings.

Whether one believes in a single prophet for the age like Branham, or many, like in the prophetic movement it is very difficult to leave the signs and wonder, spiritual warfare movement, or the 7 mountain cultural mandate that now dominates the 3rd wave.

Many have invested time to this movement's agenda, and it's hard to separate oneself. It takes time and it takes friends to come alongside and re-teach the Bible accurately.

The longer the Latter Rain influences stay in the church the less effective we will become with the gospel and true discipleship. They say we need an apostles and prophets to make the church what it should be. Whereas the Bible teaches us to mature by the Word, which can, and has always been done when we become dedicated disciples that are moved by compassion to be missionaries, love people to want to give the gospel and take the time to disciple others.

Paul's admonition is a reminder for our benefit and protection 1 Cor.4:6 "*Do not exceed or go beyond what is written.*" To ignore His Spiritual advice is spiritual suicide and yet it is the emphasis of the Latter Rain movement of today with its new revelation, visions and dreams and spiritual manifestations never seen before.

The roots are what matter; error begets error; Latter Rain teachings have progressive revelation, new revelation which contain Joel's Army, Manchild doctrine, Replacement Theology, Post-Millennial Eschatology, Post-denominational Church, Signs and Wonders, Restoration of Apostles and Prophets, and Kingdom Now/Dominion Theology and a host of other unbiblical teachings.

With discernment at near 0% level the church had accepted Branham. Why? The Charismatic motto is - by supernatural power and experience we will be convinced. We have a choice before us, to break from the false revivals that have been taking place which will give us the opportunity for a true revival from God, or, continue to drown in the fake Latter Rain revivalism of today. And this is why it is a necessity to know the modern history of the Latter Rain movement, so we do not participate in its practices today.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Section 1

Chapter 3

Shining "The Light" on the beginning

Branham's birth and early life

In this preliminary section I would like us to begin by looking at William Branham's birth and early life. How he received his calling, and what his calling actually was, his pursuit of holiness and conversion, joining the Church. There are some things that just can't be discerned until we understand his early years. We must let the Word of God become the ultimate arbitrator for accepting or rejecting ones claims no matter what kind of supernatural signs occur or life changing experiences take place. So we must cautiously examine what is said and taking place to grasp what was operating. We ask that you to look deeper with us, in a more careful examination and let your judgment come from the Word.

Let's begin a journey that is unlike any other:

The official story: William Marrion Branham was born April 6, 1909 in a cabin on a farm near Birksville in the mountains of Kentucky. His mother was fifteen years of age and his father was eighteen years. He was the first of nine children. His parents were very poor. His father's occupation was a logger and their first home was a dirt floor log cabin. William Branham was told by his mother that his birth was accompanied by a supernatural sign.

"On the day of his birth, after being washed, he was placed in his mother's arms by the midwife who then went to a window to open the shutter. (There was no glass in the Branham house in those days.) As dawn broke, sending a few rays of light into the room, there was seen a circular halo about a foot in diameter above the bed where little William lay in

his mother's arms" (My Life Story, p.21).

In another account *"This light appeared immediately after his birth above both the mother and child."* (Footprints On The Sands Of Time")

"When the midwife (And that midwife was my grandmother) opened up the window so the light could shine in to show, let Mama see what I looked like, and Papa. When they looked in--in there, there was a Light come whirling through the window, about the size of a pillow, and circled around where I was, and went down on the bed" (ibid. p.94).

But another time he says the opposite, *"And the sun wasn't up, so it was too early, at five o'clock."* (59-0419A, My Life Story, Angelus Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

Why did they need to open the hinged window? We are told so they could see the little child. Then it was not really dark. In his book *A Prophet Visits South Africa* Julius Stadskev writes on William's birth, *"Dawn was just breaking ... sending a few rays of light into the room."* The night turning to daylight at that time in Kentucky means it would not be a *pillar of fire* but a *pillar of cloud* if this were to follow a biblical model, but it does not.

We find out that *"Both his parents were not religious or following the Lord. His father and Mother did not go to church, and they married out of the church and they had no religion at all."* (Footprints On The Sands Of Time).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"My mother is a half Indian. She came off the reservations a Cherokee Indian (Footprints p. 212; 62-0622B, Letting Off The Pressure). "If you'd see my mother walk across this platform, you wouldn't know her from an Indian.... her mother was an Indian; her father was Irish. And they come from a Catholic family. But my father and mother didn't go to any church at all." (57-0310E, Hear Ye Him, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ)

Branham said his, *"father was a long way from being a religious person. He was a typical mountain boy that drank constantly, all the time."* (My Life story). Branham states he was, *"raised up irreligious ..."* *"Never went to any church at all"*. (50-0711, Ministry Explained, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN)

Branham said *"And that midwife was my grandmother."* (p.20 Footprints on the Sands of Time; My Life Story). He also describes *"when the midwife and parents saw this halo they began to cry; they were afraid and did not understand what it all meant."* (William Branham Prophet Visits South Africa by Julius Stadskev)

This light came in stayed above where *the mother and baby lay* (A Prophet Visits South Africa by Julius Stadskev). We are also told by Lee Vayle *"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."* (Twentieth Century Prophet Lee Vayle)

You would think after a supernatural event like this occurred a family with a Catholic background would become more religious but the very opposite happens.

Here we have two non - religious people that supposedly God picked to have the glory of God visit them? This is something that did not happen to anyone since Jesus. His parents remained unfazed and unsaved until much later in life.

Branham later adds: *"And when they opened up the window, a Pillar of Fire, Light, came moving through the window, and come and hung over the little bed. My mother screamed. The midwife was there. They didn't know what it was."* (64-0427 A Trial, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ)

Branham believed this light was the pillar of fire that was with Moses, who was "The Angel of the Lord." No one in the Bible or history had ever been born with a light over them in a room. The only one who had a sign of light at their birth was Jesus and it was not over him. An angel announced his birth to the shepherds in the field and the glory stayed in the sky as a star for a few years to lead the magi who traveled a long distance to his house. Branham's birth account is made into a second star of Bethlehem story. The only person in Scripture who ever had a light associated with their birth was Jesus, because He was God. Moses did not have a pillar of fire; neither did Jeremiah, nor Isaiah. No major or minor prophet in the Old Testament did. No apostle in the New Testament had his birth signaled by a light or had a light follow him through life. This light appeared at his birth when his parents were not believers, so this could not have any correlation to God.

As with a majority of Branham's stories, further embellishments are made by his followers that are not found in his words, such as, *"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"* (Twentieth Century Prophet by Lee Vayle p.14)

Vayle records his birth to a 15 year old mother which is one year after she was married (The Messenger To The Laodicean Church Age). So does Branham in the majority of his sermons *"Mother was fifteen years old when I was born"* (My life story; 50-0820A, My Life Story, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH; 51-0923, The Principles Of Divine Healing, Jeffersonville High School, Jeffersonville, IN; 52-0713A, Early Spiritual Experiences, Civic

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Center, Hammond, IN: 53-0329, Israel And The Church #5, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN; 53-1205, The Resurrection, American Legion Hall, West Palm Beach, FL; 54-0314, Why I'm Praying For The Sick, Southland Theater, Columbus, OH; 55-0608, Abraham, Porter Stadium, Macon, GA; 59-0419A, My Life Story, Angelus Temple, Los Angeles, CA; 60-0805, Lamb And Dove, Eisenhower High School, Yakima, WA)

Yet Branham also stated he *"was borned when mama was sixteen years old"* (Footprints Book p.93). *"I was born when my mother was sixteen years old."* (50-0813A, The Resurrection Of Lazarus, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH).

As we will discover, Branham had at least two, three, or more different versions for nearly every event of his life.

"Several of the mountain people were standing there, they were crying." (52-0713A, *Early Spiritual Experiences*, Civic Center, Hammond, IN, Footprints Book; 50-0819, *Show Us The Father*, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH). We are also told *"As the neighbors gathered in to see the new born babe, there seemed to be, so it is told, a strange feeling of awe in the room. Who can say that it was not the presence of the angel ...?"* (*A Man Sent From God* p. 29)

This group gathered and crying is not usually mentioned. The problem is that in the majority of birth stories we find only the midwife was there with his parents: *"there was a midwife. Just... And that midwife was my grandmother."* (59-0419A, *My Life Story*, Angelus Temple, Los Angeles, CA; 64-0427, *A Trial*, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ). *"the midwife and parents saw this halo they began to cry."* (*William Branham A Prophet Visits South Africa* by Julius Stadskev).

Branham later used a picture to prove his stories of the past and his gift *"when "I was born, there was a Light (We have the picture of It.) circled in the room and hung over the bed where I was standing. Now, do you see why I have to believe in the*

foreordination of God, for...?... See? Out of a sinful family, none of them even went to church; none of them professed religion on either side." (54-0314, *Why I'm Praying For The Sick*, Southland Theater, Columbus, OH)

Branham believed he preexisted, and was born into the world, preordained with this special gift, *before he was a Believer*" (see:1954 *Divine Healing*, K.R.N.T. Theater, Des Moines, IA). *"God permitted me to come into the earth. As the morning star was peeping across the mountains, coming circling into the window, came a supernatural Being whirling into the room."* (50-0819, *Show Us The Father*, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH).

Branham developed a unique view of predestination and foreordination of his life along with the special importance of his birth.

"It was on April 6, 1909, that William Branham was born. April 6, 1917, was the day that America relinquished her historical isolationism and entered the European War. Historians tell us that it was on April 6, in the year 30 A.D. that Christ died on the Cross" (*A Man Sent From God*, p. 209 Gordon Lindsay)

Branham's followers made him into someone unique and special from dates, numbers and signs. Gordon Lindsay even found correlation to the day of the US entered war and Christ's crucifixion. This had no bearing; how many others were born on these same dates in history?

As far as the date of Christs crucifixion

*Researchers from Newton to Schaefer have essentially agreed on dates of lunar visibility, but not on the resultant crucifixion date. The two most accepted dates are Friday, AD 30 April 7, and Friday AD 33 April 3. It has been known that Newton preferred Friday, AD 34 April 23, but his reasons apparently have been forgotten Newton's Date For The Crucifixion by [John P. Pratt](#) Reprinted from *Quarterly Journal of Royal Astronomical Society* 32, (Sept. 1991), 301-304.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Branham had trouble getting the time (five o'clock) and dates right, even of his own birth "*And when that Light come in that morning at six o'clock on April the fifth, or April sixth, 1909, and that Light hung over that little crib bed there*" (55-0608, Abraham, Porter Stadium, Macon, GA)

I could find no record of his mother, or anyone in his family telling or verifying this story of the light; we have only what Branham says. Some accept this and all his stories on the basis of his humble mannerism and accepted honesty. But even Branham was unsure. While lying on his bed he said to himself "*Best I know, I was born in Kentucky where they don't have a birth records. And you know what my birth mark is, birth record in Kentucky? The year the old stump blowed away up over on the hill. And that's all they knowed. They say, "When was that child born?" "Tomato picking time." "What tomato picking time? When was this one born?" "Corn cutting time." "What corn cutting time?" Now, that--that was the birth record up in the mountains of Kentucky. So I don't know how old I am*" (60-0803, Jehovah-Jireh, Eisenhower High School, Yakima, WA)

Peter Duyzer in his book "Legend of the Fall" obtained William Branham's marriage certificate, which he signed (this is years before his ministry began). It lists his birth date as April 8, 1908, not April 6, 1909. This does bring into question Branham's claims on nearly everything in his life.

Nonetheless, this light at birth did not make his parents consider God. Branham Claimed he had no religious background, which is contrary to other descriptions (Maybe he meant Catholicism as a religious background)

Though Branham says *he Never went to any church at all.*" He tells us his parents did bring him to the local Missionary Baptist church "*About two weeks after that, I was carried up to a little Baptist church, called Opossum Kingdom. The minister held me in his arms and dedicated me to God. The mountain people didn't know what to think about That.*" (64-0427, A Trial, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ).

We are told this was the first and last time he would be in church until his conversion by a light.

This is just one of many topics where we find various stories of his background "*I had no religious background. My parents were of different religions, and because of that I never went to church.*" (Rev. William Branham Personal Testimony of the Coming of the Gift)

What he said more is that his "*father and Mother did not go to church, ... they had no religion at all.*" (Footprints On The Sands Of Time")

On one hand Branham said his parents were not involved in any religion but he also said, "*Now, my parents and my both--before me were Catholic.*" (53-0907A, Lord, Show Us The Father And It Sufficeth Us, Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, Chicago, IL)

"*My people before me were Catholic. And so there was no Catholic churches up there, and so they taken me over to a little Baptist church. And there I made my first visit to a church.*" (60-0805, Lamb And Dove, Eisenhower High School, Yakima, WA)

He would also say his mother was a Methodist "*.... Then I thought I would go over to my mother's church, she was Methodist.*" (64-0120, His Unfailing Words Of Promise, Ramada Inn, Phoenix, AZ.) That his grandfather helped build a little Methodist church (60-0626, The Unfailing Realities Of The Living God, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN.) He even says he played shortstop for the Methodist church in their church league (59-0609, What Hearest Thou, Elijah?, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL.)

"*I can only say this by testimony of my parents, which was not religious.*" (64-0427, A Trial, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ).

With all this said he also recalls "*I can call back the stories when I was just a little boy, my mother reading out of the Scriptures, the sacred Word. And she read when our ancient people come into this land, that the great Jehovah God, for the space of*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



forty years, made bread up in heaven every night and rained it out on the ground for the people.” (60-0609, Be Not Afraid, Miami Valley Chautauqua Campgrounds, Chautauqua, OH)

This light, which Branham believed to be an angel continued to appear to him through his early life as a voice. When he was no more than three years old, he thought he heard a voice speak in a tree. Most children cannot even remember events from three years old, yet Branham told this story repeatedly: *“I remember was God speaking to me in a vision, and telling me that I'd spend a bigger part of my life near a city called New Albany.”* (54-0719A, God's Provided Way Of Healing, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL; also found in 55-0608, Abraham, Porter Stadium, Macon, GA)

Why would God give a mere child, who is not a believer, a vision when he can barely understand or speak? This innocuous prophecy that he remembers tells him where he will spend most of his life. Why? It has no spiritual significance. No child in scripture had a vision this young, or was conveyed information like this. What's the point? The obvious purpose of the voice was to confirm itself as reliable, to have him trust it and become comfortable with it. It was training him, as the being's presence would be with him his whole life.

This voice, *“I thought it was a bird setting in a tree, but the bird flew away. He said, “Don't fear, 'cause you're going to leave from here someday and live near a city called New Albany.”* (58-1005M, Hear His Voice, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN), the actual book version.

He identifies the bird as a robin *“And, the little robin, I thought he spoke to me. And I turned and listened, and the bird flew away, and a Voice said, “You're going to spend a big part of your life near a city called New Albany.”* (55-0117, *How The Angel Came To Me, And His Commission*, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL also p.59)

Other times he described this event taking place when he was far younger. *“When I was eighteen months old, I remember of a Voice speaking to me*

and telling me that was going to live near a city called New Albany.” (53-1206e, *Do You Now Believe?* American Legion Hall, West Palm Beach, FL; also *7 Consecutive Visions (Concerning Endtime Events From 1933 to The End)*).

Branham also adds an even earlier date, *“At about fifteen, eighteen months old I had my first vision. I was standing near a little branch and something spoke to me from the bush.”* (53-1104, *Deep Calleth Unto The Deep*, Sports Center, Owensboro, KY. “Eighteen months” also mentioned in 55-0608, *Abraham*, Porter Stadium, Macon, GA.)

As with many other events, he does not get the details correct on his own life; he goes from 15 months old to 2 years old to *“When I was about three or four..., He spoke to me... “You'll live near a city called New Albany.”* (57-0811E, *Expectations And Leadings Of The Spirit*, Edmonton Arena, Edmonton, AB). Branham supposedly moved by age three.

The confusion of various ages does not give him credibility; the earliest of 1 ¼ or 1 ½ years old hinders validation to the story, especially when he also adds two different versions of his little brother being with him. *“When I was just about two years old, the first vision I ever remember seeing... I was playing in the backyard with my little brother, who could just crawl. And there was a voice came from a bush and said, “You will live near a city called New Albany.”* (60-0210, *The Revelation That Was Given To Me*, Escambron Beach Club, San Juan, PR)

“And I had a big rock in my hand, and I was trying to show him how hard I could throw this rock in the old mud, ... And I heard a bird, and it was singing up in a tree. And I looked up to that tree and the bird flew away, and, when it did, a Voice spoke to me.” (59-0419A, *My Life Story*, Angelus Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

The implication that his younger brother was present when the voice spoke, but then he has another story:

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



*"My little brother waddled his way back to--towards the house; and he was as far as, oh, fifty yards from the house, ... He'd went back to the house, and I was still playing around the little branch. I heard a bird setting up there ... And then, coming down through there, came a Voice. Now, remember, friends, this Bible lays open before me when I say this. Now, whether it come from the bird, from the tree, I was just a laddie boy, and didn't know. I cannot say. God knows" (52-0713A, *Early Spiritual Experiences*, Civic Center, Hammond, IN)*

If Branham was 15-18 months old and was nearly 1 year older than his younger brother, that would make his brother 3-6 months old. Beside the fact of them being alone in the woods, that's talent to walk (waddle to the house on his own) at so very young an age.

Branham latter identifies the voice as the Angel of the Lord and that it was from a bush, not a tree. Later he adds more details, of a wind *"since I was a little, bitty boy of about two--two years old, I started seeing visions. First vision I ever seen was in a bush, and the Angel of the Lord was in there like a wind, and told me that I'd live near a city called New Albany."* (60-0803, Jehovah-Jireh, Eisenhower High School, Yakima, WA)

To have a bird in a tree fly away and then hear a voice does not sound at all like a vision. This voice continues to have strange appearances until this being reveals himself to Branham telling him he was sent from God and commissions him.

The next spiritual encounter takes place at the age of seven: "a voice come out from the trees" (My life Story, p.24). *"Another time years later I was crying, and all at once I heard something making a noise like a whirlwind, something like this going *"Whooooossh, whoooooossh,"* just a noise like that. Well, it was awful quiet, and I looked around. And you know what, a little whirlwind, I believe you call them a little cyclone. And I was under a great white popular tree And I heard that noise. ... And I got just few feet from that, out from under the branches of this big tree, and, oh, my, it made a*

whirl sounding. And I turned to look and about halfway up that tree was another whirlwind ... So I watched, but it didn't leave off. ...it had already been in there two minutes or more."

*"Well, I started up the lane again. And I turned to look at this again. And when It did, a human Voice just as audible as mine is, said, **"Don't you never drink, smoke, or defile your body in any way. There'll be a work for you to do when you get older."** Why, it liked to scared me to death! ... I dropped those buckets, and home I went just as hard as I could go, screaming at the top of my voice...."* Other times he added "chew" with smoke, and drink. (51-0415A, Life Story, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

As a child Branham ran home to his mother hysterically. She called the doctor who summed it up as him being nervous. *"And I never, from that day to this, ever passed by that tree again. I was scared. I'd go down the other side of the garden, because I thought there was a man up in that tree and He was talking to me, great deep Voice that spoke"* (William Branham, My Life Story pp. 14-15).

Again the voice gave him an instruction that has nothing to do with a calling in God, or the gospel.

Asceticism is to renounce things of the flesh, any vices. Ascetics can adopted ultra strict diets, embrace harsh regimes of living, and deny themselves certain amenities. This voice is asking him to do something that is done in other religions and to do it in his own strength. Many religions and spiritual systems stress holiness and morality by denying self-indulgences. Why would these denials be required for one to be used of God?

The only means we have is to test the spirit is by from the Word of Truth. The Bible does not forbid drinking but getting drunk, intoxicated or inebriated. Wine was part of the Jewish culture, even Jesus drank wine at certain meals. *"Under the Mosaic law wine formed the usual drink offering that accompanied the daily sacrifice Exo. 29:40, the presentation of the firstfruits Lev. 23:13, and other*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



offerings Num. 15:5. Tithes were to be paid of wine as of other products. The priest was also to receive firstfruits of wine, as of other articles Deut. 18:4; cf. Exo. 22:29." (New Unger's Bible Dictionary.)

Branham claimed "I was born under Nazarite birth, of course, ... the way I have to live, and the things that I have to do. It's a Nazarite birth." (52-0725 Experiences Grace Missionary Church, Zion, IL; 60-0229, The Oncoming Storm, First Assembly Of God, Phoenix, AZ)

He did not have a Nazarite birth. The Bible records several children being *dedicated by their parents* before their birth to be Nazarites all their lives. Samson, Judg. 13:5, 12-14; Samuel 1 Sam. 1:1, and John the Baptist Luke 1:15.

There is the vow of a Nazarite was to separate himself to the LORD that could last for life or for a defined period of time. The Nazarite was obligated to abstain not just from wine, but grapes, (and from every kind of intoxicating drink). Num. 6:2-3, "*he shall separate himself from wine and similar drink; ...neither shall he drink any grape juice, nor eat fresh grapes or raisins.*" He was forbidden to cut his hair or to approach any dead body, even that of his nearest relative. There is no Nazarite vow, or similar requirement for any New Covenant believer. None of this is relevant to Branham.

Throughout his childhood he heard this voice instruct him but it never identified itself. "*He often heard sounds like a whirlwind or see pillars of light with voices coming from it*" (My Life Story, p. 24).

Branham: "*Needless to say, I never did go by that tree anymore. I would detour down the other side of the garden to avoid it, for I thought there was a man in the tree. It was the angel of God, and later in years, I met him face to face and talked with him.*" (Personal Testimony of the Coming of the Gift)

Branham is so terrified of this unidentified being he avoids places that he appeared at, but again by another tree:

"A few weeks after that, I was playing marbles with my brother, when an odd feeling came over me. I sank down by a tree, and, as if in a trance, I saw a large span rise up and cross the river, and watched while a number of people fell off into the river and drowned. Coming to myself, I ran and told my mother, and again she concluded that I was just a nervous child. Twenty-two years from that time, the Municipal bridge was erected across the Ohio River, and that same number of workmen were drowned, falling off the bridge. You see, these things did not come about by prayer or desire, but were foreordained in the divine will of God" (ibid.)

When prophet received a vision it was pertaining to Israel or the Church, or their relation to the world, in judgment (as the apostle John did in Revelation). When psychics, clairvoyants receive visions it is often about disasters like this.

"The next event of this nature came about one day while I was going to the river with my dad and another man. They had offered me a drink of whiskey, and because I wanted to find favor with the man so he would let me use his boat, I started to take the drink ... I heard that sound like the blowing of the leaves. Looking around, and seeing no leaves or sign of the wind, I put the bottle to my lips again, when I heard the same noise, only louder. Fear swept over me as before; I dropped the bottle and ran away, while my own dad called me a sissy. Oh, how that hurt!

Later on, I was called a sissy by my girl friend when I told her I didn't smoke. Angered by her mockery, I took the cigarette and was going to smoke it anyway when I was arrested by that familiar sound, causing me to throw down the cigarette and leave the scene crying because I could not be like other young people."

These are only a few of the many similar things that happened all down through life. There was always that peculiar feeling like someone standing near me, trying to say something to me, and especially when I was alone." (Personal Testimony of the Coming of the Gift")

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



The angel is present to make sure he does not drink or smoke. He makes it difficult for Branham to defile what the angel will use later in his life, his body. How do we know this angel is not of God? As the story from Branham develops it becomes clearer, this is not the Spirit of God or from God.

Shot in the Woods

"And I remember a preacher shooting at some birds and seventh shot hit me in the leg. I sure remember that.... Mother said then that I was... Well, I was... We come to Indiana when I was three years old. So you can imagine. That was about a year later, so I couldn't have been over two years old at the time when it first happened." (56-0219, Being Led Of The Holy Spirit, Calvary Temple Soul's Harbor, Minneapolis, MN)

In this story when he was 2, or 3-4 years old and God healed him without going to the hospital.

In another story *"Gun went off when I was a kid. Another fellow's gun shot me across the side."* (61-0123, Be Not Afraid, It Is I, American Legion Hall, Beaumont, TX)

He later tells a story of him hunting with his friend, Jim Poole at 14 years old, he describes both of his legs nearly blown off. How many times was Branham shot and almost died?

"I was shot, down in the field, when I was fourteen years old. And I was laying there. My legs blowed over me, like hamburger, from a twelve-gauge shotgun." (57-0828, Hebrews, Chapter Two #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN; 64-0830M, Questions And Answers #3, Branham Tabernacle)

Branham recalls this is as the first time he prayed. *"... I remember the first prayer I ever tried to pray. The only thing I could say ... I--I've never told this before. I just feel I'll tell it right now. I was shot, laying there, dying in a field. And the only plea that I could have to God, I said, "You know, Lord, I never did commit adultery." See? As a little, young boy about fifteen years old, I tried to live right. And that's all I could say. And I said, "I've lived clean."*

And that's all I could say. That's all the merit that I could offer Him" (65-1205, Things That Are To Be, First Assembly Of God, Rialto, CA)

Once again Branham has a different age, 15 not 14. Putting this discrepancy aside, he is appealing to God by his works which the Lord does not accept.

"And Jimmy let his gun go off, and it shot me through both legs, real close to me with a shotgun." (63-1110M, Souls That Are In Prison Now, Branham Tabernacle)

Such a radical gunshot accident where he was bleeding to death, yet God supposedly stopped him from bleeding out in the field? That could be possible except for how he tells the rest of the story when he was brought to the hospital.

Branham, *"But you could cut an artery in two, and clamp it off here, and God will make a way to bypass that blood and take it into that artery again... "I had the arteries shot in two in both of my legs. See? And God... There me, a little old sinner boy dying on that field; God knowed He wanted me to preach the Gospel, and He bypassed the blood." (57-0407M, God Keeps His Word, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN.)*

While he said God bypassed it he states:

"and I was taken to the hospital, and there laying there dying. No penicillin or nothing in those days. And they had a rubber sheet under me... they were going to operate the next morning. ... and big pieces of flesh blowed up," that night ... I woke up and something splashed. And here was blood, nearly a half a gallon, I guess, that had come from them veins.... And I put my hands down like this and raised it up, and the blood running down my hands; it was my own blood I was laying in. I called, rang the bell. The nurse came, and she just soaked it up with towels 'cause there's nothing they could do. And the next morning, under those weakening conditions (They didn't give the blood transfusions in them days, you know), so they--they operated on me. They gave me ether. ... when I came out... I was coming out of the ether after eight

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



hours. They had to give me so much; they thought I couldn't-I wouldn't wake up. They couldn't get me awake." (63-1110M, Souls That Are In Prison Now, Branham Tabernacle; Foot Prints Book p. 108)

Being out for 8 hours under ether can have lasting detrimental effects. As far as the loss of blood. The human body has around 10 pints of blood. If you were to lose about a 5th of your blood volume you can lose consciousness and can damage organs, it can cause the body to shut down and go into shock. The next level of blood loss occurs with the Class 3 hemorrhage, around 3 to 4 pints of blood (30 to 40 percent of total blood volume) in a day is considered life threatening. Since there are 8 pints to a gallon considering young William had to have a large loss of blood at the gunshot accident, and this much later at the hospital would have been fatal.

"Spinal anesthetic had leaked through and got into in my heart. See? It was only beating seventeen times a minute." (63-0421, Victory Day, House Meeting, Sierra Vista, AZ)

"Twenty-three years ago in the Jewish Hospital, Dr. Morris Fletcher give me three hours; one of your best surgeons here in the city, give me three hours to live." (54-0303 Redemption in completeness Louisville KY)

23 years ago would make it 1931 when he not 14 but 22 years old. We do know this is the same shotgun accident, because he also says of this same doctor "the doctor told me I had three more minutes to live, in Louisville, Kentucky, in the Jewish hospital." (53-1122, The Resurrection Of Lazarus, Evansville Coliseum, Evansville, IN; 54-0328, Sirs, We Would See Jesus, The Church Of The Open Door, Louisville, KY; 53-0614E, I Perceive That Thou Art A Prophet, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN)

Three minutes and three hours is a large difference.

"The doctor walked in, looked at me. He said, "My boy, you have three minutes more to live. Your heart's beating seventeen times in a minute." Darkest hour, then Jesus come along." (52-0810A,

I Am The Resurrection And The Life, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, In; 54-0328, Sirs, We Would See Jesus, The Church Of The Open Door, Louisville)

"a noted specialist looked in my face ..., and told my daddy, ... "He's got three minutes to live, Mr. Branham." It was the darkest hour I ever seen. Then Jesus came along. He saved me." (55-1114, The Darkest Hour, Then Jesus Comes Along, Tent Meeting, San Fernando, CA)

He could have meant saved from death but then he describes it as more "and the doctors looked at me and said, "You got three minutes to live." And all of a sudden Something passed my way; it was the blessed Son of God Who saved me from sin, and healed my blinded eyes." (57-0303E, What Think Ye Of Christ?, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ)

So at age 14 Branham claims a salvation experience in the hospital. And this is without knowing anything on Christianity, or the gospel?

Branham first describes himself "sinking into a dark Eternity," saying "God, help me." There was no God there. It was just the endless, horrible, oh, nightmare. Burning, blazing hell would be a pleasure, being up aside of that. And falling through there, I thought, "Oh, my!" Over and over, like this. I got into a place, smoke, and dark, and sick. And, oh, such a feeling! It was death on me. Going, they was going, "Oooh! Oooh! Oooh!" I said, "Am I to be there forever?" "Forever."

I said, "O God, if You'll let me out of here, I-I-I'll never be ashamed of You again. I'll never be ashamed. God, please give me a chance." The first thing you know, I felt myself coming back up. And the doctor was alarmed, 'cause my heart was only beating seventeen times to the minute. I done bled all my blood out and everything, was laying in my own blood." (55-1114, The Darkest Hour, Then Jesus Comes Along)

This low a heart beat is called Bradycardia, a heart rate under 30 beats per minute blood cannot circulate to supply oxygen to the vital organs (such

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



as the brain). Causing disorientation, hallucinations and difficulty breathing.

Branham is describing a pulmonary embolism which is a life-threatening emergency. Also bleeding out like he describes is a Class III Hemorrhage –a 30-40% blood loss, shock and a debilitating mental status is probable.

Losing above 3.5 pints of blood loss is severely dangerous. The adult heart pumps about 5 quarts of blood each minute - approximately 2,000 gallons of blood each day - throughout the body.

Anything greater (Class IV Hemorrhage) is often fatal without immediate extensive resuscitation and this is where most people die of 'bleeding out' (known as exsanguination). <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bleeding>

A healthy person can go to about 15% blood loss before any problems occur, where a transfusion is definitely required, which they did not have then. To be laying in one's own blood like this is fatal. It sounds as if young William should be dead by this time in the hospital. What Branham is describing is a miraculous healing before the doctor without him believing in God at this time (he insistently taught that we are healed by faith). This type of rapid blood loss and pressure brings hypovolemic shock <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000167.htm>

“At the age of fourteen he was out hunting and had an accident which caused him to be hospitalized for seven months. At this time the voice came back to him many times, but he was afraid of it as his mother had warned him of spiritualism and evil spirits. Because he was afraid of this voice he always refused to listen and refused to respond.” (A Prophet Visits South Africa by Julius Stadskev).

Stadskev mentions that he was in hospital for seven months recovering from a hunting accident.

Branham states “... *The first vision when I come to, and then I went into this trance, and I thought I was in hell.*” (Souls That Are Imprisoned Now, Nov. 10, 1963.)

Seven months later at the Clark County Memorial Hospital he had the second operation where he had another vision: *“Now, in this time, as I had this vision and thinking that I had passed from this life into torment. And seven months later, here at the Clark County Memorial Hospital, I had the second operation. And that time, when I come out, I thought I was standing out in the west. I had another vision, and there was a great golden cross in the skies, and the Glory of the Lord flowing off of that cross. And I stood with my hands out like this, and that Glory was falling into my chest. And the vision left me” (63-1010 Souls That Are Imprisoned Now)*

Branham also states *“And then about seven months later, I took another anesthetic, and when I came from under that anesthetic, I thought I was standing out on the western prairies and a great golden cross in the sky, and the glory of God shining down off of it, me standing there like this.” (62-1230E, Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir?, Branham Tabernacle)*

Here Branham was still in an “unconverted” state and has his first “religious” vision in the hospital at 14.

After the visions of hell and the golden cross he promised the Lord that if he lived, he would serve Him.

Saying the glory of the Lord is flowing off a golden cross is just not acceptable. Visions under sedatives and ether and having blood poisoning do not help verify their authenticity. We are told that it is after this operation on his legs that he started seeking God.

After he was released from hospital he claims he started to read the Bible. However, being illiterate, this would not allow him to understand what little he could read. Yet we are told at this time he attended various churches, but found they were all wrong? How could he know they were wrong if he was wrong?

We are told by G. Lindsay in his 1952 biography of Rev. Branham's early life, *“However, Rev. Branham*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



was not completely healed at this time. But he was now filled with a great hunger after God.” “I went from church to church trying to find some place where there was an old-fashioned altar call. The sad part was I could find none.”

In this account he is already going to various churches, and looking for an altar call which he did not find. Why altar calls, the Bible does not focus on this? He got “saved” without an altar call, so why would he be looking for this? Furthermore, Young William Branham stated He knew nothing about Christianity at twenty-one years old. (52-0720A). How would he insist on this having no church experience and knowing nothing about Christianity?

Branham says of his hospital stay, Mrs. Roeder, Mrs. Stewart “paid my hospital bill,” “her church society and the Klu Klux Klan paid the hospital bill for me: Mason's. I can never forget it. No matter what they do or what, ... When I came out from under that ether, there's something happened to me there. I've always believed it to be a vision. And then I had a vision then ... And then about seven months later I had to go and have shotgun wads and greasy hunting clothes taken out of my legs that the Doctor didn't get them. And so I had blood poison; both legs just swelled up and doubled back under me, and they wanted to take both legs off at my hips” (63-1110M, *Souls That Are In Prison Now*, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville.)

What complicates this further ... In a discussion about another gunshot accident near his eye “*It went in below the sight. It just made a ring around the eyeball, embedded itself.*” Said, “*You'll always have shrapnel.*” I said, “*I've had it since I was two years old, that's from another one.*” (62-0506, *Possessing All Things*, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

So he had a gunshot accident at two and fourteen?

His first Prayer

Branham formerly said the first time he prayed is when “I was shot, laying there, dying in a field.”

(65-1205, *Things That Are To Be*, First Assembly Of God, Rialto, CA)

“*A few years ago I was up in Colorado, hunting elk. ... out, alone in the woods. That's where I found God was in the woods. My first prayer that I was going to pray to confess my sins, I didn't know how to do it; so I was going to write a letter to God and tack it on a tree in the woods so He could read it when He come down the path. For I knowed He was there.*” (59-0419E, *Show Us The Father And It Will Satisfy Us*, Angelus Temple, Los Angeles, CA.)

“You know what my first prayer was? I was a-a hunter, lived in the woods. I was going to write my prayer out on a piece of paper, and tack it on a tree in the woods ... I knowed He'd come down that path sometime, He would read that and would forgive me. I wrote it out on a piece of paper... So I said--went out to the shed; it was real wet and I got a sack and knelt down on it. And I heard people say, “God talked to me.” Well, I said now, “How must I ... If I hold my hands like this? ...I didn't know how to do it. So I thought, “Well, I believe I seen a picture one time of somebody praying with their hands like this. I got my hands like this, and I said, “Dear, Sir, Mr. Jesus, I wish to speak to You just a minute. Would You come up here just a minute? ... I want to talk to you just a little bit.” But I said, “I don't hear You, Sir.” (56-0814, *Divine Love And Sovereign Grace*, Prince Albert Arena, Prince Albert, SK.)

But then Branham has another story, His first prayer is after he is saved “I stood by an old tree up here when I was first saved. I didn't know how to talk to the Lord, but I wanted to get right. I never did speak to Him. So you know how I prayed my first prayer? I was going to write it out on a piece of paper. Being a woodsman, I always lived in the woods, mostly. And I--I noticed that out here; I'd see Him in the woods. I could hear Him. I could hear His footprints, like, as He come through the nighttime in the whirlwind.” (56-0902, *The Handwriting on The Wall*, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

What makes this all confusing is that we have him praying when he was shot at 14, then in the woods,

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



then at his woods at home, then in the woods after he was saved. It becomes a normality that there are 3-4 different versions of events. How do we trust someone that has so many stories of his first prayer?

Meeting the Astrologers

This next experience takes place in 1928, just a few short years before his conversion. *"The next important event that I remember came about when I was near the age of nineteen. I was strolling through the carnival grounds one night with some other boys, when a voice called out, "Say, you ... Come here!"... Looking back, I saw a young lady sitting under a tent, an astrologist."* He went over to her *"She said, "Say, do you know that you were born under a sign and there is a star following you? You were born with a gift."* Branham explains, *"I resented her telling me that, someday I would understand what she meant."* (How the Angel came to me; personal testimony of the coming of the gift; Astrology)

Branham had no spiritual life or gift operating, yet the astrologer knew something spiritual was taking place.

In the book *Footprints on the Sands of Time* he tells the same story a bit differently *"So there was a little old fortune-teller sitting out there in one of those tents, ... And we was all going, walking by. She said, "Say, you, come here a minute!" And the three of us boys turned around. And she said, "You with the striped sweater" (that was me).*

... And I walked up, I said, "Yes, ma'am, what could I do for you?" And she said, "Say, did you know there's a-a Light that follows you? You were born under a certain sign."

I said, "What do you mean?" She said, "Well, you were born under a certain sign. There's a Light that follows you. You were born for a Divine call." (p.75 *Footprints on the Sands of Time.*)

Later as a warden he was on a crowded bus when he is engaged by another astrologer, *"feeling that someone was looking at me,"* He gets into a small conversation, she says *"Maybe I'd better explain*

myself. I'm an astrologist." *"Well," I thought, "I might as well hear what she has to say."* *Resisting to speak with her he engages. "You are religious, aren't you?" "No, ma'am."* *"Perhaps I could tell you something about yourself. You're from the west aren't you?" she questioned me. "No, ma'am."* *"Then you want to go west."* *"Oh, well, that's different. I have always wanted to go west," I answered, thinking I would let her talk on and compare it with what the other astrologist had to say. "The reason for that is your birth," she went on. "What do you know about my birth?" I asked curiously. "Young man, if I tell you just the very moment you were born, will you believe me?"* *"Well, I'm quite a fundamentalist, and if somebody tells me the truth, I have to believe it," I answered. And I still believe that--if it's true, it's true.*

"Well, don't ask me how she did it, but she told me the very minute I was born. ... I questioned why she could tell me and could not tell him. She said it was because there was a sign following me ... my heart sank, for it brought back a fresh recollection of what others had told me. She asked if an astrologist ever spoke to me before, and I told her no, lying to the lady.

... "You were born under a certain star to be a gifted person. ...There was a star following you when you got on the bus in Jeffersonville; I saw the star above you, and I do not understand why others have not told you about it before now."

She explains to him of the three wisemen, that there were *three stars separated and have never come together since. God always declares His works in the heavens before He declares them on the earth.*"(Birth; Astrology; personal testimony of the coming of the gift)

Her statement that *"God always declares His works in the heavens before He declares them on the earth,"* left an impact on Branham, for he quotes this from the astrologer later in ministry. He also changes the term astrologers to be magi. *"Those magis, Jewish magis, up in Babylon, studying the stars, saw those stars fall into their constellation,*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



*and when he did, they knew that Messiah was on earth.... Then when that Magi told me these things when I was just a boy, ..., and it scared me, because I was afraid of--of what the Magi was. But later on I found out that the magis of the Bible was right, because God declares it in heaven before He declares it on earth: watching those heavenly bodies." (62-1230E, *Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir?* Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)*

He reinterprets the Astrologers concept of looking to the stars and applies it to the Bible; you could say he Christianized it.

The wind that often showed up to warn him did not warn him of either astrologer, which certainly brings into question whose side it is on. Most astrologers that are occultists avoid anything to do with Jesus' presence yet they seemed comfortable to talk to him about this sign (an angel) that was accompanying him. They were not disturbed by this light which would have been the case if the light were truly of God.

"Surely, I say astrology is of the other power, but even the devil has to testify of God's gift. Let those wise men be whoever or whatever they were ... they did testify of God's gift and came to worship him before the priests in the temple did." (Personal Testimony of the Coming of the Gift.)

Branham may have later said Astrology is wrong but in his teachings he combined astrology concepts with the Bible. He went as far as to claim in the stars is another Bible (this will be covered in detail later). Branham accepted what the astrologer said of the alignment of stars and applied it to himself:

"They cross like that." And said, "In commemoration of the greatest Gift that was ever given to mankind, when God gave His Son. When these planets cross themselves again, why," said, "He sends another gift to the earth." And said, "You were born on the crossing of that time." And said, "That's the reason I knew it." (How the Angel Came to me and his Commission 55-0117).

Branham used this to compare himself to Jesus, as being another gift sent to mankind from heaven. We have looked for any kind of astronomical alignment (planets) or in astrology at his birth time. There was no planetary alignment, no sign in the heavens at this time, none. So whatever these astrologers were referring to had to do with him in an occult manner.

"It should also be noted that Branham's parents believed in fortunetelling and he was burdened through occultism at an early age" (Kurt Koch, *Between Christ and Satan* (Grand Rapids: Kregal Publications, 1962), p.150)

He called these astrologers magi *"This Magi said to me, "You'll never be successful in the East." Said, "You were born under a sign." And said, "You... That sign, that constellation, when they crossed, way out in there, the day of your birth, they were hanging westward. And you must go westward"* (62-1230E This is the Sign of the end sir).

These two astrologers that said the same thing impacted Branham: he used their testimonies to authenticate his calling and explain his foreordained purpose in life, and he went west.

"I've always wanted to go west. ... But because an astronomer told me one time, the same thing, that I should go west... The stars, when they cross their cycles and so forth, I was born under that sign, and I'd never be a success in the east, I'd have to go west. And last year I took off west to fulfill what a lifetime's desire has been to do it" (*Souls That Are Imprisoned Now*, November 10, 1963)

He also called the astrologers astronomers, clearly two very different vocations.

Branham also used these incidents as a witness of his gift. *"Many ministers have asked me, "Brother Branham, what do you think about astrology? Do you do this by the power of astrology, and if not, why do you give those astrologists public credit for having prophesied to this thing?" I can only say this: tell me one place in the world where the power of astrology is healing the sick. Of all the star-gazers, fortune-tellers, mediums, etc. that the world*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



has known, tell me where one has opened the eyes of the blind, made the deaf to hear or the dumb to speak ... Surely, I say astrology is of the other power, but even the devil has to testify of God's gift ... in another instance, when many were saying that Jesus was Beelzebub, the devils in a man cried out and said they knew who He was ...the devil confessing to His divinity, and the Pharisees saying He was the devil. And so it is today, that many are doubting and fussing among themselves about their doctrines and theories, and keeping the people away from healing meetings, while God's divine gift is working on through the earth and many of them missing it. Oh, clergymen! I trust the God that you will wake up. Not because I was made a carrier of this gift; I have nothing to do with its coming....God sent it. When the children of Israel were down in Egypt crying for a deliverer, God sent His angel to Moses. Moses had nothing to do with I ... it was God's angel that did the work, performed the miracles. Moses was just a mouthpiece for the angel." (Personal Testimony of the Coming of the Gift.)

There are numerous problems with this explanation. Moses who knew God was put in the desert for 40 years and was humbled. To say it was a gift is not accurate. The angel of the Lord was not sent to or for an individual but for the nation Israel (there is no Angel of the Lord mentioned after Jesus was born). The angel sent to Moses was fulfilling a promise to Abraham that is in the scripture.

Having similar supernatural experiences when he was young and unsaved and having it continue after he is converted does bring into question what is actually operating. NO ONE ever had a spiritual gift operate as a non-believer, especially one that transcends all the apostles.

Branham insisted that one is born with spiritual gifts. In referring to the astrologers bearing witness to his gift it was said of him, "*the spirit of divination in a little girl was quick to discern who Paul and Silas were, and it cried out saying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, which show unto us the way of salvation."* It is not surprising

then that the gift which had been destined for the ministry of William Branham, should be recognized by spirits of divination even before he fully understood the purpose of the gift himself. As neither Christ nor Paul accepted nor valued the testimony of demons, and rather commanded them to hold their peace, so Brother Branham, of course, does not endorse in any sense the so-called pseudo sciences of astrology or fortune-telling of any kind, even though on occasions their testimony confirms the gift of God. The Lord has plenty of ways of substantiating and vindicating the ministries of his servants without depending on the evidence given by demons" (A Man Sent From God p. 70)

Then at other times "*a certain little fortune-teller cried out to the people that those men were sent of God to show them the way of salvation. Isn't it strange that this little slave-girl, possessed of an evil spirit, recognized the power of God in Paul and Silas, when the officials didn't even accept them." (Personal Testimony of the Coming of the Gift)*

And what did Paul do? After several days of her tagging along and speaking out he cast the spirit out of her (Acts 16:16), did Branham?

This particular explanation was given numerous times in various forms over the years "*I seen when Paul and Silas was up there at Antioch when that little old fortuneteller, ... See, them demons recognized that gift in those men, before, sometimes, religious teachers did.*" (50-0821, The Angel And The Commission, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH; 50-0100 Diseases and Afflictions Louisville KY; 51-1003, Believeest Thou This?; Unknown, New York, NY; 51-0717, The Manifestation Of The Spirit, Civic Auditorium, Toledo, OH; 52-0810A, I Am The Resurrection And The Life, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL; 56-0426, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, Abundant Life Center, Charlotte, NC; 58-0503, The Queen Of Sheba, Weaver High School, Hartford, 61-0119E, Queen Of Sheba, American Legion Hall, Beaumont, TX; CT; 61-pl-01, Prayer Line 61-01; 62-1230E, Is This The Sign

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Of The End, Sir?, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN.)

An evil spirit in her recognizing who Paul was is not the same thing to what was happening with Branham. Paul was saved and an apostle and doing the work of an evangelist; Branham was not. To elicit validation from the demonic is certainly not what we are told to do in Scripture.

Branham compared the astrologers' speaking of his gift to the demonic giving testimony of Jesus' identity; is a flawed comparison. The demons thought Jesus was there to judge them (Mk.1:24, 3:11) and feared their maker.

Branham often felt the opposition in his ministry because of his "supernatural gift" and would often say things to justify himself, *"Look, friends, demons recognize God's power sometimes before ministers do and Christians."* (50-0100, Diseases And Afflictions, Church Of The Open Door, Louisville, KY).

"The devil said, 'He's the Son of God. We know Who You are, the holy One of God...' 'The devils had the more knowledge of God than the ministry did.' (52-0810A, I Am The Resurrection And The Life, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL) 'The devil knowed more about it than the preachers did. Hasn't changed too much when it comes to supernatural.' (56-0426, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, Abundant Life Center, Charlotte, NC)

"Later when Branham was visited by an angel He was told that he was being given two ministry gifts. He would receive the gift of healing and the gift of the 'word of knowledge.' Branham inquired of the angel why he should believe he was an angel of God. The angel told him that the religious leaders of Christ's day had called Jesus a devil. He should not worry about the opposition from family and fellow ministers. Branham had been told by fortune-tellers in impromptu meetings that he had a special gift of God and was born under a sign. The angel assured him that even devils had confirmed that

Jesus was the Christ and not to be concerned by the testimony of fortune-tellers" (Brother Branham, pp. 74, 75, 79).

Look at the significant spiritual events that Branham mentions through his childhood. Branham is stating that he was visited by Jesus numerous times before he believed in him or the gospel. The Bible shows only believers being visited like this and it is on rare occasions not continual appearances. Also, it's not just what he told of his experiences but what he may have withheld from telling. Certainly there are parts Branham kept to himself, but the portions he shared seemed to have quite a mix of confusion on dates and what has transpired

Branham does give us a glimpse into his prior life before conversion.

"I was a sinner boy, around horse races, so, or around the boxing ring somewhere" (58-0609, The Message To The Laodicean Church, Tent Meeting, Dallas, TX). *"When I was a sinner boy. ... I was running horse races."* (58-0517B, Zacchaeus, Bangor, ME)

"He changed my soul from the things of the world unto the things of God, from horse races, and gambling, and adultery, and lying, and stealing." (54-1003M, The Word Became Flesh (India Trip Report)

He makes it clear he was involved in at least some of the sins he lists.

Branham mentioned being a boxer numerous times. *"I wanted to be a prize fighter"* (59-0419A, My Life Story, Angelus Temple, LA, CA).

He mentions that he *"stood in a boxing ring, won fifteen professional fights"* (59-0424A, The Faith Of Abraham, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, San Jose, CA)

"When I was a young boy, I was fighting in golden gloves, and then from that went into professional fighting, and won fifteen straight professional fights." 60-0302, From That Time, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"I had the undefeated title of bantam weight championship of the three states." (54-0220 Expectation East Alton – Wood River Community High School, Illinois)

"I was training to be a boxer. Which, I did win the bantam weight championship, and was going up for the world championship." (55-0626A, My Life Story, Unknown, Zurich, Switzerland; 51-0509, Testimony, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

I could not find the name William Branham on the list of Bantam weights, can you? https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:World_bantamweight_boxing_champions

Nothing can be produced of Branham having any boxing record, especially winning the Golden Gloves championship. Yet he says, he was undefeated and *"I just give it up to preach the Gospel"* (54-0304)

With all this said Branham points to the time many years before when he was operated on at 14 from a shotgun accident *"You know what I wanted to be in life? A trapper out in the mountains. That's what I had made up my mind, that I was going to be that, regardless. But God changed my mind when I was laying on the Jewish Hospital there, dying."* (53-0614E, I Perceive That Thou Art A Prophet, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connerville, IN)

He mentions traveling to Arizona as early as 16 or as late as 18, 19. *"eighteen years old; I went out west. I landed in Arizona. And I thought I wanted to be a rider."* (50-0813A, The Resurrection Of Lazarus, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

"When he was nineteen he decided that he would go out west where perhaps he would be able to find work on a ranch." (A Prophet Visits South Africa by Julius Stadskev)

He moved out west to become a range hand (as the astrologer spoke to him, what he also saw in his vision in the hospital).

"about eighteen years old, running from the Lord. I went out west; ... I went down to the Baptist preacher; he said, "Stand up and just say, Jesus is the Son of God; we'll put your name on the book." That didn't satisfy me. Everywhere I went somebody ... The Seventh-day Adventists, went to see him, a fine man,... he said, "Billy, come and accept the Lord's sabbath." (I have now.) But he said, "The sabbath day..." And I thought, "Oh, my, that just still don't do it." (60-1209, The Sardisean Church Age, Branham Tabernacle)

While there, he was informed by letter from his mother that his brother Edward was very ill. He ignored it thinking he would recover; a few days later he received news that his brother Edward had died. This news shocked him as he realized he would never see his brother alive again. He wondered was his brother ready to die, then he thought if he was ready, as he did he want to meet God.

His brother's death brought him back home in 1929. Rev. McKinney of Port Fulton Church conducted the funeral service. He said, *"There may be some here who do not know God. If so, why not accept Him now?"* Branham, realized that he did not know God. Branham recalls this as being the first time he was hearing prayer.

Instead of going back west he got a job with the Public Service Company of Indiana. 1929 is the year William returned from Arizona and started to work for the Public service company of Indiana.

"About twenty-one years old, I was, and one day I had a battle with this, that, and the other. I couldn't make out whether I wanted to be a fighter, or whether I wanted to be a trapper, or hunter" (57-0915E, Hebrews, Chapter Seven #1, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

This would be the year 1929-1930 according to his testimony. The sorrow of his brother's death along with the visiting unknown presence caused a weakening of his body and we are told Appendicitis set in.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



This other ailment makes this more confusing. To complicate this further, Lee Vayle, a confidant that Branham personally told his story to gives a completely different scenario. *"The sorrow of death and the pressure of his strange life caused a nervous debility to set in. His body became weakened. Appendicitis set in. An operation became imperative. While under the anesthetic he felt his life slip away, and for some time his lifeless body lay upon the operating table while the doctor worked frantically to restore his heart beat. During that time he saw visions of heaven and hades. He cried to God and promised that if God spared his life, he would seek Him and serve Him. Much to the amazement of the doctors, his life was restored."* (The Messenger to The Laodicean Church Age By Lee Vayle)

This sounds like what happened at age 14 (when he was shot), are some of the details being combined with this story.

The next year, 1931, we are told he was poisoned by toxic gas when testing meters for gas works in New Albany. In Branham's messages he only mentions working for the gas company, gas poisoning nor an operation from it is mentioned. This is why it is hard to collect what actually happened in his early life.

Gordon Lindsay's account of this states, "I was overcome with gas, it affected me for weeks." Julius Stadsklev's and Pearry Green's accounts also speak of this. Lee Vayle states that Appendicitis set in and an operation became crucial.

"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 from the effects of gas. It grew worse all the time. ... They finally said it was my appendix and said I had to have an operation. I could not believe it for I never had a pain in my side. The doctors said they could do no more for me until I had an operation. Finally

I agreed to have it done, but insisted that they use a local anesthetic so that I could watch the operation." (Lee Vayle A Man Sent From God, p. 40)

The specialist in Louisville, Kentucky told him that his appendix would have to be removed, which concerned him. He went ahead with the necessary surgery but fearing he might die and he was not yet ready to meet God he wanted someone with him who knew God. He called for the Pastor of the First Baptist Church to be with him as he went into the operating room (apparently the same church he would join). Just before the operation, he felt weakness overcoming him and death coming. Fear of the operation failing made him realize he would meet God, and was not ready. He says it was then he called upon God for help for the first time.

Immediately after the operation he experienced another vision. He saw himself deep in a great forest. The sound of wind and rustling leaves was coming closer and closer. He thought to himself that it was death, coming to take him away. Oh, how he cried to God because he was not ready to meet his Creator. The wind came closer and louder. Then it seemed as if he were back again in his boyhood days, standing there in the lane underneath that poplar tree where he first heard the voice speak to him when he was seven years old. *Again the voice spoke, "Never drink, smoke or defile your body in any way... I called you and you would not go." The words were repeated three times. Then Mr. Branham cried, "Lord, if that is You, let me go back to earth again and I'll 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 was still in the building. He came and looked at me and was surprised. He looked as though he thought I would be dead; then he said, "I am not a church-going man, my practice is so great, but I know God has visited this boy." Why he said that I don't know. No one had said anything about it. If I had known then what I know now, I would have risen from that bed shouting praise to His name. After a few days I was allowed

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



to return home, but I was still sick and was forced to wear glasses because of astigmatism.” (A Man Sent From God p. 40 - 41 by Gordon Lindsay)

There is a problem with this story. First he's promising to preach the gospel that he never accepted. When did Branham hear and accept the gospel that he was now going to preach? He also does not know if this is the Lord, yet it is the same voice that spoke to him through childhood. This means for the last 17 years the voice never identified itself.

Branham also speaks of having astigmatism.

“Did you know I was almost blind once? I had to be led around by my arms. I wore great big thick glasses over my eyes, and my head shook like this, and I couldn't even get a hair cut 'less somebody would hold my head” (56-0108, God Hath A Provided Way, Branham Tabernacle). “My head shook all the time with astigmatism.” (60-0607, Hearing, Receiving, And Acting, Miami Valley Chautauqua Campgrounds, Chautauqua, OH)

Apparently the series of visions during and just after the surgery drove him to seek God. At home he went into the woodshed and cried out to God.

We are told by G. Lindsay ... *One night I became so hungry for God and a real experience that I went out to the old shed back of the house and tried to pray... All at once there came a light in the shed and it formed a cross, and the voice from the cross spoke to me in a language I could not understand ... as I prayed it appeared again. Then it seemed to me that there had been a thousand pounds lifted from my soul...*

“I knew then that if God wanted me to preach he would heal me, so I went to a church that believed in anointing with oil, and I was healed instantly. I saw then that the disciples had something that most of the ministers do not have today. The disciples were baptized with the Holy Ghost and so could heal the sick and do mighty miracles in His name. So I began to pray for the baptism of the Holy Ghost. One day about six months later God gave me

the desire of my heart. He spoke to me in a great light telling me to preach and pray for the sick and He would heal them regardless of what disease they had. I then started preaching and doing what He told me to do.” (G. Lindsay 'William Branham - A man sent from God' p. 41- 42).

Before the cross of light he went to a church that believed in anointing with oil, and says he was healed instantly apparently of his astigmatism. For someone who says he knew nothing of Scripture this certainly does not fit.

“In desperation, one day he went into an isolated shed, and knelt down and began weeping whilst talking to God, confessing to Him that he was ashamed of himself for having neglected Him ... about that time he looked up and felt a funny feeling sweep over him. Here came a Light moving through the room and made a Cross; and a Voice spoke in a language unknown to him. He got cold, numb and scared. He looked at the Light as It went away. He then said, “Sir, I don't understand your language, but if you have forgiven me; I know that I'm supposed to be reckoned in that Cross there, somewhere that my sins are supposed to lay in there, and if You have forgiven me, just come back and talk in Your own language.” No sooner he said that, the Light was there back again. That experience settled the sin question once and for all. He got his Absolute; he had contacted Him. He left the shed screaming and shouting, and felt light, as if a 40 Tons load was lifted off his shoulder. (Twentieth Century Prophet)

Scripture always describes God speaking to man in a human language they understand. This lack of communication has him focus on the light. Branham is claiming to be converted by a cross of light! How this settles the sin question is dubious. Is his sin reconciled in the cross of light that appeared, or the crucifixion that took place by Jesus nearly 2,000 years ago? No one else was ever saved by a golden cross appearing to them, this experience has nothing to do with conveying the gospel which is the power of God unto salvation.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



In another story of this experience *“And right there come a Light across the room, in a cross form, and ever what was on it was speaking in tongues. I said, “I don't understand Your Voice, sir, Your language. If You can't speak English, and I don't understand Your language; if You'll just come back and speak again, it'll be a sign that You've accepted me.” And there It was again.”* (63-0428, Look, Jesus Name Church, Phoenix, AZ)

What does he mean *whatever what was on it was speaking in tongues!* Branham says something was on the cross that spoke the unknown language. This is when he is saved?

Not able to discern the genuine from the counterfeit he assumed it was God and asked for it to come back. Notice there was no gospel proclaimed just a cross of light as a spiritual experience. He asked for it to speak in his language and it did not.

What of the crosses of light that are showing up all over the world through other religions and new age adherents, including Catholicism. This hardly is to be considered a sign from God, and should be put in the same category as statues crying or bleeding. The cross is a symbol used of the place of crucifixion, not as an experience of light. Constantine a pagan Roman general was converted by a vision of a cross in the sky superimposed on the sun and was told to conquer in this sign. Constantine standardized the symbol. *“about noon, when the day was already beginning to decline, he saw with his own eyes the trophy of a cross of light in the heavens”* (Eusebius, *The Life of Constantine*, Book I, Chapters 28, 30, 31)

Constantine placed the sign on the shields of his men and won the battle of Milvian Bridge in 312 AD.

Gordon Lindsay writes,

“He knew that something had happened to him and as he prayed the second time, it appeared again - the LIGHT in the form of a Cross. In his own words he said, “Then it seemed to me that there had been a thousand pounds lifted from my soul.” Something swept over him and he experienced an exquisite feeling he had never know before. He said it felt like

rain was pelting down on his body. He knew then that God had forgiven him of his sin and baptized him with the Holy Ghost.” (Chapter 4 The Conversion Of William Branham “A Man sent from God” by: Gordon Lindsay, Editor Of The Voice Of Healing. In collaboration With William Branham)

Why then does the same author write *“I began to pray for the baptism of the Holy Ghost. One day about six months later God gave me the desire of my heart.”* (G. Lindsay 'William Branham - A man sent from God' p. 41- 42).

Furthermore, in another account:

“while I was talking, across the room come a little Light, and went over on the side of the wall, and formed a cross of Light, that Light, and begin to talk with a language. I never, never heard of such a thing as speaking in tongues; never had even read the Bible; I was looking for James 5:14 in Genesis. I was looking up there, and I seen that Light, and it was talking some kind of a language. Then It went away. And I said, “Sir,” I said, “I--I don't know nothing about this Christian life.” I said, “If--if that was You talking to me, I can't understand Your language, Sir. But if You'll talk... And if You can't speak my language, see, and I--I don't understand Yours, but may we understand one another like this: if You'll just come back there again, that'll be a sign between me and You, that You forgive me.” There It was again” (63-0421, Victory Day, House Meeting, Sierra Vista, AZ)

Lee Vayle makes some adjustments to the account, where Branham says he knows nothing of the Christian life, never read the Bible to, *“He had already learned by reading his New Testament that there were different kinds of spirits, so he wondered whether this was of God or not. Once more he earnestly prayed to God and the cross of light appeared again and the Spirit of God spoke peace to his heart. As the joy of salvation flooded his soul, he jumped up and ran through the sheer exuberancy of sins forgiven and peace made with God. Since it was truly God who was now in his life, he was led to know and understand that the Baptism with the*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Holy Ghost was for him. One day while looking to God, it seemed as though rain fell upon his body--literally pelting it, and sinking deep within him. He was completely, overflowingly filled with the Holy Ghost" (The Messenger To The Laodicean Church Age By Lee Vayle)

One account says he never read his Bible, Vayle says he had discernment from reading it. How does someone who has not read through their Bible once make a distinction?

Joy from what? Where's the gospel to be saved by? The being never spoke an understandable language. Branham is the only one in history that was saved by a visit from angel without words. An angel of light in the form of a cross. This story is told only a few times through his career, but each had different added details make it contradictory.

Branham had a supernatural experience, but there was no real biblical test applied to this creature that showed up all through his life. Why Jesus would use his glory (light) associated with a cross goes beyond any logic and Scripture. The fact that a cross is a pagan symbol he was crucified on that is now accompanied by God's glory is disturbing.

To further complicate his religious experience, we find that crosses of light (and lights in various forms) are showing up all over the world through other religions and new age adherents; this can hardly to be considered a sign from God. Benjamin Crème confirms that the crosses of light are being manifested by Maitreya the new age Christ (December 2007).

Share international which documents spiritual events that relate to Maitreya the new age Christ http://www.shareintl.org/background/miracles/MI_crosses.htm

In Watsonville, California, a cross of light has appeared since mid-March, 2010. Source: Register Pajaronian, USA - 2 April 2010. <http://themiraclespage.info/lightcrosses/index.htm> - also <http://miracles.mcn.org/crosses.htm> <http://www.crystalinks.com/crossesoflight.html>

Whether these can be confirmed as occurring or not, they carry more weight than Branham's story, because there are witnesses and numerous pictures.

Obviously these crosses of light are not from the Jesus of the Bible any more than Constantine's vision of the sign of the cross in the sky:

Branham describes something swept over him and he experienced an exquisite feeling he had never known before. He said it felt like rain was pelting down on his body. He knew then that God had forgiven him of his sin and baptized him with the Holy Ghost. Nonetheless he was paralyzed with fear from this experience. This is similar to experiences found in eastern mysticism. Feeling the "Holy Spirit" as rain on his body is not like anything in Scripture, but it is found within Hinduism, in the Vedas and mystical religions. Kundalini (often called the fire of God) is like an energy surge felt on the body as a vibration, buzzing, heat sensations, like rain, and electric feelings, heat sensations. It can make you sensitive, relieved, and bring emotional releases. Psycho - spiritual experiences occur where there is uncontrolled astral travel, out-of-body experiences, dreams or visions and seeing religious symbols occur, supernatural transient experiences that leaves the recipient with overwhelming feelings of love, joy, peace and unity.

Conversion[s]?

The fact is, when and how William Branham was converted is not so easily identified, even by his stories?

Besides the hospital at 14 years old, he also says

"How well I can call the time. In a little old saloon that had been used as a church where some colored people was preaching the Gospel, I was a southerner and didn't like colored people, and a vision came and told me where to go find it...I met God, and from that time I've been changed. Can point back to that time, I was changed." (60-0302, From That Time, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"I was converted in a converted barroom. And I feel very much at home tonight." (63-0731 Only one way provided by God, Chicago, IL)

"I was converted in the Baptist church." (51-0720, The Angel Of God, Civic Auditorium, Toledo, OH)

Branham then says it was his shed, *"I was converted in an old coal shed. And when I come in, I didn't know nothing about shouting or praising the Lord. So, I felt so good ... I grabbed a song book and begin to look at it, and then--and my Bible, and begin to read." (59-0815, As The Eagle Stirreth Up Her Nest, Miami Valley Chautauqua Campgrounds, Chautauqua, OH)*

He also points to the age of 14 when, *"one of the famous doctors of this city, give me three minutes to live. And I'm here by the grace of God. Then when He let me live, I gave my heart to Him..." (54-0328 Sirs, we would see Jesus)*

He also stated, *"The doctors give me three minutes to live, my heart beating seventeen times to the minute. I met God. Bill Branham died; I met God... and Something come into me. I've never been the same since that minute I met Him. He changed me." (59-1231, And From That Time, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)*

What was that something? Whatever that something was, it came into him again and again as we read his stories of conversion.

"You remember when you were first coming to the living God. I remember the night when I received Christ as my personal Saviour. It was so soft; I thought I was walking on air. I was converted in an old coal shed. ... I went out behind the house, there's a railroad track run down a levy. And I got out on the railroad track, and I thought it's time for me to go to heaven." (59-0815, As The Eagle Stirreth Up Her Nest, Miami Valley Chautauqua Campgrounds, OH)

Apparently he does not remember... All these stories are added to his conversion previously in the hospital, were he also said he was saved at 14.

"After my conversion, which took place in a little shed behind our house, I took up affiliation with a phase of the Baptist church and became a local elder, being ordained by Dr. Roy Davis of Jeffersonville." (Rev. William Branham's Personal testimony of the Coming of the Gift)

We read in the Acts of the Prophet *"Branham was converted around the age of twenty and married Hope Brumbach. His conversion was a result of a series of visions and visitations occurring during and after a life threatening illness." (pp. 40-43).*

"he was not converted until the age of nineteen ... He went from one Church organization to the other, but they did not have the answer to the thirst in his soul" (Twentieth Century Prophet)

This age does not coincide with Branham stating *"I knowed nothing about Christianity; I was already about twenty-one years old." (52-0720A, Life Story, Civic Center, Hammond, IN.)*

Speaking of his future wife before he went to church *"I met her; she was going to church. I looked at her, there was something different from anyone else." (52-0720A, Life Story, Civic Center, Hammond, IN.)*

"She happened to be a Christian girl, my little boy's mother. And she started me going to church. And I went with her for about six or--six or eight months." (51-0415A, Life Story, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

"when I met my wife, she was a Christian girl, very lovely Christian girl. And I was then about twenty-three, twenty-four years old. ... And I--I'd take her to church, and she went to church." (50-0200, Here We Have No Continuing City, Robinson Memorial Coliseum, Little Rock, AR)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



If he was 23-24 years old this would be in 1932-33, not before (according to his date of birth). What of the other accounts with different ages and different places he was converted at? They do not fit in his story.

“one day, I met a lovely girl. She was a German girl, and she was a Christian. And I started keeping company with her. Now, notice a moment; I want you to get this part of it. I then become a Christian. Going with a girl, after while we got married.” (55-0626A, My Life Story, Unknown, Zurich, Switzerland)

This is completely different story of how he tells he became a Christian. So which story is one to believe? How many believers do you know that are this confused of when or how they became a Christian?

To make this even more challenging to believe he says, *“About twenty-one years old, I was, and one day I had a battle with this, that, and the other. I couldn't make out whether I wanted to be a fighter, or whether I wanted to be a trapper, or hunter, what I want to be. But I met Melchisedec, and He give me communion, and since then it was settled forever. Hallelujah! I've went on His side.” (57-0915E, Hebrews, Chapter Seven #1, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN.)*

So we now have the ages 19 - 24 for his conversion in his quotes.

Melchisedec gave him communion just as he did Abraham *before he was a believer* (which goes against what the Bible says about taking communion). He is the only other person in history besides Abraham to be served by this high priest. In fact nearly everything that happened to all the ancient saints he attributes to himself, and then some.

“When I was first ordained in the ministry at about twenty-one years old, I was ordained in the Missionary Baptist church” (57-0811E, Expectations And Leadings Of The Spirit, Edmonton Arena, Edmonton, AB; 61-0219; The

Queen Of Sheba, Long Beach Municipal Auditorium, Long Beach, CA.)

“About twenty-one, I was converted, went into the Baptist church, preached for several years.” (54-0314, Why I'm Praying For The Sick, Southland Theater, Columbus, OH)

That would be the year 1930, long before he met the girl he dated that became his wife.

“around twenty-eight years ago, I felt that knock on my heart. ... He come in.” (60-1211E Laodicean church age, Jefferson IN)

That would be 1932, when he was 23 years old.

“I was about, just had been ordained in the Missionary Baptist church. I was about twenty or twenty-one years old” (61-0207, Expectation, First Assembly Of God Of Long Beach, Long Beach, CA)

Branham was then ordained the same year he was converted.

Branham claims he never attended church at the same time he claims he went to many and found them to be wrong. Which is at the same time he did not know Jesus Christ. Which does not clarify his story.

Yet we also read that during this period with the Baptist church *“Visions, just as He'd appear to me, and tell me things that was going to happen. The ministers told me it was the devil.” (54-0314, Why I'm Praying For The Sick, Southland Theater, Columbus, OH.)*

In other words he admittedly had no Bible knowledge or discernment and was offended at what they warned him of. It went against the experiences he had throughout his life and demeaned what he believed was the meaning of his experiences.

Branham then says *“It scared me to death, brethren. I didn't know what to do. I love the Lord*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Jesus with all my heart.”(ibid) “my Baptist brethren and them told me it was the devil. And I was out, for years, fought at It, was out trying to get rid of It.” (54-1205, We Would See Jesus, Faith Tabernacle, Binghamton, NY)

“My pastor and the head man of the church, the officials and so forth, told me it was the devil. ...Well, of course, it scared me. For years and years, I shunned it.” (53-0612, Palmerworm, Locust, Cankerworm, Caterpillar, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connerville, IN)

This conflict of not knowing who this visitor is went on until the angel came into the cabin in 1946 to reveal himself.

We are told he was ordained in the “baptist tabernacle” to minister while *knowing next to nothing*.

Yet he was able to make a statement like this...

“When I was twenty-one years old, a man told me to look for James 5:14 in the Bible, and I was looking in Genesis to find it: twenty-one years old. And at twenty-two years old I was an ordained Baptist minister in Missionary Baptist Church. The Lord was good to me. But I studied God from the way of nature, where I found Him.” (58-0500, The Eagle Stirring Her Nest, Unknown, New England Area)

He found God in nature? This becomes another point of contention to the Bible that will be answered later as we go further into his life's stories.

He says he became a member of the Missionary Baptist Church, and was ordained as a Minister by its Pastor Dr. Roy E. Davis. We are also told he laid the foundation of ‘The Branham Tabernacle’ and was its founder Pastor. Yet, we have the year he was converted as the year he started *his own church* knowing very little of Christianity.

With all this being said Branham says *he went and built the church and became pastor* which means it was at the same time he was unsure if he was

oppressed by a devil, and was still asking for deliverance from his visions. Which does infringe on the integrity of his story. Who would do that?

“When we started at the first dedication of the church, I was just a young man and my—maybe twenty-one, twenty-two years old when we laid the cornerstone” (The Revelation of the Seven Seals Published by the spoken word Publications Tuscon Arizona December 1967; God Hidden and Revealed in Simplicity Mar.17, 1963 A.M. Branham Tabernacle Jeffersonville, Indiana, U.S.A)

That becomes the year 1931 which of course presents a contradiction of when he joined the Baptist Church and when he says he started his own.

Yet he also said *“I did not go to church until I was about twenty-three years old.” (55-0621, The Roman Nobleman, Unknown, Zurich, Switzerland)*

This makes the year 1932 according to his birth date. All this become a mass of confusion of what happened at what year...

Stadsklev writes *“The people who had been saved in the Jeffersonville tent meeting decided to build a tabernacle, which is now known as the Branham Tabernacle.” (William Branham A Prophet Visits South Africa by Julius Stadsklev)*

And that would be according to Branham the year 1933. This would be before *“... And the Missionary Baptist Church burned down, which I was assistant pastor, at the time. And Mr. Davis come back to Texas, ... while he was gone, I started to take over the congregation. Got a tent, and I begin to preach in the city, and just a boy preacher.” (64-0427, A Trial, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ)*

We factually know that this was not 1933.

In March 1933, William Branham says he laid the cornerstone for his new church. Yet we are told he was still attending Roy Davis' church when he held

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



his first baptism in the Ohio River was in June of 1933.

We are told that in June of 1933 Branham is conducting meetings in an old Masonic Hall when he received his 7 visions.

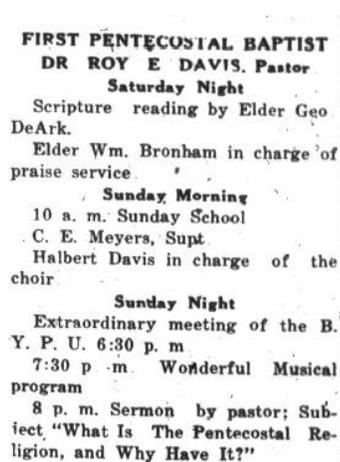
This tent preaching was for 2 or more years which means it would be 1935 which does not coincide with the dates he gives of when the Branham Tabernacle was built. Furthermore he was married in 1934.

So either his birthdate is wrong (which explains some but not all of these contradictions) or, he has no recollection of what and when things took place.

The Jeffersonville city directory includes [Roy Davis the First Pentecostal Baptist church](#) 1933-1934 edition. By 1935-1936 edition, Dr. Davis and his church were no longer listed in the city directory.

This presents problems with William Branham's claim of being a pastor in a Baptist church and that "The first group of Pentecostal people I ever seen is called the--the Pentecostal Assemblies of Jesus Christ." (53-1108A Life Story Owensboro, KY)

Was Roy Davis' church Baptist?



FIRST PENTECOSTAL BAPTIST
DR ROY E DAVIS, Pastor
Saturday Night
Scripture reading by Elder Geo DeArk.
Elder Wm. Bronham in charge of praise service.
Sunday Morning
10 a. m. Sunday School
C. E. Meyers, Supt.
Halbert Davis in charge of the choir
Sunday Night
Extraordinary meeting of the B. Y. P. U. 6:30 p. m.
7:30 p. m. Wonderful Musical program
8 p. m. Sermon by pastor; Subject, "What Is The Pentecostal Religion, and Why Have It?"

On January 21, 1933, an advertisement in the paper has Dr. Davis of the church called "the First Pentecostal Baptist" preaching on "what is the Pentecostal religion and why have it." Other ads

have the same title of the church. This brings into question Branham saying he did not know anything of Pentecostals. Considering that this was the same church he was healed in when he was converted.

Any certainty on these matters may never be known this many years later, but one thing is certain ... his introduction to Pentecostalism was long before his meeting of Oneness Pentecostals in Mishawaka.

When was William Branham baptized in the Holy Ghost?

Branham says he received the baptism of the Holy Ghost in his shed before he went to the Baptist church. He also said he received it at the Baptist church but then also said he did not have it and received it at another church.

"I was converted in a converted barroom... It was a little, colored church where I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, was led there by the Lord." (63-0731 Only one way provided by God. Chicago IL)

"In a little old saloon that had been used as a church where some colored people was preaching the Gospel, I was a southerner and didn't like colored people, and a vision came and told me where to go find it. And all the white girls that I'd went with, oh, not all of them, four or five standing there said, "Billy, you're not going in there--there?" I said, "Yes, I've got to go." Said, "Don't never ask me for another date." It didn't make any difference. I met God, and from that time I've been changed." (60-0302, From That Time, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ)

The way Branham tells this story it had to be where he lived because of the girls that were there knew him. Another contradiction surfaces, young William said he never went out with girls. In this story he adds having a vision leading where to go. This is where he met God.

This is probably what he is referring to "*It was a little, colored church, where I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, was led there by the Lord.*"(63-0731

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



“After while, I met up with the Full Gospel people. And I... Just before then, I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost” (50-0300, Gifts And Callings Are Without Repentance, Carlsbad Air Base Recreation Center, Carlsbad, NM)

This contradicts him saying that he did not have the baptism of the Holy Ghost when he met the full gospel people at Mishawaka in 1934 (or the at the latest 1936). He states he did not know anything on the baptism of the Spirit until he received it later from Oneness Pentecostals (*“They started to speak about the baptism of the Holy ghost and Jesus and I didn't know what they were talking about.”* (My life Story p.35-40).

When he was at the Oneness Pentecostals Mishawaka meeting (1934) on the last day, *“I went back to church and when I arrived the people were singing and shouting. I wanted the Baptism of the Holy Ghost if God would give it to me”* (A Man Sent From God p. 49)

“And then, God led me around to some folks that taught me in the Scriptures, and I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost.”(52-0713A, Early Spiritual Experiences, Civic Center, Hammond, IN)

Then it was not received in the shed as he previously stated. Yet the shed continually becomes the place of his supernatural experience.

Branham stated that he had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit six months after he accepted the call to preach. *“So I began to pray for the baptism of the Holy Ghost. One day about six months later God gave me the desire of my heart.”* (Lindsay, p.41).

How can this be possible when he says he did not hear of baptism of the Spirit until Mishawaka which is years later?

“I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost back in my shed, see. And about a year later, or something like that, I was--I was... spoke in tongues.” (Questions And Answers, January 12, 1961 Foot Prints Book – p.117; 61-0117 The Messiah)

“since the very day that God give me the baptism of the Holy Ghost, right here in Jeffersonville, Indiana, when I believed on His Son, Jesus Christ, and accepted Him out here in a little old shed as my personal Saviour.” (54-1219E Acts of the Holy Spirit Jeffersonville IN)

He also said that it was before this, *“He said it felt like rain was pelting down on his body. He knew then that God had forgiven him of his sin and baptized him with the Holy Ghost.”* (A Man sent from God By: Gordon Lindsay Editor of The Voice of Healing).

This account contradicts the baptism of the Spirit that he said he received later from the Oneness Pentecostals and in the shed.

So he had it when he believed, then in the shed, had it in the Baptist church but then he didn't have it until he met Oneness Pentecostals. So many different stories of the same event. Which one is accurate?

What Branham does not include are the details of what took place at his Baptist church. Though he refers to other things numerous times he excludes what his Pastor Roy Davis stated. *“I am the minister who received Brother Branham into the first Pentecostal assembly he ever frequented.”* Davis claimed that his home served as the place where William Branham's received the Holy Spirit baptism. *“he also received his Baptism of the Holy Ghost in my humble home in Jeffersonville, Indiana.”* (Wm. Branham's First Pastor, 7V113 (October 1950): 14.The Healer)

This last mention of his baptism of the Spirit does not come from him but from Roy Davis his pastor. Branham does not mention it for good reason, because it goes against *everything* he says that took place in his early years in the church. This is the only other testimony from someone other than Branham that tells us what occurred in his early years on this subject.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



To reaffirm the confusion we read of when Branham attended a oneness meeting years after being a pastor where as he describes *"an old colored man get up and preach ... He just about covered everything in heaven ... and preached on everything on earth up till the Second Coming of Christ. By the time he had finished he was as spry as a young man ... I realized that God had done something for that man that He hadn't done for me ...when he got through I was sorry for myself. These people had something that I didn't have, and I wanted it... I wanted the Baptism of the Holy Ghost if God would give it to me"* (A Man Sent From God p.48)

In fact this next story really takes the cake.

"When I first received the Holy Ghost, there was no one in our country knowed anything about It. And I was just a local, little, young Baptist preacher about twenty years old. But when I received the Holy Ghost, ... I always believed, as a boy, that this was the Word of God." (63-1114, *Influence*, Marc Ballroom, New York, NY.)

This is hardly what one would understand from reviewing his life story. He said he learned from nature about God, he had no Bible when he was young. The timing and explanations do not coincide with his other stories.

Where he was converted and when: was it the hospital, old saloon, old coal shed, or in the Baptist church or Roy Davis' home. Considering these all are different stories from the same man telling us when and where he received the baptism of the Spirit. And this confusion continues throughout his life. Despite this, Branham was bothered by the many visions and repeatedly prayed that God would take them away. All through his life he had seen visions. It kept bothering him. Everybody kept telling him it was wrong, telling him it's the Devil. But no matter how much he'd keep praying for it not

to come, it would still come. He had no way to resist it. This troubled him and up to this time in his life he had no knowledge of what the Scriptures taught about it.

"He felt like a prisoner and yet he would say, "I love the Lord Jesus." Becoming what we know as depressed he would consider to do what the voice told him not to do but heard the sound of the wind blowing and the presence of an unseen being felt." (55-0228, Separation From Unbelief, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

He began attending the Missionary Baptist Church, six months after this conversion he began to preach. Again we are told a different age, *"Rev. Branham began tent meetings in his home town of Jeffersonville, and for a 24-year-old who was just starting out, these were astonishingly successful, with up to 3000 people being attracted to the meetings at one time, and scores of conversions."* (Gordon Lindsay 'William Branham - A man sent from God' p. 41-42 1952)

His promoter Lindsay clearly is embellishing the facts of what took place in the year 1933.

We cannot accept these sequence of events because of all the internal contradictions that Branham himself states. His telling of his life, conversion and other details becomes a string of confusion from the beginning and his teachings reflect this all through his ministry.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 4

The Paradigm shift of William Branham

The 1933 baptism at the Ohio River

From the beginning of his ministry Branham was convinced he came as Elijah, but held back from speaking openly about this. At the age of twenty four, approximately three years after his conversion on June 11, 1933, we are told William Branham was baptizing his first converts in the Ohio River near Jeffersonville, Indiana. A bright light suddenly appeared over his head and he heard a voice speak, "As John the Baptist was sent to forerun the first coming of Jesus Christ, so are you sent to forerun His second coming!"

As he told the story 17 years after: "The next edition of the Jeffersonville Evening News reported the incident with the subheading, "Mysterious Star Appears Over Minister While Baptizing." "There was a newspaper man standing there, shot the picture, a photographer, rather, shot the picture of it." (50-0813E, God Revealing Himself To His People, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH).

This is the first time the 1933 story is mentioned by William Branham on tape (and this is after the 1950 photo of the light above his head at the debate in Texas.)

"And as I laid him into the water, I come up, I heard something going, "Whoosh!" I looked at the crowd, and it... I heard a Voice say, "Look up!" I thought, "What is that? Billy here, his mother, two or three years before we was married, she was standing there. I seen her face, white. She had a camera in her hand. Look up!" I heard it the second time. I was scared. I looked around, the people standing there just looking, just dumfounded. I heard it say again, "Look up!" And when I looked, here come that same Pillar of Fire that led Israel

through the wilderness. Thousands of eyes looking at It coming right down over where I was standing. And said, "As John the Baptist was sent forth to forerun the first coming of Christ, your Message shall cover the earth and forerun the Second Coming of Christ."

That went into the newspaper, on the Associated Press. Doctor Lee Vayle, here this afternoon, picked it up, plumb in Canada and around, "Local Baptist preacher, while baptizing, a mystic Light appears over him." (64-0412, A Court Trial, National Guard Armory, Birmingham, AL).

"Look in the little book, the first one I written called "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever," how the big newspapers of Louisville, Kentucky, and all, said, "A mystic light appears over a local Baptist minister while baptizing." (54-0720A, The Maniac Of Gadara, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

"Sure, it was a paradox, for a Pillar of Fire to hang up there in the sky. And papers and everything taking the picture of It." (63-1201M, An Absolute, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA)

"Photographers taking the picture." (63-1130E, Go, Awake Jesus, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA)

Branham says "the local newspapers packed It." They never found a picture or this story in any newspaper.

Years later Branham embellishes what happened stating, "Newspapers packed it all across the nation, plumb into Canada. We got the clippings. "Mystic Light appears over local Baptist minister while preaching, or baptizing." (64-0427 A. Trial Tuscon AZ Monday).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



He never produce a single clipping. We are told the story went into the local newspaper and the Associated Press and "a report of this incident was carried by UPI (United Press International) all over America and Canada captioned.

"It went around the world, way up in Canada and around." (60-0515E, Adoption #1, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"Mystic Light appears over local Baptist Minister while baptizing in the River." (India Trip Report Golden Jubilee Memorial 1954 – 2004).

An upcoming tent revival was advertised again on May 27, 1933. Yet the papers found prove it did not go around the world or say anything like Branham described.

Jeffersonville Public Library has the archives of the local newspapers at the time.

There is only one recorded statement of Branham's 1933 baptism in a local paper, and it does not say at all what he claims it said. It does not say a thousand, five hundred, nor one hundred were baptized.

Appearing on the front page of the June 2nd edition of the 1933 Jeffersonville Evening News:



The paper says 14 were converted, were they wrong?

Branham said, *"The papers packed articles of it."* (55-0400 Blind Bartimaeus) Referring to his own Louisville Herald.

This is the only mention in a paper, the local paper. There was no extensive coverage in the papers. Branham's ministry has not produced any mention in any paper that would counter this report. Even

when Mr. Branham was alive closer to the time of its printing.

"We have the clippings of it yet. Said, "A mystic Light appears over a local Baptist minister..." (60-0210 Revelation That was given to me)

Branham's followers in Jeffersonville did not have any copy of what Branham claimed.

Branham's followers have not produced any other newspaper article, or a picture from a camera which should convince anyone that his story lacks veracity.

Weaver, in his book on Branham *"The Healer prophet"* (p.38) writes that Lindsay had stated, *"I have been unable to locate the newspaper article."* And this was closer to the time it happened.

Branham said if one lacks of understanding, he referred them to his associate Lee Vayle. Branham called him his good friend and coworker. Vayle speaks of this event as, *"a most amazing and well documented phenomenon occurred."* (Twentieth Century Prophet)

There is no documentation. Lee Vayle suggested that one of Branham's former acquaintances might have destroyed much of Branham's personal files (see Letter received from Lee Vayle, 4 May 1984. Weaver *"The Healer prophet"*). That still does not explain it missing in papers worldwide.

Spending considerable time searching to verify the newspaper article has yielded no success; it is not posted on any Branham website or found in any archives. Neither is the picture.

Branham said, *"Photographers taking the picture... and they took the pictures of It. It was on the Associated Press, went world-wide almost, up into Canada."* (63-1130E, Go, Awake Jesus, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA). Branham said: *"We got the picture of it"* (An Absolute, Phoenix, AZ Sunday 63-0127).

So it is not just the story that was published worldwide, there were pictures. For something this

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



important and unique it is suspicious that no one at all has either this picture or story. William Branham claimed that local newspapers carried the story, but even Voice of God Recordings Inc. admits that there are no known existing copies of such articles (they say the newspaper company which supposedly carried the story, *The Louisville Herald Post*, went out of business and all back issues were destroyed in the 1937 Ohio River flood). Again, this does not explain why newspapers in other countries have it missing.

Can this story, if found in the newspapers give confirmation for its authenticity. When looking carefully at the variations of the account by Branham and those who wrote of him, the similarities to the founder of Mormonism, Joseph Smith's story of his spiritual experience in the woods seems to have as much veracity. Whatever happened on June 11, (?) 1933, it had grown in legendary proportions to advertise Branham's ministry and endorse him as being the prophet for our age.

If this happened as Branham said was reported through newspapers, an influx of people would have come to Jeffersonville as it did for Asuza and other centers of revival. But he was not known until he began his healing revivals in 1947.

If we examine the accounts carefully what do we find? There is no mention of any of a voice speaking his commission as John the Baptist until it is told 17 years after the event. In what appears to be his first detailed recorded account of the 1933 baptismal service. On August 13, 1950 Branham told the story like this:

“But It appeared down there on the Ohio River before nearly ten thousand people while I was baptizing in August. I was baptizing some fi-five hundred, I guess, that afternoon. Hundreds of them was standing, and the choir singing, On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand. Was about two o'clock. I had my seventeenth candidate I was taking out in the water. And I raised up, and I asked him if he believed. He had. He would been repented at the

meeting? Yes. I raised up my hand, I said, “Father, as I baptize this boy with water, may You baptize him with the Holy Spirit.” And as I started, Something went, whew [Brother Branham illustrates--Ed.] I looked up. I heard a Voice. Said, “Look up.” Thousands standing all over the bank on the Ohio River facing Louisville. Paper carried a big article of it.

“And I looked, coming right down out of the heavens, out of a place about as big as this platform, where the blue skies churning like waters... Coming right down out of there came a big thing, like a star, whirling around, going, whew [Brother Branham illustrates--Ed.], coming right down visibly before the eyes. Moved right down, looked like a star at a distance. When it got close, It looked like a milling fire of Light, moving right down and stood over where I was. Then went right back up into the heavens again. The waters let up. I've often wondered if that wasn't the Angel that was on the waters (See?)...?... And papers carried a big article, “Mysterious Star Appears Over Minister While Baptizing.” And on down, It kept coming.” (50-0813E, God Revealing Himself To His People, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH).

Here we have the first of the conflicts in his stories: It came and left, no one heard a voice speak; not even Him. The other conflicts are the date, how many where there as witnesses, how many were being baptized and how large the light was.

THE VOICE WITHOUT THE COMMISSION

Shortly after the first time this story was told we hear,

“When I was baptizing hundreds down at the Ohio River at the foot of Spring Street in Jeffersonville, where thousands were backed on the bank... At right at two o'clock in the afternoon, I was baptizing the seventeenth person. I started to pray, and thousands standing there looking. And down from the heavens came that green, whirling down like a big star in the distance. When it got close, It was that Light, a Pillar of Fire.

“I think it's the same One that led the children of Israel in the days that went before Moses. ... I

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



believe It's the same Angel of the covenant. And He came down when hundreds and hundreds standing there, people fainted, and fell, and everything. The papers carried a great article, "Mystic star appears over minister at two o'clock in the afternoon while baptizing." (50-0820 Believe that I am able to do this, Cleveland, OH).

Here Branham does not include the voice with his commissioning as the forerunner of the second coming. But now he tells us the glory of God has the color green. This light color (yellowish/ green) that he claimed was the pillar of fire will continually be described at his meetings.

For 19 years, Branham does not include the voice with his commissioning as the forerunner of the second coming. Not in 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, or 1951 did he say he heard the voice commission him. Not until 1952 for the first time "As John the Baptist was sent to warn the people of the first coming of Christ, so is this Message to warn the people of the second coming" (52-0817E, *Do You Now Believe?*, Kellogg Auditorium, Battle Creek, MI).

Why leave out such a crucial detail. In another detailed account of the baptism, Jan.17, 1955, Branham tells the story:

"I was baptizing down on the river, my first converts, at the Ohio River, and the seventeenth person I was baptizing, as I started to baptize, then I said, "Father, as I baptize him with water, You baptize him with the Holy Spirit." I started to--to put him under the water.

And just then a whirl come from the heavens above, and here come that Light, shining down. Hundreds and hundreds of people on the bank, right at two o'clock in the afternoon, in June. And It hung right over where I was at. A Voice spoke from there, and said, "As John the Baptist was sent for the forerunner of the first coming of Christ, you've got a... have a Message that will bring forth the forerunning of the Second Coming of Christ." And it liked to scared me to death... I had baptized about two or three hundred that afternoon. And

when they taken me out, pulled me out of the water, the deacons and so forth went up, they asked me, said, "What did that Light mean?"

A big group of colored people from the--the Gilt Edge Baptist church and the Lone Star church down there, and many of those was down there, they begin screaming when they saw that happen, people fainted."

He then adds an event that is only told this one time: "A girl I tried to get out of a boat there, sitting there with a swimming suit on, a Sunday school teacher in a church, and I said, "Won't you get out, Margie?" She said, "Billy, I don't have to get out."

I said, "That's right, you don't have to, but I'd have enough respects for the Gospel to get out where I'm baptizing." She said, "I don't have to." And when she was setting there, snickering and laughing at me baptizing, 'cause she didn't believe in baptizing, so then when the Angel of the Lord come down she pitched forward in the boat. Today the girl's in the insane institution. So you just can't play with God. See? Now, later on... A beautiful girl, went to drinking later on, was hit with a bottle, of--of beer bottle, cut all of her face down. Oh, a horrible-looking person! And there that happened." (How The Angel Came To Me, And His Commission, p. 18. 55-0117, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

Let's consider what we are being told by Branham. At the 17th person being baptized they see what no one has for near 2 thousand years. The most incredible supernatural event, a miraculous light came from the sky and voice spoke from heaven. People are screaming and fainting and Branham continued baptizing hundreds of people for hours and hours, as if nothing supernatural happened? Hardly believable. With an event like this taking place would it continue?

"Many asked me what It meant. And I said, "I do not know." (51-0505 My Commission Los Angeles, CA)

How can he honestly say this when he later claims it was his commission by the angel.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



He does not answer them what the voice supposedly said, or their question of what the light meant! I find this story completely unacceptable.

Again, the only other report is from the paper that said he baptized 14 people, so if this happened at the 17th baptism, did it actually happen?

We are expected to believe that people after the 17th person continued to be baptized, "around a thousand converts, and I was baptizing them out there in the water." (64-0412)

This many were baptized afterwards (for numerous hours this continued) to only ask casually about the light.

That Branham kept baptizing them even though it scared him to death? And why has the Testimony from the 17th person not surfaced, surely he would have an up close view of what happened to Branham (Edwin Colvin is the name).

This was not the first time Branham was scared of "the Lord" at age seven, when he heard an audible voice, say "Don't you never drink, smoke, or defile your body in any way. ... Why, it liked to scared me to death." If you are saved and this is Jesus, why be this scared?

While some of the details remain consistent, many of the important details are changed as he tells the story over the years. Such as the girl who was judged by God right on the spot. This girl at the baptism is only mentioned in one other place, the *Footprints in the Sand of Time*, told in exactly the same way. This (same) girl was punished by becoming insane "later on cut by a beer bottle," but when? There seems to be more unanswered questions from this event than answered.

Because of space we are abbreviating many of the quotes.

"Courier Journal Newspaper" packed an article of it, saying, "A mystic star appears over a local Baptist pastor while baptizing in the river." They

couldn't make out. Oh, up to probably ten thousand people saw It as It moved down where I was at, and went back up in the skies. Come right where I was and went back up into the sky. Well I ... Many asked me what It meant. And I said, "I do not know." (51-0505, My Commission, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA).

"some ten thousand people, I guess, was present to see it. And then It just... I never knowed what It meant." (50-0711, Ministry Explained, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN).

How is it possible that Branham does not know what the light meant, when at the time he supposed to have heard a voice specifically tell him he was a forerunner with a message? We can assume that what the voice told him at the time is missing in his story and added later. As he refers to it with the light whenever possible.

This whole story is lacking any veracity and makes it incredulous for us to accept the story today.

Then we have the same story with different months and dates.

"Here not long ago I was baptizing, several thousand people standing watching, in the month of August, down at the foot of Spring Street in Jeffersonville. And here It come down out of the skies, visible before around ten thousand people. Moved down where I was standing, the Voice screaming from It." (50-0714, At Thy Word, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN).

Now we have a different month and the voice is screaming? But we are not told what it is saying; eventually the John the Baptist commission was worked into his story.

Two months before he stated "...I felt Something take a hold of me. And I looked up. And when I did, coming down from glory came this whirl coming down where I was at." "It moved down where I was at, and went back up in the skies. Come right where I was and went back up into the sky." (51-0505 My

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Commission Los Angeles, CA) (That date would be 1939)

No voice with a commission.

Then 10 years after, Branham tells the story and gives us more details that contradict the earlier version:

"I can remember 1933, August the 16th at two o'clock in the afternoon--I mean June the 16, that two o'clock in the afternoon. I'd just recently been ordained a Missionary Baptist minister, and holding my first revival where three thousand something people attended. And then, that afternoon, I was baptizing five hundred converts at the--the river's bank at the foot of Spring Street at Jeffersonville, Indiana, where I lived. And the newspaper photographers was out, and many of the church people; there was around seven or eight thousand people on the bank. ... About the seventeenth or eighteenth person... The deacons and trustees that leading out into the water, was a young fellow by the name of Colvin. All the skies were brassy. ... And the sky was like brass. And I took this young fellow, and I said to him, "Do you believe on the Lord Jesus, and have you accepted Him as your personal Saviour?" He said, "I have, Brother Branham." I said, "I seen you at the altar the other night. Now, are you sure of this, young man?" He said, "I am sure." So then, I took him by the hand, and turned his face to the bank, and announced his name, and asked God that He would bless his life. And I was just ready to baptize him, when I heard something say, "Look up!" Well, I got scared. I thought somebody on the bank was saying ... And I heard it again. And up to the third time, said, "Look up!" And when I looked up towards the heaven, a place about ten feet square, looked like water in the blue skies moving around. And out of that blue water like, came a Light coming down from heaven. The people begin to scream, and many fainted. And the voice said, "As John the Baptist was sent forth to warn the people of the first coming of Christ, your ministry will warn them of the second coming around the world." (60-0911M As I was with Moses, Jefferson, IN Sunday)

Colvin is named in only two other places in Branham's sermons as the one being baptized when this supernatural event occurred (Court Trial 64-0412) Branham said I was just ready to baptize him when the light came and heard the voice, Colvin who was being baptized heard no voice. Yet we are told others there on the shoreline did.

Branham also says it was *after* he baptized Colvin "I come up, I heard something going, "Whoosh!" I looked at the crowd, and it... I heard a Voice say, "Look up!" (60-0722, Watchman, What Of The Night?; 64-0412 Court Trial Birmingham AL)

Was it before he put him in the water that he heard "look up," or was it after?

The date this happened

"And I had a baptismal service down on the river, on 1933, on the middle of June, about sixteenth or eighteenth of June" (64-0427, A Trial, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ). You would think at such a life changing event one would remember the exact day but not Branham.

If this was such a holy, life changing experience how does Branham mix the facts up, saying first it's in August, (50-0813E; 50-0714; 60-0911M) then changes it to another date in June (did it happen twice?) and mix up details? Does only the story matter or do the actual facts that ARE in the story matter?

"Just the same thing He said when I baptized right down here on the Ohio River, many of you was standing there, twenty-three years ago, right on the Ohio River that Light, Angel, come right down to where we was at, and said, "As John the Baptist was sent for a forerunner of the first coming of Jesus Christ, your Message will bring the second coming of Jesus Christ." And it's done it. It's... He hasn't come yet, but look what it's done; it's swept the world around." (Questions and Answers 54-0515, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



23 years ago would make the date 1931, not 1933. Branham was convinced Jesus would return in his lifetime, that he was the forerunner, with the message to bring Him. But it did not happen. Remember, this is supposed to be the Angel of the Lord (Jesus) speaking to him.

"...I was standing, five hundred at the Jeffersonville, thirty-one years ago" (61-0316 The Church choosing law for grace Middletown OH)
That makes the date 1930.

In fact he says, "A mystic Light appears over a minister while baptizing in the river." *That was in 1930, at the foot of Spring Street at Jeffersonville, Indiana.*" (62-0726, It Is I Be Not Afraid, Legion Auditorium, Port Alberni, BC)

"That day down there, about thirty-three years ago, or thirty-four, standing on the banks of the Ohio River there, at the bridge, and about five thousand people or more gathered on the banks. I was just about twenty years old, twenty-three, twenty-two or twenty-three years old, my first revival. I was baptizing five hundred people, that afternoon. And the deacons had led me out in the water. About the seventeenth person, when I was baptizing, I heard a Voice say, "Look up." And I turned to look up. Billy's mother, we wasn't even married then, just going together. Here come that Pillar of Fire, circling out of the bright blue skies, at two o'clock on June the 15th, coming right down out of the skies, like that. And a Voice roared out, all over the place there, and said, "As John the Baptist was sent forth to forerun the first coming of Christ, you have the Message that'll now forerun the second Coming of Christ" (63-1130E, Go, Awake Jesus, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA).

33-34 years from 1963 makes it 1930 or 1929. Branham more often did not recollect the date accurately: he says June 15 when it was first June 11. If he was 23 years old then the year would be 1932. An event of this magnitude and importance would be ingrained in your mind, your soul. Either he was losing cognitive discipline or something else was taking place.

"That's been about thirty-two years ago when that Light appeared, and standing there, me looking right at It, and hundreds of people standing looking at It, It come right down and that Voice spoke." (62-0601, Taking Sides With Jesus, Branham Tabernacle)

32 years ago from 1962 makes it 1930, not 1933 as he first claimed.

"When that Angel, that you see in that picture over there, come down on the river down there that day, thirty years ago this coming June or thirty-three years ago " (63-0317M God hiding himself in Simplicity Then revealing himself in the Same, Jeffersonville, IN).

"I've never said it before. But according to Scripture, according to what He said thirty years ago; thirty-three years ago on the river down there, in 1933." (63-1229E Look Away to Jesus Jeffersonville IN)

In this quote Branham brings the Scripture to bear testimony of what was said. It appears that Branham had more emphasis on it being 1930 than 1933. Or not.

A Voice said, "As John the Baptist was sent to forerun the first coming of Christ, your Message shall forerun His second Coming, into all the world." This day this Scripture is fulfilled." (64-0219 From this Day This Scripture Is Fulfilled, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN)

What Scripture is fulfilled? There is none for this.

"Then I think about the river in 1936, I think what He said. Many of you know. I was just a boy, and of baptizing my first baptism when that Angel of the Lord came down and stood over where I was at." (Foot Prints Book – p. 267; 62-0527, Questions And Answers, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Once again he got the date wrong, way wrong. One needs to question why so many of his dates and his descriptions are wrong this often.

"About twelve years ago, I was baptizing my first group after my—one of my revivals at Jeffersonville, Indiana." (51-0505 My Commission Los Angeles, CA)

This first baptism date would then be 1939, not 1933.

Approximately 13 times he spoke of the year 1933 as the year baptism (more often later in the 60's).

The voice

In his own testimony Branham says he alone heard the words. The Branham believers claim no one heard it speak but Branham. Lee Vayle writes: *"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."* (Twentieth Century Prophet or The Messenger To The Laodicean Church Age by Lee Vayle)

But years later Branham said: *"there ... It talked; "people heard It talking back and forth."* (60-0716, From That Time, City High School, Klamath Falls, OR)

This means words, the description of talking back and forth implies another is involved. According to Branham the papers only reported on a light, no voice (which is crucial to this event. Inaugurating him to fulfill Mal.4). His sermons demonstrate the voice was introduced into the story later. But there is no light just as there was no voice

"He said, "Look up." I looked up like this, and coming down from the skies come a Pillar of Light whirling around, a voice coming from it, roaring, coming down, said, "As John the Baptist was sent to forerun the first coming of Jesus Christ, so are you sent..." (63-0127 An Absolute Phoenix, AZ)

They claim no one heard the actual voice or the words spoken.

"and a Voice came that shook all around the place there, said, "As John, the Baptist, was sent to forerun the first coming of Christ, the message that is given you will be a forerunning of the second coming of Christ." (60-0210 Testimony, San Juan PR; 60-0722 Watchman what of the Night, Lakeport CA).

"While baptizing converts in the Ohio River, that the voice spoke again: at that moment a blazing Star came whirling down out of the heavens with the sound of rushing wind audible to all. It hovered right above the Prophet." (William Branham, How the Angel Came to Me, and His Commission (Edmonton: End Time Message Tabernacle), p. 18)

Here we have the light (or star) - ALL heard it come and it was seen and thundered. Why so many discrepancies from his mouth? Why are there times he spoke of a voice commissioning and then of no voice, only a light? It can't be both. In fact it's neither.

What was the date?

Besides the differing descriptions, we also find different dates bringing confusion as to what exactly took place.

"Recently when I was baptizing on the river at Jeffersonville, when all the local newspaper spacked It, two o'clock in the afternoon when I was praying, here It come right down out of the heavens, right at two o'clock in the evening, June, or in the afternoon, rather, in June, about the middle of June, hung right over where I was, and a Voice from It, saying, "As John the Baptist was sent to warn the people of the first coming of Christ, so is this Message to warn the people of the second coming." (52-0817 Do you now Believe? Battle Creek MI Sunday)

Recently? It was 19 years ago – and he seems to not know when exactly it was in June.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



“circling out of the bright blue skies, at two o'clock on June the 15th, coming right down out of the skies, like that. And a Voice roared out, all over the place there.” (63-1130E, Go, Awake Jesus, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA)

Referring to the baptism in 1951: *“About twelve years ago, I was baptizing my first group after my--one of my revivals at Jeffersonville, Indiana, Street.” (51-0505, My Commission, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA).*

“About twelve years ago, "Courier Journal Newspaper" packed an article of it, said, "A mystic star appears over a local Baptist pastor while baptizing in the river" (51-0505, My Commission, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

12 years from 1951 makes it 1939 not 1933, He would constantly tell this story wrong.

These different dates of the baptism bring into question the veracity of this event. Some would say that Branham was not good at math because of his education. I find this a weak excuse. The man memorized sermons speaking nearly identical words years apart.

“Just the same thing He said when I baptized right down here on the Ohio River, many of you was standing there, twenty-three years ago, right on the Ohio River that Light, Angel, come right down to where we was at,...” (Q A. Image of the Beast, Jefferson IN 54-0515).

Again he has the year wrong: this would be 1931, not 1933.

“That day down there, about thirty-three years ago, or thirty-four, standing on the banks of the Ohio River there, at the bridge, and about five thousand people or more gathered on the banks. I was just about twenty years old, twenty-three, twenty-two or twenty-three years old, my first revival. I was baptizing five hundred people, that afternoon” (63-

1130E, Go, Awake Jesus, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA).

This would make it 1929 or 1930.

“It come right down before ten thousand people in Jeffersonville when I was baptizing one afternoon and told me, eleven years before I was sent out on this mission, that it would take place this way, and said it would be a forerunning Message. Like John the Baptist went as a forerunner to Jesus Christ.” (53-1129E, Testimony, American Legion Hall, West Palm Beach, FL). Again the date does not match concerning when he spoke this. If was he told 11 years before, this would make it take place in 1941?

“But It appeared down there on the Ohio River before nearly ten thousand people while I was baptizing in August” (50-0813E, God Revealing Himself To His People, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, Ohio)

“Here come that Pillar of Fire, circling out of the bright blue skies, at two o'clock on June the 15th, coming right down out of the skies, like that” (63-1130E, Go, Awake Jesus, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA).

“And I had a baptismal service down on the river, on 1933, on the middle of June, about sixteenth or eighteenth of June. (64-0427, A Trial, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ)

Many who believe the message will say this happened in June and avoid a date. June 15, 1933 is the date most given, his close friend Peary Green gives the date June 11, 1933, yet Branham himself gives the date[s] June 15, 16, 18 of 1933 and when he began telling the story it was August. Branham's baptism was reported by the local newspaper on June 2, 1933. Which is 9 days before the incredible baptism event that he refers to.

Branham would speak as if there were witnesses in the audience, but they never gave testimony.

“... Is there anybody in the audience now that was there when the Angel of the Lord, that come down

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



on the river the first time, before the people, raise up your hands. ... Now, I see Mrs. Wilson raised up her hand. She was standing there. My wife there, she was there. ..." (62-1230E, *Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir?*, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"How many's still living, when It first appeared before mankind down here on the river when I was baptizing them hundreds down there that day, in the building, raise up your hand. There's three or four hands." (58-1005 God called Man)

How many were baptized

We have a few pictures of Branham baptizing in the Ohio River one at a time, which is how people are baptized.

"I was baptizing a group down at the river that Sunday afternoon, when the Angel of the Lord made His first appearance in public in a vindication of the Message that I was to speak." (54-1231 Everlasting Life and how to receive it)

*"And we was baptizing **five hundred converts** on the river that afternoon when the Angel of the Lord come visible"* (56-0311A, *The True And False Vines*, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA; 52-0713A, *Early Spiritual Experiences*, Civic Center, Hammond, IN).

"I was baptizing some fi--five hundred, I guess, that afternoon" (50-0813E, *God Revealing Himself To His People*, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, Ohio).

Five hundred is more than a group.

Gordon Lindsay wrote, *"At the baptismal service which followed the revival, some 130 persons were baptized in water. It was at this time that a heavenly light appeared above him..."* (*A Man Sent From God* p.44).

"I remember when about five hundred of us standing yonder when I was baptizing a hundred and twenty."(55-0724, *Enticing Spirits*, Branham

Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN; 52-0713A, *Early Spiritual Experiences*, Civic Center, Hammond, IN).

Does he remember?

"130 candidates were awaiting baptism in the Ohio River." (*The Mysterious Star* pp.4-5).

"I had baptized about two or three hundred that afternoon." (*How The Angel Came To Me, And His Commission*; 55-0117, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL).

"five hundred came to the Lord. I taken them down at the river to baptize them." (60-0210 *Testimony William Branham*, San Juan. PR).

"My first great revival, somewhere around a thousand converts." (64-0412, *A Court Trial*, National Guard Armory, Birmingham, AL)

The amount of converts increased over the years. Branham said different amounts for those he baptized: ranging from one hundred and twenty or thirty, to about two or three hundred that afternoon; to five hundred people; and somewhere around a thousand converts. Why such a discrepancy concerning how many people were being baptized? But there are far more problems with Branham saying he baptized 500 people that day.

Branham says, *"I walked out in the water with this person," "I had my seventeenth candidate I was taking out in the water,"* so we can assume he did this with all he baptized.

Realistically to have one walk out into the water, a baptism takes 4 minutes per person. That would make 15 persons per hour being baptized. That means after 10 hours he baptized 150 people. 20 hours he got to baptize 300; after 30 hours of baptizing he would near the number he states (450 people). Let's consider this further: this means at 2 PM he was at the 17th person which means he was already into one hour of baptizing. And had at least 9-29 more hours to go, depending on which story's amount of people we use. But Branham says he did it all in one afternoon. *"That afternoon, when I was*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



so tired when I got finished baptizing, they had to come get me out of the water. I couldn't hardly stand no more of the current of the river.” (63-1130E, Go, Awake Jesus, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA).

500 baptisms were not enough by the end of his life he doubled it.

“My first great revival, somewhat around a thousand converts, and I was baptizing them out there in the water.” (64-0412 A Court Trial)

If he did one baptism that took only 2 minutes (30 per hour) for the least amount of people (130) it would have taken over 10 hours, but we all know that is an unreasonably fast pace. But for 1,000 converts, ... well you do the math. So this continual embellishment over the years cannot be accepted as factual and it too must be rejected.

How many were on the shore?

His stories of the witnesses on shore are just as incredulous.

“hundreds and hundreds standing there.” (50-0820 Believe that I am able to do this, Cleveland, OH).

“Hundreds and hundreds of people on the bank, right at two o'clock in the afternoon, in June” (55-0117 How the Angel Came to Me, Chicago, IL).

“a crowd of about 3,000 that had gathered on the river bank to watch.” (The Mysterious Star pp.4-5).

“before a crowd estimated at about 4000.” (Twentieth Century Prophet or The Messenger To The Laodicean Church Age By Lee Vayle). Pearry Green says *“4,000 who were sitting on the banks of the Ohio River, watching.”* (Pearry Green, 'The Acts of the Prophet, p.46)

Apparently this was the number decided upon.

“I went down then to baptize a bunch of people on the river. When I was baptizing there, where about five thousand people standing on the bank; right in

the middle of the day” (64-0405 A trial, Louisville MS).

“It was June 11, 1933, a hot summer, Sunday afternoon. Almost 4000 people had gathered to witness a Baptismal service being conducted by young Branham (W. Branham, How the Angel Came to Me, and His Commission (Edmonton: End Time Message Tabernacle), p. 18)

“I was baptizing them down at the end of Spring Street in Jeffersonville, Indiana, in the Ohio River, when... nearly seven or eight thousand people standing on the bank” (55-0227E The Healing Of Jairus' Daughter, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ).

“they was around ten thousand on the bank” (Testimony William Branham San Juan. PR Wednesday 60-0210).

This is just a snapshot of his stories that differ in both the amount of those baptized and those on the shore. From Hundreds and hundreds of people on the bank to 3,000; 4,000; 5,000, 7-8,000; 10,000 people. That is quite a span of numbers in different stories. How can this much diversity in numbers come from the same person telling the same story, even in the same year?

Furthermore the population of Jeffersonville at that time was only above 11,000. 11, 946 (by 1940 the population went down -3.8% to 11,493)
http://www.stats.indiana.edu/population/PopTotals/historic_counts_cities.asp

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeffersonville,_Indiana

So did every adult who lived there and others from surrounding areas show up for his baptism? I don't think so.

What was the size of the angel of light?

How big was that pillar? In the famous 1950 picture the pillar of fire is the size of a hand. Are we to believe it was seen by all this far away?

“And I looked, coming right down out of the heavens, out of a place about as big as this platform, ... Coming right down out of there came a big thing, like a star, whirling around” (50-0813E,

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



God Revealing Himself To His People, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH).

"Years later, strange that the camera takes the same picture, looks the same thing, just exactly what I told you there on the river" (1962 Taking Sides With Jesus, Branham Tabernacle).

Yet we are told how large it was: it was not the size of a hand as it was in the picture. *"He swept down there in that big Light."* (*The Absolute*, December 30, 1962) *"Here comes that big Light hanging right yonder, come moving down over me"* (59-1217, What Was The Holy Ghost Given For?, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

"Coming right down out of there came a big thing, like a star, whirling around, going, whew [Brother Branham illustrates--Ed.], coming right down visibly before the eyes. Moved right down, looked like a star at a distance. When it got close, it looked like a milling fire of Light" (50-0813E, God Revealing Himself To His People, Cleveland, OH).

Why do we see picture of such a small light in the auditorium?

And we find this light had a color: *"And down from the heavens came **that green**, whirling down like a big star in the distance."* (50-0820 Believe that I am able to do this, Cleveland OH).

The glory of God has the color green? This light color (yellowish/ green) that he claimed was the pillar of fire.

Who saw and heard it?

"people fainted, and fell, and everything." (50-0820 Believe that I am able to do this, Cleveland, OH). So it is clear according to Branham that people saw this light and reacted.

"probably ten thousand people saw It as It moved down where I was at, and went back up in the skies." (51-0505 My Commission, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA).

"some ten thousand people, I guess, was present to see it" (50-0711, Ministry Explained, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN).

"It come right down before ten thousand people in Jeffersonville when I was baptizing one afternoon." (53-1129E, Testimony, American Legion Hall, West Palm Beach, FL).

These quotes answer two points, that he claimed 10,000 is the accurate number of people present and that they all saw it.

Branham's wife said later in 1960 *"Billy, for the first time in my life, I saw It." ... you was praying for a woman," and said, "I seen It just come right before her and stood there just a few moments, moved around where you was at. And then, as soon as you stopped talking, It went away."* (60-0310 Elijah and the meal offering, Phoenix AZ).

And Yet Branham said his (2nd) wife (before they were married) saw it at the baptism, hmmm. *"My wife, about six months ago, saw It for her first time. She was on the river that day when it appeared down there. When the article went all over the--the English speaking world on the Associated Press: "Mystic Light Appears Over Local Baptist Minister While Baptizing." Stood there ... It talked; people heard It talking back and forth."* (60-0716, From That Time City High School, Klamath Falls, OR). Who was this voice having a conversation with? Branham never said he spoke to it.

If his wife was there at the baptism, how can it be the first time she saw it nearly 27 years later? Branham says up to 10,000 saw the light. She was taking photographs from the river bank and claims she heard the Voice; but did not see the Light?

"my wife ... She was down at the river that day at Jeffersonville when the Angel of the Lord made His first appearance ... It was 1933. She was standing there, but she heard the Voice but didn't see the Light. Where, even the newspaper photographers saw the Light. But she was quite young then, and

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



about twelve years old, and she never seen the Light.” (60-0310 Elijah and the meal offering, Phoenix AZ).

So lets get this story straight – everyone present sees the light (up to 10,000) but she does not; instead she is one of the only persons to hear the voice?

Near the end of Branahms life he said *“two or three years before we was married, she was standing there. I seen her face, white. She had a camera in her hand.”* (64-0412 A Court Trial)

Apparently she did she the light or this does not make sense.

One of the accounts *“I walked out in the water, and I took a candidate, about the seventeenth person, to baptize him. I had around five hundred, after my revival, to be baptized. And I walked out in the water with this person. I started to raise my hand. I said, “Heavenly Father, as I ...” And about that time, Something shook me. I thought, “Where is it?” I looked around. Everybody had their heads bowed, oh, as far as I could see. Way back up on the banks, there was, oh, cars and people piled all over the walls, and things. I looked again. I heard a Voice say, “Look up.” And I was afraid to look up. I was just a kid. We got the picture of It. I said, “Father...” Something said, “Look up.” I put my hand down. This young fellow, I was to baptize, looked at me in the face. He said, “Well, Brother Bill?” I said, “Did you hear That?” He said, “No.” I said, “Heavenly Father...” He said, “Look up.” I looked up, like this. And coming down from the skies come a Pillar of Light whirling around, a Voice coming from It, roaring, coming down. Said, “As John the Baptist was sent to forerun the first coming of Jesus Christ, so are you sent.”* (63-0127 An absolute, Phoenix AZ).

So the person he was baptizing did not hear the voice and he was right next to him. This is 1963 where he claims to have a picture of it, but there has never been one produced.

In 1947 Branham met Gordon Lindsay, founder of Christ for the Nations, who became his biographer and publicist, booked his meetings and edited his *Voice of Healing* magazine. In 1950 Gordon Lindsay published the book, *“A Man Sent From God.”* On p. 43 Branham gave an account of this baptismal event but evidently does not include the voice with the message of Branham's ministry as John the Baptist's ministry. *“As Brother Branham was about to baptize the seventeenth person, he heard a still small voice which said, “Look up.” Three times the words were repeated. He looked up and there from the sky appeared a bright star. After a few seconds had passed, the people looked up and many of the people saw the star also. Some fainted and others shouted and still others ran away. Then the star apparently was withdrawn back into the sky. The incident created such an interest that an account of it appeared in the local newspaper”* (Chapter 8 - Remarkable Incidents preceding Angel's Visit William Branham, *a Man Sent from God* By Gordon Lindsay, Editor of the *Voice Of Healing* In Collaboration with William Branham).

I thought the voice was audible, heard out loud? There's no official story except for what Lindsay wrote. Could it be that the paper just printed what they heard as a rumor from people? Later in this same book, Lindsay describes a prophecy given at a Branham meeting which said, *“...that as John the Baptist was sent as a forerunner of the Lord's first coming, so was He sending forth this evangelist [William Branham] and others like him to move the people and prepare them for His second coming”* (p. 105).

Why is it that after the book *A Man Sent From God* was published, Branham began to attribute the prophecy personally to his own ministry by the voice of the angel?

Lindsay's report of the 1933 baptismal event referred to the appearance of a “heavenly light” that

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



told Branham three times "Look up" but makes no mention of the forerunner prophecy spoken out loud (Lindsay, Branham, pp. 43, 71).

So then how could anyone have heard the voice, even Branham?

"But before better than five thousand people, at two o'clock in the afternoon, in 1933, out of the skies come this Cloud coming down, speaking these Words, "As John the Baptist was commissioned to forerun the first coming of Christ, your ministry will forerun the second coming of Christ," where thousands times thousands of people heard it, and newspapers give witness of it." (64-0419, The Trial, Mckay Auditorium, Tampa, FL)

Over 30 years later he says a cloud, not a light came down? That all that were there heard it! With so many discrepancies which story would one choose to believe? I choose none of them.

They claim it is documented, but we have no pictures of the event; yet they still insist the authenticity is not disputed. We can look at Branham's statements over the 14 plus years since he retold this story and we find incongruous inconsistencies, disparities that could only come from someone embellishing the event. This evidence may elude his devoted followers only because they don't want to face the facts that are clearly contained in his own writings. Whether or not the supernatural element of the 1933 baptism even occurred as Branham told it is disputed by Branham's own confused words: The conclusion from the lack of evidence is that this has become a legend rather than history.

The answer may never be known, since the newspaper articles are no longer to be found. Apart from this story simply being made up, which certainly is possible; we have other alternatives to accepting his testimony.

Some have suggested as an explanation all kinds of natural phenomenon. Sheet lightning is produced by a discharge within a cloud. Ice-crystal clouds can be barely visible to the naked eye. They can

produce pillar-shaped reflections that have been photographed. The light of the sun through these clouds can cause pillars of light when reflected off ice-crystal plates in the air. They can produce arcs, rings different shaped lights in the sky, even halos. Any number of these optical phenomenon's of nature can certainly be misinterpreted as something supernatural. [Apr. 3, April 18, 1907, in Cleveland Ohio this phenomenon was recorded.]

Website that document reports of unidentified aerial phenomena. <http://www.caelestia.be/>
<http://www.caelestia.be/halos.html>
<http://www.caelestia.be/lightpillars.html>

Another alternative that also has supernatural implications. These same manifestations of colored lights and reports of stars appearing are found in spiritism, and reported to be at work with Maitreya the new age Christ, as well as accompanying UFO phenomena. Those who believe in the new age Christ and inter-dimensional spiritual manifestations are just as convinced of their message. There is no difference: both are unbiblical. Since Branham believed in UFOs and merged occult concepts into his teaching, this may be an explanation that is better suited ten God sending him as the prophet Elijah for the last days.

Another explanation which seems to be the most plausible because of a lack of verification is that it was his imagination.

What did the voice say?

*"As John the Baptist was sent forth," (before 5,000 people or more) "the hour has come when **your Message will stray the world**" (God Hidden and revealed in simplicity Mar.17, 1963 A.M. Branham Tabernacle Jeffersonville, IN)*

Did he say "Stray"? Seems to be a slip into speaking the truth, for it was Branham later in his life that split the church to follow him as the last day's prophet and insisted to embrace his new revelatory message.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Furthermore the words the angel spoke seem to have subtly changed at times. "... A Voice spoke from there, and said, 'As John the Baptist was sent for the forerunner of the first coming of Christ, you've got a Message that will bring forth the forerunning of the Second Coming of Christ.'" (William Branham, How the Angel Came to Me, and His Commission (End Time Message Tabernacle) p. 18).

A message that will bring forth the forerunning of the Second Coming of Christ is not the same as a message "that'll forerun the second coming of Christ."

"As John the Baptist was sent forth to warn the people of the first coming of Christ, your ministry will warn them of the second coming around the world." (IN 60-0911M As I was with Moses, Jefferson,).

"... so is this Message to warn the people of the second coming." (52-0817 Do You believe Now Battle Creek MI).

Here he is told that he is to WARN people, clearly indicating the second coming is near.

"A Voice spoke from there, and said, "As John the Baptist was sent for the forerunner of the first coming of Christ, you've got a--have a Message that will bring forth the forerunning of the second coming of Christ." (55-0117 William Branham How the Angel Came To Me).

To have a message and given a message to bring forth the forerunning of the second coming of Christ are two different matters, different in intent.

Reminiscing the baptism event Branham tells us that he received different instructions from the voice "when that great Morning Star come shining there on the river. Hallelujah! A voice speaking from It, said, "Someday you'll spread the Gospel throughout the world." (55-0724, Enticing Spirits, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

This is certainly not the same words Branham said were spoken or what people heard: "...and a Voice came that shook all around the place there, said, "As John, the Baptist, was sent to forerun the first coming of Christ, the message that is given you will be a forerunning of the second coming of Christ." Not that I would be a forerunner, but the message was the forerunning. I know no more than anyone else. It's the Christ we're speaking of. Then I--them visions started coming to me more than ever" (60-0722 Watchman what of the Night, Lakeport, CA).

Here, he admits to NOT being the forerunner but instead the message is. That is not like John the Baptist at all and does not makes sense. The increase in visions he refers to seems to be the seven prophecies he received that same year (which we will look at separately at the end of the book.)

One would think that this word from an angel or the Angel of the Lord would be remembered correctly but its not and the content is changed.

" you've got a Message that will bring forth the forerunning of the Second Coming of Christ." Notice it says his message will bring forth the forerunning; not the second coming which confuses what was previously said.

What is further dubious is the term "Baptist," which was Branham's denomination at the time (Pentecostal Baptist). John the Baptist is not a biblical term even though it is used in certain Bibles (KJV). John did not belong to a denomination. In Greek the word is either *baptizo* or *Baptistes* meaning the one who baptizes, or immerses. For us to believe God or an angel spoke using this type of inaccuracy, using the vernacular of the day, is hardly acceptable.

John the Baptizer preached and Jesus showed up; he said I must now decrease for him to increase. Branham preached, and Jesus did not show up and Branham increased. So he cannot be the forerunner as John the Baptizer was the forerunner. On the basis of this negated observation alone, one's

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



discerning use of Scripture has to involve asking the biblical questions to get the correct answer.

Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism had various versions of his visitation from God that made Christians discount the veracity of his story. Should we not test Branham in the same manner?

*“Now go back to the Ohio River, in 1933. See? Excuse this, but I want you to know the Truth. ... these tapes will live when I'm gone, and you'll see **whether it's right, or not, if I be a true servant or a false prophet.**”* (64-1212, *The Harvest Time*, Ramada Inn, Phoenix, AZ).

That is exactly what we are going to do through listening to Branham's own words.

If we look past the razzle-dazzle stories to the actual facts and substance we have to come to a conclusion different from Branham's followers. Which story is one to believe? I submit: None of them. These variations we have reviewed would be like reporting Moses came down from Mt. Sinai with 10 commandments, then saying that he had 12, then later that he had 20 commandments. Or to say that it was written on 2 tablets, then 1 tablet, then 5 tablets. That he was up on the mountain 40 days, then 45 days, then 50 days. Confusing, yes! Reputable? No! That is why we cannot accept any one of these stories.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 5

How was Branham baptized in water and Spirit?

"Well, I remember Dr. Roy Davis, a--a--a personal friend of mine, who baptized me the only time I've ever been baptized." (63-0721, He Cares. Do You Care?, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"I know when I went down into the water and they baptized me into the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ..." He said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (54-1024, The Unpardonable Sin, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Why would his pastor who is Baptist, part of a denomination that baptizes as a Trinitarian baptize and also ordain a minister who does not believe in the Trinity and believes forgiveness of sins comes from being baptized? Something is not right with this story.

Branham implied Davis was a Trinitarian Baptist pastor baptized him in the oneness formulae before he met oneness, or knew of their particular doctrine. Which can't be right and makes this whole story suspicious. At the time he was assisting as a pastor we are told he could not read well and his girlfriend (future wife) read the Bible to him. She was a Trinitarian believer.

Branham knew nothing about being baptized in Jesus' name, yet he says he insisted:

"When I was just a boy, before I ever heard of Oneness, Twoness, three Gods, four Gods, ever what they got, I believed there was one God, and I believed that His Name was Jesus. And I was baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ by a Missionary Baptist preacher, 'cause I asked him to do it." (61-0117, The Messiah, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA)

"I know when I went down into the water and they baptized me into the Name of the Lord Jesus

Christ..." He said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (54-1024, The Unpardonable Sin, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

If Branham was baptized by the Missionary Baptist Church (which came from the Southern Baptist church) he would have had been baptized according to Matt 28. But Roy E. Davis was actually a Pentecostal Holiness preacher. The churches actual name was "First Pentecostal Baptist church of Jeffersonville Indiana." They baptized in Jesus' name. He didn't have to ask for this.

Douglas Weaver in his book, *The Healer-Prophet*, tells us Roy E. Davis was the pastor of the First Baptist Pentecostal Church in Jeffersonville, Indiana. Roy Davis' church was not a Missionary Baptist Church as indicated by William Branham but was a "*Holy Ghost church where they worship God in Spirit and not in fleshly denominations*" (from Jeffersonville Evening News, 10 June 1933 also cited p.16 Peter Duyzer "Legend of the Fall"). Underline mine

Branham tells us "*Then when I was converted, I joined the Baptist church, started preaching the Gospel, right away.*" (60-0210 Revelation that was given to me). That he "...*had become a minister, a Baptist preacher, of the Missionary Baptist Church*" (64-0427, A Trial, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ) "*And Doctor Roy E. Davis of the Missionary Baptist church that baptized me into the Baptist faith.*" (61-0413 Why, Bloomington IL) "*I was ordained in a Missionary Baptist church by Doctor Roy E. Davis.*" (62-1111E; 53-0604)

Branham's claims of being Baptist without Pentecostalism which he said all through his ministry was invalid. As Roy Davis wrote "*I am the*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



minister who received Brother Branham into the first Pentecostal assembly he ever frequented. I baptized him, and was his pastor for some two years. I also preached his ordination sermon, and signed his ordination certificate, and heard him preach his first sermon."

"I was the first man on this earth whom Billy ever saw anoint and pray for a sick person. I feel I can write more intimately of Billy Branham than any living minister, as he also received his Baptism of the Holy Ghost in my humble home in Jeffersonville, Indiana." (letter from Roy E. Davis in the October 1950 issue of the Voice of Healing magazine)

This may explain a lot of the loose details in Branham's stories that are contrary.

But Davis had his own integrity problems. Davis held lectures to promote interests of the Ku Klux Klan. Davis was a sordid character, there were multiple charges of fraud, forgery, that had Davis in and out of jail. Davis had fled to Jeffersonville, Indiana to escape some of the charges.

It is reported that he was arrested for bringing a seventeen-year-old girl from Chattanooga, Tennessee for sexual pleasure. At the time he was arrested, Davis was preaching from a "Pentecostal Baptist Church" at the "Holy Bible Mission Hall" on 711 E. Jefferson Street in Louisville, KY.

During the 1920s, Jeffersonville was a popular gathering place for the Ku Klux Klan due to its softer laws. *Gambling in the 1930s and 1940s was instrumental in Jeffersonville's recovery from the Great Depression and the Flood of 1937. Casinos "betting parlors, night clubs, and even a dog track were present, giving the town the nickname "Little Las Vegas."*
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeffersonville,_Indiana

There are numerous accusations on Roy Davis (some are of others with the same name). Even Federal Bureau of Investigation learned that the Imperial Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan was Roy E. Davis, Sr. of which is lean in its facts.

http://en.believethesign.com/index.php/Roy_Davis_and_the_KKK

<https://www.scribd.com/document/292147966/Roy-E-Davis-Imperial-Grand-Wizard-of-the-Ku-Klux-Klan#>

Branham's experience in Roy Davis' church

"when I first got in the pulpit, I--I got up there, and I--I watched Dr. Davis the way he preached. And I'd just got exhorter's license, so I got up there. And I thought, "Say, you know what? I can preach like that too." So I got up there, and swung my arms the same way he did, and jumped up-and-down the same way he did and I was just saying, "Hallelujah, Glory to God." and, "Hallelujah, Glory to God." and, "Hallelujah, Glory to God." And then, first thing you know, when I got down from there all the old women come around and said, "Oh, that was wonderful, Billy."

But old Dr. Davis set there, an old lawyer, you know, looked at me like that. I said, "How'd I do, Dr. Davis?" He said, "Rotten. Worst I ever heard." Oh, my. Did he deflate me. He said, "I want you in my study tomorrow afternoon at two o'clock." I said, "All right, Dr. Davis." I went in all beat down, you know. He looked at me, said, "I guess you feel like you'll never forgive me, Billy." I said, "No. I want to know why." He said, "When I first started practicing law," he said, "I watched a lawyer. And that's no doubt but what you've done too: watched me," he said, "because I see you try to go through every action that I went through." He said, "But you know what?" Said, "The reason I said 'the rottenest I ever heard,'" he said, "because you never brought a bit of the Word of God. You was just crying, and snorting, and slobbering, and carrying-on." Said, "You never said a thing about the Word." He said." (62-0120, The Unchangeable God Working In An Unexpected Way, Assembly Of God, Phoenix, AZ)

Think of what Branham is relaying about his first sermon, he copied the pastor's moves. For what it's worth his pastor was probably being honest with him, even though copying is the greatest form of flattery.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



What Davis said must have deeply affected him because years later he determined to be a teacher even though those around him discouraged him from teaching and only exercise his gift.

The When and Where"

According to Branham's own words he contradicts himself on how he himself received the baptism of the Spirit. Davis says it was *in my humble home in Jeffersonville.*

Besides the timing of his unbiblical oneness baptism, he was already around those in his Baptist church who would not be teaching this, so this had to be the Oneness people. Branham in his sermons claims that he was baptized by his Baptist church "in the Name of the Lord Jesus." That he had not yet heard of the oneness Pentecostal group when he was baptized. (Branham, *Is This the Time?* P.52.)

Branham tells us he received the baptism of the Spirit and later spoke in tongues before he was a believer, a Christian? Before he went to Mishawaka oneness meeting.

"I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost back in my shed, see. And about a year later, or something like that, I was--I was... spoke in tongues." (Questions And Answers, January 12, 1961, Foot Prints Book - Page 117)

"I finally became affiliated with this certain faith of the Baptist church. It's in the ministry. After while, I met up with the Full Gospel people. And I... Just before then, I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. And then look like it just kept coming more and more. And then it, He appeared on the river." (50-0300, Gifts And Callings Are Without Repentance, Carlsbad Air Base Recreation Center, Carlsbad, NM)

Branham tells us the order of these events: his first baptism as minister in 1933 was after he received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. He claims he received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, *"It was a little, colored church, where I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost."* (63-0731 There is only one way

Provided by God for anything Marigold Center, Chicago, IL)

"Then when someone told me about Jesus and His love for me, and I knew I realized then I was a sinner, an alien from God, I accepted Him as my personal Saviour. And then, God led me around to some folks that taught me in the Scriptures, and I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost." (52-0713A, Early Spiritual Experiences, Civic Center, Hammond, IN)

These two stories can only be reconciled if it is the colored church he mentions that taught him and it is where he received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The Baptism is in 1933, Mishawaka is 1934.

This means his spirit baptism took place *before* he went to Mishawaka, not after. As we look at what took place at the Mishawaka meeting, this can't possibly be accurate.

As we progress in his story we find him saying he didn't know anything about baptism of the Holy Ghost until he went to the Mishawaka meeting that was after he was married.

This also cannot be reconciled with his other stories, with him first going to church with his girlfriend?

"when I was a little boy, then, about seven years old. Then, about seventeen years after that, I was, had become a minister, a Baptist preacher, of the Missionary Baptist Church" (64-0427, A Trial, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ)

That would be the year 1933. 7 plus 17 would make him 24 years old. But he also says *"About twenty-one, I was converted"* (54-0314, Why I'm Praying For The Sick, Southland Theater, Columbus, OH)

That would be the year 1930. Which is years before he met the girl he would marry. Another conflict of timing arises in his story. How can he be a minister in the church and start attending the same church with his girlfriend at the same time?

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



And what of when the light that came down commissioned him as an as Elijah in 1933? He was NOT baptizing in Jesus' name. Yet we are told he himself was baptized in Jesus' name before this? The discrepancies become numerous.

We have him describing how he baptized at the 1933 baptism. Then I said, "*Father, as I baptize him with water, You baptize him with the Holy Spirit.*" *I started to--to put him under the water.*" (55-0117, How The Angel Came To Me, And His Commission)

This baptism statement is the only one made by Braham telling us what he said in baptism.

"and I said, "Heavenly Father, I can only baptize him with water unto the fellowship of this church. But I pray that You'll baptize him with the Holy Spirit." (62-0726, It Is I Be Not Afraid, Legion Auditorium, Port Alberni, BC)

This certainly is not oneness, and it is not Mt. 28 either. Branham taught baptism must be done in the "Lord Jesus Christ" to be authentic. If his baptism was not done the correct way, then why would it be acceptable by the angel who came to commission him at that time?

Over 30 years later Branham describes his words at this event differently,

"I was leading them out there, and the banks all up and down were just crowded with people. I walked out with this little boy ... His name was Edward Colvin. And I said, "Edward, do you know what I'm doing now?"

... I said, "Bow your head." I said, "Heavenly Father, as this young man has confessed his faith in You, and as I was commissioned just to go into all the world and preach the Gospel, baptizing them into the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, commissioning them to believe all things which You have taught, I therefore baptize thee, my beloved brother, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ." (64-0412 Court Trial Birmingham AL)

Here Branham is baptizing in the Trinitarian declaration at the baptism when he was

commissioned from the angel. The Mt.28 words are accompanied along *with* the Lord Jesus Christ. This is contrary to him saying prior the words "*Father, as I baptize him with water, You baptize him with the Holy Spirit.*"

Therefore how we can accept he was baptized in Jesus' name at his baptism?

We do know that in his early ministry he did not insist that people who were baptized according to Mt. 28 would need to be rebaptized into "the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ." It was later that he insisted it be Jesus' name baptism. We also know Branham's first wife Hope, who read him the Bible was not re-baptized and from what we can tell remained Trinitarian until her death in 1937.

There is no clarity in his proclamation of baptism with all the times he referenced his baptism and the first one he did.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 6

The Turning Point The Oneness paradigm shift – Mishawaka

John Ryan and the House of David

“I met an old man ... by the name of John Ryan. And I met him at a place... The old fellow with long beard and hair, I thought he was from Benton Harbor up here, at the House of David. And they had a place in Louisville. I was trying to find them people, and they called it the School of the Prophets. So I thought I'd go over and see what that was. Well, I didn't see nobody rolling on the floor, but they had some strange doctrines. And there's where I met this old man, he invited me to come up to his place.” (55-0117, How The Angel Came To Me, And His Commission, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

Branham sought this school of prophets out, whom he thought was of the House of David. Clearly he was interested in other expressions of Christianity. John Ryan, though he may not have been a member and lived on the commune was attending the school of prophets in Louisville Kentucky, which was across from Jeffersonville.

Branham speaks of being in Louisville at a meeting prior to this when, *“an old gray heeded man raised up, come over and laid his hands upon me, not knowing me began to speak in tongues. I never heard such. He said “your just a boy now, but someday God is going to use you.” That was brother Ryan.”* (May 5 1955 The faith that was once delivered to the saints, Chicago IL)

This is apparently the first time Branham met Ryan, but it would not be the last. They struck up a friendship that lasted years. If Ryan laid hands on

him when he was young and continually visited him, he certainly would be exposed to Pentecostal things.

“And I become acquainted with Brother Ryan during that time; I met him at a service one day, and heard him testify in Louisville. So, he invited me, and that's when he come to my house, and he set there one day.”(51-0722A, Life Story, Civic Auditorium, Toledo, OH)

“When I first saw him, I thought he belonged to the House of David, but he didn't.”(52-0718, For Him Will I Accept, Civic Center, Hammond, IN)

Of course one would think this if they are attending a meeting there and this done.

“I used to thought he belonged to the House of David, 'cause he had a long beard and hair.” (50-0820A, My Life Story, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

Branham states *“And I used to accuse him of being in the House of David, but he was a Pentecostal brother.”* (55-1120, What Is That In Your Hand?, Tent Meeting, San Fernando, CA)

“He used to belong to the House of David, or looked like that, but I don't think he did.” (56-0415, The Deep Calling To The Deep, Revival Assembly Church, Columbia, SC)

Then in his last statement on Ryan including the House of David, he says,

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"I think he belonged to the House of David, or something." (63-1115, The World Is Falling Apart, Marc Ballroom, New York, NY)

Branham is not so sure this many years later. It doesn't matter, one does not have to officially belong to something believe the same teachings.

"And he was at the Hammond meeting and the Zion meetings. ... He come down to see me." (52-0810A, I Am The Resurrection And The Life, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL)

So Ryan went to many different meetings, besides the house of David. In fact Branham talks about a cult that denies Jesus--His Name being Jesus that originates in West Virginia. *"Now, our old--dear old Brother Ryan, that comes here once in a while, he's mixed up in that too." (54-1114, Redemption By Judgment, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)*

The Healing

The story of John Rhyn is fragmented, this is all we have *"Up at the House of David in Benton Harbor, Michigan, I was setting up there..." (53-0614E, I Perceive That Thou Art A Prophet, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN; 56-1209E - Jehovah-Jireh; 59-0417 - Jehovah-Jireh)*

This apparently took place after Mishawaka *"Benton Harbor, Michigan, an old man John Rhyn (not the John, you know, with the long beard, but the one from Fort Wayne) that was healed in the meetings. And they taken me over there." (57-0115, God Keeps His Word, People's Tabernacle, Sturgis, MI)*

Branham tells us that he visited the House of David in Benton where he talked with a rabbi on John Rhyn's healing and he is arguing on Jesus.

"As I was talking to a Jew up here at Benton Harbor, when that John Rhyn, being blind all of his life nearly, received his sight. They taken me over there to that House of David, and this rabbi come

out with his long beard; he said, "By what authority did you give John Rhyn his sight?" I said, "In the Name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." He said, "Far be it from God having a son." And he said, "You people can't cut God in three pieces and give Him to a Jew, make three gods out of Him. You are a bunch of heathens." I said, "I don't cut Him in three pieces." (63-0324E, The Seventh Seal, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

In an earlier sermon Branham gives the same conversation with *"Talked to a Jew not long ago, up here at the House of David, he said, "You Gentiles can't cut God in three parts and give Him to a Jew. We know better than that." I said, "That's just it, rabbi. We don't cut God in no three parts." I said, "You believe the prophets?" He said, "Certainly." I said, "Do you believe Isaiah 9:6?" He said, "Yes." I said, "Who was the prophet speaking of?" "Messiah." I said, "What relation will Messiah be to God?" He said, "He will be God." I said, "That's right." Amen. See, there you are. See, you can't cut Him in three parts.*

"If you missionaries here... One of them's going here to the Jews; I believe this man setting here. Don't you never try to give God--or the Jew no Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; he'll tell you right quick he know where it come from: "The Nicene Council." He won't listen to that." (60-1204M, The Revelation Of Jesus Christ, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Now we understand where Branham got some of his teachings, for Branham says the very same words on the Trinity.

Who is this rabbi and exactly when did Rhyn get healed by Branham at Benton Harbor? We have no details of this first healing of his except this from Branham:

"not the blind John, that was healed at Fort Wayne Not the John Rhyn now, that's healed at Fort Wayne, blind, where the Jewish Rabbi's from." (58-0520, The Sign Of The Time, City Hall, Bangor, MI: 58-0613, The Queen Of The South, Tent Meeting, Dallas, TX)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:
A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



What makes this early visit to *Benton Harbor, Michigan* important is that Benjamin Purnell, a British Israelite was the leader of the House of David and claimed to be the seventh Messenger.

Benjamin Purnell



The House of David was a self-sustaining commune, they owned thousands of acres of farmland and operated their own electricity plant, providing lighting to the community. By 1910 there were over 700 members, and in 1916

the membership peaked at over a 1,000, though some say more. The members were apparently not allowed to have sex, celibacy was required. No meat, alcohol, or tobacco and no personal property. Men were forbidden to shave or cut their hair based on the Bible. The members were often recognized by their long hair and beards (i.e. John Ryan).

Purnell was born into a massive Kentucky farming family, was uneducated and became a preacher. Purnell first encountered the writings of Joanna Southcott, an eighteenth-century Brit who received communications from the spirit. From 1792, writing for 12 years she filled 65 volumes with her revelations. She claimed seven messengers from God were en route, as prophesied by St. John in Revelation 10:7. Southcott proclaimed herself as the first messenger.

In 1888 the Purnell's discovered a group of preachers who followed James Jershom Jezreel as the Sixth Messenger. Jezreel was the author of the 700 page "Extracts of the Flying Scroll."

While studying the writings of Jezreel they noticed that the Seventh and last Messenger was soon to be revealed (Revelation 10:7). On March 12, 1895, Purnell learned in a vision that he was number seven. The Purnell's announced that the spirit of

Shiloh had bonded with them to become the seventh and last messenger as foretold in the Book of Revelation. Purnell began a manuscript that would take 7 years to write called "the seven church ages." Purnell died in December of 1927.



The school of prophet's founder was William Sowder's. William Branham visited Sowders' church and his School of the Prophets in Louisville, KY in the 1930's. This is where he first met John Ryan who became a major influence.

Branham mentions the place and meeting Ryan there but He does not mention Sowder once. It just so happens that similar things that happened to Branham happened to Sowder, only Sowder was first. Branham makes no mention at all of him in his messages.

It seems a young William Branham may have very well taken parts of Sowder's story as the basis for his 1933 baptism event and ministry. We read in the account of William Sowders:

"The young man, William Sowders, born to Charles and Florence Meeky Sowders in Louisville, Kentucky on September 13, 1879, was called by God to preach HIS gospel. He was chosen by God to bring together the Body of Christ in this day.

Brother Sowders began by running from God. Brother Sowders had been searching for something, which only God could give him. ...

From the banks of the beautiful Ohio River in Southern Illinois, the movement of the Body of Jesus Christ was to originate in the twentieth century, Bother Sowders twentieth century. Brother Sowders heard a Voice thundering over his head said, "Son, I want you to preach MY GOSPEL! He later recalled that the voice was so loud it actually took the life out of his body and almost burst his eardrums, especially when the Lord voiced MY GOSPEL!"

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



When he came to himself, he looked up and a golden light was around him. He then felt strength coming back into his body and he rose to his feet. However, from that wonderful experience he started out from there to study GOD'S GOSPEL.

<http://www.gospelassemblyfree.com/facts/sowdersbranhamprint.htm>;

Seems that a lot of similar supernatural events took place at the Ohio River area, a voice thundering over his head, a golden light around him.

Sowder's preached through the 1920's- 30's and it was said he was God's man for the hour. Having a burning desire to restore the truth. That he said were revealed and restored to what they were in the first century as Christ originally delivered them to the Early Church.

He said the Lord revealed to him the truth of the "Godhead." Led to take the middle ground he reached out to both "Oneness" and "Trinitarian's." Sowders by his revelation claimed that there were not three, not one, but rather, two separate persons in the Godhead. God the Father, which he alleged was "a Spirit (Being)," and Jesus the Son, a Heavenly Creature. Two separate and distinct souls, yet one greater is than the other (Similar to the Jehovah Witnesses).

On baptism, Sowder's explained that the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost was Jesus. Jesus was the family name, the Son possessed the same name as His Father, since they are titles. And the Holy Ghost was the spirit of them both.

This "Beast" system would be the formation of a world religious confederation, headed by the Roman Catholic Church, all under the Pope of Rome.

Sowder's taught on the number and qualifications to be part of Christ's Bride. That the Church is not yet in its fullness until it reaches maturity, where the last remaining members to make up the Bride of Jesus Christ are made ready.

William Branham taught on these same topics with similar conclusions.

These are the people Ryan were associated with. Ryan visited Branham numerous times, as well as Branham visiting him. Could Branham have been influenced and adopted some of the teachings he was exposed too when he was young? This certainly seems the case.

"You know, there used to be an old guy come down to my place from up in Benton Harbor, had long whiskers, long hair; his name was John Ryan." (57-0519E, Love, Saskatoon Arena, Saskatoon, SK)

"There used to be an old man (He's in glory tonight.) named John Ryan, ... This man was from Benton Harbor, had long hair and beard. And he used to ride an old bicycle. And he come down to my house." (58-0613, The Queen Of The South, Tent Meeting, Dallas, TX)

"here's an old brother used to come to my house by the name of Brother Ryan. He followed me out west ... He rode a bicycle down there from Dowagiac, Michigan." (55-1120, What Is That In Your Hand?, Tent Meeting, San Fernando, CA; 58-0625, A Greater Than Solomon Is Here, Southern Pines High School, Southern Pines, NC)

This is very unlikely, Dowagiac is over 300 miles from Jeffersonville. I seriously doubt he was riding his bicycle to Branham's house a number of times from Benton to Jeffersonville, especially 300 miles on those roads back then, it would take too many days.

Branham said he met Ryan when he attended a meeting at the school of prophets in Louisville Kentucky. Louisville is a few miles away across the Ohio River south from Jeffersonville Indiana.

<https://www.maps-streetview.com/United-States/Jeffersonville/satelliteview.php>

It was easy for Branham to visit the School of the prophets and for Ryan to visit him since they were located across the bridge from Jeffersonville.

They struck up a long friendship *"old Brother Ryan from Benton Harbor; many of you might've known him, he was out here in California with me one*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



time..." (59-0419E, Show Us The Father And It Will Satisfy Us, Angelus Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

It should be noted that while Branham's pastor scolded him on his teaching Ryan prophesied greatness over him.

Ministry beginnings After Mishawaka

According to Branham's own story after marrying Hope Brumback on June 22, 1934 he later went on a trip where he says he accidentally attended a "Oneness Pentecostal Jesus only" meeting. He says that he was trying to visit John Ryan, who he met at the house of David. So he was already wanting something different than what he had at the church he was ordained in.

When he went to visit Ryan and came across the Mishawaka meeting he was apparently without a church.

Here is how he tells it:

Branham decided to take trip north to his friend Ryan. This is when he found the oneness meeting. It is after this that Branham's magical mystery ministry was to begin.

Speaking of Billy Paul He says "*he's fourteen years old now. ... Just before Billy was born, we had saved enough money, till I was, wanted to take a little time off. And we... I went up to Dowagiac, Michigan, to a--a meeting, and the--with an oldman that had white beard and white hair, by the name of John Ryan. And so I went up there. And on the road back, coming back, I seen a sign, great crowds of people everywhere when I passed through Mishawaka. I thought, "What are those people." And I went over there, and there's some of them in T-Model Fords, and some in Cadillacs. And they told me that they were... I couldn't get nothing to, no place to stay. And they said you're--you're... There's a conference going on here. The Pentecostal people are having a conference. The--the P. A. of J. C., I believe it was, P--P. A. of J. C. denomination of Pentecost.*" (50-0200, Here We Have No

Continuing City, Robinson Memorial Coliseum, Little Rock, AR)

Branham first says he was invited to his home, to a meeting. But there is a problem with his stories and facts on this.

"I visit Brother John Ryan for the first time in Dowagiac, Michigan; you remember this story, Brother Ryan. And he went away, went to his home, and I'd visit his home. I remember we saved our money; I never will forget how much money I had; it's six or seven dollars to make the trip, that we saved. I was tired; I'd been, as a minister and was preaching, had the little Tabernacle there. I went on a vacation; I went to see Brother Ryan, went to Dowagiac. And he, we went fishing out on the lake. On the road back I was coming home and I come down through Mishawaka. And that was my first time to ever get acquainted with the denominational Pentecostal people." (51-0722A, Life Story, Civic Auditorium, Toledo, OH)

Apparently he did forget how much money he saved, because he says it was 10-12 dollars in another story. This may seem like nitpicking or insignificant but it is consistent on how Branham gave the details.

"I went to see Brother Ryan, went to Dowagiac. And he, we went fishing out on the lake." (51-0722A, Life Story, Civic Auditorium, Toledo, OH)

Branham says he was invited to visit his home and they went fishing together on the lake (which is why he made the trip), but in another account he finds that Ryan is gone. Why would Ryan leave when he knew Branham was coming, that he had to save money to make the trip?

"And I remember one day then I wanted to go on a little fishing trip up at Mishawaka, Indiana. That was my first time to ever come in contact with any Pentecostal people. And I went up to old Brother Ryan's and went fishing." (51-0415A, Life Story, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



I thought his fishing trip was at Dowagiac, was this a slip of the truth?

"I went to see him at Michigan to fish a little while. I went up and spent two or three days fishing. (50-0820A, My Life Story, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

"I went up for a vacation. And I was there one day, and I went back to his house and he had done gone, and he had gone somewhere down in Indianapolis." (55-0117, How The Angel Came To Me, And His Commission, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

How does this work, he says he went fishing WITH him for two to three days, and then goes back to his house and he is gone? He is supposed to be with him.

So we have Branham mention a meeting, and to go fishing. Branham said he went to a meeting, not just to see Ryan on his so called fishing trip. He also says by accident on the way home he ran into a UPC meeting.

We are told Ryan was gone, yet he seem to imply Ryan was with him on the trip back home.

"I was coming down from--from up at Dowagiac, Michigan, I think, which is near, with an old friend of mine where I'd been fishing." (58-0207, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, South Bend Gospel Tabernacle, South Bend, IN)

"had been at Dowagiac on a fishing trip, and was coming down from Dowagiac, to down into Indiana. And so I seen the names, of "Jesus" all over the cars and things." (65-0123, Broken Cisterns, Ramada Inn, Phoenix, AZ)

Dowagiac is 42 miles north of Mishawaka. Did Ryan know that the Oneness meeting was taking place south of his home? Benton Harbor is 60 miles north of Mishawaka, that would be over 300 miles from Jeffersonville. But the road back (the same road to Dowagiac) does not take him to this meeting.

Mishawaka is located east of south Bend which is located 260 miles north from Jeffersonville, over a 4

HOUR DRIVE from Jeffersonville, so how does this story work?

"About twenty-three years ago I was visiting in your--your neighboring city of Mishawaka for my first time to ever have any contact with Pentecostal people. And it was over at certain tabernacle, I was coming down from--from up at Dowagiac, Michigan." (58-0207, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, South Bend Gospel Tabernacle, South Bend, IN)

Why does Branham say he was coming from a certain tabernacle at Dowagiac (House of David) to Mishawaka?

Why does Branham say he never met a Pentecostal prior when Ryan was one?

"I remember my first experience of ever coming amongst the Pentecostal people. I was at Mishawaka, Indiana... The first time I ever heard speaking in tongues ..." (65-0118, The Seed Of Discrepancy, Westward Ho Hotel, Phoenix, AZ)

He also says *"that it is the first time I ever heard speaking in tongues ... And I remember the first time I heard anyone speak in tongues."* But that too is not correct, it was not the first time.

How does this story reconcile with a prior experience *"he prayed alone in the wood shed. There a cross of light appeared to him and a voice spoke to him out of the cross in an unknown language." (The Messenger To The Laodicean Church Age By Lee Vayle)*

In fact he speaks of tongues a number of times prior to Mishawaka. Speaking of his mother as a boy ... *"She was a half Indian. I've been in the camps, and watched the witch doctors speak in tongues, and lay a pencil down, and it raise up and write in unknown tongues." (62-0610M, Presuming, Bible Tabernacle, Southern Pines, NC)*

Here we have Branham not only saying he heard tongues as a child but that he was exposed to the occult when he was young.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



And while Branham was in Louisville Brother Ryan "began to speak in tongues." "Brother Ryan, I'm speaking of you ... One of the first men that I heard speaking in an unknown tongues." (52-0718, For Him Will I Accept, Civic Center, Hammond, IN)

Notice, one of the first, not the first. His statement of Mishawaka cannot be true as Branham met Ryan years before.

And this quote certainly contradicts his others "An old man, one of the first that I ever seen in the realms of Pentecost and came to my house when I was just a--a little lad, and set in my room. And I've been always, for Pentecost, I wasn't critical, but I didn't understand that speaking in tongues before these things happened. ... And this man come to my room when I was just a boy preacher and set in there one day. And I come in and he went... he kind of jumped and threw his hands up and spoke in tongues. And he said, "Thus saith the Lord," speaking in tongues, said, "A great ministry lies before you that God will use you to shake the world." (51-0718 The Angel of the Lord Toledo, OH)

John Ryan spoke in tongues and prophesied over William Branham at his home. And Ryan spoke of Pentecostalism to Branham long before Mishawaka. Could Ryan's prophesy over young William had an affect on his direction in life?

"Now, Pentecost was a strange thing to me, and how many times he tried to tell me about it. And he was--he was setting there, and he just raised up; he threw up his hand and begin to speak with an unknown tongue." (51-0722A, Life Story, Civic Auditorium, Toledo, OH)

Ryan is one of the keys to Branham's early life, was he a Oneness Pentecostal? These were the only ones Branham seemed to know.

The meeting at Mishawaka

Branham's first impression as he pulled up in his car, "And there was a people out there, and the

worst church manners I ever seen in my life: they were screaming and...?... Well, I never seen anything act like that. So I thought, "I believe I'll see." And it was a Pentecostal group of people. (50-0820A, My Life Story, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

Branham attended the meeting at Mishawaka, Indiana, and said what he saw was the worst church manners, how they were acting. But then he says the opposite.

"I went to Mishawaka, and I set in that meeting, and I never heard so much shouting and crying and praising God. I thought, "Brother, this is Heaven." And, oh, how they would go up-and-down." (57-0908E, Hebrews, Chapter Six #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"Walked in, looked around, and everybody standing that could stand. I had to look over their heads. And they were screaming, and jumping, and falling, and carrying on. I thought, "Whew, uhm, what a people that is!" But the longer I stood there, better I felt." (55-0117, How The Angel Came To Me, And His Commission, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IM)

Branham began to FEEL comfortable, but this kind of activity was not under the self control of the Holy Spirit. It didn't matter to him.

He met two particular men who basically asked him the same thing. On the second day the first man asked "Are you Pentecostal?" I said, "No, sir, I'm not." I said, "I just don't accept the Pentecostal way of receiving the Holy Spirit," I said, "however." I said, "I'm here to learn." He said, "Well, that's mighty nice." And talking to him, catching his spirit (like the woman at the well), he was a real Christian." A second man at the meeting later asked him, "... Are--are you a Pentecostal?" I said, "No, sir, not exactly Pentecostal, I don't guess." I said, "I'm just up here to learn." He said--I said--he said, "You ever got the Holy Ghost?" I said, "I--I don't know." I said, "According to what you all got, I guess I haven't." And he--and he said, "Ever spoke in tongues?" I said, "No, sir." He said, "Then you

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



haven't had It." And I said, "Well, I--I guess that's right." I said, "I don't know. I just been preaching about two years, less," and I said, "I don't know too much about It." I said, "Maybe I don't know." I said, "I can't understand..." ...His wife was black-headed; and he was living with a blond-headed woman, had two children by her, and speaking in tongues, interpreting it just as perfect as it could be. And I said, "Now, Lord, what have I got into?" From angels, I didn't know what I was into. I said, "I--I--I'm fundamental; it's got to be the Bible. It's got to be right. There's something wrong somewhere, Lord. How could that be?" (59-1219, Questions And Answers On The Holy Ghost, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Let's stop and consider what Branham is saying to the second man. He's been preaching nearly 2 years and is supposed to be a Christian, even claimed he knew God all his life but he's stumped by the question. He doesn't know whether he's got the Holy Ghost? What exactly would he be preaching? Did he not say he received the spirit by being baptized? He said "before I met up with the full gospel people... I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost." (50-0300)

This would have been a good time to tell this man that at his first water baptism a light came from heaven and a voice spoke that he was to be as Elijah, but he doesn't. Branham not mentioning that he was appointed to be as Elijah for the second coming does not make any sense. Instead he was more impressed with tongues.

Furthermore, why did the oneness not hear of his baptism that was carried by UPI (United Press International) since he said it went all over America and Canada?

So what does he question? His own belief, not the Oneness doctrine; because he can't. He doesn't know what he believes. The influence of this meeting was permanent upon Branham.

"These people had something that I didn't have, and I wanted it ... I wanted the Baptism of the Holy

Ghost if God would give it to me." (A Man Sent from God p.48)

"They've got something that I haven't." ... Well, I--I just said, "William Branham, evangelist, Jeffersonville," set down. Well, at that time I was the youngest minister on the platform. And the next day they called me to the platform to speak. And then after I spoke, why, we had a great time, and then I begin to meet different people inviting me to their churches.... After that, why, I thought, "If I could only get where these two main men was that spoke in tongues and interpreted..." That was burning me up in my heart; I wanted it so bad." (65-0118, The Seed Of Discrepancy, Westward Ho Hotel, Phoenix, AZ)

Here we have by his own admission coveting an experience and a spiritual gift. This shows not only personal immaturity but spiritual immaturity as well.

In another recall, "*And then one day I was coming down from Michigan, ... "I stopped to listen, and I heard them preaching. I stayed all night. The next day they asked me to preach. And I got up and started preaching, and hundreds and hundreds came to Christ. And the ministers come around and said, "You're a Baptist?" I said, "Yes." Said, "Come, preach for us."*

"So I put down all the invitations, and I hurried home to my wife. And when she come to meet me, I told her about these happy people. She said, "Oh, Billy, I would like to have that experience." Said, "What do they call it?" And I said, "They said it was the baptism of the Holy Spirit." I said, "Let us go find Jesus like that." So we did, and we both received the blessing." (55-0626A, My Life Story, Unknown, Zurich, Switzerland

When Branham was confronted with those who were joyful compared to those he did not see this in, he chose the joyful without really understanding their doctrine. Why? Because he wanted an experience.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



“in a bunch of little, so-called holy-rollers one night, I found what I wanted, that money could not buy. In a bunch of illiterate, uneducated, poorly dressed people, Negroes, to begin with, out yonder in a little old converted saloon on the floor, I found a price, a jewel, when that old darkie looked in my face, and said, "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?" Oh, it was something that I wanted. I didn't expect to find it amongst those people, but they had what I needed.” (59-0802, Without Money Or Without Price, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Was this at Mishawaka? Appears so, since this is where he said he was asked this and found what he was looking for *“In a little old saloon that had been used as a church ... from that time I've been changed. Can point back to that time, I was changed.”* (60-0302, From That Time, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ)

Remember Branham said *“It was a little, colored church, where I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost.”*

Before he met the Full Gospel people, *“Just before then, I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost.”* (50-0300)

If not Mishawaka then when? There is nowhere else to point to. If it was after then all that he said of Mishawaka makes no sense. If it was before than it brings up numerous other contradictions in his stories.

Furthermore there is a glaring inconsistency in his story. If Branham never heard of the baptism of the Spirit than what he had previously told us of how he received it cannot be correct. If he is saying he does not know about the Holy Ghost (or baptism of the Spirit) at their meeting then he had to receive it afterwards. So we now have a huge contradiction[s] in his early life story. Consider the story of the cross of light which took place long before he met his girlfriend and started going to church.

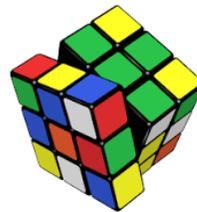
We are told after his operation at 18-19 years old,

“he prayed alone in the wood shed. There a cross of light appeared to him and a voice spoke to him out of the cross in an unknown language.”

It is then *“the joy of salvation flooded his soul, he jumped up and ran through the sheer exuberancy of sins forgiven and peace made with God.”* *“he was led to know and understand that the Baptism with the Holy Ghost was for him. One day while looking to God, it seemed as though rain fell upon his body--literally pelting it, and sinking deep within him. He was completely, overflowingly filled with the Holy Ghost.”* (Twentieth Century Prophet or The Messenger To The Laodicean Church Age By Lee Vayle)

There are a number of problems with both what is said and the timing of what is said. This is before he met his girlfriend Hope who would become his wife. This is also before Branham speaks of them going to church where he became a Christian. He points to this as when he received salvation in the shed without understanding any words. Notice there was no gospel proclaimed, just a cross of light with an experience. And he admittedly heard tongues before Mishawaka.

Also he says he received the baptism of the Spirit. So it was not after Mishawaka when he and his wife sought the baptism of the Spirit. But this presents another problem. This took place before he was baptized for forgiveness of sins.



This is why Branham's early life is like a Rubik's cube, just when you think you have certain event's lined up like a set of colors, the other colors are no longer lined up.

In another sermon he tells the same story like this *“That's exactly the way I received it, when I come up and said, "Lord God, I'm deeply sincere. I really mean it, from all my heart. This is between death and life, and I--I don't want to die. I--I want to live, and I--I want to go to Heaven. And You promised.”*

I never heard of such a thing as Pentecost, never heard such. But, I said, "In the Bible here the

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



requirement was, according to this Bible, for me to repent, and that I do. And I've been baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ. Now, Lord, You promised me the Holy Ghost. You promised to do it.

"I never heard of anything like speaking in tongues, never read it no more than there in the Bible. I just didn't think any. And right there come a Light across the room, in a cross form, and ever what was on it was speaking in tongues. I said, "I don't understand Your Voice, sir, Your language. If You can't speak English, and I don't understand Your language; if You'll just come back and speak again, it'll be a sign that You've accepted me." And there It was again." (63-0428, Look, Jesus Name Church, Phoenix, AZ)

He was accepted by this light that he thought was God, this is categorically an experience with an angel of light. What this shows is that Branham was reading the Bible. Which presents even more contradictions about him being illiterate, furthermore he says he heard tongues and was *baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ* which is what he claims his pastor did when he joined the missionary Baptist church.

The paradigm of the 1933 baptism

When William told his pastor of what took place at the river with the light, the Elijah commission (where he baptized a thousand converts) he relates a few stories of his reaction.

"My pastor said to me, back there, said, "Boy, you had a dream!" (64-0412, A Court Trial, National Guard Armory, Birmingham, AL)

"My pastor said to me, he said, "Billy, what kind of a dream did you have? Why, you know you didn't see..." I said, "There were hundreds standing there, witnessed It." And they'd come down, said, "Oh, that's a mental delusion." Trying his best, that's old man Unbelief and Mr. Skeptic." (64-0405, A Trial, 4-H Club Barn, Louisville, MS)

What he told his pastor of the event contradicts his own embellishments. Notice he doesn't say 10,000 or 5,000 witnesses, but there were hundreds

standing there, nor does he speak of a thousand being baptized. He knew he could not exaggerate the amount of people there to him. His pastor did not hear from anyone else in the church on the light, nor the voice speaking of him as John being sent. Would not the people that were baptized in the church or witnessed this supernatural event go and tell others, especially the pastor? Would there not have been another elder present at Branham's first baptism?

Branham then relates of a conflict with his pastor. In this story he combines both the angel of light at the baptism and the angel visitation which takes place 13 years later. "*And when I went to the--the general overseer, one of the high Baptist men, frankly, the one that baptized me, Dr. Davis, into the Baptist fellowship. I went and told him about it; and he said, "Billy, you need a rest. You've had a nightmare." I said, "I don't appreciate that. I'll resign the Baptist church right now." Said, "You mean with your seventh grade education, and you're going to go around the world preaching the Gospel and thing." I said, "That's what He said, and that's what I believe." He said, "Don't take it that seriously, Billy. I think if you rest a few nights you'll feel better." I walked out."*" (57-0115, God Keeps His Word, People's Tabernacle, Sturgis, MI)

This is the pastor of the church he was baptized and ordained by saying this to him. Branham used this story against his detractors. He is setting up an argument for those who would question his gift. What Branham's story is actually giving is insight to a real honest reaction of what his own pastor thought of him. The fact that his own pastor who knows him, baptized him questions the experience is dismissed by Branham because he counters the validity of the light and the commission. Why did Branham not refer to specific witnesses who were present to give testimony? Or the boy that he baptized at the time?

I want us to consider what Branham is relaying, that his pastor Said, "*You mean with your seventh grade education, and you're going to go around the world preaching the Gospel and thing.*" I said, "*That's what He said.*"

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



This does not coincide with what he claimed the angel said to him at all

This brings one to consider that maybe his pastor got it right about what happened at the baptism.

"and when the--Brother Davis, Doctor Roy Davis, many of you know him, who ordained me into the church, into the Baptist Church, when he said I had a nightmare, how would I, with a seventh grade education go and preach to kings and potentates and monarchs around the world." He spoke this story nearly 20 times (57-0125, Hear Ye Him, Memorial Hall, Lima, OH, 57-1229, Faith, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN, 57-0126B, India Trip Report, Lima, OH, 57-0611, Life Is The Healer, Cadle Tabernacle, Indianapolis, IN etc.)

Consider what Branham also stated Davis said *"You think you could meet an educated world like this with a theology of--of Divine healing?" I said, "It's not my Divine healing; it's His promise. He was the One give the commission."* (62-1230M, Absolute, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

How does divine healing find its way into this story, when it will be 13 years later when he was commissioned by the angel for this?

Yet we never hear from testimony from Davis or from any other of what transpired at the Ohio River.

Furthermore, the story we then hear of why Branham left the church does not coincide with the actual events, *"the man that baptized me in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ finally run me out of the church, because I wouldn't agree with him on women preachers. That didn't make me be rebaptized again. See? Surely not. See? That's all right."* (64-0830M, Questions And Answers #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

What does rebaptism have to do with women preachers? Nothing, but baptizing in Jesus name would. The United Pentecostal Church International has recognized ministry of **women**, ordination, **preaching** and teaching **in ministry since their**

inception. In the *Oneness Pentecostal* ministerial directory (1919), 203 of 704 **ministers** were **women**. And we know Branham left after his attending the meeting of Oneness in Mishawaka in 1936.

While Branham may have made the disagreement on women we find this statement over 25 years later that may clarify his leaving. After Branham explained that we must be rebaptized in Jesus name, a person said, *"Said, "Well, if I'd baptize like that, they'd kick me out of my church." I said, "They did me."* (60-0626, The Unfailing Realities Of The Living God, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

This presents a glaring contradiction. Branham said his pastor baptized him this way, so why would he kick him out of church for this. My opinion based on his own testimonials is that it was because of what he said happened at his first baptism.

It was after Mishawaka meeting Branham was convinced that God had called him to go with this new revelation he learned. He felt that God wanted him to evangelize other cities with Oneness Pentecostals. However, when he spoke to his mother in law about it, she disapproved and caused him to decide against it.

After he and his wife received the Blessing *"So I was going to leave then to go on evangelistic work. So we went to tell our parents. Now, her mother was a refined type of woman, belonged to a great big church. She said, "Now, Billy, them people are nothing but trash. There's nothing to them. You stay away from them. I don't want my girl around them." I said, "Oh, but they were real." She said, "No. No." And I said, "I believe they are. And so I ... My wife started crying. And there's where I made my fatal mistake.*

"Now, from here, listen. I listened to my mother-in-law instead of God, and forsaken the church, and went on back with the Baptist people. Right away, plagues hit my home. My wife took sick; my father died on my arm; my brother was killed. And everything happened just in a few days. A great

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



flood hit the country and washed away the homes. My wife was in the hospital. And I was out on a rescue with my boat. And one night out in the water, my boat got in the current, and was going over a big falls. I couldn't get the motor started, and I raised up my hands, and I said, "Oh, God, don't let me drown. I am not worthy to live, but think of my wife and baby." And I tried again, and it wouldn't start, and I cried again to God. And then, just before going over the falls, the motor started, and I got to the land." (55-0626A, My Life Story, Unknown, Zurich, Switzerland)

He claims he experienced a series of what he interpreted as judgments, one after another. One of his brothers Edward, next in age to him was very ill and died, but his brother actually died years before, so there is no connection to this.

"my father, he was killed then by this doctor, give him an overdose of medicine, and it killed him. And right away, my brother was riding on the side of a car, got his neck broke, died in my other brother's arms. My sister-in-law died. My wife took sick, and was ... Oh, the 1937 flood came up and there was sorrow." (50-0200, Here We Have No Continuing City, Robinson Memorial Coliseum, Little Rock, AR)

He said each time he resisted God, tragedy or sorrow of some kind would happen to him. The final tragedy was his wife and little girl dying. (His wife Hope was diagnosed with tuberculosis in January, 1936 and died July 21, 1937 before the storms that brought the 1937 flood). Branham exaggerated these events closeness and confused the details. He was convinced because of his disobedience of not going with the Jesus only group God judged his loved ones. The question that comes to mind is what kind of a God (or angel) punishes others for your disobedience? Taking the lives of those who are not directly involved? The true God is just and does what is right.

As his wife lay dying she he says she said to him *"Do one thing. Promise me too, that you'll never let loose, but you'll preach this Gospel that you heard*

up there at Mishawaka."...I walked out of the building, went home, oh, my, my heart breaking. Mother told me, "Come to her house." I couldn't do it. I went over that night. Then finds out his daughter has tubercular meningitis." ... She's contracted that from her mother." (50-0820A, My Life Story, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH).

She died one month after Branham's third wedding anniversary.

Kneeling down beside her bedside he pleaded, *"Lord, what have I done? Haven't I preached the Gospel on the Street corners? Don't hold it against me Lord. I never called them people "trash." Forgive me, Lord. Don't take my baby." (this was in reference to the Oneness Pentecostals that his wife's parents told him to stay away from.) "He then saw a big black sheet come down over her and he knew he refused him" (Footprints on the Sands of Time).*

"... and when I--she looked at me, she tried to raise her--raise her hands for me. And I got down close to her. She said, "Oh, Billy, I love you so much. Billy, I'm going away, and I want you to be a good boy." She was twenty-one. ... I was twenty-three. She said, "You know that Holy Ghost we've been talking about?" She said, "Billy, you know you oughtn't to have listened to mama. "

Branham relays this tragic story of her passing *"Oh, I said, "Hope, if I could only live it over." We knew we'd done wrong. And she said, "Promise me something, Billy. That you will preach that Message until you die." She said, "For it's real." She said, "I was in Glory. I seen the Lord Jesus and the Angels." Oh, she said, "It's wonderful." She said, "I must go back." Said, "Don't think I'm beside myself, for I'm not." She said, "But I know what I'm speaking of." She said, "Will you promise me that you will preach the baptism of the Holy Spirit until you're gone from this earth?" I said, "I promise it." She said, "I'm..." Said, "Take good care of the children." Said, "Take care of Billy." [Blank.spot.on.tape--Ed.]... kissed me, and she said, "I'm going." (55-0626A, My Life Story, Unknown, Zurich, Switzerland)*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



As far as we know Hope died as a Trinitarian Pentecostal, not Oneness that denies the Trinity.

Branham eventually was overcome with despair that he says he tried committing suicide, "*Lord, I can't go this anymore, I'm dying. I'm so tormented.*" I pulled the hammer back on the gun, put it up to my head, kneeling there on that cot in that dark room. I said, "*Our Father Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thine will be done,*" and I squeezed that trigger as hard as I could ... " But the gun wouldn't go off! And I thought, "*O God, are You just tearing me to pieces? What have I done? You won't even let me die.*" And I threw the gun down, and it went off and shot through the room. And I said, "*God, why can't I die and get out of it? I just can't go no farther. You've got to do something to me*" (Footprints on the Sands of Time").

Somewhat unsure, he thinks he went to sleep and dreamed he was in heaven finding himself with a big hat like the cowboys wear, walking down through the prairies he meets his daughter. He is bewildered and she reminds him "*Don't you remember your teaching of immortality?*" And then meets his wife who takes him to a mansion and he was assured everything is okay. (Life story 1951)

Branham becomes one of the main sources of the modern Pentecostal trips to heaven that numerous others now claim to have experienced today.

All this transpired because he had not continued in fellowship with the Pentecostals and had missed God's will (Acts of the Prophet, p. 47). Branham had convinced himself that God was punishing him because he would not join the anti-trinitarians who believed salvation came through water baptism in Jesus name only and that the Father, Son and Spirit are three manifestations not persons.

The real reason is simple, as Branham tells us "*The Baptist people couldn't see that there was a Divine gift. The Pentecostal people believed it. So there's where God sent me.*" (53-0216, My Angel Shall Go

Before Thee, Pentecostal Holiness Church, Tallahassee, FL)

His constant bickering with the church he was originally with, their telling him the gift is not of God but the devil drove Branham into the Oneness Pentecostals arms. Branham then becomes the most famous oneness preacher in all of history.

On Baptism to remove one's sins

Branham taught others the teaching of salvation by baptism,

"God, may they go to the water now, before the audience, be baptized in Jesus Christ's Name, for the remission of their sin." (60-1218, The Uncertain Sound, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

To say one cannot receive the Spirit without the correct baptism goes against the Scripture (see Acts 10). The Bible gives many examples of receiving the Spirit by believing before being baptized. The Bible teaches we are forgiven by the blood shed at the crucifixion, not by water.

"Then the first thing they do as soon as they receive Christ setting in their seats, the next thing is to be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of those sins that they have been convinced that they're wrong. That's how they're remitted of their sins. See? 'Cause they have repented; been baptized as a memorial to the people, that, "I have received Christ as my personal Saviour"; then you're a candidate for the Holy Ghost." (61-1119, Perfect Strength By Perfect Weakness, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN) This is the oneness Pentecostal doctrine.

"Peter told them, about how they had to repent, and to be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, and receive the Holy Ghost." (54-1231, Everlasting Life And How To Receive It, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Tell who? Did he tell those at Cornelius' house this? No. They received the Spirit before baptism. Yet Branham insisted this is the only way ... "*if you've*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



never been baptized with water, is to be baptized for the remission of your sins. And then God has promised to give you the Holy Spirit the very minute you are baptized."(55-0403, Fellowship By Redemption, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"The Bible said, "Repent, every one of you, and be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sin, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (57-0915E, Hebrews, Chapter Seven #1, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham promoted the Oneness teaching of Acts 2:38. Then later at the end of his ministry without any repentance of what he taught formerly he said the meaning of baptism was the exact opposite *"water does not remit sins; it's an answering towards a good conscience."* (64-0823M, Questions And Answers #1, Branham Tabernacle)

We know Branham sided with Oneness but he would later disagree with them also, just not as adamantly as he did with the Trinitarians, *"I think you both are wrong, both oneness and trinity. Not to be different but it's always the middle of the road..."* (61-1019 Water Baptism Beaumont TX)

Branham's later position was the opposite but just as sure as his earlier one that agreed with Oneness.

"Now some of you Oneness people baptize wrong. You baptize for regeneration as though being immersed in water saved you. Regeneration does not come by water; it is a work of the Spirit. The man who by the Holy Ghost gave the command, "Repent and be baptized every one in the Name of the Lord Jesus," did not say that water regenerated. He said it was only an evidence of a "good conscience toward God." That was all. I Peter 3:2 (65-1207An Exposition of The Seven Church Ages)

This as one of those rare times I agree with him, water does not regenerate is correct according to the Scripture. But what of all those he baptized for forgiveness of sins and died?

Despite this confusion he said of baptism having to do with salvation *"I believe if a man is baptized wrong ignorantly ... now I can't say this Scripturally... I believe God would overlook that and save him anyhow..."* (61 -1215 AM Question and Answers)

The problem is baptism is not the gospel, Jesus' death and resurrection is. That is what we are told to believe on for salvation (1 Cor.15:1-4). One is not saved by baptism, so his teaching on this is moot.

"Would it be possible for one minute for the apostles to be led astray from a direct command of the Lord to baptize in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost and then find them in willful disobedience? They knew what the Name was, and there is not one place in Scripture where they baptized any other way than in the Name of Lord Jesus Christ. ... Anyone who was not baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus had to be baptized over again." (An Exposition of The Seven Church Ages Church Age Book)

There is absolutely no scripture reference to prove this statement of a rebaptism. Yet Branham used Acts 19 over and over as his proof text. *"Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?" "Oh! Huh!" You see, they're--they're embarrassed about it. [Acts 19:2]"* (65-0711, Ashamed, Branham Tabernacle)

"and Paul was the one made them be rebaptized again." (54-0515, Questions And Answers, Branham Tabernacle)

"There's only one Scripture in the entire Bible that people was rebaptized, and that was those who was baptized by John the Baptist before the Holy Ghost came. Paul, in Acts 19:5, told them that they had to be rebaptized again in the Name of Jesus Christ in order to receive the Holy Ghost. See?" (54-0103M, Questions And Answers #1, Branham Tabernacle)

"Paul said, he commanded the people to be rebaptized again in the Name of Jesus Christ; He said, "If an Angel said anything else, let him be accursed." It does make a difference." (60-0626,

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



The Unfailing Realities Of The Living God, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

What makes a difference is knowing the gospel. Paul said For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, (1 Cor. 1:17) therefore baptism is not the gospel. Paul tell us the gospel he preached in 1 Cor. 15:1-4, and baptism is not mentioned in it.

Branham used an argument from the Oneness misinterpretation of Acts 19:1-6 So we must go to this scripture and carefully examine what took place and why.

Finding some disciples in Ephesus "*he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.*"

Vs. 2: "*Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"* They reply they have not as much heard whether there is a Holy Spirit. Years afterward the crucifixion and resurrection they had not heard that the one John was preparing them for had come, that Pentecost had occurred. These were Jews that had not heard of Christ's death and resurrection, nor of Pentecost. Paul finds them as disciples of John. Which means they probably left before Jesus was identified to them as the Messiah. This is why Paul said "*that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.*" John's baptism could not give them the Holy Spirit. Only by believing on Christ, the gospel. What this shows is that John's water baptism is different from Spirit baptism, since they were already water baptized by John they did not have the Spirit which comes from Christ the baptizer.

V.5 "*When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.*"

So Branham's argument like other Oneness arguments and falls flat. They were rebaptized because they did not have a Christian baptism, and one needs to accept the gospel first to have a Christian baptism.

What makes this confusing is that Branham makes the same argument I just did. *Paul said, "That will not work now." 'Cause John never baptized, only unto repentance, not for remission of sins; the sacrifice wasn't offered. And when they heard this, they were rebaptized in the Name of Jesus Christ.*" (62-0318, The Spoken Word Is The Original Seed, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham in a convoluted way answers his own point, that they were not rebaptized because of not being baptized in Jesus name (which is also wrong, which he seems to have corrected at the end), but because John's baptism was for repentance to prepare one to accept the Messiah, not for sin.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 7

In the Beginning

The Creation Story According to Branham

How God became God

"Would you like to hear what I think about how God become...? ... Let me get this straightened out for you. Let's take a little trip in a little space now, a mental vision, and go back a hundred million years before there was even a star in the sky, by your mind. It was--it was God. He's always been God. And then, we're setting on--standing here watching creation come into existence. There's not a star; there's not nothing. And then let's notice. Out yonder I see now all that space, that all is God, without form, forever, for eternities, no beginning, no ending. It's all God. Before there was even air there was God. The very beginning of nature of creation was God." (53-0509 The Pillar of Fire, Jonesboro, AR).

Is space God? Is nature God? Is anything created God?

Branham's view of creation "we pictured God in His Elah, Elohim, and showed that He was self-existence. But inside of Him was Fatherhood, inside

of Him was different merits, such as a Saviour, such as a Healer. That was all in God, and God was self-existence. But being that He was a Saviour, He was a Father. He didn't have an Angel; He didn't have nothing. There wasn't nothing but Himself. He was self-existence. Nothing else existed but God. But being that He was God, then there must be something to worship Him, because He loved worship. And His Own Being created creatures to worship Him." (60-0522M, Position in Christ, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

How did God love worship when there was no one to worship him? God is not some egotist that wants attention like men do.

"What is God? God is a great Eternal. At the beginning, way back before there was a beginning, he wasn't even God. Did you know that? A god is an object of worship, and there wasn't nothing to worship him; He lived alone. And in him was attributes. What is an attribute? A thought." (The Spoken Word, Vol. 3, p. 79)

So God who does not change became God after they (angels) worshipped him? Ps. 90:2 says, "*from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.*"

Branham's God needs to be worshiped or he is not God (this is also said by a certain Mormon): attributes are not thoughts. We should think about that. For this thought according to Branham became the logos.

According to Branham God first created the angels and then became God because he was worshiped by them.

"And in God was the attributes, before there even was an angel or a molecule or anything ... But His attributes--attributes displayed something and made an angel. Then He was God." (61-0119A, The Water Baptism, Golden Arrow Restaurant, Beaumont, TX)

He next created "man," as spirit, insisting that man was first created to be a god.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



The word "Genesis" is "the beginning." And every cult that we have on the face of the earth today begin in Genesis. Everything that we have today started in Genesis. It's the beginning, or otherwise known as the seed chapter of the Bible where the beginning originated. When God, way back before there was a star in heaven, before there was even light in the skies (That's as far as our little mind could take it.), God was there. All that great space of eternity to eternity, God was setting back in eternity. Then out of God came the Logos, which we would say it, like a little sacred Light that moved out of that darkness, or out of that eternity, as a child playing before the father's house. And in His infinite mind He had the scene what would be at the end from the beginning that He was then. And He... Then He spoke and said, "Let there be." And an atom split yonder in the sky somewhere, and the sun came into existence.

"After a hundred billions of years a clinker flew off of it, was a star. And we watch it falling. It fell for several million years, and He stopped it. Another one fell; He stopped it. What's He doing? He's writing His first Bible. We've had three Bible's written. One of them is in the heavens above, the Zodiac. Starts off with the virgin, ends up with Leo the lion, the first coming and the second coming of the Lord Jesus, down through the different ages..... Notice, then when God, after making all the--the stars and the heavenly planets, then I can see this Logos go out over the world, bring it over here around the sun and begin to turn it around." (54-0809A, I Will Restore Unto You, Saith The Lord, Shriner Temple, Los Angeles, CA).

Where does the Bible say the Logos is a light? It says God is light (1 Jn.1:5), it is his intrinsic glory. 2 Cor. 4:6 "For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness" "who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see" (1 Tim. 6:16).

We find whom the Logos is, Branham explains "... this is just like a child playing before the door. It was the Son of God, the Logos. And I can see Him out there, and He spake, and said, "Let there be light." ... The sun begin to come into existence,

because He said, "Let there be." There's the authority. Where did He make it from? I don't know. There was nothing to make it from. But He believed His own Word, and there was light. I can see a piece fly off of that; it's a meteor. After a few million years, or a hundred billions of years, if you want to call it, and it circled way out. I see Him standing there watching it. And it falls down in here. He stops it after it falls a few million years, and let it hang there in orbit. Here goes another one flying off the sun. It goes over here and hangs down, stops it there." (50-0815, Who Is God?, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH).

Branham teaches each star took millions or billions of years to be placed by this logos he speaks of.

In fact the sun is a star which according to the Bible was made on the 4th day not millions, or billions of years before the earth was made. Yet he also said on this, "That's the world, if it's made out of a bunch of broken up atoms, pulled off the sun yonder, before it was that. Then before there was an atom ever first broke in the sun, if this was a meteor off the sun, which would be a hundred billion trillion trillion trillions of years back before there was even one light meteor, Christ was slain."(58-0927, Why Are We Not A Denomination?, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Not only did he say a million, or a hundred billion years but trillion[s] years ago. Branham speculated that it took billions of billions, even trillions of years to set things in order. That is a powerful imaginary story passed off as the Bible. Not even secular science believes this is how long it took to make the universe (or man). Whatever speculation Branham began with, he did not put a limit on the time. "God made the world. He might've been a hundred trillion years making it." (62-0909M, Countdown, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

"I can see Him speak to this world hanging there as an icicle, whatever it was, way away. And He moved it over here. I can see this little Light go out. Now, we got two now. The Father, and out of the

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Father came the Light, the Son. And I can see that Light moving over here and pulled the earth over near the sun to dry it off. And begin to...?... raise the water up, separating the land, earth from the water, and so forth.

Then He begin to create. And He made the fishes of the sea, the vegetable life. Put the cattles on the hill. It all looked good to Him.” (50-0815 Attitude and who is God? Cleveland, OH).

Where does the Bible describe creation like this, or pulled the earth over near the sun to dry it off.

There is so much wrong and different of Branham's description from the Bible I do not know where to begin. Out of God came the Logos, and wrote the Bible in space? Can anyone read the stars by looking at them?

“The first creation was God Himself; then out of God came the Logos, which was the Son of God; then out of the Logos, which was the Word (“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.” out of the Logos came forth the--the man.” (53-0729, Questions And Answers On Genesis, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Did God create himself? Why does he say *out of the Logos came forth man* the same way the logos came out of the Father? Because he believes man was spirit before he was made from the earth, not only spirit but a theophany.

Branham put us there at the creation:

“And now, the Bible teaches us that the Logos went out of God, or I might say, all of the--the God becoming His first body form when the Logos went out of God. Let's look what It looked like. No one has seen the Father at any time, nowhere, never did and never will. But then the Logos that went out of Him become like a little halo of Light. Let's see it playing yonder, like a child before the doorstep of the father. And now, I can see Him as He moves over here, and He draws into His--His memory or His mind a picture of what the world should be.

Now, there's not a star or nothing. I hear Him say, "Let there be." And an atom broke yonder. And when it did, the sun came into existence and begin to whirl. She burned for millions of years and millions and millions of years. After while, I see a clinker fly off of it. [Brother Branham makes a noise--Ed.] What is it? The first star that flew from the sun. He watches it fall for a few million years and He stops it. Then another one flies off and He lets it fall a few million years and stops it. What's He doing? Writing His first Bible, the Zodiac” (53-0509 The Pillar of Fire, Joneboro AR).

God spoke, "Let there be." And an atom split yonder in the sky somewhere, and the sun came into existence,” and is there for millions of years? Hardly what the Bible states. So God took million and millions of years to write a Bible in the sky? Where's that in the Bible?

Millions to billions (or more) for each star placed in the universe considering there are estimated **100 billion stars** in the Milky Way's; **10 trillion galaxies in the universe**
<http://www.space.com/26078-how-many-stars-are-there.html>

How long did it take? You do the math. Let's consider the Bible which tells us all the stars were made on the 4th day, not millions or billions of years (Gen.1:14). This refutes Branham's theological speculations

He further said that because He “... *Man is to look up. God is above. And then after He gets all of every... all the heavenly, the solar system written out, then I see Him move over here, and over a clinker was this world. It was nothing but a iceberg hanging out of it. He moves it over around the sun. And as he begins to revolve it around, He melts all the water, the ice on it. The icebergs come flying down through. Texas is formed, Louisiana and down through there, where it's scraped off, as chronologists tell us that the icebergs went on into the Gulf and so forth” (ibid.)*

What an imagination this man had.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



“And He's writing His first Bible. There's three of them. One of them was written in the skies, one in the pyramids, one on this. Everything in God is in a trinity, like a man's in a trinity. All right. Then after He got all that written, the stars and the planets off that sun. Then I can see a big ball of ice laying yonder somewhere, this earth. And He brood over the earth, moved it over around the sun, dried it off. And He begin His creation on the earth” (51-0729A, The Resurrection Of Lazarus, National Guard Armory, Erie, PA).

That's an interesting view, also a non-biblical view since the stars (which our sun is) were made *after the earth*. Branham says God began to create on the earth after the sun was made on the 4th day. And where does the Bible speak of ice which is the earth?

Gen. 1:2-5 *“The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.”*

But this light is not the sun because the Bible tells us exactly when the sun was made.

Gen. 1:14-17 *Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; "and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, (the sun) and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth”*

On the 4th day the stars were made, at least in the universe God created. Its not millions or billions of years God took to create the stars and it is not described the way Branham has explained it.

“After a hundred billions of years a clinker flew off of it, was a star. And we watch it falling. It fell for several million years, and He stopped it.” (54-0809A, I Will Restore Unto You, Saith The Lord, Shriner Temple, Los Angeles, CA).

The evolutionary theory of Branham...

“and a atom turned there and begin to whirl around this a way. The sun begin to come into existence, because He said, "Let there be." ... He believed His own Word, and there was light. I can see a piece fly off of that; it's a meteor. After a few million years, or a hundred billions of years, if you want to call it, and it circled way out. I see Him standing there watching it. And it falls down in here. He stops it after it falls a few million years, and let it hang there in orbit. Here goes another one flying off the sun. It goes over here and hangs down, stops it there” (1950 Attitude and who is God? Cleveland, OH).

The problem with this is that it is evolution. The Bible does not teach that things were made out of the sun? Branham says he made light from an atom then expands millions of years to billions of years.

“Someone was discussing it with me sometime ago, on one of my meetings. I was speaking on the evolution of man, and said he was only six thousand years old. And this man said, "Well, Brother Branham, we can prove that the world is millions of years old. So the thing that you're talking about, you're all wrong." I said, "Don't you believe the Bible?" He said, "I believe that man wrote the Bible." And I said, "Truly the hand of man formed the letters, but the Holy Spirit was behind the hand (See?), formed the letter, 'cause the Bible said so." But he said, "Well, there--there... You've got to admit that they're wrong on the world." I said, "The Bible's never wrong, never wrong." He said, "Well, if the world," said, "was, you can see the mountains how they was pushed up from volcanic." I said, "But you just..." He said, "And God made that world in six days..." I said, "Now, the Bible didn't say that. See, you just thought it said it." I said, "Let's just go back now to settle your argument. The 1st chapter

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



of Genesis, said, 'In the beginning God created the heavens and earth,' period. How long He was doing it, I don't know. He didn't tell us." (62-0909M, Countdown)

But Branham did tell us. Here he speaks for God reinterpreting the days to not just ages but making them even longer than evolutionist care to speak.

"God made the world. He might've been a hundred trillion years making it; I don't know how long He was, but He made it. And He didn't say how long He was, and it's none of our business how long it was. He just said, "In the beginning God created the heavens and earth," period. That settles it. That's all of it. How long He was doing it, that's... But then the creation begin to spring up now in the other time, when He begin. And I believe, that in there, that everything on earth reflects heaven. I believe that because that you see everything struggling for life is because that there is a life that it's reflected from. And I believe that when God made the man, He started reflecting the smaller things such as the animal life, and then the next thing He created was something different. That's just exactly the way the Bible says He did it. He made first the trees and the botany life, and He made man. And then the last thing that ever come from the earth in the form of creation was a man, nothing higher ever come. Because why? It was a perfect reflection of the highest in heaven, which, God is a Man. See? God is a Man; so therefore, it proves it. And when God came down to dwell among us, He was a Man. See? A Man, so it shows that the perfection of evolution was God, which is a Man." (62-0909M, Countdown, Branham Tabernacle)

He expanded the time from millions to billions, and now a hundred trillion years. Did God make earth a reflection of heaven? Branham's explanation not only has portions of theosophy and metaphysics in it but Mormonism as well. God did not evolve, nor is he a man before he became a man, adding a human nature to his deity.

The sequence of numbers and descriptions in Genesis shows days (evening - morning) not ages.

No plant can live in the dark that long. And since our atmosphere depends on plants giving oxygen it would affect the eco system. Consider millions of years transpired until day five ...

So Braham is directly opposing the word when he says these things.

God did not intend for man to think of his creation account in terms of millions, billions of years to take place. The Hebrew word for a general period of time is *yom*, a stretch of days. But when we find a number next to EACH *YOM* it identifies separation of each day. When it says *evening and the morning* with a number it does not take a math genius to understand he is separating the days as they are recorded in sequential order.

The word for day- *yom* is defined by its first usage in the Bible (*Genesis 1:4-5*). In *Gen.2:4* "*in the day*," the word *yom* is used without a numeral, which has its meaning period of time, which is longer than a single day. This *yom* encapsulates all seven days.

Gen. 1:5 "God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day."

Gen 1:8 "And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day."

Clearly first day means what it says. It is day one of a sequence of days. In fact the word one (first) *echad* is used as a compound unity (both evening and morning together) what we call a day today (24 hours).

Gen. 1:31 "Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

Gen. 2:3 "Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made."

Exod. 12:15 'Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel."

Here we see both the first day and the seventh day described by the author who penned Genesis 1 and 2. Exod. 16:26 "*Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is the Sabbath, there will be none.*" 6 days of work, as God worked 6 days. The Sabbath law given to Israel as the Law of Moses, has its basis from the 6 days of creation and the 7th day of rest (6 days you shall work and on the 7th day shabbat). The Hebrews became a theocracy under God (them alone) they were to rest as God rested on the last day of the week from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday.

For Branham to say that the physical world reflects heaven is not a Bible teaching. As above so below is a metaphysical teaching. This belief that life on earth reflects some spiritual component is Kabbalistic, these are teachings found in the occult, not the Bible.

Branham says God is a man. That is Mormon teaching. God is not man, man is a creature. The Bible teaches God is Spirit and became a man, took on a human nature, adding it to his deity. God is not a man, if he were then he would not have had to become a man.

"Now, I believe in evolution, but not in the way that man evolved from--from some lower specie ... Now, I believe that when God begin to bathe the earth, maybe the first thing He did come forth with was a jellyfish, and from that to a frog, and on up. But, you see, it continually come closer and closer to the image of man, and man was a reflection of God. And that's the reason that grass become evolved, maybe grass, and then from grass come flowers, from flowers come shrubs, from shrubs come trees. Why? It's a picture of the Tree of Life standing on the other side. And everything on this side that's natural is a shadow of the supernatural or the eternal on the other side." (62-0908, Present Stage Of My Ministry, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Consider his statement "*that everything on this side that's natural is a shadow of the supernatural or the eternal on the other side.*" Which is similar to the metaphysical saying "as above so below." It is Theosophy. That we reflect on earth something in existing in the heavens. This is a spiritualism the Bible does not teach. Then what of the tree of knowledge of Good and Evil, is that on the other side too?

What he is describing is evolution, both physical and spiritual.

He further explains, "*... And I believe, that in there, that everything on earth reflects heaven. I believe that because that you see everything struggling for life is because that there is a life that it's reflected from. And I believe that when God made the man, He started reflecting the smaller things such as the animal life, and then the next thing ... He made first the trees and the botany life, and He made man. And then the last thing that ever come from the earth in the form of creation was a man, nothing higher ever come. Because why? It was a perfect reflection of the highest in heaven, which, God is a Man. See? God is a Man; so therefore, it proves it. And when God came down to dwell among us, He was a Man. See? A Man, so it shows that the perfection of evolution was God, which is a Man. 62-0909M, Countdown, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)*

Branham is describing a metaphysical view of spiritual evolution. That earth and its creation is a reflection of a higher dimension (called heaven) which is clearly an example of "as above so below."

Hilton Hotema gives the basic metaphysical view that parallels Branham's. "*then archetype or ideals of all manifested forms must have pre-existence in the super-physical realms as a pattern-ideal, etheric double or model,... This doctrine of the pre-existence of all things before their physical manifestation, is illustrated in many biblical passages, and mentioned by Littlefield, who said: "All visible forms have their counterpart in the*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



invisible world" (Hotema, Mystery Man of the Bible p.25-26)

Is God male and female? (androgynous)

Branham taught that God is an androgynous (but lonely) being and that he created mankind as androgynous, male and female in Adam. *"And man in his spirit was both man and woman."* (58-0928E, The Serpent's Seed, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

"Papa wanted some children, so what did He do? He said, "Let there be Angels." And they come around Him. Oh, that's fine. They worshipped Him, then He was God, the attribute. Remember, He was El (E-l), Elah, Elohim, self-existence, nothing but Him. The first thing come around was Angels. Then Angels could do no more than worship. They couldn't be lost, so they couldn't be sick; they were immortal beings. So He couldn't display His healing power; He couldn't display His salvation.... So He made a earth. And when He made the earth, He made all the creatures of the earth, and then He made man. Everything that come up out of the earth, starting off with a--a polliwog or a jellyfish, just a form of flesh floating on the water, started from there, to--from that to a frog, which is the lowest type of life that we can find, they claim, is a frog. Highest type is human being. ... And the first thing, something come up in the image of God; that was a man. Nothing has ever been, never was, never will be created anymore, anything higher than a man, because a man is in the image of God. See?... When He made His first man. Now, when He made his Angelic beings... He made man, "Created He them male and female," all in the same unit. He was both man and woman, feminish and masculine. When He made Adam and put him in flesh... Remember in Genesis 1, He made man and woman. And in Genesis 2, there was no man yet to till the soil, flesh man, no man that could take a hold of anything and till the soil, but yet there was a man in His image. And God is a... [Congregation says, "Spirit."--Ed.]. That's right. See? He made the first man, "male and female created He them." (Manifested Sons Of God May 18th 1960 at the

Branham Tabernacle in Jeffersonville, Indiana, U.S.A.)

Angels couldn't be lost? The Bible says one third of the angels rebelled and are lost. This is how Branham explains the Genesis 1 man from the Genesis 2 man.

Is God an attribute? Merriam-Webster dictionary defines an attribute as 1: an inherent characteristic; *also* : an accidental quality. 2: an object closely associated with or belonging to a specific person, thing, or office <a scepter is the *attribute* of power>; *esp*: such an object used for identification in painting or sculpture. 3: a word ascribing a quality.

So God is a quality not a personal being? Personal beings have qualities, whether they show them or not.

"Now, in the beginning they were one. God, when He made man, He made him a dual person, both male and female. He separated him in flesh and put him here on earth in flesh, and the female part was still in spirit." (57-0414, Corinthians, Book Of Correction, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, In).

And where did man live before he came to earth? Apparently in heaven with the angels. According to the Bible man was made on the 6th day, he did not exist before as a spirit in heaven. There is no such Bible teaching like this (Gen. 2:7). If one wants to argue this point they are no longer adhering to Christ's teachings. God made man from the earth and placed him in the garden where he then made Eve from his side. She did not exist in him, neither of them were spirit before.

1 Cor. 15:45-46 *"And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." ... However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual."* Paul does not mention bodies but the nature of man in the order made: first the natural then the spiritual. Branham has the spiritual first. *"--I believe that man's spirit was made before all the supernatural was made before the natural."* (52-

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



0713A, Early Spiritual Experiences, Civic Center, Hammond, IN).

Pentecostals, the Dake Annotated Reference Bible (1963).

Braham's teaching in a nutshell

So let's go over what Branham is teaching – here's the package. The God who created mankind was apparently self - created, He then created the Logos from himself, and this created logos created man (spirit) from itself. Let us make [*a spirit being*] in our image [*which is a spirit*], after our likeness [*Thus a spirit who is God*]:

And then He said, "There's no man to till the soil." So He created man out of the dust of the earth. Now, He gave him a hand like a monkey and a foot like a bear. He found Adam lonely like himself

The male and female that were in Adam were separated and gave them dominion. God created [*a spirit being*] in his own image [*a spirit*], in the image of God created he him; male [*spirit*] and female [*spirit*] created he them. They can *speak many more spirit beings into existence, and replenish the earth.*

Where did Branham get these ideas from? Finis Dake had a significant influence on the Pentecostal and Charismatic churches in this time.

In 1929 Finis Dake was the dean and a teacher at Southwestern Bible School. Controversy took place over some of Dake's teachings, one of which was the Pre-Adamite World. He resigned because of this in 1931. Dake later became Pastor of "Christian Assembly" in Zion, Ill. in June 1932.

Many, if not all of his books are based on his teachings in the colleges. Dake wrote God's Plan for Man (1949) his most complete book on theological topics. Many of the study notes for his reference Bible are taken from this book. Revelation Expounded (1950) an exposition of Bible prophecy and the Book of Revelation. Bible Truths Unmasked (1950) discusses a variety of Biblical topics. These were all was summarized in his most famous book that is used by Charismatics and

Dake taught God has a body. In the "Walking Bible": *He (God) has a personal spirit body, shape, form, image and likeness of a man, bodily parts such as, back parts, heart, hands and fingers, mouth, lips and tongue, feet, eyes, hair, head, face, arms, loins, and other bodily parts. He has bodily presence and goes place to place in a body like all other persons."*

Branham basically agreed and went further saying, "I believe God is in nature. God is everywhere." (64-0705, The Masterpiece, Branham Tabernacle)

So if God in man makes man deity then God in nature makes nature what? The answer is obvious and this is why Branham concluded what he did from nature as well as man.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 8

God as nature

“There is a supernatural Being. There's the One that could not be seen. God the Father never was seen, never will be seen. He's all nature...” (53-0610, Show Us the Father and It'll Satisfy Us, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN)

There are two applications of the word “nature.” First nature can mean the characteristic, quality, the essential character, the constitution of something, or where one describes the distinguishing qualities or properties of something. When describing the universe ... acting by a set of principles held to be established for the regulation of the universe or observed in its operation. It can also describe the qualities, characteristics, properties, organs, and functions that together make up a human being or another organism

The second is what is popularly called today “Mother Nature.” Nature consists of all the animals, plants, and other things in the world not made by people as well as all the events and processes that are not caused by people.

The Bible never equates God with nature, creation. They are completely separate. Nature is a creation. It had a beginning by God creating it. It depends on God for its continual existence. This is the nature Branham was referring to in his quote.

William Branham said this of his background, “*My mother's almost a half Cherokee Indian. And the... My conversion never took that love of the wild out of me. I love it, 'cause I see God in His universe. It was my first teacher to set down by mother nature, and she's taught me of the things of God. I watch a little flower how it dies and goes into the ground. It may be young. It may be old. But when the frost hits it, it bows its head, commits itself to death. They'll have a funeral procession. The stars weep, and the*

rains fall. It buries the little flower--the little seed, and all the seed's gone, freezes, bursts open, pulp runs out, stalk's gone, petals gone. Is the flower gone? Never.” (57-0323, God in His Word, Oakland Municipal Auditorium, Oakland, CA)

Branham is claiming he learned of God before he knew of the Bible, before he came to Christ. He is not saying that nature pointed to there being a God but he learned the things of God.

“Mother's a half-breed, a half Cherokee Indian. And there's just enough about me to make me love that nature, something down in there calling out. My conversion didn't even get to it. Look. Then an old gray wolf on the mountain begin to howl and it's mate answered in the bottom. You talk about crying. Something took place. I couldn't hold myself still. It was God to me, screaming through His nature. Yes, I believe God is in His universe.” (53-0610, Show Us the Father and It'll Satisfy Us, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN) underline mine

The Bible teaches us of a Holy God separate from His creation, God who existed before anything was made. As we will see, Branham did not believe this.

To be a nature worshiper one would practice a religion based on the deification and worship of natural phenomena.

Naturism is a form of religious belief and practice characterized by a worship of usually personified powers of nature – as in animism.

“watch nature. God is in nature.” (55-1003, Faith In Action, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Go "Watch nature. God and nature works in continuity, because God is in nature. See?" (65-1205, Things That Are To Be, First Assembly of God, Rialto, CA).

"God is in nature. If you'll just study Him, He--He lives in nature." (60-0804, As the Eagle Stirreth up Her Nest, Eisenhower High School, Yakima, WA).

"God lives in His creation. He does that and has done it through all ages." (64-0617, The Identified Christ Of All Ages, Municipal Auditorium, Topeka, KS).

If God was nature/creation then it too would be eternal, but we see it wearing down which would mean God is growing older, losing energy.

Did God exist before creation? Yes, and He exists APART from nature that He created afterwards. It is true that God is omnipresent, but it is not true that God is the same as His creation or his creation contains Him. Some believe nature as a force, or the agency acting as a creative guiding intelligence for its operation.

If God is already in nature then what is the point of Him becoming a human being? He's already in everything according to Branham.

The Bible teaches that God and His creation are two distinct entities. The beginning of the Bible teaches that God *created* the heavens and the earth. The Hebrew word for create implies the calling into existence of something that had previously not existed: the creating of something out of nothing (ex nihilo).

Branham taught that God lives in nature throughout his teaching career. "God is in nature everywhere, working in nature; and that was my first Bible." (60-0710, The Queen of Sheba, City High School, Klamath Falls, OR)

1 Kings 8:27 "Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You." (See also 2 Chron. 2:6,18)

Nothing can contain God. He is greater than his creation. When we say that God is present everywhere we mean that everything that exists is known by God's presence, not that God's creation is his nature, His presence. He exists eternally and operates within our dimension, and nothing in creation is removed from His seeing or influence, for it is all under his jurisdiction and control.

Creation does not find its identity in God. The error of equating God with His creation is refuted in Romans, which addresses man's descent. In Rom. 1:20-25 "*For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies, with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator-who is forever praised. Amen.*"

In other words, from the beginning creation points to a God as its Creator but is not part of God nor does God indwell nature. While nature shows us there is a God, God is not in it; He is transcendent. He exists is outside nature, not within which is what occultists and pantheists teach about their god.

If God is within or part of his creation He becomes subject to the very laws He created and is on equal status with other created things. Nature is something created. What nature shows is God's power and order, that He exists and is more than nature itself.

Branham who spent much of his life in the woods saw nature as the supernatural working in unity by his visions and voices. He said, "I was noticing, as for my first Bible I ever knew was grand old mother

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



nature. If you'll just follow that, you won't be too far off the road, watching nature, how it works. It was that, that led me to God, knowing that there was a God ... watching nature." (60-0630, God's Provided Approach to Divine Fellowship, Abundant Life Building, Tulsa, OK).

It is correct to say that nature can lead one to know God exists, but this is not how Branham speaks of his conversion. Both Nature and God went hand in hand, seemingly playing a large part of William Branham's visions and voices. This seed was implanted within his young impressionable mind, as he first equated "God was in that tree" (William Branham - A Man Sent By God p. 31).

'And I knowed that He was the God of the forest, 'cause I could see Him out there, His nature, the way He made it. I was going to write me a letter and tack up on a tree in the woods, that when He come by, He could read it. I didn't know how to get saved. So we're very poor, and dad had been out in the country (It was during the time of depression.), and had a little sack full of potatoes that somebody'd give him, poured them out in a box in the pantry, and laid the sack down. I went and got the sack, and went out to a little old shed, water, wet, knelt down there; I said, "Now, what am I going to do? I never said a prayer in my life, never heard one as far as I know. So how am I going to talk to Him?" (55-1119, Redeemer, Redemption, Tent Meeting, San Fernando, CA)

Several years later he tells the same story differently, how this took place. Instead of a shed it is on a tree.

"A few years ago I was up in Colorado, hunting elk... out, alone in the woods. That's where I found God was in the woods. My first prayer that I was going to pray to confess my sins, I didn't know how to do it; so I was going to write a letter to God and tack it on a tree in the woods so He could read it when He come down the path. For I knowed He was there," "And I wrote out my prayer. I said, "God, I've been an awful man. If You'll just forgive me." I took it and tacked it on the tree. I thought if He

come by, He could read it, and know that I was sorry for what I done." (59-0419E, Show Us The Father And It Will Satisfy Us, Angelus Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

Why would he do this? Because "I knowed He stayed in the woods." (56-0902, The Handwriting On The Wall, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

In going into the woods "My first prayer that I was going to pray to confess my sins, I didn't know how to do it; so I was going to write a letter to God and tack it on a tree in the woods so He could read it when He come down the path. For I knowed He was there." (59-0419E, Show Us The Father And It Will Satisfy Us, Angelus Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

So this God lived in the woods according Branham's testimony. "Being a woodsman, I always lived in the woods, mostly. And I--I noticed that out here; I'd see Him in the woods. I could hear Him. I could hear His footprints, like, as He come through the nighttime in the whirlwind." (56-0902, The Handwriting On The Wall, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

What person in Christianity ever proposed ideas like this and would say they could hear his footprints (Apart from the only mention in the Bible with Adam and Eve)? If God is found in the woods why did he instruct Israel to build the Ark of the Covenant where he would meet them once a year through the high priest in the tabernacle? If He is nature then what animists are saying is true, creation IS God.

"My mother's a half Cherokee Indian, and my conversion never took it out of me ... I get in those woods and get started. I find God in the woods. God, I hear him call in the coyote and the wolf, hear Him bugle in the deer. Why, sure. I hear him scream in the eagle, see Him in the sunset. Everywhere around is God. Get out in

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



nature." (61-0119E, Queen of Sheba, American Legion Hall, Beaumont, TX).

That is quite an imagination displayed; God is in all the creatures and nature itself? Thus making it all equal.

Branham continued going into the woods, "*One night, not long after my conversion, I returned from a place under an old oak tree, where "before" I had engaged in secret prayers. It was some time between one and three A.M.*" (A Man Sent from God," by Gordon Lindsay, in collaboration with William Branham page 182)

That is a strange occupation in the middle of the night (similarly, 14-year-old Joseph Smith read a passage in the New Testament and went to the woods to pray, where God and Jesus Christ appeared to him as a pillar of light).

"After the baptizing was over, I went to Brother Wright's home for supper. ... at this moment the Spirit spoke to me, saying 'Eat no food now, but go to the woods to pray.' I then went into the woods some distance and started to pray. I started praying with all my heart, and soon I was lost in the Spirit. Finally I heard a voice calling from somewhere in the woods. I raised up; the sun had gone down and it was getting dark. The dinner bell had rung but I had never heard it, and searchers had been sent out to find me. As I raised up I saw a yellowish light, shining down into the woods out of heaven. A voice spoke saying, 'Go by the way of Carter's.' That was all We told the others to eat and then come on to church. We couldn't wait for them, as the vision spoke for me to go then." Branham prays for the girl, and reports she is healed. "The young girl gets out of bed and walks, and is playing the piano when her father walks in, who almost fainted. After which we read, "The girl went out into the yard, sat down on the grass and began blessing the grass and the leaves." (A Man Sent From God," by Gordon Lindsay, in collaboration with William Branham (p. 200).

That's a strange reaction to being healed by God. God should be given the glory, not nature.

Branham said over and over "*My first Bible was nature.*" (60-0403, As the Eagle Stirreth, Municipal Auditorium, Tulsa, OK).

"God is in nature everywhere, working in nature; and that was my first Bible" (60-0710, The Queen Of Sheba, City High School, Klamath Falls, OR)

Can we expect accuracy from someone who would have the audacity to say "*...as the sun and his nature. That was my first Bible. Before I ever read a page in the Bible, I knew God.*" (65-0429E, The Choosing Of A Bride, Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles, CA)

"How I love it and in the nature I meet God. My first Bible was mother nature. Who could look in the face of that flower and be...?... and say there's no God. Where did it come from...?... No, God is in nature." (57-0125, Hear Ye Him, Memorial Hall, Lima, OH).

"For God lives in flowers" (53-0907A, Lord, Show Us The Father And It Sufficeth Us, Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, Chicago, IL)

One may say God works through nature. He is proven to exist by nature, but when one says *God is IN nature* that is called panentheism and it is not the worldview of the Bible.

Think of what Branham is proposing which is certainly contradictory to the Bible. Nature which is a creation of God is fallen today because of sin, it is not like the Word of God, which is perfect and eternal. God never equates nature with His word -- but Branham did.

"God wrote three Bibles." (60-0522E Adoption, Jefferson IN). "*God wrote three Bibles. God does everything in threes. He wrote three Bibles.*" (54-1006, Law or Grace, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN). "*God wrote three Bibles: one, the Zodiac, one in the pyramids, one on paper.*" (53-0509, The Pillar of Fire, Bible Hour Tabernacle,

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Jonesboro, AR). *"The first Bible that man ever looked to was the stars, the zodiac. And it's a perfect, it dovetailed with this Bible here."* (53-0729, Questions And Answers On Genesis, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

We have the Zodiac and the pyramids built by man, and then of course the Scripture. Now it's all of nature. Nature makes four Bibles, not three. First said were the stars (which is also part of nature), however the Zodiac which is in space must be considered different from nature and the woods.

This did not stop Branham from making statements like *"I always believed, as a boy, that this was the Word of God."* (63-1114, Influence, Marc Ballroom, New York, NY)

How can he honestly say this when he had no idea about the Bible, insisting that nature itself was God.

"I think, the last time I was down here on the West Coast, I preached on the four ways of seeing God: God in His Son, God in His Word, God in nature, and so forth." (64-0209, Countdown, Kern County Fairgrounds, Bakersfield, CA).

Just so one is not mistaken on what he meant Branham equated these other ways with the Word.

"Now, I'll admit one thing, when you learn God, of God, in humility. What about a bush? What if Moses said, 'Now, wait a minute. My education is very high. So I think I'll go over and try to gather some of them leaves off the bush, take them down to the laboratory, and examine them, and see what chemical that that was sprayed with, to see if the... it's afire and don't burn'? See, he would have never found the secret. But he walked up to Mother Nature, took off his shoes, knelt down and begin to talk to It. And It talked back to him. That's the way." (63-0412E, God Hiding Himself in Simplicity, Western Skies Motel, Albuquerque, NM)

This is not at all what happened with Moses. First, Moses was not looking for a secret. He saw the bush

was not consumed with fire turned to it then he heard the voice of the messenger that was in the fire call out to him. Branham has completely different depiction of what took place. He is saying nature (as mother) speaks and converses with man. That this is how Moses received his commission from I AM to deliver Israel, which, of course, is reinterpreted by Branham in his hearing the voice in a tree.

"One of the greatest scientist lecturing, he said, 'How did you come...' They said, 'How did you know so much about science.' He said, 'You know how I learned it? I set down in the presence of Mother Nature and just opened up my arms to her, and she opened up my heart and told me about it.' Now, that's the way you have to do Christ. Just set down by the side of the Gospel, open up your heart to Christ. He will talk to you. Nature will ... God will talk back to you." (55-1120, What Is That In Your Hand?, Tent Meeting, San Fernando, CA).

This is where he was first taught before the Bible was used. Branham said God is in nature numerous times and it speaks to him.

Mother Nature speaks to him just as Christ? Not only did Branham believe this, he said, speaking of medical doctors that assist nature with operations, *"and surgeries, and with medical remedies which is an aid to nature. But nature has to do the healing, and nature is God. God is nature."* (49-0718, I Was Not Disobedient to the Heavenly Vision, Grace Missionary Church, Zion, IL).

Branham's Panentheistic view on God was repeated over and over in short statements. Not only was God in nature but he is in the things man made.

"God is in nature. God is in His church. God is just all around." (58-0302, Door To The Heart, Memorial Auditorium, Chattanooga, TN)

"God is in nature, which makes nature act according to His Divine will." (58-0223, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever, Memorial Auditorium, Chattanooga, TN)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



“So God's in music. Don't you believe God's in music? Certainly. God is in music, and He's in art; And--and God is in the--in the universe.” (55-0221, Christ, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ). *“And I'm a great lover of art. I believe God is in art, real art. God is in music. God is in nature. God is in His church. God is just all around.”* (58-0302, Door to the Heart, Memorial Auditorium, Chattanooga, TN).

And this was repeated *“I believe God is in art. I believe God is in music. I believe God is in nature. God is everywhere.”* (64-0705, The Masterpiece, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

God's presence being everywhere, or him seeing all things is not the same as God being “in everything.” Branham went even further denying the Biblical teaching that God only dwells in man by him receiving the Gospel (Jn.1:12).

Branham said *“I believe God lives in nature. He lives in His animals.”* (58-0524, Jesus of Nazareth Passeth By, City Auditorium, Concord, NH). *“God's in His animals.”* (50-0819, Show Us the Father, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH).

Branham speaking of Job, reflects on *“botany -- plant life and tree life. So he was noticing that, how that God must be in His creation; that if He made the creation, then He must live in the creation, because He made it for a purpose for Himself to live in, like a house that a man would build.”* (62-0313, Expressions, Branham Tabernacle).

“God is in His Creation. Do you believe it? ... All that believes that God is in nature, let's see your hands. Now, thank you.” (55-0625, Show Us the Father, Unknown, Zurich, Switzerland).

“In nature, God lives in nature. David was a great man of nature. He studied it. He found God there.” (57-0811A, The Greatest Gift In The Bible, Edmonton Arena, Edmonton, AB).

Is this where David found God? His lineage says otherwise, “Boaz begot Obed; Obed begot Jesse,

and Jesse (the Bethlehemite) begot David (Ruth 4:21-22). He was brought up on the Scripture.

Branham's stories, to justify his belief, sometimes bordered on the ridiculous. *“that same infidel after coming back, he wanted to take a rest, and he went out here in the west in Colorado. And he had a camp out there and he was walking down along the path there one day, and he begin walking along. He kinda felt kind of bad, his health was breaking on him and he happened to look up there, and the wind was blowing them great big rocks hanging in the mountains. He said, “Wonder if I've been wrong.” He got down; he said, “O ever where you are, Who you are.” Said, “Look at those rocks hanging there. Have I been wrong? Has the water washed them away like that, or did God place them there like that?” What was it? God speaking in His universe. If they hold their peace, the preachers, the rocks will immediately cry out. There that infidel fell on his knees and gave his heart to God, because the rocks was a crying out. How that God speaking out of mother nature to him. Hallelujah. God is in His universe. Do you believe? Let's just stop a minute. God in His universe.” (53-0907A, Lord, Show Us The Father And It Sufficeth Us, Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, Chicago, IL).*

So apparently this man was converted without hearing the gospel, but from looking at creation which is completely unbiblical and is never suggested in the Bible as a way to be saved. It may only prepare one to receive the gospel. But without having knowledge of one's sinful condition and who the Savior is, or what the Savior did, all one has done is move himself from being an atheist to believe that God exists.

Branham explains how nature heals us *“God heals the--the cells that's tore down. God builds them back up. We call it nature. Nature, what is nature? God is in nature, which makes nature act according to His Divine will.”* (58-0223, Jesus Christ the Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever, Memorial Auditorium, Chattanooga, TN).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



God does not have to be *in something* to have it obey. Heb. 1:3 “*and upholding all things by the word of His power.*”

“*God lives in His universe. God lives in His Word. God lives in His Son. God lives in His people. He's God everywhere.*” (60-0731, Show Us the Father and It Will Satisfy Us, Eisenhower High School, Yakima, WA)

It is true the Bible teaches us God is the Son (not just lives in him) and that he lives in us as the church, his body. But his indwelling is diminished in importance if God is also living in the animals, in art, in music and nature itself.

Branham had pointed out that it took 100 million, or a billion, or a trillion years to create, giving speculation as if it is a Scriptural teaching. But there is no connection to the Word when one says all of space and nature is God.

“*Out yonder I see now all that space, that all is God, without form, forever, for eternities, no beginning, no ending. It's all God. Before there was even air there was God. The very beginning of nature of creation was God.*” (53-0509 The Pillar of Fire Jonesboro AR).

God was not some nebulous being dispersed as space. This is not a Biblical worldview of God but found in the occult.

“*Then out of there come another stream, off this main Fountain, the Diamond, and it was called righteousness.*” (57-0821 Hebrews chapt.one).

“*This great Forerunner has gone before us, making a way. He become from spirit, the great fountains of the rainbow of God, who had no beginning or no end. He was, forever, God. This ray of Light went forth. It was a ray of love, that's the main one, red. The next color follows, which was blue; blue, the trueness. Next, followed after that was other colors, through the seven perfect colors, which is the seven spirits of God, that went from that great Fountain or that great Diamond that Jesus spoke of. That great Diamond was chipped, to reflect these colors. God was made flesh and dwelt among us, that He*

might reflect His goodness and mercy among us, by gifts and signs and wonders. That whole big rainbow had become in a theophany, of made in the image like man. Yet, He wasn't a man; He didn't have flesh, yet. He was a theophany.” (57-0915M, Hebrews, Chapter Six #3, Branham Tabernacle).

Exactly where does the Bible describe these colors coming from a fountain called God or that God, as a diamond, was chipped? Exactly where did Jesus speak of this diamond or that the rainbow became a theophany and that was an image that looked like man? I'm sure Branham's followers will not hesitate to defend this teaching because their prophet cannot be wrong, but they need to face the colors.

Where did Branham get taught this? From the Bible? Hardly. This idea is similar to mysticism and Gnosticism. The seven spirits have colors? Did Jesus speak of a God having seven spirits with different colors, or God as a diamond? Where exactly? Chapter and verse please.

He also applied this to Noah and the church “*Noah's rainbow composed primarily of seven colors. Anybody knows **the rainbow's got seven colors.** Now, what are the colors? Red, orange, violet... No, **red, orange, green, blue, indigo, and violet.** That's the colors of the rainbow. Now, we got a deep thing here... Now, remember, orange--or, **red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet.** Now, if you notice, seven ... Watch. Seven rainbows ... **Seven colors; I mean, seven-colored rainbow.** That meant seven bows. Seven bows, seven churches reflecting seven lights, each light wrapped into the other one. **It started off with red, red.** After red come **orange, which is a reflection of red.** After orange was... After orange come yellow, which is red and orange mixed together, makes yellow. Then green. Green and blue makes black. Then come indigo. And then from indigo comes violet, which is part of blue. Oh, oh, oh. Hallelujah. Don't you see? **God, in His seven-colored rainbow,** His covenant that He made, a covenant that through Seven Church Ages, the seven colors He would save the*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



earth.” (Revelation Chapter 4 PT. 2 24 Elders 61-0101).

Sorry I do not see. In fact, when blue and green are combined it becomes cyan, **not black**. Red, blue, and yellow paint combined makes a near black. We are told in the Bible what the rainbow symbolizes and it is not the church. The church came thousands of years later. This was a different covenant, it was a promise to all mankind.

Gen. 9:13-15: *“it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.”*

The rainbow is directly related to what God judged the earth with ... water. It is a reminder of Him not judging us this way again.

God was not a rainbow fountain before creation. We read Rev. 4:3 *“and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.”* This is not God.

The only time a diamond is mentioned for God is with the high priests breastplate. Ex. 28:18 *“And the second row shall be an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond.”* This too is not God. Lucifer, before he fell, was the high priest and had similar dress Ezek. 28:13 *“thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.”*

God as a Fountain

“In the beginning God was a Spirit. And all the fountain of goodness and mercy and power, and all the good things of love, God was the center of that

fountain.” (57-0516 We Would See Jesus, Saskatoon SK)

God was a spirit? Did God change into something else? Is He not still Spirit? No, not according to Branham, he became a theophany which is in the form of man.

“The great Fountain of all eternity was that spirit of love, joy, that spirit of honesty, that spirit of trueness in this perfection. And then out of the existence of the Father went the Logos which was the Son, which was the theophany, which was the body of the great Jehovah God went forth in a celestial Body.” (57-0602 Life).

“That great Spirit, we would call it the--the colors of the rainbow, the best way I could illustrate it. One was the Spirit of love, the other one, the Spirit of righteousness, and so forth, the seven Spirits of God, that make up God.” (58-0512, Life, Capitol Theater, Everett, MA).

“And God was this great Spirit. We pictured Him like a--the--the seven colors of the rainbow that covers...” (57-1002, Questions and Answers on Hebrews #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

“How that God, the great Spirit... God, to me.” (63-0801, A Paradox, Marigold Center, Chicago, IL). Branham used the term “Great Spirit” dozens and dozens of times at his meetings. He also called the Holy Spirit the Great Spirit.

The Great Spirit is called Wakan Tanka among the Sioux, and Gitche Manitou in Algonquian. The American Indians have a concept of universal spiritual force, or supreme being, prevalent among some Native Americans and First Nation cultures. It describes a deity that is intertwined with the fabric of the Universe itself. So here we have a connection of Branham using both the terms and concepts from his mother's Indian heritage. We can be assured that this is not what it is because NOT ONCE does the Bible use the words Great Spirit.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Branham used the Biblical definition God is spirit only a few times, and he instead used God is "a" spirit near 80 times. One might say I'm splitting hairs. No, this description is from Jesus in John 4:24. We do not say "God is a Spirit," or "God is a Light" (1 John 1:5) or "God is a Love" (1 John 4:8). These are His qualities because God is Spirit, infinite SPIRIT, omniscient, without a body. He is not material or composed of parts; but is invisible and indivisible. Branham used "a spirit" because man was first created a spirit being, God from God, and he claimed man was as eternal as God.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 9

When does life begin according to William Branham?

“unborn children are not alive until they take their first breath. “You say, ‘Oh, it’s alive!’ No, it isn’t! That’s little nerves jerking, muscles. ...The baby hasn’t received life till it’s born.” (Conduct, Order, Doctrine, Vol. 2, p. 1121 also (Seven Church Ages, pp. 275-286.

The truth is: If an unborn baby is not alive, it is dead and will eventually cause a miscarriage.

Lk. 1:31 *“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.” “For that WHICH IS CONCEIVED IN HER is of the Holy Ghost.” (Mt.1:18-20)*

Are we to believe Mary conceived a dead child by the Holy Spirit? Then how did it grow? Was Jesus the only person alive in a womb? Is all mankind dead until they are out of the womb?

*She said, “But the Holy Ghost has come upon me,” Mary said to Elisabeth, “the Holy Ghost has come upon me, and has overshadowed me; and said I would have a son, and He would be the Son of God, and I’d call His Name ‘Jesus.’” **And just as soon as that human Name of God, “Jesus,” was spoke by a mortal lip, out of a human being, a dead baby come to life in the womb of a woman, and received the Holy Ghost.**” (64-0619, Perseverant, Municipal Auditorium, Topeka, KS).*

Jesus became alive in the womb when his mother spoke his name out loud. This was taught numerous times exactly the same way (53-0906A, Believevst Thou This?, Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, Chicago, IL; 53-1213M, What Think Ye Of Christ?, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, I: 3-1205, The Resurrection, American Legion Hall, West Palm Beach, FL)

“Yes. His Name was spoke, and the little baby begin to leap. Dead in his mother's womb, received life when the Name of Jesus was first breathed through mortal lips by His mother... “Whence cometh the mother of my Lord. For as soon as your words was spoken in my ears, my baby leaped in the womb for joy.” (50-0115, Believevst Thou This? City Auditorium, Houston, TX.)

“The first time that the Name of Jesus Christ was spoke through mortal lips, caused a dead baby in his mother's womb to come to life and received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Hallelujah. If It’ll do that to a dead baby, what ought It to do to a borned again Church? (52-0727, Led By The Holy Spirit, Grace Missionary Church, Zion, IL)

“He was dead in his mother's womb, but the speaking of the Name of Jesus, he jumped and leaped in the mother's womb.” (56-0527, At Kadesh-Barnea, Branham Tabernacle)

At hearing the voice of Mary, who was carrying the Messiah of whom John would proclaim, he stirred. The Bible saying he leapt, does not mean she did not have it move within her before this. Branham is not taking the words from the text but inserting his own spin to it.

“And Elisabeth had conceived, and little John was six months old, in his mother's womb, and had not moved yet. Now, anybody knows, about three months, or four, at the most, the baby is moving.” (64-0417, Then Jesus Came And Called, Mckay Auditorium, Tampa, FL)

“John, dead, six months in his mother's womb, come to life, through the Name of Jesus Christ, the first time it was ever spoke by human lip, show that

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



dead man would come to life." (64-0206B, Paradox, Salad Bowl Restaurant, Bakersfield, CA)

And just the time she said "Jesus," little John come to life and begin to jump in his mother's womb." (56-0219, Being Led Of The Holy Spirit, Calvary Temple Soul's Harbor, Minneapolis, MN)

So then Mary was the giver of life to John the Baptizer. Too bad it didn't happen the way Branham tells it. Luke 1:15 "He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb." Luke 1:41-42 "And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit."

First, we see it say Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, not her dead fetus John filled with the Spirit, coming to life. Second, Jesus' name was not spoken to Elizabeth. It does not say this, this pure conjecture on Branham's part to have it fit in his false teaching of when life begins.

Branham mixed up what was spoken directly to Mary by the angel. Luke 1:31 "*And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.*"

So if John was not alive in his mother's womb until Jesus' name was spoken out loud; no one is.

"Did not He who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one form us both within our mothers?" (Job 31:15).

"This is what the LORD says--He who made you, who formed you in the womb, and who will help you" ... (Isaiah 44:2).

Does God make things dead or alive?

Psalm 139:13-16 "*For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your*

book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them."

Speaking of Mary and Elisabeth. *You know the baby, as far as she knew, was dead. Why, two or three months in normal motherhood is life, but this is all subnormal. The little John must've been dead in his mother's womb. And she'd felt no life as yet. And she was kinda worried. And Mary said, "But the Holy Ghost appeared to me too, and told me I was to bring forth a Son and I was to call His Name Jesus." And just as she said Jesus, little John received the Holy Ghost, begin to leap in his mother's womb for joy. Hallelujah. The first time that the Name of Jesus come through mortal lips, a dead baby got the Holy Ghost, and begin to leap. If this brought a dead baby to life, what ought it do to a church that claims to be born again." (Hallelujah. 51-1003, Believev Thou This? Unknown, New York, NY)*

So we have Mary as the giver of life by her speaking? If this is true can we go around and make things that are dead become alive by speaking Jesus' name? Some wrongly think so.

And Martha then, I see Mary say, "Why, the Angel Gabriel appeared to me, and told me I was going to have a baby, knowing no man, and I should call His Name Jesus." Just as soon as she said, "Jesus," the power of the Holy Ghost fell, and the little dead baby in the mother's womb begin to leap for joy. If the Name of Jesus first spoke by a human lips will bring life to a dead baby, Said, "Whence cometh the mother of my Lord? For as soon as your salutation come to my ears, my baby leaped in my womb for joy." Received the Holy Ghost in his mother's womb before he was born... Hallelujah. Sure, I believe in miracles and signs in the power of the Gospel of Christ..... His Name was spoke, and the little baby begin to leap. Dead in his mother's womb, received life when the Name of Jesus was first breathed through mortal lips by His mother..."(50-0115, Believev Thou This?, City Auditorium, Houston, TX)

Braham held to this belief all through his preaching career. So according to Branham Jesus was not alive

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



in the womb, everyone is dead until they come out of the womb, or, Jesus was the only exception.

Here is how Branham explained the beginning of life.

"When a baby is being--a baby is being formed in a womb of a mother, soon as it's put there... See, see? But first it's a spirit. As that spirit begins to take on flesh, a little germ of life begins to take on flesh, and as soon as it drops from its... Now, in the womb, it's a little, quivering, jerking muscles. We know that. That's cells. Just like you take a horse hair and put it in the water, it'll cap over and it'll move, and you touch it and it'll jump. That's the way a baby is. But as soon as it's born in this world and breathes its first breath, it becomes a living soul." (61-0112, Questions And Answers, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"that unborn children are not alive until they take their first breath. "You say, 'Oh, it's alive!' No, it isn't! That's little nerves jerking, muscles.... The baby hasn't received life till it's born." (Seven Church Ages, pp. 275-286.)

He would also say, *"A baby's got life in the womb of the mother, little muscles are quivering; it's a life. But it's a different life when it breathes the breath of life into its nostrils. It's a different." (59-1219, Questions And Answers On The Holy Ghost; 64-0619, Perseverant, Municipal Auditorium, Topeka, KS)*

Even if we were to accept this view, it is more akin with Mormonism about spirits pre-existing which has nothing to do with biblical teaching from the Bible.

"But your souls were made up before the foundation of the world when God created man in His own image ... And then He made them male and female before He ever had a man in the dust of the earth. (53-0608A, Demonology, Physical Realm, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connerville, IN)

Clearly Branham has another creation account to explain the way God produced life. He is teaching an occult metaphysical version where man existed as spirit, before the Bible says he made them male

and female, which according to the Bible is after the animals on the 6th day (Gen.1:27;2:7), not before he made the world.

Mormonism teaches: *"We were first begotten as spirit babies in heaven and then born naturally on earth"* (Journal of Discourse, Vol. 4, p. 218). *"Man was also in the beginning with God..."* (Doctrine and Covenants 93:29). That we lived as spirit creatures in heaven.

Branham taught what Mormonism teaches, that pre-existent spirits come down and inhabit babies at the time of birth. Though Mormonism has a different working philosophy of pre-existence, the basic facts are the same, we existed as spirits prior. This not a modern concept, it was held by Greek philosophers *"Before time began the soul was without a body, an archetype, the heavenly man pure in spirit in paradise, yet longing after the archetype, God. Some of the pure spirits descended into bodies and lost their purity"* (Plato and the Stoics philosophy).

"There's a little angel spirit waiting to receive that natural body. Just as soon as it's born, the breath of life comes into it. And God breathes it in there, and it becomes a living soul."(65-1205, Things That Are To Be, First Assembly Of God, Rialto, CA)

Branham explains: *"...I think that the people today that are possessed with this Spirit, or the spirit, a part of these angelic beings, spirits which rotated off of God, that never fell in the beginning and resisted the devil's lie in heaven... Them was spirits that was made up back there when God began to make man off of there in His Own image, created those supernatural beings." (53-0729 Questions and Answers (Genesis).*

This is right out of Mormonism that teaches we are spirits that never fell in heaven to be put in bodies on earth. But Branham goes further in saying we were spirits that did not rebel and kept the image of God (as spirits). This becomes complicated but will be further addressed in depth of how unbiblical this actually is when we come to the topic of pre-existence.

The Bible says explicitly in 1 Cor. 15:46-47: *"However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural;*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



and afterward the spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven."

When did the first man get his spirit? Not in heaven before he received his body. Paul is giving a contrast of the first Adam who was a natural being made from the earth, and the 2nd man (he calls the last Adam v.45) who is the Lord from heaven that came down to earth taking upon himself humanity. V.49 "*And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.*" We are born as off springs of the first Adam, only those spiritually born from the 2nd Adam are given the heavenly image, of Christ. Clarifying the spiritual is not first, but the natural.

Speaking to an attendee of his crusade "*never seen you in my life, but Jesus has knowed you 'fore you was born. He knowed you when He formed your spirit before the foundation of the world when you were created in the--back there in spirit form.*" (55-1009, The Way To Have Fellowship, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

According to Branham we were made as spirits in heaven in God's image and were not alive when we are put in the body that is made on earth.

After he states this numerous times he also says the opposite, "*Angels are not spirits, angels are not souls. NO. You will have to believe in pre-existence of souls. If you say we were souls, angels and spirits before, you are talking about pre-existence. This message does not teach pre existence of souls: "I don't believe in that Mormon doctrine of pre-existence of souls anymore than I believe in reincarnation or transmigration of souls"* (Church age book page 154)

While he may say he does not believe in Mormon doctrine he does consistently hold to same basic concept of spirit pre-existence.

He explains "*Before you were borned. This was set in order by God. It's your subconscious, scientifically speaking. Like you dream a dream. This conscience is inactive and this one becomes active. Then when you awake ... When you're asleep, you dream things you did here. Then when*

you wake up, this one is inactive, and this one here is active. Then you remember things that you dreamed of years ago. You were some part of you somewhere. Some people doesn't dream. Their subconscious is way back. A dreamer doesn't sleep sound. And then, he can't help it because he dreams. And a seer is neither his subconscious back there, nor here. It's right here. He doesn't go to sleep. He breaks from one world to another, from the natural to the supernatural." (54-0217, Jesus On The Authority Of The Word, East Alton -Wood River Community High School, Wood River, IL)

Before you were alive

Branham said, "*Just like the air you're breathing; I disagree with the Jehovah Witness on that idea that your breath is your spirit. It can't be. See? Your spirit's in your heart. See? And you got your spirit before you're--ever come to the world. God told Jeremiah that He knew him, and sanctified him, and made him a prophet over the nation--over the nations before he was ever conceived in his mother's womb (See?).*" (59-1223, Questions And Answers, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." (KJV Jeremiah 1:5).

The actual meaning: God knows all things, everything that will be made or take place, before it was even conceived. This verse that is commonly used incorrectly, Branham is no exception.

It is talking about God who destined him, ordained and appointed Jeremiah to be a prophet to his nation. Let's look at the whole verse: "*Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.*" This was God's plan for Jeremiah, in the same way Eph. 2:10: "*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."*

God has a plan for every one of his children. What it does not mean is that Jeremiah pre-existed as a spirit (as Branham taught we all did) but that he was

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



to be a chosen instrument of God who not only knows all things before they happen but can orchestrate them to happen.

The Virgin birth according to Branham

Branham may have said he believed in the virgin birth but it was far different from the Bible's explanation.

"I believe that Almighty God overshadowed the virgin Mary and created a Blood cell in the womb of Mary." (52-0810E, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, Philadelphia Church Chicago, IL)

"When God condescend and overshadowed virgin Mary, He was a Life. And a Life overshadowed and created a blood Cell around Itself. Anybody knows now that the blood cell comes from what? The male. Is that right? The life lays in the blood cell, and the blood cell is coming from the male, not the female. There's where the life is, is in the male sperm. Notice. Then God Himself come into the womb of virgin Mary and wrapped Hisself in a created blood Cell." (54-1212, He Swore By Himself, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"God the Father overshadowed the virgin Mary and created in her the Blood cell of His Own Being." (54-1024, The Unpardonable Sin, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

How is this possible when God is Spirit? And God does not change. God is creating a body for His being to inhabit, not making a cell of his own being.

"Jesus Christ was God manifested in flesh. Jehovah God, His Father, overshadowed the virgin Mary and formed in her a blood cell which made the Son, Christ Jesus." (54-0720A, The Maniac Of Gadara, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

That is not how it took place. For the Son of God was alive, pre-existent before He came into the prepared egg of Mary.

Branham also commented on Zwingli on this same topic inaccurately. Which is kind of like the pot calling the kettle black.

"Zwingli and them come forth and denied the virgin birth." (65-1128M, God's Only Provided Place Of Worship, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA)

"and Zwingli didn't even believe in the virgin birth." (64-0418E, Jesus Keeps All His Appointments, Mckay Auditorium, Tampa, FL)

I'm not here to defend Zwingli but to only point out Branham was wrong on Zwingli.

"I firmly believe that Mary, according to the words of the gospel as a pure Virgin brought forth for us the Son of God and in childbirth and after childbirth forever remained a pure, intact Virgin." What Zwingli was wrong on, he used Exodus 4:22 to defend the doctrine of Mary's perpetual virginity.

According to Branham Jesus is NOT of humanity

"All others was born of natural birth, but He come a virgin birth. See, that wasn't of the seed of Abraham, then, a Jew. He come by the seed of faith of the promise. And, then, we're supposed to be His children, through this Man." (64-0322, Possessing The Gate Of The Enemy After Trial, Denham Springs High School, Denham Springs, LA)

"He was neither Jew nor Gentile. He was God. He was created in the womb." (62-0118, Convinced Then Concerned, Full Gospel Church, Tempe, AZ).

To deny his Jewishness means he was not human, for there is only Jew and Gentile humans.

Matthew's gospel begins by making the point of Jesus' humanity came by Abraham. Mt. 1:1:1 *"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Jesus is a descendant of Abraham and David; in fact it was required.*

"Matt 1:1 It would be impossible, therefore, to convince a Jew that Jesus was the Messiah, unless it could be shown that he was descended from David. See Jer. 23:5; Ps. 132:10-11, compared with Acts 13:23, and John 7:42 (from Barnes' Notes).

In his ministry he was called Son of David among the Jews which illustrated him as a king (Mt.20:30;

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



12:5, 23; even Joseph his step dad was in that lineage Mt. 1:20)

So then according to Branham the Bible is wrong, salvation is not of the Jews (Jn.4:22).

"And before God could be a Redeemer, He had to be, according to the law, a kinsman Redeemer. He had to be kinfolks to us." (49-1225, The Deity Of Jesus Christ, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

How can Jesus be this kinsmen redeemer if he is not from Mary, who was in the Davidic lineage?

Gal. 3:14 *"that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."*
V.16 *"Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ."*

Christ is Abraham's seed, and was indeed a Hebrew (Jewish) that came to be offered for all so that the Gentiles by faith (the faith of Abraham) may be grafted in.

Acts 3:25-26 *"..., saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you."*

Through Abraham's seed comes the seed of the woman.

Heb. 11:17 tells us by prophetic typology *"By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son."* whom Jesus Christ fulfilled.

Gal. 3:7-9 *"only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham."*

To the Jews Jesus said *"I know that you are Abraham's descendants."* (John 8:37)

Paul said *"For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. Rom. 11:1. 2 Cor. 11:22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I."*

Clearly the Bible says Israel was of Abraham and the gentiles who believe are grafted in.

Gal. 3:29 *"And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed."*

We who believe the gospel are Abraham's seed – both Jews and gentiles by faith. So Branham was again wrong on a crucial doctrine.

His humanity had nothing to do with Mary

The seed of Abraham has a natural lineage. To be a Jew one must be from Abraham, Isaac AND Jacob. Is not Christ from the tribe of Judah and the seed of Abraham? Denying Jesus was a Jew means salvation is not of the Jews which He himself said (Jn.4:22).

The Bible makes it clear of Jesus' humanity which is where the blood is made when it is within the egg. That he is tied to a Jewish lineage. Matt 1:1-3 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.

"Jews, don't try to claim Him as yours. He was neither Jew nor Gentile. He was God. See? You are what your blood is, see, and, of course, you're flesh. ...God the Father created a germ, or--or an egg in Mary, and a Blood cell in her, also, and it was the Blood of God."

What Branham is conveying is that there is no humanity involved, from both the male and female.

There are only two categories of humanity according to the Bible, Jew and Gentile. If Jesus is neither, than he is not human. How can Christ be the Seed of the Woman, if Mary had nothing to do with it?

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Branham goes on to explain: *"The blood comes from the male sex. So it was no ... The hemoglobins and the blood has to come from the father, 'cause the baby can't even take its mother's disease, like TB. It could inherit it from the breath of the mother, but not inherit it, I mean, but can breathe it and-- and catch it. But she cannot take it from the mother, because he, she is free from it, he's not his mother's blood."*(64-1212, The Harvest Time, Ramada Inn, Phoenix, AZ)

"Now, but Jesus was not the blood of a Jew nor a Gentile, He was a creative Blood by Jehovah Himself. He was the Blood of God. The Bible said, "We're saved by the Blood of God." Not the blood of a Jew or blood of a Gentile, it would all be sex, but this was the Blood of God." (64-1212, The Harvest Time, Ramada Inn, Phoenix, AZ)

Nowhere does scripture speak of God having blood. Acts 20:28 when Paul is instructing elders to do their duties stated *"which He purchased with His own blood."* Blood comes from creatures, in this case a man whom God lived in from conception. Heb. 9:12 *Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.*

It is his humanity that bled and died, not His Spirit which alone was God. It is His deity that makes the sacrifice unique and efficacious as God was his life.

Heb. 13:12 *"Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, He is called the lamb of God, meaning he will give up his body, his life was unleavened so the blood was accepted by the Father."*

Heb. 10:5-10 *"Therefore, when He came into the world, He said:*

"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come--In the volume of the book it is written of Me--To do Your will, O God.'" V.10 "By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." The blood covenant made by the lamb.

Col. 1:21-22 *"now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death."*

The Virgin birth-What child is this?

The blood was produced with Jesus' humanity on earth at the time of the virgin conception. God is Spirit. God does not have any blood for his life, he does not have a body like ours. Blood is a property creatures have for their life. The life blood that was in the Son was pure and sinless. The Spirit, who is God was the life of the body. If Jesus did not have human blood in his veins than how could he be 100% human? In the same way, if he left his deity in heaven he could not be 100% God on earth.

If his flesh was human then so was his blood according to the Bible. He partook of BOTH flesh and blood.

Rom. 8:3 God sent *"His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh."*

Jesus was man, not sinful but pure. God provided a way that his human body derived from humanity would not inherit Adam's sinful blood. Hebrews 2:14 reads, *"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood. He also himself likewise took part of the same..."*

Col. 1:21-22 *"He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight"*

Heb. 10:20 *"by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh."*

"The--the Son of God, which was Jesus, was the flesh of God, a tabernacle that God dwelt in here on the earth" Which is his only option since Jesus did not take the flesh of Mary."(56-0726, Love, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA).

Besides Branham calling Jesus the Son of God which he denounced as true, was that Jesus had the flesh of God, not Mary. Does God have flesh?

Branham denied Jesus is truly human from Mary but a new creation. It is the antichrist spirit the Bible

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



says denies he came in the flesh (in humanity). To deny his true humanity is a most serious docetic error which John addresses in I Jn. 4:2-3: *"By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist."*

To come in the flesh (incarnate) means to be FULLY human. This is a denial of His true and proper humanity. It is a Christ that is not a human. If He does not have all the necessary elements of our human nature then the redemption could not be accomplished. If Jesus took nothing of Mary he would then not have human DNA. He would only look to be a man and not really be man, exactly what the Gnostics taught.

2 John 7 *"For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist."* Docetism, the early Gnostics taught that Jesus was Spirit, not true human flesh. John the apostle writes those who do not believe Jesus came in the flesh are Antichrist (1 Jn. 4: 3; 2 Jn. 1: 7), which brings into question Branham being a prophet as well as a Bible believing Christian. His consistent teaching against the Scripture cannot be overlooked. Especially when we look at the essentials of Christianity. Branham thought he as a prophet was sent to straighten out the errors that church adopted throughout the ages when the fact is he brought in ancient errors and some new ones.

Jesus wasn't just some theophany as Branham portrays. He assumed our human nature, deity was veiled in human flesh. He took a servant's form, born in the likeness of men (Phil. 2:7-8). Being fully human he had to breathe, eat, drink, and sleep like any other human. God was in the flesh. The invisible eternal spirit clothed himself with all that makes humanity, skin and blood; muscle and bone, a mind and soul.

It's not just the blood but the body that had place in our redemption.

Branham explains that this was accomplished by God by Jesus being born of an egg and sperm created by God the Father in Mary's womb. As he previously said. *the blood cell is coming from the male, not the female. There's where the life is, is in the male sperm."*

"when that Blood cell was broke in the Son of God ... What made that Blood cell? What are you? You're one little cell that come from your father. The female does not have the hemoglobin. The--the female only produces the egg; the incubator, she is to pack the--the--the brood. But the blood comes from the male; that's the reason the--the child takes the father's name. And the--the woman marrying to a man, takes his name, on account of the children; she becomes an incubator for the child that she shall bear for the man." (60-1206, The Smyrnaean Church Age, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

In other words every woman that gave birth is only an incubator. Whether he applied it to all or only Mary still makes it wrong.

"Mary was just the incubator. God used her like He does any other woman. She was a virgin; she'd had no children. He come into a virgin womb, but God the Creator made both egg and germ: created it. Therefore, it was immaculate conception." (62-0211, Oneness, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"Mary, being the mother of Christ, just a incubator. He was no blood of Mary; He was no blood of Jew; He was no blood of Gentile. He was the Blood of God. God created this Blood. It could not be sex. He wasn't Jew nor Gentile." (65-0218, The Seed Is Not Heir With The Shuck, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN)

"God created the baby, both egg and blood. Both cell of woman and man God created." (62-0123, Forsaking All, Full Gospel Church, Tempe, AZ)

Contrary to Branham explaining that God created in her the Blood cell that will develop into the Son of

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



God. The blood cell, the egg came from Mary, God gave it life supernaturally, instead of the natural way of man. The body of Jesus became the "seed of David according to the flesh." The Holy Spirit supernaturally gave life to the egg and produce sinless blood, not Adam's blood, bypassing the man.

A Virgin conceives

A woman ovulates and has an egg. Following ovulation, the egg is capable of fertilization for only 12 to 24 hours. The human egg is a giant compared to other cells in the body. It has a diameter of about 100 microns (millionths of a meter), *the human egg is one of the biggest cells in a woman's body. It is about the size of a grain of sand and can actually be seen with the naked eye. To put this into perspective, an egg is about 4 times bigger than a skin cell, 26 times bigger than a red blood cell, and 16 times bigger than a sperm!*"

<http://natural-fertility-info.com/facts-about-the-female-egg.html>

Union between the sperm and egg must result. If no sperm is around to fertilize the egg, it moves through the uterus and disintegrates.

The woman is fertilized by the seed of the man. The Son was to by-pass the normal process of conception through the male seed. The virgin conception became the means to protect the sinless Son of God. The Son of God preexisted as uncreated spirit. Jesus, the eternal Son of God was came into the womb of Mary without the normal means of conception. The Father initiated the preparation of that special body into which his Son was to enter (Heb.10:5). Matt 1:18 *before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit"*

God, the Holy Spirit generated the egg to life as God the Son who already existed entered the egg under the superintending ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Son inhabited it as the body grew and developed as any other human does in the womb. Christ is the only person born of a woman, whose human nature did not come by the ordinary way of

generation but was instead given life by the Holy Spirit energizing the egg.

This supernatural conception bypassed the natural process to assure no sin nature was transferred to the female chromosome. The female ovum itself has no blood, neither the male sperm; but it is when these come together in the fallopian tube that conception takes place, blood is made and a new life begins...the blood type is determined at the moment of conception and is there after protected by the placenta from any flow of the mother's blood into the fetus. The Bible is explicit that the Holy Spirit was the divine agent who caused Jesus' conception in the womb of Mary. This therefore, was not a normal conception, but a supernatural act of God, planting the life of His already existent Son right in the womb of Mary, making the blood type of the Son of God a separate and precious type, without sin.

Why was it done this way? The sin nature resides within the heart of man; it is the spiritual nature of our being inherited from Adam. Our spiritual nature dictates our life actions; this is why Jesus said the body expresses our sin.

Mark 7:21-23 *"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man."* As did Jeremiah (17:9) *"The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"*

How does human conception take place?

Considering that Branham (and many others) believe life enters and leaves the body through the breath. Your very first breath makes you alive. When the umbilical cord is cut, the child survives outside the womb based on its own lungs, circulatory system, functioning. But that does not mean it was not alive prior.

It is possible for the mother to die while the fetus lives, therefore they are separate. In fact doctors have operated on babies in the womb and have seen them react showing they feel pain.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



From fertilization a new organism is alive (has human DNA) and continues to grow and develop as long as nutrition is provided. Around eight weeks the baby's cartilage skeleton begins to turn into bone, something that cannot occur unless it is alive. See <https://www.spuc.org.uk/abortion/human-development-of-the-unborn-child>

"But the blood comes from the male; that's the reason the--the child takes the father's name. And the--the woman marrying to a man, takes his name, on account of the children; she becomes an incubator for the child that she shall bear for the man." (60-1206, The Smyrnaean Church Age, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham was wrong. The umbilical cord is connected to the placenta and the mother's blood comes via the placenta through the umbilical cord to the baby. The baby receives Oxygen and nutrients from the **mother's blood** are transferred across the placenta to the fetus through the umbilical cord. <https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/encyclopedia/content.aspx?ContentTypeID=90&ContentID=P02362>

<https://www.chop.edu/conditions-diseases/blood-circulation-fetus-and-newborn>

The mother breathes for the fetus in the womb, and the oxygen is passed to the fetus through the umbilical cord. The fetus does make breathing-like movements, as the developing fetus depends on food from the mother so it does breathing. The fetus practices breathing when he occasionally inhales and exhales amniotic fluid near the end of the pregnancy. Breathing practice prepares the fetus to breathe quickly and effectively after its birth.

The baby breathing on his own, inhaling and exhaling as his lungs inflate and the amniotic fluid drains away, more blood flows to his lungs and blood vessels as oxygen moves through the body and carbon dioxide is expelled.

Abortion

Branham's view of when and how life began was not Biblical but metaphysical.

Branham believed the Lord makes us dead in the womb. "...*The baby hasn't received life till it's born.*" (Seven Church Ages, pp. 275-286.)

I've heard people say, a lot of time, "What is the--the unpardonable sin, Brother Branham?" My mother used to tell me that it was a woman that would take the life of a baby before it was born, abortion case. Well, I... She said, "She has done something. She didn't give the little fellow a chance to live." Well, that's awful. I'll admit that." (54-1204, God Perfecting His Church, Faith Tabernacle, Binghamton, NY)

Branham never saw this as taking a life, but a potential life. But unless life begins before birth, at conception, then abortion is meaningless. Then abortion is not the taking of human life but the potential life that may be alive one day in the future. This is what Branham was against when he spoke on abortion.

"That little body, now, it's not alive yet, see, the only thing it is is just flesh and muscles. That little jumping, that's just muscles jerking. But when it comes forth from the womb, God breathes the breath of life into it, and then he screams out. See, just as--as sure as there is a natural body being formed, there is a spiritual body to receive it as soon as it gets here." (65-0221E, Who Is This Melchisedec?, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville)

What Branham taught is that we were pre-existent spirits that were alive. Our body is then formed without the spirit, it is put in the body at its first breath outside the womb.

According to Branham babies in the womb are not alive. Which means that you are not aborting a child. The child in the womb has no spirit until its birth, that is when he becomes alive. What we now know is that a child has brainwaves, feels pain in the womb, the baby is alive.

As Jesus himself said *'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



God of the dead, but of the living." (Mt. 22:32) This is applied to the resurrection and to conception.

Jesus had no mother according to Branham

"How could God have a mother? She bore the Son of God, Christ Jesus. No woman is a creator; she holds the seed of a man. The man's not a creator. God creates the life. It's just a routine of--of order that God put to bring children. She's no mother of God. God can't have a mother, 'cause He had no beginning of days or ending of life. He's Eternal. She can't be a mother of God." (60-0911E, Five Definite Identifications Of The True Church Of The Living God, Branham Tabernacle)

When it speaks of Mary as his mother it is addressing his humanity. But Branham did not believe he had humanity.

"Now, this body that He had, He had created. It had not been brought through a woman. Created body" (57-0915E, Hebrews, Chapter Seven #1, Branham Tabernacle)

Speaking of (Jesus) He" Had *nothing to do with Mary; Mary was just an incubator. That's all. He never even called her "mother." Show me one time He called her "mother." He said, "woman." Amen. That's all she was, a woman that God used (That's right.), no goddess. "Mother of God," what a silly thing. Mother of God? Who can give--make God having a mother? Then Who was the mother of the mother of God? Oh, my. Talk about eternal sonship. Son has a beginning. Eternal can't start, can't begin. And there... It always has been. How can it be an eternal son? Oh, my. How you... I'm a dummy, and I know better than that. Sure. He was the expressed Image of God, 'cause He was God's thought expressed by His Word."* (62-0407, The Sign Of His Coming, Church Of Faith, Cleveland, TN)

Methinks Branham protests a bit too much. The Scripture recognizes Mary was his Mother from the beginning of the gospel. Mt. 1:18-19 *"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph."*

It says of Mary, "... brought forth HER firstborn son." (Lk. 2: 7). Which certainly makes her his mother. Branham is insinuating Scripture is incorrect.

When the wise men visited years later Mt. 2:11 *"And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary HIS MOTHER."*

And God's angel (Gabriel) who instructed Joseph and Mary after the wise men left called her his mother. Matt 2:13 *"an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word."*

So was this angel incorrect, is the Bible incorrect or is Branham? She is called his mother by the Holy Spirit who inspired Scripture, which is accurate.

And what of Luke 1:41-43 that Branham quoted. It says *Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit* said this to Mary. *Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"*

How can she be blessed and called the mother of the Lord?

Luke 2:25 said of Simeon, *and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.*" V.33-34 *"And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother."*

It is scripture that Branham is challenging. All through Jesus life Mary (Mariam) is called his mother

Luke 2:43-44 Luke 2:42 at twelve years old, they all went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. We find Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And scripture says *Joseph and His mother did not know it;* (V.53 again speaks of his mother).

Mark 3:32 *"Look, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You."*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Luke 8:19-21 *"Then His mother and brothers came to Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd. And it was told Him by some, who said, "Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You." But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."* (other references Jn.2:12)

Jesus is not denying she is his physical mother and has brothers. He is speaking spiritually, of his family of believers. At this time his own brothers were not believing in him. In the same way he spoke that he did not come to bring peace but rather division. But peace came to those who believed in him (Luke 12:51-53).

But not only does Branham deny an earthly mother for his humanity, but he denies that God is his father. *"...that Mary wasn't His mother. That's the reason He called her "woman," not mother. "He had no father," for He was the Father, the everlasting Father, the three in the One. "He had no mother," certainly not. He had no father, for He was the Father."* (65-0221E, Who Is This Melchisedec?, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN)

Then he would say God was his Father and Mary was his mother.

"He was a Man born of a virgin birth. His mother was Mary; His Father was Jehovah God." (50-0300, Gifts And Callings Are Without Repentance, Carlsbad Air Base Recreation Center, Carlsbad, NM)

Even Branham slips by stating *"It kind of reminds me of one day His mother had gone off from Jerusalem, from the worship."* (65-0427, Does God Change His Mind?, Embassy Hotel, Los Angeles, CA)

When Branham deemed it necessary he would call Mary his mother. In fact three times in this one sermon He called Mary his mother. *"we find Jesus going to the temple in His mother's arms" ... "He was, laying there in His mother's arms, wrapped in swaddling's cloth." "looking to His mother."* (54-

0228A, Expectation, Assembly Of God, Phoenix, AZ)

Mary is a necessity for Jesus to be descended from David's bloodline (not Joseph) genealogically. If Mary is not the Mother of Jesus, then Jesus cannot be the "Seed of the Woman" (Gen.3:15), nor can he be called He the Son of Abraham, nor the Son of David. The Bible is then rendered meaningless.

At his crucifixion in John 19:25-27 *"Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, When Jesus therefore saw His mother , and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother , "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home."*

Acts 1:14 *These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."*

So Branham has once again denied the Scripture on a core teaching, and to make this clear, it is denying that Jesus was human (100% humanity, as he was 100% deity. Furthermore he says Melchizedek is the Father appeared as a man in the flesh in the Old Testament.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 10

Pre-existence and Predestination

Branham clearly believed in man's pre-existence as spirit, this he spoke of himself: "*When the Lord Jesus permitted me to come to the earth.*" (64-0427, A Trial, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ).

He believed everyone was spirit, which is what Gnosticism taught, an enemy of Christianity.

A pre-mortal existence refers to the belief that each individual human soul existed before mortal conception, and their human birth is placed by God into the body.

"When God created me, William Branham, I was before the foundation of the world; He made my being, my spirit. I wasn't conscious of anything as far as I know of ... I was there ... Jesus told the disciples that He knew them before the foundation of the world; and Paul said here that He chose us in Him before the world began." "Now, there was some part of me, ... and the rest of you all here, that's in Christ Jesus before the world ever began. And here's to my analysis of that. I think that the people today that are possessed with this Spirit, or the spirit, a part of these angelic beings, spirits which rotated off of God, that never fell in the beginning and resisted the devil's lie in heaven ... And two thirds of the earth is in sin, and more than that, which two thirds of the angels was kicked out. And those demon spirits come into people and habitate their body. See what I mean? They're demons that once... Them was spirits that was made up back there when God began to make man off of there in His Own image, created those supernatural beings, those spirits..." (53-0729 Questions and Answers (Genesis).

Let's begin with his statement "*I was before the foundation of the world; He made my being, my spirit.*"

These are keys to understanding what he meant by his life and gift. Without them you are not going to connect his vacuous interpretations of the Scripture. The only thing that existed before the foundation of the world according to Scripture is God. The beginning of all creation was the heavens and the earth, yet Branham says he and all the spirits, which he calls angels were already there (but he was unconscious). So then how does he know he was there? Where did Branham get this information that is not in the Bible? The answer is -- metaphysical teaching.

In the quote he is speaking of those (angels), who are to be Christians, who did not fall in heaven. This happens to be what the prophet Joseph Smith and Mormonism teaches. His explanations were not biblically based either, he used the Scriptures words to present his own reasoning. Various other explanations divorced from the scripture were given by Branham, such as two creation accounts. That the first man, Adam was a spirit made in Gods image before he was created from the earth.

Branham's taught the good spirits are saved because of predestination, by their preexistence before coming to earth. His correlation of two thirds of the angels fell and *and two thirds of the earth is in sin* is wrong. In resisting the devils lie certainly points to us being spirits prior. How can any of this be proven by the Bible? As we will see he didn't need to base it on Scripture.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



He also said of his own pre-existence "I wasn't conscious of anything as far as I know of, but ... I was there."(53-0729 Questions and Answers).

"Listen, you don't remember it, neither do I; but we was before the foundation of the world." (55-0116A, The Believer's Position In Christ, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL).

Like the law of karma in Hinduism, entering the wheel of rebirth, man does not remember his former pre-existent life of spirit.

"go back a hundred million years before there was even a star in the sky, by your mind. It was--it was God. He's always been God. And then, we're setting on-standing here watching creation come into existence. There's not a star; there's not nothing." (53-0509 The Pillar of fire Jonesboro, AR)

So we were watching, meaning we can see, we're conscious and existing BEFORE the first thing God made, which was the heavens and the earth. Branham changed the Bible to "in the beginning the theophany of man," whom he implied is God. Because there was nothing there but God.

He explained the details of our preexistence numerous times. "and you begin with a soul before the world was ever formed, when God created man in His own image." (55-1118, The Faith Of Abraham, Tent Meeting, S 55-0611, What Is That In Thy Hand?, Porter Stadium, Macon, GA)

"But your souls were made up before the foundation of the world when God created man in His Own image: spirit of man; not a man in His Own image, but man in His Own image. See?" (53-0608A, Demonology, Physical Realm, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connerville, IN)

His statements of before the world ever began. "...I think that the people today that are possessed with this Spirit, or the spirit, a part of these angelic beings, spirits which rotated off of God." "and you begin with a soul before the world was ever formed." "But your souls were made up before the

foundation of the world." "And you got your spirit before you're--ever come to the world."

Branham is describing all mankind now having pre-existent spirits in them. Meaning a spirit man, a prototype of humanity. "And I believe that in the beginning God made man in His own image, and God is a Spirit. And God made man spirit-man. Then He made him in the dust of the earth." (53-0509, The Pillar Of Fire, Bible Hour Tabernacle, Jonesboro, AR)

"Your spirit's in your heart. See? And you got your spirit before you're--ever come to the world."(59-1223, Questions And Answers, Branham Tabernacle).

According to Branham you are "a soul of God that was in God before the foundation of the world;" (65-1206, Modern Events Are Made Clear By Prophecy, Orange Bowl, San Bernardino, CA)

Branham taught Adam and all souls were made by God as spirit men in heaven and are then sent to earth. This is not at all what the Bible teaches but it is what the Occult and Metaphysics teach.

For example Hilton Hotema speaks on behalf of Occultists, "Before material man was visible on the earth, he was invisible in the Spiritual Realm. This ancient doctrine is the basis of all great religions of the ancient world, and is implicit in most philosophies....As man is the highest in the physical world, he must also be the highest in the superphysical world. As man is the God of all the earth, he must also be the God of All the heavens. Man is much more than a physical body. The Real Self is a Spiritual Entity, manifesting temporarily thru a physical body in the visible world, but existing eternally in the invisible world." (Mystery Man of the Bible p.26)

Plato believed in the pre-existence of the soul, which tied in with his innatism. Hinduism believes in a pre-spirit life before birth (birth brings reincarnation). But what Branham taught is closest to Gnosticism, the enemy of Christianity.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



According to Branham as the word was thought you are *"a soul of God that was in God before the foundation of the world; remember, you that's really got the Spirit of God in you tonight, Then if you were in God, a gene, a word, a attribute from the beginning, then you walked with Him here on earth, you talked with Him on earth, you suffered with Him on earth, you died with Him at Calvary, and you rose with Him again;..."* (65-1206, Modern Events Are Made Clear By Prophecy, Orange Bowl, San Bernardino, CA)

As with anything Branham taught, we need to check the Word. *"Didn't Jesus tell His disciples, "I knew you before the foundation of the world"? Called us, ordained us to be ministers of the Gospel, and so forth; it's the foreordination of God."* (51-0923, The Principles Of Divine Healing, Jeffersonville High School, Jeffersonville, IN)

To be accurate it says in Eph. 1:4 *"He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world."*

Saying it the way the Bible states it contradicts his own metaphysical explanations. This should not deter us from understanding what pre-existence actually meant to him.

He explains how we as spirits come to be human. *"that little angel, little spirit, a little messenger to this little tabernacle is ready to come forth into the world. And then, when this little angel comes into the body (That's a little angel of the earth, a spirit that's ordained of God to take this body.), then that baby has to have a choice. It makes its decision."* (64-0830E, Questions And Answers #4, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

In this quote he says an angel is a spirit and it is intelligent and conscious to make a choice contrary what he said of not having consciousness. Again these concepts are found in metaphysical occult teachings, not the Bible.

Jesse Duplantis, another story teller claims he went to heaven, among the many things he sees is little babies wearing nightgowns singing and flying

around God's Throne that look like they came out of the breath of God. He believes they were new souls who came from the thoughts of God. And hears them saying to God, *"Can I be a spirit? Would you send me to the earth so I can be a spirit? I want to be a redeemed person. Can I be a spirit?"* (Heaven Close encounters of the God kind p.119).

Maybe this is Jesse's personal spin on what Branham taught as so many of the word faith teachers are familiar with Branham.

There are others that teach nearly identical to Branham today. Kat Kerr holds to the Doctrine of Pre-existence. Quoting Jeremiah 1:4-5 (like Branham and she is just as wrong). It does not verify existence before birth, it means that God foreknew him. Kerr says humans had a pre-existence before birth, and were small spirits within God. She sees little orbs that are spirits before they are born circling around the throne asking to be sent down to the earth. These spirits are incarnated at birth, and the plan is to have people born on earth, so that they can go home to heaven. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKdH4RbSIJ0>

Kerr in her interview with Patricia King refers to Ps.139, before he put you in the womb. *"People ask where was I before I came here? I had to be somewhere. We were all little spiritual beings God had already had the gifts inside us, we lived in God.* She describes the details of her heavenly fantasy *"I can see little spirits flowing in and out of the Glory that comes from His being. They are all saying the same thing. "Send me, please send me". They do not yet have a real body so they cannot exist outside the Father. Once He sends them to earth and they are placed in a womb at the time of conception; they become a living human being!* (Revealing Heaven By Kat Kerr Volume 2 (Part 10) Chapt 7 Stones Of Fire - the Ancient Paths)

Branham also explained that the human child must be outside the womb, born for the spirit to take residence. *"When a little baby is conceived in the mother's womb, it's just flesh and blood, ... there's a spirit and soul hanging near that mother to come*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



into that baby just as soon as it's born. Just as soon as that baby is born, God has created a soul and created a spirit to be in that baby just as soon as it's born into this world" (61-1001E, The Comforter, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

If God creates "a soul and created a spirit to be in that baby just as soon as it's born into this world" than it certainly contradicts his own teaching that all spirits were created *before* the world was made. Furthermore, he has the spirit and soul as two different things created to occupy the body. Branham obviously did not believe a baby was alive in the womb but receives life separately as it is born.

What he is actually describing IS a form of Transmigration of souls: American Heritage Dictionary definition - The passing of a soul into another body after death; reincarnation." The difference is that the soul never died, instead it is already alive and put in a body.

"Now, the Spirit of God that dwells in the Church, is the Spirit that come from heaven, that God knew before the foundation of the world, that rejected the devil's lie. And that spirit had to take a body of flesh to be--to take his testings. He had to come flesh like these others did, and all of them put on the equal yoke. And God, by the beginning, knowed the spirits that would and which would not. There you are. That devil is so wise he has--deceive the very elect, if possible." (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham's explanation is that we as spirits (angels) came to be in bodies before Jesus, we all are living spirits that rejected the devils lie in heaven. He is then speaking of Jesus coming in the flesh like we did, making us equals. Nowhere does the Bible say God sent souls to earth from heaven to be tested, nowhere!

First, angels are spirits according to the Bible. There are both unfallen and fallen spirits. But man was never existing in heaven before earth as a spirit, as an angel, as an attribute, as a soul or as a seed / word.

If God is that Spirit that came from heaven, how does his make any sense? That would be himself, would it not? And how can one justify His Spirit rejecting the Devils lie in heaven? Branham is proposing that this Spirit of God became flesh as other spirits before Him. Making Jesus as our equal. Which is what Mormonism teaches, Jesus was our spirit brother, another angel.

Now that we have established his general belief on pre-existence we can look at his specific belief about himself.

"This Pillar of Fire that you see here, come right in and hung over where I was laying at. The first thing I can remember: seeing a vision. See? Nothing that I done, God just let me come on this earth to do this work for Him. I'm only doing my duty to God. See." (54-0307E, Do You Now Believe?, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ)

"And there, in that little room, when Jesus Christ permitted me to come to the earth. I can only say this by testimony of my parents, which was not religious." (64-0427, A Trial, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ)

Think of what he is saying, that he as spirit came to inhabit his body at BIRTH, that his parents can testify of this. But they never did. He only said they did.

"A prophet is born a prophet. "Gifts and callings are without repentance." It's something that's in you. It's something was born in you. God ordained it in you." (64-0415, Christ Is Identified The Same In All Generations, Mckay Auditorium, Tampa, FL)

The question to be answered is when it is born in you? The Bible does not teach we have a spiritual gift[s] at birth, but by our second birth, the spiritual birth by the Holy Spirit. Branham adjusted his doctrine to what he believed was his life experience, disregarding what the Bible taught on how we receive spiritual gifts. One must have the Holy Spirit resident. For the Spirit to indwell any person the Bible teaches we must first believe the gospel,

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



be born spiritually. It has nothing to do with our natural birth (see Jn.3). Branham taught our pre-existent spirit is Gods spirit, the Holy Spirit. Branham's explanation is that he, all, were saved before they believed because of being predestined, where we chose not to follow Satan in heaven.

Because Branham's gift was operating BEFORE he was converted. It must be questioned who the source of it actually is.

In fact he actually says "So you can have any of the gifts of God without having God. God is love, and Satan can impersonate any of those gifts. See? See, he can impersonate pretty near anything 'cause he perverts." (60-0807, Debate On Tongues, Yakima, WA)

So then how does one know what they have?

Branham position of having gifts without knowing God goes directly against the clarity in the Scripture. So how did he justify his position? He used Matt. 5:45-46 for his proof. "*for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*"

"Then It come to me. There it is. The same rain that makes the wheat to grow, makes the weed to grow. And the same Holy Spirit can fall in a bunch of people, and can bless a hypocrite just the same as It blesses the other. Jesus said, "By their fruits you shall know them." Not whether he shouts, whether he rejoices, but "it's by his fruit you shall know him."

I said, "There you are!" "I got it, Lord." I said, "Then that really is the Truth." This man ... You could have gifts without knowing God. (55-0117, How The Angel Came To Me, And His Commission)

The same rain falls on the just and unjust was reinterpreted as gifts of the Spirit and not as it was meant, God's provision of grace to all mankind for supplying food, basic needs.

"the same rain falls on it. Is that right? The same Spirit falls on the hypocrite that falls on the

Christian, the same thing." (61-0112, Questions And Answers, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

The rain is then made to be the Holy Spirit.

"Now, the rain falls on the just and the unjust. The sun shines on the wicked and the good. The rain falls to ripen the crop; it ripens the weed also: the same rain. The Holy Spirit can fall in a group of people, and speak in tongues, and make it exactly true, sprawl in amongst the people, and make it prophesy, and be exactly true. That's exactly right. Sometimes you can go to a--a witch or a medium, and they can tell you something that's exactly right. Look at the witch of Endor. Saul ... It could be exactly true; that still isn't it. They're witches. Speaking in tongues, I've seen devils speak in tongues, and write in unknown tongues. That don't mean anything. But the real thing is that Word again. Back to that Word. So you can do these things without the Word. But when you get the Word, and It does it, then watch it just exactly come to pass, exactly the right thing." (64-0830M, Questions And Answers #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

So then the Devil is not a liar, he only lies sometimes, you can manifest a spiritual gift of God without God. What Branham neglected to explain is that the witch of Endor was just as a surprised to see Samuel. He did not distinguish a supernatural gift from a spiritual gift that comes from the Holy Spirit, which comes by knowing the Word and using discernment.

Your pre-existence equals pre-destination

There are times Branham spoke of the lamb slain in the correct manner, "*the Bible said that Jesus was the Lamb of God, slain from the foundation of the world. ... God being infinite, looked down through the stream of time and saw the end: foreknowledge.*" (56-0603, The Lamb's Book Of Life, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Then he would also say in the opposite that it took place in heaven before earth.

“The very minute God spoke the Word, it was settled forever. The seed was planted, and it had to come to pass See? “he was slain from the foundation of the world, from the very beginning. He was slain before He even come to the earth.” Is that right? He was God's Lamb slain from the foundation of the earth.” (54-0103E, Questions And Answers #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

How is this make sense, it's not possible. He was not slain until he was certain age as a human. The reference cited is Rev. 13:8 *“whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”*

Barnes commentary make this clear, Rev 13:8 not that he was actually put to death *“from the foundation of the world,” but that the intention to give him for a sacrifice was formed then, and that it was so certain that it might be spoken of as actually then occurring...Prof. Stuart, however (Com. in loco), supposes that this phrase should be connected with the former member of the sentence, “whose names are not written, from the foundation of the world, in the life-book of the Lamb, which was slain.” Either construction makes good sense; but it seems to me that what is found in our common version is the most simple and natural. (from Barnes' Notes)*

Yet Branham made this literal *“When was the Lamb slain? Two thousand years ago? Maybe a hundred million years ago. Before the foundation of the world was ever formed Jesus Christ died for our sins.” (58-0928M, The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)*

Branham said *“For He was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Back in Eden, Christ in God's thoughts, which became His Word, had not yet materialized.” (55-0114, Doctor Moses, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL)*

“The Bible said that Jesus was the Lamb of God

slain before the foundation of the world, taken four thousand years for that to materialize. Four thousand years later He was actually slain, but when God spoke the Word in the beginning He was slain right then, because God's Word can't fail. See it.” (56-0930, Hear Ye Him, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

Branham taught of thoughts in God before it materialized into reality. Even Jesus was a thought first. We should not make the mistake that God thinks the same way we do. Isa. 55:8-9 *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.”* God has compared his thoughts and ways to be far different than mans on earth.

“As we are taught in the blessed Word, that we had fellowship with Him before the foundation of the world, when the morning stars sang together, and the sons of God shouted for joy, way back before the foundation of the world. How do we know that that wasn't at the same time that the Lamb was slain; that when God in His great thinking seen us shouting and rejoicing in our salvation through Jesus?” (58-0928E, The Serpent's Seed, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

This implies we were existing, that we were more than just a thought in heaven before we came to earth.

This Scripture is referring to the angels (sons of God) not man in heaven. At this time they were a single unit before one third of them fell. In the Old Testament humankind, mankind are never called sons of God collectively but as individuals. According to Branham the shouts of joy were of man's salvation from the lamb! Meaning we were alive and saved before we were created. Branham tried to put man in heaven before the foundation of the world but his attempt fails when we actually listen to the Scripture.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Job 1:6. "Now there was a day when the sons of God came — The Targum says, Troops of angels, the LXX., Angels of God; the holy angels are called sons of God. These are the same Sons of God spoken of in In Job 38:6 when it is speaking of before the foundation of the earth, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy. This is before the fall of angels when they were in unity, it is not speaking of man's pre-existence in heaven.

Branham makes his view of predestination clear when he said speaking of Abraham bringing his son to Mount Moriah. "Now, look, it wasn't a vision. He walked over and picked up the ram, laid it upon there, and stabbed it with a knife, and blood run out of it. It wasn't a vision he saw; it was actually a ram. It was Christ, the Lamb of God, slain from the foundation of the world. Hallelujah. There He was, Christ. It wasn't a vision. That lamb was spoke into existence in one minute, and went out of existence in another minute, the same way that God made Himself manifested in flesh before Abraham, and went out of existence in another minute." (55-0608, Abraham, Porter Stadium, Macon, GA; also 55-0817, Jehovah-Jireh, Unknown, Karlsruhe, Germany)

Branham would often apply types and spiritualize the object and application which would lead to a new interpretation.

Branham's pre-destination is directly connected to his view of pre-existence, and it has nothing to do with the Bibles view. Jesus was not crucified before he was born, nor by Abraham. That would mean he was crucified twice. In God's plan, which knew what would take place in the garden, he made the provision. It was determined he would be crucified when He became a man, that is why he became man.

The Soul of man pre-existed

"and then, we're going to make this second man... The first man, you can't see him. God ... second man was a halo. And now He takes a third man and

makes him like a little white cloud, coming over, we can see him; Holy Spirit coming down. And he's all man. That's the soul of man, eternal then." (50-0815, Who Is God?, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

Bible verses for any of this? NONE! What Branham did was make two creation accounts and inserted his own human reasoning to explain what he did not understand of the one creation account.

So how did Branham understand man's beginning? By his unique view of preexistence.

"But your spirit, your soul was made up before the foundation of the world, when God made man in His image." (52-0817E, Do You Now Believe?, Kellogg Auditorium, Battle Creek, MI)

He would repeat these phrases year after year in his sermons. "But your souls were made up before the foundation of the world when God created man in His Own image." (53-0608A, Demonology, Physical Realm, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN).

This is not a Bible explanation at all and neither does this explain when we came into existence, in fact one can find the source of this "*All souls are pre-existent in the world of emanations, and are in their original state androgynous, but when they descend upon earth they become separated into male and female*" (p. 35 Kabbalah).

This certain explains Branham's metaphysical view. "*But then the creation begin to spring up now in the other time, when He begin. And I believe, that in there, that everything on earth reflects heaven. I believe that because that you see everything struggling for life is because that there is a life that it's reflected from. And I believe that when God made the man, He started reflecting the smaller things such as the animal life, and then the next thing He created was something different. That's just exactly the way the Bible says He did it. ... And then the last thing that ever come from the earth in the form of creation was a man, nothing higher ever*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



come. Because why? It was a perfect reflection of the highest in heaven, which, God is a Man. See? God is a Man; so therefore, it proves it. And when God came down to dwell among us, He was a Man. See? A Man, so it shows that the perfection of evolution was God, which is a Man." (62-0909M, Countdown, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

God is not a man, neither in form nor in quality. Branham is referring to the metaphysical teaching of Hermes Trismegistus: "That which is **Below** corresponds to that which is **Above**, and that which is **Above**, corresponds to that which is **Below**." The Ancient Masters (of the Occult) employed this concept.

The Bible does not say *everything on earth* is a reflection of heaven. As far as we know the instructions to Moses in building the tabernacle is the only thing in this category.

"Before I close this subject, I know there is a question in your minds. You will want to know if I believe in the doctrine of pre-existence. I don't believe in that Mormon doctrine of the pre-existence of souls any more than I believe in reincarnation or the transmigration of souls..."

It is not the person that comes predestinated eternally from God, IT IS THE WORD, OR SEED. That is it. Way back there, too far back for the human mind to grasp, the Eternal God with eternal thoughts, thought and decreed, "JACOB HAVE I LOVED, BUT ESAU HAVE I HATED, (Romans 9:13) AND NEITHER WAS BORN, AND NEITHER HAD DONE GOOD OR EVIL." See, it was the THOUGHT, and then that thought became expressed, and God bought back Jacob, because Jacob alone was SEED. (Church Age Book)

He denied the Mormon doctrine of pre-existence of souls and reincarnation or transmigration of souls but his quotes say otherwise. He changed *the thought*, (called) "the Word" to a seed. But we already read his other quotes that say we were souls, spirits and angels.

The question that really needs clarification is whether Branham understood what he believed. Because he did teach transmigration and he did teach pre-existence of the soul (in heaven), maybe not in the exact manner as Mormons do but about as close as one can get to it.

Branham taught that you have eternal life before you were born, or even born again.

He explained *"If you are a son of God, and if I am a son of God, or a daughter of God, we were in God at the beginning. And when Jesus became the fullness of the Word, then we were in Him, germ form.... we are God's children, then we are attributes of God. Then we were ... got Eternal Life. And God is the only Eternal Life there is. Then, we were in Him from the beginning. And when Jesus became all that Word, then we were a part of Him then."* (65-0822M, Christ Is Revealed In His Own Word, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

How did he arrive that we are all eternal? *"God had us in His thinking, then we have Eternal Life, 'cause then He spoke us, and we come into existence. And a word is just a thought manifested. God had us, in the beginning, in His thoughts."* (64-1205, The Identified Masterpiece Of God, Stardust Motel, Yuma, AZ)

This certainly has the element of what is called new thought teaching. The logic of this statement fails miserably. If we are spoken to exist from a thought that means we did not exist prior, which means we are not eternal as God is eternal. It is as the Bible says, we do not have eternal life until we believe the gospel.

"Now, so were you in, if you've got Eternal Life, you were a ... in God before there ever was a world. You are a part, a son of God, an attribute of God. He knowed the very age you were coming." (65-1204, The Rapture, Ramada Inn, Yuma, AZ)

The Gnostics expressed the same, *"The Elect exist in the One, and so are eternal: "But that which comes to be in the Eternal One is in the One of the*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



life and the immortality of the life..." (Apocalypse of Peter)

"You, you're in a time space, and the only thing that's eternal is something that had no beginning or no end. Anything eternal never had a beginning, or it never will have an end. See? So if you're a part of God, the Spirit that's in you never had a beginning or it never will have an end, and you're eternal with the Spirit that's in you." (58-0927, Why Are We Not A Denomination?, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN,

So according to Branham to have eternal life man is part of God who has no beginning or end. So what's the difference between us and Jesus? Trying to find light deep in the semantical jungle of his explanations makes one stay in in the dark.

Is anything as eternally equal with God? Everything that is not God is created. Branham saying we are all part of God, has redefined both God's nature and mans.

II Timothy 1:10, where Paul states that both *life and immortality* [are brought] *to light through the gospel.*" We did not have immortality before this.

Branham became an acceptable image to the Pentecostals of his day. But what he actually believed is not Pentecostal. The real story is told from his own words, and it tells us everything we need to know. His view of pre-existence. of predestination formed the basis for his theology after he was introduced to Christianity.

His view on Predestination is summed up in this statement: *"I want to ask you something, 'cause I know there's ministers here from the different churches. And how would you preach salvation for the soul? ... We say, "Well, I was converted, Brother Branham. I was saved ten years ago. I was saved twenty years ago." No, that's a mistake. You accepted it, maybe, ten or twenty years ago, but you were saved nineteen hundred years ago when Jesus died at Calvary. He settled that sin question forever there. There's where He paid the supreme price, made the great sacrifice, that through His death at*

Calvary, then we have right to salvation. The price is paid. So it isn't what you do; it's what He done. And your personal faith has to accept that, brings your salvation." (56-0200, Contending For The Faith, Georgetown High School, Georgetown, IN).

"Then if I--I was saved, I'd say, "I got saved twenty years ago." No, I was saved nineteen hundred years ago. I just accepted it twenty years ago. God, there when Christ died, He paid the penalty of both sin and sickness." (53-0507, Expectations, Bible Hour Tabernacle, Jonesboro, AK)

Branham did not understand the difference between what Christ did and when we first believe to receive it, which is called salvation by the Bible. His distorted view of predestination was present through numerous doctrines.

Then you say, "I was saved five minutes ago, Brother Branham." No, you wasn't, sister, brother. You were saved nineteen hundred years ago; you just accepted it five minutes ago. See? That's right."

Here is the problem. No one is saved by predestination (God's foreknowledge), especially before they were born. We are saved by our believing the gospel. God knows our choice before we were alive but this does not verify what Branham is teaching. Jesus provided himself as the lamb 1,900 years ago but the necessity to have faith in what he did is what makes that a reality for us.

What Branham taught man's spirit preexistence in heaven before he is born is not taught in the Bible. The only time someone is mentioned literally preexisting before the foundation of the world is the Son who is with the Father. Because of his strange predestination teaching Branham formulated his gifting: that are you are born with spiritual gifts before being born again.

"And I believe that gifts and callings, as I said, are without repentance, that you're born here in the world with these gifts. Just the same as you're born to be a musician. You might give your child, give it all kinds of lessons. But if that musical talent isn't in it, it'll never do no more good. Is that right? But

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



we're born the same way in the spiritual realms, for gifts and callings of God are without repentance." (50-0300, Gifts And Callings Are Without Repentance, Carlsbad Air Base Recreation Center, Carlsbad, NM)

This is a failed correlation, a natural talent is not equivalent to a spiritual talent that only comes from God.

"Now, I think there's where our Latter Rain brethren got mixed up. See, they lay hands upon one another, and make them prophets and so forth. Now, that isn't Scriptural. Gifts and callings are without repentance. You are born whatever you are. You are at the beginning what you are." (64-0321E "The Voice of the Sign," vol. 23, no. 5)

Therefore according to Branham the Spirit who instills the gifts for one to function in ministry has no bearing on one's life, which is not an accurate answer.

He said over and over, *the Gifts and callings are without repentance*. But one must receive the Holy Spirit by being born again to have any spiritual gift, but he did not subscribe to this. Branham claimed HIS gift and calling was given to him before his conversion, before having the Holy Spirit. Because our spirit is the Holy Spirit.

Natural gifts are not the same as spiritual gifts which are supernatural. It is an activity by the Spirit of God that ONLY works with believers. If you are born with the gift, then you do not need the Holy Spirit whom the Bible says is the giver and controller of the spiritual gift? Or, you must say the Holy Spirit is your spirit. Branham's theological confusion allows for only one choice, that everyone already has the Holy Spirit, which would certainly eliminate the need to be born again.

The pre - existent seed

Branham explains,

"Now, then, see that he was born with this great gifts and quality within him, then it only taken something to flash across that, to bring that thing to life. See, the seed of God is actually placed in us from the foundation of the world. And when that Light first strikes that seed, It brings it to Life, but the Light first has to come upon the seed." (63-0714M, Why Cry? Speak!, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

The only difference with Branham's pre-existence is that we were words / seeds as thoughts before materialized persons. But there are other times he explained it differently and would contradict himself stating:

Jesus said His "Word" is the seed (Lk.8:11), not we are the seed, nor that it is present in us before we are born on earth in some pre-existence. We are not born with it, but WITHOUT it. That is we are to have new birth *"having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever"* (1 Peter 1:23).

This is what Branham would do, take Bible words and concepts and reinterpret them (seed and light) removing them from their actual usage. Exactly where is this explanation found in the Bible? It's not, because this is a metaphysical interpretation. If we are the seed how is the seed placed in us as he described? It can't be both, even according to his own metaphysical construct.

Branham says he became a liar, a sinner, *"because I raised up that way. But down in there was a little speck of Life all the time." (65-1212, Communion, Tucson Tabernacle, Tucson, AZ)*

That speck of life according to Branham was from our preexistence. Branham used the word seed and even germ as substitutes for what many mystics call the spark.

"Here we are formed to the Word image, to be a partaker of the Word, feed on the Word, by being predestinated since the beginning; you see that little spark of Life that you had in you from the

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



beginning, when you started your journey. Many of you can remember it. You joined this church and joined that church, you'd try this and that; nothing satisfied. That's right. But one day you just recognized It. Right." (65-0221E, Who Is This Melchisedec?, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN)

Whether Branham used the actual word spark or another that meant pre-existence from being a part of God, it carried the same concept.

The idea of a spark is found in Esotericism: (that which is within) which teaches of an ancient hidden knowledge that is awakened. One takes an "inner journey" to discover the "divine spark" within them. The Gnostics taught that liberation lay in the attainment of a Gnosis, the knowledge of sacred truths of the spiritual universe. They said that each human being is the inheritor of a divine spark, a fire, a light that came from a higher plane given by God or is god. Most men do not realize this fire within and live in ignorance of their true nature, the Kabbalah calls it a "divine spark.

Explaining *Gnosticism*, Dean Edwards writes: "*The true nature of the Soul is as a divine spark, which originally issued forth from the fountainhead of God.*"

In 1925 Swinburne Clymer wrote a book entitled, "THE SONS OF GOD." It was "A Foreshadowing of the Coming World of the Messenger of The New Age" and its concepts are much like Branham's:

"In each life is a spark, a germ of the Divine Nature. This spark is the potential Christos or the potential individual Soul or that 'light which lighteth all the world of man's consciousness'. When man becomes conscious of this light within his own being and recognises and obeys its 'still small voice', he has reached a state bordering on Illumination of Soul or Immortalisation. When he has found within himself the CENTRE whence cometh the LIGHT, Soul Consciousness is attained. This is the beginning of Initiation; the first revealment of the Divine Mysteries. The Divine

Spark in each individual may be developed into a centre or globe of pure white fire; it may become a dynamic nucleus of living fires - the Fire of Love and Immortality. This fact gives the key to the significance of the term 'Temple of Illumination'. Man in toto, is the nucleau of Illumination, the Temple of the living, radiating Christos . . . 'God in me and I in you'. Thus, by obedience to the Divine Law, man attains unto Christhood, becomes the Son of God." (p. 15)

"In each life is a spark, a germ of the Divine Nature." These are the same words Branham used. Clymer goes on, "*This spark is the potential Christos or the potential individual Soul or that 'light which lighteth all the world of man's consciousness.'*"

In Esoterism the spark of mind and soul that will enable him to become aware of who he is and what he is part of.

The New Age Christ says: "*You are a spark of the Supreme Being. Do not think you are below Me.*" (Maitreya's Mission Vol. II, by Benjamin Creme; (Share International; Amsterdam, London & Los Angeles)

The Father of the New age movement Teilhard De Chardin claimed that every human being carries within him/herself *a spark of divinity the spark of the soul is beyond time and space; the soul's light is uncreated and cannot be created.*"

Meister Eckhart (1260-1327), a Dominican priest taught that in every person there is a '*divine ground*' or '*spark*'.

"the divine spark [is] buried deep in every soul" (Michael Aivanhov)

The Metaphysical teacher of Enkankar says "*we are Soul, a divine spark of God.*" (Sri Harold Klemp, How God Speaks to Us and How We Respond)

<http://www.eckankar.org/Harold/Article02.html>

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Hindu Swami Nirmalananda Giri states: In the second chapter of the Bhagavad Gita Krishna tells Arjuna: "... we are eternal beings, without beginning and without end. Originally we were sparks or points of conscious light in the infinite Ocean of Conscious Light that is God. We were gods with God. We are gods within God, finite spirits within the Infinite Spirit. But what is "spirit"? Yoga tells us that spirit is consciousness, hence we are eternal consciousnesses."

Why is Branham's teaching on pre-existence so similar with the same words and concepts as found in Esoterism? Because he had either read, studied or practiced them, thus demonstrating Branham combined a certain mysticism with the Bible.

Our predestined gifts before our birth

Branham had the same gift and experiences before he professed Christ but had no choice but formulate his Christian theology to this by claiming we all are born with spiritual gifts. Apparently Branham did not think this through, because if one is born with these gifts and never believes then they have the Holy Spirit as an unbeliever.

"Do you believe those gifts are borned in a man, when he's borned in this world? The Bible says so. That's right." (54-0724, A Personal Experience With God, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

I'd like to see the verse cited. I know of none from the Bible, unless you take them out of their context. It is from his experiences in early childhood his theology was shaped, not from the Bible. "It's something you're born with" (60-0720, Be not Afraid, It Is I, Lake County Fairgrounds, Lakeport, CA).

Branham believed that we were all born with gifts that means even unbelievers, like he was as a child.

"as I've told you at the beginning, a little gift that you pull over. You know, gifts and callings are without repentance; you have them all your life (See?); you're born with them, if they're gifts of God. So I always, since a little bitty baby, it always happened to me, and people who knowed me all my

life, they know that's true." [Romans 11:29]." (65-0118, The Seed Of Discrepancy, Westward Ho Hotel, Phoenix, AZ)

You say, "Was that before your conversion?" Yes. "Gifts and callings are without repentance," the Bible said. You're born in this world for some purpose. And you don't... Your repentance don't bring gifts; they are predestinated to you." (62-1230E, Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir? Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Actually, if you are born with a spiritual gift then it's not of God.

Yet in contradiction he said "For it is impossible that any Holy Ghost gift should function freely, unless the individual who possesses the gift should have received the Giver also." (A Man Sent From God – p.43)

"And I believe that gifts and callings, as I said, are without repentance, that you're born here in the world with these gifts. Just the same as you're born to be a musician." (50-0300, Gifts And Callings Are Without Repentance, Carlsbad Air Base Recreation Center, Carlsbad, NM).

Branham put natural gifts on equal status with Spiritual gifts, the working of God through saved individuals. Natural gifts are not the same as spiritual gifts which are only supernaturally given, that only come from the Holy Spirit resident WITHIN the believer. Which only comes from believing the gospel, having a spiritual birth not a natural birth. This was Branham's theological excuse for operating by these visions before he even knew about Jesus.

There were other influences that had him arrive at this wrong conclusion

"Now, the one reason that I am a Calvinistic thinker, of security of the believer, is because that I believe that when a man or a woman is in their right mind, that is the time to accept the Lord Jesus and get it all settled then, once for ever." (61-1105, The

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Testimony Of A True Witness, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

But what he actually believed is that our salvation was determined in heaven by what side we were on.

"I believe that before the foundation of the world, according to Ephesians 1, that God knew us, and knew that He was sending me, and the other ministers, and so forth, to preach the Gospel before the world was ever formed. I believe that's Scriptural teaching. That's got a lot of Calvinistic wing to it. I believe the Calvinist was all right. They got a--they got a Scripture to stand. So has the Arminian, but they both run out and ride on limbs, broke off, made issues. God just brought the whole thing back, and stuck it in the Book of Ephesians, and straightened it out." (53-1107, How The Angel Came To Me, Sports Center, Owensboro, KY

He went far beyond God knowing and ordaining our mission, teaching what Calvinists do no, on our pre-existence. as Eph.2:10 states.

Branham explained *"Now, now, that's their ministry, the way they do it. Now, to me, gifts and callings of this type is not by laying on of hands. You're born with these gifts. See? You come in the world with them. Now, just as natural for me to see a vision as it is for you to take a drink of water when you're thirsty. See? Nothing I have to do with it. You own faith does it. See?" (55-0228, Separation From Unbelief, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ).*

No, I don't see it. How do you have visions by your faith if you had no faith in God as a child? Branham had told us they began to occur at 15 - 18 months as Branham described, and afterwards throughout life before he was CONVERTED?

In Branham's personal testimony of the coming of the gift He explains his view of foreordination. He concludes that God knowing the future also gifts the ones He will use, from their birth.

Jer. 1:4-5 *The word of the LORD came to me, saying: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."*

Using the prophet Jeremiah as an example he justifies his and all man's pre-existence as a soul and spirit:

"Your spirit's in your heart. See? And you got your spirit before you're--ever come to the world. God told Jeremiah that He knew him, and sanctified him, and made him a prophet over the nation--over the nations before he was ever conceived in his mother's womb (See?), Jeremiah 1:4. Now, notice. So we see that all these things are foreknowledge. Seven hundred and twelve years before Jesus was born--before John was born, Isaiah saw him in a vision, said he was the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 712 years. From the garden of Eden, Jesus Christ, before the foundation of the world..." (59-1223, Questions And Answers, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Just because God said this does not mean Jeremiah, nor John nor you pre - existed. Nor was John seen in a vision by Isaiah like Branham claimed, he saw Jesus (Jn.12:38-39). Seeing a vision does not always mean that person or things exists. Isaiah saw Jesus because he existed before he was born, because He is God. Here Branham puts us on equal status with Jesus' preexisting. Where does the Bible say all mankind pre-existed as Branham describes? It doesn't.

God knowing Jeremiah, and us before we are born does not prove we already exist. God sees and knows the future of ALL things, even before they were created. That does not mean it is all pre-existent. God can have certain plans for an individual for a country but that does not mean it exists in the spiritual first

Branham's view of pre-existence is completely flawed, otherwise one would have to conclude everything already exists and already happened (as he said of the lamb that was slain before the world was created and with Abraham).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



God's knowledge extends to all things, as he sees the end from the beginning, as he has shown by prophesying far into the future. What the Lord was saying is that he knew Jeremiah as He knows all things before they were created and He chose him to proclaim his message. "*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations*" (Jer.1:5). God had formed his plan even before he came into existence. Jeremiah began to exist by conception in the womb like everyone else .

The New Testament explains we are **FIRST** saved by the gospel. "For we are His workmanship, *created in Christ Jesus* for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10). In God's foreknowledge he has prepared what we are to do, however, it is explicit that one must be "in Christ." And the only way to be "in Christ" is to believe the gospel. Branham was not in Christ when these visitations were taking place. To a Gnostic/mystic like Branham it didn't matter what the literal Scripture said but what his vision showed. So when he taught the Bible the Scripture would be reinterpreted by what he saw and experienced.

For example, Samson was appointed to be a Nazarite from the womb, this having been revealed to his mother before he was conceived, Judges 13:3. To other men of God such divine predestination was made known for the first time when they were called to that office to which God had chosen them. Jeremiah was sanctified - separated to his prophetic office that God had chosen before his birth. At a certain point when he is called he is then equipped with the gift and grace needed to function in his ministry.

God set apart Jeremiah for a specific task. He spoke this so that he would not lose heart in his calling. But Branham reinterprets this by his experiences instead of interpreting his experiences by the Scripture. God is not saying he gave him a prophetic gift before he knew his God.

Jeremiah had a calling to speak to the nation. Jer.1:6-9: *Then said I: "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth." But the LORD said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you," says the LORD. Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth."*

On the contrary, Jeremiah was NOT born with a miraculous gift, he was called to be God's spokesman toward Israel as ALL the prophets were. A prophet is first an office where God speaks directly to the person and he is to tell other people. Jeremiah's message: "*Now you shall say to this people, 'Thus says the LORD: "Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death"*" (Jer. 21:8). None of this is comparable to Branham's abilities to see diseases or justifies his explanation for an angel of light all through his life distributing healing. No prophet had this. God spoke to the prophets what to say and they spoke it to others accurately.

God knowing us before we are born does not prove we are living in some pre-existence. God knows the future of all things, even before they were created so Branham's view of preexistence is completely flawed, otherwise one would have to conclude everything already was made before it appeared on earth. (he did teach earth is a reflection of heaven) Branham's predestination theory does not work, for he is not like those in Israel raised in a religious family (like John) whom the Lord prophesied about in the Scripture and involved his father who was a priest. In the Old Testament God took prophet's from those who were brought up in families that knew him and would teach their child of the Lord. His line of reasoning speaks more toward proving his was NOT a gift from God. Why would an angel come with a message to a child (William) to not to drink or smoke instead of the gospel to save? The gospel when accepted with the accompanying Holy Spirit would then give him the power to resist desires or influences that are bad. The angel left it

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



up to him to overcome the temptations, yet he said the angels appearances would scare him.

We see how angels on a mission conduct themselves. In Acts 10:1-9 we see Cornelius, a centurion, who a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. V.3 he sees in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!" And instructs him to go to Joppa, and find Peter. This results of hearing the gospel, is salvation. This is the beginning of the Gentile church.

Visions of a Young child

Branham wholly believed his supernatural gift was given at birth, not by the Holy Spirit indwelling him as one is born again. Parts of his early visions needs to be repeated because what he said makes no sense, even related to what he believed on predestination. "...It's by a vision that God gave me, when I was a little baby in my mother's womb." (52-0720E, Who Has Believed Our Report?, Civic Center, Hammond, IN).

He claims to have his FIRST VISION in the womb (seems to compare this to John who was filled with the Spirit in the womb. That is quite a miracle considering he taught we are not alive until our first breath. "*The baby hasn't received life till it's born.*" (Seven Church Ages, pp. 275-286; *Conduct, Order, Doctrine*, Vol. 2, p. 1121.)

Let's apply some logic to his claim. How does he even remember this vision occurred? Especially if he is not conscious or alive yet? Are you willing to ignore the facts that disagree with Bible? Hopefully you won't say *God can do anything, even the impossible* to excuse the contradiction of giving a spiritual gift to an unbeliever from birth.

"*I have seen visions since I was about eighteen months old.*" (57-0519A, Hear Ye Him, Saskatoon Arena, Saskatoon, SK). "*The first thing I can remember nearly, I was about three years old, when He come to me and I saw a vision*" (54-0314, Why

I'm Praying For The Sick, Southland Theater, Columbus, OH).

Let's consider the illogical contradiction of him saying He saw visions from one and a half years old but only remembers when he was three years old. What prophet ever had visions this young? Why would God give a vision to someone that is unable to remember it? Does God not know what he is doing?

Branham says he was born with God working in his life by visions. "*I saw visions when I was a sinner. Why? It was a gift.*" (56-0421, What Visions Are, Spindale House Recreation Center, Spindale, NC) "*Before I was a Christian, confessing Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour, that gift was there just the same. When I was a sinner, an alien, far from the commonwealth of God, that gift was there just the same, saw visions just the same way.*" (52-0713A, Early Spiritual Experiences, Civic Center, Hammond, IN)

"*I've seen tens of thousands of visions*" (60-0522E, Adoption , Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN; 63-0605, Greater Than Solomon Is Here, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ)

"*hundreds of thousands of visions*" (60-0720, Be not Afraid, It Is I, Lake County Fairgrounds, Lakeport, CA)

"*I've seen thousands times thousands of visions*" (61-0515, A Greater Than Solomon Is Here, Zion Gospel Tabernacle, Grand Prairie, AB)

How many visions did Ezekiel or Jeremiah or Isaiah have? Not hundreds, or a thousand[s]. Jeremiah who was the youngest to be called to be a prophet did not receive visions being a few years old, not at 6, 10 or 15 years old; but later in his teens to early twenties. And God told him he was called before he had them. So it becomes obvious that Branham is being presented as an extremely special and unique person in all of Biblical history.

"*Oh, there's gifts in the church, like you say, "Gifts of prophecy. What about?" Yes, brother, but there's*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



a vast difference. That's what they do; latter rain people get off the grounds. You've tried to make a gift of prophecy, a prophet. It's altogether different. A gift of prophecy is to be judged before two or three judges, but never a prophet's to be judged." (54-0620E, Divine Healing, K.R.N.T. Theater, Des Moines, IA).

Any man who prophesies is to be judged, "because many false prophets have gone out into the world." (1 John 4:1) The words of prophecy come from the person's mouth.

1 Cor. 14:29-34 "Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge." V.32 "And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints."

This is saying for those who know the word to judge, and one of main criteria would be what is written by the prophets.

Branham was making an excuse for himself as a prophet, that he would not be judged. Deuteronomy 18:21-22 tells us If a prophecy from a prophet failed to come to pass, the people were told to no longer pay attention to him who prophesied and remove them-selves of that prophet. God called it wickedness to listen and follow that prophet (Deut.13:8-11). Why was there such a harsh a judgment? Because God knew if it was allowed the leaven would escalate, and remove them from a pure worship. There is no telling how many saints have been ruined from listening to false words from those who continue to prophesy. There is no example of any TRUE prophet being less than 100% right. This is why Branham repeated how none of his visions ever failed. But if one part does not come to pass the whole thing is a false prophecy and its origin cannot be from God. And his visions were not always right. This is why no man's visions or revelations should be accepted without scrutiny.

We need to understand that the enemy has prophecies. Deuteronomy 13 God says a false prophet's word can actually come to pass. Being

accurate still does not mean they are of God; this is only the first line of testing. For He tells us v.3-4 "God is testing you to see whether you love the Lord all your heart and with all your soul." You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him." Jesus said "if you love Me you will continue in My Word." If we hear someone teach contrary like Branham did on pre-existence AND pre-destination we are to choose God's word, not theirs.

God tested the people through the words of the false prophets to see if they loved only Him. And one can only do this by choosing God's Word. When the Bereans heard what seemed like new truth from Paul they went directly to the Word to see if his content was what it actually said. Checking to see that his CONTENT was in CONTEXT. Branham's is NOT!

The giving of gifts

Branham literally interpreted his pre-existence as literally being present at Bible events in history.

"I preached with Moses and war-with Noah and warned the people of the oncoming judgment, to be a real Christian. I was with Moses at the burning bush; I saw the Pillar of Fire; I saw His glory. I was with Moses up there in the wilderness. To be a Christian, I have to be identified with everything God was, to be a Christian. I seen His glory; I heard His voice. Don't try to explain it away from me now, 'cause I was there. I know what I'm talking about. I seen what happened. Yes, sir!

"I was at the Red Sea when I seen the Spirit of God move down and part the water from one side, ... I seen the Spirit of God. I walked with Moses through that dry ground, across that Red Sea. I stood by Mount Sinai and seen the thunder and lightning falling. I eat manna with them out there. I drank from that Rock; I'm still doing it tonight. I was identified with the manna-eaters. I was identified with them that drunk from the rock.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



I was also identified when Joshua blew a trumpet and the walls of Jericho fell down. I was in the lions' den with Daniel. I was in the fiery furnace with the Hebrew children. I was with mount-with Elijah on Mount Carmel.

I was with John the Baptist and before them critics. I seen the Spirit of God descending; I heard the voice of God say, "This is My beloved Son in Whom I'm pleased to dwell in." Yes, sir! I sure was Identified with him. That's exactly right.

I was identified there at the grave of Lazarus when He raised up Lazarus. I was identified with the woman at the well when He told her her sins. Yes, sir! I surely was identified with Him in His death. And I was identified on the first Easter; I raised with Him from death. I'm identified with Him in His death.

I was with the 120 in the Upper Room. I was identified up there with them. Oh, I-I feel religious. Amen! I was identified there. I'm one of them. I was identified; I got the same experience they had. I was there when it happened, to be a true Christian."
(The Mighty God Unveiled Before p.27)

Think about what he is saying and how he is describing it. Not only does he identify with the events but says he was LITERALLY there, he seen and heard. And his insistence that to be a Christian (a true Christian) *I have to be identified with everything God was* is completely wrong.

Branham repeated this concept,
"Notice, and He is in me, and I in Him. Notice, then, every Christian that's a real genuine Christian--Christian, was with Him, "When the morning stars sang together and the sons of God shouted for joy, before there was a foundation of the world." *We were identified in the immortal realms with God, ten million years before the world was ever formed. I was back there with Him. If I got Eternal Life, I was there with Him. I was identified with Him, "When the morning stars sang together and the sons of God shouted for joy."*

I was with Him when He called Abraham at the age of--of seventy-five years old, and his wife being sixty-five, and told him they were going to have a baby. I was with him when his temptations come. I was with him when he went up on top the mountain, to offer up Isaac. I was with him when the ram appeared.

I was with Joseph when he was rejected of his brothers, because he was spiritual and the rest of them was carnal. I was with him when he knowed the reproach he had to stand by his own brothers. What he was, I am. What I am, he was. "For we are all one in Christ Jesus." I was with Joseph in his cave, grave. I was with him when he went to the right hand of Pharaoh. You had to be identified with him.

I was with Jacob that night when he wrestled all night with the Angel. I've wrestled, myself. I know what he went through with. So I wrestled with Jacob the same time he did, for I am his brother.

I was with Moses when he went down into Egypt. I was with Moses at the burning bush. If you're a Christian, you are identified with them Bible characters. Don't forget it! I was with Moses when all the people turned against him. I was with Moses when he crossed the Red Sea. When he raised his hand and walked forward, and the Red Sea opened, I was identified in Christ right then, and I was with Moses at that hour.

What every Christian has been, what every believers has been, every believer now is identified with that same person. Whatever it is, you must be identified. Don't forget that. When you do, you've got spiritual amnesia; you've forgotten who you are. Now identified with him, with Moses, when he crossed the sea. I was with Elijah in the days of Ahab, when they had to make a choice who they would serve, God or Balaam. We was with him on Mount Carmel, when he had to make this choice, for we are identified in the Body of the same God that he was identified in. So if we're identified in that Body, then we must remember we were there with him. That's right.

Now, I was with David, when he was rejected by his own brethren. I was with David; you were, too, if you're a Christian. You have to be identified in his rejection.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



I was with the Hebrew children, in the fiery furnace, when the--the fire couldn't burn them because of the Presence of the fourth Man.

I was with Daniel, in the lions' den. I was identified in there, when the Angel of the Lord identified him in there.

I was most surely with Him at Calvary. I must be identified with Him at Calvary. I must be there to a place, that, where not also was I identified with Him at Calvary, I died with Him at Calvary. Every Christian must die with Him at Calvary. If you don't die with Him at Calvary, you can't be none of His. I was there when He died. I died with Him. And then I was with Him when He raised up from the dead. I come up on Easter morning with Him, in the resurrection. Whatever He did, I was right there with Him; every believer was the same.

And now I am seated with Him in Heavenly Places in Christ Jesus, with all the powers of hell conquered, through Him. Every Christian believer was seated the same way, 'cause you have to be identified.

Now I find myself, in this last days, with the many of the believing Christians, identified in His ministry. "He is the same yesterday, today, and forever." I find myself, in this day, identified in His ministry. Do you find yourself that way, believing it, walking with it? Notice, the works that He did, He said the believer would do the same thing. "The works that I do shall you also." Then can you be identified with Him? Then when the reproach comes on the Word, can you stand the reproach like He did, see, identified with Him? I was identified with Him.

I was with Him at the Day of Pentecost. I was with the disciples up there, identified with them in the baptism of the Holy Ghost."(64-0411, Spiritual Amnesia, National Guard Armory, Birmingham, AL)

What teaching is there found like this in the Bible, what apostle said such things?

Irenaeus, whom Branham approved of stated that the prophetic gifts were still in operation in his day:

"For the prophetic gifts remain with us, even to the present time. ... Yet he goes on to caution the Church that "just as there were false prophets contemporaneous with your holy prophets, so are there now many false teachers amongst us, of whom our Lord forewarned us to beware."

Irenaeus gives the case of Marcus the Magician. The heretic Marcus "is a perfect adept in magical impostures. drawing away a great number of men, and not a few women, he has induced them to join themselves to him, as to one who is possessed of the greatest knowledge and perfection, and who has received the highest power from the invisible and ineffable regions above." (From Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Eerdmans, The Ante-Nicene Fathers, Volume I).

And this repeats itself with so many who came after, including Branham. If they do not have right doctrine they certainly do not prophesy right.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 11

How man was FIRST made according to William Branham?

The creation of Adam and Eve

“Now, when He, the Logos went out of God, which was God coming from this one big fountain into a body in the form of a--of a man, and it made the Logos, which we call theophany... Now, if you take the theophany when you are looking at that, that's a man. Now, that we... Now, that's where we were in the beginning. Now, you do not understand it now, but you was back there in the beginning that way. When man made... When God made man in His image, He made him a theophany. And He only placed him in flesh... When God made man in His image, in His likeness, they were... In Genesis 2, there were... Or Genesis 1:28, I believe it is, "There was no man yet to till the soil," and God had done made male and female. That's right. "No man to till the soil..." Then God brought man a little lower down and put him in animal life; that's this body, just like the animals so that he could till the soil, could touch. That theophany doesn't touch; it doesn't see, taste, smell, hear, these senses that we have. So God put man down there in order to--to touch and to feel.” (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle).

According to Branham's belief system the first man Adam was made a spirit, a theophany (which was made from another theophany, the Word, who is the Son). This theophany man existed before God created the earth.

“Was God a man? Certainly. "Let us make man in our own image." What was God? A theophany, a body. And there man was made like that and put over the garden.” (57-0901E, Hebrews, Chapter Four, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham defines a Theophany as “a human body that's glorified.”

So He said, "Let us (plural) make man (plural) in our own image. Let us make man in our own image." So then when God made His first man, He was a spirit man. He was something on the order of God, or the Son of God, the Logos. That was the first man.” (53-0403, The Cruelty Of Sin, And The Penalty That It Cost To Rid Sin From Our Lives, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

He repeated this over and over that man was first created a spirit man when he was made in God's image.

“Now, when God made man in His image, he was a spirit man.” (53-0608A, Demonology, Physical Realm, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connerville, IN).

“Man before he was this man, he was a spirit man. God made the first man in His Own image.” (53-1122, The Resurrection Of Lazarus, Evansville Coliseum, Evansville, IN).

“Now, in the beginning, when God made man in His image, the first man Adam, was a man like God. He was a spirit man.” (54-0620A, I Will Restore, K.R.N.T. Theater, Des Moines, IA).

He continued teaching this throughout his ministry, *“And then, first, man was made, he was a spirit man, in the image of God.” (63-1110M, Souls That Are In Prison Now, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



He goes on to explain "Them was spirits that was made up back there when God began to make man off of there in His Own image, created those supernatural beings, those spirits..." (53-0729 Questions and Answers (Genesis).

Branham is extending the creation of Adam as spirit to others also made as spirits.

Man's spirit pre-existence

Branham not only taught that Adam was made a spirit man first but so were all of mankind; we all pre-existed along with Adam as spirits.

The Bible teaches after all the trees and animals etc. *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image."* (Gen 1:26) Adam was made on earth from the earth. Not so says Mr. Branham.

"But your souls were made up before the foundation of the world when God created man in His Own image." (53-0608A, Demonology, Physical Realm, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN).

"before the foundation of the world, when God created you in His image." (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

To make this absolutely clear what he meant, "And you begin with a soul before the world was ever formed, when God created man in His own image." (55-1118, The Faith Of Abraham, Tent Meeting, (55-0611, What Is That In Thy Hand?, Porter Stadium, Macon, GA).

If all souls were made before they came to earth and only Adam was made a man from the ground what happened to the other souls? They are birthed to be humans too, according to Branham.

"that, we were made in the image of God before the world was ever made; when that theophany has been made flesh and dwelt among us, then, through His death, we ourselves receive His Spirit and we have no end; Eternal Life; not Angels, but men and

women. ... You will never be an Angel. God made Angels, but God made man. And what God does is off of God, which is as Eternal as God is. And man is just as Eternal as his Creator, because he was made from Eternity." (57-0908M, Hebrews, Chapter Five And Six #1, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

There are so many things contradictory with the Bible in his statement it's hard to know where to begin. First, you cannot be made from eternity! Eternity has timelessness, it's infinite, endless, a quality only God has. Branham theorizes that we were made before the world was made, when Genesis 1:26 says otherwise. The Bible says the first thing made were the heavens and the earth. Are we to accept that man will live forever because we are of God? Does the Bible teach that man is as eternal as God who alone always existed before anything was created? No it does not. 1 Tim. 6:15-16 *"He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality,"* meaning from *everlasting to everlasting* (Ps.90:2).

When he went deeper into explaining this, we find him saying *"He was made in the image of God. God had hands; God had feet; and so therefore a man was made like Him. So he is an amateur god."* (61-0205E, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, Central Assembly Of God, Tucson, AZ).

Just like Mormonism, god is the image of man. God as spirit is in the form of man.

"how many in here ever went to the bedside, some of you mothers, you and dad together, and looked at the little boy and the little girl, and you just--just remind one another, "Don't--don't he look like you, this way and that way?" Did you ever do that? ... Why? He's a part of our product; he's product of our--of our union. Now, and Father said, can say this about this, said, "You know..." And Gabriel said, "You know, he looks just like You." That's how God looks; look at yourself. That's how God looks, He looks like you. You're His offspring. How many

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



knows that? See?" (58-0927, Why Are We Not A Denomination?, Branham Tabernacle)

A physical form (which is what Branham is talking about here) is not the same as a spiritual (moral) image man was made in to reflect God's nature.

So what we need to understand is that Branham is teaching that God made another god. He made a theophany called "the word" and then made others (mankind as souls), all of these are called god[s].

God made other gods? Not according to the one true God, the one that Branham would consider the original. Can God make another like himself? The Bible teaches us that man is a creature. This whole concept is put in the category of throw away teaching.

Our Pre-existent androgynous spirit

Branham also taught that God is an androgynous being, that he created man as both male and female in his image.

"you begin before the world begin, spiritually speaking. When He made man, male and female, in His own image, which He was a Spirit." (55-1116, The Calling Of Abraham, Tent Meeting, San Fernando, CA).

"When He made His first man. Now, when He made his Angelic beings ... He made man, "Created He them male and female," all in the same unit. He was both man and woman, feminish and masculine. When He made Adam and put him in flesh... Remember in Genesis 1, He made man and woman. And in Genesis 2, there was no man yet to till the soil, flesh man." (Manifested Sons Of God May 18, 1960 Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Branham saw Genesis 1 and Genesis two as different creations.

"And man in his spirit was both man and woman" (58-0928E, The Serpent's Seed, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

It was the Gnostics that taught that God was both Father and Mother [The Gnostic Gospels]; they characterized God in both masculine and feminine terms.

It is also what Jacob Boehme wrote "*God created man in His own image. Male and female (in one) created He them."* (Chapter VII. *Man The Life and Doctrines of Jacob Boehme*, by Franz Hartmann, 1891)

Madam Blavatsky, the famous occultist, refers to the Kabbalah's Adam Kadmon who is the Spiritual Man, the Primordial Being as "*the androgynous Adam Kadmon* in her studies in Occultism (p.67 By H. P. Blavatsky)

"In the Egyptian as in the Indian theogony the androgynous god. These two were one; yet unconscious of being two. In this duality were contained (a) the male, dark and muscular Being, Isu no gai no Kami; and (b) Eku gai no Kami, the female, fair and weaker or more delicate Being. Then, the :— (5th and 6th.) Spirits who were androgynous or dual-sexed, (Secret Doctrine H.P. Blavatsky)

"there was a time when Man-in-the-making was a hermaphrodite, male-female" (Freemasonry and Catholicism by Max Heindel Part VII The Philosophers stone –what it is and how it is made.)

A [creation story](#) is also told by God to Hermes in the first book of the *Corpus Hermeticum*. Where God then created androgynous man, in God's own image, and handed over his creation. Many of Branham's points sound similar to the account of the fall of man in the *Discourses of Isis to Horus*.

There are those who look to Hermes Trismegistus, an Egyptian priest-king who gave the Hermetic

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



concept "As above, so below." The macrocosm is as the microcosm. Below corresponds to that which is above, and what is above corresponds to that which is below. Within this belief system we also find astrology.

"Jesus told the disciples that He knew them before the foundation of the world; and Paul said here that He chose us in Him before the world began. Now, there was some part of me, Orman Neville, and the rest of you all here, that's in Christ Jesus before the world ever began. And here's to my analysis of that.

I think that the people today that are possessed with this Spirit, or the spirit, a part of these angelic beings, spirits which rotated off of God, that never fell in the beginning and resisted the devil's lie in heaven..." And two thirds of the earth is in sin, and more than that, which two thirds of the angels was kicked out. And those demon spirits come into people and habitate their body. ... They was once existed and they come into the people and give them a nature." (53-0729 Questions and Answers (Genesis).

Branham is describing all mankind having pre-existent spirits in them. Some never fell, some did. This is giving man a pre-existent spirit nature before he was taken from the earth.

This concept is right out of Mormonism; spirits that never fell in heaven take up bodies as do other angels that fell. So we are all spirits (angels) before we came to earth. Man (kind) were spirits, both good and evil, supernatural beings that eventually came into bodies. He further explains how a dead fetus comes alive after "as soon as it's borned in this world and breathes its first breath, it becomes a living soul." (61-0112, Questions And Answers, Branham Tabernacle)

If one did not know better they would think they are reading the writings in Mormonism.

"We were first begotten as spirit babies in heaven and then born naturally on earth" (Journal of Discourse, Vol. 4, p. 218).

"Life for you did not begin here on earth. You lived before you were born you will live on in the spirit world after your mortal life is ended." "We all once lived in the presence of God the eternal father. In the world before your were a spirit child of his. With this divine parentage, your destiny, through righteous living, is to become like your Father in Heaven and return to his presence" (The Purpose of Life Pamphlet handed out at the Temple on BYU campus).

Pre-existence as spirit is not taught in Christianity. Greek philosophy and other mystical systems taught this long before J. Smith's counterfeit revelations.

"Before time began the soul was without a body, an archetype, the heavenly man pure in spirit in paradise, yet longing after the archetype, God. Some of the pure spirits descended into bodies and lost their purity" (Plato and the Stoics philosophy).

It is also the Kabbala, a Jewish mystical book that teaches that the soul is pre-existent, before conception (The Kabbalah, p. 17)

"Now, the Spirit of God that dwells in the Church, is the Spirit that come from heaven, that God knew before the foundation of the world, that rejected the devil's lie. And that spirit had to take a body of flesh to be--to take his testings. He had to come flesh like these others did, and all of them put on the equal yoke. And God, by the beginning, knew the spirits that would and which would not. There you are. That devil is so wise he has--deceive the very elect, if possible" (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

If God is Spirit, how does his statement of the spirit "God knew before the foundation of the world" make any sense? That would be Himself, would it not? And how can one justify this spirit rejecting the Devils lie if this spirit is God? Branham is

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



proposing that this spirit became flesh along with the other spirits.

"...You will never be an Angel. God made Angels, but God made man." (57-0908M, Hebrews, Chapter Five And Six #1, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Then why does he say we were angels that took bodies?

"Cause they were predestinated of God to search for Life. They was once the angels; they was once an angel who did not fall. Two-thirds of the angels of heaven fell; that's these evil spirits working amongst people, very religious. You know the Bible says that. You was just not all always right here. You were once somewhere else." (60-0626, The Unfailing Realities Of The Living God, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

This would mean all mankind are spiritually the species of angels.

"And you got your spirit before you're--ever come to the world" (59-1223, Questions And Answers, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

So He said, *"Let us (plural) make man (plural) in our own image. Let us make man in our own image." So then when God made His first man, He was a spirit man. He was something on the order of God, or the Son of God, the Logos. That was the first man."* (53-0403, The Cruelty Of Sin, And The Penalty That It Cost To Rid Sin From Our Lives, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

"When God made His first man, He made him in His own image, which was a spirit man in Genesis 1:26." (54-0512, The Seven Church Ages, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

I notice no spirit man created first in my Bible. The Bible actually says *"And the Lord God formed man (Adam) of the dust of the ground."*

"Now, if you'll notice, after He had made all the creation and created a spirit man (the close reading of this now, to the one that asked the question will find this)... in other words, Adam, the first man in the lower creations of God.. The first creation was God Himself; then out of God came the Logos, which was the Son of God; then out of the Logos, which was the Word ... out of the Logos came forth the -- the man" (53-0729, Questions And Answers On Genesis, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

In this portion of his teaching he says the spirit man was made after all the creation but other times he said before.

The phrase "lower creations of God" is a term used in Kabbalah, not the Bible. Kabbalah teaches of a lower world that was created from light. A fountain of God's light, emanating downward, like in Gnosticism. The lower refers to the animal portion of man which is exactly what Branham taught.

In his explanation Branham says of God *The first creation was God Himself.* Second, the Logos, the Son of God was created. The Logos was formed (as a theophany to be man) and third, out of this theophany came man who came out of the Logos. If Jesus is God, then man is also God; both are created theophanies according to Branham.

That is not Bible teaching but metaphysical teaching. This is what is taught almost unanimously by those into mysticism, Gnosticism and Kabbalists. Not only is there a problem with his supposition, but the sequence of man being made a spirit before he was made from the earth as the Bible teaches.

"And then after He got all His creation made, He said, "Let Us," plural, "make man in Our," plural, "own image." Now, if God is unseen, if the Logos was in the form, just mythically speaking, drama, in the form of a Halo, then It's supernatural. Then He had to make a man in His own image. John 4 says that God is a Spirit. And He had to make a spirit man. And He brought it down now; there's deity cannot be seen. Deity is the supernatural. Then He

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



brings It down from a sacred Halo to a little white cloud, something that's more visible; that's man. He give him the rulership over the Kingdom. And he governed the beasts like the Holy Spirit leads the church today. But there was no man to till the soil. Then He put man in the image of man on earth, created him out of the dust of the earth" (51-0729A, The Resurrection Of Lazarus, National Guard Armory, Erie, PA).

Branham explains the spirit man was made before man was put on the earth to have dominion over the earth. Clearly Branham was confused by Genesis 1 and 2 accounts as if they were different.

So the human body according to Branham is made after what the spirit looks like that existed independently first. Branham taught that Adam was spirit first, pre-existing and then brought to earth. Branham's statement He "put man in the image of man on earth" is not at all what the Bible teaches, this teaching is from the Gnostics. Thus man as a spirit is implied to be deity.

Stating *He give him the rulership over the Kingdom* before he was made from the earth makes this a completely different creation account than the Bible.

Man's rule on earth

Branham teaches: "*Our Spirits Were Created in God's Image Before the World; Our Bodies Were Made Later in the Image of Animals.* ... *"He made the first man in His image, and we're returning back to that image (That's right.), to our first created image."* (53-0729 Questions and Answers (Genesis)).

Branham also taught that the spirit man Adam ruled over the animals BEFORE he was made from the earth.

"And God in the beginning made His first man. He made him out of spirit. And spirit is the invisible part of man that you don't see. Now, God made man in His Own image. "And God is a Spirit," says the Bible. And the first man that was made had the

government over all the creation, just like the Holy Spirit has government over the Church today. He led the creation. He led the animals. But there was no man to till the soil, so God made man out of dust of the earth. And that man, He might have give him a hands like a monkey; He might have give him feet like a bear. Whatever He did, He just throwed it together and made a man. But this man, He put this immortal spirit that never dies into this man, and he become more than a brute, he became a man" (49-1225, The Deity Of Jesus Christ, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

"(Adam) and as he walked through the garden of Eden, first as a theophany (like the Holy Spirit is in here now walking in here), it led the animal life. It controlled everything, but it couldn't till the soil. See? So God put him in flesh so that he could till the soil, give him his five senses to till the soil and fix up the--the vineyards and--and so forth, and then the man still looked lonesome." (57-1006, Questions and Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Adam walked through the garden before he was made flesh? That is not at all what the Bible says.

Thus we have Branham teaching there was man BEFORE Adam, ruling over creation, over the animals. Only later his Spirit is put in a body. That would be short lived because the animals were made on the same day before man was made **from the ground**, according to the Bible (Gen.1:24).

Branham is teaching that the first man was a spirit and was put in a body, and this spirit (the Holy Spirit) was a theophany. The Bible teaches that God breathed life into man, the lifeless form *from the dirt* then became alive. He was not alive prior to this.

1 Cor. 15:45 "The first man Adam became a living being." This is referring to Gen. 2:7 "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Then the garden was made where he was placed in. Man did not exist as a spirit before this, only angels did.

God spoke and created things to exist but he did not speak man into existence. He personally fashioned him from the ground and breathed life into him. All the other creatures he made in abundance but He made only one human creature at first.

Adam was a lump of clay that looked like a man until the Lord breathed life in to him and he became a living soul. The lifeless form became alive. This occurred on the sixth day.

God (YHWH) created the land animals and then Man in his own image. Chapter two of Genesis then explains the details of chapter one, that God let Adam, the first man, assign names to every other creature.

Branham teaches Adam had the spirit of God in him. But this is not what the breath of life means. Scripture states that God breathed into Adam the breath of life[s], but it also says that all flesh had the breath of life (Gen. 6:17). Adam was not different than other creature because God's breath was in him, but because he was made in the image of God, he had spiritual qualities that were beyond the animals, qualities that directly reflect the moral nature of his creator. Clearly this does not mean he is God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit *brooded* over the waters, was this Adam before he was put in a physical body? Of course not.

The man that was formed from the ground became a breathing creature, having life and the only creature that had a conscious relationship with his maker. Gen. 2:7 *'And breathed into his nostrils the breath of life'* - literally, lives. Adam was also endowed with the property of continuing life, where his human nature that contained the image of God would be passed on to his offspring (thus when Adam sinned it was passed on).

When it states we were created in His image it does not mean that God is flesh or has human form and

that we are like Him in that manner. In Deut.4:12 the Israelites saw no form of God, and they were prohibited to make any image of Him because God is incorporeal, He has no body, He is an invisible, omniscient, infinite, eternal spirit.

"And He put this supernatural being which was called man, the third Person of the Trinity, Holy Spirit, into mankind (That's exactly right.), that man and He made him in His own image." (53-0610, Show Us The Father And It'll Satisfy Us, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN).

The third PERSON of the Trinity was in Adam (and all men), Branham did not believe in a third person, or a Trinity.

The problem is that the Bible says none of this. If Adam had the Holy Spirit as *his spirit* then he was incarnated like Jesus. Then Adam who had the Holy Spirit (who is God) being disobedient brought sin into the world. God sinned.

Adam's spirit was not the Holy Spirit because he fell in his spirit which then affected his soul and body and his offspring. His spirit was a human spirit that was pure.

Nearly everything Branham states on these matter is not Biblical which does bring into question where he got his information.

Paul, a true prophet settles this folly, *"The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven."* (1 Corinthians 15:47)

Paul tells us the first man, Adam came from the earth – not heaven. The only one who descended to the earth from above to become man is the Son of God (John 3:13). Therefore Branham is wrong.

When the Lord decided to judge the world by the flood he stated Gen. 6:17 *"all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die."* Gen. 7:15 *and they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life,"* meaning the animals. In Gen. 7:22 he says all

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



outside the ark will die *"All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life."*

Branham's Two Creations of man

"When He made His first man. Now, when He made his Angelic beings... He made man, "Created He them male and female," all in the same unit. He was both man and woman, feminine and masculine. When He made Adam and put him in flesh... Remember in Genesis 1, He made man and woman. And in Genesis 2, there was no man yet to till the soil, flesh man, no man that could take a hold of anything and till the soil, but yet there was a man in His image. And God is a... [Congregation says, "Spirit."--Ed.]. That's right. See? He made the first man, "male and female created He them." (Manifested Sons Of God May 18 1960, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville Indiana)

The creation of Adam the animal creature:

"So He knew He was going to have some women, so He just made their spirit right there. The Bible said He would in 1, Genesis 1:26, "He created he him, man in a prefigure, male and female." Amen. See? In a prefigure He made the woman and the man before they was ever formed out of the dust of the earth. And then God made the man, not in His Own image. This body's not in the image of God; this body's in the image of beasts." (53-0729, Questions And Answers On Genesis, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

In Branham's quote he explains man and woman were both made before their bodies on earth were made in the image of animals. Yet the Bible says when God planned to make man from the ground. It was then he made man in his image and likeness. Branham did not comprehend the image was a moral spiritual likeness without sin that was to be tested. When Scripture states we were created in His image it does not mean that God is in a human form and that we are made like him in spirit.

This is not what it says in the Bible nor what it means, Branham's consistent twisting of the

Genesis creation account shows how far off he was as a Bible teacher.

What does Image and likeness mean?

According to the Bible God alone is uncaused and uncreated. God who is Spirit possesses eternity as His nature, He is infinite, immortal and deathless. God has eternal life in himself. Man was created, had a beginning with a spirit that can live on after the physical body dies, but it did not always exist as God's Spirit did. Ours had a beginning, we started in a point in time; God did not. Man dies physically; man is dependent on God to sustain him.

In the Hebrew language Image (*tselem*) is related to nature, the immaterial part of man has a moral component. It means we have a spiritual nature like God in a finite way. Likeness (*Demuth*) means similarity, not in a physical sense, it is related to nature in the immaterial part of man.

"Likeness" is a more general term, indicating resemblance in quality. We have finite qualities like God. The image and likeness man is made in means we have a spiritual/moral nature like God in a finite way. Any similarity is with finite qualities.

God is a spirit (Gen. 1:2), He thinks, speaks, wills, and acts. In man the image and likeness is expressed through reason, speech, will, and creative ability. God is a personal being; man made in his likeness is also personal.

The image of God consists, in the spiritual nature of man expressed through the body. God has communicable and incommunicable attributes. The communicable attributes put in man are finite qualities, God has holiness in His nature (perfect no flaws in any part). Man was originally made like his creator, he had holiness in his original state in the garden but was able to choose otherwise, something God cannot do.

We were given similar but limited capabilities compared to God's unlimited capabilities. To be created in the image of God does not mean we have

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



any of His *unlimited attributes* such as omnipotence, omnipresence or omniscience; human beings were not his offspring. Man is a creature who has *limited abilities* like His maker's unlimited abilities. God cannot duplicate himself by creating another like him. A creature can never be equal to the eternal creator, yet Branham insisted he was.

What are the features that man was created in, that would reflect his creator to be made in his image and likeness? We have the ability to think, gather knowledge, we have rationality, logic. We have communication skills using language. We have feelings and emotions such as love. We are able to see with the eye, God sees all things. As we are able to hear in a certain sound range God is able to hear all things. As we are aware of our surroundings, God is aware of all that happens. We are able to think ahead and plan before we do anything and create to a certain extent.

Scripture says, God by his might stretches out his hand. Throughout the Old Testament there is used what are called anthropomorphism to describe God in some function or characteristic. This is figurative language describing a certain characteristic of God, it is describing his divine actions from a human viewpoint. For example there are the Scriptures such as *the eyes of the Lord go to and through upon the earth*. There are mention of his ears, feet, mouth, fingers, arms, and hands (Ps.8:3). None of these should be taken in the literal sense that God has a form and made a human creature like him, these are meant to communicate something of his being in His activity.

The Second man made in the garden

After Branham explains Genesis 1:26, God made man in His Own image. He further explained the difference of the first and second man responding to a question:

“Now in Genesis 2:7, watch what He did here ... And... God formed man out of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. Now, what kind of formation... The--the questioner

wants to ask: What connection does this Genesis 1:26 have with Genesis 2:7? God created two men. And which was the man, and which... What connection does that have? What... How does it connect up in the Scripture?

Well now, if you'll notice close now, in Genesis 1:26, let's get the first part first. God said, "Let us..." Now, "let us," us is a... "Let us make man in our own image." Our, 'course, we realize He's talking to someone; He was speaking to another being. "Let us make man in our own image after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the cattles of the field." "If you notice in creation, the first thing that was created, of course, was light. You come on down through the creation; the last thing was created was what? A man. And woman was made after man. All right, the first ... Last thing that was created of God's creation is mankind." But when God made His first man, if you noticed, He made him in the likeness of Himself; He was made in the image of God. And what is God? Now, if we can find out what God is we can find what kind of a man He made." (53-0729, Questions And Answers On Genesis, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Light is not the first thing created, Gen.1:1 says *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”* The first words God spoke are, *“Let there be light: and there was light.”* (Gen.1:3).

The light is clearly a reference to what he said that the Logos was in the form of a Halo, and the second man was a halo and became white cloud, something that's more visible; that's man.

In answering *“what is God? Now, if we can find out what God is we can find what kind of a man He made.”* His answer, *“God was Spirit; he had to be a spirit man made in His image.”* (50-0815, Who Is God?, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, Oh)

Gen. 1:26 “Let US make man in OUR image, according to OUR likeness”

“when God created you in His image, or created the--the man in His image, and created the woman

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



in the image of the man for the glory of the man, He made you a theophany just like Hissself, when He said, "let us" to the creatures that He had made, "let us make man in our own image, in our likeness..." a theophany. God had never become flesh yet; He was in a theophany." (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"Our, 'course, we realize He's talking to someone; He was speaking to another being. "Let us make man in our own image after our likeness." (53-0729, Questions And Answers On Genesis, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

He said, "let us" to the creatures that He had made." (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Notice Branham is claiming that the "us" God is speaking to are creatures. So man is made in the image of creatures God already made, not in God's image. Who were these creatures man's image was made in, besides God? These creatures were angels because Branham said, *"The first thing He created was angels to worship Him, then He become God."* (60-0911E, Five Definite Identifications Of The True Church Of The Living God, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Yet Branham would also say *"God created man in His Own image."* (62-0527, Questions And Answers).

God said "Let us." Branham could not say he is speaking to another person of God (nor a manifestation of God) so he instead makes the mistake that anti-trinitarian cults make saying he is speaking to creatures (angels).

Branham goes even further than just Adam, he applies this to humanity *"before the foundation of the world, when God created you in His image, or created the--the man in His image, and created the woman in the image of the man for the glory of the man, He made you a theophany just like Hissself, when He said, "let us" to the creatures that He had*

made, "let us make man in our own image, in our likeness..." a theophany. God had never become flesh yet; He was in a theophany." (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Man being made in God's image does not mean we are a spirit man, or a theophany like God before we were made from the earth.

Man was created to reflect his creator. We are made in God's image and likeness, not angels. In Isa. 40:12-15 when speaking of God creating, Scripture asks, *"With whom did he take counsel."* God did not confer with angels. The speaker of Gen.1:26 is God, the other[s] He is speaking to are of the same nature because He includes them as equals. The words image and likeness are attached to the plural pronouns "our" and "us," which means more than one. Branham could not accept the Trinity so he altered it for another explanation.

If one reads the verse in context there were no angels, no other creature involved in making man in His image. Furthermore man, both male and female are created in God's own image. V.27: states *"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God he created him." male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them..."*

Man includes both male and female and notice he says "them" (plural) three times after this.

Branham claims this man as spirit ruled over the animals first and it was after God made the man called Adam that He put this spirit man into (that he calls a theophany and deity). Where does the Bible teach two creations of man? Branham, by misunderstanding Genesis 2 and reading other unbiblical sources, arrived at this unique interpretation.

Branham's recital of the Genesis 1 creation account is not even close.

Adam and Eve were both created out of something, that something for Adam was the ground (Heb. *Adamah*). Man was not spoken into existence nor

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



came out from the Logos, nor was he a spirit first. The Hebrew word for Adam means "red ground." This became the name of the first man because that is what he was taken from and what he was given dominion over. God formed the "human" from the "earth," Adam from *adamah*. Adam is also a generic term for "mankind." All Mankind is created *in the image of God*. If not, then how can that same image be restored from the renewed nature through Christ to both man and woman.

1 Tim. 2:13-14 "*For Adam was formed first, then Eve.*" Here it is talking about the only man created directly by God, from the earth (Gen.1:26). Branham misunderstood that Genesis 2 is a rewrite of Genesis 1 giving further details. This is often how Jewish literature was written. It would give an overview and then would further give other details. This is how Moses wrote down the Genesis account.

The Hebrew writers did not have chapters. Originally the creation account (Gen 1:24-31) concludes in Gen. 2. Branham made the mistake (as others do) labeling Gen.2 a "second creation story." Genesis 2 does not say anything about the creation of the earth, the creation of the sun, moon, and stars, the creation of sea creatures. Reading the text carefully makes it clear Gen. 1 and 2 correspond to each other and are not different accounts.

In chapter 1 of Genesis, the whole creation is described in sequential order by days. In chapter 2, the author takes certain portions of chapter one and adds in the details of specific points he focuses on. Chpt.1 God created man and woman, in chpt.2 he gives the details of how he did that. The 2nd block, chapter 2, goes into more detail of the first block of Scripture. He fills in the details of the sixth day of Creation, as how Adam and Eve were created.

"And if He made man in His own image, He had to make Him something on a order of that supernatural Being. That's right. Then there was no man to till the soil, Genesis 2. Then He made man out of the dust of the earth, not in His image, but out of the dust of the earth. He might give him a hand

like a monkey and a foot like a bear. I don't know what He give him. But he put him in five senses to contact his earthly home." (53-0509 The Pillar of Fire, Jonesboro AR).

The Bible says he made man from the GROUND in his image and likeness. Branham says that's not correct. What Branham did not understand is that it is our inner spiritual makeup that was like God. This is what resided in the physical man Adam. This spirit of man is united with the body (that is why there is a resurrection), both were made at the same time, not a spirit created separately thousands or millions of years before.

Branham taught God was a man. The Logos and that the spirit man had a shape of man before he made man from the ground. Which is exactly what those in mysticism teach.

The Creation of the first man The Two Adam's

"When God made man in His image, He made him a theophany. And He only placed him in flesh ... When God made man in His image, in His likeness, they were ... In Genesis 2, there were ... Or Genesis 1:28, I believe it is, "There was no man yet to till the soil," and God had done made male and female. That's right. "No man to till the soil..." Then God brought man a little lower down and put him in animal life; that's this body, just like the animals so that he could till the soil, could touch. That theophany doesn't touch; it doesn't see, taste, smell, hear, these senses that we have. So God put man down there in order to--to touch and to feel.

*"and as he walked through the garden of Eden, **first as a theophany** (like the Holy Spirit is in here now walking in here), it led the animal life. It controlled everything, but it couldn't till the soil. See? So God put him in flesh so that he could till the soil, give him his five senses to till the soil and fix up the--the vineyards and--and so forth, and then the man still looked lonesome. Oh, this is a beautiful picture. Look, for when he was first made, he was made two people together. He was made both male and female; the man was. The Bible said he was.*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



God made man both male and female, "created He him." Notice. Now, when man was separated from the theophany and put in flesh, he was--he wasn't just altogether there; part of his being was still a theophany" (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Exactly where is this spoken of in the Bible? Man walked through the garden before he was taken from the ground? This is metaphysical teaching, not Christianity from the Bible.

If man is a theophany and the female (Eve) was in man then she too is a theophany. Yet he explained that when man became flesh, "They were separated, one put in flesh and one in a theophany." (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Let's not forget according to Branham a "Theophany is a human body that's glorified ... the kind of body that God was." (57-0828, Hebrews, Chapter Two #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN). And he also said "the soul that was in the man is that theophany." (57-0828, Hebrews, Chapter Two #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"Made him out of the dust of the earth, now, not in His Own image. He had already made the man. Then He breathed into him the breath of life, and he became a living soul. So the soul of man is the nature of the spirit. Now, when you're reborn, you don't get a new spirit. You get a new nature of that spirit. It's the same spirit, but a new nature of it. You take two men, stand them together, both look alike; and one of them is a sinner, and one of them is a Christian. One man say, "I got a spirit the same as you have." See? But one of them is a different, his soul, his nature's different. He's been changed." (53-0403, The Cruelty Of Sin, And The Penalty That It Cost To Rid Sin From Our Lives, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

If the soul of man is the nature of the spirit, which is preexistent, the soul in the man is a theophany.

Another problem arises from his teaching, Branham taught that we are not alive in the womb; life is there after we take our first breath.

The Bible says the change comes into us from the Holy Spirit indwelling, regenerating our dead, fallen human spirit to become alive. That is when a relationship to God begins. But Gods Spirit is no our spirit.

He said the opposite stating "His sense to contact God was his spirit, his soul was to con ... "The soul that sinneth, the soul shall die." (53-0403, The Cruelty Of Sin, And The Penalty That It Cost To Rid Sin From Our Lives, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Here is how Branham explained how Adam, who was both male and female, became separated.

"Now, in the beginning they were one. God, when He made man, He made him a dual person, both male and female. He separated him in flesh and put him here on earth in flesh, and the female part was still in spirit. ... God never got a handful of dust and made a Eve. She'd been a different creation; and she's not a creation; she's a byproduct. And God goes over in the heart of Adam, this rib right out from under his heart, and takes a rib and makes the wife; and the very part of Adam's spirit was in the woman, and they two are one. Soul, body, spirit, they are one." (57-0414, Corinthians, Book Of Correction, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Kenneth Copeland shows where many of his unbiblical concepts came from; Branham: "Adam was made in the image of God. He was as much female as he was male. He was exactly like God. Then God separated him and removed the female part. Woman means 'man with the womb.'" (Sensitivity of Heart [Fort Worth, TX: KCP Publications, 1984, p.23.)

Branham: "Look, for when he was first made, he was made two people together. He was made both male and female; the man was. The Bible said he

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



was. *God made man both male and female, "created He him."* (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Clearly Branham did not know how to rightly interpret the Word. Gen 1:27 "*So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*"

God summarized to Moses that both male and female were made in his image. How do we know this is what is meant? The next verse tells us v.28 "*Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."* Plural, them; be fruitful, which you can't do as one person. It means mankind, both male and female (humans) were made in God's image.

Just a rib

"*And then God taken from his side a piece of him, a rib, and made a woman. Now, where did He get the spirit, woman? See? When He... Genesis 1:26, He said, "Let us make man in our own image, after our own--own likeness, created He them man, male and female." He made the burly spirit for the man; He made the tender, little, delicate, feminine spirit for the woman" (53-0729, Questions And Answers On Genesis, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).*

Since Genesis 1:26, according to Branham, is about man being made before he was put into a body, here he contradicts himself by saying that there are two spirits in man when he was created spirit – not both as one spirit.

As he stated when he separated him in flesh *the female part was still in spirit*. If Adam had a female spirit within before he was made physically wouldn't that mean according to his view that she was made in God's image also, being part of the original creation, a theophany?

The WOMAN

"the body part of the woman was a byproduct; after the creation had been finished, God took from the side of Adam a rib and made a woman. But not the spirit, the spirit was part of Adam, for he was both man and woman, fem--spiritually speaking both masculine and feminine." (62-0211, Oneness, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

This is describing man being made androgynous, that he had a duality of spirit. That in Adam was both male and female.

Clearly woman was made from the side of Adam, she did not exist *in Adam*, he was not androgynous. A she was not taken from Adam but God used a part of his body to form a she.

"Now, in the beginning they were one. God, when He made man, He made him a dual person, both male and female. He separated him in flesh and put him here on earth in flesh, and the female part was still in spirit... God never got a handful of dust and made a Eve. She'd been a different creation; and she's not a creation; she's a byproduct. And God goes over in the heart of Adam, this rib right out from under his heart, and takes a rib and makes the wife; and the very part of Adam's spirit was in the woman, and they two are one. Soul, body, spirit, they are one." (57-0414, Corinthians, Book of Correction, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

So much for Eve being an equal to man in humanity; she's only a byproduct. The word *tzeila* is translated "rib" only here. Some believe "side" is a more accurate translation. The Bible does not tell us what part the woman was created from of Adam's body. This included both *flesh* and *bone*, because Gen. 2:23 points out there was flesh attached to the bone. He took both flesh and bone out of Adam's side.

"and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

If Eve is a byproduct of Adam, can we say Adam is also a byproduct of the earth?

"Look, a woman is not even so low ... She's not even a creation in God. She's a byproduct. After God made the whole creation He took a piece off of a man and made a woman. She wasn't even considered in the original creation. Correctly. She become a helpmate to man. And through there she's supposed to live for that. But today men has turned around and made her a god." (56-0715, The Mark Of The Beast, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville IN)

So according to Branham she was not created, only man was.

Branham nearly repeated himself: *"A woman was not even in the original creation. The woman is not a created product of God. She's a byproduct of a man. God made the man both man and woman. And He separated them. After the man had already lived on the earth and named the beasts and lived here a long time, He took a rib out of Adam's side as a byproduct and made a woman to it" (58-0927, Why Are We Not A Denomination?, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).*

Do men have one less rib than women?

Branham taught that Eve had a rib that was taken out of Adam, that man possesses one less rib than women in their anatomy. Is this true? NO it is not.

"God opened up Adam's side, taken a rib; which, a man has one less rib than a woman in the structure of the--the body" (53-0403, The Cruelty Of Sin, And The Penalty That It Cost To Rid Sin From Our Lives, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

"Now, God made Eve from Adam's side. The woman has one more rib today in the anatomy, the make-up than man does, because a rib was taken

from Adam's body." (53-0729 Question and Answers on Genesis. Jefferson.IN).

Can this be proven? If Eve has one more rib than man where did she get her other rib if only one was taken from Adam? The fact is both men and women have an equal number of ribs, twelve pairs of ribs, men do not have 11. so Branham was wrong.

The infallible prophet who said he was never wrong when speaking about God's word didn't know that both men and women have an equal number of ribs!

Adam calls the female 'woman', he says, *'This is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh'*, or the same substance, a blood relation, of the same body. *'She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.'* If a rib is missing what of the flesh that was taken? How did God make all the rest of woman with only one rib?

Was the woman made on the 6th day?

Did Adam live a long time before the woman? Branham thinks so.

"Now, we had that this morning, went through the drama, how the--the Father came down and looked at His son made in His image, and so forth. Then he made him a wife, a helpmate ... Man is animal life; we know that. That we're made ... And a woman is just a part of a man, a byproduct. A woman was not in the original creation. God had done quit creating for years and years and years, until He made the woman out of a rib out of his side." (58-0928E, The Serpent's Seed, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Branham taught that Eve was created Years after Adam lived on earth? Does the Bible teach this? NO, it does not!

The Bible says in Gen. 2:4 *"This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,"* meaning this is covering all that took place in the 6 days of creation.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



On the 6th day Gen. 2:15 *"Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it." V:18-22 And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."*

Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.

"So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man."

Eve was taken from Adam on the same day He was taken from the earth. Both male and female were created on the sixth day, both have the image of God. Eve is NOT a byproduct.

"What's the lowest form of life we have? Frog. What's the highest form of life? Human. Certainly. And what is the highest form? It just kept coming from the lowest on up, from a frog to this and to that, and to the bird, and to, oh, so forth, just higher forms of life, until it come to the highest form it could come, then it was made in the image of God. There you are. And the woman was not made in the image of God, but in the image of man." (58-0927, Why Are We Not a Denomination? Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

The Bible does not give the successive order of species. What we do know is that a frog is NOT the lowest form of life.

Somehow Branham knew what God did not speak. Branham does not stop there, but then teaches woman was not made in God's image. Man (kind), man and woman were created in two sexes, and both sexes were created on the sixth day, and both have the image of God (which Branham denied). If

Eve being taken from Adam means she did not have the image of God, this would mean everyone born after Adam does not either. If Eve, taken from Adam, is not God's image then neither is her offspring, which is YOU. This would mean Adam is only man made in God's image. The Bible teaches All of Mankind is created *in God's image*.

He described Eve's form as animal; she was like the other animals. Of course we know this is not true. How do we know this? All one needs to do is read the next verses.

Gen. 1:27-31 *"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. "Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so. Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day."*

God's creating was completed on the 6th day. Both man and woman shared in dominion.

When days turn into years?

Branham's view of Genesis is further complicated by Branham teaching that there were *thousands of years* between each day. Branham taught that it took 6,000 years for the days in Genesis 1 to be completed.

"While the church has labored against sin for six thousand years, and the seventh thousand is the millennium. Like God made six thousand years to build the world, and the seventh thousand He rested from all of His works. And the church labors

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



against sin for six thousand years, and the seventh thousand the church rests.” (61-0101, Revelation, Chapter Four #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

“One day is with the Lord as a thousand years.” (II Peter 3:8) Millennium.” “Man's day is six, Man was created on the sixth day. There'll be six thousand years that the world was created in, the seventh thousand God rested. Six thousand years the Church will labor against sin with the Power of God of these barley loaves, and then go into the Eternal Rest.” (The Kinsman Redeemer 10/2/60).

Did mankind labor against sin 6,000 years? No. In fact after the first thousand years we have the Lord saying “*how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time*” (Gen. 6:5). Gen. 6:11-13 “*Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.*”

According Branham and other progressive creationists (Theological Evolutionists), a single day represents one thousand years. “*Scriptures point to it. We are taught that the world was created in six thousand years, being a thousand a day, one day as a year with God, ... and the Bible says one day is a thousand years, or a thousand years is one day with God.*” (62-0319, The End-Time Sign Seed, Tifton Junior High School, Tifton, GA).

What are the problems with this interpretation? We have God taking 6,000 to finally make man (physical man) and resting for a 1,000 years after he made man. Yet we read Adam lived to 930 years. He actually had Adam to live alone for possibly a thousand years according to his own estimations of each day.

If we change the single days of the Bible to 1,000 years then we have to change years to what? What do we do when it's called years? What happens if we stay within the construct of this day equals 1,000 years theory? What do we do with the age of Adam

who lived 930 years according to the Bible. So if each day in Genesis is 1,000 years multiply that with 930 years and we have Adam older than the earth and even the universe. We then have to readjust all the measurements in Scripture in reference to a day meaning a thousand years.

Branham's supposition comes from the Kabbalah, he teaches the seven days of creation is six thousand years. Six thousand years are equivalent to the six days of the week according to Jewish numerological mysticism of the Kabbala.

To further reinforce this is Kabbalistic, we read in the mystic Zohar, *Each of the seven days of creation in Genesis chapter one corresponds to one millennium of the existence of natural creation.* (Zohar, Vayera 119a, Ramban on Genesis 2:3)

The reason woman was made

“Adam had been made in the image of God. He was a son of God. As a son of God he could not be tempted and fall. That would be impossible. So God took a byproduct of man to cause the fall ... And when God caused her to be brought forth from man she was vastly different from the other females He had created. She was able to be seduced.” (An Exposition of The Seven Church Ages Church Age Book)

Branham apparently thought that Eve was not the first woman created by God, but she was purposely made to be seduced (his meaning is sexually), thus she produced the serpent seed. A topic to later be examined.

“And, He, as any great sculptor would take his--his--his masterpiece... Now, first, He had a masterpiece of Himself. But now He seen that the masterpiece was lonesome, like He was, so He divided the masterpiece by striking it in the side and brought forth a helpmate.” (64-0705, The Masterpiece, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham says that God made man a masterpiece of himself. In his image means a look alike, but he

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



didn't want him to be lonely like He was. Is God lonely? Is not God perfect in all things? God was lonesome; means he had an insufficiency, then he is not perfect in himself. The Bible never hints God was lonesome. As we can see Branham had a whole different interpretation of creation that countered the Bible, not complimented it or explained it. What Branham is saying is that man is no longer lonely because he had a wife. But God still is - unless he has a wife? (please do not think the Bride of Christ relates to this!)

The Making of Eve

“...Look, He never went and got dirt and made a Eve, but He made from the original dirt: Adam. He took a rib from his side and made him a helpmate, and that was Eve. She was made for the man and part of the man. She was part of him in the beginning in the creation in the theophany. She was part of him down here in this creation. She could not be divided in another creation; she had to be made in the same creation.” (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3)

Here Branham is teaching Adam was a theophany as Christ is a theophany, that Eve was first in Adam as a Spirit before his body was physically taken from the earth. This would mean in some way Christ was androgynous, both male and female.

Branham explains how this was done, “He brought out the animal life, and birds flew out of the dust. After while, up come a man and woman; up come a man, and the man was both man and woman, not no hermaphrodite now; just--just in him.” (58-0927, Why Are We Not A Denomination?, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Confusing? Yes since it does not coincide with the Bible.

“Then when we come to the world, we were both man and woman, male and female. He separated the feminine spirit from the man and made a woman out of it and left the masculine spirit in a man.” (59-

0628E, Questions And Answers, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville IN).

Again Branham offers two origins which contradict each other. Not only that Adam had female (Eve) in him in the Spirit creation but also had Eve present in him when he was brought from the ground. And later separated her when he took a rib.

Women are in the image of man, not God

“.. And what is a woman? The image of a man.” (64-0816 Proving his word Jefferson IN)

If Eve being made from Adam means she is less, and not made in God's image, then so are our children.

Women are in the image of God, just as man is. Gen. 1:27-28 “So God created man (meaning the whole species) **in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.** Then God blessed them.”

Gen. 9:6 “Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God he made man.” Does this exclude women since they were made in the image of man according to Branham?

Gen 5:3 “And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.”

The Bible says Seth was in his image, not the woman? In other words it is describing the nature of sin from Adam that is now passed on.

Did Eve sin?

“Eve did not sin. Adam sinned. That's right. Not Eve, Adam sinned. See? Not Eve, she was the one who did the act, but Adam done the sinning. The woman was deceived. The Bible said she was deceived” ...“Now, remember, Eve did not sin. Adam sinned. That's right. Not Eve, Adam sinned.”

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



(56-1209A, God Making His Promise, Brooklyn Academy Of Music, Brooklyn, NY)

Branham made a large point of Eve not sinning but instead being deceived. But he could not hold the line and said just as many times that Eve did sin.

"When Eve sinned and they went out of the garden of Eden, they come on down and on down." (56-0122, The Junction Time, Sturgis High School, Sturgis, MI)

He then says both *"Adam and Eve sinned against the true Word."* (64-0816, Proving His Word, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Like anything else Branham said, there are at least two views or more on the same matter. Eve did not sin and then she did sin. But then he would say Adam never sinned.

"... Adam never sinned, the Bible said, that he was not ... He... Eve sinned ... Eve was deceived. Adam wasn't. And Adam was a type of Christ in every figure. And Christ was not deceived and neither was He a sinner, but He come down and so loved His Church." (56-0212, Fellowship, Calvary Temple Soul's Harbor, Minneapolis, MN)

So according to Branham Adam never fell. Since Adam is a type of Christ he did not sin. We learn that this view has everything to do with his serpent seed teaching on Eve's seduction with Satan.

The Bible has a very different story. Rom. 5:12 *"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned."*

It is through the man that sin entered the world, the man called Adam. This is why Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 15:22 *"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive."*

Eve was made to deceive

Branham taught Eve was made for the purpose of deception.

"But when it came to man, there was only one. They were not a pair. Adam had been made in the image of God. He was a son of God. As a son of God he could not be tempted and fall. That would be impossible. So God took a byproduct of man to cause the fall. Woman never stepped fresh from the hand of God as a true product of God. She was produced from man. And when God caused her to be brought forth from man she was vastly different from the other females He had created. She was able to be seduced. No other female in creation can be immoral; but the human female may be touched at almost any time. And that weakness in her allowed Satan to seduce her by way of the serpent, and has brought the woman to very peculiar position before God and His Word. She is the type of all things vulgar, foul and loathsome on the one hand, and on the other hand she is the type of all things clean and beautiful, and holy as the receptacle of the Spirit and blessings of God. On the one hand she is called the whore who is drunk with the wine of her fornications. On the other she is called the Bride of Christ." (An Exposition of The Seven Church Ages)

Here we get insight into Branham's heart toward women. The only one who could not be tempted is God himself. Because of this story of Eve Branham held, he formed a very unbiblical view of women.

"every sin that ever was on the Earth was caused by a woman ... the very lowest creature on the Earth." (The Spoken Word, Vol. III Nos. 12, 13, 14; Jeffersonville, Ind. 1976; pp. 81-82).

"she is the lowest of all animals that God put on the earth..." (65-0221M Marriage and divorce)

Branham's view of women is similar to what Islam's view is.

The Prophet said: *"Isn't the witness of a woman equal to half of that of a man?" The women said: "Yes." He said: "This is because of the deficiency of her mind."* (Sahih al-Bukhari 2658)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Muhammad in the Hadith, declares women are more immoral than men. This is why The Prophet said: ". . . *I saw the Hell-fire ... I saw that most of the inhabitants were women.*" (Sahih al-Bukhari 1052)

Man – Adam was very different than Eve according to Branham. According to Branham Adam was made by God but not Eve; she was taken from man and is a byproduct which made her inferior.

Jesus said, "It wasn't so from the beginning." That's when time began, when God made it first in His original creation. ... In the beginning God created just one male and one female. But then the woman was made different from the animals, all other animals, for deception. Now watch now, "It wasn't so from the beginning." She was made, if she had stayed in original condition, she would have never been no fall. But she caused the fall and the interruption that broke the whole continuity of God, and throwed death, sorrow, and everything else, on the earth. She was made thus.

.... Notice, after that fall was made by Eve, after the fall, there was need to be another covenant made. Now this is going to stumble you, but I'm going to give you the Scripture to prove that this is the Truth. Now notice after the fall, Jesus said ... God, at the beginning, made one of a kind; but now, after the fall, now we're going beyond that. The covenant was co-equal; but now, after the fall, there is another covenant made. Now she was no longer ruler with him, each must have a separate covenant." (65-0221M, Marriage And Divorce, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN)

And the Scripture for this is _____. That's right, there is none.

Wow, can anyone get a track on this much departure from Scripture. "*She was made to deceive.*" (65-0221M, Marriage And Divorce, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN)

Eve was not made the deceiver, she was deceived by another. Why would Branham say she was made the deceiver? This twisting of Scripture to even

attribute death coming to all by Eve when the Bible says it came by Adam, the man.

Gen. 3:17: "*And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife,*

1) cursed is the ground for thy sake;

2) in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

3) In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread,

4) till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Death came by one man

Romans 5:12 "*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin"*

V.15 "For if through the offence of one many be dead."

V.17 "For if by one man's offence death reigned"

V.19 "For as by one man's disobedience" (notice it does not say death or sin came by deception through Eve, but by one man's disobedience, that being Adam.

Branham held this view of women to the end of his life. He promoted this canard as if it was the Bible's teaching.

"And Satan is really working on her today, in these last days, because he is her designer. I can prove that now. To go right back at the beginning, who started to work on her, Adam or Satan, God or Satan? See, that's her designer.... You may question me about Satan being her designer, but that's the Truth. Satan designed her. He still does it." (65-0221M, Marriage And Divorce, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN).

*"**She is designed, alone, for filth and unclean living.** A dog can't, and no other female can. It's just the woman that can. A dog or any other*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



*animals, once a year, and that for her babies; not for sexual pleasure, but for her babies. The old sow hog, the old slut dog, once a year, one moment, that's for her babies. But a woman is **designed for any time she desired.** I've got some stuff crossed out here now; you can imagine the rest. **A dog can't; woman can. I hope that the Holy Spirit reveals to you the rest of this I crossed out here.**" (Marriage and Divorce, Jeffersonville, Indiana, February 22, 1965)*

Did Satan design Eve, when the Bible tells us God took her from man and she is made in the image of God just as Adam is made in the image of God? (Gen. 1:26-27) we know when God said he created man in his image it meant both male and female by him saying "them" and in verse 27 "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." (Gen. 1:27).

If God made Eve from Adams rib and flesh, how did Satan design Eve? It was God who took her from man? When was Satan involved in this process? It was the Lord's idea to make Eve to be a helper of man. Gen. 2:18 And the LORD God said, "*It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.*" On the day she was made God sees "*everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good*" (Gen. 1:31).

Branham's view of Eve clouded his judgment which brought him to a wrong conclusion on women and the whole Genesis account of the fall.

"And, you know, they are the only creature that—the female is prettier than the male, it's in the human race. Every other animal, take the—the cow to the bull, the doe deer to the buck, the hen to the rooster, the mother bird to the father bird, always you find the male is big and pretty."(thirst, Tucson, Arizona, September 9, 1965)

*"Now, usually, **the female is always the ugliest of the two.** The male's always the most beautiful: the male deer, the male elk, the male pheasant, the—the male chicken, and always is the most... In Africa,*

*you take a bird... **There's a little bird there, and the only one on the continents that I know of, that the female is more prettier than the male. And when it does... That—that bird is a constant prostitute.**"* (Questions and Answers on Hebrews Part 3, Jeffersonville, Indiana, October 6, 1957)

This became Branham's special revelation that he assumed came from the Bible. Instead of extracting it from the text he inserted what he thought should be in the text to fit his predilection. For someone claiming to be a prophet, this teaching went against what God had written by the prophets. It showed Branham did not understand nor care what was written.

*"beauty is deceiving, and beauty, **modern worldly beauty is of the devil.** Oh, I hear someone say out there, "Be careful here, preacher." I say that these things on this earth that's called beautiful is absolutely of the devil. I'll prove it to you. Then in the light of this remark, let's search God's holy Word to see if it's right or not. And some of you women wants to be so pretty, see where it comes from. In the beginning we find that Satan was so beautiful till he deceived angels, and he was the most beautiful angel of all of them. Shows it lays in the devil. Proverbs said... Solomon said, "Beauty is vain." That's right. Sin is beautiful. Certainly it is; it's attractive." (65-0429 The Choosing of a Bride, Los Angeles, CA)*

Giving the example of Cain's offering as a more beautiful worship, "*decorated his altars with fruits and flowers?... "Beautiful! Sin is beautiful, what we call beauty today."* (65-0221M Marriage and divorce)

He equated sin with beauty. But the Bible does not condemn beauty. Heb 11:23-24 We read Moses was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child. Esther, was lovely and beautiful (Est. 2:7). Job 42:15 "*In all the land were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job.*" God himself has indescribable beauty *To behold the beauty of the LORD.*" (Ps 27:4)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Branham contradicted himself when he said that Eve was the most beautiful woman.

"Now, you see these pictures in magazines, sometime, of some artists. Now, that's very poor inspiration. If you'd see Eve with hair sticking out like that, and, oh, what a horrible looking thing, and say, "That was our mother," why, there wouldn't be no one in the world could admire that. I believe Eve was the most beautiful woman that was ever on the earth. That's right." (53-0403, The Cruelty Of Sin, And The Penalty That It Cost To Rid Sin From Our Lives, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

And here he contradicts what he said about Satan designing Eve, *"I believe that Eve was the most beautiful woman that God ever put on the earth. I can see her setting there, her eyes as blue as the stars above--the skies, sparkle, her long hair hanging down her back. The most perfect looking woman ever was on earth, there she is. God give Adam the best that He could." (55-0115, Law, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL)*

Of course if God is her creator, then He is also her designer. But Branham is saying Eve was made beautiful because Satan designed her.

Yet he also says, *"Eve was the most beautiful woman that was ever on the earth. She was God's perfect thought of a woman." (56-0120, Fellowship With God Through Reconciliation, Sturgis High School, Sturgis, MI)*

Then he even says Adam was beautiful with Eve: *"I can see as those children, Adam and Eve, great beautiful." (56-0212, Fellowship, Calvary Temple Soul's Harbor, Minneapolis, MN)*

How can Adam be beautiful as Eve is beautiful if she is designed by the Devil?

Then he says we are all going to be beautiful: *"That's what He's going to do to every one of the seed of Abraham one of these days. He's only showing what He was going to do. There God turned her back to a young woman, and made her*

well, and a beautiful young woman, when they said she was the most beautiful woman in the land. That's what He's going to do for every woman and man that's here, that's a seed of Abraham, that's been borned again." (57-0326, Jehovah-Jireh, Oakland Municipal Auditorium, Oakland, CA)

How we were to be born

Branham taught that prior to The Fall, Adam was to reproduce by speaking children into existence without any relationship with Eve.

"Just like in the beginning, it was not God's perfect will for children to be born on the earth through sex. No, sir. God created man out of the dust of the earth, breathed the breath of life into him, and he become a living soul. He took from that man a helpmate and made a wife to him. That was God's first and original will. But when sin come in and did the thing that it did, then He permitted man to marry a wife legally and have children by her. "Multiply and replenish the earth then, if that's the way you're going to do it." But, you see, it never was His perfect will." (65-0418E Does God change His mind Jefferson. IN).

Maybe this is what inspired Benny Hinn to say [*the Holy Spirit*] says, *'God's original plan is that the woman was to bring forth children out of her side.'* *"When God took the woman out of man, He closed up his rib. But she was created identically as him. In other words, she was created with an opening in her side, and children were supposed to be born. And I get that from the very fact that you'll never see birth spiritually, except from the side." ("Our Position In Christ #5—An Heir of God" [Orlando, FL: Orlando Christian Center, 1990], audio #A031190-5, side 2)).*

Branham went further in his interpretation: *"it was the intention of God that they would bring forth "seeds after their kind" by physical union. Sexual union was intended that the two shall be one flesh (Genesis 2:24)...procreation was His primary objective, not sexual pleasure. Adam and Eve were*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



supposed to come together in sexual union only in the due season of life to partake of that Tree of Life, which would bring forth sons and daughters of God ... According to the divine plan of God, Adam and his wife were expected to come together at the appointed time and season of life to eat of the Tree of life in the midst of the garden. The effect of such partaking would bring forth sons and daughters of God with eternal life.” (The original sin-p. 62, 29).

Here we have the whole obscure teaching laid out before us; that they somehow had Christ part of their sexual union to reproduce by the eating of the tree. The Bible does not mention this but Branham had *secret knowledge* and introduced his unique interpretation of the two trees in the garden being Christ and Satan, both essential parts of the serpent seed doctrine.

Of course he was able to contradict himself saying, “*And He showed here, in the beginning, that His perfect will was to create man out of the dust of the earth. But, you see, He permitted sex to be brought in. He never did intend children to be born by sex, but it was permitted, which soon will fade away.*” (Does God Change His Mind. Los Angeles, CA, April 27, 1965)

“*And God made the world before he made man. He's a Contractor. He laid it out. He was going to call them out of the dust of the earth. But Eve disbelieved God's Word one little iota and it caused women to bring forth children.*” (62-0610M, Presuming, Bible Tabernacle, Southern Pines, NC)

Think of how Branham is contradicting the Bible. That all were to be drawn from the ground like Adam. God said he saw man was alone on the first day he was created (the 6th day of creation) and took Eve from man and the next thing he told them (both) was to be fruitful and multiply; before they sinned. Male and female are to propagate to continue the species, in this case humanity.

Once again Branham is changing God's word. Here Branham asserts himself over the Word of God that

all men were going to be created from Adam WITHOUT Eve.

Gen. 2:24: “*Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*”

There is no indication in Scripture that the way of man's offspring was changed.

Gen. 3:20 “*And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.*”

Gen. 4:1 “*Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."*

There is nothing in Scripture that refers to the tree of life or the tree of knowledge being involved in their offspring. Nothing at all of mankind being taken from the ground as Adam was, or the first animals.

Branham did not believe in a literal interpretation of Genesis, or the Bible. That is why he instead used types to make his points. Sometimes they made sense others times, not at all.

He would say “*I teach the Scriptures from types, shadows*” “*Cain and Abel was nothing more than the prefigure of Judas and Jesus.*” “*without education, then I have to teach it from typology.*” He even claimed Paul did what he is doing. (55-0311, The Seal Of The Antichrist)

“*I just take all the old things as a type or a shadow. And if I see what a shadow of anything looks like, I have a pretty good idea what the real thing's going to look like when it gets there.*” (55-0221, Christ, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

A symbol can only be understood by what it literally symbolizes. It is the light that interprets the shadow, not the shadow that interprets the light.

Once we understand his views on Genesis we can see how it affected other important doctrines.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



All of his interpretations of Genesis and the garden were removed from the Bible. Man made in God's image is a spirit in human form that was created from the logos before the man on earth. That this spirit was both male and female. The Bible teaches Adam was taken from the earth, it was then man that was made in the image of God. Not made into an image of God first and then given an animal body to govern the physical world. Neither was Eve was taken from man years later and not on the 6th day as the Bible says.

This is fantasy Bible teaching where one must ignore the plain literal meaning to make their own unique construction out of what *it does not say*. As Branham often put it, we need to read between the lines.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 12

Our pre-existence as spirits of God

The spirit men who are god[s]

We have looked at Branham's teachings on Adam and Eve being created. Now we go deeper into his revelation of who the first man (all mankind) is.

According to the Bible the first creation of man was from God. The second was the creation of the woman from Adam's side (rib).

"And then, first, man was made, he was a spirit man, in the image of God."(63-1110M, Souls That Are In Prison Now, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

According to Branham, it was the spirit man made in heaven that was in God's image, not the man made from the earth.

"Now, he is made in the image and likeness of God. That makes his... When God made him, God give him some of His Spirit, part of His Life, and he's in the likeness and the image of God." (61-0117, The Messiah, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA).

"Now, in the beginning, when God made man in His image, the first man Adam, was a man like God. He was a spirit man." (54-0620A, I Will Restore, K.R.N.T. Theater, Des Moines, IA).

Branham believed God is a spirit male "*forsomuch as he is in the image and the glory of God:... God is not a woman; God's a man.*" (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Did God say he was a man, or not a man, in the Scriptures? (Numbers 23:19; 1 Samuel 15:29; Job 9:32; Hosea 11:9). Jesus is recorded as saying in John 4:24 "*God is Spirit,*" that is his nature, essence, and he does not assign any maleness to him. That at a certain point in time he became a

man by taking upon himself another nature, through a virgin conception. Incarnated as a human, he was not a man before man (Adam) was created.

*"But your souls were made up before the foundation of the world when God created man in His Own image: spirit of man; not a man in His Own image, but man in His Own image. See? And then He made them male and female **before** He ever had a man in the dust of the earth. ..."* (53-0608A, Demonology, Physical Realm, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN)

Branham is speaking of man-kind, not just of Adam and Eve. How can he make THEM (plural) male and female if they were one spirit, he claims they were androgynous.

Man was a theophany

The first theophany was Jesus "*And then the Logos went out of God, which become the theophany, and that was in the form of a man.*" (57-0908M, Hebrews, Chapter Five And Six #1, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Our pre-existence began "*Before the foundation were we spirits then, No, we were not even nothing then. We were only figurative in his mind. In the beginning when God made man in his image he*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



made him a theophany." (Question &Answers 1959).

"So then when God made His first man, He was a spirit man. He was something on the order of God, or the Son of God, the Logos. That was the first man." (53-0403, The Cruelty Of Sin, And The Penalty That It Cost To Rid Sin From Our Lives, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"When God made man in His image, He made him a theophany. And He only placed him in flesh..." (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"Now, when man was separated from the theophany and put in flesh, he was--he wasn't just altogether there; part of his being was still a theophany." (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Let's answer what a theophany is to see if Branham is expressing a Bible teaching. A theophany, according to the Bible, is God appearing, to be seen by man (theo = God - phany = appearance). What Branham means is that man was God seen in spirit form, for that is what a theophany is.

We see examples of the visible appearance of God in the Old Testament period, which is called a theophany. The "glory of the Lord" often accompanied a theophany, a God appearance. First there was no other man living, so on this point alone man cannot be a theophany, who would he be manifesting to?

So if our spirit was a theophany before we became physical what happened to it?

"So the Logos, which was the Son of God that went out of God, that brood over the earth... Now, let's just picture that as being a white halo coming out of that space. That was the Son of God, the Logos ... John 4 says that God is a Spirit. And He had to make a spirit man. And He brought it down now: there's deity cannot be seen. Deity is the supernatural. Then He brings It down from a sacred Halo to a little white cloud, something that's more visible; that's man... But God put a soul in a man.

This white cloud, There He is. Then here's this man." (51-0729A, The Resurrection Of Lazarus, National Guard Armory, Erie, PA)

Branham taught man's soul is his God part. "your soul is the part of God that's in you." (56-0121, The Inter-Veil, Sturgis High School, Sturgis, MI)

"the soul that was in the man is that theophany." (57-0828, Hebrews, Chapter Two #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

To say Adam was made spirit, a theophany first and is God (before he was made from the earth) clearly is heresy. This is where we find the word faith teachings based on today.

According to Branham the soul and the spirit of man are the same *and they are God*. Adam was then God in the flesh.

Since all mankind are born with a soul, this means everyone has God within them, which is more conducive to a universalist non-Christian view.

Is the soul – God? Branham goes on to explain using himself...*"Look. Deity ... I'm a part of Charles Branham, because I was born from Charlie Branham, my daddy. I'm a part of him. I've got a forehead like him. My hair was like him. I'm a small man like him. I'm in the nature like him, because he's my dad. And if we become in spirit sons of God, Deity dwells in the man. Hallelujah! Then you talk about blind eyes being open. They said nothing impossible to God. God said nothing impossible with you, if you'll believe, not with God, but you. Deity's in man. The very God that stood back there on the mythical platform of the eternities, and rolled worlds off of His hands, and created these things give you the privilege to be His son, and you're a part of Him. And God dwells in mankind, and man himself is Deity." (51-0729A, The Resurrection Of Lazarus, National Guard Armory, Erie, PA)*

Consider his summation, "man himself is Deity."
"Your soul is part of God, a attribute of God, displayed here on earth in a body." (64-0802, The Future Home Of The Heavenly Bridegroom And The Earthly Bride, Branham Tabernacle)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Man is of God and eternal

"We believe that God is eternal. And anything that has a beginning has an end. But God had no beginning; so therefore, He has no end." (57-0610 Faith Once delivered to the Saints)

"... what God does is off of God, which is as Eternal as God is. And man is just as Eternal as his Creator, because he was made from Eternity." (57-0908M, Hebrews, Chapter Five And Six #1, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

This is an illogical statement, since eternity has no beginning, man (nor anything else) cannot be MADE from eternity, which is the definition of infinity. Obviously Branham did not understand what this word's meaning is. To be made means one had a beginning. Eternity = Time without beginning or end; infinite time. 2. The state or quality of being eternal (American Dictionary).

Eternity - *something that transcends time, absolute timelessness* (Merriam Webster's Dictionary).

Infinite - *Having no boundaries or limits. 2. Immeasurably great or large; boundless: infinite importance. Infinite having no end: extending indefinitely having no limit in power, capacity, knowledge, or excellence* (Merriam Webster Dictionary).

To best describe eternity, a concept that cannot be fully comprehended only apprehended, it describes time stretching backwards and forwards with no end. Eternity is of perpetual duration having neither beginning nor end.

Only God possesses eternity as his intrinsic nature. He alone is infinite.

Ps. 90:1-2: "*Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.*"

Isa. 57:15 *thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place."*

"That's the reason we can't die, because we are part of God; off-springs of his, sons and daughters. We got eternal life; God's life. It never did begin, never will end. See?" (61-0119A, The Water Baptism, Golden Arrow Restaurant, Beaumont, TX) The problem is that this "eternal life" was transferred to us, it still has beginning with us, but with God who always existed it does not.

John 5:39-41 "*You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life."*

John 17:2 *that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him."*

John 10:28 "*And I give them eternal life."* Eternal life is given to the believer we did not have it before we came to earth.

Heb. 5:9 "*He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.*" We obey by having faith, repenting and turning toward our savior.

1 John 5:11-12 "*And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."* As Jesus stated numerous times "*He who believes in the Son has everlasting life*" (John 3:36).

God can bestow an eternal nature to a creature who has a beginning such as angels and souls of mankind. Eternal life can be communicated to us but it is not part of our essential nature, it is not our own as Branham taught. He can invest in us a new property so that we cannot perish, and will spend eternity with him. But it is dependent on him for the duration of our existence since we are created. The reason is because He never changes, he is always the same. He is the source of all things made, which defines the difference between eternity (infinite) and everlasting.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



There is no such teaching in the Bible of our being part God or even fully God in the way Branham explains. You are either God the creator or you are not! I assure you, you are NOT!

As usual we find that Branham would say the opposite on the same subject which makes quite a conundrum on this matter.

"God has to be infinite. We are finite; He is infinite." (65-0221E, Who Is This Melchisedec?, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN)

So if we are finite then we are not intrinsically eternal, both statements cannot be true.

"Those who have, tonight, Eternal Life, was with Him and in Him, in His thinking, before there ever was an Angel, star, Cherubim, or anything else. That's Eternal. And if you have Eternal Life, you always was. Not your being here, but the shape and form that the infinite God..." (65-0221E, Who Is This Melchisedec?, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN)

"Now, that God had us in His thinking, then we have Eternal Life, 'cause then He spoke us, and we come into existence. And a word is just a thought manifested. God had us, in the beginning, in His thoughts." (64-1205, The Identified Masterpiece Of God, Stardust Motel, Yuma, AZ).

You cannot be always existing and spoken into existence, these are opposite concepts.

Where does the Bible state man was spoken into existence? This is the same way Branham taught the Son of God was created. Jesus being created as the word spoken that became the logos.

"the Logos that went out of God. It's hard to explain, but It was a part of God." (57-0821, Hebrews, Chapter One, Branham Tabernacle)

Of course it's hard to explain when you do not use the biblical meaning.

"before the Word was, It was a thought, and a thought was made manifest. ... First, He thought,

and He spoke the Word, and the Word was made manifest." (54-1003M, The Word Became Flesh (India Trip Report), Branham Tabernacle)

So now we understand what Branham meant, that the word (that is god) was a thought and man was thought that came into existence.

"And now the Logos that went out of God, which was the--the Logos, all this begin to form into a--a body shape. And this body shape was called, in the scholar's teaching, Logos, the Logos that went out of God. In other words, a--a better word for it, was what we call a theophany. (Theophany is a human body that's glorified.)" (57-0828, Hebrews, Chapter Two #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Is man a theophany like Jesus is a theophany? If Jesus was a theophany and man is made a theophany, not only are both equal, both are created (according to Branham Jesus' theophany was spoken into existence also).

"In the beginning was the Word. But what is the Word? A word is a thought manifested, a thought spoken forth. God, first He perceived the thought and spoke it, ... and the word became material." (55-0113, The Fundamental Foundation For Faith, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL).

The Bible does not teach this but as we will see there are other sources that do speak of man being made like this.

According to the Rosicrucian's "In all of the ancient mystery teachings it was held that the soul was so closely associated with the Holy Ghost and the Holy Spirit and the breath of life that it was a divine something, an immortal, perfect thing coming into the human body as a part of God, or of God's consciousness and kingdom." (The Secret Doctrines of Jesus by H. Spencer Lewis. p.96)

Jane Lead. A Mystic, wrote "the Eternal Spirit, which is in all the Sons of Adam." (The Writings of Jane Lead RR E:5)

Eckankar teaches of the Soul: "We have lived for eternity whether in this universe or another,

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



because eternity has no beginning or ending." (Paul Twitchell, *The Flute of God* (Minneapolis: Eckankar, 1969) p. 17)

Mystic and metaphysics teacher Professor. Hilton Hotema sums up the same concept "*Man is the Divine..... "God is the invisible aspect of Spirit. Man is the visible aspect of Spirit."* (Hilton Hotema, *Mystery Man of the Bible*)

So the pre-existent soul of man Branham called a theophany, deity; this was part of the ancient mystery teachings.

"in the beginning when God made man in his image he made him a theophany." (Question & Answers 1959).

"God put a soul in a man, and He didn't put it in the animal. Because, the soul that was in the man is that theophany." (57-0828, Hebrews, Chapter Two #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

"the soul that was in the man is that theophany." So, according to Branham, we are no different than Jesus because he too is a theophany!

"And then that theophany was made absolutely human flesh, Christ." (57-0908M, Hebrews, Chapter Five And Six #1, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"When God made man in His image, in His likeness, they were... In Genesis 2,... Genesis 1:28, I believe it is, "There was no man yet to till the soil,"..." Then God brought man a little lower down and put him in animal life; that's this body, just like the animals so that he could till the soil, could touch. That theophany doesn't touch; it doesn't see, taste, smell, hear, these senses that we have. So God put man down there in order to--to touch and to feel" (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

That is not what a theophany is. Branham is teaching that man made in the image and likeness of God is also a human form before man was made from the ground.

"And--and as he walked through the garden of Eden, first as a theophany (like the Holy Spirit is in here now walking in here)." (57-1006, Questions and Answers on Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

He said Jesus was made a theophany and so was man, and this theophany is the image of God. But a theophany does not see or hear? Which means God cannot see or hear. Branham's contradiction and illogical conclusions continue to extend beyond his own imagination.

Gen. 1: 26-28 may at first look nearly identical except for the twist Branham put on it: *now He said, "Let us (plural) make man (plural) in our own image." What was He? There is a supernatural Being.... And now, here's the Son, which is the Logos that went out of Him, made in His image, a supernatural Being that went out in the beginning. "Let us make man in our own image." After He made a man in His own image, He made a supernatural being. Yes, indeed. Genesis 1:28, read and see if that isn't right. And then when He made man in His own image, he had rule over the beasts. He led the beasts around then like the Holy Spirit's supposed to lead the Church today. That's right. He led the Church around and ... And then He said, "There's no man to till the soil." So He created man out of the dust of the earth. Now, He might've give him a hand like a monkey and a foot like a bear. I don't know what He did, but He put him in five senses." (53-0610, Show Us The Father And It'll Satisfy Us, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN).*

What Branham is teaching is that man who is made in God's image was there before he made man from the ground. So we have two men created. One a spirit that is deity, the other from the earth that is only an animal where this God spirit is put in.

"Man was made to be a god. His domain is the earth" (60-0731, Show Us The Father And It Will

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Satisfy Us, Eisenhower High School, Yakima, WA).

“Genesis 1:26, he had domain over the whole earth, and he was made to be an amateur god.” (61-0205E, Jesus Christ the Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, Central Assembly Of God, Tucson, AZ)

This compared to a professional God, who had practice?

Similarly Kenneth Hagin says *“God made the earth ... giving Adam dominion over all the works of His hands. In other words, Adam was the god of this world.”* (The Believer's Authority, 2d ed. [Tulsa, OK: Kenneth Hagin Ministries, 1991], 19).

“Man in the beginning, when he was made, a man is a god. He's absolutely a god, for he was made in the image of God, being a son of God, and then he's an heir of all that God is.” (60-1218, The Uncertain Sound, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Remember that man in the beginning, according to Branham was a spirit from the logos which was also a theophany.

“And man was made to be a god; we know that. Genesis 1:26, ... He was made in the image of God. God had hands; God had feet; and so therefore a man was made like Him.” (61-0205E, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, Central Assembly Of God, Tucson, AZ)

He is referring to the spirit man (before man was created) with a body form according to Branham. In other words God as spirit looks like man.

The Bible teaches that the image of God in man is a moral image and likeness that he gave man when he breathed in man in the garden, not before. Nowhere does the Bible teach we existed prior from deity or are deity.

“He's fashioned like a god. He looks like God. Sure was. That's the reason God was man, man was God. And this is His offsprings: man.” ... “Man was

made to be a god, a lesser god. He was made in the image and likeness of God. He had hands like God; he had feet like God, eyes, ears, and intelligence like God, his whole fiber, because he was a son of God. And the--Jesus referred to him as god.” (61-0117, The Messiah, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA)

First, there is only ONE God, any lesser “gods” are false gods. Jesus never referred to Adam as a God, especially because of a resemblance in form. Branham is clearly stating Gods form is a man. Which is Mormonism! Here is what they teach, *“First, we believe that God is a being with a body in form like man's; that he possesses body, parts and passions; that in a word, God is an exalted, perfected man.”* (Roberts Conference of the Mutual Improvement Associations of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion, August 18, 1901 published in the Deseret News and the Improvement Era)

While Branham may not have believed God is an exalted man he certainly believed *God IS man.*

“I say, if you were to see him today, you would see him like a man in form- like yourselves, in all the person, image and very form as a man” (Mormon founder Joseph Smith *History of the Church* vol.6 p.305)

“the Father had a form; that He had a head; that He had arms; that He had limbs; that he had feet; that He had a face and a tongue...” (Mormonism, *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 24, pp.371-72).

Branham further explains his view of God's form...

“how many in here ever went to the bedside, some of you mothers, you and dad together, and looked at the little boy and the little girl, and you just--just remind one another, “Don't--don't he look like you, this way and that way?” ... He's a part of our product; he's product of our--of our union. Now, and Father said, can say this about this, said, “You know...” And Gabriel said, “You know, he looks just like You.” That's how God looks; look at yourself. That's how God looks, He looks like you. You're His offspring. How many knows that? See?” (58-0927,

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Why Are We Not A Denomination?, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Spiritual offspring (which is what Branham is talking about here) is not the same as a spiritual image man was made in. Branham interpreted image and likeness as corporal, a human form which God exists in.

This progression of creation brings him to a third man being made in Genesis 2.

"and then, we're going to make this second man... The first man, you can't see him. God... second man was a halo. And now He takes a third man and makes him like a little white cloud, coming over, we can see him; Holy Spirit coming down. And he's all man. That's the soul of man, eternal then." (50-0815, Who Is God?, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH).

After the Logos is made "...out of the Logos came forth the—the man." (53-0729 Questions And Answers On Genesis)

"He's the Logos that went out of God; that is true; that was the Son of God. Then He made man that little god." (60-0522E, Adoption, Branham Tabernacle)

Branham calls supernatural deity "here's the Son, which is the Logos that went out of Him, made in His image, a supernatural Being that went out in the beginning. "Let us make man in our own image." After He made a man in His own image, He made a supernatural being. And He put this supernatural being which was called man, the third Person of the Trinity, Holy Spirit, into mankind (That's exactly right.), that man and He made him in His own image." (53-0610, Show Us The Father And It'll Satisfy Us, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN)

Consider what Branham is saying, the Son went out of God is made in God's image. That this supernatural being was put in all of mankind, who is the Holy Spirit. Which means *our spirit* is God.

One needs a new algorithm to decipher all this confusion. This is not monotheism. Branham has stated mankind (not just Adam) has the third person of the Trinity (the Holy Spirit?) and that's the image of God we were made in! How could Adam sin if his Spirit was God? For if his own spirit is God he would have full control over the flesh. Biblically, we have a fallen human spirit inherited from Adam, not a fallen Holy Spirit. Besides, Branham did not believe in a third person, he did not believe in a Trinity as persons. Branham taught that not only Adam's soul but all souls were made *before* the heavens and the earth were made.

Branham also said "the soul in man is deity." "*But God put a soul in a man. This white cloud, Deity, came down, not in the animal, in the man. ... There He is. Then here's this man. And now the man sinned. And when he sinned and fell, then that little cloud in there became marred and black." (51-0729A, The Resurrection Of Lazarus, National Guard Armory, Erie, PA).*

So deity was marred? The only deity is God. Branham taught the Holy Spirit is man's soul and sinned, fell.

If Adam is the third person of the Trinity (in Spirit), then the Holy Spirit is Adam's spirit, then Adam was God incarnate, God in the flesh. This means the Holy Spirit sinned!

In typical Branham style, he would also say the opposite "Now, man sinned not in his spirit, but in his body: lust, passion. Then when he sinned, he separated himself from his Maker. And then God, the Logos, the very Creator of him, came down and was made in the image of man. Man was made in the image of God, and then he was made in the image of beast, and he fell." (53-0729 Q. & A. on Genesis Jefferson IN).

Branham taught that our spirit had nothing to do with the fall. It is Gnosticism that separates the flesh and the spirit calling the flesh fallen or evil and the Spirit is untainted, good.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



But Man's spirit did fall, that is why we are born in sin. Gen. 2:17 *"of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

Man's body did not die that day; we were severed in a relationship *in our spirit*, which is how we commune with God. Adam and Eve's spirit is what immediately died the day he sinned, not his body. His relationship with God from his spirit was broken. Adam's death first affected the spiritual, his spirit, and then physical. The spiritual death is transmitted to his offspring. Over history man's lifespan had declined because all men are born sinful. We have inherited this sin nature from Adam. We are born spiritually dead (separated from God). Romans 5:18-19 says, *"through one man's trespass, judgment came to all men, for by one man's disobedience all were made sinners."*

The sin nature affects our body, soul and spirit. When we are spiritually born again we are regenerated in our spirit now, we must wait for the resurrection, for our body and soul to be redeemed. Our body and soul still have to contend with the sin nature that is still present alongside God's new nature.

"And I believe that when God made the man, He started reflecting the smaller things such as the animal life, and then the next thing He created was something different. That's just exactly the way the Bible says He did it. He made first the trees and the botany life, and He made man. And then the last thing that ever come from the earth in the form of creation was a man, nothing higher ever come. Because why? It was a perfect reflection of the highest in heaven, which, God is a Man. See? God is a Man; so therefore, it proves it. And when God came down to dwell among us, He was a Man. See? A Man, so it shows that the perfection of evolution was God, which is a Man." (62-0909M, Countdown, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

This proves nothing of the sort.

Unless one is familiar with Branham's teachings on pre-existence this would be hard to decrypt what this really means ... including his innuendo to evolution, of man being God, which is also related to Mormonism.

At the same time he spoke of man being a god he would contradict himself.

Speaking of Mohammedans: *"Now, there's some of them there that believes that a man is god himself, that every man is a god. And the better you are, the better god you are. And, oh, it's--it's a horrible to see how they do."* (54-1003M, The Word Became Flesh (India Trip Report), Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Branham has his facts skewed. Islam does not teach this, they intently teach the opposite. They deny that God could ever become a man as Jesus did. Notice that Branham says it's horrible, yet he taught that man is a god.

"So you can see when man marred hisself, he sinned. And then the only way it was, is for God to be manifested here on earth in a body of flesh to take away the sin out of that man and bring him back in fellowship with God, makes him a son of God again. It's the only way he can be." (53-0509 The Pillar of fire, Jonesboro AR)

Notice that we (plural) were sons of God (again), as we were before we were human. He repeats this over the years as if the Bible has this teaching.

The only explanation for these conclusions of Branham's is an influence from Mormonism and other sources confused him into this way of thinking.

"Two different creations of man preexistence in heaven and then earth' That's Genesis 1, where He created man in His own image, which was in the theophany. And in Genesis 2, He made man out of the dust of the earth, which was the human man that we have now." (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



The Kabbala teaches of a pre-existence of the soul. That all souls existed from the beginning. This (spirit) Adam is not an actual human being, but a primordial light-energy-pattern for all to follow. Primordial Adam is neither male nor female, but both. The primordial light-energy-being known as Adam was the first emanation.

This is not by any stretch Biblical teaching. Pre-existence of man is not taught in Christianity. But it can be found in other religious writings.

Braham also incorporated Greek philosophy in his counterfeit Christian revelation of man. "*Before time began the soul was without a body, an archetype, the heavenly man pure in spirit in paradise, yet longing after the archetype, God. Some of the pure spirits descended into bodies and lost their purity* (Plato and the Stoics philosophy)

Also in the Gnostic gospels we read, as 'pre-existent', the elect came into being in the Upper Aeons before they came into being in the Lower Aeons: "*Jesus said, 'Blessed is he who came into being before he came into being.'*" (Gospel of Thomas 36:17).

This prior-existence gives us post-existence: "*The Lord said, 'Blessed is he who is before he came into being. For he who is, has been and shall be.'*" (Gospel of Philip 64:10)

Swami Nirmalananda Giri states: In the second chapter of the Bhagavad Gita Krishna tells Arjuna: "*There was never a time when I did not exist, nor you, ... we are eternal beings, without beginning and without end. Originally we were sparks or points of conscious light in the infinite Ocean of Conscious Light that is God. We were gods with God. We are gods within God, finite spirits within the Infinite Spirit.*"

This very well could be where Branham took his ideas from. How do we know this? Because the Bible says nothing about his descriptions of a pre-existent man (mankind) in heaven as a theophany.

Branham taught man's spirit form was a reflection of God's form, he called this a theophany.

Branham "*and this great Fountain; this great Fountain of Spirit which had no beginning or no end, this great Spirit begin to form in the creation; and the Logos that went out from It was the Son of God. It was the only visible form that this Spirit had. And It was a theophany, which means a body, and the body was like a man.*" (57-0821, Hebrews, Chapter One, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

"and the Logos, which was the Son of God, went out, created by these great fountains of purity, God, as those Spirits went out. And it created the Logos. And it was a body. It was in the form of what we are now, which is called (in the clergy way of speaking it) a theophany. It's a body that doesn't have a spirit in it." (57-0630 - Thirsting For Life Chicago, IL)

Branham tells us the logos is a spirit body but he also says its body without a spirit, like a shell.

Man is a theophany, (like Jesus was a theophany). Branham explains that a "*(Theophany is a human body that's glorified.) Not exactly with flesh and blood like it will be in its glorified stage, but it is of a form of a human body that doesn't eat, neither does it drink, ... And that's the kind of body that God was, for He said, "Let us make man in our own image and in our likeness."* (57-0828, Hebrews, Chapter Two #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

The Bible teaches us that on the 6th day, AFTER the animals were made, God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; (Gen 1:26), **NOT before**. This took place on earth **not before** in some prior spirit existence. The Bible does not mention nor insinuate any preexistence of man as a spirit, especially not a God spirit. Branham came to this conclusion because if you are a thought in God's mind you actually pre-exist.

"I believe that man's spirit was made before all the supernatural was made before the natural." (52-0713A, Early Spiritual Experiences, Civic Center, Hammond, IN).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Branham's sequence of man being created is "*And God made man spirit-man. Then He made him in the dust of the earth.*" (53-0509, The Pillar Of Fire, Bible Hour Tabernacle, Jonesboro, AR)

According to Branham there are two creations, a supernatural spirit man and then an earthly man. This is what you find in metaphysics and the Occult.

The only other place in Scripture that refers to the creation of man is Paul's teaching on comparing the second Adam, Christ Jesus to the first Adam in the garden. Which disproves Branham's theological machinations.

Paul says about the second Adam in 1 Cor. 15:47-49 "*The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.*"

Paul does not mention any pre-existence of the first man, in fact he makes it clear that the heavenly man comes AFTER the Adamic man. Which he explains is the transformation of the believers in the same chapter (1 Cor.15:52).

But the Bible does not say he put a soul IN MAN, but that he breathed in man and then he became a living soul. How does this coincide with God making a spirit man first, a theophany existing prior in heaven and then putting him in man on earth? It doesn't.

We are a theophany, having eternal life

"..... . *And when we, through that theophany, that, we were made in the image of God before the world was ever made; when that theophany has been made flesh and dwelt among us, then, through His death, we ourselves receive His Spirit and we have no end; Eternal Life; not Angels, but men and women. ...And what God does is off of God, which is as Eternal as God is. And man is just as Eternal as his Creator, because he was made from Eternity*" (57-0908M, Hebrews, Chapter Five And Six #1, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Branham had circles of circular reasoning. He claimed man was as eternal as God.

"If you are a son of God, and if I am a son of God, or a daughter of God, we were in God at the beginning. And when Jesus became the fullness of the Word, then we were in Him, germ form we are God's children, then we are attributes of God. Then we were ... got Eternal Life. And God is the only Eternal Life there is. Then, we were in Him from the beginning. And when Jesus became all that Word, then we were a part of Him then." (65-0822M, Christ Is Revealed In His Own Word, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

When was Jesus made the fullness of the word, all the word? There is no such concept in the Bible. Branham goes deeper in his explanation that we are attributes, thus we are God[s].

"that real germ, a soul of God that was in God before the foundation of the world ... Remember, you that's really got the Spirit of God in you tonight, you were here in Christ, because He was the Fullness of the Word. He was the Fullness of the Godhead bodily. God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself. ... Look, He was in Christ. Then if you were in God, a gene, a word, a attribute from the beginning, then you walked with Him here on earth; you talked with Him on earth, you suffered with Him on earth; you died with Him at Calvary; and you rose with Him again; and now you're setting in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, communing with Him." (65-1206 Modern events made clear by San Bernadino, CA)

Branham taught the same metaphysical idea of a divine spark but instead called it a soul, germ, a word, an attribute instead. Using if, he launches into an explanation that all believers existed in God from eternity as a gene, a word, a attribute.

"Adam was a direct descent from God. And you only take the nature of your parent. And when you're born again, you take the Nature of your Parent, of Heaven. And your Parent of Heaven is the attribute of the Word ... Or, the Word is the

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



attribute of your Parent. Then, how can you deny it, for a denomination? My! I hope you don't miss this. I know it's from God. Jesus. Here He comes, descending; and there was Jesus, the attribute of God." (64-0802, The Future Home Of The Heavenly Bridegroom And The Earthly Bride, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Adam is not a descendent but was made as a species, called human, not God. The Word who is the Son is not an attribute but a person. Adam did not have a parent, he was not an offspring of God. Offspring insinuates conception, which creatures produce. (He included Jesus as being an attribute).

"As He was Elohim, the self-existing One; He wasn't even God. But in Him was attributes, such as your thought. See? Your thought have to see something, and then ... I think of it, and then speaking. And a word is a thought expressed. So, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word with God, and the Word was expressed," see, brought forth.

"And now all is the same. Same as we are, born again, we got Eternal Life. If we have Eternal Life, there is only one form of Eternal Life, that's God. And we are attributes of Him. Now I can talk amongst Christians this way. We are attributes. And Jesus came as a Redeemer. How many believes that? [Congregation says, "Amen."--Ed.] Redeem, is not create something new. Redeem is to bring back that which has already been." (64-0620B, Who Is Jesus?, Holiday Inn, Topeka, KS)

In other words we existed in God as thoughts, part of God's eternal life. As attributes we were spoken to exist. Jesus, who he also said was an attribute, is sent to bring us back to what we once were.

"And in God was the attributes, before there even was an angel or a molecule or anything, God was by Himself, alone; but He wasn't God, 'cause God is an object of worship. There was nothing for Him to worship -- nothing to worship Him. But His attributes--attributes displayed something and made an angel. Then He was God. Then He made a man; give him free moral agency. He fell. Then when he

fell, He become a Saviour. ... It's displaying God's attributes. See what I mean? (61-0119A, The Water Baptism, Golden Arrow Restaurant, Beaumont, TX)

No I don't see, because attributes are characteristics of His nature. The Bible says he was God before anything was created (Gen.1:1) not after, even before the angels. And Jesus is not an attribute.

"But Eternal means forever. And only everything that had a beginning has an end, but things which had no beginning has no end. So God had no beginning and He has no end." (57-0908M, Hebrews, Chapter Five And Six #1, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Logically those things that have a beginning have an end. Branham surmises man had no beginning because God has no beginning is again circular reasoning. Man does have a beginning but by believing the gospel has eternal life transferred to him so that he will live forever. According to the Bible one does not have eternal life *until they believe* the gospel (Jn.3:15; 10:28).

"And now all is the same. Same as we are, born again, we got Eternal Life. If we have Eternal Life, there is only one form of Eternal Life, that's God. And we are attributes of Him." (64-0620B, Who Is Jesus?, Holiday Inn, Topeka, KS)

"if you've got Eternal Life, you never did begin and you cannot end, because you're sons and daughters of God, attributes of His thoughts and His Word." (64-1212, The Harvest Time, Ramada Inn, Phoenix, AZ)

According to Branham we are attributes of God, we existed in God. Before we were created we were thoughts, part of his life. As attributes we were spoken to exist, and Jesus who also was an attribute is sent to bring us back to our former existence. This is not Biblical teaching.

An attribute according to Merriam Webster's dictionary: a quality, character, or characteristic ascribed usually commonly:

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



a): a characteristic either essential and intrinsic or accidental and concomitant <to endow her with all the ~s of a mythological paragon upon Olympus -- Elinor Wylie>

b): a quality intrinsic, inherent, naturally belonging to a thing or person <not in spiritual nor even in moral ~s -- G.L.Dickinson>

2. an object closely associated with and thought of as belonging to a specific person, thing, or office.

The ultimate dictionary defines it simple as *an attribute is a quality or feature that someone or something has.*

According to Branham you are an "attribute," of God. It's not that you have a particular quality associated to God. What he is teaching is that we were an attribute of God before we were born.

The Bible teaches us that God has communicable and incommunicable attributes. One that is incommunicable is eternal infinite existence. He alone is uncreated. Speaking of Jesus Christ, called the King of King and Lord of Lords, "*who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.*" (1 Tim. 6:16)

God's other incommunicable attributes are omnipotence, omniscience, immutability. God is almighty and is able to do all things (Job 4:2; Isa.40:10-13). God is unlimited in knowledge (Isa.40:13, 14; Ps. 147:5). Man is limited in his knowledge (Isa.55:8-9). God is the creator of ALL things (Jn.1:3, Col.1:16), God can bring things into existence out of nothing. Man can create from elements that are already there. God has holiness as his nature (perfect; no flaws or insufficiency in any part), he imparted to Adam holiness when he made him in his image and likeness of his moral nature. Which was a conditional test to see if it was to be permanent.

What is man?

There are two classes of beings in the universe, created and non-created. God is only being in the non-created class, man is not.

Branham: "*Man is omnipotent. You don't believe that, but he is. A man that's fully surrendered to God is omnipotent. Did not He say in Mark 11:22, "Whatsoever things you say and don't doubt in your heart, it'll come to pass. You can have what you've said"?* ... *What happens when two omnipotence meet? When God and man comes together through omnipotence, something's got to shake. ... Whatsoever you'd say with that creative power of omnipotence of God, knowing that He's promised it, and He said it in His Word, it creates a power that goes out yonder and brings things to pass; things that is not, it makes them as though they are, because two omnipotence have met. There He stands. Oh, isn't He wonderful.*" (60-1204E The Patmos Vision PM Jefferson IN)

Here is the teaching that all authority in heaven and earth was given to man (not just Jesus in Mt. 28). This is pure Latter Rain dominionism combined with word faith.

Branham attributes to Adam God like powers. "*On that side he's a son of God--he's an offspring from God. He's an inheritance of the earth. He can control nature. He can speak into existence. Why, he's a creator himself. He's an offspring of God.*" (Revelation of the Seven Seals p.62;63-0317M, God Hiding Himself In Simplicity, Then Revealing Himself In The Same)

"Do you know each one of you is a creator? You are a part of God; you're a son of God, an offspring of God, a daughter of God. Is that right? Then you are a creator. 54-0228A, Expectation, Assembly Of God, Phoenix, AZ)

Yes we can create things from things God already made but not by speaking things into existence.

"And I don't never want to know any person from the flesh when I'm standing here. That's what's the matter with the Pentecostal people. They don't

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



recognize who they are. You're sons and daughters of God Look. Then Jesus, it was one time quoted in the Scripture, "Ye are Gods."

Here Branham introduces the “manifest sons of God” teaching that was incorporated in the Latter Rain. He goes on “*Look. Deity ... I'm a part of Charles Branham, because I was born from Charlie Branham, my daddy. I'm a part of him. I've got a forehead like him. My hair was like him. I'm a small man like him. I'm in the nature like him, because he's my dad. And if we become in spirit sons of God, Deity dwells in the man. Hallelujah! Then you talk about blind eyes being open. They said nothing impossible to God. God said nothing impossible with you, if you'll believe, not with God, but you. Deity's in man. The very God that stood back there on the mythical platform of the eternities, and rolled worlds off of His hands, and created these things give you the privilege to be His son, and you're a part of Him. And God dwells in mankind, and man himself is Deity.*” (51-0729A, The Resurrection Of Lazarus, National Guard Armory, Erie, PA)

“And this week has been a complete Calvary for me. I've been so close to--to the blacking out, as I would place it, till I was almost beside myself. But I have completely surrendered every will and everything that I know of to the Lord.” (59-1216, What Is The Holy Ghost?, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

So if Branham has completely surrendered to the Lord then he is omnipotent as well.

Man is deity teaching

“Deity's in man. The very God that stood back there on the mythical platform of the eternities, and rolled worlds off of His hands, and created these things give you the privilege to be His son, and you're a part of Him. And God dwells in mankind, and man himself is Deity.” (51-0729A, The Resurrection Of Lazarus, National Guard Armory, Erie, PA).

Man himself is Deity? Then we can do the same God can do in all things. That should be all we need to know to avoid Branham, as well as those who echo the same lie of the serpent of being gods i.e. Hagin, Copeland, Dollar etc. When people claim man to be God it shows that they do not understand the nature of man or the nature of God. When man understands God, he knows his “creatureness” and its limits and would never state such claims.

Branham explains “*And He said, "If they call those who the Word of God came to, the prophets, if they call them gods who the Word of God came to..." And God said so Himself that they were gods. He told, "I made you a god, and made Aaron your prophet." ...* (60-0522E, Adoption, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham tells us God said to Moses, “*You'll be a god, and Aaron will be your prophet. See, you'll be like a god, for I'll take you, your voice, and I'll create with you.*” (63-0901M, Token, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Can God be made? What is actually said to Moses is that Moses was made as a god to Pharaoh, who was a polytheist.

Exodus 7:1-2 *So the LORD said to Moses: "See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall speak to Pharaoh."*

Notice Moses is not called God as YHWH is God, but is called Elohim, (a general term used for both the true God and false gods. Elohim is a term also applied to Israel's rulers). He becomes a god figure to Pharaoh who himself was considered a god. Moses should appear to Pharaoh as one possessed with the power that can judge and pronounce the plagues upon a man who thought he was god challenging the true God. Every plague was a judgment upon one or more of the gods of Egypt.

Matthew Henry's Commentary has this to say:

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Exo. 7:1-7 *He clothes him with great power and authority (v. 1): I have made thee a god to Pharaoh; that is, my representative in this affair, as magistrates are called gods, because they are God's vicegerents. He was authorized to speak and act in God's name and stead, and, under the divine direction, was endowed with a divine power to do that which is above the ordinary power of nature, and invested with a divine authority to demand obedience from a sovereign prince and punish disobedience. Moses was a god, but he was only a made god, not essentially one by nature; he was no god but by commission. He was a god, but he was a god only to Pharaoh; the living and true God is a God to all the world."*

God gave Moses the words to speak and God performed the signs wonders and miracles. Exod. 7:16-18 *"Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness"; but indeed, until now you would not hear! Thus says the LORD: "By this you shall know that I am the LORD. Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood."*

God is man

*"And now, when he receives God, he becomes a son of God again. He was made in the image of God. God had hands; God had feet; and so therefore a man was made like Him. So he is an amateur god." (61-0205E, *Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever*, Central Assembly Of God, Tucson, AZ)*

Here Branham tells us man was a son God before he was man, when he was made a theophany. That man's body was a physical like covering of his spirit form.

Branham further explains his view of logos and theophany. *"Moses saw It when It passed through the... by--by the rock. And he looked at It, said, "It looked like the hind part of a man." It's the same type of body that we receive when we die here. "If this earthly tabernacle be dissolved, we have one already waiting." That was It. And that was the*

*theophany which was the Son of God. That Son, that Logos, became flesh, because we were put in flesh. And the theophany, the Logos, became flesh, here among us, and It was nothing else but the dwelling place, for that entire Fountain dwelt in Him." (57-0821, *Hebrews, Chapter One*, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)*

What Branham is explaining is that God became man and was visible from the beginning when he began to create. That man is the same form as the logos.

*"And then the Logos went out of God, which become the theophany, and that was in the form of a man. And Moses seen It pass by, in the cleft of the rock." (57-0908M, *Hebrews, Chapter Five And Six #1*, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)*

This is no different than Mormonism, according to Joseph Smith, "... I say, if you were to see him today, you would see him like a man in form- like yourselves." (Joseph Smith, *History of the Church* vol.6 p.305, also teachings of the prophet Joseph Smith p.345)

*"God isn't without a body. God's got a body, and it looks like a man. Moses saw it; others saw it, and it looks like a man" (57-0420, *The Entombment*, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)*

*"Moses saw It when It passed through the rock like that. He saw the back parts, said, "It looked like a man." 57-1002, *Questions And Answers On Hebrews #2*, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)*

*"Moses saw Him standing on this Rock. ... he said, "It's the back part of a man." (64-0705, *The Masterpiece*, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)*

"When, when Moses saw Him. He said, "Let me see Your form, Lord." And God hid him in the rock. And when He passed by, he said, "It was the back part of a man." That was that theophany. That's exactly. Then, that theophany had to be made flesh. Not

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



another Person, but the same Person had to become flesh.” (57-0901E, Hebrews, Chapter Four, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

The Bible does not say what Branham said. Ex. 33:18-34:1 “*And he said, "Please, show me Your glory." (not form) Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen."*

Moses asked for something no one ever had, to personally see God's glory. He had seen God's glory being up on the mountain with him for 40 days and nights, but he asking for something different.

The Lord responded, "*You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live*" (v.20). Seeing God's presence (God's face) is too awesome for man to behold in the flesh.

There is absolutely nothing said about human form. God says he will allow him to see his back, but this in no way insinuates it is a back of a man. When we read of God's face, hand, or back parts, these are figurative expressions, anthropomorphic descriptions of an unseen God. To see God's face is to have a clear sight of His Holy presence and nature. There is something about God's face (directly encountering God's presence fully) that is too awesome for man to bear or understand in the flesh (the infinite seen by the finite). In his request Moses was allowed to see His passing glory, in this His name was proclaimed. Dr. Dwight Pentecost says, this "*can be translated likened to an "afterglow,"*" the after effects of His going by.

This explanation is further confirmed in the next verses 19-20 "*I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live."*

In this glory Moses saw something different. It was greater than what was seen in former glory appearances. God said to Moses he will not see God face to face. God's Glory after it passed revealed a part of the essential being of God. The Lord showed him the innate goodness, *gracious compassion* of his nature that proclaims his name. Moses then requests for God's glory to continue to dwell in the midst of the people of Israel, which Israel was in fear of! God did so when He made His abode in the Tabernacle.

We read in Deut. 4:15-17 "*Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female. (this is further instruction on the command first found in Ex 20:4-5; further Deut. 4:23). If God looked like man he would not be able to say this. To make God into a form of man is exactly what Rom.1:22-23 describes, they "changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man."*

Therefore God does not have a form of a man.

God in all the Prophets, men who were god[s]

In this next quote we see his line of logic that bought him to his erroneous conclusions.

"When God made man in Genesis 1:26, it shows (if you're putting that Scripture down, Genesis 1:26), it shows that God made man to be a god to begin with. Man was made to be a god, a lesser god. He was made in the image and likeness of God. He had hands like God; he had feet like God, eyes, ears, and intelligence like God, his whole fiber, because

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



he was a son of God. And the--Jesus referred to him as god. Jesus said, "How can you condemn Me, saying, I'm the Son of God? Isn't it written in your law that ye are gods? And if they call those gods who the Word of God came to, how can you condemn Me when I say, I'm the Son of God?" He was referring to the prophets, the anointed ones, lesser anointed. Jesus was so anointed that He was more than a prophet. Jesus was so anointed till He was the Fullness of the Godhead bodily. He was God. The prophets had the same kind of anointing, only in a lesser condition." (61-0117, The Messiah, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA)

Man was not independent, he was ALWAYS to be under the authority of God. That is how he was made.

Branham believed man was made a god, an offspring of his maker led to a further false interpretation of Jesus saying ye are gods to the Pharisees, a grievous error.

Jesus said, "Does it don't stay in your own laws, 'Ye are gods'? And why do you condemn Me then, if Your own law says you're gods." He was given a domain; the domain was the earth. The whole earth is groaning, waiting now for the manifestations of the sons of God. If I'm a Branham, I'm a Branham; I'm part of a Branham. And if a man is a son of God, He's made in the image of God and given the domain here on earth to rule this earth like God ruled it. And the second Adam proved it. Amen. He stopped nature: "Peace be still." Amen. Cursed the fig tree... Certainly, He was a Man yet He was God; He was a manifested Son of God. That's what we're to be one of these days." (61-0416, Abraham And His Seed After Him, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL)

Consider what Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Jesus Christ belonged to the true race of prophets. He saw with open eye the mystery of the soul. Drawn by its severe harmony, ravished with its beauty, he lived in it, and had his being there. Alone in all history, he estimated the greatness of man. One man was true to what is in you and me. He saw that God incarnates

himself in man, and evermore goes forth anew to take possession of his world. He said, in this jubilee of sublime emotion, 'I am divine. Through me, God acts; through me, speaks. Would you see God, see me; or, see thee, when thou also thinkest as I now think.' But what a distortion did his doctrine and memory suffer in the same, in the next, and the following ages!"(Ralph Waldo Emerson delivered before the Senior Class in Divinity College, Cambridge, Sunday Evening, July 15, 1838)

"On Hebrews, the 1st chapter, Jesus said that, "Those who the Word came to, was called 'gods,'" that was prophets. Now, not the man himself was God, no more than the body of Jesus Christ was God. He was a man, and God was veiled behind Him."...

"God always has veiled Himself away from the public, and revealed Himself to the people who will believe it. God! ... He reveals Himself to His children and to those who are willing to come in behind that veil." (64-0617, The Identified Christ Of All Ages, Municipal Auditorium, Topeka, KS)

"He was going to make man in His own image and give them the earth to stay. And they were lesser gods than He was. Jesus said, "Your law says that ye are gods." That's dominion, king's dominion over the earth. He could do anything he wanted to." (62-0713, From That Time, Open Bible Standard Church, Spokane, WA)

Anyone that knows the Bible should see the problem here; there are no "lesser gods" only true or false gods. The only other gods are false gods. Not according to the words of the god that Branham considered the original. Can God make another like himself? The Bible teaches us that man is a creature, not a god. God made other gods. There is only ONE GOD. Isa. 46:9 "For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me." NONE. The only one who wanted to be God and challenge Him was the anointed cherub.

Only Jesus is the express image of the Father because he is the eternal Son of God, we are not.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Col. 1:15 "He is the image of the invisible God."

Heb. 1:3 "who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power."

John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." The NIV says "the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father."

Jesus is the only man who was God. We are not gods. He is the only "Word" that became flesh.

I said ye are gods!

"Adam, breathed the breath of Eternal Life, and he become an eternal person with God. He had power like God: he was a amateur god. He was god of the earth, not God of heaven now, god of the earth. And someday the sons of God will again become gods. Jesus said so: "Is not it written in your law, 'Ye are gods'? Then if you can call those who He called god, who God visited, how can you condemn Me, say, when I say I'm the Son of God?" See?" (62-1104M, Blasphemous Names, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"Now, Isaiah 9:6, we just won't read it, but He was to be the everlasting Father, the mighty God. When God made man in Genesis 1:26, it shows (if you're putting that Scripture down, Genesis 1:26), it shows that God made man to be a god to begin with. Man was made to be a god, a lesser god. He was made in the image and likeness of God. He had hands like God; he had feet like God, eyes, ears, and intelligence like God, his whole fiber, because he was a son of God. And the--Jesus referred to him as god. Jesus said, "How can you condemn Me, saying, I'm the Son of God? Isn't it written in your law that ye are gods? And if they call those gods who the Word of God came to, how can you condemn Me when I say, I'm the Son of God?" He was referring to the prophets, the anointed ones, lesser anointed. Jesus was so anointed that He was

more than a prophet. Jesus was so anointed till He was the Fullness of the Godhead bodily. He was God. The prophets had the same kind of anointing, only in a lesser condition. And in Genesis 1:26, when God made man, He made him a god, because He gave him a dominion, and he had rulership. He had power over the birds of the air, the cattle, over the winds, the waves, the--the fishes of the sea, everything." (61-0117, The Messiah, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA).

To have dominion over the earth does not make you a god. There is only one God and he never called Adam or Eve a god, Satan did, he tried to convince Eve of this by disobedience.

Branham changed the application to apply to only those who are born of the Spirit "Because when a man is born of the Spirit of God, he becomes a son of God. And his nature is likened unto God. That's the reason Jesus said, "Did not it say in your laws, ye are gods?" Because you're an attribute of God." (53-0829 Testimony of Jesus Christ. Chicago, IL)

The problem with his explanation is that Jesus is speaking to those not born of the Spirit who are challenging his claims.

"Now, in all ages, God has set forth so much of His Word for each age. God always sends somebody that that Word can get into and show the Light of It. That, every age, it does the same thing, always does that.

"He was the fulfillment, as I said, of all of the Divine, holy powers of the prophets. They were minor gods. When the Word of the Lord came to a man, Jesus said, Himself, that he was a god. You know that. He said, "If your law said, and your fathers back there, called them, who the Word of God came to, called them 'gods,' how can you condemn Me, saying, when I said, 'I'm the Son of that God?'" See? When, the very God Himself, Who spoke the Word through the prophets, He was the manifestation of that spoken Word. And if the prophet was called a god, because he was the manifestation of another prophet's Word, how can

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



you condemn Him when He was the same thing? He was the Son of God, as He shall be called the Son of God." 63-1229M, There Is A Man Here That Can Turn On The Light, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Jesus was not the same thing. Jesus did not mean they were gods as he is God.

Branham actually describes John *"When John came upon the earth, He was the manifested Word of God for that hour. We know that. He was God's manifested Word."* (64-0206B, Paradox)

Branham changed the meaning of a prophet that received the word to one who is the Word.

"A prophet is the Word ... you know, the prophet in the Old Testament was called "god." (60-1204M, Revelation of Jesus Christ)

Actually the word came *to the prophets* from the LORD. Only Jesus is called The Word, just as only Jesus is called "The Son of God" (singular, only begotten). Our examples are from the Scriptures: 1 Sam. 15:10 *"Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel."* 2 Sam. 7:4 *"the word of the LORD came to Nathan."* 1 Kings 6:11 *"the word of the LORD came to Solomon."* 1 Kings 12:22 *"the word of God came to Shemaiah."* Isa. 38:4 *"the word of the LORD came to Isaiah."* Jer. 7:1 *"The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD."* Ezek. 6:1 *"Now the word of the LORD came to me."* All through the Bible it explains how the prophets heard the word; not once does it say they are the Word.

"If you could see the Spirit of God in Moses, which he was God. Moses was a god. Joseph was a god. The prophets were gods. The Bible said they were. They were gods because it--they had completely surrendered themselves to the Spirit of God, that they were working for the glory of God. ... When a man is anointed of the Spirit of God, his habits, his actions, and everything is God moving in him." (60-0308, Discernment Of Spirit, First Assembly Of God, Phoenix, AZ)

This is not what makes one God. The fact that Branham speaks this way is no different than Joseph Smith's polytheism of Mormonism, or the new agers and occultists throughout the centuries.

This phrase *it is written in your law, that ye are gods* was used over and over by Branham to justify his teaching. He believed that Adam was a god and the prophets were God. Jesus was not referring to the prophets, as we will see by the Scripture itself.

"And the--Jesus referred to him as god. Jesus said, "How can you condemn Me, saying, I'm the Son of God? Isn't it written in your law that ye are gods? And if they call those gods who the Word of God came to, how can you condemn Me when I say, I'm the Son of God?" He was referring to the prophets, the anointed ones, lesser anointed. Jesus was so anointed that He was more than a prophet. Jesus was so anointed till He was the Fullness of the Godhead bodily. He was God. The prophets had the same kind of anointing, only in a lesser condition." (61-0117, The Messiah, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA)

According to Branham because Jesus had more of the Spirit, the fullness, that is what made him God! This is what Branham taught it took to be God. Jesus was exactly like God because of the fullness of Spirit (which came at his baptism). This is where we see the idea of greater anointing's today, more of the Spirit.

"Now, Abraham was a part of God. Jesus said, when He was here on earth, "Is not it written in your laws that ye are gods? And if they call those gods to who the Word of God come to," how about Him being God? They were gods by measure. He was the Fullness of God. God was in Him, reconciling the world to Himself." (57-0309E, Jehovah-Jireh, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ).

Branham's distinction is that Jesus had all of the Spirit which is what made him God.

Jesus is the fullness

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"All that God was, He poured into Jesus. Do you believe that? He was the Fullness of the Godhead bodily. And all Jesus was He poured into the church: The Holy Ghost. Is that right? So it's God in us. God in you. It's not... It doesn't make you anything. It's not the holy mountain or the holy church. It's--it's the Holy Ghost, not the holy people, the Holy Ghost. See? It's the Holy Ghost in the people; not holy people, Holy Ghost. See? And that's the thing." (62-0620, Be Not Afraid, Great Western Exhibit Center, South Gate, CA)

"You--you've got to get the living Word in you to have the living God in you, because the Word here is God when It's made flesh in you, made Spirit and Life in you. When It goes into your flesh and your faith, and becomes Life, then you are a living example. You're an epistle of God, read of all men. You won't have It like Christ, not the Fullness, because It's divided up on the day of Pentecost." (62-0218, Perseverance, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham defines the Spirit being divided means that if he is in only one (Jesus) in its fullness, that makes him God. Can the Holy Spirit be divided, and be diminished? Branham refuted his own teaching by also stating, *"Then if we are borned again of the Spirit of God... God don't have little weak parts and big strong parts; He's altogether God! And if you had enough of God in you, till It was just barely a shadow, that's enough power to make a new earth." (61-0723M, The Ever-Present Water From The Rock, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)*

So apparently all we need is the smallest portion of the Spirit and we can create like God did.

No monotheist would say the things Branham says about man or God. No one in the New Testament (or Old), neither Paul, nor any apostle, (nor Jesus) taught man preexisted as a spirit, is part, or is a lesser God.

No prophet thought they were a god as Branham teaches. No true prophet was polytheistic. A plurality of Gods is found in only one religion that claims to be Christian, Mormonism

"He called prophets Messiahettes, Every prophet of God in the Old Testament was anointed with the Holy Ghost. They were. Then they were lesser Lights. He was the Fullness of God, being Messiah. They was Messiahettes then, smaller Messiahs, for they were anointed with the same Spirit that He was anointed with, only He had It in the Fullness." (61-0117, The Messiah, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA).

Certainly the prophets were anointed, they were *types of the Messiah* who was to come, not Messiahs plural. There is only one Messiah, who is the God/man, the only begotten Son.

Are ye Gods?

Ps.82 is misused by those in the New Age movement, the occult, theosophists, and various mystical systems. Does God believe He made other gods when he says he alone is God?

Considered part of ancient rituals that we find in the Rosicrucian pledge: *"Man is God and Son of God, and there is no other God but Man." But this has a mystical meaning and is not to be taken literally.*" (p.177)

The New Age Christ Maitreya: *"May this manifestation lead you to see each other as the gods you are"* (Maitreya Message 13 Feb. 1982)

Even John Lake said "... **We want to be gods.** Jesus said, 'I said ye are gods' (John 10:34)." (John G. Lake: His Life His Sermons, His Boldness of Faith, Kenneth Copeland Publications, 1995, p. 13).

What was Jesus quoting to those who disbelieved him in John 10? Ps. 82:6-8 *'I said, 'You are gods, and all of you are children of the Most High. But you shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes.'*

Let's set the record straight, this Scripture does not mention men are gods. Nowhere in Scripture is there a teaching of gods made from God, but the scripture does teach false Gods verses the true God.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



So in reality to claim to be a god is to put one in the category of a false God.

What exactly was Jesus saying in John 10 when he quoted this verse?

As with anything in Scripture we need to read it in its context and put it in the correct perspective with other scriptures. This is mentioned one time, in the gospel of John and it was said to those who were challenging Jesus' claim of being the unique son, the Son of God.

John 10:30-36 *"I and My Father are one." Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God." Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods" '? "If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), "do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?"*

Are we to believe Branham, that Jesus did not believe there is one God but many, and that they are men (the Pharisees and prophets)? Jesus was not God among other men who are gods. Jesus is responding to the Jewish leaders who had accused Him of blasphemy. Jesus said this in the present tense, and his statement is a rebuke.

Jesus is NOT saying the people are gods? He is NOT saying they are all Gods just as he is God!

Jesus is mocking them as if to say, you all think you're gods yourselves (rulers) and rightly so (this is a tongue and cheek expression). But you do not recognize THE God among you. The Pharisees were blinded to who Jesus truly was.

He was addressing the rulers, judges of Israel they were called gods not because they were divine but because they represented God when they judged the people. The word Elohim is used for God, men and

angels, but it is never used for man or the angels to imply they are God. The word Elohim can be used as a general term. In this particular Scripture the word Elohim is applied to an aspect of God, as God was also to be ruler and judge over the people so He installed human rulers to do the same (see Deut.19:17-18). The word Judges is found in Ex.21:22; 22:8-9, it is Ha Elohim (other scriptures of how they acted are found in Deut.1:16; 16:18; 25:1; 2 Sam.11:7).

God called the unrighteous judges of Israel "gods" (Elohim). The Psalm Jesus is quoting is a put-down of *corrupt judges and leaders* who were abusing their authority and it has a lot of irony in it. Jesus is being sarcastic in a way only those familiar with the Scripture would understand. They are rulers God gave authority to with certain positions. But they were not ruling over the people correctly, showing partiality to the wicked and neglected defending the weak. He is conveying that if unjust judges are called to rule with power and authority, how much more the Son of God whose authority they willfully reject. They were given authority to rule by God but they would not bow to God's authority. They refused to recognize who was among them who called himself the Son of God.

They then accused the only man who ever could legitimately call Himself "God" of blasphemy. And Jesus' response is, if God called men "gods," (rulers) then Jesus is not blaspheming if indeed He is God. Jesus' point is that the word of God cannot be broken (v.35) and then points out he was sent into the world by the Father and called himself the Son of God. So He could not be blaspheming. This was all done according to the Scripture. They did not recognize the true God was among them who called himself the Son of God.

And let us not overlook Jesus' reference to Ps.82, *you shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes*. One of the princes is a reference to the Devil who fell. Lucifer, the greatest creature God created fell because he wanted to be as God. To die as men illustrates their own mortality as man.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



To claim to be a god is to put one in the category of a false God, for God says he alone is God. There is only one true God, all others are false. God says all others that claim to be a god are liars.

Through the prophet Jeremiah who never thought of himself as a lesser god comes light. Jer. 10:11 *"The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens."*

God says there are no other gods, amateur or professional; small, medium or large. Jesus is not contradicting the Word. Branham says this is not true, as he often contradicted what the word actually says. Branham's position is not a misunderstanding, he explained in depth how we are gods (plural).

Psalm 86:10 "thou art God alone."

Deut. 4:35 *"Yahweh, He is God; there is no other besides Him."* V.39 *"Yahweh, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other."*

Deut. 32:39 *"See now that I, I am He, And there is no god besides Me."*

Isaiah 43:10 *"Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me."*

Isaiah 44:6 *"I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me."* v.8 *"Is there any God besides Me, Or is there any other Rock? I know of none."*

Isaiah 46:9 *"For I am God, and **there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me.**"*

Claiming to be a god in any form proves one is not a New Covenant believer. They are not regenerate because they do not know their position as a creature before God. They are purposely denying the Word of God. One of the most basic fundamental teachings one learns from the Bible is that man is NOT God. There is only one God and you are not him, *there is no one like Yahweh our God*" (Exod. 8:10.)

So many have misused this Scripture to prove that the Bible actually tells us we are or can all become gods when it is used as sarcasm by Jesus.

The prophets were types of Christ, anointed. Contrary to what Branham said Jesus did not teach they were gods. He quoted the Old Testament where they were given authority to judge as God's representatives of his word.

God is pronouncing judgment on His representatives who were supposed to be ruling over His people fairly. Instead they were showing partiality to the wicked and neglected defending the weak. Jesus uses this to say, if unjust judges are called to rule with power and authority, how much more the Son of God whose true authority they rejected. Ps.82 ends with verse 8 *"Arise, O God, judge the earth; for You shall inherit all nations."* It points to there being one God who eventually will judge and rule over everyone on earth.

Defining Branham's definition of Elohim

The word Elohim used in this instance (Ps.82:6) is applied to an aspect of God, as God was also to be ruler and judge over the people so He installed human rulers to do the same (see Deut.19:17-18).

"I said you are gods," elohim when used in the plural form is of false gods. Branham mistakenly stated *"all the translators has translated it the same way, capital L-o-r-d. And anybody that reads the Bible knows that capital L-o-r-d is Elohim. Come from the same word, Elohim."* (62-0706, Jehovah-Jireh #2, Municipal Auditorium, Grass Valley, CA)

Actually Elohim does not come from the same word. LORD is in place of YHWH. Elohim is a title, even false gods are called elohim but they are never called YHWH, or YHWH elohim.

The word elohim is used for God, for false gods, men and angels. It is never used for man or angels to state they are God as YHWH, the one true God. Psalms 96:5 and Psalms 97:7 the "worthless idols" of the pagans are referred to as "elohim." The same is seen for the Greek word theos (god) which is also

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



used for false gods (for idols) and the true God. Beside this flaw, Branham also made the point, since he is the one ministering as the prophet, he too was a manifestation of God in the flesh as the prophets were before him.

Branham responding to a minister that said, "They make a god out of you, Brother Branham." "Well, he was a critic, ... I said, "Is that too far from the Scripture to be that?" See? I said, "No, it isn't." I said, "Because Jesus called prophets gods." See? That's right. God ... And they say, "Well, you people try to take the place of God." "That's not too far out; that's exactly what it is. That's exactly! God manifested in flesh, just as He promised." (The Mighty God Unveiled Before us, p.20)

So if a prophet is God manifested in the flesh (as the Bible term is used ONLY for Jesus, 2 Tim. 3:16) then Branham as a prophet claimed to be God manifested in the flesh as Jesus was God in the flesh. The Bible did not promise many gods in the flesh but only one, the true God who always existed and created mankind and the entire universe.

The Bible does not say prophets are called gods or Messiahs. There is only one God who created all things and they worship Him. Branham's argument is that they (prophets) are God in the flesh as Jesus was God manifested in the flesh. This is a denial of the one incarnation of God becoming flesh in Jesus Christ through a virgin. There is no other God who was manifested in the flesh in 1 Tim.3:16: "God was manifested in the flesh." The Bible term *en sarki* - in flesh, became flesh (Jn. 1:14), means Jesus took on a human nature, he added it to His eternal deity. He is eternally God, and became human, adding a human nature to live among us. He was 100% human and 100% divine. Appearing as man, as Branham teaches, and actually becoming man are two very different matters. This was the difference from the Gnostics and the true Christianity of the apostles.

Man is a god?

How can anyone with a modicum of Bible knowledge and understanding of the Word say man is a god? Branham walks in the footsteps of other heretics before him, like John Lake who said, "The power of God, the Holy Ghost, is the Spirit of Dominion. It makes one a god." (John G. Lake: His Life His Sermons, His Boldness of Faith, p. 13) and Branham agrees.

Lake: "For God's purpose through Jesus Christ is to deify the nature of men and thus forever make them like unto Christ, not only in his outward appearance and habits of life, but in nature and substance and content, in spirit and soul and body, like the Son of God. Jesus never intended Christians to be an imitation. They were to be bone of His bone and blood of His blood and flesh of His flesh and soul of His soul and spirit of His Spirit. And thus, He becomes to us Son of God, Savior and Redeemer forever, and we are made one with Him both in purpose and being. Thus he becomes the Son of god, a Savior and redeemer forever, and we are made one with Him both in purpose and being." (The Science of Divine Healing by John G. Lake 1920) underline mine

Branham said, "God became man. He had to become kinfolks. And He couldn't be God... And us sinners, creations of His creation, creative beings of His creation, 'cause He couldn't be kinfolks there. So God became man, that man might become God-become God. Amen. ... He become what I was, so that I might through His grace become what He is." (60-1002, The Kinsman Redeemer, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

How does a creature, one who is created, become God who is uncreated?

Branham is not alone in this belief.

The Course of Miracles "...Jesus became what all of you must be. ... Is he the Christ? O yes, along with you." (The Course of Miracles pp. 83-84).

Mormon President Brigham Young "The Lord created you and me for the purpose of becoming

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



God like himself; We are created . . . to become Gods like unto our Father in heaven." (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 3, page 93)

Benny Hinn likewise says like Branham "I [Jesus] loved you enough to become one of ya! And I love you enough to make you one of me!" (Benny Hinn, TBN, Dec 1990).

"He, the limitless God, became a man, that we men, may become as He is." ("Our Position in Christ" tape #A031190, Orlando Christian Center, 1990)

Benny Hinn, "God came from heaven, became a man, made man into little gods, went back to heaven as a man. ... What else are you? If you say, I am, you're saying I'm a part of Him, right? Is he God? Are you His offspring? Are you His children? You can't be human! You can't! You can't! God didn't give birth to flesh...You said, "Well, that's heresy." No, that's your crazy brain saying that." (Benny Hinn, Our Position in Christ #2—The Word Made Flesh (Orlando: Orlando Christian Center, 1991), videotape #255) underline mine

Mormonism, that Branham certainly was familiar with, states, "First God himself, who sits enthroned in yonder heavens, is a man unto one of yourselves, that is the great secret." (Joseph Smith Jr. Times and Seasons vol.5 p.613, Aug.15 1844)

"I say, if you were to see him today, you would see him like a man in form - like yourselves, in all the person, image and very form as a man...." (J. Smith History of the Church vol.6 p.305)

(Mormonism- Purpose of life pamphlet) "We all once lived in the presence of God the eternal father. In the world before you were a spirit child of his." Same as what Branham taught.

Kenneth Copeland who is one of the pontifical heads of Word of Faith teaching says "Jesus is no longer the only begotten Son of God ... Jesus is known as the first begotten from the dead. If there is a firstborn, then there has to be a secondborn, a thirdborn, a fourthborn, etc." ("Now Are We in

Christ Jesus," p.24, Kenneth Copeland Publications, Texas. 1980)

Since there is only one true God no one can ever be the same as God as His creature. It is the height of arrogance, a delusion of unprecedented proportions to believe this. It is the same sin of pride that caused Lucifer, the greatest creature God created, to fall in heaven.

Those who admire Branham also repeat the same errors. This is where all the Word of Faith teachings originate from; Branham's heresy of man as god.

Today we have many popular teachers who take this phrase "in his image" in a solid literal sense. These are the same teachers who have a distorted teaching on Christ's pre-existence and how he became man. And they are word for word, or paraphrasing Branham, who is their source.

Creflo Dollar states on Ps.82 "Now, notice what He says here, "Ye are gods" small g. You are gods? Somebody says "You trying to say we're gods?" No, I'm not trying to say we're gods. He already said it. But what I want to know is Lord, how can we be gods? And He answers it in the next phrase. Because you are the children of the Most High. See if you are truly a child of God, if you were born out of God, you got to be a part of the God class. I know I'm not God. But I'm a child of the Most High. Hey, glory. And I'm a part of the God class." (Our Equality with God through Righteousness 1/21/2001)

Kenneth Hagin "God has made us as much like Himself as possible ... He made us the same class of being that He is Himself!" (Kenneth M. Hagin, Zoe: The God-Kind of Life (Tulsa, OK: Kenneth Hagin Ministries, Inc., 1989), 35-36)

*These concepts will be further addressed in detail in the section on word faith teaching.

"God's reason for creating Adam was His desire to reproduce Himself. I mean a reproduction of Himself and in the Garden of Eden He did just that. (Adam) was not a little like God. He was not almost like God. He was not subordinate to God even....

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Adam is as much like God as you could get, just the same as Jesus when He came into the earth, He said If you've seen Me, you've seen the Father. He wasn't a lot like God - He's God manifested in the flesh. And I want you to know something - Adam in the garden of Eden was God manifested in the flesh." (Following the Faith of Abraham I, 1989 audiotape, #01-3001, side 1)

"The image being that he was a copy, looked just like, if you stood Adam upside God they look just exactly alike ... The image is that they looked just alike. But the likeness, is that they act alike, and they are alike ... Now here's Adam in the image of God, and in the likeness of God. All of God's attributes, all of God's authority, all of God's faith, all of God's ability, was invested in that man." (Kenneth Copeland, Authority of the Believer IV (Fort Worth: Kenneth Copeland Ministries, 1987, audiotape #01-0304), side 1)

Convincing the church that Man was made as deity

"God came to earth and touched a piece of dust and turned it into a God. ... Are you a child of God? Then you're divine! Are you a child of God? Then you're not human!" (Benny Hinn TBN, Dec 1, 1990).

"You are gods because you came from God and you are gods, you're not just human. The only human part about you is this physical body that you live in" (Creflo Dollar, World Changers, September 15, 2002).

Kenneth Copeland proclaims, "Every Christian is a god. ... "You don't have a God in you; you are one," (The Force of Love (Fort Worth: Kenneth Copeland Ministries, 1987, audiotape #02-0028), side 1.)

The little gods teaching became a large issue in the later 1980's to early 90's where Trinity Broadcast Network founder and President Paul Crouch reacted violently to those who opposed it. He spoke this in reaction to those who said this is wrong, "I am a

little god! Critics, be gone!" (Paul Crouch, Praise the Lord program on TBN (July 7, 1986).

Hagin "Man is a spirit who possesses a soul and lives in a body...., He is in the same class with God." (Man of Three Dimensions; Tulsa: Faith Library, 1973)

Kenneth Hagin, "[Man] was created on terms of equality with God, and he could stand in God's presence without any consciousness of inferiority ... God made us as much like Himself as possible ... He made us the same class of being that He is Himself." (Zoe: The God-Kind of Life, pp. 35-36, 41 1989)

Benny Hinn "...If you say, I am, your saying you're a part of him, right ? Is he God? are you his offspring? Are you his children? You can't be human! You can't, you can't!" (Our position in Christ #2 1990 audio side 2)

"Say after me: 'Within me is a God-Man.' Say it again. 'Within me is a God-Man.' [Congregation repeats.] Now, let's say even better than that. Let's say, 'I AM A GOD-MAN.' ... This spirit man within me is a God-Man. ... Say 'I'm born-of-heaven-God-Man. I'm a God-Man. I'm a sample of Jesus. I'm a super being'" (Praise the Lord, TBN, Dec 6 1990).

Copeland states "Am I a god? Man was created in the god class, was not created in the animal class, it was the god class. ... you become partakers of the divine nature. Alright, are we gods? We are a class of gods." (Praise the Lord, TBN, 2/5/1986)

But God is uncreated, in a class of existence all his own, there is none like him!

Ex 9:14 "there is none like Me in all the earth."

Isa 46:9 "For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me"

How many times does the true and only God have to say He alone is God? "I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides Me there is no God." (Isaiah 45:5-7)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



1 Sam. 2:2 "No one is holy like the LORD, for there is none besides You." Apparently the prophet Samuel was wrong and needs to learn the new revelation of Branham.

What does Image and likeness mean according to the Bible?

When it states we were created in his image it does not mean that God has a form or being and that we are made like him in the same manner. This is the misunderstandings of Mormonism and the Kabbalah. Nor does it mean we were created as spirit like him. God is Spirit (Jn.4:24), who always existed and He is invisible.

The Hebrew language image - *tselem*- is related to nature, the immaterial part of man. It means we have a spiritual nature, a moral nature like God in a finite way. Likeness – Hebrew - *Demuth* does not mean in a physical sense. The Hebrew word for "likeness" (demuth) simply means similarity or resemblance, not identity. Furthermore, the term itself actually "defines and limits" the word "image." This means our spiritual nature is a moral likeness of God, the similarity is we have finite qualities like God.

If man's image of God was human or physical, Jesus would not have had to be born to become a man, he would have already been man. This absurd interpretation of Branham is often overlooked. It is a main contradiction of his core teaching that God is always is veiled with flesh; that He is in the form of man, or other forms.

If man is an exact image, then is God both male and female since man and women were both made in the image of God? Does God have a literal body as we do? Does he also have reproductive organs and bodily functions as we do? Branham thought so. Mistaking terms can sometimes make no sense at all, especially when they are not intended to be interpreted that way.

Image carries the meaning of a personal likeness. God is a personal being so is man. There is also a

moral likeness we were created in. God is Holy. Man, like his creator, had what is termed *unconfirmed creature holiness* in his original state in the garden. If Adam had not sinned this holy nature would have become permanent and been passed on to his offspring. But Adam did sin and the nature of sin was passed on to all humanity. When we experience the new birth the nature of holiness is instituted in us alongside the old nature, to rule over it. It's not until the resurrection that the old nature will be removed permanently (1 Cor.15:51-54). There needs to be balance in understanding just how man was to reflect his image. D. E. Trueblood said "*To say God is completely different from us is as absurd to say that he is completely like us.*"

Being made in his image gives us finite similarities in some, not all characteristics of God.

William Branham's Word of Faith Teaching

In John 9:35-38. *Jesus said to the man cast out, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.*"

This counters the very argument Branham made of man being gods. How can this work with our being god? Are we to be worshiped?

There is no small "g" for God. Israel was strictly monotheistic (Deut.6:4). They who believed in the Messiah worshiped Jesus.

Kenneth Hagin, "*Every man who has been born again is an incarnation and Christianity is a miracle. The believer is as much an incarnation as was Jesus of Nazareth.*" (the Incarnation Kenneth Hagin, The Word of Faith p. 12 (December 1980):14. also E.W. Kenyon, The Father and His Family, 100.)

John Lake: "*I want you to hear what Jesus said about himself. God was in Christ, wasn't He? An incarnation. God is in you, an incarnation, if you were born again. You are incarnate.*" (John G.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Lake: His Life His Sermons, His Boldness of Faith, p. 196).

God does not see us as gods or an incarnation of himself. We did not exist as God before we were born which is what the term incarnation means referring to God the Son being coming in a human body.

Kenneth Hagin, [The] *believer is called Christ...That's who we are; we're Christ*" (Zoe: The God-Kind of Life, 1989. pp. 35-36, 41) "*We (the church) are Christ.*" (As Christ is -- So are we, Tape #44H06)

Where in the Bible does it say the church is a little Messiah?

"...God only works through man. How many knows that? Man is God's... That's the reason Jesus was God. That's... God just worked through a Man (Is that right?), reconciling the world to Himself. Now, He was Messiah. Then you and I become Messiahettes or little Messiahs because we're anointed with the same Spirit." (61-0117, The Messiah, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA)

Branham said, "*Then when God was made flesh and became the Messiah, then if we can yield ourselves to be the anointed like He was, we become Messiahettes, little Lights. That's what the church is supposed to be: lights, little anointed ones. That's God's church.... If Messiah means 'the anointed One,' and means 'King,' then if the church is anointed by the Messiah Spirit, it becomes a lesser but still a Messiah; because it has His Light, reflecting His power, reflecting His glory, reflecting His dominion. So it is Messiah. Oh, how it reflects Him in His Kingdom in His domain." (61-0117 The Messiah).*

Now we know where Benny Hinn (and others) got the revelation that we ARE LITTLE MESSIAHS. They are all saying the same thing, but they are not saying the same thing the Bible teaches.

"I am a 'little messiah' walking on earth." (Benny Hinn, "Praise-a-Thon Program" on TBN, broadcast November 6, 1990.)

"Christians are little messiahs. Christians are little gods." (Benny Hinn Praise-a-thon (TBN) 11/90, "Our position in Christ," tape A031190-1)

"Christians are 'Little Messiah's and 'little gods' on the earth. Thus [Encouraging the audience]...say 'I am a God-man....This spirit-man within me is a God-man...' say 'I'm born of heaven-a God-man. I'm a God man. I am a sample of Jesus. I'm a super being. Say it! Say it! Who's a super being? 'I walk in the realm of the supernatural.' Say it!

"Are you ready for some real revelation knowledge....you are god" ("Our Position in Christ", tape # AO31190-1)

If you say, "*I am, your saying you're a part of him, right? Is he God? Are you his offspring? Are you his children? You can't be human!*" (Benny Hinn, Our position in Christ, #2 1990, audio side 2).

These word faith teachers may not officially be "Branham" followers but they certainly would be comfortable in his message church, as they endorse him, copy and mimic his teachings.

As Copeland declared, "*Don't be disturbed when people accuse you of thinking you are God ... They crucified Me for claiming I was God. I didn't claim that I was God; I just claimed that I walked with Him and that He was in Me. Hallelujah! That's what you're doing ..."* (Take Time to Pray, Believer's Voice of Victory, 2/87, p. 9)

Exactly what Branham taught, that God dwelled in Christ and that is what made him God!

"Genesis 2, when He made man, He said, 'I am Y-a-h-u, J-u-v-u-h, Yahua, Jehovah Yahua, Jehovah. What did it mean? 'I am the all-existence One Who has created something off of Myself to be a son of Mine, or a temporary, or an amateur little one of Mine ... 'Jehovah' means that He gave man to be an amateur god. Because He is Father God, and He made a man an amateur god, so He isn't self-existence anymore; He exists with His family. Amen. Elah, Elah, Elohim... Now, now He is Jehovah, 'Jehovah' meaning the 'One Who exists with His family.'" (60-0515E Ephesians Parallels Joshua Jefferson IN)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Is that what Jehovah means? Exactly where is this teaching found in Scripture? Branham made up meanings with no relationship to the truth of the Word.

According to Branham we will not be like him, but actually be him, in his family as a species. But Jesus was not man but was God who became man, he has it backwards. Man is not *a god* in a body. I would recommend that those who listen to this kind of teaching to search the Scripture to see how truthful this is. For you will find there is only one creature who wants man to be called or consider himself a god -- Satan, the Devil, the greatest of angels who is a liar and deceiver. He was the first one to believe this for himself and Branham teaching this is not of the Holy Spirit but another spirit.

He even contradicts his own words and logic i.e. Jehovah now means making an amateur god in the same family of God, which is eternal.

Yet he also said "*The Jehovah of the Old Testament is the Jesus of the New. No matter how hard you try, you can't prove there are THREE Gods.*" (An Exposition of the Seven Church Ages).

If Branham says there is a family of gods [plural] which he certainly cannot prove, that is far more than three; he is claiming (millions) creatures are made into gods.

This concept of a God family is what the church of God (COG) – Herbert Armstrong taught who began his ministry in the thirties and flourished in the 50's and 60's.

He taught that the father and son are composed of spirit, have the form and shape of a human being. The godhead is not limited but open to an extended family. The Father and son together form the one God Family whose goal is to create other Gods to join them as part of their God Family.

Even today this teaching of God is family is promoted, as man is added to expand it.

Joe Kovac in his book writes "*Yes, God is indeed a family. Jesus is the Word and He's one member of the God family, and God the Father is yet another member of that same God family. It may sound strange to your ears to hear about the God family, but the Bible itself, using the exact phrase, states that God is a family in heaven.*" (Kovacs, *The Divine Secret*, p.24).

"*There's a reason why the Bible calls us the children of God, because God is reproducing, having many children to enlarge the Family of God!*"

<http://www.wnd.com/2009/10/112253/#fJxzQXiAJ9xTJQQb.99>

"*Think for a minute: What are the sons of a giraffe? They're giraffes. What are the children of cats? They're cats. What are the children of God? They're Gods. They're going to be in the God family.*" (Kovacs, "Children of a giraffe are giraffes, so what are the children of God," (*The Journal*, Issue No. 150, 7/27/12)

"*Now, there you are. That's the way we are here. We come from a higher being. In the beginning we were in the image of God. The veil and the darkness keeps us from knowing it now. But Jesus told His disciples He was with them before the foundation of the world. See? We were. You can't know it now, but you was in the beginning. And if this earthly tabernacle be dissolved, we have one already waiting. Hallelujah. And then we move into this theophany, what we once lived, so we can eat and shake hands. And the souls under the altar cry, "How long, Lord?" (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)*

Branham is describing some type of hidden knowledge that is not expressed in the Bible that keeps us from knowing who we really were in the past, as a theophany, which is deity.

He further describes in the same sermon that "*There's seven steps that goes to God, for the seven Spirits as--as It comes down. All right, as you go under the altar of God, they was crying, "Lord, how*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



long? Can we go back?" They're down here. God said, "Just for a little season, until your fellow men suffer the same thing that you've suffered." See? And then the souls return back, and they become men and women again, and live forever when all the darkness and death and sickness and sorrow of the blackness has faded out..." (ibid.) underline mine

Does the Bible say they are souls asking to come back to heaven? Let's look at the scripture he is citing.

Rev. 6:9-11 *"When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed."* (NKJV)

They are under the altar, (in heaven). This is obvious because it says they were slain. They are asking for justice from God on those doing the killing on earth.

Do seven spirits come down and give seven steps to God? This is a Gnostic interpretation mixed with his own presuppositions.

Branham taught a blend of Kaballah, Theosophy, Rosicrucianism, Mysticism and Gnosticism. All of it was presented wrapped in Christian terminology to the people. Branham was a man deep into the occult arts. And they called him great, having the power of God, much like they did Simon in Acts 8:9-12 *"But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the great power of God." And they heeded him*

because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time."

So we see that Branham taught man is a spirit in the form of man, pre-existed along with the angels (Which is when he said God made in his image and likeness Gen.1:26) before he made man out of the ground. Branham claims that man was made as a god.

As we can see Branham often had a different interpretation than the Bible's explanation on nearly everything that is called essential teaching. If one claims to be under the inspiration of God but says things contrary to God, denying his nature or person, then they are not anointed by God, they are NOT a prophet of God. And they should not be promoted as one but instead avoided for the spiritual safety and welfare of the church. Considering the acceptance of Branham's doctrine through others we are in a dangerous point of church history because of his teachings spreading through those enamored with spiritual power.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 13

The Three Bibles

The Zodiac, the pyramids are equal revelations to the Bible

Undeniable Occult connections

William Branham taught dozens of times that “*God wrote three Bibles: one, the Zodiac, one in the pyramids, one on paper. Now, He's writing His first, the Zodiac. It starts off with a virgin, ends up with Leo the lion: Jesus' first coming and His second coming.* (53-0509, *The Pillar Of Fire*, Bible Hour Tabernacle, Jonesboro, AR)

The first two (the Zodiac and the pyramids) predated any written Scripture. This was not something Branham had come up with at the end of his life; As far back as 1953 Branham taught the message in the stars and the pyramid were as equal and perfect as the Word.

Branham referred to three Bibles the Zodiac and the Egyptian pyramids as revelation and equal to the Scriptures. (William M. Branham, Adoption Jeffersonville, IN: Spoken Word Publications) One of Franklin Hall's beliefs was that the Zodiac is equal to Scripture. This was that was accepted by many, including Branham. Branham would speak unfavorably of Astrology but he spoke well of what astrologists used in their profession to predict the future - the Zodiac. Can God's Word come through the zodiac, something God told Israel not to use?

“*God's first Bible was in the skies, the Zodiac; it starts off and runs every age.*” (64-0802, *The Future Home Of The Heavenly Bridegroom And The Earthly Bride*, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

“*The first Bible that man ever looked to was the stars, the zodiac. And it's a perfect ... It dovetailed with this Bible here ... He write it on up, the cancer*

age, and everything down through.” (53-0729, Questions And Answers On Genesis, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

So why does God not say to look to the stars to know me?

“*We've had three Bible's written. One of them is in the heavens above, the Zodiac. Starts off with the virgin, ends up with Leo the lion, the first coming and the second coming of the Lord Jesus, down through the different ages. Then we find it, till Enoch wrote one and put it in the pyramid. The third is put on paper.*” (54-0809A, *I Will Restore Unto You*, Saith The Lord, Shriner Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

Exactly what did Enoch write in the pyramid Branham never divulged? According to Branham the Old and New Testament are not as lasting because it's on paper. Consider that God made the stars directly by his hand and first, than it would be superior to a Bible of paper written by men moved by the Spirit.

In one of the few times Branham referred to the Scripture on this he says, “*God wrote three Bibles. The first Bible was in the sky, called the zodiac. Now, if you don't know the Book of Job, just forget about it, 'cause--because Job is the one explains it: how that he looked up, and he named those things in the sky.*” (62-1104M Blasphemous names Jefferson IN)

Did Job name them, did he explain them? Or did God speak to Job of the Mazzaroth, the

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



constellations of the heavens? The word Mazzaroth is mentioned only once in the King James Version of the Old Testament, in the Book of Job. Most interpret Mazzaroth to mean the "the twelve signs" of the zodiac, but the names of these twelve are never mentioned in the Bible.

Job 38:31-33 *"Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, Or loose the belt of Orion? Can you bring out Mazzaroth in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs? Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you set their dominion over the earth?"*

He spoke of this only to Job. It was in a conversation that God prompted Job for answers. Job's answer is no. So to say God revealed a gospel in the stars to Job (or anyone else) is not even hinted in Scripture.

None of the constellations mentioned have anything to do with the gospel, or anything of the Bible in the stars. Branham is inserting what he wants the Bible to say, Job's book does not contain this gospel in the stars?

"Can you lead forth a constellation [mazzaroth] in its season?" means, Can you lead forth the zodiacal sign for each month, so that it becomes visible after sunset as it is visible before sunset? (New Unger's Bible Dictionary)

The Lord is saying to Job He has set the course of the earth through the heavens that cannot be changed or controlled by man.

God named all the stars and put them in their place, but this does not mean He revealed their names to Job, or to any man. Ps. 147:4-5 *"He counts the number of the stars; he calls them all by name. Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; his understanding is infinite."*

The Lord can number every hair on our head (we can't). The Bible says God named all the stars but he did not tell us their names. How could we know and record the name of the trillions of stars back then? Yes, he can name every star, but there is no

reason to draw from this what Branham did. We get the names of only a few stars from God, not the creatures assigned to their cluster groupings that supposedly tell all the Bible stories.

Job 9:7-10: *"He commands the sun, and it does not rise; he seals off the stars; He alone spreads out the heavens, and treads on the waves of the sea; He made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, and the chambers of the south."* (repeated in Amos 5:8 *"He made the Pleiades and Orion"* is clearly in the context of Him being the Creator of the stars in heaven and of all things.)

How can man read the gospel in the stars before Moses gave Israel the Bible? One could not know what these illustrated pictorials would mean *without* the Bible.

None of the stars are mentioned in the Bible, the virgin or the lion, this so called gospel in the sky. The Bible has absolutely nothing to say on this.

At the time there were only 6,000 visible stars seen by the eye before the invention of our modern telescope. Of course Branham had other ideas of early man's scientific inventions.

Furthermore, No one in the early church taught a gospel in the stars. God did not mention this even once in all of history. So where did Branham learn this?

The earliest work of this "Christianized" interpretation of astrology comes from Miss Florence Rolleston, of Keswick, England. Her study of the ancient names of over a hundred principal stars led to the publishing in 1863 of her findings in the form of notes under the title, *Mazzaroth: or, the Constellations.*" (reference: The Gospel in the Zodiac A Biblical analysis By Albert James Dager Media Spotlight)

The Zodiac theory was previously put in book form by Joseph A. Seiss (The Gospel in the Stars 1882). Seiss wrote, *"that God gave Adam special revelations."* (Seiss p. 152)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Also E. W. Bullinger, a 19th-century Anglican clergyman wrote of this theory (The Witness of the Stars 1893). Bullinger writes in his book of the Tower of Babel "*These stages were surmounted by a lofty tower, on the summit of which, we are told, were the signs of the Zodiac and other astronomical figures; thus having (as it should have been translated) a representation of the heavens, instead of 'a top which reached unto heaven.'*"

This tower or temple, or both, was also called "The Seven Spheres," according to some; and "The Seven Lights," according to others."

Here is the origin of the Zodiac, from Babylon, the Tower of Babel according to Bullinger.

It was promoted by Branham's contemporary, Franklin Hall, who said "*In 1848 A.D. the Aquarian Age was introduced to the world.*" Clearly this is mixing of the Scripture with Astrology. The New Age Movement says the very same thing that Hall did on the Aquarian age.

Branham said "*It is well known that the Greeks had the very same signs of the Zodiac as did the Babylonians; and it has been found in the ancient Egyptian records that the Egyptians gave the Greeks their knowledge of polytheism. Thus the mysteries of Babylon spread from nation to nation until it appeared in Rome, in China, India and even in both North and South America...*" (Exposition of The Seven Church Ages)

This is the same Babylon that God came down personally to confuse the language and halt the people's unity. Did anything good come from Babylon, the origin of organized false religion? Astrology came from Babylon, the telling of the future or one's life by the stars and planets is part of Babylonian mystery religion. Babylon the capital of Babylonia, in Akkadian means "the Gate of God(s)" which should help us understand what they were about.

Cuneiform tablets have been excavated depicting horoscope charts dating from the 5th Century BC and earlier. Astrology is considered a divination art in the Bible. It teaches that the relative positioning in the sky of the sun, moon and planets has an influence upon individuals and the course of human affairs. Later the Assyrians worshiped the sun, moon and stars, and among their idols were heroes and rulers from earlier times who were made deities.

Jupiter was known astrologically as the father of the gods, associated with the birth of kings, called the king planet. Venus was Ishtar, the mother, the goddess of Fertility. Some Astrologers claim the king planet was in conjunction with Venus (the father with the mother) and this alignment was the star of Bethlehem and that signified to astrologers that the birth of a child king.

The Bible does not always explain the history of other nations in detail, unless they were connected to Israel in some manner, such as those who were Israel's enemies. We must go outside the Bible to find certain ancient records. The mysteries of Babylon's religion was spread from nation to nation, China, India and Rome.

Most understand the Egyptians received her science and mathematics from the Chaldeans, Greece then received them from Egypt. It was the priests in charge of teaching these sciences as a part of their religion. The Greeks had the very same signs of the Zodiac as the Babylonians. Ancient Egyptian records show the Greek's received their knowledge of polytheism from Egypt.

The ancient Egyptians mapped the constellations which certainly did not have the Christian names Branham and others claim. In the Constellations of Draco and Ursa Minor the cobra is accompanied by his offspring who is cradled in his arms. Ursa Minor represents the Male Principle while Draco represents the Female Principle. Draco is symbolically impregnated. This is symbolic evidence of the Creation Principle: the Celestial Sphinx, Hu, being the Creator.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



<http://ancientegypt.hypermart.net/lostsecrets/>
<https://www.scribd.com/document/133003485/Astronomy-Ancient-Egyptians-and-the-Constellations-Fletcher>

Hermes claims that it was Zoroaster the founder of a Persian religion that discovered astrology, the wisdom of the whole universe.

In Hermetic thought, it is thought that the movements of the planets have meaning beyond the laws of physics and actually hold metaphorical value as symbols in the mind of the All, or God.

The Egyptians design of the Zodiac was discovered on the ceiling of the Temple of Hathor in Dendera of Central Egypt. The Zodiac of Dendera depicts aspects of Nile Valley astronomy, astrology, agriculture and calendar making. It has two circles of figures in its design. The outer circle of figures used the concept of "decans." The inner circle of figures move counter-clockwise like the stars, showing the astrological signs of the zodiac circling the North Pole (symbolized by the deity Anpu.)

The Egyptian calendar year was comprised of 36 ten-day weeks, each of which was called a decan. The total days of a year created a circle (360 degrees). Likewise, the twelve figures outside of the circle represent 12 months of the year and their arms meant the 24 hours of the day. Based on this design, the 12 signs of the Egyptian zodiac were created to regulate agriculture. Each sign governed three decans (30 days) and was called one of "the watchers of the hours." Since the word "hour" derives from the god Horus, the signs of the Egyptian zodiac were also considered "the watchers of Horus" -- many see this as the origin of the word "Horoscope."

This was the intent of the Egyptians that invented their system that Branham said was of God

Each sign of the Zodiac is presided over by a god or goddess, Ancient Egypt had by tradition a great variety of gods, the total was over 2,000, but many

of them had similar characteristics and appeared all over the country by different names. These [12 Egyptian Birth Signs](#) are based on the different gods, one being born within a particular sign influences a person's character. For example those ruled by Amon-Ra are very generous and fruitful. Those who are under the sign of Osiris have two sides to their personality, and might seem fiery but can also be fragile or indecisive. Those born in the time of Sekhmet are said to be telepathic, observant, authoritative, indulgent and moral. There were also colors accompanying them: green (male), turquoise (female). The similarity to modern horoscope reading cannot be overlooked.

Some say the pagan myths distorted the original truth. These pictures in the sky have nothing whatsoever to do with the person, work or nature of Christ. To claim the gospel in the stars story was known to patriarchs before the Flood, but in time was forgotten or distorted is completely untenable. This was at the time of nature worship when the imagery of creatures (both real and fantasy) were imposed onto the stars. From history we know that the pagans put stories and pictures and applied them to the constellations for remembrance and for their religious purposes of worship. In the Old Testament God does not condone the pagan practice of having animal and human shapes assigned to star formations and strictly forbids His people to be involved with it. So this could never have been passed down, corrupted or not.

To get a glimpse of how others synthesize astrology into the Bible see:

<http://www.divinepageant.com/CHRIST%20IN%20THE%20STARS.htm#JUDA>

The Chinese interpreted their constellation charts with animals such as the rabbit, mouse, and dog which are completely different from today. The animals and creatures assigned to form Zodiacal signs are subjective, and change from culture to culture.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Creatures such as the winged horse Pegasus, the half-men - half-animal Centaurus and Sagittarius are from man's imagination. Clearly the forms and names that are manmade, not God-given. Proposing the Centaur being half man and half horse shows Christ's dual nature is an absurd interpretation. Where does the Scripture say a horse represents his deity? Christ was not half human and half God, but 100% of each. There is no way to claim (or prove) there is an original authentic Zodiac which is God-given which promoters lay claim to Satan counterfeiting and corrupting. One can assign anything they want to the Zodiac, whatever meaning the interpreter decides upon. Which make the messages in the signs completely arbitrary.

These creatures assigned to the stars are no more relative to the Bible story than the seven mountains on which the woman in Revelation sits representing the 7 days of creation (Rev. 17:9). Anyone can reinvent the numbers and meanings of Scripture to mean what they do not. The question is does the Bible support their speculative theories.

Zodiac confusion

Branham's futile position is, "*He starts off, the very--very first figure in the Zodiac is the Virgin, and the last figure in the Zodiac is Leo the Lion; showing that Jesus would come first to the earth by a Virgin, He'll come the second time as the Lion of the tribe of Juda.*" (64-0112, Shalom, House Meeting, Sierra Vista, AZ.)

Hilton Hotema who taught on the ancient masters and mystery religions stated "*The gospel Jesus here represents the head sign of the Zodiac,--aries. Ram, and old lamb – the lamb of God (Jn. 1:35)*" (p.49 *Mystery Man of the Bible* by Hilton Hotema)

"*We must go back to Zodiac and Astrology for the masters fable of the soul, a term that means solar body.*" (p.42 *Mystery Man of the Bible*)

Meaning a body that is of light, (Branham's logos).

"That's the first Bible. Man was to look up to realize that God is from above. Follow the Zodiac; did you ever study it? It even gives every age, even the cancer age. It gives the beginning, the birth--the birth of Christ. What is the first figure in the Zodiac? The virgin. What's the last figure? Leo the lion. The first coming and the second coming of Christ, all of it is written in there. Then the next Bible was written, was in stone, called pyramid. God wrote in the pyramids." (60-0522E, Adoption, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN) underline mine

Branham did not explain the other signs that were in-between the beginning and end of the Zodiac, but he was able to promote this unbiblical view to the church without being challenged. Branham stated "*What is the first figure in the Zodiac? The virgin. What's the last figure? Leo the lion.*" (60-0522E, Adoption #4)

If Branham is wrong on this, he is wrong on the whole matter. And he is wrong. The order of the astrological signs is Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius and Pisces." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astrological_sign

In fact the Zodiac is found to be in different orders throughout the world's cultures, so there is no real consistency. There is no uniform succession or message behind the stars. Some claim there are 24 Zodiac signs; others have eight, ten, or fourteen. The Babylonian charts, which are the oldest records, do not contain the complete Zodiac constellation.

The Zodiac has the sign of Virgo (allegedly said to represent a virgin conceiving the deliverer by Christians) comes before the sign of Libra (which supposedly symbolizes the fact that humankind has sinned). And the sign of lion, which is supposed to be Jesus' return comes before He came as a lamb (Virgo). The Book of Genesis has the promise of the "seed of the woman" (Gen. 3:15) given after mankind sinned (Gen. 3:1-14), and the return of

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Jesus after he dies and resurrects, so it is out of order. The virgin is NOT the first figure so the whole concept is a moot argument. Furthermore, If Virgo is the first sign why does the Jewish religious year begin in the month of Abib? Why is the lion (July 23- Aug 22) before the virgin sign (Aug. 23-Sept.22), how does that work in the procession of prophecy.

Each of the signs is said to depict a specific phase in God's plan of salvation, beginning with the fall of man into sin right through to man's redemption to God's eternal kingdom. This is supposedly a Bible one can read in the sky. This is all nonsense. Admittedly, there are but a few similarities, but these could also be found in other spiritual systems and religions that have a pagan source. Understand that similarities do not mean sameness – especially when it is supposed to equal the accuracy of Scripture, which is said to be God breathed. This teaching puts creation above Scripture, and thus diminishes God's Word. The whole concept goes beyond what is written, which is what Paul expressly told us not to do (1 Cor. 4:6). God never tells us that his story is in the stars. We are *not to receive knowledge from these sources*, because this is not true knowledge (Deut. 4:19). Deut. 17:3 condemns looking to the stars for worship or anything else. In Isa. 47:12-15, 3,500 years ago God mocks the people telling them to seek out their counsels from among the astrologers to save them. God calls this sorcery. *“Keep on, then, with your magic spells and with your many sorceries, which you have labored at since childhood. Perhaps you will succeed, perhaps you will cause terror. All the counsel you have received has only worn you out! Let your astrologers come forward, those stargazers who make predictions month by month.”*

“There shall not be found among you any ... that useth divination, or an observer of times ... For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD.” (Deut. 18:10-12)

Certain prophets spoke harshly of astrologers, stargazers, readers of the signs of heaven, and those who worship the host of heaven. (Leviticus 19:26,

31; Leviticus 20:6, 27; 2 Kings 21:6; Isaiah 8:19, Isaiah 47:13-14; Daniel 2:27, 4:7, 19)

God never said look for the true astrologers, those with correct knowledge. If the stars proclaim the entire Gospel why didn't any Old Testament prophet understand or mention the plan of redemption in the sky? Because you can't gain specific knowledge of God or the Gospel by the general revelation found in any of creation.

In fact the prophets spoke against star gazing (Jeremiah 19:13). In 2 Kings 23:5 we read of Josiah removing the idolatrous priests who burned incense to Baal, *to the sun, to the moon, to the constellations, and to all the host of heaven.*” They were doing what the nations were in regard to seeking knowledge from the heavens.

In Jer. 7:23 God tells Israel to obey His voice and *“I will be your God and you shall be My people and walk in all the ways I have commanded you that it Will be well with you.”* Deut. 12:30-32: *“take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.”* *“You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way”*

Israel was instructed not to learn the way of the nations, not to worship the way they do. Who put the message in the stars? It was not God because there is no mention of this anywhere in Scripture. If there was such a revelation surely it would have been referred to numerous times in Scripture since it supposedly preceded the Word.

When Jesus said *“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars”* (Luke 21:25) he did not mean to literally look to the heavens to read the Zodiac.

So Branham along with others like Bullinger and Seiss believed the gospel was contained in the sky before it was ever written, though the Bible does not speak of this in any manner. There should be no debate that astrology is condemned in the Bible. It is specifically mentioned for Gods people to not

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



have anything to do with it, its divination. Only ecumenists would consider using it.

Branham versus the Bible

"I'm not going back to teach Zodiac, but I'm just showing you the heavens declare It. In the Zodiac we find out, in the constellations of the stars, that He declared the whole Bible in the constellation of the--of the Zodiac. We find out there that He starts off, the very--very first figure in the Zodiac is the Virgin, and the last figure in the Zodiac is Leo the Lion; showing that Jesus would come first to the earth by a Virgin, He'll come the second time as the Lion of the tribe of Juda. See? He goes through the crossed fishes just before that. Cancer Age, what we're living in now. "And all the heavens declare Him." (64-0112, Shalom, House Meeting, Sierra Vista, AZ)

The whole Bible in the Zodiac? Consider all the stories and details in Scripture that came to us through history, yet it was already written? And we are supposed to learn this from looking at the stars? Hardly feasible and certainly not biblical. Consider that nothing of man took place when the stars were made, all as in the future, even man being created. No prophet ever said one thing on this matter. This is merging an occult practice into Christianity.

If the stars were the first Bible, we have God giving us His word and history by mysteries of which only the trained initiated could understand. How exactly do the stars teach us this knowledge of God? How can any of this be compared to the written word? The fact is, Jesus is called the Word, He is the Word that became flesh: He is not the Zodiac or the Pyramid that became flesh.

Branham believed and taught the gospel could be read in the stars, but did any of the apostles? Let's look to the Scripture to see what they said. Rom.16:25-26: *"Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now has been made manifest, and by the*

prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith -- According to my Gospel."

A mystery kept secret since the world began

The gospel is known by the prophetic writings, not the zodiac, not the pyramids.

Eph. 3:2-5: *"by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets." **"Which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men."***

Col. 1:24-27: *"...I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the Word of God, the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints."*

A **"Mystery hidden from ages."** Hidden and then made known in Scripture, not the stars.

Nowhere does it say in Scripture the gospel was put in creation as a completed story (or even in part). It says it was unknown until the Scriptures of the New Testament were given through the apostles.

The gospel is mentioned over 100 times in the New Testament (directly and indirectly) and it is *never* associated with the stars. Yet we are to believe Branham that God gave the exact same gospel without it ever being mentioned in the Scripture that it is in the stars. But one cannot even find this so called gospel in the stars without first reading of it. No one has ever looked up and read the stars and found any Bible story there without knowing it first and even then, they have to impress it to mean what they want it to.

Promoters of the gospel in the stars can never name the person this knowledge was directly given to by God. Who did God first teach this to? Presumably it

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



is Adam. Again I must ask when, who or how do they know this?

Adam did not understand what was said in Gen. 3:15, of the woman and the seed that is supposed to be written in the sky. How did he pass it down?

God gave us prophecies through men He chose, but not all at one time as portrayed by the advocates of gospel in the stars.

God gave another prophecy of the Messiah thousands of years later to Isaiah as he begins to develop the details of the gospel through the numerous prophets. Such as Micah 5:2 where he will be born and who he will be. Branham wants us to believe the complete story was put in the stars on the 4th day before it was revealed to the prophets? This becomes secret knowledge not spoken of in the Bible, categorized as the occult.

Throughout history *He slowly revealed Himself to the prophets of Israel* until the promise is culminated in Jesus and the gospel was revealed to man by it being fulfilled, and through the apostles it is written.

Apart from God speaking directly to us, by His only source of specific revelation - the Bible, we are unable to have personal knowledge of the future (history) or the gospel. To say the gospel is in the stars is to claim the reading of the stars can save someone and teach them what only the Scripture can teach us. Is there any person that was saved by the gospel made known in the stars?

Remember Branham claims the Scripture, the prophetic scriptures is the *third Bible*, not the first.

What confusion this brings when the Bible says the law came first, the shadow before the light. How can the gospel be in the stars first when the Bible says it was hid, not known until the apostles revealed it, Rom. 16:25 "but NOW has been made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations."

God did not arrange the stars to form images that would tell a Bible story that was yet future. There is no way that visual images were positioned to present the gospel to all mankind. You can look at Virgo for a million years and not come to the conclusion of it meaning a virgin birth of the perfect, sinless Son of God born in Bethlehem, unless one superimposes the Bibles revealed teaching on it. The Southern Cross configuration in the sky does not explain what Christ would do in the future -- die upon a cross for our sins and rise again from the dead. No one in Scripture says they learned of anything of God from the zodiac. Many of the Zodiac signs do not even appear above the Arctic Circle (66 degrees latitude) which means that there is no "Gospel in the Stars" for Eskimos, or those who live in Siberia or Scandinavia. So how can this "Gospel in the Stars" be a witness to all people? The people in the Southern hemisphere do not see the same stars. Are we to assume they were without the gospel because they cannot see the same constellations that are in the North? This is why it is not only illogical but not Biblical.

The grouping of stars into constellations has changed during the history of man. There is the procession of the constellations so that some that were seen in ancient times are not seen today. What of the future? Revelation 8:12 we read where a third of the stars are not seen? What will people do for knowing the way of salvation? The same they always have, by the reading and hearing the Word.

Stars that tell a Story

"Do you realize that you represent a star in heaven, and every star in heaven represents you? Did you know God told Abraham that his seed would be like the stars of the heaven? First they were the dust of the earth, and then in the resurrection they were the stars of heaven, innumerable. Did you realize that? Did you know that Jesus was the Bright and Morning Star, the greatest Star of all the stars of heaven? Oh, hallelujah. When I think of it, my soul leaps for joy. There He is. There in His likeness, in His Presence, we shall be seated someday (Hallelujah), when the things of this earth has

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



passed away.” (54-0512, The Seven Church Ages, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham makes it sound like we become a star added in the sky, that even Jesus was a star. Besides spiritualizing what God said to Abraham he also turns a Bible metaphor of the stars, and the dust of the earth into a literal meaning. God said this to show Abraham that that he can't count all the stars, that your offspring will be that numerous. (at the time there were only 6,000 visible stars by the eye).

To say that man understood the gospel by looking to the sky, before any events happened in history is absurd. That would be before it was revealed to the apostles who wrote of it in the Bible. This is not what the Bible teaches, yet Branham himself said, *"I tried my best to see that zodiac, and I can't see it; but yet, it's there. Those who are trained know it's there. Job saw it; man used to look at it; it was a Bible at one day. But in that whole great mass of millions and billions of--of light years, God sets in the midst of all of it, and He looks down. Paul is in there; my mother's in there somewhere looking down."* (62-0311, The Greatest Battle Ever Fought, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Exactly what did Branham mean his mother was “in there” as was Paul, looking down; as well as God? He is insinuating they see what is taking place on earth.

“That's the way the stars stand. The solar system hasn't changed. The zodiac, the morning star rises on its post of duty every morning just exactly the way it did when the earth was created. The evening star takes its place. Every star, the little dipper, it right at the time of season is just exactly where it's supposed to be. The north star stands steady and never moves. Hallelujah. The whole thing revolves around the north star, all the rest of them, because it's right in the center of the earth; that's Christ.” (62-0311, The Greatest Battle Ever Fought, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Is the northstar Christ? That's what a Japanese religion says, the north star is where the ultimate

god resides, *“So if one asks where the dwelling of this great kami is, it is in the very center of heaven, very highly elevated, in a still and unmoving place, namely, the so-called pole star, the point forming the fulcrum^{XVI} of heaven; it is there that Amenominakanushi no kami resides.* (from 4. Hirata Atsutane's View of Amenominakanushi no Kami-Kami Contemporary Papers on Japanese Religion)

“Hirata used expressions implying a sovereign role for Amenominakanushi no kami, his interpretations did not describe the kami as one that disclosed its existence, but as a deity that existed "eternally hidden within the so-called north star, which is the High Plain of Heaven," <http://www2.kokugakuin.ac.jp/ijcc/wp/cpjr/kami/sasaki.html>

Chinese astrological thought refers to that group of constellations encircling the north star, and believed it to be the home of the Heavenly Emperor (tentei). <http://www2.kokugakuin.ac.jp/ijcc/wp/cpjr/kami/sasaki.html>

There are other god's as well: Dhruva Hindu God of the Pole Star. He is an avatar of Vishnu and one of the vasus Tara Hindu Celestial deity and the goddess of the Pole Star. Seen in some areas as an important aspect of the Mother Goddess. Xaman Ek Mayan God of the north star, he is the protector of merchants and travelers.

The North Star, the Pole Star also known as Polaris is the brightest star in the constellation Ursa Minor, it seems to stay fixed in our sky but the North Star does move. It appears this way because it is in a direct line with the axis of the Earth and this is why it has been used as a navigation aid, but it does wobble.

Thousands of years ago, when the pyramids were built in Egypt, the North Star was Thuban in the constellation Draco the Dragon was the Pole Star. Five thousand years from now, the North Star will be Alpha Cephei. Seven thousand years after that, it will be Vega. Nine thousand years after that, Thuban will be the North Star again. Twelve thousand years from now, the blue-white star Vega

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



in the constellation Lyra will be a much brighter North Star than our current Polaris. The motion of Earth known as the *precession of the equinoxes*, is what causes the identity of the pole star to change over time

The earth's axis makes one complete rotation over the course of approximately 26,000 years. If you trace the path of the axis in the sky, you will find that Polaris, Vega, Thuban, and Alpha Cephei all fall on or very close to it. So when the earth's axis is at a point on the path near Vega, Vega becomes the North Star while Thuban is the North Star when the axis is near it on the path.

The Bible tells us what the stars are

Gen. 1:14-16 *Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years;" and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also."*

Jer. 31:35 *"Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night."* The stars were for seasons, days and years. Not for revelation, not to teach us Bible history before the Bible was written.

Right from the beginning in Genesis God tells us that the stars were signs to show God created not just the earth we live on but the great expanse of space. To measure days and years, to give light. Nowhere does the Bible teach they were to proclaim any story or event of the Bible. Certainly not the gospel that God Himself says was a mystery hid until the New Testament.

Psalms 19, Psalm 104, and Romans 1 all explain God has provided a general revelation of Himself through nature. He revealed to mankind that He exists by all of creation, not just the stars. However, nothing of creation gives someone knowledge of the

future, nor details about any story in the Bible; least of all the gospel. Its only intent is to show there is an intelligent designer that has created everything: the stars in heaven and life on earth.

Rom.1:18-25 tells us mankind sees the evidence of God's power in nature but we naturally suppress it, and change it into a lie, worshiping the creation and creatures, instead of the Creator. This is exactly what the idea of gaining knowledge of God from the stars is about. In ancient astrology they believed they were powers that influenced our lives; that tell us our future. This is called divination, whose source is not God. Only His word gives prophecy, not the stars, not the pyramids.

To say that this took place thousands of years before any scripture was written is more than speculation and challenges the absolute truth in Scripture. Here is why:

No one can tell the story in the stars without knowing the story first. But according to the promoters of this mixture of astrology and Christianity, it was made known to all people who can look up in the sky without any reference. And the reference are pictorial illustrations. If details of the Messiah are not recorded until the New Testament was written, which spans over a thousand years through many prophets, how can the life and death of Jesus, of whom the gospel is the focus on be revealed by creation? Creation is meant to only give general revelation that God exists.

The Bible says the gospel was *unknown until* the Scripture of the New Testament was given. That puts an end to any speculation. Otherwise we have a major conflict.

We are told in Scripture that someone cannot hear the gospel without someone being sent. Rom. 10: 14-15: *"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



God has revealed His eternal power and nature in the world around Him, as proof that He exists but if a man is going to call on the Lord for salvation he is going to have to believe in Christ, by the gospel message that had taken place. Verse 17 states that *faith comes by hearing* words, words from the Word of God, Scripture. The gospel is preached by the Word, not learned by *anything that is created*. To propose this refers to a gospel without human preachers, without words contradicts the very meaning of the passage.

Natural revelation does not reveal to us God's plan of salvation. This fact is made very clear as we read further in Rom. 10:13-17: *"faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."* The gospel comes from specific revelation, not general revelation. Nature can only speak of the existence of God; the New Testament speaks of how one comes into relationship with God through the means God gave — His Son and His death and resurrection (the Gospel).

Later on Branham seem to adjust his view to make it seem that he was not teaching this as from the Bible, *"Now, please, let it be known on the tape and wherever more, I'm not teaching this as a doctrine, what I'm going to say now. But I'm just want to show you that, by the help of God, what it really is, that the first Bible that God ever wrote was the Zodiac in the skies. It starts off with a virgin. It ends up with Leo the lion. And when I get into that Sixth and Seventh Seal, you'll find out when that other Seal was opened, the Zodiac mark of that place was cancer, the cross fish. That's the cancer age we're living in now revealed. And the next thing the seal tore off, it revealed Leo the lion, the second coming of Christ."* (62-1014M, The Stature Of A Perfect Man, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

How can it not be a doctrine when he said it is prophecy, that it is the first Bible? The fact is, he mixed astrology with the 7 seals and prefacing it with it not being taught as doctrine is contradictory to everything in the Scripture. Besides this, any

zodiac enthusiast will tell you it is the age of Pisces they lived in transitioning to Aquarius, not cancer.

And you thought God declared His word to His prophets before, no it's the stars, that's how important Branham thought of them. That they had the gospel (which the Bible says was not revealed) and predicted the future by the stars - that is astrology Christianized.

Branham's Astrological sign

To understand Branham's openness to astrology we need to go back to his youth, Branham recalls as a young adult when he encountered astrologers twice 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.

"I remember going out one night at a carnival; I was just about eighteen years old. My cousin, a couple of them, and I, were going down. There was a little old gypsy fortunetellers tent sitting there. And I was going down along the side there, and the little--little gypsy woman said, "Say, you, come here!" Well, all three of us turned around. She said, "You with the striped sweater on." I said, "Me?" "Yes!" I thought maybe she wanted me to get her a Coke. And I said, "Yes, ma'am." She said, "Do you know that you were born under a sign?" I said, "Look woman. Shut up." I got away from there right quick." (52-0713A, Early Spiritual Experiences, Civic Center, Hammond, IN)

"I remember came about when I was near the age of nineteen. I was strolling through the carnival grounds one night with some other boys, when a voice called out, "Say, you ... Come here!"... Looking back, I saw a young lady sitting under a tent, an astrologist. And besides my own griefs, there was always that feeling of something hovering over me..." (Personal Testimony of the Coming of the Gift)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Besides the different ages of 18 and 19, we learn from another sermon "a little old fortune teller sitting as we was all going, walking by. She said, "Say, you, come here a minute!".... And she said, "You with the striped sweater." That was me. ...I said, "Yes, ma'am, what could I do for you?" And she said, "Say, did you know there's a--a Light that follows you? You were born under a certain sign." I said, "What do you mean?" She said, "Well, you were born under a certain sign. There's a Light that follows you. You were born for a Divine call." I said, "Get away from here, woman!" I started moving on, 'cause my mother always told me them things was of the Devil. She was right. So I... That scared me." (55-0117, How The Angel Came To Me, And His Commission, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

If Branham believed a light came in his room at birth why would it be so absurd to believe that it is following him? After all he said "When a little boy, and I seen It for my first time," that "there was always that feeling of something hovering over me." Why would her statement of this scare him when he said he was hearing a voice speak from a tree?

Taking a bus he tells a story of meeting another astrologer "...And one day while I was warden, I was going up on the bus, and I standing there. And I always was subject to spirits. I felt a strange feeling." (52-0713A, Early Spiritual Experiences, Civic Center, Hammond, IN)

Branham's admittance to being subject to spirits gives us insight to his early life. What he hears from the astrologer is not the first time of being born under a sign of the zodiac.

She said, "If I tell you just exactly when you was born, will you believe me?"
I said, "No, ma'am."
And she said, "Well, I can tell you when you were born."
I said, "I don't believe it."
And she said, "You were born on April the 6th, 1909, at five o'clock in the morning."

I said, "That's right." I Said "How do you know that?" I said, "Tell this sailor here when he was born."

Said, "I can't." And I said, "Why? How do you know it?" Said, "Look, sir." She said, when she begin to talk about this astronomy now, and she said, "Every so many years..." Said, "You remember when the morning star come, that led the wise men to Jesus Christ?"

And I kind of stalled, you know, I said, "Well, I don't know nothing about religion."

And she said, "Well, you've heard about the wise men coming to see Jesus."

I said, "Yes."

And she said, "Well, what was wise man?"

"Oh," I said, "they were just wise men, all I know."

She said, "Well, what Is a wise man?" She said, "The same thing that I am, an astrologist, 'star gazer' they call them." And she said, "You know, before God does anything in-in the earth, He always declares it in the heaven, and then on the earth."

And I said, "I don't know."

And she said, "Well ..." She called two or three, two ... three stars, like Mars, Jupiter, and Venus. It wasn't them, but she said, "They crossed their paths and come together and ..." Well, your birth has something to do with the stars up there." (p.77-78 Footprints on the Sands of Time; 52-0713A, Early Spiritual Experiences, Civic Center, Hammond, IN; 55-0117, How The Angel Came To Me, And His Commission, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

Both astrologers said the same "Say, do you know that you were born under a sign and there is a star following you? You were born with a gift."... You were born under a certain star to be a gifted person." (Personal Testimony of the Coming of the Gift).

In fact he later described this light at the baptism at the Ohio River as a star.

If he knew a light came into his room at birth why would he not mention it to the astrologer who was explaining that a light is following him. Why would it be so difficult to accept this light accompanying him if it was seen at his birth? He spoke of these

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



astrologers long after the supposed light came at his first baptism at the Ohio river ... Why wouldn't he admit a light was following him? After all he taught that John, "*at the baptismal service when he was baptizing, he saw Jesus coming with a Light following Him.*" (56-0200, Contending For The Faith, Georgetown High School, Georgetown, IN)

On the bus Branham admits he lies to the woman astrologer, that he was never told this. *She said, "Anybody ever tell you you were born under a sign." I said, "No, ma'am." I lied to her there, see, and I said... just wanted to see what she was going to say.*" (55-0117, How The Angel Came To Me, And His Commission)

He then agrees with her that this is the date of his birth, but even Branham said elsewhere that he didn't even know the date exactly, "*...Bill, you're fifty years old.*" *Best I know, I was born in Kentucky where they don't have a birth records.*" (60-0803, Jehovah-Jireh, Eisenhower High School, Yakima, WA).

But he took her word and adopted the date. William Branham always insisted that his birth date was April 6, 1909 five o'clock in the morning, the same date the astrologer gave him.

As Peter Duyzer points out in his book "Legend of the Fall" on p.40, that this contradicts the official court documentation. "*...this author has obtained WMB's marriage license which lists his birth date as April 8, 1908. This date must be taken as correct, which jeopardizes WMB's integrity and disqualifies him from serving in any capacity in the world or in the church.*"

The astrologers date is April 6, 1909, but on his marriage certificate he wrote in February 8, 1908. Why would he write a different date? Because this was his first marriage before he began his healing ministry and his supernatural stories were developed. It was also before his relaying his encounter with the astrologers in his sermons.

This is why we see in his second marriage, which took place October 1941 that the astrologers date appears on the marriage certificate. This is no slight matter to change ones birth date to fit a religious story of their life.

Peter Duyzer in his footnotes on p.34 in his book "Legend of the fall" points to the *1920 census Jeffersonville, Clark, Indiana; Roll T625-425; Page 11A; ancestry.com united States federal Census, [data base on-line Provo UT USA]* (Assessed February 23, 2011)

Mr. Branham has said on various occasions that he did not know when he was born yet he adopted the astrologers date for his birth. How does he know the astrologer giving him the date of April 6, 1909 is correct? This means Branham believed the astrologer[s] knew his birth date that he and his parents did not know by a different spiritual power. So why did William Branham change his birth date? The answer is found in the question why did Branham teach the gospel in the stars?

Nothing happened in the sky in all of 1909, nor on the date the astrologer gave Branham for his birth. The only stars that aligned were stars added to our flag. Oklahoma became our 47th Star on the flag (1907). 49th Star on the flag Alaska (1959). 50th Star on the flag (1960) Hawaii. Maybe one can find significance of these stars right next to the pyramid on the dollar bill.

The three stars that became one

In his sermon, *Show Us The father And It Sufficeth Us*, Aug. 19, 1950 to the sermon, *A Trial*, Apr. 27, 1964, Tucson, AZ, "So, if God does the same thing again, shows something in the heavens. He will use the same celestial bodies. Those are the ones we need to watch – the distant worlds, some larger than our own, like Jupiter and Saturn. Not necessarily a star like our Sun. It was at that time the Star, that we know today as called Star, appeared in the sky. I can imagine that those Magis with one accord stood speechless as they looked at the phenomena of a Star that had defied the laws of

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



the solar system, and had come from the great constellations of the heavenly bodies to declare something when it was fixing to happen." (57-1222 Great Shining light Jefferson IN)

Where does the Bible say that God declares it in the sky and we are to watch the heavenly bodies? That is what the astrologer said to him. And we should not overlook that Branham is saying this type of event can be repeated, this too he also accepted from the astrologer on the bus for himself.

Branham was of the view that an actual star[s] went out of its place and hovered over the house Jesus was living in, for at least two years ... *"Those magis, Jewish magis, up in Babylon, studying the stars, saw those stars fall into their constellation, and when he did, they knew that Messiah was on earth. And here they come into Jerusalem singing (two years' journey), "Where is He That's born King of the Jews?" ... And all along the journey has been something pulling me, tugging at me. Then when that Magi told me these things when I was just a boy, game warden (or before that, I believe it was), about these things, and it scared me, because I was afraid of--of what the Magi was. But later on I found out that the magis of the Bible was right, because God declares it in heaven before He declares it on earth: watching those heavenly bodies."* (62-1230E, Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir? Branham) Tabernacle Jeffersonville, IN)

Here Branham relates his birth to the star that led the magi, calling the astrologers he met magi. This presents numerous problems that will become evident.

The first is that the star appeared long before Jesus' birth, moving from east to west leading the magi to him. The shepherds in the field had an angel to announce Jesus' birth, they saw no star (Lk. 2:11).

"Later on I met an astronomer, which is a Magi. And they told me of a constellation of stars that had come together at a certain constellation when the wise men in Babylon saw down towards Palestine this three stars in a constellation. You've heard me

tell it many times." (62-1230E Is This sign of the End Sir)

Here Branham calls the astrologers he met as astronomers, like the one that told him he was born under a sign (stars aligning), these astrologers were involved in divination, not like those in the Bible who came from Babylon to visit Jesus. The magi came to worship Jesus, did the astrologers he met worship Jesus?

Branham did not always say these Magi were from Babylon *"Before the first coming of Jesus, the astronomers of India, magis ... I've missionaried in India, and talked with magis about this ... They were astronomers; they were watching the heavenly bodies."* (62-0319, The End-Time Sign Seed, Tifton Junior High School, Tifton, GA)

"I've had the privilege of ministering in India, from where they come from, and they travel by three's. ... And that's the reason, I think, that we believe there were three wise men, because they travel in three's." (63-1216, We Have Seen His Star And Have Come To Worship Him, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ)

The Magi the Bible speaks of did not come from India, they came from where Daniel was, where he wrote his book, Persia.

The three in one stars

The astrologer on the bus explained to young William *"Three wise men, the Magis was following three different stars, they didn't know when they were coming." Said, "When they gathered together, and met each other at the Bethlehem gate, following three different stars, and they formed the one morning star, that hung over the Christ..." And she said, "One was from the lineage of Ham, Shem, and Japheth, the three sons of Noah." And said, "Those three stars went together and made the one star that hung over Christ."* (52-0713A, Early Spiritual Experiences, Civic Center, Hammond, IN)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Branham says somewhere along the way *"the three wise men that came to worship Jesus, consulting one another, found out one was from the - the lineage of Ham, one from Shem, and Japheth, those three."* (54-0306, The Unconditional Covenant That God Made With His People)

Branham would continually tell people details that are not found in the Bible but do make for good storytelling.

"three wise men came to see Jesus. The astronomy says that they followed three different stars, and these three stars came together and made the one star." (61-0119A, The Water Baptism, Golden Arrow Restaurant, Beaumont, TX)

"The Wise Men" as three is a tradition or a myth. This conclusion is arrived at because of the number of gifts presented to him (gold, frankincense and myrrh). Matthew does not tell us the number of the magi, though we are sure they were at least two because it is plural.

"She called two or three, two ... three stars, like Mars, Jupiter, and Venus. It wasn't them, but she said, "They crossed their paths and come together and made..." Said, "There was three wise men that come to meet the Lord Jesus, and one was from the lineage of Ham, and one Shem, and the other one Japheth." And said, "When they met together at Bethlehem, the three stars that they were from." (55-0117, How The Angel Came To Me, And His Commission, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

"because something's fixing to happen one of these days, something similar to that, when the five planets, Mars, Jupiter, and Venus, and--and so forth comes into their--their... Oh, they claim maybe twenty-five thousand years ago, but who was back there to know it? I predict that this has a spiritual application. I believe it's the coming in of the issue of God, that the great revelation of the Word will be opened during this time. Remember, they claim it was three stars came into the orbit when Jesus was born." (62-0204, Communion, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Whose they? You mean the astrologer[s] you met. So we see Branham taught planetary or star orbits would predict a spiritual event. Even the astrologer who gave him the idea denied they were planets *"three stars, like Mars, Jupiter, and Venus. It wasn't them."*

Many have wrongly pointed out that the "Star of Bethlehem" became visible again on June 30th 2015 for the first time. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/star-of-bethlehem-shines-again/>
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/jupiter-venus-to-converge-in-star-of-bethlehem-moment/>

Since the astrologer spoke of these heavenly events what has happened? Nothing. And it was the same nothing back then for Jesus. Because it was not stars or planets aligned.

We have Branham repeating what the astrologer taught him, which is not found at all in the Bible. We must take into account of what he himself said of being susceptible to spirits.

Branham goes as far as to say *"And when they seen those three stars come in line, that was a sign, an old Hebrew sign, that when those three stars come in line, the Messiah was on the earth. They come, screaming, "Where is He, born King of the Jews? We saw His Star and we've come to worship Him."* (63-0627, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, Associated Brotherhood Of Christians Campground, Hot Springs, AR)

Exactly where is there an old Hebrew sign like this? Branham made off the cuff statements like this all the time. Did the Magi come screaming?

...And said, "When they three stars, when they... They come from different directions and they met at Bethlehem. And they said they found out and consulted, and one was from the lineage of Ham, Shem, and Japheth, the three sons of Noah." And she said, "Then they come and worshipped the Lord Jesus Christ." ... And said, "Jesus Christ said in His ministry that when this Gospel has been preached to all the world (Ham, Shem, and Japheth's people), then He would come again." And she said, "Now,

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



those planets, heavenly planets, as they move around..." Said, "They separated. They've never been on the earth since, known. But" said "every so many hundred years, they cross their cycles like this." If there happen to be an astronomer here, you might know what she was talking about. I don't. So when she was talk-... Said, "They cross like that." And said, "In commemoration of the greatest Gift that was ever given to mankind, when God gave His Son. When these planets cross themselves again, why," said, "He sends another gift to the earth." And said, "You were born on the crossing of that time." And said, "That's the reason I knew it." (55-0117 How the angel came to me and his Commission)

Here is the astrological setup, he used this to focus on his birth, that he and his angel is a gift. In other words the planets (stars) did the same alignment for his birth that they did for Jesus.

It is worth pointing out that Masonry has three stars, the Sun, Moon and Mercury ... are the three" Great Lights of a Masonic Lodge." "These three lights represent Osiris, Isis, and Horus."

Branham presents another story except it is not from a woman but a man who is a Christian saying the same things. "... *The Christian astronomer that I was talking to, or magi, he said, "That means that there were three races of people that this Man died for."... when the little baby Christ was born, three stars went together and made the one morning star, that reflected the coming of a infant Christ, a perfect One.*" (62-0319, The End-Time Sign Seed, Tifton Junior High School, Tifton, GA)

This concept of three races mentioned by the astrologer is also mentioned in dubious ancient texts such as "The book of the Cave of Treasures" written in Syriac from the sixth century is attributed to Ephrem Syrus and considered by some to be a New Testament Apocrypha (it is in the British Museum translated by [Budge, E. A. Wallis](#) 1927). We read "*And Noah carried the body of our father Adam, and [the body of] Eve, and his firstborn Shem carried the gold, and Ham carried the myrrh,*

and Japhet the frankincense, and they went forth from the Cave of Treasures." (Many consider the writer of the *Cave of Treasures* took this from the *Conflict of Adam and Eve*, or that they both had a common source)

The book "The Cave of Treasures" also contains a description of the Magi and their visit to Jerusalem. Called the "wise men of Persia" they studied the Signs of the Zodiac, for centuries, and could forecast with accuracy the course of events on this earth.

Branham further confuses the meaning of stars in heaven to be the morning star "*The three ancient fathers coming to pay tribute as they followed the morning Star to Christ ...*" (54-0306, The Unconditional Covenant That God Made With His People, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ)

Now we have Branham claim the morning star led them to Christ, three stars as one. Which is an impossibility since he considered Christ to be the morning star.

Who are the Magi and how did they know?

"And we find that the Medes-o-Persians got acquainted with the Gospel of our Lord when down in Babylon. Years before, in the time of King Nebuchadnezzar, they had such people as astronomers who watched the stars and the bodies of heaven. And they could tell by signs and the moving of the stars, of certain events was to take place. And the kings of the early days consulted these such men to know of events and of things that were going to take place. God always declares it by His celestial bodies before He makes it known to the earth. God writes it in the heavens. ... And these people certainly got acquainted with the Gospel in the years of Israel's captivity, of seventy years in the land of the Chaldeans, and, surely, Daniel being made the chief of the Magi ... The prophet, by his great wisdom to know the end of things, and to know what God was going to do, and he was called the chief of the Magi. And the Magis had old manuscripts that they referred to, of their ancient

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



fathers. And Daniel brings in the writings of the Lord. And so we understand that during this time they had counseled much together, and they had seen the wisdom and the power that the one true God produced, that was far beyond any astronomer or Magi.” (57-1222, The Great Shining Light, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

This is not what happened, Daniel did not consult with them or have his own zodiac. Nebuchadnezzar (the bible) called them astrologers.

In Isa. 47:12-13 God addresses Babylon, the Chaldeans; *“Stand now with your enchantments And the multitude of your sorceries, ... You are wearied in the multitude of your counsels; Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, And the monthly prognosticators.”*

God does not approve of this activity of astrology. In v: 9 he identifies their astrology as part of the *“multitude of your sorceries, For the great abundance of your enchantments.”*

What is significant is Branham saying *“God always declares it by His celestial bodies before He makes it known to the earth.”* Branham is certainly trying to legitimize astrology as biblical. The reason will become evident later.

Remember, Israel was captive in Babylon for 70 years, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah they served before the Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon (Dan. 1:19). The king had a very disturbing dream, and he wanted to understand its meaning. Daniel 2:2, *“So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed.”*

The astrologers of Babylon were unable to help the King with his troublesome dream. Dan. 2:12-13 the king *“gave a command to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.”*

However, God had his prophet Daniel receive a night vision and he was brought before the king to interpret the dream. The Bible says in Daniel 2:27-28 NKJ, *“Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, ‘The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, ...’* He explains the dream through v.36-45. *Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, ... and answered Daniel, and said, ‘Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.’* The king promotes Daniel to be ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon.”

Dan. 4:4-7 Nebuchadnezzar is in his palace. V.5 I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts on my bed and the visions of my head troubled me.”

He again brings in all the wise men of Babylon to interpret the dream. V.7 *Then the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers came in.* None could make known the interpretation. Each time Nebuchadnezzar dreams, Daniel comes to his rescue.

We can see these men are put in different categories according to their abilities. The wise men included the astrologers. What they are not called are astronomers as Branham says.

Again they fail and Daniel gives the king the interpretation that is not so hopeful of the future of him and his kingdom. The king recognizes God's wisdom in what he speaks and says *“the Spirit of the Holy God is in you,”* (Dan 4:18) which is an incredible admission for this pagan king.

Daniel interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dream correctly prompted some to learn of the God of Israel. Daniel did not consult the stars but trusted the Lord to give his word. V.16 *“he was made to be the third ruler in the kingdom.”* He became the head not only of the magi, but chief over others as well.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



The next King after Nebuchadnezzar is Belshazzar who gives party for his rulers he commands to bring the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem. He then took the holy vessels from the temple drank wine from them and praised their false gods. Within the hour fingers of hand appear to write something on the wall.

Whoever reads this writing, and tells me its interpretation shall be the third ruler in the kingdom, Dan 5:7) but none could not, again the astrologers and others fail.

The King Belshazzar was greatly troubled but hears "There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the Spirit of the Holy God." (Dan 5:11). Then Daniel was brought in before the king.

Each time by God's wisdom Daniel was able to describe and explain to Babylon's king's what is correct. V.17 "I will read the writing to the king, and make known to him the interpretation."

It was during the captivity of Israel in Babylon that Daniel saved their lives from execution and was promoted (Dan. 4:24) over them by correctly interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

It is because of Daniels promotion that the Bible is introduced to the men of Babylon. During this time Daniel wrote his book. Some came to the correct knowledge of the God of Israel. Wise men - *chakkiym* (Aramaic) Magi, comes from a root corresponding to wise i.e. Magician (mentioned in Dan. 2:12, 13, 14, 18, 24, 27, 48; 4:6, 18; 5:7, 8, 15).

These converted Gentiles learned of the timing from Daniels writing and of this star, by reading in the Scripture of a gentile prophet named Balaam, who was an astrologer from the city of Pethor, on Euphrates River in Babylonia (Num. 22:5; Deut. 23:4).

Balaam used prophecy as a business, this is why he is spoken of in such bad terms in the New

Testament. Yet despite this, he tells Balak *"The word that God puts in my mouth, that I must speak."* (Numbers 22:38)

It is his Messianic prophecy that pertains to this: *"I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not nigh: There shall come forth a star out of Jacob, And a sceptre shall rise out of Israel, And shall smite through the corners of Moab, And break down all the sons of tumult."* (Numbers 24:17)

Balaam was paid to curse Israel, but he instead prophesied of the coming of the Jewish Messiah by stating a star (a light) would appear out of Israel's lineage. This would not be a literal star in the heavens, as he explains in his description *"a sceptre shall rise out of Israel."* (the sceptre is a symbol of a king). Gen. 49:10 *"The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people."* Shilo is symbolic of Messiah.

Centuries had passed after Daniel taught the Babylonian's as to the timing of "the star of Jacob," the scepter appearing. It was by knowing the Scripture's prophecies and as they looked into the heavens they saw this unusual a light, (a radiance) appear.

The magi did not read the zodiac in the sky to know they should go to Israel but saw the glory of God radiating in the sky as a star. It was not the morning star as Branham states, for it was unusual and it moved.

God used this radiance in the sky that looked like a star to attract those in Babylon as a sign of this event. These men were trained in the scripture. The Wise Men that looked at the night sky knew something special had taken place and deduced from the timing in the Scripture the King of the Jews had finally been born.

This is why they knew what gifts to bring (Gold, Frankencense and Myrr). Gold for him as king (the ark of the covenant was covered in gold). Frankencense for deity, (the incense was burned in

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



the tabernacle to God that permeated the structure) and Myrr which is used in embalming, (for the purpose of his coming, to die for our sins).

God did not forget these believers. The Wise Men saw the star and began to travel to Jerusalem, as it led them. When they arrived there they did not visit him in the manger, it was in a home. Matthews account depicts him as a child (not a newborn baby) being as much as two years old, he is called "the young Child."

Mt. 2:1-9: "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.' "and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was."

The star led them to the land of Israel, and they went straight to Jerusalem inquiring about the child who is to be king. The star they refer to as "His star," showing there is a special relationship to him, not stars plural.

This could not be a star in any constellation nor a number of stars or planets because of how it moved and then stood still. It had nothing to do with astrology, it was not stars or planets aligning, they do not behave in the manner this star did. Natural explanations cannot suffice when the star was actually a supernatural event. The magi saw a star in the heavens that did not move as the other stars. Stars continually move as the earth is in rotation, they appear in the east and set in the west. It was not the north star nor the Morning star. No actual star can do what this star did. A natural phenomenon does not describe a stars movement as it "went ahead of" the magi. Jesus was born in Bethlehem which is 5 miles south of Jerusalem. At this time this star then moves from north to south. And this star stood still over the house where he as a young child is now living in Bethlehem proving they were not planets as Branham proposed. Nearly 2 Years after, they arrived at his home (Mt.2:19). The star

being in the sky for over 2 years vanishes. This was actually a supernatural event that led the magi to the child.

The word Star in Hebrew-*kowkab* (in the sense of blazing); a star (as round or as shining); figuratively, a prince: (Strong's Concordance). The word for star in Greek is *aster* (Strong's concordance). It is not the same property as a star which is a sun. This Greek word for star means "radiance." Whenever God became visible in the Old Testament it was his Glory. This was in the familiar form of a light; the appearance of the Glory in the sky looked like a star (the same glory that appeared with the angel for the shepherds). The Glory was visible to signal to those looking for his birth from afar (see Luke 2:9).

Branham used the stars over and over to form his beliefs. Because of Branham's lack of true knowledge he would believe anything suitable as the truth and reinterpret it to relate to his life. What prophet ever said to look to the Zodiac for Bible teaching? The answer is none of them. Branham expanded his teaching to the pyramids as the second Bible written, ignoring that both the zodiac and the pyramids are tools used in metaphysics and the occult.

"and they say God always declares Himself in the heavenly body before He does in the earth, before He does anything." (62-0319, The End-Time Sign Seed, Tifton Junior High School, Tifton, GA)

This is word for word what the astrologer said to him, but is not a word from the Bible.

Pyramidology

If the gospel in the stars gives man a complete revelation as Branham stated, then how does the pyramid say the same thing? Hebrews 1:1 tells us that God "*spoke in times past unto the fathers by the prophets,*" not by the stars nor the pyramid. No prophet mentions the stories of the Bible in the stars or the pyramid. The Bible does not mention anything about the pyramids, but Branham does!

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



“And He's writing His first Bible. The second Bible was written, was written by Enoch, and put in the pyramid. The third Bible was written, and the last one, is this One.” (53-0403, The Cruelty Of Sin, And The Penalty That It Cost To Rid Sin From Our Lives, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

When he says Enoch wrote a Bible and put in the pyramid he is speaking of the internal physical structure. *“Enoch wrote them and put them in a pyramid”* (62-1014M The stature of a perfect man Jefferson IN)

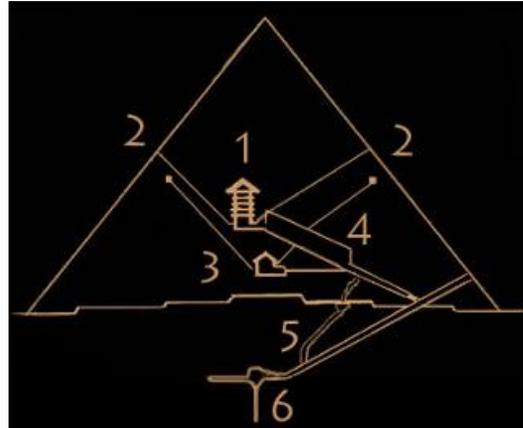
“Then Enoch completed in his day, or back in that day, the pyramid. And it would ... ‘Course we haven't got time to background it and show how that that pyramid come up through the chambers and so forth. It speaks right straight to the end time now. They're in the king's chamber now by the measurement.” (62-1104M Blasphemous names Jefferson IN)

This is a good example of spiritualizing a teaching without a single reference from the Bible except the name Enoch which is transposed as the builder without any justification. The Bible is now measurements inside an edifice, something that Branham never got to explain. *“And notice in the pyramid when he built it in time of Enoch, every stone was in there. They could measure them things just exactly and tell the wars and things.”* (1961-Revelation, Chapter Four #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

He used a manmade edifice for a false religion to be God's Bible.

The Giza pyramid was not the first built, but it is the tallest. The entrance is on the north face (not the east as the temple). The air shafts were recognized as being aligned with stars or areas of sky as the sky appeared for the pyramids' builders 5,000 years ago.

The Great Pyramid of Giza



You have The Kings Chamber

1. The "air shafts"
2. You have The Kings Chamber but you also have
3. The Queens Chamber
4. The Grand Gallery 7 ft. wide but more than 153 ft. long and nearly 29 ft. leads to the burial chamber of the King deep within
5. The Escape Shaft (or well shaft)
6. The Subterranean Chamber is left

unfinished, if completed the floor would have been 116 sq.m., like the ceiling, and twice the size of the floor in the King's Chamber, 54.9 sq.m

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Pyramid_of_Giza
<http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/pyramids/home.html>
<http://www.ronaldbirdsall.com/gizeh/petrie/index.htm>

Who built the pyramid of Giza?

According to Branham *“But they built it then. And that pyramid, the big pyramid setting there, Enoch put it in there years and years before the antediluvian flood. And then, God wrote three Bibles. God does everything in threes.”* (54-1006, Law Or Grace, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

“Then Enoch completed in his day, or back in that day, the pyramid.” (62-1104M, Blasphemous Names, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)
How did Enoch build such an edifice among the people, one that Branham says cannot be duplicated

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



today? Who helped him? When did he start? How does Branham know Enoch built it, when no prophet of the Bible did? Branham did not glean these ideas from the Bible so where did Branham get his information?

Since there is no biblical message that mentions the pyramid, (there is about an ark and we have chapters devoted to its building and purpose) His explanation (which is missing) is beyond credulity.

If one does even a cursory investigation on the pyramid they will find it unanimously used in occult, metaphysical literature and new age teaching. Here is one of the gateways to Branham's synthesis of Christianity with metaphysics.

It is the Masons believe the Great Pyramid of Giza was built by Enoch.

"The Greek Christians supposed him (Enoch) to have been identical with the first Egyptian Hermes, who dwelt at Sais. They say he was the first to give instruction on the celestial bodies; that he foretold the deluge that was to overwhelm his descendants; and that he built the Pyramids, engraving thereon figures of artificial instruments and the elements of the sciences, fearing lest the memory of man should perish in that general destruction."
<http://www.masonicdictionary.com/enoch.html>

The Masons mention two important points. Enoch warned them of the flood, which he knew nothing about, so this is impossible. The instructions to Noah to build an ark is over 60 years after Enoch was gone. And the most insidious point is that Enoch built the pyramids.

"Now, God made three Bibles. Now, there's a pyramid teaching that's nonsense, but there's a genuine pyramid. See? Notice. Now, God, first Bible... He made three." (64-0802, The Future Home Of The Heavenly Bridegroom And The Earthly Bride)

No, there is no genuine zodiac or pyramid to counterfeit, both of these are not from God.

Let's summarize what Branham is proposing, God wrote the first Bible all by himself placing illustrations in the stars. The second Bible man (Enoch) wrote in the pyramid. Remember Branham is saying the whole story of history is in this. The third Bible (the only Bible) was written over a 1,500 year period for the Old Testament by 27 different authors. And for the New Testament it took 45 years through 5 apostles, (and others, James and the book of Hebrews) to the last book, the Revelation.

The Pyramid of God?

"As I've often made this remark and said God made three Bibles. The first one, He put It in the sky, the zodiac. ... He made the next one in the pyramid, back in the days of Enoch, when they made the pyramid. And they measure them. I don't understand it. But to the wars, where they stoop and go on their knees for so long, and can measure the distance of the wars. You know where they measure to now? Plumb across the king's chamber. And as this pyramid went up... We could not build it, with everything that we got today. We couldn't build it." (60-0518 Manifested Sons of God Branham Tabernacle)

Branham expanded his explanation of how they built it by using his imagination, they had atomic power.

"And it sets way in the air there. How did they get it up there? See, they were--they were people that had secret intelligence that we don't have today. I think we have it, but we just haven't advanced with it, atomic or something like that. Because electric powers, or no powers like that, could lift it. But they built it then. And that pyramid." (54-1006, Law or Grace, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

He claimed we had an advance civilization in the far past, greater than the time he lived in. Which makes no sense for his remark *"The third was wrote on paper, the Bible, for the great, smart intellectual world to come."* (60-0522E, Adoption, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



“There was a pyramid after that, Enoch, which testified exactly. We wouldn't have time to go into it, but, someday, by God's help, I'll show you, just exactly draws the dimension of the hour we're living. See?”

Notice, but this geographical measure now that we have, who dimensions are the same, doesn't necessary mean that it has to be a--a cube. Notice, this would answer Egypt's ... or the Enoch's sign in Egypt.” (1964-The Future Home Of The Heavenly Bridegroom And The Earthly Bride, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Squares and triangles are significant figures in masonry, the pyramid has both.

Branham then combined both the zodiac with the pyramid as a sign of the end.

“Now, as God has moved down through the age, we're at Leo the lion. We're at the capping of the pyramid. We're in the Book of the Revelations at the last chapter.” (60-0522E, Adoption, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Is there any proof of Enoch building the pyramid in Egypt? Enoch (Hanoth) is the name of two men in the Bible. One being the eldest son of Cain who gave his own name to the first city mentioned in Scripture that he built (Gen. 4:17-18). It is East of Eden and in the land of Nod, while Egypt is southwest of Eden.

The latter Enoch is the great-grandson of Noah whom Branham claims is the builder. Before Noah was commissioned to build the ark Enoch prophesied of the lords return with myriads of saints, to exercise judgment on their disobedience (Jd.1:14) so he had to be nearby where they all lived. Branham claims Enoch watched Noah build his boat (untrue, he was already gone), but this would mean he was in the vicinity of Noah, which certainly was not Egypt. So where did he have the time to build this testimony of stone? It took Moses 120 years to build the boat with his family helping. Enoch lived only 350 years.

Gen. 5:21-22 at sixty-five years, Enoch begot Methuselah then began to walk with God.”

We can narrow down the vicinity he lived because of his son Methuselah (who begot Lamech). Enoch was not in Egypt, and the Bible does mention him building the pyramids. Why would God not tell us anything about the first or second Bible in the third Bible that He wrote?

“Now, like Jesus came the first time, He's been here once hasn't He? He come to redeem His Bride. He comes the second time to receive His Bride, catch her up, meeting in the air, and comes the third time with His Bride as King and Queen. See?” (54-1006, Law Or Grace, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Nowhere is the bride called a queen in the New Testament, however the pyramid has a king and queen chamber.

In his teaching Branham mixes all kinds of metaphysical concepts with the Bible forcing a completely new interpretation of a basic teaching from Jesus.

“It's built right up like this to a point. And the stone on the capstone never was found. They never did put a cap on top of the pyramid. I don't know whether you know it or not. The big pyramid of Egypt, it never had a top stone on it. Why? The Capstone was rejected; Christ, the Headstone (See?), was rejected. But as we grow from the Lutheran age, Baptist age, Methodist age, Pentecostal age, we're right up to the Capping Stone now (See?), waiting and longing for that Capping Stone to set down; the building's complete. Have not you read in the Scripture, “the stone was rejected.” ‘Course, we realize that was talking to the Solomon's temple. “But the rejected Stone has become the Chief of the corner.” But I'm saying this only to make a--a picture to you. Now, and in the Bible, we're living in the last days, the top of the pyramid, the crossed fishes of the cancer age in the zodiac, in the time of the coming of the Leo the lion, in the capping Stone, and in the days of the manifestation of the sons of God in the Bible. See?”

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



See where we're at? We're right at the end time."
(60-0518, Manifested Sons of God, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham had no real concept of what he was teaching because according to the zodiac and astrologers we were not entering the age of Leo the lion but the Age of Aquarius.

It's the cornerstone that is rejected, which is a foundation stone, not the capstone which is the top. He ignored the Bibles meaning to make up his own.

The cornerstone is laid at the bottom as the foundation stone to build the church on. Branham made the church into a pyramid shape and the last piece was Christ at the top, changing the whole concept that Jesus taught on him being the foundation (1 Cor.3:11; Lk. 20:17; Acts 4:11; 1Pt. 2:6-7).

This is *"the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone."*
(Eph. 2:20)

Reversing the illustration Jesus gave of being the chief cornerstone (on the bottom) Branham made him the capstone (on the top) and introduced pyramidology.

"But the headstone never was put on the pyramid. And that sets perfect architecturally or--or masonry, until even a--the little thin razor blade... And they don't know how they ever built it, don't understand--could ever a razor blade slice along the sides where that mortar should be, and there's no mortar in it. It's just perfected, put together. So that's what it is when Christ and the Church becomes one. There's no mortar between; there's nothing between, just God and the person: God, Christ, and the person."
(62-1104M Blasphemous names Jefferson IN)

There is no doubt mathematics and physics went into the engineering of the pyramid, but how far does one want to take this concept.

Branham knew people were having resistance so he changed it, adapted it.

"He wrote one in the skies, which is the zodiac. Anybody knows that. Job spoke of it. What? Look at the zodiac. It starts off with the--with the virgin. It ends up with Leo the lion. ... then, the crossed fishes, of what we're in now, the cancer age, and everything, it all speaks. But, forget it. See? That ain't your Bible....Then, the pyramids, exactly how they were drawn, the headstone was rejected. Still, that's not your Bible. Then, God wrote it on Words."
(1964- A Paradox, Morrison's Cafeteria, Tampa, FL)

Yes he wrote words that have neither the pyramid nor the gospel in the zodiac.

Branham was not alone in his Christianized pyramidology. The idea that the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt was constructed by God (through Enoch) was popularized by the Dawn Bible Students, of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Through their founder Charles Taze Russell the Watchtower (Jehovah Witnesses) called the pyramid God's Stone Witness and Prophet. *"The great pyramid of Egypt, standing as a silent and inanimate witness of the Lord, is a messenger; and its testimony speaks with great eloquence concerning the divine plan."* (WatchTower 5/15/1925 p.148)

"the correspondency of dozens of measurements proves the same God designed both pyramid and plan..." (WatchTower 6/15/1922 p.187)

"Testimony of God's stone Witness and prophet, the great pyramid in Egypt." (Studies Vol.3 1903 ed. P.313)

The founder of the Jehovah Witnesses said, *"Its wonderful correspondencies with the Bible leave no room for doubt that the same divine inspirer of the prophets and apostles inspired this 'Witness' also."*
(Thy Kingdom Come 1891 and 1905 p.362)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"Thus the Pyramid witnesses that the close of 1914 will be the beginning of the time of trouble..." (Studies Vol. 3 1913 ed. p.342).

This became one of the many false prophetic dates given by the Jehovah Witness organization.

Branham personally knew Jehovah Witnesses, some he claimed to convert. The founder, Charles Russell was buried having a tombstone pyramid. Branham had a pyramid tombstone engraved stating that he was the pastor of the Laodicea church, (which is not something good). It seems to have more truth than first implied.

Besides the Pyramid was the Celestial Sphinx who was considered the Supreme being in the heavens.

In Ancient Egypt the Winged Disk was a combined emblem of the Sun, a double-headed cobra and eagle or vulture wings. The Cobra and the Vulture represented Upper and Lower Egypt ... not just in the geographical sense but also in the sense of a Celestial Egypt and a Terrestrial Egypt. The "as above so below" concept. The combined emblem represents the Sun passing through the centre of the Winged Disk, the Sacred Gateway, into the next Age of the Zodiac. Egyptian astrology was a part of its structure. In fact all 7 pyramid locations which can be seen from each other along the Nile are aligned to the stars.

Branham made the point *"And that pyramid, the big pyramid setting there, geographically, is so perfect in the center of the earth, no matter where the sun is, there's never a shadow around it."* (54-1006, Law or Grace, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Thales of Miletus (c. 624 – c.546 BC), a Greek philosopher and mathematician, measured the height of the pyramids by their shadows at the moment when his own shadow was equal to his height.

Branham insisted *"Geographically, it's in the center of the earth. There's never a shadow around it, no*

matter where the sun is." (53-1111 Preparation Owensboro KY)

Branham continued to teach this error, *"we don't have engineers like they had. That great pyramid in Egypt is so perfect in the center of the earth, no matter where the sun is, there's never a shadow around it. We couldn't put up a structure like that."* (61-1231E, If God Be With Us, Then Where Is All The Miracles?, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham had continually said what was completely false, there is a shadow cast from the pyramid.



No shadow?



By 2008 there were 38 pyramids discovered in Egypt, today there are 80 (in fact there are pyramids discovered all over the world, even underwater). The [Pyramid of Khufu](#) at Giza is the largest Egyptian pyramid constructed over the reign of five pharaohs in less than a hundred years. David H. Koch Pyramids Radiocarbon Project" in 1984. The project took samples of organic material (such as ash and charcoal deposits) from several locations within the Great Pyramid, and other pyramids and

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



monuments from the [Old Kingdom](#) period (ca. [3rd millennium BC](#)). These samples were subjected to [radiocarbon dating](#) to produce [calibrated date-equivalent](#) estimates of their age. This yielded results averaging 374 years earlier than the estimated historical date accepted by Egyptologists (2589 – 2504 BC.)

“Like Enoch, who built the pyramids, that we believe. And the capstone never was put on top of them, because the headstone was rejected.”(62-1104M Blasphemous names)

Enoch lived in Egypt? Were his parents were born there? And how long did he spend building this perfect edifice? Where is this found in Scripture?

“Did you notice that the great seal, it's the pyramid? Anybody ever know that the pyramid never had the capstone put on it? How many knows that?Never had the capstone, why? It was rejected, the cornerstone. That was the cornerstone that held this building, is a keystone. How many knows what a keystone is? When the arch is built, then the keystone holds it together. The cornerstone's what holds up the building, is that right? And the cornerstone in the pyramid was the capstone, was the keystone that held the rest of it together. Now, this keystone was rejected. Did you notice, up there, it's standing up above, up above the pyramid. Now, what did that represent when Enoch built it?” (62-0318, The Spoken Word Is The Original Seed, Branham Tabernacle)

This is a ridiculous explanation even by his own view. The pyramid is held together WITHOUT the capstone being there.

“Everything is complete but the headstone. Why? You notice on your dollar bill? Take it out and look; the cap's off of it. Why? It never was capped. Christ is the Headstone that was rejected; He was the rejected” (1961-Revelation, Chapter Four #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham is using US money to interpret the Bible? What does the pyramid picture on the back of the dollar bill have to do with the Bible or Christ?

A capstone is not the same as a cornerstone. The cornerstone is a foundation stone, it's on the bottom not the top. According to Branham it is the capstone that holds it together, but it was never put there. For thousands of years it held together. Branham had no problem saying things that were absurd and disconnected from reality and the Bible to make his spiritual points.

Branham literally turned this teaching it on its head, upside down. Branham called the cornerstone a capstone, a head stone.

The church is built upon Christ the chief cornerstone, which is the first stone put in on the bottom. Instead Branham had Jesus as the last stone put in on the top which means he was not the foundation.

The significance of using the word “Capstone,” to replace cornerstone is significant.

The capstone on the back of the dollar bill, is a mini pyramid above the pyramid of Giza with the all seeing eye within it. It represents enlightenment i.e., the Illumined one. In biblical terms- Lucifer.

It is worth noting that the NIV specifically calls Jesus Christ the “Capstone,” not the cornerstone (Psalm 118:22; Zech. 4:7; Mt. 21:42; Mk. 12:10; Lk.20:17; Acts 4:11; 1Pt.2:7). In the KJV 0; The NKJV has capstone in one place Zech. 4:7 (which is valid); The New American Standard 0; American Standard 0. Revised Standard Version 0. The Living Bible twice Ps. 118:22 Acts 4:1.

The scripture speaks of Jesus Christ as the “corner stone,” or “chief corner stone,” or “head of the corner” (Isaiah 28:16; Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17; Acts 4:11; Ephesians 2:20; I Peter 2:6, 7). Christ is the foundation stone, the initial first stone laid of which the church is built upon.

The CORNERSTONE *Job 38:6; Isa. 28:16 is the main stone at the corner of two walls that unites them; specifically, the stone built into one corner of the foundation of an edifice as the actual or nominal starting point of a building. "the chief corner*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



stone." Christ is called the "corner stone" can only mean in reference to His being the foundation of the Christian faith (Eph. 2:20) which the apostles and prophets both extend from. Both are built on the foundation. The Foundation becomes the head. He was sent to earth humbly and was exalted.

In his address before the Jewish SANHEDRIN, the apostle Peter quoted Psalm 118:22 and boldly proclaimed that "Jesus Christ of Nazareth," crucified and raised from the dead, was the stone rejected by the builders who has now become the chief cornerstone Acts 4:11. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

According to the Bible Jesus the chief cornerstone was already placed for the church to be built upon. Not a triangular shaped stone put on for completion. 1 Peter 2:7-8 "Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed."

Branham being stumbled changed this to be connected to the pyramid, which he called the second Bible. The builders according to the Bible were Israel and her prophets were definitely not Egyptian.

Jesus was rejected by the very ones of his own he came to, those who were given the Scripture to recognize him.

Branham introduced to the church Christianized Astrology (and pyramidology) since he needed to validate his own early life experience with the astrologers (they were not magi). As the Egyptian zodiac signs are related to different gods, it is clear we are not dealing with a system given by the true God. Egypt had nothing to do with the true God until they opposed him by keeping Israel as slaves while God wanted to bring his people out of bondage into the Promised Land. We do not find this gospel in the stars teaching in the gospels or epistles. It should be rejected and treated as chaff.

The big Pyramids capstone has absolutely nothing to do with the Christian message. No prophet in biblical history spoke of the zodiac or pyramid in this manner. After nearly 2,000 years of the Bible being completed Branham stands alone in this. That should inform a true believer that something else is operating.

"The first Bible that man ever looked to was the stars, the zodiac. And it's a perfect... just... It dovetailed with this Bible here Branham is saying the zodiac and pyramid are Bible's, they are as holy, informative and accurate as "the Word." Can you grow spiritually from reading the zodiac or learning the pyramid? Try it. What purpose would a pyramid have if you have to visit Egypt to even know it exists and learn its measurements?

Where can Branham point to those in the past, those who learned this? The Bible says the gospel was hidden until it was done by Christ's crucifixion and resurrection and then written for all to know. This teaching contradicts the true gospel.

To summarize this. Those who believe the Bible teach the Bible, that is their basis of truth. When one uses ideas, concepts, teachings whose origins originate outside the Bible, from other religious Systems, and synthesizes them, it is clear that their intention is not to teach from the Bible, nor of the Bible

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 14

Confusion on the basic core teachings

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Branham was not wrong on everything, but he was not as much right as he was wrong. When he was wrong, it was very wrong. He introduced new interpretations, new words and new meanings that did not come from the Scripture.

Of course no Bible teacher after the apostles is right on everything, but they do hold in common the core teachings, the Christian distinctive. Those teachings that are essential to our faith.

On the surface Branham did speak of some basic truths. That God created the universe, the Bible is God's Word, that Jesus Christ lived a sinless life, mankind is separated from God by sin. That Jesus died on the cross for sinners and that we are to be born again. But it is how he interpreted these points and applied them that departed from a scriptural meaning. These few points of agreement, though important as they are do not prevent us from seeing the glaring points of disagreement. Such as how God created the universe taking millions or billions of years to place each star, or that Jesus was only a man who did not completely pay for our sin on the cross but went to hell as a sinner. Many of his teachings were not biblically based, he used the Scripture to present his own reasoning of the Bible. Various explanations were divorced from the scripture, such as two creation accounts, Adam was an androgynous spirit before he was created from the earth.

Let's begin with his view of man. Since God is eternal, and we were in God our soul possessed eternal life. *"and your soul is a part of God that's in you."* (55-0806, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, Methodist Campgrounds, Campbellsville, KY; 56-0121, The Inter-Veil, Sturgis High School, Sturgis, MI)

"the soul that is within us comes from the great Spirit of God Who is eternal." (57-1213)

"And man is just as Eternal as his Creator, because he was made from Eternity." (57-0908M, Hebrews, Chapter Five And Six #1, Branham Tabernacle)

"the soul that was in the man is that theophany." (57-0828, Hebrews, Chapter Two #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

He also said that *"the Son, which was the theophany."* (57-0602, Life, Branham Tabernacle) *He made you a theophany just like Hissel"* (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle)

He described a theophany as *"an angelic body, like; has shape, form."* (57-0901E, Hebrews, Chapter Four, Branham Tabernacle)

Speaking of before man was taken from the ground. *"When God made man in His image, He made him a theophany."* (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3)

"the soul that was in the man is that theophany." (57-0828, Hebrews, Chapter Two #3, Branham Tabernacle)

Therefore we are deity, as Jesus is deity. Now that we have seen the various quotes concerning mans preexistent nature.

"your soul is the nature of that spirit. That's the soul of the spirit that controls--the spirit that controls the body." (61-1015M, Questions and Answers, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Speaking of the human spirit *"our spirit is of God that can never be separated from God, because we are a part of God"* (59-1223, Questions And Answers, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham knew where the soul resided in man *"the inside the soul is the spirit."* (62-0311)

"The soul lives in the heart and not in the mind." (56-0429, Jehovah-Jireh, Abundant Life Center, Charlotte, NC)

"the soul is the nature of the spirit that's on the inside of his heart." (61-0117 The Messiah

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Shreveport LA; 61-0108 Revelation, Chapter Four #3, Branham Tabernacle)

If you replace your heart do you get a different soul?

If you soul is fallen how can that be part of God? God is always holy and perfect and cannot change. If our soul is part of God and produced with sin this makes God the author of sin.

Branham taught we existed in heaven as souls before we came to earth to be in our bodies.

“And you begin with a soul before the world was ever formed, ... and that's what has to be borned-again.” (55-1118, The Faith Of Abraham, Tent Meeting, 55-0611, What Is That In Thy Hand?, Porter Stadium, Macon, GA)

“Man's got to die. His soul is full of sin, and his body is full of sickness, and death is pronounced on him.” (57-0611, Life Is The Healer, Cadle Tabernacle, Indianapolis, IN)

Branham was never exactly right on what the first sin was.

Since Branham's view on the fall of man on Genesis was a sexual sin by Eve we should not expect him to define sin correctly, nor God's remedy for it.

“The first sin was committed by Eve, because she disbelieved God's Word. Is that right?” (50-0714, At Thy Word, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN)

“The first sin that was ever committed (Is that right?), Eve, wilfully knowing the will of God and refused to do it.” (54-1024, The Unpardonable Sin, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

The Bible says she was deceived, it was not willful disobedience (Adam's was).

“The first sin that was ever committed was doubting God's Word.... The day ye eat thereof, that day you

die.” Satan said, “Surely you'll not die. And he got Eve to doubt God's Word and go to seeking knowledge.” (50-0822, Faith Without Works Is Dead, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

The few times he mentioned this he states, *“Now, I have my thought of what sin was and what the first sin was. And if I tell you, you'd disagree with me, so I'll just keep it to myself.”* (53-1110, I Will Restore, Assembly Of God, Owensboro, KY)

He later does say what this first sin is, he interpreted as Eve's adultery. Yet he said *“Unbelief is the original and only sin. Committing adultery is not a sin; smoking cigarettes is not a sin; getting drunk's not a sin. That's the attributes of unbelief.... In the garden of Eden the very first original sin was because Eve doubted the Word of God;”* (56-0722, All Things Are Possible To Him That Believeth, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA)

Nowhere does the Bible say Eve sinned by unbelief. Unbelief was not the sin that caused the fall. Eve could have listened to Satan all day, it was when she looked at the fruit acted on it by eating that it became sin. Then she disobeyed God. When God confronted Adam and Eve he said *“Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?”* (Gen. 3:11)

The whole deception was about eating the fruit of the tree (Gen. 2:16-17). The consequence was death, perpetuated to all generations.

What Branham specifically taught is that our sin nature came from *the act of adultery* of Eve with the serpent. This produced Cain and was passed down. *“Man wasn't made to die; he's made to live, but hybreeding brought life--of death there, rather. She hybrid. Now, you deny the serpent's seed. Then I'll ask you, “What's these funeral services about?” She's hybrid. Every one of us are hybrid from the original. That's the reason we're constantly dying.”* (62-0318, The Spoken Word Is The Original Seed, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Where does the Bible say this?

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Branham said we die not because of sin passed on from Adam, but because of "hybreeding." Branham included all as a hybrid from Cain – and that is his explanation why we die.

Rom. 5:12 *"through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned."* We die because of sin (Rom.5:12) not because of hybreeding.

The Bible explains in Rom. 6:23 *"the wages of sin is death"* Rom. 7:5 *"the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death."* v.13 *"But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me."*

Gal. 3:22 *"the Scripture has confined all under sin";* Rom. 3:23 *"for all have sinned";* 1 Cor. 15:56 *"The sting of death is sin."* We die because of a sin nature.

There are certain core essentials to our faith that cannot be deviated from if one is to have genuine faith. The doctrine of salvation is directly connected to Genesis and the fall, if one does not have this right how do they preach the gospel correctly?

*"And sin is unbelief. There's no other sin but unbelief. I've often said that drinking, committing adultery, and swearing **is not sin.** That's the attributes of sin. You're a unbeliever, the reason you do it. But if you did believe God, you would not do that. See? You could not do it, if you're a believer."* (61-0516M, God's Provided Way, Zion Gospel Tabernacle, Grand Prairie, AB) underline and bold mine

According to Branham's interpretation these actions are attributes of unbelief, which no believer can do.

"And what is sin? Unbelief ... See, there's only one sin, only one sin. How many knows that? That's unbelief. That's right. Committing adultery's not a sin. Smoking cigarettes, telling lies, swearing, that's not sin. That's attributes of unbelief. You do it, because you're not a believer. That's right. So, see, there's only one sin, and that's unbelief." (64-

0823E, Questions And Answers #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

This is really an untrue explanation. If the only sin is unbelief than we who believe would not sin! But those who believe can smoke, drink, tell lies and swear and these are addressed in the Bible.

And Paul addresses Christians sinning in the epistles Eph. 4:22-: *"that you put off, concerning your former conduct ... Therefore, putting away lying, ... Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil."* *Let him who stole steal no longer."*

Col. 3:9-10: *"Do not lie to one another."* Col. 3:5 *"Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry."* Idolatry is sin. Paul tells us to do this because sin is still present with us. Paul also states, *"for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."* (Rom. 14:23) which would be included in everything we do.

Sanctification is the process of working Christ's nature in us daily to be more like him. This would not be necessary if we did not sin, then we would already be fully like him.

To say committing adultery is NOT a sin is completely absurd (Ex.20:12; Deut.5:18). It is one of ten commandments. This is the only exception where God allows divorce for its consequence. Drinking, lying and adultery are called sin in the Bible and for good reason. Furthermore, idolatry is sin. Is not worshiping a false God sin? God said it is (Deut.5:7). God calls these sins. Unbelief is not exercising faith which keeps one from salvation. But there are all kinds of sins a believer can participate AFTER salvation.

If we who believe are no longer sinful than what of John's warning I Jn. 1:8 *"If we say that **WE HAVE NO SIN**, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."*

Faith is?

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



According to the Bible Faith means to trust, we are to fully trust the Word given by God which is the truth. By trusting His Word it is trusting God himself.

According to Branham "Now, what is faith? How many senses are there to the human body? Five: see, taste, feel, smell, hear. Is that right? Well now, faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things you do not see, taste, feel, smell, hear. Is that right? It's the sixth sense." (61-0215, Thou Son Of David, Have Mercy On Me, First Assembly Of God Of Long Beach, Long Beach, CA)

Is faith a sense? A sixth sense? That is not how the Bible describes it.

"Now, what is faith? "Faith is the substance (not just the mythical thought), it's the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things you do not see," taste, feel, smell or hear. There's none of the senses declare it, yet the sixth sense, which is faith... The outside man is governed by five senses: see, taste, feel, smell and hear. The inside man is governed by two senses: either faith or unbelief. If you believe it, it's just as real to you as if any of the natural senses of the body declare it. And truly, these senses of the body can be fooled, but faith is absolutely infallible." (53-1103, Taking God At His Word, Sports Center, Owensboro, KY)

Branham is saying faith has to do with our senses, presenting it as a spiritual sense of the spirit in man.

"what is faith? "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." You'd say, "That shirt is white." Yes. Well now, if your faith says that you're going to be healed (just as sure as you're ... just as true to you and just as real that your sight says that's white) there's no need of being prayed for, you're already healed. That's it. You can go home, so you're going to get well. You can't keep from it. See? It's not just a emotional; it's not something mystic; it's a facts, a truth. Sight will fail. Faith ... Everything else will fail but faith.

Faith can't fail (See?), because it goes into the supernatural realms and it can't fail. ... God's Word will never fail If you accepted death setting there, crippled up in that chair, if you accept the teachings of the Lord Jesus and accept Him as your Healer and if you're rolled out of here tonight in that chair, the same thing, that won't have one thing to do with it, you'll still get well. You have to." (54-0302, The Resurrection Of Jairus' Daughter, Assembly Of God, Phoenix, AZ)

Faith has an object, who is God, it is not some supernatural power of our spirit. What Branham is describing is faith healing. While God does respond to faith it does not mean his own will and timing is not involved.

"But see, faith is different than what you think it is; or not what you, I mean the average person, would think. Mostly, it's hope instead of faith. You have a mental conception of faith, what it means, and mentally you have faith. But you go deeper than that. See? You go deeper. Faith is positive. It is the substance. It's not a myth, not a intellectual imagination, but it is a substance. And substance is something that you can hold on to. See? It's "the substance of things hoped for, and it's the evidence of things not seen." (62-0729, Perseverant, Curling Arena, Victoria, BC)

How does the Bible describe faith?

Faith is one of the core teachings of the Christianity. Branham is quoting Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

We need to define and understand certain words to know what this Scripture means: faith in Greek is *Pistis*, it means persuasion, i.e. credence, moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God), faith is seen as a reliance upon what God said.

Substance in Greek *Hupostasis*, it is a compound of two Greek words *hupo* and *histemi*; it means what is placed under (as support), i.e. (figurative) concrete

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



essence, or abstract assurance (object or subject) confidence, substance. "Faith is the substance," means what is under you (Gr. *hupo*), it is what you "stand upon" (Gr. *stasis*). It is the foundation for something to stand on; our foundation of faith is based on God and His Word.

When we learn and understand the Word of God a foundation is built under us. It is a knowing what God's Word has to say that is truth and His promises are sure. A conviction is produced in the mind and heart. For example we are given eternal life when we exercise faith in the gospel, but we do not see what we have been given yet. Faith for salvation is trusting in the work Christ did for us on the cross. This happened nearly two thousand years ago, this is why salvation is by faith today; we cannot see it. We look back to what already took place in the past and stand on its merits. It is written in the Word. In the same way a Christian believes what God says about their future on the promise of a resurrection and heaven. It is a confidence in what God says as true. "It is a firm persuasion and expectation that God will perform all that he has promised to us in Christ" (Matthew Henry's Commentary).

Faith involves an assent to only what is true, not what is false, or speculation. In other words, to believe the Word of God and receive a promise we must make sure we are interpreting it correctly. For example, Jesus walked on water and so did Peter but this unique event is not a promise given to all believers that when we want to, we too can walk on water. No other apostle repeated this unique one-time event. We can understand from this that God does not promise all believers will walk on water because Peter did.

Most importantly we must know that Faith is not is a force to be used we can obtain things that are not yet seen or exist. Faith goes not demand that God responds, *we ask* and trust Gods response. It takes more faith to surrender to God through your circumstance than to speak positive Scripture affirmations to try to change it. A servant does not demand anything from his master? To think if faith

is used God will then give me my request is attempting spiritual manipulation and is narcissistic. That is not faith. The Bible speaks of faith along with patience and endurance, as a submission to Gods will.

Is Faith a right mental attitude?

"Faith is the sixth sense, known to some people as you want to as mental telepathy or--or whatever you want or wish to call it, many of them call it names, but to me it's faith. And that is in and above all five senses of the human body." (47-0412, Faith Is The Substance, Oakland Municipal Auditorium, Oakland, CA)

Call it what you want? Branham defined faith, as a 6th sense, which has to do with the mind, a mental attitude.

"Remember this, and never forget it. The right mental attitude towards any promise of God will bring it to pass, the right mental attitude towards any promise of God. It doesn't take gifts of healing to heal sick people, any person in here has a right to meet Satan anywhere, if you're a Christian, and defeat him on any grounds that he could stand on." (50-0405, Expectation, Glad Tidings Tabernacle, New York, NY)

"the right mental attitude towards any promise of God will bring it to pass." (50-0822, Faith Without Works Is Dead, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

"Remember this, the right mental attitude towards any Divine promise of God will bring it to pass." (53-1103, Taking God At His Word, Sports Center, Owensboro, KY)

"with the right mental attitude, speaking the right words, believing the right things." (51-1003, Believeest Thou This?, Unknown, New York, NY)

"If you can get the person... Just what I was trying to do to the woman, was get her in the right mental attitude; she wouldn't have to be prayed for. The right mental attitude towards any promise of God

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



will bring it to pass. Do you believe that?" (50-0813E, God Revealing Himself To His People, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH; 53-1109, Africa Trip Report, National Guard Armory, Owensboro, KY; 53-1204, At Thy Word, American Legion Hall, West Palm Beach, FL; 54-0811, Show Us The Father, Shriner Temple, Los Angeles, CA; 54-1203, The Law Having A Shadow, Faith Tabernacle, Binghamton, NY; 61-0219, The Queen Of Sheba, Long Beach Municipal Auditorium, Long Beach, CA; 63-0606, Show Us The Father, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ)

Branham taught this concept of the mind right unto the end.

"and if the right mental attitude, you just take the right mental attitude towards any Divine promise, watch it materialize. See? No matter how it looks, if it looks impossible, if God said so He makes it possible." (53-1213M, What Think Ye Of Christ?, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL)

"God's got to have faith in it, to approach it right, to believe it. That's the reason they were getting healed, because they were coming in the right mental attitude, believing that the truth was there, and if they could get near it, they'd be healed. And God was confirming His Word with them." (53-0614E, I Perceive That Thou Art A Prophet, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN)

"The right mental attitude towards any divine promise of God will bring it to pass." ... If you'll take the right mental attitude towards anything God has promised, God's under obligation to see that you get it. That's right, because He promised it." (52-1027, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, Unknown, Edmonton, AB)

To sum it up, if God promises something all we do is have a right mental attitude and it will take place because he said yes already.

Let's now apply this concept of Branham's to reality. God said we would never die therefore we

should stop ourselves from dying with a right mental attitude.

"... Your right mental attitude towards God's Divine promise will bring any promise to pass. Now, maybe you don't believe that. You say, "Well, my faith is weak." I wouldn't confess it. See? Don't let the devil know that. Always say, "I've got good faith. I believe God with all my heart." See? Don't testify nothing of the devil. And when you accept Him as your Healer, don't never act like you're sick or crippled any more. Believe that you're healed." (51-0415E, The Hour Is Come, Shriner Temple, Phoenix)

This is exactly what we hear from word faith teachers today. This what we are told by the word faith practitioners, that faith is a force expressed by our words, there are to be no negative confessions. But God knows what is in our heart, not just our words. What does the Devil have to do with a weak confession, our faith is toward God! We only need the smallest amount of faith as given in the example of a mustard seed (Matt 17:20).

Jesus said "Have faith in God." (Mark 11:22)
To Ask, to seek, to knock, to pray.

"listen close now. The right mental attitude towards any Divine promise of God, will bring it to pass. If you'll take the right mental attitude towards any promise in that Bible, it'll bring it to pass. But it's up to you. it's to each individual" (53-1109, Africa Trip Report, National Guard Armory, Owensboro, KY)

So the Bible, Gods word becomes like the Genie of the lamp, it's up to you. God's will has nothing to do with it. Then we are not asking, we are not praying but making affirmations.

This goes contrary to what he said, that the *mind is your mental thinking, your intellectual*. To Branham using the intellect was not a good thing, it was of the tree of knowledge and faith was different.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



In fact Branham made some of the most outrageous statements and applications to this 6th sense, a mental attitude he called faith. He defined it as a power that anyone can use.

Jesus said, 'All things are possible if you believe.'" Now, that's just pure faith, friends. Magicians use it many times to play pranks and so forth, burst glasses and things. It will, if you believe. But I'm trying to base your--the thought on faith so you know what I'm talking of. ... Wake yourself up, so when I get through with it you'll know what it's all about.

Then she said, "Why, Brother Branham, no one could do that."

I said, "Oh, yes, anyone can that believes."

And she said, "Well, I don't believe that anyone could do that."

I said, "I thought you said you believed for all things." See how she was caught right there. I said, "You said you believed all things. I want you to prove it."

And she said, "I don't believe there's anyone can do that; that's material, Brother Branham." She said, "Could you do it?"

I said, "Yes, ma'am."

And she said, "Well, could I see it done?"

I said, "If you desire."

And she said, "I desire."

Then of course, putting my mind on it, and having her to watch that and not me. As many times in a meeting, I'll take any cross-eyed child you've got in this meeting, you bring it up here without even praying for it, and just let me look at it straight in the eyes like that, I'll make its eyes come straight. But when I turn my head... (...)

Now, then of course, fastening my eyes to that bracelet, which you can yourself, if you won't doubt it in your heart, and it started moving around. And then it moved back and forth, around, crossways, and stopped it.

She said, "Brother Branham," she said, "that's spiritualism."

I said, "I--I thought maybe you'd say something like that."

My, isn't it strange how people that profess they know God, and know so little about Him. Isn't that

right?" (47-0412, Faith Is The Substance, Oakland Municipal Auditorium, Oakland, CA)

What I find it strange is that Branham can explain his power to heal without prayer but by using his mind, the Bible does not teach this at all. This is what is found in occult systems, using the power of the mind. And the woman was right, that is not faith.

Branham would be on the offensive and use the Bible to explain away "We've bypassed on creeds and drinking stagnated water from cisterns. What we need today is an opening of the Word that lives, and He's the same yesterday, today, and forever. He cannot fail. They can call it mental telepathy, they can say whatever they want to, or spiritualists, or-- or a devil, as long as that Word is flowing free and producing exactly what It said It would do, It's a Fountain in the house of David again, back in Bethlehem, where that Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, forever, to His Bethlehem dwellers." (63-1214, Why Little Bethlehem, Ramada Inn, Phoenix, AZ)

The word materializing results is what counts. Branham used this pragmatic and convoluted example to explain how faith works.

"come here a minute, Reverend Kopp, if you will. Stand right there. Just watch this demonstration. Stand right back here. I want you to watch whether seeing's believing or not. Now, I believe there's a man standing before me with a suit on, blue suit, and he's got a--a red rose in the lapel of his coat. How many--how many believes that I'm right? Let's see now, believes that? I--I miscalled that. It was a carnation instead of a rose, but I--I... [Brother Kopp says, "Seeing wasn't believing then, was it?"--Ed.] That's right. How many believes that man's standing before me? Let's see your... You know he's standing before me. All right. Now, I know he's standing there too, because that I can--I can see him. My sight is correct, and I believe in my sight. And I--I'm thankful for my sight. One time I was blind, so blind I could just make out objects, and they had to lead me. My eyes are 20/20 now,

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



because Jesus Christ healed me. And I--I believe my sight. And he's--he's standing there because I see him.

Now, it's totally impossible for me to see him, is that right? My back's turned to him. But he's still there. You want to argue with me if he's not there? You just try to out argue me. You couldn't do it. Now, that's the same man standing there. Why? I noticed he had a piece of paper in his hand; it's still there. See? And he... That's the same man. Yet I do not see him, but yet I know he's there. How do I know he's there? I feeled him, is that right? Then seeing isn't believing, is it? Feeling is believing in this case.” (51-0508, Faith Is The Substance, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA 51-0508, Faith Is The Substance, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

If Branham did not see Kopp come in front of him he could not have used this example. If he turned his back from the beginning and Kopp did not come there he would only think he was there.

Calling faith a sixth sense may be clever but it's wrong. All the 5 senses have to do with the physical body, but they are also connected to the immaterial part of man, our heart, man's spirit and mind (not just the brain). The Bible tells us faith come from *hearing the word* which disproves it's a separate sixth sense of man, for it come through a physical sense to be built up within us. People with their eyes saw the miracles which affected their faith, they heard with their ears which had them understand. So it is not how Branham explained it. Faith when exercised has nothing to do with our mental capacity.

Faith means trust in God, to believe what He says on a matter. Whether it's yes or no. You cannot use what occurred in the Bible and by faith expect God to do the same for you because you believe it. There is God's will involved and there is God's timing. For example, if you have a loved one far away that is dying and has a short time to live will you use faith to expect God to miraculously transport you to where they are as he did Jesus did after the resurrection?

Salvation by faith?

Apparently, Branham did not understand what faith is. We are told to grow in both grace and knowledge. He saw knowledge coming from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

“Now, some of my theological teaching, views on the Bible, it might be wrong. I can't say. I'm not a student by a long ways. I'm very illiterate, uneducated, grammar school education; that's not to my desire, but I couldn't have it.” (52-0715, Faith In The Son Of God, Civic Center, Hammond, IN)

Theology has to do with doctrine. Branham is admitting he can be wrong when compared to the word. But when it came to his revelations from his angel he said he was never wrong.

Branham certainly did not teach that faith saved, as the Bible teaches. He taught we were already saved before we were alive, which is what he called predestinated.

“When you get saved, Jesus doesn't come down and save you then. You've been saved ever since Jesus died, but you just accepted your salvation.” (53-1109, Africa Trip Report, National Guard Armory, Owensboro, KY)

Branham did not just teach Jesus died by crucifixion by the Romans but that his death took place before the foundation of the world (he used Rev. 13:8 for his reference).

Branham wanted you to understand that you were saved before you believed. You could be an atheist and are saved. So then why do you need to believe? So clearly he believed salvation was not connected to having the Holy Spirit because one had it before they even heard the gospel.

Jesus said we are already condemned (Jn.3) and need to believe in Him because we are sinners.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



He also challenged what the Bible states in Eph.2:8-10 of salvation being of grace through faith. He taught that we must do a work to be forgiven.

Branham taught of three steps for salvation, they were in the order of how Oneness explains it but out of order from the Bible.

The 3 steps to salvation, repentance, then water baptism then the Holy Spirit baptism.

The Holy Spirit's on me, and I want to say this...." I only got one step: that's repent, and next is to be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins. Then the next thing God said, "I'll give you the Holy Ghost." That's the three steps that I know of to take. ... I have the Gospel. It's the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes." (62-0622E, Why?, Great Western Exhibit Center, South Gate, CA)

His last statement *to every one that believes* contradicts his three steps of salvation especially baptism which is a physical work. It is to everyone that believes - period.

"Listen, you're not saved until you're born again; ... but when you accept Christ you're born again." (57-0417, The Second Coming Of The Lord, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"The new birth is when you're born again. But the Holy Ghost is when power comes into that birth for service. That's exact. See? The Holy Ghost is--baptized into the Holy Ghost." (62-0909M, Countdown, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

You can't say, "Well, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I believe I received the Holy Ghost when I believed." That's not what the Bible said. No, sir. It isn't. You can believe is right, unto Eternal Life; but then you have to have God to seal it with the Holy Ghost. "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?" See? Not when you believe, but after you believe you receive the ... After you believed then you were sealed with the Holy Ghost

of promise, says the Scripture: after you believe. That's right. But first you have to believe it and act upon it." (62-0124, Have Not I Sent Thee?, Assembly Of God, Phoenix, AZ)

(ed. Note: and to act on it means to be baptized. After you believe, to receive the Holy Ghost he said was a separate experience.)

The fact is without the Spirit indwelling there is NO Spiritual Birth! Eph. 1:13 *"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise."*

John 20:31: *"but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."*

Throughout Jesus' ministry He continually saved people by them believing on Him. After the crucifixion one receives eternal life when he believes in Jesus through the gospel. He did not possess eternal life before.

There is one step for man, belief. Exercise faith which comes from the heart. But Branham added man's work of our being baptized to make it a process.

"He redeems the world the same way He redeems a man. ... He believes, then is baptized; then he is cleansed by the blood, sanctification, which was Wesley's message; then he is filled with Holy Ghost Fire." (64-1212, The Harvest Time, Ramada Inn, Phoenix, AZ)

So one needs to be baptized *before* they are cleansed by the blood? His view, without baptism there is no cleansing.

Eph. 1:7 *"In Him we have redemption through His blood the forgiveness of sins"* (Also Col.1:14). The new covenant is by his blood, has nothing to do with water. Heb. 9:22 *"without shedding of blood there is no remission."*

Branham taught early on *"be baptized for the remission of your sins. And then God has promised*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



to give you the Holy Spirit the very minute you are baptized."(55-0403, Fellowship By Redemption, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

In other words one does not receive the Spirit until they do this work. But then this eliminates the third step.

"be baptized in Jesus Christ's Name, for the remission of their sin." (60-1218, The Uncertain Sound, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

"be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of those sins ... "then you're a candidate for the Holy Ghost." (61-1119, Perfect Strength By Perfect Weakness, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

This is the oneness Pentecostal doctrine. Your sins are not removed by baptism but by the crucified savior, not by a work but by a person who did the work. If one does not understand this than they do not have the gospel.

"For the remission of sins" is the exact same phrase used in Acts 2:38 that Branham who was a Baptismal Regenerationist used for salvation.

Yet Jesus speaking of coming crucifixion at his last Passover said, "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Matt 26:28)

The same Peter who spoke Acts 2:38 said in Acts 10:43 "whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins." This is why Lk. 24:46-47 explains "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations."

Not preached in his name in baptism, but by preaching the gospel, that Jesus suffered for sin and was raised from the dead the third day (1 Cor.15:1-4).

Paul's gospel was the apostles gospel, and he described it in 1 Cor. 15:1-4 "I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."

The Bible has only one instruction for salvation, **believe**. 240 scriptures say it is by faith alone that one is saved. Scripture demonstrates that baptism is a conditional response to the Gospel. Why be baptized unless you already believe? Only those who were regenerated by the Spirit were considered candidates for the ordinance of baptism.

Faith in the crucifixion to be cleansed by his blood is not the same as submitting to baptism to be cleansed and forgiven. If one is trusting in their water baptism to remove their sins, grace through faith for salvation cannot be no longer the means. Paul makes this clear that a simple addition can alter it. This results annuls faith in God's work by adding to the Gospel message (Rom. 11:6, Eph. 2:5, 8-9).

No work of any kind, not even a Biblical ordinance can impart grace, and that is exactly what baptism is, a work, a ceremony.

Repentance simply means to change one's mind. Repentance is never mentioned as a separate act from faith in salvation, as if this is step one. It is sometimes used as a substitute for belief. Repentance, as a synonym for believing, (used 35 times). For example John baptized people unto repentance looking forward to accepting the Son of God when he is revealed, the Lamb **who alone takes way our sins**.

The faith that Scripture describes is a repentance of unbelief to believing. John the Baptist baptized unto repentance. One was required to look forward with an expectant heart to the revealing of the

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Messiah. Christian baptism is immersion in water showing the believer's union with Christ's death, burial and resurrection. It showed their identification with what they believed saved them.

Then in his last year of ministry Branham said the opposite. *"Neither do I believe that the baptism of Jesus Christ (in the Name of Jesus Christ) in water does forgive your sins. I do not believe that you... ..you see, I--I do not believe that the water forgives sins. Or, if it was, then Jesus died in vain. See? I believe that it's only an ordinance of God, see, to show that you have been forgiven. But to be baptized for regeneration, no, I--I--I don't believe that. I don't believe that water forgives sins."* (65-1212, Communion, Tucson Tabernacle, Tucson, AZ).

He denied baptism forgives you as if he never taught it. What does he mean he doesn't believe that when he said this very teaching for years? And what do Message followers do with Irenaeus, whom he called the second angel to the church, who said unequivocally on baptism, *"And when we come to refute them... that this class of men have been instigated by Satan to a denial of that baptism which is regeneration to God, and thus to a renunciation of the whole [Christian] faith.* (Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book One, Ch. 21).

Branham had the utmost respect for Irenaeus. Which angel to the church is one to listen to? They both can't be right, but they both can be wrong on this.

1 Jn. 1:7: *"And the blood of Jesus his Son cleanseth us from all sin."* Blood not water. *1 Jn. 1:7 Cleanseth, katharizei in the present tense cleanseth. The cleansing is present and continuous.* (from Vincent's Word Studies of the New Testament).

All the scriptures on the blood cleansing do not mention water with the blood. The blood IS the New covenant - the focus is on Jesus crucified and the Bible does not speak of any other than the work Jesus did, baptism is not included. Jesus explained at the Passover *"For this is My blood of the new*

covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Mt. 26:28)

It is Jesus himself that saves, not the work of baptism; He saves us by His work on the cross. But I must add that one needs the true Jesus, not a manifestation of God but the Son of God (whom Branham denied eternally existed).

How to be born again Branham's way

Does one teach about being spiritually born incorrectly if they understand the Word and the experience they received?

"Its Own Life is in Itself. That's the way the seed of God is in a man's heart. The Life of God is within the individual, not in the church. In you, it's in you, you're the one that has the germ of Life in you." (65-0123, Broken Cisterns, Ramada Inn, Phoenix, AZ).

Not according to Jesus. The Bible teaches that sin is in man's heart, not his seed, not His word, and not His life. Branham further explains that *"the seed of God is actually placed in us from the foundation of the world. And when that Light first strikes that seed, It brings it to Life, but the Light first has to come upon the seed."* (63-0714M, Why Cry? Speak!, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Branham had a mystical view of this, because of his wrong understanding of predestination that involved pre-existence. The Bible says our heart is the soil and the seed is the Word (Mt.13).

As with so many other teachings he would also correctly say when quoting the Word, *"the Seed of God is the Word of God. Faith cometh by hearing, hearing the Word"* (57-0915M, Hebrews, Chapter Six #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville)

Luke 8:11 *"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God"* Jesus explains about the four

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



different soils that seed falls onto from hearing the word, but only one does it grow in. V.15 *"But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience."* The ground is one's heart. And only those with the right heart when hearing the word receive it. So it is not in them from the foundation of the world as Branham taught.

1 Peter 1:23 *"having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever."*

"If your name is written on the Lamb's Book of Life, you have immortal Life." (55-0109E, Beginning And Ending Of The Gentile Dispensation, Branham Tabernacle)

Branham taught *"You wasn't saved on any day. You was always saved. Amen. Jesus just come to redeem that, but you was saved from the beginning, because you had Eternal Life to begin with."* (64-0802 "The Future Home of the Heavenly Bridegroom and the Earthly Bride,")

This misapplication was from his distorting Calvinism. Then he would say the opposite.

"Because your name is on the Book of Life (because it is in heaven, your name has been recognized), that still doesn't mean that you are saved. See? You're not converted, until you receive the Holy Ghost. Remember that. You're only potentially converted. See?" (64-0830M, Questions And Answers #3, Branham Tabernacle)

The Bible teaches that being written in the book of life means you are saved (Rev. 20:15, also referring to 13:8,17:8). And the only way to be saved is by having the Holy Spirit which come by believing in the gospel.

The Book of life controversy

"Get your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life, and it'll stay there forever." (53-1110, I Will Restore, Assembly Of God, Owensboro, KY)

Branham's view on the book of life was anything but consistent.

Branham held two views, one that our names were in the book of life before the foundation of the world.

"your name's wrote on the Lamb's Book of Life from the foundation of the world." (56-0930, Hear Ye Him, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL; 56-1125M, A Secondhanded Robe, Branham Tabernacle)

"Our names were written in the Lamb's Book of Life, not the night we come to Christ, but before the foundation of the world, the Bible said." (56-0826, Divine Love, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville)

The other view was that we must believe and be born again to have it written in the book of life.

"You need your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life." (53-1122, The Resurrection Of Lazarus, Evansville Coliseum, Evansville, IN)

"When you raise your hand, God writes it down on the Book of Life." (56-0408A What is a Vision)

"get them down to the altar and let pray through till God put their names on the Lamb's Book of Life, then they'll stay there." (54-0321, What Think Ye Of Christ?, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL; 53-0906A, Believeest Thou This?, Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, Chicago, IL)

Then 2 years later Branham would say the opposite in the same city, *and many times we sing the song, "New Name Written Down In Glory," tonight. It was an error. It was written down before there ever was a human being on the earth."* (56-0930, Hear Ye Him, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

The Bible teaches that being written in the book of life means you are saved, and the only way to be

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



saved is by having the indwelling of the Holy Spirit which is a result of believing in the gospel.

Branham disagreed. You can be born again and not have the Holy Spirit? Which is step three in his gospel.

“Therefore, a man being borned again, his spirit has been changed, and he becomes a part of God; insomuch that he is a son of God. And he's just as eternal as God is eternal, because he's a part of God, by his birth, spiritual birth.” (58-0108, The Handwriting On The Wall, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

Born again does give us eternal life but we do not become part of God, God is not expanding. We begin a relationship with our creator.

This point does go against the teaching of our preexistence. That we have eternal life before we came to earth. In fact Branham taught we are all sons of God *“Every man that's born in this earth is a son of God. Regardless of whether he's sinner or what he is.”* (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

This certainly brings to mind the saying if you start with a wrong premise you will always end up wrong. Gal. 3:26 *“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”*

The gospel according to Branham

After hearing all these colorful explanations that are empty of Bible doctrine, let's look carefully at Branham's gospel to see if it is what the Bible teaches as the gospel.

“What the death of Christ was, was to sanctify a church that He might work through to continue His work. There had to be an atonement made, and His body, the Man Jesus, was made a Sacrifice, willingly, like we've take it through this last week in a type of Isaac, willing, submitted himself to death. He didn't have to die. He said, “No man takes My

life; I lay it down.” (59-0419E, Show Us The Father And It Will Satisfy Us, Angelus Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

Yes, he willingly submitted to the Fathers will but again Branham is wrong, Jesus did have to die. This is the very reason he left heaven and became a man. Even if the Jewish people accepted him as their Messiah he would have died for sin. Nowhere does it say he didn't have to die, this is sophomoric teaching on the purpose of the Son coming to earth. He came to be the sacrifice for sin. John introduced him to the people as the lamb of God. Heb.10 says that was God's plan, he was slain from the foundation of the world. Apparently, Branham forgot that he too said this.

Who died for our sin?

Let's look at the sequence of events in Branham's gospel to see if it is the same gospel as the Bibles.

The Bible teaches us 2 Cor. 5:19 *“God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.”*

Branham teaches that the Spirit of God left Jesus before He even went to the cross.

“In the Garden of Gethsemane, the anointing left Him, you know, He had to die as a sinner.” (Manifested Sons Of God, May 18, 1960 Branham Tabernacle in Jeffersonville, Indiana).

“The Spirit left Jesus in Gethsemane and He became just a man— When God looked down upon the body... (The Spirit left Him in the Garden of Gethsemane; He had to die a man.)” (65-0418M It Is the Rising of the Sun)

If the spirit left him before the crucifixion than this scripture is not true *“how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God.”* Heb. 9:14) Then the eternal spirit had nothing to do with his sacrifice. If what he says is accurate, that Jesus died a man than God was NOT in Christ reconciling to world to

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



himself (2 Cor.5:19). This makes it a different Jesus which changes the gospel.

"And Christ died, not righteous; Christ died a sinner. See?" (55-0227A, The Position Of A Believer In Christ, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

That when he died as a sinner and went to hell as a sinner would.

"He went to the grave like any man did. His soul went to hell." (62-0513E, Letting off the Pressure, Gospel Tabernacle)

Branham using the example of *justification, sanctification, the baptism of the Holy Ghost ...* explains *"the last three church ages forms the complete birth. Just like when a woman is having--going to have her baby. The actual first thing happens is water; the next thing's blood; the next thing's life. When they killed Jesus at the cross, the substance come from His body to make up the new--to make up the--the birth. They stuck His side, blood and water came out, and "Into Thy hands I commend My Spirit." What came from His body was water, blood, spirit. I John 5:7 tells you about that."* (63-0320, The Third Seal, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

This is a huge error to make. Jesus already gave up his spirit and died, it was after this the centurion speared his side. Yet Branham adjusts the Scripture to his doctrine *"They took a spear and rammed it in His side, and Blood and water came out, to fulfill what the Bible said, "They pierced My hands and My side." The Word was fulfilled."* (57-0420, The Entombment, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

What word is fulfilled? It says Ps 22:16 *"they pierced My hands and My feet;* it says nothing about his side which Branham conveniently added in.

John 19:33-34 *"But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side*

with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out."

Jn.19:35 *"And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: those who had seen this testified of blood and water. This is proof that he actually is dead because when blood and water are mixed, it shows a ruptured heart. (In I Jn. 5:6 He who came by water and blood—has no correlation to this)*

If this event was important or crucial to the purchase of salvation by crucifixion it would be mentioned again in the epistles, but it is not.

The spear in his side was after the atonement was completed. This is adding to the atonement on something that has nothing to do with it.

Heb. 9:15: *"He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death."* 1 Cor. 6:20: *"For you were bought at a price" which is by the blood of the lamb, his death. Col. 1:20 "having made peace through the blood of His cross." This was previously before he was pierced with the spear. He said, *Father into your hands I commit my Spirit"* then pronounced *"It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."* (John 19:30) The work of the cross was all accomplished while he was alive and suffered, and then He died which completed it.*

There is nothing in the Scripture teaching that the church was birthed or made by water and blood out of the side of Jesus. Yet Branham teaches that the atonement was not finished. That Jesus was not restored in his fellowship to the Father but died separated to God. He died a sinner.

"He died a sinner, the Bible said, "His soul went to hell." (54-1006, Law or Grace, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"When He died at the cross and His soul, not God's Spirit, but His soul went to hell." (54-1219M, Divine Healing, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"His Spirit went to God; His Soul went to hell; His body went to the grave."(61-0813, Faith, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

So Jesus was split to three different places.

"When Jesus died at Calvary, we know His soul went to hell; His body went to the grave; His Spirit went to God. At Calvary He said, "Into Thy hands I commend My Spirit." And His Spirit went to God, the Father, into His hands. The Bible said His soul-- He went to hell and preached to the--the--the ones was in prison" (61-0516A, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, Zion Gospel Tabernacle, Grand Prairie, AB)

As a sinful soul Jesus preached to those in prison?

"And Christ represented Himself with the Church full of sin, and was condemned, and His soul went to hell. That's right. And God raised Him up on the third day. You believe that? See? It wasn't that he didn't sin; he did sin ... God wouldn't have sent Him to--to hell pure. He had to send Him to hell condemned (See?), because He took our sins. And Christ died, not righteous; Christ died a sinner." (55-0227A, The Position Of A Believer In Christ, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

(ed. Note: Sounds very much like what Hagin said after Branham.) Whether he got this from Kenyon we may never know. What we do know is that he did not get it from the Bible.

The Resurrection

"Then when three days and nights was up, His Spirit was loosed; It went directly to His Soul, and His Soul came back, and picked up the body" (61-0813, Faith, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"His Spirit descended to His soul, His soul to His body, and He rose again." (61-0723M, The Ever-Present Water From The Rock, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

If God's spirit left him he died a man. God's spirit went to heaven and was then sent back as the Holy Spirit to raise him from the dead.

When one puts it all together we have a very different representation of what took place on the cross and after he died and even after he resurrected.

If he died sinfully when did he become sinless? How? The word faith teachers today teach he was born again in hell. Branham does not use this term but the implication is there with his spirit coming from heaven to unite with his soul raised the body.

Anyone of these points changes the gospel, alters it. Combine them all and you have a completely different gospel, the actual events and meaning and applications are changed. And so it is today with the many word faith teachers that use the same theological bent.

"You're sealed into the Body of Christ, by the baptism of the Holy Ghost, ... until the Day of the body of redemption ... So, there's no way for you to be lost." (57-0908E, Hebrews, Chapter Six #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham taught you were not saved until you had the baptism of the Spirit which came after being born again, but even then there was no assurance.

"We merely think, 'I got the baptism of the Holy Ghost, I'm going to heaven.' That don't mean one thing that you're going to Heaven. No sir. You can have the baptism of the Holy Ghost every hour of your life, and still be lost and go to hell ... It's a real genuine Holy Ghost, and you could still be a devil ... Falsely anointed..." (65-1207 Leadership Covina CA)

He also taught that you can lose salvation by how you feel. *Somebody says, "How does Divine healing... Does it last all the time?" It lasts just as long as faith lasts. And salvation lasts the same way, just as long as faith lasts. When you feel that*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



you're not saved any more, you're not saved." (50-0711 Ministry Explained)

Jesus died for your sin, but when you're not feeling it you have lost what Jesus purchased? This is more precarious than actually doing something wrong. It yields the same result as to abandon ones faith, to forfeit salvation. We do not go on our feelings but the Word itself.

As if that is not confusing enough, we have Branham explaining the grace of God gives salvation, which extends to everyone.

Universalism

This is probably the most disturbing aspect of Branham's teaching on the crucifixion.

He states, "Now, don't think that I'm a Universalist that believes that everybody's saved and will be; I do not, no, sir. I believe that all those--everybody was saved as far as God was concerned, for Jesus paid the full penalty for sin when He died. Now, it will never do you no good until you accept it. See? You have to accept it. ... you'll never be forgiven until you believe you're forgiven, then you confess that you are, then live like you are. And no one will still know, no matter how much you cry, how much you pray, how much you shout, how many times you speak with tongues, or whatever you do, you're still not, until the fruits of the Spirit bear record in you." (51-0508, Faith Is The Substance, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

We basically are able to agree with this premise. But he did not stay on this, he expanded his view.

"He saved everybody in the world when He died at Calvary. You believe that?" (53-0907E, Healing Line, Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, Chicago, IL)

Dying for their sin and to be saved by exercising faith is different than saying he saved them by dying for their sins without their exercising faith.

"And when He died at Calvary, He saved everybody. There's no sinners after that. In the sight of God everybody was saved. He's the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world. Well, you say then, "What do I do?" Then you... But it won't do you no good till you repent and accept it. Then if you accept it, then you go in as a Christian. If you don't accept it, you've already judged yourself." (53-1122, The Resurrection Of Lazarus, Evansville Coliseum, Evansville, IN)

"Now, we realize, heavenly Father, that when You died for our sins, then every sin in the world was forgiven." (62-0724 "Sir, We Would See Jesus)

First, the Father did not die for our sins, the Son did. If what Branham says is true then no one is going to be judged. To be forgiven means we have been pardoned from the penalty due us for being sinners. Jesus died for everyone's sin as a provision but he did not SAVE everyone, that takes place by one exercising trust in his sacrifice (called faith). Again Branham's view on predestination influenced his view on salvation. We are required to believe, to repent.

What happens when we die?

Jesus said "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:2-3) We understand this to be in heaven because that is where Jesus abides until He returns. Whether one individually dies or the church is raptured, we go to the same place.

Another internal problem surfaces in Branham's belief system, Jesus returned as the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. And since there is only one person at a time in Modalism he is not in heaven but on earth. Branham taught heaven was not some far away place but existed inter-dimensionally.

"I cannot believe that there is a house way out yonder. But I believe that that house that God was speaking of is right present here now, that that's the

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



place where the mortal beings, when we cease to be mortal here, we step into immortality yonder, into a place. And I believe that's where Jesus is today, the resurrected Lord Jesus; not out yonder somewhere, a million miles away, but right here present with us now." (55-0403, Fellowship By Redemption, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

"Well, see, when people die, they--they don't immediately go up with God ... we remember that we live here in three dimensions. And I don't know whether I can name them or not. One of them is light, and the other is matter. ...And our five senses contact them dimensions. Our sight contacts light, our feeling contacts matters, and so forth.

Now, but we have contact through science, the fourth dimension, as it was. Because coming right through this building now comes pictures, voices of radio, pictures on television, that our senses does not contact that, but yet they have a--a tube or crystal that picks up those ether waves and manifests them. So, you see, right in this building now is live actions of people in the air, live voices.... I don't understand the mechanics of--of those things that science has invented, but we know that it proves to us there is a fourth dimension.

Now, the fifth dimension is where the sinner, the unbeliever dies and goes to. The fifth dimension is the--kind of the--well, the horrible dimension. Now, this man ... And when a Christian dies, he goes into the sixth dimension. And God is in the seventh dimension." (62-0908 Present stage of my ministry)

"Now, the sixth dimension is in Christ, the saints, dead saints, or resting saints, who is completely, work finished on earth, and has entered into rest with Christ under the altar." (62-1125E, The Countdown, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA)

The Bible makes it plain, "*We are confident that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord*" (2 Cor.5:6).

This imagination of dimensions is a sputtering of nonsense. None of this can be found in Scripture, but 7 dimensions can be found in metaphysical/

occult writings. Branham goes even further in his postulations on dimensions.

"Then, I think the fifth dimension is where the sinner dies, where he goes. Now, I think that when the sinner dies he goes to this fourth dimension. Notice. The first thing, he cannot go in the Presence of God because he is a sinner, and his time is up on earth." (62-1125E, The Countdown, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA)

As we can see Branham went beyond the Scripture even on the plain core teachings. He may not have done this all the time.

As he would say the correct view. "*That's where you Catholic people got mixed up. See? Now, there is no more paradise now. We go straight into the Presence of God." (57-0908E, Hebrews, Chapter Six #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)*

But he did consistently teach opposites and unbiblical views to remove himself from the category of a sound Bible teacher.

"Now, when you leave either one of these channels, you go into the realm of spirit. This is the mortal realm, the dimensions that we live in. Now, if you go this a way ... Listen close. If you go this a way, the first dimension is the spirits of the dead. Peter spoke of it: "in prison, that repented not by long suffering in the days of Noah." The wicked unregenerated man, when he dies, his spirit goes into this realm. The next realm below that is demons. The next realm below that is hell. I'm giving you a parable so you see it." (55-0225, Glorified Jesus, Shiner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

Does the Bible teach on dimensions like this? No, it does not. Even if we ignore his distorted application of dimensions there is no justification for teaching this. A believer goes directly to heaven to be present with the Lord, the unbeliever goes directly into Sheol where they are conscious and await the final judgment. These are not dimensions, God assigns no numbers to each. There are different places of punishment in hell in correlation to the sin one did.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



As we consider his teachings on what we might call basic Christianity, the core doctrines it becomes evident Branham had a very different view than the Bible. Everything was reinterpreted, sometimes by his imagination other times by combining mysticism to the word, or interpreting the Word by metaphysics.

Chapter 15

Branham's View on Knowledge and Education

Before we go any further we need to look at Branham's philosophy of learning and teaching, as

he had very little education, both secular and Biblical.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



He is a man who had a 7th grade education into his twenties, he said he could not read and had his wife read him the Bible. Speaking of first learning he stated, *"till my girlfriend read the Bible while I preached. That's right. It's not much better tonight. But God's not known by education."* (53-0509, The Pillar Of Fire, Bible Hour Tabernacle, Jonesboro, AR)

While Branham would apologize for his lack of education he mocked those who wanted to further their education, even of the Bible. His pitch was that he was appointed as an Elijah, the 7th angel to the church, the prophet for our age and claimed he was educated by God later in life.

"But God backs up His Word. It's His Word. I said, 'It's the Word of the Lord. Sure, all I ever knowed was taught to me by Him. I never went to a seminary or school. It comes from Him." (61-1112, A True Sign That's Overlooked, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

The difference is of one learning from an angel with new revelation and learning from those who have studied with the Holy Spirit is obvious ... Branham had too many errors for it to actually be from God.

"Now, some of my theological teaching, views on the Bible, it might be wrong. I can't say. I'm not a student by a long ways. I'm very illiterate, uneducated, grammar school education; that's not to my desire, but I couldn't have it." (52-0715 Faith in the Son of God)

If Braham considered that he might be wrong why did he not listen to others counsel to correct himself? For example, Branham taught we existed in heaven as souls before we came to earth to be in our bodies. Certainly he was told this is wrong.

Branham would say of himself *"This thing that I have tried to preach to you through revelations, that was given to me by the Lord Jesus Christ. While I am yet ignorant and uneducated, illiterate, yet Almighty God has placed it before the world, for it's*

infallible." (55-0109M, Melchisedec, The Great Prince And King, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

So Branham preferred that people learn from him directly, from one who could barely read to tell them about the Lord, really? Branham was saying, "accept me even if I'm uneducated, because I have a revelation from God, its flawless." That was not true. The Bible tells us God has appointed teachers under Christ, not a single teacher or prophet. He was saying the same thing the Pope says when speaking ex cathedra, it's infallible.

While some of his arguments against dead and dry teaching may have some merit he generalized his statements to make any scholar inferior.

Branham's position against education was disguised for his own self –aggrandizement. Though he acted humble in his personality, his attitude was anything but humble toward others who took the time to learn Greek or Hebrew.

Branham said, *"And I'd say this, that--that a man can set down and look at a bunch of flowers, a bouquet, and study that thirty minutes, sincerely with all of his heart, and know more about God than he did if he know, had all the degrees that a Bible school could give him, for God reveals Himself in the flower."* (63-0412E, God Hiding Himself In Simplicity, Western Skies Motel, Albuquerque, NM)

Stare at a flower and you learn of God more than at Bible school! No I don't think so. When one goes to a good Bible school they read the Word, they learn what it means. But Branham said one can learn more from looking at a flower than a teacher of the Word! Nonsense. Branham taught that you can know God (not just know that He exists) by nature, which he said was his first Bible.

"Now, that's how I study God first, was from His trees and plants and so forth" (53-0904, Healing (What Cancer Is), Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, Chicago, IL).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"I studied God from the way of nature, where I found Him." (58-0500, The Eagle Stirring Her Nest, Unknown, New England Area)

God does not identify himself with creation, nor can one FIND HIM there. Nature points a creator.

"Now, I used to work in conservation, so I-I studied animal life." (56-0219, Being Led Of The Holy Spirit, Calvary Temple Soul's Harbor, Minneapolis, MI)

"And I studied wildlife and--and birds." (57-0127A, The Impersonation Of Christianity, Memorial Hall, Lima, OH; 58-0314, Love, National Guard Armory, Harrisonburg, VA)

"I studied much about the eagle, his habits." (58-0316A, As The Eagle Stirs Her Nest And Fluttereth Over Her Young, National Guard Armory, Harrisonburg, VA).

"I studied the nightingale. I like to study nature, as you know I love nature." (60-0805, Lamb And Dove, Eisenhower High School, Yakima, WA).

According to Branham he studied nature which is what someone would do to become a conservationist. But he taught it was not acceptable for one to pursue studying the Word in a scholastic way to be a Bible teacher.

"All your theology won't fit the power of God. You don't need theology. You don't need education. What you need is a surrendered heart to the Word of God, to be a genuine witness." (53-0405E, Witnesses, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

This is only a partly true statement. A surrendered heart is needed but one also needs to be educated from the Bible to know what they are talking about. Knowledge of Scripture does not hinder us, but lacking knowledge can be utterly detrimental.

He would also apply intellectualism to those who challenged him as being in unbelief "*them*

messengers that believed not when Noah went to preach to them and told them, "Why, come into this ark." They said, "Listen to that holy-roller. Listen to that fanatic. Why, there's no rain. Whoever heard of such a thing?" (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

How did Noah follow God's instructions to build the first huge boat with just a few people? Was it without education? He had faith, he trusted what God said was true and acted on it. To build such a huge boat he had to use his mind and abilities.

"In the garden of Eden, the devil chose the man's head. God his heart. And now the devil comes into the intellectuals and has brought his religion to intellectual." (59-0702, Where Has Thy Strength Gone, Samson?, Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, CA)

Branham's point fails as Adam chose to sin with Eve by his emotions, his soul, not his intellectualism. Besides, the Devil can use uneducated and dumb people as well as those with pride. False religion and wrong spiritual teaching can also trap people as well, not just intellectualism. It is not just intellectuals who believe you can have God's approval by your works.

Branham put God in a box and said he cannot work through intellectuals. But educated men and women can also be people of faith and believe in the supernatural. Some of the great inventions and discoveries came from those who were educated and made life better for all of us. Many of them were believers in Christ. All kinds of medicines were invented to help save lives. Science through technology has saved countless lives. In fact, Branham speaks of himself in the hospital where doctors did surgery on him and used chloroform to save his life. It was Dr. James Simpson who discovered chloroform's anesthetic qualities which eliminated pain.

Joseph Lister invented Antiseptic surgery. Samuel Morris who made the telegraph and his first words

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



were from Numbers 23:23 "what God has wrought." Michael Faraday discovered electro magnetics and the "field theory", made the generator and electro - magnetic induction. Joseph John Thomson in 1897 discovered particles called electrons that were recognized to be a constituent of all atoms. This proved Rom.1:20. Which tells us that things seen are made from the invisible things. Heb.11:3 "By faith we understand that the worlds were framed (made to fit put in order) by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. The things which are seen are made of things not seen."

Branham would put down those who were educated, juxtaposing it with the baptism of the Spirit. He stated science and knowledge were from the tree in the garden that Eve ate from. Yet he was amazed at the pyramid of Giza which he claimed Enoch built.

The tree of knowledge was not about education or science, but about a lie, to become as god.

More often Branham called the tree that Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat from "the tree of knowledge," instead of the correct name "the tree of knowledge of good and evil." If he was condensing it with the correct identification it would be acceptable, but he was not. He was using the shortened version to disdain knowledge, which disqualifies what God said, that knowledge is not just evil as Branham portrayed it, but also good. Again Gen. 2:17 says it was "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil," not just a tree of knowledge.

It was not the tree that had them fall, but the act of disobedience to the command to not eat from it. The knowledge of God is good because God is the ultimate good. The knowledge of evil is that which opposes God and His ways, which severs man apart from God. That is what is evil.

The knowledge of good and evil produced their knowing the difference between God's ways and what is not. As "the LORD God said, "*Behold, the*

man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil." (Gen. 3:22-23).

Branham called the tree of knowledge "science."

"But the first bite he took off the tree of science, knowledge, he separated himself from God." (56-0420, When Their Eyes Were Opened)

The Tree of Knowledge produced clever men; men of renown, it produced wisdom, it produced death (this is true). He said we invented the automobile off that tree of knowledge (a point of contention is that Branham drove a new car).

Clearly all sin originates from Eve and Adam eating from the forbidden tree. Yet we are responsible for our own actions, for our choices of sin. You cannot blame Eve, the woman for all our sin as Branham did.

"The woman is the lowest of all animals on earth" (65-0221M)

"every sin that ever was on the Earth was caused by a woman ... the very lowest creature on the Earth" (The Spoken Word, Vol. 3 No's. 12, 13, 14; Branham; Spoken Word Publications, Jeffersonville, Ind. 1976; pp. 81-82. Quoted in The Man and His Message, p. 41).

"Ninety-eight percent of every crime that was ever did in any form, in the United States, there was either a woman in it or behind it." (65-0221M Marriage and Divorce)

His outspokenness on women spoke louder than his facts. Branham rarely had anything good to say on women except for maybe his wife and mother. Neither can you say in the same breath that all science and progress is of the devil. Are we to believe God is against education, learning, knowledge or progress?

The Bible says God has knowledge of good. It is Satan that has the knowledge of evil. Branham put them both in Satan's category.

Where does Knowledge come from?

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Our knowledge comes from education. Wisdom is acting on the knowledge one has grown in. As in the book of Proverbs (Hebrew-hokmah), which means skills in living life.

To learn means a) *to gain knowledge or understanding of or skill in by study, instruction, or experience; receive instruction in.* b) *to develop an ability to or readiness for by practice, training, or repeated experience* (Merriam Webster dictionary)

Someone who is learned (educated), means they possess knowledge and can convey it to others.

2 Peter 1:2-3 "*grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us.*"

Peter instructs us on how we are to continually build ourselves. V:5-8 "*giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

So we do not stay the same after we exercise faith but add to it. Virtue is right living, and then knowledge. Both are necessary components. Notice that these are the first facets after faith so we will be fruitful.

The prophet Hosea (4:6) spoke "*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.*" Paul said Israel had a zeal for God *but not according to knowledge* (Rom.10:2). So Paul believed there is a correct knowledge one is to have, that is from God.

The knowledge of God comes from knowing the Scriptures correctly. Without this knowledge we cannot exercise faith in our daily lives. It says Jesus came "*To give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins.*" (Luke 1:77) 1 Tim.

2:4 God "*desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*" Knowledge is another way of saying you are being educated, learning about God. Rom. 3:20, "*for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*"

In 2 Tim. 3:14-16 Paul admonished Timothy "*But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*" So learning, being educated from his youth, prepared him for salvation.

Apparently Branham thought being intelligent or educated kept you from being saved or understanding the Scripture. But this is not what Jesus meant. Yes, faith saves, however we are not to ignore that we are to understand what we believe in to exercise faith. Theology is the study of God. It is putting in order various subjects and topics. The Bible itself says to *study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*" (1 Thess. 2:15).

On the other hand Jesus said to those who kept knowledge away Luke 11:51-52 "*I say to you, it shall be required of this generation. Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered.*" (These were the Scribes the Pharisees and Sadducees who made their own laws, the tradition of the elders became more important)

As it is also said of those in the world who purposely "*suppress the truth in unrighteousness.*" Rom. 1:27-28 "*And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting.*"

Branham was indeed telling people to listen to him over God's Word. Why? Knowledge was replaced by visions that he claimed were not never wrong.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Jesus said, "I've hid It from the eyes of the wise and prudent and revealed It to babes such as will learn." These theological seminaries are just like them priests was back there, and the high priest, and all of them that read the Word but failed to see Jesus being the Christ." (53-0326, Israel And The Church #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"Now, in the garden of Eden there were two trees. One of them was the tree of knowledge; one was the Tree of Life. And man can never know God by knowledge. So no matter how well you get educated, how smart your pastor is, how many degrees he's taken, you can't ... God is not known by education, neither is He known by scientific research; the only way God is known is by faith." (53-1201, God's Provided Way, American Legion Hall, West Palm Beach, FL)

Branham said over and over "you'll never know God by knowledge; you've got to know Him by faith, just to believe it. It doesn't come by knowledge." (60-0805, Lamb And Dove, Eisenhower High School, Yakima, WA)

"God doesn't come by knowledge. If that would've been so, in the garden of Eden when they eat from the tree of knowledge they'd know more about God than they ever did. By knowledge brings death. We only know God by faith. Has nothing to do with your education or any of your social status. It's only by faith are you saved, and that through the grace of God." (58-0125, The Queen Of The South, The Hippodrome, Waterloo, IA)

Again, disobeying God by eating gave them the knowledge of evil.

Faith is to put ones trust in God, it is to trust in what He said. True knowledge accompanies faith - it is not in opposition. How do we know this? The Bible tells us.

2 Cor. 8:7 "But as you abound in everything-- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us-- see that you abound in this grace also."

2 Peter 3:18 "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Col. 3:10 "put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him."

Eph. 4:13 "till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

Phil. 1:9 "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment."

Phil. 3:8 "Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord."

There is the knowledge of God and the knowledge of the world. God wants us to grow in the knowledge of Him. 2 Peter 3:17-18 "you therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Branham did not distinguish between the two.

Col. 1:9-11 "and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

Knowledge of God keeps one growing spiritually and keeps one from being deceived.

Wisdom

Knowledge when applied is wisdom. Branham twists the scripture on its head by introducing a dichotomy, saying "Now, God is the Author of faith; Satan is the author of wisdom." (62-0401,

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Wisdom Versus Faith, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Satan is the author of Wisdom? Prov. 3:19 "The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens."

The Bible itself tells us to get wisdom to live right. Book of Proverbs anyone? From true and accurate knowledge comes wisdom. Prov. 4:5 Get wisdom! Get understanding!" v.7 "Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom .And in all your getting, get understanding."

Branham discourage men to go further in their biblical education and so this is what they end up believing.

"Satan produced a better plan than God's; he produced wisdom. They eat from the tree of knowledge. "Wisdom always takes you away from God. Faith brings you back to God. You don't know God by your great wisdom. You... It's no good. It's of the world. It's foolishness to God. "But it pleased God, through the foolishness of preaching His Word, to save the lost." See? So God always used something foolish and simple." (63-1115, The World Is Falling Apart, Marc Ballroom, New York, NY)

The only plan Satan executed was for Eve to disobey God and eat from the tree.

Is wisdom always wrong?

Prov. 1:7 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Prov. 9:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

It says this repeatedly:

Job 28:28 "the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom."

Job 12:13 "With Him are wisdom and strength, He has counsel and understanding."

Gold and silver were two of the most precious commodities and yet they were instructed in the book of wisdom by Solomon, "how much better to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver." (Prov. 16:16)

Prov. 2:6-7 "For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright."

There are two sources of wisdom. God and Satan.

James 3:13-18 "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."

God instructs us "Get wisdom! Get understanding!" Prov. 4:5). V.7 "Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding."

Prov. 14:33 "Wisdom rests in the heart of him who has understanding."

So we see that God has wisdom and instructs us to get wisdom also, which gives us understanding.

Solomon was told he could ask for anything. To govern the people he asked God "Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?" (2 Chron. 1:10) Both wisdom and justice were granted to him by God, contrary to what Branham taught as coming from Satan.

Prov. 24:5-6 "A wise man is strong, yes, a man of knowledge increases strength; For by wise counsel

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



you will wage your own war, and in a multitude of counselors there is safety."

The Tree that gave us Science

"Remember, there was two trees in the garden of Eden. How many knows that? One was of them was the tree of science, the other was the tree of faith. As long as man eat from the tree of faith, he lived. But the first bite he took off the tree of science, knowledge, he separated himself from God." (56-0420, When Their Eyes Were Opened, Spindale House Recreation Center, Spindale, NC; 61-0516M, God's Provided Way, Zion Gospel Tabernacle, Grand Prairie, AB)

Again Branham misrepresented what the tree is. Inventions of men were used by Branham like anyone else. He had electricity in his home, he drove an automobile and flew in airplanes to get to his meetings. He used a tape recorder for his messages, and a typewriter to transcribe them. So I don't see any valid point in his argumentation on this.

Yet at the same time he would say,
'I thank God for medical science. I thank God for my automobile. If God hadn't let science make me an automobile, I'd have a hard time walking up here. For electric lights, and for soap to wash my hands with, and toothpaste to scrub my teeth with, certainly, I thank Him for everything, because all good things come from God.' (53-0608A, Demonology, Physical Realm, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN)

So the automobile that he claimed was from the tree in the garden, wisdom of the Devil is now good and from God, as are the other inventions? As with nearly everything Branham said, he would speak of the opposite being true.

Branham would put down thinkers and says you need to be a dumb sheep to be led of God, "God's people has never been great intellectuals. The Bible said that the children of darkness is wiser in this

world than the children of the Light. God likened His people unto sheep. They're not smart and intelligent. He keeps them the way they are so He can lead them. If you try to use your own intellectual thinking, you can--you right then bar out God. Sons of God are led by the Spirit of God. But it's a great intellectual day that we live in." (59-0812, Discerning The Body Of The Lord, Miami Valley Chautauqua Campgrounds, Chautauqua, OH)

The Scripture he is citing is Luke 16:8 *"For the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light."* (KJV) The NKJV puts it, more shrewd. It is not expressing intellectualism but cleverness.

In Matt 10:16 Jesus said to his disciples *"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves."* It's the same word as in Lk.16. So we have Jesus teaching us to be as smart and clever as they are.

To say Branham's assessment of education was hostile would be understating his position. You might say he was threatened by theological education.

"Education, and the educational system, science, and civilization is of the devil. It's the devil's civilization. The Bible said so." (65-1204 The Rapture, Yuma, Arizona)

Where in Scripture does it tell us to purposely not be educated? Are we to reject anyone who is educated? Should we shut down our Bible schools and Bible universities and listen to those who are not educated? Like Branham?

"I'll quote the Scripture to You, It's written, 'He give the Angels charge over Thee, lest any time Thou dash Thy foot against a stone, and bear Thee up.'" Look at that theologian that Satan is. See? (63-0421, Victory Day, House Meeting, Sierra Vista, AZ)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



The Devil quoting the Bible does not make him a theologian any more than my swimming in the ocean makes me a fish!

Branham referred to seminaries as cemeteries, someone having a "D. D." as a "dead dog."

"And--and I'm--I'm--I'm here to tell you... But your education has ruined you. That's exactly right. It's got you away from God. It always does. Education's the greatest enemy the Gospel ever had. I say that with all my heart. It's the greatest enemy that the Gospel ever had. It's a lot harder to deal with a educated heathen than one that's uneducated." (62-0721 Behold a Greater than Solomon Salem, OR).

Godly or ungodly depends on what kind of education one receives, there is worldly education and Bible education. If this were other than a biblical education he is speaking of I would agree, but it is not. He did not make any distinctions. A right biblical education does not hinder us from presenting the gospel and teaching people to grow in their faith, it helps. Furthermore, motives and intentions matter as well to God.

Branham's self - education would change the meanings to fit his own interpretation. He classified those who were intelligent and educated as builders and scientists, all as Satan's offspring from the garden.

The educated and the intellectual called Jesus Beelzebub, the devil in their day and the intelligent, educated Christians today were those who rejected the supernatural.

Without educators we would not even have a Bible today. They had to be educated in languages to translate it.

This fact is proven by Branham endorsing and promoting Dr. Lamsa and his flawed concept of Aramaic primacy of the Bible. History and manuscript evidence show us that the Bible was written in the known language of the people, which was Greek. Branham disagreed.

Branham stated, "on the other hand we have another renowned student, Dr. Lamsa, who is convinced that the New Testament was written in the Aramaic and he has none other than the brilliant historian, Toynbee, to back up his contention that the Aramaic, and NOT THE GREEK was the language of the people, so it seems possible that the New Testament was first written in the Aramaic. (Church Age Book)

Notice that Branham called him a student (of languages) and not a scholar because Branham preached against scholars.

"I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Lamsa, today, the translator of the Lamsa translation of the Bible." (60-0401E QUEEN OF SHEBA. TULSA, OK).

Branham called him *"The great Doctor Lamsa, who translated the Bible from the Aramaic unto English."* (60-0417M Go Tell Jefferson IN).

Branham endorsed only one scholar – Lamsa. Did not Lamsa need an education to translate the Aramaic language?

Dr. George Lamsa, in his book, "New Testament Origin," states, *"Not a word of the Scriptures was originally written in Greek ... the Scriptures were written in Aramaic."*

Lamsa told people the Bible was originally written in Aramaic and Branham agreed. There is no proof in support of Lamsa's contention that the New Testament was originally written in the Aramaic language. They are unable to produce any Aramaic manuscripts older than the Greek. Since the gospels were written to the Gentiles of that day for evangelistic purposes it is illogical to think they would have to learn a whole new language to read the Bible as only the Jews spoke Aramaic. It was given in the most popular spoken language of the Gentiles, Greek, not Aramaic.

Branham's lack of education had him approve of Lamsa and his translation of the Bible.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



The New Testament of the Peshitta (Aramaic) was translated from the Greek. This New Testament, originally excluded certain disputed books (2 Peter, 2 John, 3 John, Jude, Revelation), had become a standard by the early 5th century. The five excluded books were added in the Harklean Version (616 AD) of Thomas of Harqel. Lamsa never produced the earlier Aramaic manuscripts nor referred to them. Why? There are no early Aramaic documents of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, only Greek documents.

“Brother, I believe it was Doctor Lamsa, of the Lamsa Bible, at--was in the translation who said ... One time I was speaking and I didn't know he was there. And he come back and was talking about the Urim Thummim, and then he was speaking of that Light, and he said, "What is the matter with these people today?" ... He said, "The reason that people, the translators, could not translate the Bible correctly, that the translators tried to translate in the high Yiddish, and Jesus speaking, spoke in the common class, just like the street people spoke." And you know, there is a Scripture over in Luke said, "The common people heard Him gladly." He spoke in their language. I hope that's so again.” (62-1230E, Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir?, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Yiddish has nothing to do with translating the Bible. It was a fusion of languages (German, Aramaic Hebrew) that Ashkenazi Jews (from Central and East Europe spoke) first seen in Germany, surfacing mid-to-late 19th century. The Jews arriving to America then had Yiddish become dominant within the immigrant community.
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yiddish>
<http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/Language/Yiddish>

This is what a non - education leads you to – away from using logic, Biblical logic. What Jesus spoke in and what the Bible was written in are two different matters. Why would Paul write in Aramaic as he was sent to Gentiles in Galatia, to the Romans, to those in Corinth? They didn't know how to speak or read Aramaic. Greek was the universal language of the day (for the common people Koine Greek). If

it was all first written in Aramaic he would then have to teach the Gentiles another language to be able to even read the Bible. To claim that ‘the whole of the New Testament was written in Aramaic, and not Greek when we have the manuscript evidence is incredulous to reality. It contains more hubris than fact.

Why did Branham endorse the one person who insisted on the Aramaic language being the original ancient Bible? Because Branham had nothing good to say about theologians who challenged him with the meanings of the Greek words. In this way he dissed them all together.

Regardless of Branham stating he had no previous Bible knowledge there are just too many statements to ignore *“I've thought many times back in the Old Testament in my first study back in school.”* (56-0212, Fellowship, Calvary Temple Soul's Harbor, Minneapolis, MI) He was probably referring to *“That was my first study, was Seventh-day Advent. they come and told me that the Saturday was the seventh day, brother, that was according to the Jewish calendar.”* (53-0729, Questions and Answers On Genesis, Branham Tabernacle)

The fact is, Branham would speak on past history, that he read books on this. *“Study church history”* (53-1129A, The Faith That Was Once Delivered To The Saints, American Legion Hall, West Palm Beach, FL).

“Studied them, and studied the--the Koran, by everything I know to study.” (54-1003M, The Word Became Flesh (India Trip Report), Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

That is what is called being educated. That is also what is taught in Bible colleges.

“I got the Hebrew and the Greek, both, and I studied it. I'm not a scholar in it. I just know a few words, just something to help me out.” (54-1219E, Acts Of The Holy Spirit, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"Now, I've got the Greek Lexicon here, "The Emphatic Diaglott." I studied the other day on a word." (62-1104M, Blasphemous Names, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Why is it that Branham can study the Bible, seek education and we can't? Unfortunately he learned from the wrong books and people who wrote them.

The *Emphatic Diaglott* was a "Greek Translation" by James Moffatt that was published on 1864 by Benjamin Wilson, co-founder of the Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith. Benjamin Wilson's group and John Thomas' group later united and became the Christadelphians. *A New Emphatic Version, based on the Interlineary Translation, on the Renderings of Eminent Critics, and on the various readings of the Vatican Manuscript, No. 1209 in the Vatican Library: Together with Illustrative and Explanatory Footnotes, and a copious selection of references; to the whole of which is added a valuable Alphabetical Appendix. Fowler and Wells 1865.*

Later the Fowler & Wells Company of New York city presented it as a gift to the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, it was then published by them" in 1902. Charles Taze Russell the president of the Society. The Jehovah's Witnesses have used this corrupt Greek Interlinear version of the Bible to promote their doctrines. It has been released into the public domain publish since The Jehovah's Witnesses have their own Interlinear publication.

Moffatt was an unbeliever in Christ's deity, he attacked the virgin birth and the deity of Christ. saying, "*There is a young woman with child...*"

KJV 1Tim. 3:16 "...**God** was manifest in the flesh..."

Moffatt Version "...**He** who was manifest in the flesh..."

The reason William Branham accepted this version? Because Mr. Moffatt shared his view on the

Godhead. "*In a beginning was the Word, and the Word was with the God, and a god was the Word.*" Thus Jesus is a god, (a god prophet said nearly 50 times). Though Branham taught Jesus is God, he explained that the prophets were gods, claiming Jesus was "His fullness" more than any other of the prophets, making him God.

The Emphatic Diaglott was derived from various readings of a Vatican manuscript that existed as a number only until Moffat translated it.

Branham purposely used the Diaglott to prove his version of baptism which he drew from Acts 19. someone asked a question, "*Brother Branham, did you ever read the original? The Greek says that you receive the Holy Ghost when you believe.*" *I wish you'd bring me that Diaglott. I wish you'd bring me that Greek Lexicon that says that. It does not say that. It says, "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?" not, "when you believed," but since you... I've got the Emphatic Diaglott of the original translation off of the Heb--of the--the--from a--Vatican City, of the original Greek.*" (60-0611B Fellowship)

This may seem to be a semantical argument. What Branham is proposing is that you do not get the Holy Spirit when you believe but afterwards. One does not need a Greek translation for comprehending Acts 19. The teaching of receiving the Spirit when you believe is all through the epistles. Eph. 1:13 "*after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.*" (read Titus 3:5; Acts 11:17)

Emphatic Diaglott: Acts 19:2 *he said to them: If a spirit holy you received having believed? They and said to him: But not even if a spirit holy is, we have heard.*"

KJV: Acts 19:2 "*Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?*" *So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



In other words they did not hear the gospel to receive the Spirit. Why? They had only had John's baptism.

It is convenient for Branham to not only use but approve something from the Vatican when it agrees with his own teaching but then have harsh criticism when it does not.

Addressing soul sleep from an Adventist Branham says, "Here is where I differ with a precious brother, a teacher. And I notice--I know I see some of his people setting here, that I realize that this was a great teacher. He's a doctor in a--doctor of divinity, and a Ph., L.L.D., and he's a--he's a real good man too. I think he's gone on at this time, but he was a good man and a good writer. And it's Brother Uriah Smith, the author of "Daniel of Revelation." (63-0322, The Fifth Seal, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Why is a 7th day Adventist who believes in soul sleep respected in his degrees but those in the Christian church are not? Could it be because Smith was an anti-Trinitarian Seventh Day Adventist, in his *Daniel and the Revelation*, he taught a prophetic view of the chapters, which are like the church ages that Branham taught.

To generalize about any education from a school as wrong is showing prejudice. Who is he to decide what is right or wrong for a person to pursue in their education. Throughout history it has often been the communists, godless men or authoritarian leaders who do not want people educated.

Let's understand the definition of education -The condition of being made ready beforehand: preparation, briefing, education, gearing up, grooming, instruction, prep, training, tuition. The act or process of imparting knowledge and skill. (American Heritage dictionary.)

What is education?

Educate - To develop the innate capacities of, especially by schooling or instruction. See

Synonyms at teach. 2. To provide with knowledge or training in a particular area or for a particular purpose. American Heritage Dictionary states the knowledge or skill obtained or developed by a learning process. 3. A program of instruction of a specified kind or level:

All vocations have education within them. Nearly everything we purchase and use is from someone who was educated to make and produce that product. If something breaks you find someone who has been educated and has experience to fix it. Thus Branham's argument on education was moot on a number of levels.

The Bible talks about talents given to us (Mt.25:15). Not everyone is behind a pulpit, or has a ministry in the church. Some become doctors, nurses, car repair men, electricians, plumbers etc. if they did not grow in their knowledge we would not go to them.

God is not against intelligence, knowledge in how we serve others

Branham belittled education but he was not an unlearned man. He was uneducated, evident by his speech but he was not unlearned, he attempted to study. He was able to memorize large portions of his own sermons and able to repeat them word for word years apart. In fact many of his sermons are conglomerations of several others.

The Bible teaches us that God has given the church teachers of doctrine. Men that have shown they have studied and shown themselves to be worthy and faithful to the office of elder.

There are those who claim to have a revelation, but when examined their source was not from the Scripture but came from another source, outside of Scripture. This is where Branham lived, by revelation, visions from his angel.

"I've had two years I've been studying in Genesis now, myself." (53-0325, Israel And The Church #1, Branham Tabernacle Jeffersonville, IN)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



And look what he came up with in Genesis, the serpent seed teaching.

"If you want to turn with me to it, on St. Luke 21 and 24. I studied this clearly as best I could." (61-0806, The Seventieth Week Of Daniel, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"I've been a minister now twenty-one years, studying of the Scripture in every way that I know how." (54-0228A, Expectation, Assembly Of God, Phoenix, AZ)

"I've been studying quite a bit in the Scriptures" (53-0604, The Angel of The Lord, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN)

He would also say the opposite:

"I don't try to study, don't try to know It. I just do as He tells me. Then, when He shows me, I look here, and there It is." (63-0127, An Absolute)

"through the week I'd go in the room and set there, and--and study, and meditate, and--and on the Word. And as the Holy Spirit would give me something, I--I'd write it down. And I'd set and think again, then write it down, whatever He'd tell me. Then on Sunday, I'd come over here and have sheets of paper laying all over the..." (54-1212, He Swore By Himself, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Yet he would also say *"I'm not much of a preacher; I'm--don't study on what I'm going to talk about. I just preach by inspiration. I just look around till I find it, and reach out and get it, and hand it out. Sometimes it's pretty rough, but that's the way I get it; it's rough." (54-0719A, God's Provided Way Of Healing, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL).*

And apparently that is the way he disseminated it also.

"I don't study of nothing what I'm going to say, because I never did do that. I always just let the Holy Spirit; whatever He wants me to say, I say it" (51-0729A, The Resurrection Of Lazarus, National Guard Armory, Erie, PA)

And so it is today where many think all the thoughts they get are from the Spirit. You can go to the interpretations Mr. Branham had of scripture to see that not all his explanations were from the Spirit.

The Bible says to study to show yourself approved. This often takes time and effort to get the truth from the Scriptures. *"Study to show thyself approved, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15 KJV).*

The word "study" in this passage is from the Greek word "spoudazo" meaning "to make an effort, to be earnest, and diligent, with labor." The phrase "rightly dividing" comes from the Greek word "orthotomeo," which means, "to make a straight cut, to dissect correctly, to rightly divide." In other words, make every effort to understand correctly what the Word of God actually says, so it can be used to benefit you and its hearers. Branham not once used the verse "to study to show yourself approved."

Branham would say to read the word, to study the Word. But he had a very different way to learn it. *"Lord, that we might study the Word of the living God, as It comes to us through vision and is confirmed by the Holy Spirit, backed up by the Bible." (62-1104M, Blasphemous Names, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)*

Where does the New Testament teach the Word comes through visions? What apostle said this? We are told to read, to study, to understand, to memorize. Unfortunately many of his interpretations were not backed by Scripture.

*"the Church, which is a type of Enoch. **Five hundred years he walked before God. Walking! Walking in the Light, with a testimony that "Everything God said, he did it." He didn't displease Him. What the Lord said do, Enoch done it.***

*... " **but Enoch went Home just a little bit before the flood. You know that.**" (60-1211M The Ten Virgins, And The Hundred And Forty-Four Thousand Jews, Branham Tabernacle)*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



No, I don't know that! The Bible tells us that Enoch was born 622 years after creation, and that all the days of Enoch were 365 (Gen. 5:23), Enoch was taken 69 years before Noah was even born. Noah was 480 years old when he began building the ark (Gen. 9:28-29). Noah was 600 years old when the flood came. So we have a span of 669 years between Enoch being taken and Noah's flood. And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died.

This is the kind of "infallible" revelation you get from this man called a prophet. "*Now, I studied this some time ago, on what does scarlet mean in the Bible?... the ram was a gray color--grizzle--which is a hypocrite color. But once dyed in the red ... And anybody here that knows anything about science, knows that you can take anything red and look at red, and red through red looks white.*"

"Therefore, when your sins be as red as crimson, and God looks at them through the Blood of His Son, you become white as snow. Red through red looks white; that's the approach." (60-0709, God's Provided Way Of Approach To Fellowship, City High School, Klamath Falls, OR)

Here he attempts to use science to prove a point, which is not real science at all. Red through red DOES NOT look white. These colors in Scripture are used symbolically. Our sins are not actually the color scarlet. White symbolizes cleanliness, purity.

Branham consistently spoke on science and education as knowledge from the tree. "*You don't find God by studying books; you find God on your knees. And the first time... Now look, he bit himself off gun power. What did he do with that? That was knowledge, the tree of knowledge; he kills his comrade. The next he bit him an automobile. Automobiles kills more then all the wars put together. Knowledge still ... He's got himself a hydrogen bomb now, I wonder what he's going to do with that? See? He's constantly destroying himself by eating off the tree of knowledge. So just*

forget about knowledge and all your puffed-up knowledge, and just remember it's THUS SAITH THE LORD, and that's what God wants you to believe, is His Word." (53-1201, God's Provided Way, American Legion Hall, West Palm Beach, FL)

What about studying THE Book? I find agreement that for spiritual, moral matters the Bible is our only source but his solution is prayer, not to read. His embellishments such as automobiles kill more than all the wars put together is just fancy nonsense (Branham himself became one of those statistics).

World War 2 alone had 40 - 85, million (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_wars_by_death_toll) If one were to add up all the deaths from wars the numbers far outweigh automobile accidents.

There were 1.25 million road traffic deaths globally in 2013, in the 1960's or previously when Branham said this it was far less.

"Moses has a personal experience. That's what the church needs tonight, is just stop studying so much theology, and get down to the altar, and pray until a personal experience burns down into the human heart, and burns out all the dullness, and gives a new vision." (54-0724, A Personal Experience With God, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

Moses was not looking for an experience and neither should we. Jesus had nothing good to say about the generation that went after signs. Which is what Branham proclaimed is necessary. We accept God giving us a spiritual experience, but we do not seek it as a priority.

Branham would constantly make the point "*God never did organize a church. He is not in that kind of a business. He is in birth, not organization, so when God started the church off at the Day of Pentecost. And then finally down at Nicaea, Rome, they organized it, and there is where it lost its Power."* (65-0123, Broken Cisterns, Ramada Inn, Phoenix, AZ)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



It wasn't because of being organized, but because it strayed from the Word and added other religious practices.

"Notice. Remember, God is not the author of organization. The Devil is the author of organization. I've proved that by the Word, back and forth, and over and over; won't have to go into that this morning. We know that God never did organize people together like that, make a organization. Hundreds of years after the death of the last disciple, 'fore they ever had the first organization." (65-0725M The Anointed ones at the end of time)

The Bible teaches us that God IS the author of organization and Satan is the author of confusion. Satan certainly applies some basic organization to accomplish his goals but to say God does not organize is flat out false and is presenting a different nature of God.

God puts things in order in the church. 1 Cor. 14:40 *"Let all things be done decently and in order."* Paul left Titus in Crete instructing him, *"that you should set in order the things that are lacking"* (Titus 1:5).

Branham said *"And Jesus never organized nothing."* Mark 6:39-41 Then He commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties."

The God of the New Testament is not different then the God of the Old Testament.

God created the earth and all that is in it in a perfect order so that the creatures were sustained by the vegetation. Nothing was made out of place. He placed where man should live (Acts 17). God organized the seasons, the days weeks and months. God gave Israel 613 laws that covered everything in life, they had 12 tribes that were divided with property. God even organized what the Tabernacle should look like and later the Temple. God gave all the details of the Tabernacle, as it was made after the pattern in heaven. He gave the functions of the Priesthood. The Feasts are in a prophetic

illustration. Ex 13:18 *"So God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt."*

He organized his revelation to man and gave us The Bible. To say the Devil is the organizer when he brings confusion tells us a lot about Branham's mindset and how he viewed things. Why would someone say God does not organize? Did Branham use this for his philosophy of life?

Branham speaks about being *"met there by the Council of Churches of South Africa. ... They said "Brother Branham, we--we didn't want you to come over to teach us some new theology. We didn't want you to come over to teach the Word, for perhaps we more--know more about it over here than you American scholars do....," "But what we are trying to find, we want to see God's Word made manifest." That's it. ... while I spoke recently at the Chicago Christian Businessmen's banquet, the archbishop was there, and he said, "When they ordained me an archbishop in India... he said, "you all many times send missionaries over," said, "to teach us the Bible." And said, "We know more about It than you'd ever thought of knowing." And that's true. You ought to hear them once. It's an oriental book. We're teaching It in--in a western way, and It's an oriental book written in the eastern way."* (Ed. Note Oriental means East Asia, not Middle East.)

To say we didn't want you to come over to teach the Word, because they know more about it then we do is onerous. To seek a supernatural experience shows how little they understand, "know."

"When they ordained me a archbishop over India," he said, "they--all the great presbyters, and the bishops, and the priests, and the cardinals, and all come around and laid hands upon me to receive the Holy Spirit; and all kind of ritualistic prayers they read out of books and everything," ... Said, "Nothing happened." He said, "I come over here to America, to a person that hardly had education enough to speak right, and laid hands on me, and I received the Holy Ghost." Said, "Now, what's the difference?" Said, "The thing of it is that in India,

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



we don't want to know your tract that you're passing out, or your theology, or building this or that; we want to know Jesus.

Branham "... I believe Paul said to know Christ is life. And he knew Him in the power of His resurrection. Not to know Him by Word; not to know Him ... That's ... To know Him by Word, that's all right; but that's a long ways from be--being sufficient, to know Him by Word. We got to know Him by Person of His resurrection." (54-0328, Sirs, We Would See Jesus, The Church Of The Open Door, Louisville, KY)

Herein lies the problem, to know the Word IS to know Christ. Jesus is the Word. That is how we grow spiritually. To say we can know him without it is to vilify Scripture. Jesus said *if you love Me you will continue in My word.* Branham separated them as if those who learn the word are inferior to those who have an experience.

Branham is referring to "*that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.*" (Philippians 3:10)

Paul is not speaking about a baptism of the Spirit experience, or any other. But growing in an intimate relationship through our suffering. It means to partner together with Him through our sufferings in this world. God is slowly transforming us into a new person made in His Son's image through our trials.

Barnes' Notes says "*his nature, his character, his work, and with the salvation which he has worked out.*" In fact if one reads the preceding verse 8, "*indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.*"

We get to know Jesus intimately by our suffering and developing our faith, this where his power is made known to us.

The Gospel

"Remember, you are not saved by wisdom; you are not saved by your education; you are saved by faith in Jesus Christ. Forget about your education. Be simple in your own doctrine." (50-0811, The Pool Of Bethesda, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH).

We are told in the Bible to believe in the gospel which means one must receive knowledge and then understand it to exercise faith, or it is not faith as the Bible requires. Branham has presented a false argument. Faith is trust in God. The knowledge of God comes by being spiritually educated. You can't exercise faith without understanding the message or its instructions, otherwise, you are not knowing what you believe in. To honestly believe you must have understanding, faith can only be authentic when it believes the truth.

Jer. 3:15 "*And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.*"

Jesus also said only those with understanding would be fruitful. Matt. 13:23 "*But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*"

The majority of Jews in Jesus' day were educated; Jesus was educated. Most Jews in Jesus' day were multilingual speaking Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. The disciples were trained in the Scripture, being part of the synagogue they would learn and memorize large portions of Scripture. What are called Yeshiva's today (schools to further learn). They were far more educated in the Scripture than new believers are in the church today.

Numerous times Jesus said his own disciples did not understand his statement. They were not prevented by their intellectualism but from a lack of spiritual understanding, knowing the Word correctly. When one does not understand the wicked one takes the seed from their heart before it can grow (Mt.13:19). To understand we must have knowledge.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



“And we have just record of even the apostles, all of them were more or less illiterate, unlearned people. The one that pleased Christ to give the keys to the Kingdom, could not even sign his own name.” (61-0519, Sirs, We Would See Jesus, United Church, Dawson Creek, BC)

In Acts 4:13 it is the elders and scribes accusing the disciples (Peter and John) of being unlearned. When it says the disciples or apostles were uneducated and untrained men, it means in reference to the Pharisees teachings who added their teachings and laws with the Bible, distorting the simple and clear understanding of the Scripture. In Jewish culture, no matter what you were, a fisherman or a farmer, you went to school and learned and memorized large portions of the Torah that would exceed any one of us today.

Jesus said to the Pharisee's they did not the Scriptures, but they certainly knew the laws they made up in addition to the Scripture (called the tradition of the elders). So Branham's argument is not valid.

So it's not that they (the disciples) didn't know the Word—but did not know it as the Pharisees taught. They did not have the Pharisaic interpretation. The Pharisees added 100 plus laws to each of the 613 commandments. So according to the Pharisees unless one was taught by them, they were uneducated and not following God correctly.

Disciples like Peter and John may not have gone to an institution of learning but it says of these “unlearned men” because of their boldness and speech they knew they were with Jesus (Acts 4:13) ... they had a hands on education. Paul was very educated and was reeducated as he was chosen to go to the Gentiles for the Lord.

“Now, Jesus said, and the Scriptures declare that God has hid this Gospel from the eyes of the wise and prudent. So you'll never know it by theology. And will reveal it to babes such as will learn ... Is that right? So just remember, it's hid from the smart people. You'll never know it. You don't know it by

your theology, by education; you know it by faith, you believe it. And faith is something you can't see or know.” (53-0512 Speak to the rock Jonesboro, AR)

To deny this kind of learning is to prevent someone from growing in their faith. The Bible teaches knowledge is important. It compliments faith.

I said, “If they won't learn their ABC's, how will they know algebra?” See? Get right, first.” (63-1110M, Souls That Are In Prison Now, Branham Tabernacle)

That's good advice, that's an example of growing in knowledge, so why did he not promote it? Though uneducated Branham wanted to be just as respected as the scholars and theologians because God speaks to him and not them.

Here are some of Branham's examples to prove his point of not having a Bible education:

“I can just think of John when he was born. What kind of baby ought that to be? He didn't go to no seminary, but he went back out in the woods, out there, and stayed with God. Instead of studying genealogy, he went out on his knees and got some kneeology. He knowed what he was talking about.” (53-1122, The Resurrection Of Lazarus, Evansville Coliseum, Evansville, IN)

“Elijah was not a learned person, the Tishbite. John was not a learned person. Luke 1:67, the Bible said that he was--that the child was in ... As soon as he was born, he took to the wilderness, was in the wilderness till the day he was showed to Israel. That's right. One--Luke 1:67 to the 80th verse, if you want to mark it down.” (60-1211E, The Laodicean Church Age, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

We do not know exactly what age John entered the wilderness. What we do know is that his dad was a priest and would have brought him up on the Scripture and John would have gone to a school for his education.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



We read *"the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel."* (Luke 1:80)

You become strong in spirit by learning the Word. You also need to learn to read to learn the Word.

Luke 1:80 *"Hebron, and in the hill country where his father resided. He dwelt in obscurity, and was not known publicly by the people."* (Barnes' Notes)

When John realized his mission call, he went into the wilderness. It does not say he went straight into the wilderness as a child, but waited there until he was thirty years old to go public. Luke

What we are told is the year he began his ministry. Luke 3:1-4 *"Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins."*

Tiberius Caesar was the Roman emperor 14–37 AD. Pontius Pilate was the governor of Judea 26–36 AD. Herod was tetrarch of Galilee from 4 BC to 39 AD. Annas ben Seth was high priest 6–15 AD. According to Josephus, Caiaphas was appointed in 18 AD (to 36 AD).

John according to Judaism would have been trained by his parents as a child (Deut.6). His going into the wilderness would probably be after he became a man of the law (later called a bar mitzvah) when he was old enough to be accountable and assume responsibility for his own life.

Knowledge is God given, so is wisdom

God has given man knowledge. Ps. 94:10 *"He who instructs the nations, shall He not correct, he who teaches man knowledge?"*

In the Old Testament we read Exod. 35:31 *"and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship."* God gave them the ability to build things, and it was used for building the elements for the tabernacle.

Prov. 1:4-5 *"To give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion--A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel."*

Prov. 9:10 *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."*

Prov. 1:7 *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."*

Prov. 10:14 *"Wise people store up knowledge, but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction."*

Prov. 15:14 *"The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness."*

Prov. 19:27 *"Cease listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge."*

There is a biblical education and worldly education. We are encouraged by God, to become educated in the things of God. Branham promoted Revelation, (his) without education. Those with Biblical education will test revelation (Biblically). All the prophets that had revelation were educated in Judaism, they agreed with the other revelations given beforehand.

How revelatory is it to say Jesus was not of Jewish descent? Branham did. How revelatory is it to say he had no mother? Jesus had a mother according to the Bible. Branham tried to reason out his own interpretations that clearly were not authored by the Holy Spirit because they went against the Word. He twisted the Scripture turning it on its head to read into it what it does not say.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



*“Now, the students can argue the Greek words, but **the believer reads between the lines.** Amen. It's revealed by the Holy Spirit. Hallelujah. God writing His letter to His children, reading between the lines...” (56-0816, The Working Of The Holy Spirit, Prince Albert Arena, Prince Albert, SK)*

Knowing the Greek language does not enhance ones understanding but the Holy Spirit reveals to believers what's not in the word.

Using Apollos and himself as examples Paul said; *“that ye might learn in us not to think above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.”* (1 Cor.4:6).

This is something Branham did not consider, since much of what he taught could be categorized as going *beyond* the pages of holy writ, by his revelations.

Branham quoted Jesus who said, *“I've hid It from the eyes of the wise and prudent and revealed It to babes such as will learn.” These theological seminaries are just like them priests was back there, and the high priest, and all of them that read the Word but failed to see Jesus being the Christ. See what I mean?”* (53-0326, Israel And The Church #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

I think to make such a generalization is judgmental and prejudicial but then Branham takes a turn to make it worse, *“The Bible, you must read between the lines, because God has hid It from those who just read the word alone. I am quoting Scripture that He has hid It from the eyes of the wise and prudent, and will reveal It to babes such as will learn.”* (55-0624, Abraham, Unknown, Zurich, Switzerland)

[The actual meaning of what was hidden is explained in Luke 10:20-22]

We do not read between the lines to get understanding of the Word, there's nothing there!

Branham's position is that reading the word, studying the word, going to school is not only insufficient, but to be avoided.

Branham's apparent presentation of humility appealed to Pentecostals and early Charismatics. His common country dress and lack of education evident in his speech made him appear to be sincere and genuine.

Through his entire ministry he scolded those who sought out education and theologians. He refused to believe the Bible can be understood by learned educated people. Branham mocked education replacing it with his revelation. He said this about education to make himself more spiritually attractive.

Prov. 12:1 *“Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.”*

1 Samuel 2:3 *“Talk no more so very proudly; let no arrogance come from your mouth, for the LORD is the God of knowledge; and by Him actions are weighed.”*

The Lord says to Job (38:2-3) *“Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge?”*

When you tell people your educators and schools, and even reading are all deficient, unnecessary, what's left? A prophet called Branham? Which clearly was his intention as he was belittling all the others.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 16

Knowing God without the word

Branham made it clear he could barely read because he was not educated. Yet when he was very young he recalls when the doctor told me, "One mouthful of solid food will take your life."... I just begin to read the Bible and found God in my soul." (52-0224, Believing God, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

How did he read the Bible when he had such difficulty reading? How did he find God in his soul without the acceptance of the gospel?

Years after he said 'And my education was so poor, till my girlfriend read the Bible while I preached. That's right. It's not much better tonight' (53-0509, The Pillar Of Fire, Bible Hour Tabernacle, Jonesboro, AR)

"In them times when I would try to read the Bible, I couldn't do it. The girl that I married, my boy's mother, would set at the platform and read the Bible, my text for me, 'cause I couldn't even read the Bible (That's right.), couldn't even read It" (54-0720A, The Maniac Of Gadara, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

Because he was unable to read he said "Now, some of my theological teaching, views on the Bible, it might be wrong. I can't say. I'm not a student by a long ways. I'm very illiterate, uneducated, grammar school education; that's not to my desire, but I couldn't have it." (52-0715, Faith In The Son Of God, Civic Center, Hammond, IN)

Yet Branham claimed to be in good company "And we have just record of even the apostles, all of them

were more or less illiterate, unlearned people. The one that pleased Christ to give the keys to the Kingdom, could not even sign his own name." (61-0519, Sirs, We Would See Jesus, United Church, Dawson Creek, BC)

Exactly where does the Bible say this?

Branham who called himself the last messenger to the church said "Now, and then sometimes in the Scriptures, I--I may not know too much about the Word. I don't know the Book, but I know the Author. And I--and I love Him, and I'm sure He won't let me get too far out of the way." (51-0720, The Angel Of God, Civic Auditorium, Toledo, OH)

Branham began by being "out of the way" and he never corrected himself. His statements about knowing the author and not the book reveal the position he put himself in. God does let people go their own way when they do not receive correction.

"I don't know too much, even about the Book, but I'm acquainted with the Author. That's the best thing...?... That's right. I'd rather know the Author than His writing. That's right." (53-0602, The Authority Of The Word, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN)

"I don't know the Book too well, but I know the Author real well. That's the main thing." (54-0404M, Earnestly Contending For The Faith, The Church Of The Open Door, Louisville, KY)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



He would say this phrase over and over again. Branham who had trouble reading made this an excuse for himself.

The only way Branham could know the author without the word is by experience. This has been the way of the Gnostic, and becomes the way of many today. This is why the church is in such disparaging condition today, they go by experience over the word, like Branham did.

Yet Jesus said the very opposite of how to know God. Jesus' whole ministry was about the word. He continually referred to what was written as life and explained the word as the truth we need to know to live a life pleasing to God.

Mark 4:14 "The sower sows the word." What does Satan come to steal? The word. The seed is the word of God. Lk. 8:11-12 "*the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.*" The word is not only necessary to bring salvation to a soul but also to give growth and have one fruitful for the kingdom. "And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." (2 Tim.3:15).

Mt. 13:23 But "*he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*"

Not understanding the word cannot, I repeat, cannot produce fruit in one's life. The more one understands the word and puts it into action the more fruitful you will become. The more you know the word the better you are prepared for His service.

How would Branham know what he is saying is correct if he is not reading his Bible? He depended on his angel to tell him what it means. How does this work when Jesus himself said he sent the Holy Spirit to lead us into the truth. And the Holy Spirit said his word is life and truth, he as the author is the conveyer of the word.

The innate problem is that Branham was convinced his angel "the angel of the Lord" (he called the Holy Spirit) was always correct. He spoke to him in pictures, visions. Which we find were rare in the Old Testament and even more rare in the New Testament. The Bible is complete, and it tells us everything we need to know to live a life pleasing to God (2 Tim. 3:16-17) by what is written. So a vision would not be any new information on what was written, it could only agree with what was written.

"Now, you have to read the Bible between the lines. Did you know that? That's where some of you smart scholars fail. That's right. He said, 'I've hid it from the eyes of the wise and prudent and reveal it to babes such as will learn.' Notice. Just be a baby; forget all you ever knowed to know Christ." (56-0614, God Provided A Lamb, Cadle Tabernacle, Indianapolis, IN)

Paul is not saying forget all, but he considered it rubbish, useless compared to knowing Christ. You don't forget everything but build on the truth you have learned. We should remember that Branham said he found and learned of God by nature. But he could not ever say he learned of Christ from nature, there is nothing in Scripture to point to.

"You know, I told you, you don't read the Bible just like this; you read between the lines. God always writes His love letter." (56-0428, God's Covenant With Abraham, Abundant Life Center, Charlotte, NC)

"Now, God hides His Message between the lines. The seminary will never know It. That's right." (64-0621, The Trial, Municipal Auditorium, Topeka, KS)

That is quite a general accusation, that everyone that attends a seminary will NEVER know the word.

Branham cut off listening to those with a biblical education (unless they approved of him as Lamsa did) so that he would not be questioned in his revelation.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Apparently Branham could also say *"this Bible cannot make an error. It's got to be perfect because it's the Word of God."* (61-0207, Expectation, First Assembly Of God Of Long Beach, Long Beach, CA) *"There is not one error in any of It."* (64-0412, A Court Trial, National Guard Armory, Birmingham, AL) *"there is not one error in the entire sixty-six Books."* (65-0822M, Christ Is Revealed In His Own Word, Branham Tabernacle; 65-0801E)

At the same time he would adjust the words written, or add his own words to the Scripture.

"this is not written right in the Scripture, but read between the lines with me now." (54-0306, The Unconditional Covenant That God Made With His People, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ; 53-1112, Demonology, Sport Center, Owensboro, KY)

"Now, when you become in love with Christ, that's the way you read the Bible. It's in between the lines. You get what He's talking about, the real spiritual meaning." (54-0301, The Angel Of The Covenant, Assembly Of God, Phoenix, AZ)

In other words it's not the "written words" but what is not written. Which is an absurd statement to make. What is not written is blank space!

You cannot interpret what is written by what is not written. How could you know the meaning? It removes you from the context of what is said. To understand the New Testament, which are letters written to recipients that are either individuals or groups. To have an accurate understanding one must first read it all in context before they can go on to understand certain specific points made.

Speaking to someone in the Church of Christ. *"We speak where the Bible speaks and silent where the Bible's silent." You know, you have that slogan. I've questioned that a few times."* (47-0412, Faith Is The Substance, Oakland Municipal Auditorium, Oakland, CA)

How many times did Jesus refer to the Bible saying it is written? Throughout his whole ministry this was said.

This was the principle from the Old Testament. Deut. 8:3 *"that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD."* It means what is written. How do we know this? What Jesus spoke back to the Devil when he tempted with the preface *"For it is written,"* he quoted the scripture back to him in context. Mt. 4:4 *"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."*

Branham put down those who wanted to pursue further education that he not only spoke against education but the word, *"We send our children away to Bible school and colleges, and we learn them the Bible. What good does it do to know the Bible if you don't know the Author? The Bible doesn't say to know the Word. Satan knows the Word better than any student in the world. That don't make him saved. It's not by knowing the Word; it's knowing Him is Life: to know Him."* (62-0728, God Has A Provided Way, Curling Arena, Victoria, BC)

This turns nearly all Jesus had to say on the word inside out. Does the Bible say to NOT to know the word! It says by knowing the word we know the author, knowing him who is life. Branham says he doesn't know the word well, but he'd rather know God. He also said he knew God before he heard the word (and the gospel). He knew God by nature, which we are told by the Bible is not possible.

Branham called the written word the 3rd Bible (after the zodiac, and the pyramid). This Bible being understood by what is written in between the lines is not at all what Jesus meant about His Word.

John 14:23 Jesus, *"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; On the other hand v.24 "He who does not love Me does not keep My words."*

Jesus said if you love me you will continue in his word. To say what Branham said is dangerous to one's spiritual health.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



What is the result of this? Branham found hidden knowledge reading between the lines and interpreted the words already written. He read *into* the text what he thought (called Eisegesis), finding things in the text which are not there and even saying at times "Thus saith the Lord."

Branham had a cliché that "*It's better to know the Author.*" This was used over and over throughout the years of his ministry.

"Here sometime ago, someone was telling me about Greek words and about all kinds of Hebrew words. I said, "I-I don't know nothing about them."... I said, "I-I may not know the Book too well, but I know the Author real well. That's the main thing." I said, "I-I'd rather know the Author than His Book." So that's the... But it's good. If you know the Author, He will reveal His Book, don't you think so? Talk to Him. So we'll just read a verse out of His Word, and then ask Him to help us." (56-0121, The Inter-Veil, Sturgis High School, Sturgis, MI)

The Bible says to read, study to learn. It takes time, and effort to arrive at the truth. Proverbs speaks of God's instruction, "*and not silver, And knowledge rather than choice gold ; For wisdom is better than rubies.*" (Prov. 8:10-11) This wisdom is the Scripture. Rom. 15:4 "*For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*"

1 Tim 5:17 "*Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.*"

From the beginning of the law given to Israel the Lord told them "*Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today.*" (Deut.8:11)

Not reading and studying what is written, is equal to forgetting God himself.

Branham relays, *Somebody told me, said, "Well preacher, you don't know the Greek words."... "You don't know the Bible right. If you knowed this word don't mean this, it means that." I said, "Brother, I know the Author better than I know His Book." Amen. I'd rather have the Author anyhow any time. His Book's fine. That's right. But I'd rather know the Author. Wouldn't you?"* (51-0413, The Works That I Do Bear Witness Of Me, Shriners Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

Most people would react by saying I would like to know the word better. The word is from the author, the author gave it to us. To know his word IS to know the author. For Branham to say this shows there was a real disconnect.

By not knowing the word he would presume a wrong conclusion: "*now, what I think it was, in the Old Testament the priest stood up of a morning and read the Scriptures. The congregation listened. Many could not read. So he said, "Blessed is he that readeth and he that heareth." See? The reader and the hearer: the one who reads and hears is blessed.*" (60-1204M, The Revelation Of Jesus Christ, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Speaking of the disciples of Jesus "*He deals with them fishermen and illiterate and men who could not read or write*" (61-0129, Turning Northward, Westward Ho Hotel, Phoenix, AZ)

This is Branham's opinion and it is incorrect, The Jewish culture was very literate and the children were brought up reading the Bible and memorizing large portions of the Scripture at a young age. This was taught to the nation by the Levitical priests and the family, especially to the children "*And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children.*" (Deut.6:6)

You can't tell people to read and know their Bible and then say you don't.

This is what God has said Ps. 138:2: "*For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.*" God's

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Word is His communication, the revelation of Himself to mankind, the people he loves.

One can misunderstand God if they do not know the word. Jesus said John 17:14 *"I have given them Your word."* It is the word that gives us understanding of who is God. That is where we begin, that is where we end. He is the Word made flesh.

Jesus began His ministry by quoting Scripture, *"Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing"* (Luke 4:21). Jesus always quoted the Scripture as the final source of authority (Matt. 22:29-32; Mark 7:9, 13.)

He would tell them to *"search the Scriptures"* (John 5:39), *"is it not written in your law?"* (John 10:34; Luke 10:25) *"have you not read?"* (Matt. 12:3; 12:5; 19:4; 21:16; 22:31), This clearly shows that the people were recommended to read the Scripture for themselves.

Mark 12:24 *Jesus answered and said to them, "Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God?"*

Jesus told them numerous times he would be handed over to the gentiles and crucified but they did not understand. *"for the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men." But they did not understand this saying, and it was hidden from them so that they did not perceive it."* (Lk 9:44-45)

There are times they disciples just could not understand John 6:60, *"when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"* John 8:26-27 *"and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him." They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father."*

One of the reasons, *Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do."* (John 8:43-44)

The Bible says we are not only to know the word, we are to know the doctrines in the word. Prov.4:2 *"I have given you a good doctrine - forsake it not."*

In 1 Tim. 4:6 Paul speaks of being *"nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed."* Encouraging them to continue *"till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."* (1 Tim 4:13)

Jesus' whole ministry was about the word. He continually referred to the Scripture. In John 17:17 *"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."* God changes the believer's life through both the Word and the Spirit. John 17:6 *"I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word."* Those who want to follow Jesus live by His Word and not another's.

In addressing the churches through history Jesus commends the church of Philadelphia *"Because they have kept My word."* (Rev. 3:7)

Rev. 6:9 *"I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God."*

Rev. 20:4 *"I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God."*

This is the principle we are to go by as the church 1 Cor. 4:6-7 *"Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, **that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other."***

Throughout history there are those who claimed they got a revelation from God or an angel spoke them and a following occurred from it.

As for Branham, he disrespected the Bible, he did not uphold it. His lack of knowing the word accurately did not prevent him from teaching it. He had wrong doctrine on core teachings. He denied a preexistent Son with the Father before creation (as

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Scripture says). One of the earmarks of the cults, they all deny an eternal son. Which means the Jesus they believe in cannot save them. Unless you believe He is God the Son sent by the Father you have another Jesus. Branham taught he was first a thought in Gods mind before he was created, materialized as a man in the heavenly realm, which is before he became man on earth. His Jesus can't be God if he didn't exist eternally.

Furthermore how can anyone with a minimum of Bible knowledge and understanding say man was created a god by God?

God says there are no others before or after him, none like him. He was certainly not taught these doctrines from the Bible. So where did he get these teachings? From his angel.

We should understand why Jesus scolded the religious leaders of his day, "Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered" (Luke 11:52). What is the key of knowledge? The Scripture. The Pharisees exalted their teachings over the word, called the tradition of the elders. This is why Jesus rebuked them "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in." (Matt 23:13)

How did they prevent the people from entering? By what is called the tradition of the elders. They made other laws, interpretations of the Scripture which got in the way of people knowing the Scripture to have life.

Branham saw himself as prophet with a message. The message was conveyed by visions. He taught that each church age had a specific messenger who preached the "message of the hour;" if the message was not accepted, they did not have salvation.

He based the premise of the prophet and his message on Noah. Who was "*sent of God, with a message from God, and he gave the people a warning before the judgment come. And they snickered and laughed, and made fun of it, and scoffed, ... in that day, and they was drowned beneath the seas. That's right. Why? They rejected the message of the hour.*" (63-1127, The World Is Again Falling Apart, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA)

While the first portion of this is accurate, his mistake was that he applied "the message" to himself. He called this by various terms, word of the hour, the message, the message of the hour.

"*God sent an angel, a messenger to what? Call out. "Come out. " the Message of the hour.*" (62-1111E Why Against organized religion)

"*This is the message of the hour, I believe is Pentecostal message, Pentecostal grace.*" (61-0128, Why?, Westward Ho Hotel, Phoenix, AZ).

There is no such thing, there is only grace for all who have faith.

"*Don't you see the Message of the hour? Can you recognize where we are? The Message itself, from the Scripture, interprets to you the hour we're living in. It's the interpretation.*" (64-0726M, Recognizing Your Day And Its Message, Branham Tabernacle)

Branham spoke of prophets as eagles *Everyone knows that a prophet is called the eagle, in the Bible.*" (65-0221E) Then he would also say of everyone "*if he is a true eagle, he will understand the Message of the hour if he's a true eagle.*" (65-0410, The Easter Seal, Ramada Inn, Phoenix, AZ)

"*there's only one evidence of the Holy Spirit that I know of, and that is a genuine faith in the promised Word of the hour.*" (64-0823E, Questions And Answers #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"*the anointed Word of God being vindicated before any man that's born to be a son of God, with the*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



predestinated germ into him for this hour, he'll see God's Message as sure as there's a God in Heaven." (65-1125, The Invisible Union Of The Bride Of Christ, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA)
Which according to Branham is HIS message

By the end, he ended up with himself being the Noah for his day, one must believe his message and that confirms they have the Holy Spirit.

The word of God is not a word of the hour or for a time, it is eternal. "*His truth* (the word) *endures to all generations.*" (Psalm 100:5) The Word continues to be the same eternal absolute truth to all generations.

The apostles' were the prophets words put to paper for the benefit of all succeeding generations, Prophets never misinterpreted the Scriptures. William Branham did not aid to one's understanding the written word, by his own admittance he couldn't. He took away from it.

"If I say anything that you don't believe, why, do it just like I do when I'm eating cherry pie. I love cherry pie. But when I hit a seed, I never throw the pie away; just throw the seed away. So you do the same thing. Eating chicken, when you hit the bone, you don't throw the chicken away, you just throw the bone away. If I say something you don't believe, just throw the bone away." (63-608 Conferences, Tucson, Arizona).

If he is speaking for God, God's message, Gods word you would not have this option.

Branham's own statement "*If I have told the truth, as I believe this Bible to be the Truth, and no other book, and anything contrary to this is not the truth. I only believe that this Bible contains the Truth of God.*" (56-0401 Mighty Conqueror)

The Bible does not just contain the truth; it is THE TRUTH. "Thy word is truth."

"If it ever told me anything was contrary to the Bible, I would not believe it. This Bible is first. Any kind of an Angel, or anything else, that would testify

anything contrary to this Word, don't you listen to it; I don't care how real it seems. This is right. It's always right." (63-0607, Be Not Afraid, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ)

As we continue it will be evident that Branham's angel taught him things contrary to the Bible, Branham himself introduced many things contrary to the word (pyramids, gospel in the stars). He used Bible words and reassigned their meaning from what was intended by the author.

Which is "*the message,*" we are to learn from? Is it the prophet Branham's words, or the Bible? Because he taught many things contrary to the Bible and ironically an angel was involved.

The BIBLE is to be our message for it alone is "*profitable for doctrine, ... for correction*" (2 Tim. 3:16). The Bible says to preach the word, whose word do you preach?

As we have seen Branham had so many contradictions to God's word, adding to the word his own words, distorting its meaning.

Now you must choose.

Jesus said Luke 11:28 "*Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!*" You cannot keep the word Branham taught and the word of God, they are not the same, they are in conflict.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Section 2 Theology, Christology

Chapter 17

The Nature of God According to the Prophet William Branham

William Branham had various opinions on who God is, His nature and person. *"And Christ is our Mother. We realize that God is our Mother, for we are born of Him."* (65-0919, Thirst, Grant Way Assembly Of God, Tucson, AZ).

Then he would say *"God is our Father, and faith is our mother that brings us to birth to God."* (62-0118, Convinced Then Concerned, Full Gospel Church, Tempe, AZ).

That means that we have two mothers, but only one of them is God.

As if this was not confusing enough, he would also say *"Jesus Christ is here. He is our Father. He is our Mother."* (63-1201E, Just Once More, Lord, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA).

Not only did Branham have it wrong that Jesus is the Father (who sent him to earth from heaven?) but he is a mother just as he is the Father. Obviously these terms were not kept in a biblical context.

"We got a Mother that answers when you ... a Mother who is in Heaven, who Mothers us all. As a hen hovers her brood, and coos to them, and—and woos over her... broods over her chickens, so will I

brood over you." (57-0922E "Hebrews, Chapter Seven)

The Androgynous God

So according to Branham we have both a Mother and Father God in heaven, which makes sense since

man was made in his image, androgynous, he and she is also androgynous. So man was both male and female (much like the Mormons taught.)

Speaking of God as El Shaddai he used the many breasted God as his interpretation.

"Actually the Name was "El Shaddai." I may not pronounce that word just right: El Shaddai. Now, "El" is God, like Elohim. "Shad" is "a breast like on a woman." "Shaddai," is plural, "breasts, breasted." Then He is the breasted God." (59-0423, Abraham's Seed, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, San Jose, CA)

And God called him out, and He said, "Abraham, I am El Shaddai. I'm the Almighty." Now, the word, "El Shaddai" comes from the word, "bosomed," means like "the woman, the breast." "I am El Shaddai," the breasted God, God with two breasts,

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



like the woman." (57-0106, Jehovah-Jireh, Arnold Memorial School, Cleveland, TN).

Speaking of Abraham, "*He was what? El Shaddai, the Breast. So in other words He would be the mother to God--or to Abraham. Is God a Mother? Sure He is. We are borned of God. Is that right? So that makes God our Mother. God is our Father. God, in Christ is our brother. Is that right?"* (56-0816, The Working Of The Holy Spirit, Prince Albert Arena, Prince Albert, SK).

Your answer should be no that is not right.

"*Notice. Not only was He a breast, but breasted, not one breast but two breasts, the breasted One, the all-sufficient One, Almighty One, all powerful One. He had two breasts: One was for the healing of your soul, and the other was for the healing of your body.*" (56-0427, Faith, Abundant Life Center, Charlotte, NC)

The scripture verse for any of this? NONE! How he would come to this conclusion is beyond comprehension.

El Shaddai, means "the Almighty God." it is used the Old Testament 48 times.

Hebrew Christian scholar Dr. Fruchtenbaum explains, "*The word Shaddai has two roots. The first root means "to be powerful," emphasizing the fact that God possesses all power in Heaven and on earth. It pictures God as subjecting all the power of nature and making it subservient to the work of divine grace. The second root for the word Shaddai is "breast," which emphasizes God as the nourisher and sustainer. As the All-Sufficient One, He is the source of blessing and comfort. Used together, these words emphasize the greatness of God. This name relates God to His covenant blessings. This was a very early name for God that was especially known experientially by the Patriarchs in Genesis 17:1; 28:3; and Exodus 6:3.*"

To sum this up *El Shaddai* gives us a picture of God who nurtures his children with care and love. That

he will protect, comfort, and provide as a mother does her children. Nowhere is God called a mother in Scripture. Nowhere!

Speaking to the Father Branham tries to feminize him: "*They're trying to approach You on the outside. May they come in through Christ just now, come to the breast of the El Shaddai, which was wounded for our transgressions. And then in return tonight, lay their head over on the bosom of the Mother God. The only One that could give us birth rightly is God, our Mother, and our Father, and our--our Redeemer, and our loved One."* (55-0123A, The Approach To God, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL)

Speaking of a mother eagle "*She's got a eye that can pierce through for miles. She's watching those little ones. I said, "No wonder they're carefree."... No matter how the trials are; you're still at rest with Christ, walking around carefree; and our great Mother, the Breasted One, has climbed the ramparts of glory, setting at the right-hand of God.*" (57-0612, Jehovah-Jireh, Cadle Tabernacle, Indianapolis, IN)

This is one off those times Branham is open enough to say what he really believes. Now we have a mother at the right hand of God! This was not repeated again.

Notice Jerusalem, the word. "Jerusalem is from above," the Bible said, "which... is the Mother of us all." And Christ is our Mother. We realize that God is our Mother, for we are born of Him. The word simply means "peace," Jerusalem, Shalom." (65-0919, Thirst, Grant Way Assembly Of God, Tucson, AZ)

Paul was speaking in figurative terms, but Branham often made the literal figurative and the figurative literal, bringing confusion to people's understanding of the Scripture.

So this is one of the truth's Branham came to bring to the church!

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



In Jewish mysticism "Shaddai is connected with the word "shadayim", meaning "breasts," the "Breasted God." The female breasted god was found in Paganism (Semitic goddesses) through the centuries.

In the early church Clement of Alexandria was influenced by the doctrine that characterized God in both masculine and feminine terms.

Dr. Elaine Pagels writes of the Gnostics that taught that God was both Father and Mother. [The Gnostic Gospels]. *Ein Sof's attributes* are said to be dualistic (both male and female).

This is found in theosophy and is a teaching with the new age ascended masters. In "Climb the Highest Mountain" the Church Universal and Triumphant (representative of the I AM movement) teaches "that God has both male and female aspects, and refers to God as "Father-Mother." (pp.321, 322)

Branham deduced since God was mother and Father man made in his image had this duality also. Adam preexisted as spirit as an androgynous man, "for when he was first made, he was made two people together. ... The Bible said he was. God made man both male and female, "created He him." (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

"He made him a dual person, both male and female. He separated him in flesh." (57-0414, Corinthians, Book of Correction, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

This belief system is found in other Gnostic books. "In the beginning, he (the One) decided to have his likeness become a great power. Immediately, the **principle (or beginning) of that Light appeared as Immortal Androgynous Man. His male name is 'Begotten, Perfect Mind'**. (Eugnostos the Blessed)

God is not Tri-une, He's a rainbow of Seven Spirits

"*God was this great big fountain of seven colors. How many knows that? See? And how many knows that God has seven Spirits? Absolutely, seven Spirits."* (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

This fountain that Branham called God consisted of seven spirits? Which were of different colors? This is about as bad of a Bible interpretation as one will hear in a lifetime.

Branham called God the Great Spirit as that fountain.

"*That was the great Spirit in the beginning, the seven Spirits of God like the seven rainbow colors. Each Spirit comes off of it, perverts, comes down.*" (58-0519, Life, City Hall, Bangor, ME).

Does Exodus or Genesis speak of God as a fountain with 7 spirits, does any book? None of the 66 books do.

Branham changed the whole meaning of the Scripture when he spoke of 7 spirits that are 7 colors. There is nowhere to find this correlation in the Bible.

"*There's seven Spirits of God, just like the seven colors in the rainbow ... Set a three cornered piece of glass--yet it's only one piece of glass, but in three corners will reflect seven colors. That's how Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, being One, yet reflect the seven spiritual attributes of God.*" (58-0928M, The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

If God has **7 spirits** then he is more than a trinity, he's a HEPTAD. That is whole lot worse than the Tritheism that Branham falsely accused Trinitarians of. The fact is, the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit do not reflect the attributes which he deemed colors. It is the opposite; the attributes show

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



the character and nature of God, and there are more than 7.

"That's It's when Jesus went back to the Logos, the Pillar of Fire that led the children of Israel, setting in the Presence of them greats, fountain, rainbow of Lights that come out, the seven perfect Spirits." (57-0901E Hebrews Chapter four).

"Now, you see, when God began in ... There's seven Spirits of God, just like the seven colors in the rainbow." (58-0928M, The Baptism of The Holy Spirit, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"This great Forerunner has gone before us, making a way. He become from spirit, the great fountains of the rainbow of God, who had no beginning or no end. He was, forever, God. This ray of Light went forth. It was a ray of love, that's the main one, red. The next color follows, which was blue; blue, the trueness. Next, followed after that was other colors, through the seven perfect colors, which is the seven spirits of God, that went from that great Fountain or that great Diamond that Jesus spoke of. That great Diamond was chipped, to reflect these colors... That whole big rainbow had become in a theophany, of made in the image like man. Yet, He wasn't a man; He didn't have flesh, yet. He was a theophany." (57-0915M, Hebrews, Chapter Six #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"We'll go back to our Hebrew teaching just for a few minutes. God was this great big fountain of seven colors ... And how many knows that God has seven Spirits? ... Now, when He, the Logos went out of God, which was God coming from this one big fountain into a body in the form of a--of a man, and it made the Logos, which we call theophany..." (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle)

"And the Logos, which was the Son of God, went out, created by these great fountains of purity, God, as those Spirits went out. And it created the Logos." (57-0630 - Thirsting For Life Chicago, IL)

Remember Branham described God as a fountain, he is referring to the 7 spirits that make up God went out of God and created the logos, which is the word. Which is a title for the Son who always existed according to the Bible, is this Biblical teaching? Not on your life!

How does any of this work? I thought Jesus was the Holy Spirit according to Branham, so we now have the 7 spirits creating another spirit (the logos) that is supposed to be God?

What is clear is that the logos was not existent (only a thought) and was then created by the 7 spirits when it was spoken to exist. His Jesus was a creation.

The Bible when describing a fountain in relation to God does so in a very different manner.

"For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light." (Ps.36:9).

Prov. 14:27 *"The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death."*

John 4:14 *"But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of living waters."*

Rev. 21:6 *"I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts."* None of these are comparative to Branham's description of God actually being a fountain before anything was made.

The rainbow fountain

"It was a Theophany, that all this rainbow condescended into a--a Theophany." (57-1002, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN; also 64-0629, The Mighty God Unveiled Before Us, Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia, PA)

The rainbow are the 7 spirits which he is saying became a theophany.

"A theophany is something that you could not see." (65-0221E, Who Is This Melchisedec?, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



“And it was a body. It was in the form of what we are now, ... a theophany. It's a body that doesn't have a spirit in it. It's a body that's waiting for you Christians.” (57-1002, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #2).

What he is describing is an empty shell, a body waiting for its spirit! And it looks like man. If these spirits are creatures like angels then we have creatures creating the Son of God. If these spirits are God then we have a compounded problem, because Branham said God is one spirit. As usual Branham had two views (or more) on the same subject he taught and neither was found in the Bible. He really was confused.

“this great Fountain of Spirit ... this great Spirit began to form, in the creation, and the Logos that went out from It was the Son of God. It was the only visible form that the Spirit had. And It was a theophany, which means a body, and the body was like a man.” (57-0821, Hebrews, Chapter One, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

He first said a theophany was a body without a spirit, Then he says it is a body like a man, a visible form of the Spirit. Two very different views on the same subject.

“Now, when He, the Logos went out of God, which was God coming from this one big fountain into a body in the form of a--of a man, and it made the Logos, which we call theophany ... Now, if you take the theophany when you are looking at that, that's a man.” (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Exactly how does the Logos come out from God in the form of man? Then the Logos was made which means the Bible saying the word was God is wrong. The only consistent thing said is that the theophany is the form of man.

In referring to the 7 spirits before the throne: *“seven is complete, and God was complete. And seven Spirits, and those Spirits were perfect ... the first*

was the color of red; perfect love, redemption. And how, if we had time, to give those colors and show that each one of those colors represents God's purity. Amen. Those colors, there is seven natural colors. Those colors represents the purity of God. And the ... Those colors represents the motives of God, the attitude of God.” (57-0922, Hebrews, Chapter Seven #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Where did Branham get this explanation from, the Bible? You certainly will hear in Branham's teachings what you will not hear from other teachers. This is not because he is a prophet but because he was a mystic.

Exactly where does the Bible interpret what colors mean? Where does the Bible speak of colors when speaking of the 7 Spirits of God? It can't be found. Branham would often speak where the Bible does not.

He went on to say of these 7 colors: *“Those seven colors, they represented seven church ages, seven stars, seven angels. All through the Scripture, seven ministers, seven messengers, seven messages, all in the sevens. Seven days. Six days, and the seventh is the sabbath; perfect, complete’ (ibid.)*

So basically everything that has seven in it was related to these seven spirits of color.

Branham also taught the seven Spirits before the Throne of God were *“seven varieties of Spirit.” (57-0922, Hebrews, Chapter Seven #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville)*

He even equated the *“The seven Spirits of God are the seven fruits of the Spirit.” (61-0101, Revelation, Chapter Four #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)*

In Gal. 5:16 there are listed 9 fruit of the spirit, (not plural fruits), the fruit are not spirits. These 7 spirits he described are not God according to the Bible, so

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



they cannot be produced by the Holy Spirit who indwells in believers.

It is quite common among occultists, mystics and theosophists to interpret the Bible this way, with both numbers and colors attached.

Jane Lead was considered a 17th Century Prophetess of God. She wrote,

“seven lustrous powers, proceed from the Divine body of the Spirit, as from their source and original, and subsist in the same, as in their true ground.”

THEIR NATURE

[TM 213] *The third particular I am to speak to is the nature of these Seven Spirits, which I shall endeavour to declare to you in these following propositions:*

[TM 214] *The first is this: the Seven Spirits of God are so many various outgoing powers, immediately proceeding from the body of the Holy Ghost; they are the true fruits of the Spirit, they are as so many derived streams, from the head and fountain-stream, the Holy Ghost. They are a variation of that one all effecting power of the Holy Spirit. For as the supreme Unity varies itself into a Trinity, so the all-effecting power of the Trinity varies itself into a Septenary, or Seven Spirits.*

[TM 215] *In the second place, these Seven Spirits are co-essential powers with the Holy Ghost, and consequently with the whole Trinity; for they immediately proceed from the essence of the Holy Ghost, they are essences out of His essence, and therefore must needs be co-essential with Him.*

[TM 216] *Thirdly, the Seven Spirits of God are co-eternal with the Holy Spirit, for they exist together with the Holy Trinity, which was never without these spirits proceeding from them, and consequently these Seven Spirits must needs be co-eternal with the Blessed Trinity. But here we must not think that their being co-essential and co-eternal with the Holy Trinity makes them coequal with them: no, the Spirit of Eternity does not bring forth spirits equal to Himself; but such as are subordinate and dependent, otherwise He would make other gods beside Himself, which cannot be supposed. Besides their subordination and inferiority in this appears, that they are not shut up*

in the Unity of the Trinity, but appear distinctly from the holy and ever-blessed Trinity, as shall be more particularly declared hereafter.”
(www.janelead.org)

There are more similarities to Jane Lead's mysticism than there are not.

William Branham is in direct conflict with the Book of John that is found in the Bible. In the opening statements of John, it says that Jesus was the Word and that ALL things were created by Him, and for Him. It says that He was in the beginning WITH God, not created by some “fountain god” that created a “Jesus,” in a human type body. He was the word (a metaphor for the Son) that created all things.

Branham's mystical view is clearly seen as he describes Jesus' crucifixion. *“He was bruised, shaped, and formed, that the Light of God shining through that one Man's body might redeem the whole world;.... “I be lifted up from the earth, I'll draw all men unto Me.” Watch those rainbow colors as they reflect.”* (61-0101, Revelation, Chapter Four #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Was it the light that redeemed us, or the blood?

Who and what are the 7 spirits

The Bible is describing the lamb in heaven, which is Jesus. Rev. 5:6 *“In the midst of the throne ... stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.”*

The book of Revelation incorporates symbolism in many of its events and descriptions. This term seven Spirits is found exclusively in the Book of Revelation of Jesus Christ and is used 4 times by John (1:4, 3:1, 4:5, 5:6).

Rev. 3:1: *“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars:”* Notice it says who has (not is) the seven spirits of God.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Rev. 1:4 seven Spirits who are before His throne. The number seven represents completion, fullness or totality. This Scripture should not be misinterpreted as there being 7 Holy Spirits who are God. When the Book of Revelation speaks about the *seven spirits*, it is describing the seven attributes/characteristics of the Holy Spirit. There is only one Holy Spirit. The *seven spirits* emphasize the total fullness of that one Holy Spirit (Rev. 1:4).

Rev. 4:5-6 “*Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.*”

Seven lights are before his throne in heaven and are being sent forth.

John writes before this in Revelation 1:12-13: “*Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man...*” John sees the glorified Christ in His holy priestly garb walking among the seven branch Menorah in heaven. The origin of the seven-branched lampstand is found in the Tabernacle and later in the Temple. Being the only light within the holy place for the priest to do his ministerial service.

Rev 5:6-7 “*and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.*”

Horns symbolize power and eyes symbolize God seeing, combined with the number 7, it is has the meaning of fullness and it is applied to Christ.

Isa.11:1-2 describes the branch (Jesus) who will have “*The Spirit of the LORD (YHWH) shall rest upon Him.* And we then read of 7 attributes with the Spirit (the Spirit is mentioned 4 times). These verses describe the different qualities the Holy Spirit exhibited in Jesus' ministry on earth. His sevenfold totality that he had with the fullness of the Spirit.

This is not 7 other spirits. What we read here is Jesus having *The Spirit of wisdom and*

understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.” Thus it corresponds to the 7 spirits mentioned, emphasizing the sevenfold fullness of the Holy Spirit. His sevenfold aspects of perfection and totality that accompanied Jesus as He ministered on earth. Thus it corresponds to the 7 branched lampstand that is mentioned, known as the menorah. The light in the temple.

Rev. 5:6 “*the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.*” And then “*he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.*” (N.7) In other words these 7 spirits are sent with the purpose in preparation for the judgments.

Branham did not speak of the 7 spirits as a sevenfold aspect, but 7 separate spirits, each having its own color and attribute. He had various explanations that all revolved around the 7 messengers of the church ages.

“The seven, manifold, seven Spirit. ... there is seven colors. There is seven church ages there. ... The first was the color of red; perfect love, redemption. And how, if we had time, to give those colors and show that each one of those colors represents God's purity ... Those colors represents the motives of God, the attitude of God. Those seven colors, they represented seven church ages, seven stars, seven angels. All through the Scripture, seven ministers, seven messengers, seven messages, all in the sevens. Seven days. Six days, and the seventh is the sabbath; perfect, complete!” (57-0922, Hebrews, Chapter Seven #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Again where does the Bible teach of these colors that he assigned to these seven's?

He also said they are “*... seven manifestations of the Holy Spirit of the seven church ages.*” (61-0108, Revelation, Chapter Four #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

They are seven messengers that kept that fire burning.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Yet he also said *Look, the "seven Spirits."* Watch: capital "S," Holy Spirit, only one of them. Uh-huh. The same Holy Spirit coming seven times to all seven church ages bearing the same Light. Get it now? Seven church ages, seven times this Holy Spirit would carry this same Message, which was pronounced a curse to anyone who'd change It." (60-1209, The Sardisean Church Age, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"...the Logos. The Word spoke out of them great Fountains of Life and went forth. And there was the theophany, which was God made into Word." (57-0602, Life, Branham Tabernacle)

"Now, when these **great Lights went out, or great rays of Spirit:** love, peace, that's all there was, That. There wasn't no suffering. There wasn't no--no hate, nor no malice; it couldn't come from this **Fountain. That was Jehovah.** That was Jehovah God. And now, as the theologians call it, a theophany went from That, which was called, in the Scriptural, the "Logos," the Logos that went out of God. It's hard to explain, but It was a part of God." (57-0821, Hebrews, Chapter One, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Of course it's hard to explain, because so many different things were said on this logos which were not Biblical.

The Gnostics taught of a gap between the spiritual world and the physical world that was bridged by a series of emanations from the supreme God down through epochs of time. Emanating from him through them he limited his own infinite being, manifesting in each one of them one of his divine attributes. Then this divine Spirit called AEon united himself to the material body of Jesus. The similarity to Branham's teaching cannot be overlooked as many of the same words, numbers and principles are mentioned.

He described the word as "God unfolding Himself down to a human being, now, watch how He did it. Now, back there, then, when this little halo comes ... Now, we can't see nothing yet, but just by eyes of

just supernatural we see a halo standing there. Now, that's the Son of God, the Logos, Now, I can see Him playing around like a little child before the Father's door, with all eternity. See? And now, then in His imaginary make-up He begin to think of what things would be, and I can hear Him say, "Let there be light." And when He did, an atom bursted and the sun came into existence. She whirled for hundreds of millions of years." (53-0729, Questions And Answers On Genesis, Branham Tabernacle).

According to Branham, The logos was created, from the fountain God was formed into a visible form, into a man, a theophany, a human form of man.

Does the Bible mention a halo before anything was created? That this Son he calls the word played like newborn child? When God said let there be light" the heavens and the earth were already made. The light being for the vegetation until the stars (our sun) was put in place on the 4th day. Can any of this be proven? Not even science with evolution is on his side.

Branham did not believe in the 6 days of creation as Genesis taught but instead replaced it with hundreds of millions/billions of years in between each star being made.

The word who is the Son, He was in the beginning WITH God, He was not produced by a fountain of light or colors.

In the Kabbalah the sephiroth is represented by seven colors. In the beginning of all things, the first creation was a configuration of primordial light-energy with the "shape" of a human being. This configuration was the archetypal pattern for all that followed."

The Kabbalah teaches that the Egos have come out from the Spirit Fountain, suffer incarnation again and again until experience and perfection have been attained, and ultimately rejoin the Divine Source: (Zohar i. 145, 168; ii. 97.)

These become more than similarities to Branham describing the logos being made.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



In "the Essene gospel of Peace" translated by Edmund Szekely "All these Angels of the Heavenly Father shalt thou commune with, that thy soul may bathe in the Fountain of Light, and enter into the Sea of Eternity."

The 7 rays of the new age by Alice A. Bailey, *The Rays and the Initiations*: Volume V, are called The Seven Creative Builders. (A Treatise on the Seven Rays, 1960, Lucis Publishing Company).

Alice Bailey explained seven rays can also be found in Theosophical works and the mention of seven rays also appear in the Hinduism's religious philosophy. The Seven Rays are the seven streams of universal divine energy, each the expression of a great Life, whose interaction, at every conceivable frequency, creates the solar systems, galaxies and universes. Movement of these energies, in spiraling cycles, draws all Being into and out of manifestation, coloring and saturating it with specific qualities and attributes.

While Branham did not teach the exact same, he Christianized the concepts so they were disguised. How can we know? Because the Bible does not describe God before creation in any of these terms. Nor that the logos was made.

In Albert Pike's occult book of the Masons, *Morals and Dogma* he refers to seven colors in the rainbow; and the Phoenician Deity called the HEPTAKIS was a God of seven rays. Masonry says, "The union of all the Seven colors is the White, the analogous symbol of the GOOD" (p.323 *Morals and dogma*).

THREE, or the Triad, is most significantly expressed by the equilateral and the right-angled triangles. There are *three* principal colors or rays in the rainbow, which by intermixture make *seven*. The three are the *blue*, the *yellow*, and the *red*. The Trinity of the Deity" (*Morals and dogma p. 58*)

So the Occultists and the Masons also describe God by colors and spirits, the Bible does not. In Masonry the number seven was said to be 'perfect' because it contained the numbers 3 and 4, the triangle and the square.

Giving the 7 spirits colors is like the 7 chakras that follow the order of the colors of the rainbow.

The number 7: attributes, rays, and colors

Seven rays is an occult concept that is seen in esoteric philosophies.

In Madame Helena Blavatsky's Occult "Secret Doctrine;" since those are the Seven Lights whose reflections are the human immortal Monads -- the Atma, or the irradiating Spirit of every creature of the human family... he is identified with the SEVEN "Gains" (classes of being) in his orb, he is distinct from them, as he is, indeed; as also that he has SEVEN RAYS, as indeed he has

(xxv.) "*The Seven Beings in the Sun are the Seven Holy Ones, Self-born from the inherent power in the matrix of Mother substance. It is they who send the Seven Principal Forces, called rays, which at the beginning of Pralaya will centre into seven new Suns for the next Manvantara.*

Now it is no doubt true that in the several Kabalistic schools, the numbers and names of these Essences vary, but the basal idea remains the same: just in a similar way the principles of Man's constitution, as stated in different Hindoo books, also vary, but the root idea is the same in them all.

From the Unknown One, the Infinite TOTALITY, the manifested ONE, or the periodical, Manvantaric Deity, emanates; and this is the Universal Mind, which, separated from its Fountain-Source, is the Demiurgos or the creative Logos of the Western Kabalists, and the four-faced Brahma of the Hindu religion (Vol. 1, Page 110 The Secret Doctrine).

The concept of the seven rays was introduced by Blavatsky, and later Alice Bailey developed the teaching further in her books, i.e. *A Treatise on the Seven Rays*.

Branham "... We could just go on and on. Seven Spirits, seven colors, seven church ages, seven ministers, seven lights, everything's in a seven. God's perfect in seven. God worked six days; the seventh day He rested. The world will exist six thousand years, and the seventh thousand is the

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



millennium.” (61-0101, Revelation, Chapter Four #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

“The number seven features prominently in the human perception of structure of the world: the seven colours of the rainbow, seven notes of an octave; in occult cosmology the seven major planes and subplanes of existence, and in the calculation of time the seven days of a week. Then there are the seven sisters of the Pleiades, the seven Rishis of the Great Bear, and the seven Spirits before the Throne of God.

https://www.lucitrust.org/arcane_school/talks_and_articles/the_science_the_seven_rays

The New Age sums it up as white light dividing itself into seven colors ... so too does the Light of God express itself in seven qualities. Rays 1, 2 and 3 are the primary trinity of energies.

Ancient Esoteric Philosophy has the divine light in seven divisions referred to as the Seven Rays, and every human soul is found upon one of them.

The terms and descriptions Branham used to describe God to the church were as close as possible with those who were mystics and occultists.

Elizabeth Clare prophet teaches that ascended master Saint Germain comes to initiate us: *“He comes to the fore as the Lord of the Seventh Ray and Age. He comes to initiate us in the gift of prophecy and the gift of the working of miracles—that we might foresee by the Spirit of the prophets what is coming to us and turn the tide.”* (Lord of the Seven Rays p.38, 239 Mark and Elizabeth Clare Prophet)

One could substitute the name Branham for Saint Germaine and it basically would not change the intent.

The new age Christ says, *“I call upon the One Most High God to let the disciple know the nature of his Lord of Love: Seven the aspects of love of God, Seven the colors of the manifesting One, Sevenfold the work, Seven the energies, and Sevenfold, the*

Path back to the Center of Peace. Let the disciple Live in Love and Love in Life. The Soul is the Son of God, the product of the union of spirit and matter. The Soul is an embodiment of consciousness of mind, the expression of divine, intelligent, awareness. The Soul is a unity of energy vibrating in unison with one of the Seven Ray Lives and colored by a particular ray of light.” (the Science of the Soul, the Seven Rays of God by Buddha Maitreya the Christ).

Again, these similarities cannot be overlooked. What we need to understand is these variable explanations and interpretations of the Bible accompany those who mettle with Kabbala, Gnosticism and Mysticism.

Further back in history we have Manes, founder of the Sect of the Manicheans, who had lived *“and been distinguished among the Persian Magi, profited by the doctrines of Scythianus, a Kabalist or Judaizing Gnostic of the times of the Apostles; ...derived his doctrines from Zoroasterism, Christianity, and Gnosticism. He claimed to be the IJanax/yroi; [Parakletos] or Comforter, in the Sense of a Teacher, organ of the Deity, but not in that of the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost: and commenced his Epistola Fundamenti in these words: “Manes, Apostle of Jesus Christ, elect of God the Father; Behold the Words of Salvation, emanating from the living and eternal fountain.” The dominant idea of his doctrine was Pantheism, derived by him from its source in the regions of India and on the confines of China: that the cause of all that exists is in God; and at last, God is all in all. All souls are equal God is in all, in men, animals, and plants.”*

We have several points Branham made, God is a mother, the fountain, seven spirits, colors, the concept of pantheism God is in all, (even plants and animals). Again the similarity to Branham's use of these cannot be diminished since these concepts were not found in the Bible.

The seven heavenly Archons (powers)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Gnosticism was the fierce competitor of Christianity. The demiurge Jaldabaoth with his "seven emissaries" (Genesis 1.26 is drawn upon here also) creates after the image, reflected in the water of chaos, of the "*holy perfect Father, the first man in the form of a man.*"

Branham describes this fountain much like that the Gnostic Book of John describes.

According to the Apocryphon of John, the Upper Aeons are a watery light which surround the One (invisible Spirit or Father) like a mirror, reflecting images of itself to itself.

"For it is he who looks at himself in his light which surrounds him, namely the spring of the water of life.

And it is he who gives to all the aeons and in every way, (and) who gazes upon his image which he sees in the spring of the Spirit. It is he who puts his desire in his water-light which is in the spring of the pure light-water which surrounds him" (Apocryphon of John).

*"Like all beings in the Upper Aeons, the Elect are images which reflect the One to itself. They are 'pre-existent images': **"the Father (...) created the pre-existent images"** (Tripart Tractate).*

In the Kabbala, Ein Sof's attributes are said to be dualistic, both male and The Sephiroth are commonly figured in the Kabbala as constituting a human form, the ADAM KADMON, the "Primordial or Archetypal Man," the Divine Man-the manifest attributes. He appears as the first emanation which God manifested himself a prototype (macrocosm) of the entire creation.

In the Upper Aeons, the One created the Anthropos in its own image, as an androgynous spirit (i.e. male and female). This was the First Adam, which was spirit-endowed (pneumatic Anthropos).

Seeing this image in the Upper Aeons, Yaltabaoth and his Archons created the Second Adam, which

was soul-endowed (psychic Anthropos). Like the First Adam, the Second Adam was androgynous.

After Yaltabaoth accidentally breathed his own spirit (pneuma) into Adam, he and his Archons tried to retrieve it. They created the Third Adam, which was flesh-endowed (hylic Anthropos).

The three Adams became the prototypes for the three different types of humans: the spirit-endowed (pneumatics), the soul-endowed (psychics), and the flesh-endowed (hylics). This is remarkably like Branham's explanation of the different Adam's in Genesis 1, 2.

In his Aquarian Gospel, Dowling expounds a theology of a multifaceted God, "*the One, the Three, the Seven.*" "*Before the worlds were formed all things were One; just Spirit Universal Breath. And the Spirit breathed, and that which was not manifest became the Fire and Thought of heaven.*" (Levi Dowling)

Consider what Branham teaches on the logos, that was the thought of God before he was formed as man is the pillar of fire. Is this not similar?

This is vital to understand, Branham spoke where God did not. This very well could be what he meant of reading between the lines. But more accurately this would be *filling in the lines.*

Clearly Branham's explanations are not in or from the Bible, (colors, spirits, or his interpretation of the seven spirits), the basics of his explanation are found elsewhere. As we see, these explanations have more in common with Gnosticism, Mysticism and the Occult.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 18

The Jesus of Branham

Branham would constantly contradict himself on the core teachings of the Bible and even his own theological construct. This was especially apparent on Jesus, where he took a stand against Historic Biblical Christianity.

If one is confused on who the Son actually is, it will affect other doctrines. This is why knowing Gods nature as triune is so crucial to a relationship with God and being an accurate teacher of the word.

The Angel who is or is not Jesus

This angel was the same one that appeared to him as a child, he assumed was the angel of God (who is called the I Am in the Old Testament). *"That same Pillar of Fire was God ..."* (53-1104, Deep Calleth Unto The Deep, Sports Center, Owensboro, KY).

"the Angel of the Lord was the Pillar of Fire, which was Christ" (57-0908M, Hebrews, Chapter Five And Six #1, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN). *"anyone knows that Pillar of Fire was Christ"* (63-1114, Influence, Marc Ballroom, New York,

NY; 62-0726, It Is I Be Not Afraid, Legion Auditorium, Port Alberni, BC)

"...any scholar here knows that that Angel Who followed the children of Israel through the wilderness was the Angel of the Covenant. And the Angel of the Covenant was Jesus Christ." (53-0326, Israel And The Church #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

That may be correct by the Bible, but The Angel of the Lord that stood by Branham was not Jesus. How do we know this? He told us so.

"And I one night saw our Lord Jesus. I'm saying this with permission, I believe, from the Holy Spirit. The Angel of the Lord that comes is not the Lord Jesus." (Footprints on the Sands of Time, p.60).

Branham explained early on the angel that came and stood by him in his meetings was **NOT Jesus**.

"It always is to my right. And when I turned towards the right, standing there stood the Angel of the Lord with His--that Man Who comes to me. Who

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



He is?... I don't know what His Name is. He's never told me." (48-0302, Experiences, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ).

His name was never revealed? ... so who stood before him to do the miracles? Is God hiding his identity?

He said His angel is the pillar of fire who is supposed to be Jesus from the Old Testament but Branham did not know who he was or his name? What does that tell you!

Branham says, "the Lord Jesus sent His Angel back again" to him (57-0115, God Keeps His Word, People's Tabernacle, Sturgis, MI). Which does verify that His "Angel of the Lord" is NOT Jesus. Then who is he?

Then Branham would reverse his words and would then ask others to believe what he himself was not convinced of. "And I ask you to have faith and believe it's Jesus Christ, the Son of God." (52-0720 Who Hath Believed our report. Hammond, IN).

He was not the Holy Spirit, and He was not Jesus, but was believed to be The Angel of the Lord of the Old Testament, whom he waited on. "Audience, that you know I'm stalling for something; that's exactly right; 'cause until that anointing comes.... I just have to stand here till He comes. And I'm waiting for Him." (55-0612, The Presence of The Lord Jesus, Porter Stadium, Macon, GA).

Over and over he would tell those present at his meetings "I'm waiting for that Angel of the Lord to come" he would bring the anointing. I know He's here at the platform. But I--I'm looking for His anointing." (55-1003, Faith in Action, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL).

So he would wait for the anointing to come from this unnamed angel (creature) which Branham understood as the activity that produced through him the visions, words of knowledge and miracles.

"I'm convinced that the same Angel that come down in the form of a Man and talked to Abraham with His back turned to the tent (yet knowing the thoughts in Sarah's heart), is the same One here tonight. He promised it would be. I believe that that same Angel anoints us, because It was God. Do you believe it?" (Convinced Than concerned, June 10, 1962).

He may be convinced but I'm not; and neither should you. In fact we should be very concerned at these contradictions. Some questions that need to be answered. How can this angel be God when he said he was not? What angel is ever called God, or his Son? According to God's own word (Heb.1:5), none of them. What angel anoints? It is God ONLY who anoints. He has already said this angel of the Lord is not Jesus. Could this angel be the cherub that was over God's throne that comes as an angel of light? For he is originally called Lucifer (light bearer), and is said to still transform himself into an angel of light (2 Cor.11:14).

In the Old Testament "The Angel of the Lord" (of God) is the pre-incarnate Christ, the Son of God, not an actual angel (creature). This messenger is called the Angel of the Lord (Yahweh) 50 times and the Angel of God (Elohim) 5 times. He is God's mediator to man. In Hebrew this Angel is called *Malach Yahweh*, this is why his appearances in the Old Testament are called Theophanies, or Christophanies and not angelophanies. This Angel had God's name attached to his title, with his nature and was able to forgive (Ex.23:21), He is called the Lord in Exod.3 when he identifies himself to Moses from the burning bush as the God of Israel.

The New Testament does NOT mention THE Angel of the LORD any longer as he is no longer functioning. In the New Testament, the Son takes upon himself human flesh in the incarnation by the virgin conception. The Son of God is this Old Testament messenger. The problem with Branham's belief is that after Jesus incarnated in flesh, He continued to be human, this was an addition to his divine nature as the Son of God. He appeared as a

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



man (a messenger from God) in the Old Testament, but in the New Testament He became a man, taking on human flesh permanently (unlike Branham who taught that God always had human flesh).

The reason that the Angel of the Lord (Yahweh) in the Old Testament no longer appears in the New Testament times -- He became man. The Father who sent the Son in the Old Testament sent the Son in the New, there are no more theophanies of the Son, nor appearances of The Angel of the Lord once He took on human flesh and incarnated as man, they stopped.

Branham was convinced his angel was the angel of the Lord appearing without ever applying a true Biblical test by Scripture. And he successfully convinced others of his own deception.

Branham's confusion and wrong application was caused by the way he interpreted the Bible. He taught Jesus was Archangel Michael, a creature. Speaking of Lucifer in the last days "...he wanted to build him a united kingdom of greater splendor and seemingly more cultured, a greater kingdom than Michael, Christ had." (63-0728 "Christ is the Mystery of God Revealed"). This was repeated so we know it was not a mistake "Lucifer, at the beginning, wanted to build himself a kingdom which was greater and more beautiful than Michael's Kingdom, Christ." (63-0731 "There is Only One Way Provided by God for Anything"). "Satan ... he was the most beautiful of all the Angels in Heaven. Is that right? And he desired to make Heaven a more beautiful place than the kingdom of Michael. Is that right?" (65-0221M, Marriage And Divorce, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN).

This was something he taught for years until his last year. "And at that time Michael shall stand, the great prince." Michael was Christ, of course, Who fought the angelic wars in heaven with the devil. Satan and Michael fought together, or fought against each other, rather." (55-0109E Beginning and Ending of the Gentile Dispensation, January 9, 1955).

Branham added a plural application to what the Bible describes as a singular war.

Jesus being the angel Michael is what 7th day Adventists believe, as well as the Jehovah Witnesses.

7th day Adventists: "There is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael (Christ) your prince." (Dan. 10:21) (The Desire of Ages, p.99.)

E.G. White has said, "Michael, or Christ, with the angels that buried Moses, came down from heaven, after he (Moses) had remained in the grave a short time, and resurrected him, and took him to heaven." (Spiritual Gifts, Vol. 4a, p. 58 also The Story of Redemption, p173.)

Jehovah Witnesses: "Scriptural evidence indicates that the name Michael is applied to God's son before he left heaven to become Jesus Christ." (Aid to Bible Understanding)

..."Michael the great prince is none other than Jesus Christ himself Dan.12:1" (WatchTower 12/15/1984 p.29).

"Michael the archangel is no other than the only begotten son of God, now Jesus Christ." (New Heavens and New Earth p.30-31).

Isaac Watts who died in 1748 wrote The Glory of Christ as God-Man." On the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den, Watts suggests that the Archangel Michael is Christ. "And may not Christ himself be this Michael the Arch-angel, the Prince of Israel? It has been observed by some writers, that the scripture never speaks of arch-angels in the plural number; perhaps there is but one arch-angel and that is Christ" (The Glory of Christ as God-Man p. 223 - printed 1795)

The occult Urantia book also connects Jesus to Michael "Prior to His Earthly life, Jesus' real name was Michael of Nebadon" (p. 1323).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



There are others that held to this flawed belief of Jesus as an angel but Branham forced this into his theology to explain the angel that was with him.

Jude 1:9 tells us “ *But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”*”

If Christ is Michael and would dare not pronounce a railing judgment against Satan, then he is not the Lord! Michael the angel said, “The Lord rebuke you”? Which clearly makes Michael not the Lord!

No angel can be Lord (kurios). Heb. 1:5-6 “*For to which of the angels did He ever say: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You”?* The answer is NONE of them. And again: “*I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son”?* But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: “*Let all the angels of God worship Him.*”

Angels of God do not worship other angels, nor any creature. Which means the Son of God is not an angel. Angels only worship God, only fallen angels (demons) lead people to worship other angels or something other than God.

Speaking what is correct or speaking heresy

When people speak two different things over and over on the same matter that are diametrically opposed they are double minded, confused and show they are not grounded in the truth.

When one speaks two different things on the same matter, it negates any accurate position they hold and always defaults to the other (false) teaching

they are introducing. This makes what is true to be of no consequence.

Branham either made mistakes or was confused when he occasionally spoke correctly, “*He was a God-man. I believe He was the--the infinite Son of God, borned of the virgin Mary.*” (50-0819, “Show Us The Father,” Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH). “*He was a Man, the Son of God in flesh, but in Spirit He was Deity; He was God.*” (57-0104, “Sirs, We Would See Jesus, Arnold Memorial School,” Cleveland, TN).

But he did not believe Jesus was the Son of God born in flesh. In fact there are far more quotes of him speaking the opposite, against this, than the few times he spoke correctly! Branham would sometimes call Jesus the Son of God, but he insisted he was NOT eternal, which discounts him being deity.

There is no eternal Son of God

In his sermon given October 2, 1957 this prophet said, “*See, there cannot be an Eternal son, because a son had to have a beginning. And so Jesus had a beginning, God had no beginning.*” (Conduct, Order, Doctrine of the Church, p.273).

Branham could not equate that the Spirit that gave life to all is the Son of God, who is eternally with the Father. Scripture teaches Jesus as a man had a beginning but not as the Son being deity.

“*Eternal, how could it be a Sonship and be eternal? If He's a Son, he'd had to have a beginning of time. Eternal's forever. See? So eternal Sonship, there's no such a word to make that sensible*” (53-0610, “Show Us The Father And It'll Satisfy Us,” Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN).

“*And there He come out. There was nothing. And then here come the Logos. That looked like a halo*”

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



hanging yonder. No man has seen God at any time now, eye to eye. And here's the Logos. Looks like It's a supernatural Being. It's a Halo. That's the Son of God. Not eternal Sonship, 'cause the words don't go good together" (ibid)

Neither does the word halo "go good together!" So clearly the Son was created according to Branham, which means no matter how you slice or dice it, He is a creation. Nothing created can be God who is infinite and eternal. Therefore Branham had a different Jesus than the Bible that explains clearly and concisely that the Son is God, uncreated. As God himself says, "Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me." says the LORD (Isaiah 43:10).

"Talk about eternal sonship. Son has a beginning. Eternal can't start, can't begin. And there... It always has been. How can it be an eternal son?" (62-0407, The Sign Of His Coming, Church Of Faith, Cleveland, TN)

"People talk about Jesus being the Eternal Son of God. Now isn't that a contradiction? Whoever heard of a Son being eternal? Sons have beginnings, but that which is eternal never had a beginning" (An Exposition of the Seven Church Ages, p.21).

That means in no uncertain terms Jesus, the Son of God is not incarnate and is not God.

It's just like the Catholic says, "eternal Sonship," the eternal Sonship of Christ. How can the word make sense? How can He be eternal and be a son? Son, that was born off of. Eternal had no beginning nor end." (61-0119A, The Water Baptism, Golden Arrow Restaurant, Beaumont, TX).

Then by the same teaching there is no eternal Father. In the same sense, humanly speaking, one is not a Father until they give life, until they have an offspring. However, the Bible does not speak of the Son in the sense of an offspring.

Again he is trying to prove that the son was a creation. According to Branham the Son is not eternal but he taught that we are.

The word "Son" has to have a beginning. So how can He be eternal and be a Son? Eternity has no beginning or end. So He can't be a son, an eternal son, and then have a beginning, 'cause there is no such a thing as a eternal son. A son had a beginning, so he can't be eternal. You see, He is the eternal God, not the eternal son (Glory.), the Almighty, Jehovah-jireh, Jehovah-rapha made manifest in flesh, "In Him dwelt the Fullness of the Godhead bodily" (60-1204M, The Revelation Of Jesus Christ, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville In).

His position was apparently the same as the Oneness Pentecostal position, the son is strictly human and it was the Father, who is the Spirit that was deity.

Contrary to the Bible's presentation, Branham taught, "Jesus is the beginning of the creation of God," not eternal.

The Son of God did not come into being as Branham described which for honest Bible students is not found in scripture anywhere as he described.

Branham would call Jesus the Son of God by mistake

Branham would also speak the opposite, calling Jesus the eternal son.

"He was a God-man. I believe He was the--the infinite Son of God, borned of the virgin Mary. That's right. Everything the Bible said He was, I believe He was" (50-0819, Show Us The Father, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH).

We have seen this is not true by his other statements that contradict him being the Son of God.

"How much more reliability could we place upon anything than the Words of the eternal Son of God."

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



(59-0418, A Time Of Decision, Angelus Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

And he would take the opposite position saying he was born the Son of God.

“and Thy Son Jesus, came to the earth, and born a virgin birth.” (50-0300, Gifts And Callings Are Without Repentance, Carlsbad Air Base Recreation Center, Carlsbad, NM).

“He came to the earth, as soon as He did, the morning star declared Him to be the Son of God.” (57-0825E, Hebrews, Chapter Two #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Reversing his position *“He was a God-man. I believe He was the--the infinite Son of God, borned of the virgin Mary. That's right. Everything the Bible said He was, I believe He was.”* (50-0819, Show Us The Father, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

“He was born the Son of God.” (55-0611, What Is That In Thy Hand?, Porter Stadium, Macon, GA).

Actually he was born the son of man, He was always the Son of God. But this statement goes contrary to Branham's other statements that he was NOT the Son of God but became the Son of God AFTER the resurrection when he came back as the Spirit at Pentecost.

“I believe that Jesus is the Son of God. I believe that in His body He was a man. He was borned of a woman just like I was. But His Blood was not of a woman; It was of God. And Jehovah God, the Logos, Who brood over the earth (in my message this morning), and brood the first man out of the dust of the earth, overshadowed Mary, and brood over her to fulfill His Word, and created the Blood cell that brought forth the Son of the living God. I believe in a body He was man. I believe in His soul He was God. He was God's manifestation here on earth. God was in Christ, reconciling Him--the world to Himself. I believe that He was not just a mere man, neither was He a prophet; He was God Emmanuel. I believe with all my heart, that being truth. I can't prove that truth, because the ... If I could then it wouldn't be of faith.” (57-0120E, God

Keeps His Word, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

As we have seen (and will continue to see), he did not agree with his own statements, but contradicted them. When someone speaks inaccurately and then accurately on the same crucial topic such as the nature of God which are we to believe? Let me clarify this enigma by applying logic. When someone says what is right and correct and also says the opposite, what is incorrect on the same subject, it means they really believe what is incorrect. Why this conclusion. Because they would not introduce the opposite, what is false if they truly believed the truth!

If the Son is **NOT** pre-existent in the Old Testament passages then why should we believe the Father is? If we apply the same rules of interpretation to both, this is the only conclusion we can come to. In fact, Braham did not believe in an eternal Father either, he taught the Father and Son were offices of manifestations. But the truth is, they both exist eternally (as persons), and simultaneously. As we continue let the word of truth disperse the clouds of confusion surrounding his false view.

The Son was not sent from heaven by the Father The confusion of Modalism

“God didn't have three people up there, and He sent one of them, His Son. It was God, Himself, come in the form of a Son. A son has a beginning, and the Son had a beginning. That, some of you dear Catholic people, I got your book, Facts Of Our Faith, said, "The Eternal sonship of God." How you going to express that word? How you going to make it have sense? How can it be Eternal? That's not the Bible. That's your book, "Eternal sonship." They don't ... That word is not right. For, anything that's a son had a beginning, and Eternal has no beginning, so it isn't Eternal sonship. Christ become flesh and dwelt among us. He had a beginning. Wasn't no Eternal sonship. It's the Eternal

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Godhead, not sonship." (57-0908M, Hebrews, Chapter Five And Six #1, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

The Trinity was taught before there was a Roman Catholic Church. It is not exclusively Catholic, Protestants and others without any denominational distinction throughout the centuries believed it because the Bible teaches it. Because of his denial of the triune nature of God from his oneness influence he could not see where it teaches it.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that "You" are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." (John 11:25-27)

She confesses Jesus as the Son God who came to earth to his face, Branham says he is not the Son of God. The Son came into the world, sent into the world from heaven by the Father. This is the one they must believe on. No one confessed Jesus as the Father.

"that Eternal One was the Father manifest in flesh, and thereby gained the title of Son" (The Revelation of the Seven Seals Mar.17, 1963 A.M. Branham Tabernacle Jeffersonville, IN (Church Age Book).

"The Father covered all the space. And then this God become bodilized down to the Logos." (51-0729A, The Resurrection Of Lazarus, National Guard Armory, Erie, PA)

So Branham believed the Father is the Son who became the Logos (that became man).

"And the Father is the Son." (64-1221, Why It Had To Be Shepherds, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ)

How can Jesus be his own Father? If Jesus is the Father, how was he begotten? Branham taught he begot himself.

So the Father went out of the Father as the Son, made into a supernatural being. Where is that in the Bible? What is one to think of his explanations that use Bible words but are completely divorced from the Bible.

His doctrinal view denies that Jesus is the Son of God? Consider the scripture

2 John 9 "*whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.*" John further states "*Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father.*" (1 John 2:23).

The Bible does not treat them as the same person.

And to add more confusion to God's nature he said of Jesus "*He was the Father; He was Son; He was Holy Ghost*" (54-0515, Questions And Answers, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

According to Branham the Holy Spirit is the Father who became the Son.

This becomes a huge problem saying the Holy Spirit IS the Father. It means another was thinking to create him.

The problem is that the Bible teaches the Father sent the Son from heaven, he did not become the Son, become incarnated. John 6:38 Jesus states, "*For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of HIM WHO SENT ME.*"

Jn.8:42 "*I proceeded forth and came from God, nor have I come of myself, but he sent me."*

John 16:16, 17, 28 states, "*I came forth from the Father and have come into the world, again I leave the world and go to the Father.*"

Nearly every time Jesus describes where He came from He includes the Father who sent him, not him as the Father, but another. His humanity was not sent from heaven, but deity to become man. Jn.8:16-18 "*I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.*" The

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Father is not bearing witness of his humanity, which is not in question, but His deity.

Jesus said the Father who is in heaven sent him, *not became him*. The Father did not send himself but another, the Son who is deity preexisted with him. Jn.4:14 ... "That the Father sent the Son as the savior of the world." It is the Father who *sent the Son from heaven*, he did not send himself. The Father is not the Savior, the Son is the savior. How do we know this? The Bible says so.

If the Father *sent the Son from heaven* as the savior then it should be evident the Father did not become man. These are two distinct entities.

Rom.8:3 "God sent his Son in the likeness of sinful flesh," which means he was truly man, only without the sin. The Son already existed to be sent to take on humanity, a second nature. We see a distinction between a son who is sent and the one sending. It should seem obvious that if the Son was sent and is the Father, then he is sent. Then by whom? Himself! Nowhere does it say the Father sent himself!

The Bible never says the Father was incarnated as man, Jesus said to Peter in Mt.16 the Father who is in heaven revealed to Peter whom the Son is on earth, and Peter spoke the truth, that *he is the Son of the living God*. Jesus is not the Father on earth.

The Father who is the Holy Spirit was sent

Branham who was modalistic taught the Holy Spirit is the Father, who is Jesus. Though he taught that all three are manifestations, and yet he would also say they are persons, one person at a time. "The Holy Spirit is a person: The Holy Spirit is word manifested thought." (An Exposition of the Seven Church Ages p. 155).

Who would he be manifesting the thought from if he, the Holy Spirit is the Father?

What makes this more than confusing is that he said "*the Father is the Holy Spirit, we realize that. It's*

just a office of God." (63-1110M, Souls That Are In Prison Now, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Again, if both the Father and the Holy Spirit are manifestations who manifested them from thought?

Where does the Bible say that a thought became a theophany or human form and that this thought had flesh? If God always had flesh than the Father, not just the Son had flesh. If the Holy Spirit is God, he had flesh too. According to Branham they are the same person.

Where and how did Jesus begin?

"*What is a word? A "word" is "a thought expressed."* So then as long as it was a thought, it *wasn't materialized.*" (56-0427, Faith, Abundant Life Center, Charlotte, IN).

In other words, "the Word" does not come into being as a thought. Branham is using this to explain Jesus coming into existence, including all things.

"*Listen, the Word. How many believes that in the beginning was the Word? That's, first it was a thought. And it has to be a thought; then, when it's expressed, it becomes a word. And then, "In the beginning was the Word."*" (62-0609E, Letting Off The Pressure, Bible Tabernacle, Southern Pines, NC).

"*A word is thought expressed. In the beginning He wasn't even God.*" (The Mighty God unveiled Before us p.11)

His explanation is that the logos was first a thought until it's a word. Since the Son is not eternal Branham explained The Word, Logos, as: "*And now the Logos that went out of God, which was the-the Logos, all this begin to form into a--a body shape.*" (57-0828, Hebrews, Chapter Two #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"God isn't without a body. God's got a body, and it looks like a man." (57-0420, The Entombment, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"And now, here's the Son, which is the Logos that went out of Him, made in His image, a supernatural Being that went out in the beginning." (53-0611 Show Us The Father And It'll Satisfy Us)

First, the logos was not created, the Bible says the word was God, God is uncreated. Second and equally as bad an interpretation is that the logos is a body like we are now, human. And this was created by spirits (plural - 7). What this shows is that Branham does not have a modicum of understanding what the Bible is teaching on this! He is teaching something else.

"His first being was Spirit, God, supernatural, all right, the great Eternal. Second, He begin to form Himself towards flesh, in a theophany, it's called the Word: a body." (65-0221E, Who Is This Melchisedec?, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN)

The word is NOT called a body, it is a metaphor for the Son. It represents all of God's wisdom to man, what He spoke, His revelation is the word that became flesh (Jn.1:14).

"a theophany. It's a body that doesn't have a spirit in it." (57-0630 - Thirsting For Life Chicago, IL)

In other words an empty shell.

"the Logos went out of God, which was God coming from this one big fountain into a body in the form of a--of a man, and it made the Logos, which we call theophany..." (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"the Logos that went out of God. In other words, a-- a better word for it, was what we call a theophany. (Theophany is a human body that's glorified.) Not exactly with flesh and blood like it will be in its

glorified stage." (57-0828, Hebrews, Chapter Two #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

This theophany that is made a human body was spoken of numerous times by him. So Branham teaches the logos who supposed to be Jesus was in a glorified body before he became man. Why does he not cite Scripture to explain any of these claims? Because there are none. He's making it all up.

Let's see the progression that Branham explained in the making of the son.

"And then out of the existence of the Father went the Logos which was the Son, which was the theophany, which was the body of the great Jehovah God went forth in a celestial Body. That's the Logos. The Word spoke out of them great Fountains of Life and went forth. And there was the theophany, which was God made into Word." (57-0602, Life, Branham Tabernacle)

"And the Logos, which was the Son of God, went out, created by these great fountains of purity, God, as those Spirits went out. And it created the Logos. And it was a body. It was in the form of what we are now." (57-0630 - Thirsting For Life Chicago, IL)

There is no question that Branham is teaching the logos, the eternal word according to the Bible is created.

"If you want to go back a little farther, just as far as historical, you could see the Word. In the beginning was the Word. But what is the Word? A word is a thought manifested, a thought spoken forth. God, first He perceived the thought and spoke it, and it meant--became a word, and the word became material." (55-0113, "The Fundamental Foundation For Faith," Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL).

Was Jesus a thought, a word that became a theophany before the heavens and earth were created? Or was he God the Son, a person who appeared to man (as a theophany, as the angel of the Lord) before He incarnated as man?

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Branham did know what he was teaching was different, in fact the very opposite of the Scripture.

*“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt with us . . .
“ God dwelt with us in flesh. He was the Word.
Before a word it's a thought, and a thought has to
be created. All right, so God's thoughts became
creation when it was spoke by a word. That is when
He presents it to you as a thought, your thought,
and it is revealed to you, then it is still a thought
until you speak it.”* (The Revelation of the Seven
Seals, p.242).

A person is not a word manifested thought. According to Branham the Son, who is Jesus is at “first” a thought of God, then was spoken (logos) to exist. The similarity to Freemasonry cannot be overlooked.

*“That God and his thought uttered in his word,
created the universe.” “When the process of
emanation, of creation or evolution of existence and
was: and this word was (tros ton theon) near to
God, i.e. the immediate or first emanation from
God: and it was God himself, developed or
manifested in that particular mode, and in action,
and by that word everything that is was created.”
(Morals and Dogma, Pike, pp.576, 280).*

*“In John 1:1 where it says "In the beginning was
the Word," the root from which we get our
translation for 'Word' is 'Logos' which means 'the
thought or concept.' It has the double meaning of
'thought' and 'speech.' Now a 'thought expressed' is
a 'word', 'or words'”* (The Salutation Church Age
book. Chapter 1).

The Bible says, "All things were made by Him" (John 1:3), not that He himself was made. John 1:1 states that the Word was "with God" and "the Word was God," God always existed. Jn.1:1 He “was with God (face to face) and was God.” In Greek it is an imperfect tense, a continuous action from the past, which continues on. The same person always existed with God, as a different person (not physical), and not as speech (a word spoken).

Not so says Branham. "In Jn.1 in the beginning was the word and the word was with God and was God. And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." If one only read this part they would agree with him because he quoted the Bible, but then Branham goes on to say, "Now, in the beginning was the word. A word is thought expressed. In the beginning He wasn't even God." (The Mighty God Unveiled Before Us p.11).

That is a clear denial of the Scripture. Branham interpreted this the exact opposite of what Jn.1:1 says. Branham denied the Son being God reducing Him to a thought. But to his point, he is right -- a thought is NOT God. His Jesus that he called the word is not God, but the Bible's Jesus is!

Branham repeated this concept different ways, "As He was Elohim, the self-existing One; He wasn't even God. But in Him was attributes, such as your thought. See? Your thought have to see something, and then ... I think of it, and then speaking. And a word is a thought expressed. So, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word with God, and the Word was expressed," see, brought forth." (64-0620B, Who Is Jesus?, Holiday Inn, Topeka, KS).

The self - existing WHAT, if he wasn't God? Even by his own explanation it defies logic. Then how can the thought be God if he is not God who has the thought?

Being all alone this ~~God~~ had a thought, and his thought was one of many attributes that became the Son.

How could a word, a thought be God? A thought has a beginning, its origin is from another. Thoughts are not the same as the thinker, this thought he called the word came from God but is not God as Branham himself explains. He taught the Word (whom the Bible calls the eternal God) was a thought, which makes the Son he spoke of as created.

The Bible says He (the Son) is more than a thought. The word is a person, not the person is the

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



word/speech. We find that this term "word" is a title for the Son of God, who has the same nature as the Father.

Branham teaching the Son is a *thought expressed* was said dozens of times explaining how this fountain became God.

"A--a word is a thought expressed. God thought how He could be God, how He could be worshipped, how He could be a Healer, how He could be a Saviour; and as soon as He spoke the Word, it was finished forever." (Manifested Sons Of God May 18, 1960 Branham Tabernacle).

"God is the Creator. And how was He ever created? But this is "the beginning of the creation of God." When God, the Spirit, was created in a form of a Man, that was God being created; God the Creator, Himself, becoming a creation." (65-0815, And Knoweth It Not, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

So according to Branham a theophany, who is the son is a creation. God was created by God into a human form which makes him a creature. The Spirit (which is supposed to be eternal) was formed into a man. Is this how Jesus came into being? And how does this coincide with him saying that the word was a thought and then spoken into existence? He explained his terms and unequivocally stated Jesus is a man created long before his incarnation through Mary.

He states over and over the word was *not God* but an attribute, a thought contained in God that was spoken to be expressed to become material.

He further explains *"A thought, when it's expressed, it's a word. A thought expressed is a word, but it has to be a thought first. So, it's God's attributes; then it becomes a thought, then a word."* (58-0928E Serpent's Seed; 65-0221E, Who Is This Melchisedec?, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN).

"What is God? God is a great Eternal. At the beginning, way back before there was a beginning, he wasn't even God. ... And in him was attributes. What is an attribute? A thought." (The Spoken Word, Vol. 3, p. 79).

What is an attribute? An attribute is a quality or feature that someone or something has. It is an inherent part of someone or something. It's a characteristic, a part of its nature. For example a rocks attribute is that it has density, is hard and has weight. The American Heritage Dictionary describes attribute to mean an essential and distinctive element: what makes that what it is.

The **attributes of God** are descriptions taken from Scripture of who God is. God is Infinite, Self-existent, eternal. He is Holy, self-sufficient, unchanging (immutable), impassable, all-powerful (omnipotent), all-knowing, good, loving, merciful, gracious, sovereign and just. He is everywhere-present (omnipresent), His essence is three in person (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) as the one God. These are some of the characteristics that make the being called God [we will examine this further in the Trinity section].

If Gods thoughts are his attributes than everything God thought of is God, which means creation is God. And this how Branham applied it, God is in everything.

He even says it going backwards *"And before it was a Word, it has to be a thought. And a word is a thought expressed. And God, in Eternity, it come into His mind. He expressed His thoughts. It become a Word, and the Word has to be made manifest."* (63-0114, A Trumpet Gives An Uncertain Sound, Christian Assembly, Phoenix, AZ).

Maybe Branham should rename the logos "the only begotten thought of God." A word is from thought, and a thought is not a person, it does not have a will or personality, nor is it self - existent as God, therefore it is not God.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



The logos is who?

"His Father was the great Logos Itself." (65-0429B, The Seed Shall Not Be Heir With The Shuck, Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles, CA)

So the Father came out of the Father and became the logos? Branham said the logos was first a thought then spoken into existence. But he also said the logos was created from God and became the Son of God? Which is it? I concur with none of these.

Branham taught that this thought that existed in the mind of God became the human Son, is actually the Father, "and that Eternal One was the Father manifest in flesh, and thereby gained the title of Son" (Church Age Book).

Which means he was not the Son of God previously. So the Father became his own son. Yet Branham also believed the Father is a manifestation (all three are).

"Son--Jesus, Holy Ghost --the Logos that went out of God--Father, Son, Holy Ghost is absolutely three titles of the person of God manifested in three different ways or three attributes of Himself." (The Salutation Church Age book. Chapter 1).

Branham also denied that The Holy Spirit is a person: "The Holy Spirit is word manifested thought" (An Exposition of the Seven Church Ages p. 155).

He taught the Son is the Holy Spirit, as IS the Father. So then the Father who is God is a thought within himself! This now means the Father is not a person either, but a thought. Confusing? Absolutely. This is why one depended on him as a prophet to explain it. And as long as you did not apply the biblical test or logic based on the Bible, you would believe it.

How can those who follow Branham not see all these convoluted contradictions to the Bible? It can only be explained because they do not (and in some cannot) admit his confusion contradicted the Bible.

The Son belongs to that order that only God exists in, eternity.

Heb.1:3: "who being the brightness of his glory and express image of his person." He is the perfect representation of another "person," therefore he too is a person. Jesus is not a manifestation of another manifestation. He is not made in the image but is the exact image, the word used is an engraving tool that would stamp its impression on a coin or seal, so it bears the image produced by it, having the exact reproduction of the original; yet the image is not the same identity as the seal. The writer is conveying that the image is the exact expression of the invisible God. That is what was made known to man by the Son. He was like his Father who remained invisible in every respect, as the Bible says they saw his glory by his words and works.

The Son is not the identical person as the Father, but he is identical in nature, he is the "only begotten Son," unique one of a kind.

What does it mean the Word is God John 1:1 explained Biblically

John 1:1-3: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God."

The phrase "In the beginning" is a reference to when the universe was created. When time, space, the universe came into being (Gen. 1:1). This "He" that is called the Word was already there in an eternal relationship to the Father (Jn.17:5, 8, 24).

The Word had been with, toward God (Pros theos) face to face in relationship. He "was with God (face to face) and was God." We have John writing this word was both God and with God throughout eternity. They are not the same in person but distinct but are united in their nature.

The same John who wrote the gospel writes in Rev. 19:13: "and His name is called the Word of God," NOT He is a word (as in speech). Who is the He? A

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



person (not physical). This person is the Son of God. The Bible calls the word a He, a Him, not a thought, not speech, he is a person who always existed simultaneously alongside the Father. Jn.1:1 states the word "*was with God and was God,*" who is a personal eternal being. The word is another name for the Son, he is not A WORD SPOKEN. "He" and "Him" conveys a person.

Jn.1:2 says, "***He** was in the beginning with God, and all things were made **through Him.***"

He as a person who existed simultaneously with the Father, another person. This word was both God and with God throughout eternity (Jn.1:1-3). He antedates the beginning because he is the creator who existed before anything was made. In vs.10 "***He** was in the world, and the world was made through him.*" This is the same *he* and *him* that is previously established to be with God, the same he in vs.1 who was *with* the Father. **He** (the Word) was made known, and revealed to mankind, this is the eternal life of Jn.1:2 that was with the Father.

The Word "Was God" Was (*eôn*), "*Three times in this sentence John uses this imperfect of eimi to be which conveys no idea of origin for God or for the Logos, simply continuous existence.*"... "***With God** (*pros ton theon*). Though existing eternally with God the Logos was in perfect fellowship with God. Pros with the accusative presents a plane of equality and intimacy, face to face with each other*" (A.T. Robertson *Word Pictures of the New Testament*- underline mine).

If the word was a thought, thoughts have a beginning, then Jesus (the word, the son) was a creation of God. A creature that had a beginning, not just in his humanity.

"A Greek philosopher named Heraclitus first used the term Logos around 600 B.C. to designate the divine reason or plan which coordinates a changing universe. This word was well suited to John's purpose in John 1. (from the Online Bible Thayer's Greek Lexicon and Brown Driver & Briggs Hebrew Lexicon.)

The Logos was used by the Greeks to denote the creative force, as well as logic and reason. It was their highest ideal. John the apostle used the Greek word *Logos* to express a Hebrew concept to them that was used in the Old Testament; this is called a Hebraism.

"John 1:1 The apostle does not borrow this mode of speech from the writings of Plato, as some have imagined he took it from the Scriptures of the Old Testament, and from the subsequent style of the ancient Jews"(Adam Clarke's Commentary).

In other words, the Hebrew concept of the word is not the Greek concept.

The term "the Word" is used exclusively by John for the Son. The Father always calls Jesus His (only) Son, not *the word*. It is meant to reveal their unique relationship. Jesus being the Son also shows that he always existed with God (the Father), as a personal being, not as something spoken (from speech).

The common term in the Old Testament for the "word" is *dabhar*. "*In Hebrew thought, the dabbar was dynamic and filled with a power that was transmitted to those who received it. The term was often used to designate God's communication to his people, as at the beginning of many of the writings of the prophets: "The word of the Lord came." The whole of the Law, or all of Scripture, could then be referred to as God's Word*" (*Holman Bible Dictionary* - Logos).

To the Jews the Aramaic term "the word" *Memra*, was used by the Rabbis to mean divine wisdom, which was sometimes distinct from God. They considered the *Memra* as the agent of creation, and the means of salvation. Rabbis said that God always revealed Himself to the prophets *by the Word*.

The word expresses the personification of wisdom of God in the Old Testament. The Word is used in a metaphorical sense, accomplishing God's will, in much the same way as the phrase the "arm of the Lord," brings salvation. Thus, the word is a

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



representation, a metaphor for the person of the Son, whom John says is the creator.

In the New Testament Jesus as the word is the embodiment of divine wisdom and the collective knowledge of God (I Corinthians 1:24, Ephesians 3:10-11, Colossians 2:2-3). The term *Logos* is applied to Christ only, (not to the Father nor the Comforter, which distinguishes him in the Trinity).

In the Jewish Targumim we find the expression of *Logos*, *Memra* (word). In the Targum on Deut. 26:17-18, it is written, "Ye have appointed **THE WORD OF GOD** a king over you this day, that he may be your God."

Branham like others who misunderstand the Hebraic usage taught the word - **logos** is not a person but the thought, speech, plan, activity or expression of God as was in Greek philosophy.

"The word (Greek-Logos) is not something spoken as an impersonal it. John's use of the word logos is entirely to be distinguished from the use made of it by Philo of Alexandria and his school of philosophy in the second century B.C. With them the logos was a impersonal idea, conveying the thoughts of God" (W. E. Vine *The Epistles of John*, p.11).

John also uses the term "the Word" to convey that the Son is the author of Gen.1:1. John is concerned with creation and is using the Genesis account to show that The Son of God that became flesh was the creator, that he is God, and that he is the true light of all mankind (Jn.1:9; 1 Jn.1:5). The term "word" reveals the Son as the originator of life, the architect of all that is made. He is called the Word because he is the active cause of the world. It is he whose word brought things into existence. In Rev. 2:18, and Heb.1:2 we read God made the worlds through the Son. It is He who spoke in Genesis (Ps.33:6; Heb. 11). It is He who commanded and (whose "word") brought all things into existence (Eight times God spoke to create in Genesis (Gen. 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26). Ps.33:6 "**By the Word** of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host

of them by the breath of his mouth." Vs.9 "**For he spake, and it was done, he commanded, and it stood fast.**" Ps.148:1-6 "For **he commanded and they were created.**" Creation is made by God speaking, anything that is created cannot be God. A creature did not make creation, God did.

Col. 1:16-18 "*For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*"

"the all things were created in Him" (Christ) and *"the all things stand created through Him and unto Him."* (Col. 1:16). *Hence it is not a peculiar doctrine that John here enunciates. In 1 Cor. 8:6, Paul distinguishes between the Father as the primary source (ex hou) of the all things, and the Son as the intermediate agent as here (dia hou)"* (Greek Scholar A.T. Robertson).

It is by means of him as the intermediate agent in the work of creation that all was made.

John, by calling Jesus the Word (logos), it meant he embodied the full revelation of God to mankind in a man. The whole Gospel is teaching Jesus is the Son of God, the word made flesh. That this word, who is a divine person, has come into the world to reveal another person, the Father.

The Biblical "logos"

The word is a term used to identify the Son of whom the Father made the worlds through (Heb.1). The "Logos is portrayed as a pre-existent eternal being, God. If the word is something issuing forth as speech and then becoming human, then it is not deity. It is no more than any other created thing, like nature or another creature. Then He could not be *with God* before anything was made; since he too would be made. A *word spoken* by God cannot be God. God is more than what He speaks. We find that this word is a title for the Son of God, who is the same in nature as the Father. For the word to be

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



interpreted as something God spoke, it would mean that God who is called "the word" is not an eternal personal being.

The Bible teaches that the Son exists prior to creation. He cannot be the creator and also be created (a thought) by God's mind. That makes the Son a creature who created all things and is holding everything together.

God's Son is identified as the one "through whom also He made the worlds;" the word is *ages*, meaning past present and future. In John 1:3 it states of the Son "*all things were made by Him.*" This shows He preceded creation.

The written word testifies of the Son who is the word made flesh. John 5:39: "*You search the Scriptures (the word), for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.*"

All the Scripture speaks of Christ. TO BELIEVE IN WHAT IS WRITTEN IS TO BELIEVE IN THE ONE IT SPEAKS OF.

Jesus is NOT A SPOKEN WORD. Jesus IS the Word of God in the fullest, truest, and proper sense. To submit to the written word is equal to submitting to Jesus.

1 Tim. 3:16 "*God was manifested in the flesh*" is specifically identified by John who tells *who was manifested*. In 1 Jn. 3:8, "*the Son of God was manifested*" (revealed). He also explains "*In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God (the Father) has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.*" (1 Jn. 4:9).

God before he made Jesus

Branham taught God ALWAYS had flesh, which means he was in a human body BEFORE the incarnation, before he came by a virgin conception. So he really did not need to come through Mary to become man. God was not just in human form but a human being before he was conceived by God in

Mary's womb. This presents another contradiction, because Branham insisted that he was not really man in the incarnation.

1957 Branham openly began teaching what he believed, that Jesus was a "theophany" presenting a different "Jesus." Like the Gnostics emanations Branham taught the "Logos went out of God to form a theophany," who is man (an archetype) he took human flesh prior to the virgin conception, and denied he was human flesh from Mary.

"in the beginning, was Spirit. And then, from God, went out the Logos, or the theophany, which was a form of a man, called the Son of God, prefigured. He came in earth, in a body of flesh, even before He came in Jesus Christ. Now swallow that one once, brother. I'll prove it to you.

When, when Moses saw Him. He said, "Let me see Your form, Lord." And God hid him in the rock. And when He passed by, he said, "It was the back part of a man." That was that theophany. That's exactly. Then, that theophany had to be made flesh." (57-0901E, Hebrews, Chapter Four, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Branham adds to the word saying the back of a "man." It says no such thing. This is how he explained it "*And then out of the existence of the Father went the Logos which was the Son, which was the theophany, which was the body of the great Jehovah God went forth in a celestial Body. That's the Logos. The Word spoke out of them great Fountains of Life and went forth. And there was the theophany, which was God made into Word. Then that theophany was made flesh in the Person Christ Jesus. And then all the fullness of the Trinity dwelt in Him, both Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, all in that.*" (57-0602, Life, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Here we see Branham arguing his points, (that this halo), he spoke the word and a theophany was made in the form of man. This theophany which he claimed is God made by a thought into a word stayed in this manifestation and then put on flesh even before it was conceived in Mary's womb. The

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



fullness, the trinity (which according to him are manifestations in different ages) were all in him at the same time?

"Then that theophany was made flesh in the Person Christ Jesus. And then all the fullness of the Trinity dwelt in Him, both Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, all in that. And that's the very way we go, plumb back to the original beginning of God" (57-0602 LIFE).

When Branham speaks of the Trinity he means three offices, roles that manifest in different ages, not persons that simultaneously exist. So how do all three simultaneously live in him?

"Notice. The Son of God, the Spirit of God, is in the man. So God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. God is a Spirit. He had no hands till He become Jesus. He had no feet, arms, legs, and so forth, till He become Jesus. He manifested..." (60-0731, Show Us The Father And It Will Satisfy Us, Eisenhower High School, Yakima, WA).

This contradicts so many other things he said, that God always had flesh, i.e. that as a theophany, the Son of God had human form, which as far as I know does mean to have hands, arms, and legs (as well as internal body parts).

This is where it gets complicated (as if it isn't already). *"His Father was the great Logos Itself."* (65-0429B, The Seed Shall Not Be Heir With The Shuck, Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles, CA)

Didn't he say the logos went out from God and became the Son of God? Now we find the Father is that theophany! So the Father is the Son. So much confusion, Branham could not explain away the internal contradictions of his own theological construct besides his opposition to the Scripture.

"The "Logos," the Logos that went out of God. It's hard to explain, but It was a part of God ... The Logos, and this great Fountain, this great Fountain of Spirit which had no beginning or no end; this great Spirit began to form, in the creation, and the Logos that went out from It was the Son of God. It

was the only visible form that the Spirit had. And It was a theophany, which means a body, and the body was like a man." (57-0821, Hebrews, Chapter One, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

The Son of God has a body like a man before he came to earth, a visible form like a man so the Father had a part of him that became the Son, or the Father is the son?

"This then is the state He was in when He met Abraham, was called Melchisedec. He was in the form of theophany. ... He was the Word." (65-0221E, Who Is This Melchisedec? Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN).

This word that was spoken, now is a human body as Melchizedek, who was a man in the FORM of flesh, a theophany.

Heb. 5:1 tells us every high priest is taken from among men. He was the priest of the city Salem, which means he lived there. I do not believe the Scripture is presenting him as Christ Jesus for it speaks of another Heb. 7:15 *"And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest"* So the Bible says Jesus was like him, that he was a type. The other contradiction is that Branham also insisted Jesus was not really man, so how could he be a Melchizedek priest if all priests are men?

What is a Theophany?

Only a small number of **theophanies** are found in the Hebrew Bible, known as the Old Testament. A theophany that is described by knowledgeable Bible teachers does not have the same definition Branham gave it. A theophany (is a combination of two words in Greek: theos = "God" phaino = "appearing"). In its most restrictive sense, it is a visible appearance of God in the Old Testament period, often but not always, in human form. Certainly not in flesh. The term "glory of the Lord" can also refer to a theophany. It can manifest the presence and glory of God as a cloud or fire, or darkness Exod. 3:2 - 4:17 – God appeared to Moses in the burning bush, or in Exodus 24:16-18; the

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



“pillar of cloud” by day and a pillar of fire” by night.

“A temporary visible manifestation of the presence and glory of God. This may be in natural phenomena such as cloud or fire, in human form or in prophetic visionary experience.” (Theophany - Bible gateway)

A theophany is a Manifestation of God that is tangible to the human senses. Some would also include in this term Christophanies (preincarnate appearances of Christ) *In the latter category are found the appearances of the angel of the Lord, which some have taken to be Christophanies, reasoning that since the angel of the Lord speaks for God in the first person (Gen. 16:10) and the human addressed often attributes the experience to God directly (Gen. 16:13), the angel must therefore be the Lord or the preincarnate Christ. Yet, though the angel is clearly identified with the Lord, he is distinguished from him (he is called "angel, "meaning "messenger" similar patterns of identification and distinction* (Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology).

Simply put, a theophany is the means by which God discloses Himself to man in a physical appearance. He makes Him visible in order that the person might know he is present as he communicates to him.

Was the Son made flesh before he became a man through Mary?

As a theophany the Son was in the form of man and appears on earth in the flesh. *“before the promised son showed up, God manifested Himself there at Sodom as a prophet, being a man, in flesh...”* (This day This Scripture is fulfilled, p.7)

According to Branham this theophany became flesh and that is who was seen throughout the Old Testament.

“I was preaching on Abraham, those Angels that come to him and spoke to him, and I said, "It was God and two Angels." Said, "Do you mean to tell me that that was God in a body of flesh?" I said, "It sure was." And I said, "It wasn't a theophany; it was God. It was a Man in flesh, and He was God." (58-0619B, Ye Must Be Born Again, Textile Hall, Greenville, SC)

God was manifested in the flesh before he was incarnated to take on humanity (flesh) through the virgin conception for the first time and only time (according to the Bible). Yet Branham teaches he was not God in the flesh when he was born but it happened at his baptism.

Speaking of Abraham *“A theophany doesn't eat and drink: it was God made manifest in flesh. It sure was.”* (61-0121, Mary's Belief, American Legion Hall, Beaumont, TX)

A theophany according to Branham's descriptions is a spiritual body, a celestial body, an angelic body.

Branham insisted he was flesh before he took humanity in the incarnation *“now a many of the writers try to say that was a theophany, so forth like that. But that wasn't so. He was eating meat, and drinking milk, and eating corn bread. That's right. He was absolutely a Man, setting in human flesh.”* (59-0416, El-Shaddai, Angelus Temple, Los Angeles, CA).

In referring to Genesis 18 both the two angels and the Lord are seen physically appearing in the form of man, but does not mean they are flesh though they ate food (not for their nourishment) but in response to Abraham's hospitality.

Branham goes even further expanding his Old Testament incarnation

Not only did he manifest himself in flesh, *“Now, we find, God all ages has had skin on It. See? God has been hid behind a veil.”* (The Mighty God Unveiled Before Us p.20).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



“And we find out here that God has always had skin on Him. When Moses seen Him, He had skin on Him; He looked like a man. When God was behind the curtains, He had skin on Him. And God, tonight, in His Church is veiled in His Church with skin on Him. He's still the same God tonight.” (ibid.)

So when he came back as the Holy Spirit he had flesh? The church's flesh, which distorts and confuses the distinction of God in Christ and God within the church.

*“God's veiled in His Church, in skin - skin on It.”
“...we see Him, Deity again veiled in human flesh. Hebrews 1 said so, and also Genesis 18. You remember God was a man, standing there eating and talking with Abraham... And Jesus said, "As it was in the days of Sodom, so shall it be at the coming of the Son of man." Deity veiled again in human flesh.” (The Mighty God Unveiled Before Us p.21)*

This teaching of Branham denies the one incarnation of God becoming flesh in Jesus Christ through a virgin, stating He became a man numerous times throughout history. There were no other incarnations in the flesh prior. 2 Tim. 3:16: *“God was manifested in the flesh,”* only once through Mary. The Bible term *en sarki* in flesh (Jn. 1:14), means Jesus took on a human nature, he became human, he added it to his deity. He is God, became human, adding a human nature to live among us. He was 100% human and divine. Appearing as a physical man in the Old Testament and actually becoming man are two very different matters. He became flesh a certain way, by a virgin conceiving.

If his flesh was human then he had blood according to the Bible. The incarnation is to take place once, through a woman, the Bible says He partook of BOTH flesh and blood (Heb. 2:14).

Jesus' humanity was produced on earth at the time of the virgin conception. To come in the flesh (incarnate) means to be FULLY human. This is a denial of His true and proper humanity coming the

only way the Scripture states (I Jn. 4:2-3), by a virgin conception.

Jesus was never called the Son of God

Branham insisted Jesus was never called the Son of God. *“Remember, our Lord Jesus Christ never did identify Himself as the Son of God. He said, "You said I was; to this end I was born," and so forth, but He never identified Himself.”* (65-0221M, Marriage And Divorce, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN).

“He never called Himself the Son of God. He referred to Himself, the-'Son of man, because He had to come according to the Scripture.” (The Mighty God Before us, p.8).

“Remember, our Lord Jesus Christ never did identify Himself as the Son of God. He said, "You said I was; to this end I was born," and so forth, but He never identified Himself.” (65-0221M, Marriage And Divorce, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN).

Once again Branham denied the Bible, he could not accept what was written because he could not, nor did not want to understand it the way Christians have since its beginning. To have a Son of God would mean there is a Trinity of persons as God. From His conception Jesus was announced as the Son of God. To Mary in Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, *“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”* Did the angel Gabriel lie?

Branham summed it up *“He came in three names. He came as Son of man, which was prophet. And that's what He did, He proved His ministry, by being a prophet. ... He never said He was the Son of God; He said He was the Son of man. Now, today; He is the Son of God, which He returned back, and now He is in the form of the Holy Ghost, the unseen Person. but yet, God, the Son of God.”* (60-1225,

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



God's Wrapped Gift, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Never is an all qualifying statement. And once again Branham is proven wrong in his teaching from the Bible. From the beginning the angel said to Mary he will be called "the Son of God" (Lk. 1:35). And from the beginning John "saw and bare record that this is the Son of God." Peter confessed "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). Jesus said he received this revelation from the Father, so it was true. In Jn. 9:35 He (Jesus) said unto him, **Do you believe on the Son of God?** Meaning do you believe on ME.

Once again Branham contradicted the Bible on a core issue of Gods nature (Jn.5:25; Luke 22:70; Mt.27:43; Jn.19:7).

Jn.10:36 Jesus said "**I am the Son of God.**" Branham is proven wrong from Jesus' own words and the Fathers testimony. In John 10:30 and Jesus' claim "I and my Father are one." In V.33 the Jews pick up stones because they understood his claim as blasphemy. In v.36 Jesus explains what He meant by saying, "because I said, I am the Son of God." Clearly Jesus knew he was not the Father, just as John the Baptizer knew he was not Elijah (Jn.5:25; Luke 22:70; Mt.27:43; Jn.19:7).

John says as a witness 1:34 "And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God." John further writes in 3:18 "...he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Here we are introduced to the term that Jesus is conveying, he is unique, one of a kind.

The disciples who were in the boat worshipped him; and they said, Truly you are the Son of God" (Mt.14:33 Lamsa Translation). Lamsa was someone Branham endorsed so this becomes an internal contradiction with his own teaching.

Both the Devil and the Pharisees personally questioned Jesus being the Son of God, they knew what he claimed and they knew what it meant. "If

you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread; throw yourself down." "*If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.*"

Branham constantly contradicted The Bible and his own doctrinal teaching and had several view points on who Jesus is and when he became the Son of God, which were biblically inaccurate.

When did Jesus became God?

"And at the baptism... He lived as a man until He was baptized by John, at Jordan" And immediately after His baptism, John bare record seeing the Holy Ghost coming from heaven and descending in him, and going upon Him." (54-0720A, The Maniac Of Gadara, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

"He was—He was Jesus when He was born. But when the Holy Ghost came upon Him after His baptism, He was anointed with God. God was in Him." (61-0117 The Messiah).

So then God was not in him at conception or at birth. Then who was sent from heaven? Was it not God? Why does it say a savior is born this day? (Lk.2:11), God is the ONLY savior.

"then John bare record, seeing the Spirit of God like a dove coming from above, and It settled on Him, and went into Him, God coming to His Temple." (55-0116A, The Believer's Position In Christ, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

So when Jesus was born he was not God with us, it took 30 more years? Jesus then had a born again experience like a believer does.

This contradicts Branham's own teaching that "the Holy Spirit, God Himself come down into the womb of a woman and formed around Him a blood cell." (55-0115, Law, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL).

Branham discussing Mary and Joseph looking for him "And this little Boy, twelve-year-old Child, no wisdom at all, why, but just a twelve-year-old Boy ... The Father didn't dwell in Him at that time, because He come on the day when He baptized

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Him; he saw the Spirit of God coming down (See?), and went in Him." (64-0206B Paradox, Salad Bowl Restaurant, Bakersfield, CA).

Branham's teaching on young Jesus is completely divorced from what the Scripture says.

Luke 2:40 *"the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him."*

No wisdom? When Jesus was 12 and he and his parents went to Jerusalem, unbeknown to them he stayed behind at the temple listening and asking the Rabbis questions. It says V.47 *"And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers."* V.52 *"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."*

Once again Branham says something different on Jesus than the Bible says. He made the young Jesus to be like his disciples, uneducated, without knowledge. Furthermore, he is denying the incarnation.

"And John said, "I bare record, seeing the Spirit of God like a Dove coming down, and abiding on Him." Hallelujah. There you are. The Dove and the Lamb united together. That's when God and Man became one. That's when heaven and earth embraced each other. Hallelujah. That's when God was made flesh...? ... that's when God came down from the Spirit form and was made a Man and dwell among us." (56-0805, The Church And Its Condition, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

So God did not become a man through His birth but when the Spirit came down (30 years later), then he was enfleshed? That is when the Spirit form was made man? That is not what my Bible says.

To enforce this heresy he said *"The right translation there is, 'In whom I am pleased to dwell in.' Jesus immediately anointed with God, He was just a man till that time, but now He becomes the God-man."* (55-0806 Jesus Christ the Same Yesterday, Today and Forever, Campbellsville, KY).

"And when it was, He came on the baptism of Jesus and dwelt in Him, "This is My beloved Son in Whom I'm well pleased to dwell in." He came down and dwelled in Jesus, and that made Him Emmanuel on earth."(59-0628E "Questions and Answers")

According to Branham the Father came from heaven upon his humanity as a dove. Then he became God. This is not Bible doctrine he is teaching.

Like the Gnostic he was, Branham taught the heresy of Cerinthianism. Named after Cerinthus, a Gnostic in the first century who held that Jesus and Christ were separate beings.

Irenaeus wrote, *"Cerinthus, again, a man who was educated in the wisdom of the Egyptians, ... after his baptism, Christ descended upon him in the form of a dove."*(Irenaeus, Against Heresies, book 1, Chapter 26)

According to this view, Jesus was a human born naturally (not from a virgin), while Christ was a spirit that came upon Jesus at his baptism and left before his crucifixion.

Theodotus in the 2nd century taught that Jesus was a man born of a virgin. He lived like other men until his baptism in the Jordan the "Christ" came down upon the man Jesus in the likeness of a dove (Philosophumena, VII, xxiii). Adoptionism was found in the sect known as Ebionites.

Branham filled in words where God did not speak: *"And when Jesus, a carpenter's Son, physically speaking, when He come to the earth here that's all He was known of, and the day that when John baptized Him, God a vindicated Him. God spoke from the heavens. John saw Him coming in the form a dove, and said, "This is My beloved Son in Whom I'm pleased to dwell." The right translation there is, "In whom I am pleased to dwell in." Jesus immediately anointed with God, He was just a man till that time, but now He becomes the God—*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



man." (55-0806 Jesus Christ the same Yesterday Today and Forever)

"Now, in there it says, "This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased." You see? Now, that's wrote in the actual form of the Greek, putting verb before adverb; but you notice here, it'd actually be this ... Now, just take the Word. See? The Bible says, in the translation of St. James here: "This is My beloved Son in Whom I'm pleased to dwell." But actually, if we'd say it like we'd say it today: "This is My beloved Son in Whom I'm pleased to dwell in." (63-0324M Questions and Answers on the Seals, Revelation of the Seven Seals).

Branham says that "the correct translation" is "to dwell in," however these are additional words not found in any transcripts - that were ONLY applied by William Branham. We have a God incarnated by baptism.

The Holy Spirit called Him Emmanuel, "God with us." And now it's God in us, the same Spirit. We receive It by portion, measure; He received it without portion or measure. In Him was the fullness of God." (60-0608, Having Conferences, Miami Valley Chautauqua Campgrounds, Chautauqua, OH).

Jesus did not "receive the spirit" to be the fullness (Branham is referring to his baptism). He was eternally deity and became human. Branham is describing a very different Jesus. For he was called Immanuel before his birth (Mt.1:23). This is a teaching from a man who did not ADHERE to the basics taught in the Bible.

Matthew 3:17 *And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* (The same is quoted in Mk.1:11; Lk.3:22). Matthew 12:18 *"Behold, My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He will declare justice to the Gentiles."* Matthew is quoting Isaiah 42:1. And that is exactly what happened, the Spirit did not come to dwell in him because he was already "in Him." The Spirit came

upon him in a visible way to give His people a witness to the Son from the Father in heaven.

These words to dwell is not written in the Bible, he is adding to the word. Branham consistently distorted the Bible's record. "And at the baptismal service when he was baptizing, he saw Jesus coming with a Light following Him. And He said, "Behold, the Lamb of God that take away the sin of the world." And Jesus was baptized; the Holy Spirit came from out of heaven, and a Voice from It, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am pleased to dwell." The original translation says, "In Whom I am pleased to dwell in." (56-0200, Contending For The Faith, Georgetown High School, Georgetown, IN).

Let's not overlook his statement that John saw Jesus coming with a Light following Him, insinuating that he (Branham) had what Jesus had in his life.

The original translation? There are no additional words in any original translation. This is an attempt to reinterpret scripture to what you want it to mean.

The Bible does not have the words "dwell in" for this passage or the others, Branham has added and changed the word of God and the meaning.

Matt 3:17 in Greek:

Kaí idou fooneé ek toón ouranoón légousa Hoútós estin

And Lo a voice from heaven saying this is
ho Huiós mou ho agapeetós
son my beloved

en hoó eudókeesa
in whom well pleased.

There are no textual variants, Branham has no justification except that his intent is to insert his own belief into the text. Which changes it.

The Bible says He (Jesus) is to be called *Emmanuel* when born – God present with us. Branham denied the basic Christian message of his incarnation. Instead the Spirit came upon and in him at the

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



baptism, that is when he became the Godman, which was an ancient heresy.

There are warnings through the Bible on changing God's word. Deut. 4:2 "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take anything from it" (also Deuteronomy 12:32). This is because "*The entirety of Your word is truth*" (Psalms 119: 160). Proverbs 30:5-6: "*Every word of God is pure; he is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.*"

Branham presented a "progressive revelation" of the Word. What right does anyone have to teach what is not in Scripture as if it is Scripture? It is false teachers that do not submit to its original intent, so they do not seek what Scripture actually means. They do not exegete the passage, instead, they conform it to what they want it to mean (isogesis). Branham practiced eisegesis, he read his own meaning into a text to support his preconceived "revelations." Instead of studying the verse to understand what it really means (exegesis).

This is why Paul admonishes us in 1 Corinthians 4:6: "*not to think beyond what is written*" (exceed or go past). Why? So pride will not have an opportunity to operate and puff us up. It is pride that makes one go beyond the word, which makes a person spiritually destructive to himself and others who listen to him.

"*Add thou not unto His words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar*" (Proverbs 30:6). God is warning MAN not to add to his words. Adding does not only mean additional words, but can also mean changing them to mean what they do not. When you add new words as equal to Scripture you are really taking away from Scripture.

The book of Revelation which is prophecy completes the Bible, just as Genesis began the Bible. Of all the books Revelation has the strongest of warnings as it has to do with the end and the coming of the Lord (Revelation 22:18-19).

Branham not only added words but reinterpreted what God said through his own peculiar view. And

it had a purpose, to support other doctrines he presented.

"By faith, Moses saw that that was Christ, the Anointing. And the Anointing was upon no certain man, but It was in a form of a Pillar of Fire. See? And then that same Anointing came down at His baptism, and went into Christ and dwelt in Him. John knew it was Him. He said, "Upon Whom thou shall see the Spirit that led them out of Egypt into the wilderness, and out of the wilderness into the promised land, upon Whom thou shall see this triangle form of God coming down and remaining on, He is the One that'll baptize with the Holy Ghost and Fire." (63-1201M, An Absolute, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA)

A triangle form (a pyramid), the Bible says something quite different. The Bible's account Matt 3:16-17: "*behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* John says "*I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove*" (Jn.1:32).

How did he see the invisible spirit? Luke describes the event "*the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him*" (3:22). What we learn is that the Spirit came upon Jesus to identify him as the Messiah by the Holy Spirit being temporarily visible, and God the Father spoke from heaven identifying Jesus as His Son. He was His beloved son before his birth, at birth, and afterward. There is nothing about a Triangle (a pyramid is what Branham was actually insinuating. Which he would later give more revelation on for the 7 seals).

"And does anybody know the old Hebrew sign, even before there was a Bible written? Was a triangle shape, or an oval shape of a cosmic light, exactly right, the Logos." (64-0214, The Voice Of The Sign, Elliott Auditorium, Tulare, CA).

There's no such thing as a triangle for a Hebrew sign, (before the Bible was written -- he is probably

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



referring to the pyramids by Enoch?) Nor can he say the logos is oval after stating numerous times it is the form of a man.

*“the Anointing was upon no certain man, but It was in a form of a Pillar of Fire. See? And then **that same Anointing came down at His baptism, and went into Christ and dwelt in Him.** John knew it was Him. ... upon Whom thou shall see this triangle form of God coming down and remaining on, He is the One that'll baptize with the Holy Ghost and Fire.” (63-1201M, An Absolute, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA).*

“When John baptized Jesus, the Son of God; God, the invisible God, come down in the form of a Light, shaped like a dove sailing down through the air.” (63-0804E, Calling Jesus On The Scene, Marigold Center, Chicago, IL).

Here we have Branham calling Jesus the Son of God which he insisted he was not, and then he teaches

God came down as a dove of light, as a triangle which the Bible does not at all mention.

Clearly Branham added his own thoughts to the written word.

“And when he seen that Holy Ghost like a Light, comes down there with two wings on It, coming down upon Jesus.” (61-0429E Uncertain sound Chicago, IL)

Scripture says nothing about a light, a fire, or wings. Neither did the Spirit indwell him then to make him deity.

“when God and man was made one on that great memorial day when John baptized Jesus.” (56-0805, The Church And Its Condition, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

God and man were made one when his humanity was conceived by Mary, it's called the incarnation. But it was not until his baptism according to

Branham. Why? Because Branham did not believe that Jesus was really human.

What Branham is teaching is an ancient heresy. There were two basic forms of Monarchianism, one was called “Modal” and the other was “Adoptionism.” The Adoption view said Jesus was only a man until he was adopted at his baptism. That Jesus did not become Christ until his baptism, when he was anointed with the Spirit. Of course Branham added his own peculiar descriptions within this framework.

Branham taught Jesus was adopted at the baptism and that he was adopted at the transfiguration then *“that son was adopted or placed positionally. He become heir of what the father had.”* (62-1104M, Blasphemous Names, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham interprets the Transfiguration event as, *“God adopted His own Son when He took Him up; took Peter, James, and John, as a witness. ”...The Holy Spirit overshadowed Christ, ... And God Himself said, “This is My beloved Son; hear ye Him.” ... And there, God adopted His own Son.”* (54-1231, Everlasting Life And How To Receive It, Branham Tabernacle)

“God adopted His own Son.” God adopted His own Child into the family. ” (55-1006A, A Hidden Life, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

So Branham had two different times Jesus was adopted, by God. At the baptism and at the transfiguration (we will discuss the transfiguration event in detail in the section on the Trinity).

Not only did Branham teach Jesus was not God at birth, Branham also believed that God left him before He was crucified, to die for our sins. He left him in Gethsemane in his time of preparation for the completion of his mission. This is what true Bible believers categorize as heresy.

“The Spirit left Jesus in Gethsemane and He became just a man– When God looked down upon

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



the body... (The Spirit left Him in the Garden of Gethsemane; He had to die a man.)" (65-0418M It Is the Rising of the Sun)

"When He was--last cry, "Eli, Eli. My God, My God," That was a man. "Why hast Thou forsaken Me?" In the Garden of Gethsemane, the anointing left Him, you know, He had to die as a sinner. He died a sinner ..." (60-0518, Manifested Sons of God, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Again we find this teaching among the Gnostics that believed "the Christ" departed Jesus before His crucifixion and left him on the cross alone, to suffer and die. If the Spirit left Jesus before his crucifixion then 2 Cor. 5:19 cannot be true, "*God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.*" Furthermore, Paul tells us in 1 Cor. 2:8 that they crucified the "*Lord of glory.*"

Not only does Branham say he was just a man who was crucified but he died a sinner. If he was only a man who was to be crucified for sin it would not be efficacious throughout time. Then God did not come from heaven to incarnate as a man to fulfill the mission that He was sent to earth for in the first place? This opposes the Bible that says in Heb.10:5 he came to do the Fathers will which has to do with a body to be sacrificed for sin.

Jesus becomes the Son of God after his resurrection

Branham taught "*But on the day of Pentecost He changed Himself from being the Son of man to the Son of God.*" (The Mighty God Unveiled Before us.15) but at the same time Branham would affirm "*I believe that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever*" (Expectation. 61-0207, Expectation, First Assembly Of God Of Long Beach, Long Beach, CA)

Branham insisted that Jesus never said he was God's son. What spirit would have one deny Jesus as God's Son? Branham would call Jesus everything but an *eternal son* and made up several ways to circumvent the obvious. He instead

assigned this to the Spirit who he said was Jesus' return at Pentecost.

"He never said He was the Son of God; He said He was the Son of man. Now, today; He is the Son of God, which He returned back, and now He is in the form of the Holy Ghost, the unseen Person" (This Day This Scripture is Fulfilled p.7).

So according to Branham after the resurrection he becomes the Holy Ghost, who is the Son of God. Where is this taught in Scripture?

"The Holy Ghost is the Son of God" (64-0427A Trial).

Not only was he wrong on this, but by confusing the persons, he was insinuating we had the second coming nearly 2,000 years ago at Pentecost, Jesus returned spiritually and invisibly, as the Holy Spirit.

If one carefully reads his statements they will arrive at the conclusion that we can't have a teaching from Branham without contradiction[s]. "*Jesus was the body that the Spirit of God dwelled in, made Him Emmanuel, God, tabernacled on earth. He was God. Jesus Christ was God, yet He was the Son of God. His flesh was the Son of God 'cause God created it, but inside He was God.*" (59-1004E, Why Cry? Speak! Faith Assembly, Clarksville, IN)

If Jesus' flesh is the Son of God how does his coming back as the Holy Spirit make him the Son of God?

Jesus flesh was not the Son of God, because God is Spirit. Branham had to contradict his own teaching because he refused to believe there was an "eternal Son of God."

So when Jesus returned physically, how does he become the Son of God after He came as spirit at Pentecost? According to the various statements from Branham he was the Son of God before he was incarnated, stopped being the Son of God and became the Son of man, insisting he no longer is the Son of God when he was born.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



To further clarify Branham's denial, in Jn.1:32 John bore witness, saying, "I saw *the Spirit* descending from heaven like a dove and he remained upon him." What does he testify? V.34 That "*Jesus is the Son of God.*" Which Branham insisted he is NOT!

Rom.1:3 "Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was made of the seed of David **according to the flesh** and declared the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection of the dead." According to his flesh he is called the "son of David," according to his deity he is declared to be the "Son of God" at the resurrection, not at Pentecost when he Branham says he returned as the Spirit. But when he was physically raised from the dead.

"Then we find, after His death, burial, and resurrection. He came on the day of Pentecost as Son of God - God, the Spirit, in the form, Holy Ghost. What was He doing? He was changing Himself, making Himself known to His people in a different form. Like the Holy Spirit, which is God, He came to deal through the church ages as Son of God, the Holy Spirit." (The Mighty God Unveiled Before Us p.9).

"But on the day of Pentecost He changed Himself from being the Son of man to the Son of God." (ibid, p.15)

"He changed; His en morphe. He--He changed, from what He was, to what He is. He never changes His nature. But on the Day of Pentecost, He changed Himself from being the Son of man, to the Son of God." (64-0629, The Mighty God Unveiled Before Us, Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia, PA).

In other words he changes his identity, his title, which makes the terms (Father and Son) meaningless in their descriptions.

In explaining how God is seen by people "*It could be-cannot be seen, but yet, we know that it's there. And when He changed His form of the en morphe,*

which means that He changed from supernatural to natural ... and He just changed His mask."

"And otherwise, it's like a drama; He was acting. In-in the Greek when they would change their mask, maybe one play one player might've acted in several different parts. And my-" daughter (present here) ... They just had at the high school a-a drama. And they-one boy, that I knowed, played about four parts, but he would go behind the stage and change his - his mask in order to come out to impersonate another character" (The Mighty God Unveiled Before Us, p.6 , June 29, 1964, Philadelphia Penn. Vol.3 no.22)

We now see that what Branham said wrong on God's nature was far more damaging, (which was often) than what he said that was right. Here Branham puts a new spin on the ancient heresy of Monarchianism (modalism).

Branham's argument in light of Scripture is meaningless. The Bible explains Father and Son quite different than Branham's view. Branham shows by his statements that he lacked biblical understanding on God's nature, especially for a prophet that claimed he would restore the true faith. Jesus says he as the Son was with the Father in Jn.17 before the world began, making him God the Son who co-existed. Jn.17:5 "*And now Father glorify me together with yourself, with the glory that I had **with you before** the world began.*" (Greek *para* alongside) 'By the side of thyself.' Jesus prays for full restoration to the pre-incarnate glory and fellowship (cf. 1:1) enjoyed before the Incarnation (John 1:14).

"This is actual and conscious existence at the Father's side (para soi, with thee) "which I had" (heōi eichon, imperfect active of echoō, I used to have, with attraction of case of heōn to heōi because of doxeōi), "before the world was" (pro tou ton kosmon einai) (A.T. Robertsons Word Pictures of the New Testament.)

Jesus, took a temporary position as a servant. It is speaking of the position He took as a man; he is one person with two natures, he was always the Son of

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



God and took on the nature of man and then became the Son of man.

When the Scripture says Jesus was the Son of Man, it means that he was of true human descent. When he says he is the Son of God it means His nature is God.

Heb.1:8 God the Father says to the Son, "*your throne O' God is forever* and ever. Does a human have a throne that is forever? Or does this passage explain the position that the Son is God alongside the Father?

Scripture has the Father call the Son YHWH, which certainly does mean He eternally existed. Branham's play on words and terms does not help in understanding the Bible but fosters confusion.

Heb.1:10 the Father speaking to the Son "*and you Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the Earth and the heavens are the work of your hands...*"

The Father calls the Son Lord (Lord - YHWH) and says he was present as the architect, not as a thought. Someone is confused here, how is the Son attributed to be the creator by the Father if he too was created?

Jesus died a sinner The teaching of Jesus going to hell

The word faith teaching of today did not just mimic Kenyon, it came from Branham.

"He gave up his Sonship between Him and the Father to be made sin for us. ... He knowed no sin; became sin for us. Our sins was placed upon Him. He gave up the Sonship to become sin; now He can make sinners sons. (repeats it)." (62-0123, Forsaking All, Full Gospel Church, Tempe, AZ)

"And Christ represented Hisself with the Church full of sin, and was condemned, and His soul went to hell. That's right. And God raised Him up on the third day. You believe that? See? It wasn't that he

didn't sin; he did sin ... God wouldn't have sent Him to--to hell pure. He had to send Him to hell condemned (See?), because He took our sins. And Christ died, not righteous; Christ died a sinner. See? Christ never sinned Himsself, but He took our sins on Him." (55-0227A, The Position Of A Believer In Christ, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ).

In other words he literally became sin, became a sinner.

"When Jesus died yonder at Calvary for a propitiation for our sins, he died not a just man but a sinner, not of His own, but mine and your sins sent Him to the regions of the lost." (55-0225, Glorified Jesus, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ).

"dying a mortal's death, dying not only a mortal's death, but a sinner's death. Our sins was upon Him, and He'd went to hell for us, and carried our sins away as a Scapegoat. But when He was hanging there at the cross, and He was crying for mercy, and He died like a man." (56-0223, God's Covenant With Abraham and His Seed, Gospel Tabernacle, Sioux Falls, SD)

Branham taught he went to the cross and was crucified as a man because the Spirit left him the night before in Gethsemane.

"God transferred all of our sins upon Him, and He died. And because He died a sinner, the Bible said, "His soul went to hell." (54-1006, Law Or Grace, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

This is not what the Bible teaches, Jesus was fully restored in his relationship with the Father before He died gave His Spirit into the Fathers hands.

If Jesus became a sinner how can he die for the worlds sins? He is called the unblemished lamb. According to the biblical teaching he was the Passover lamb, 1 Peter 1:19. The gospel is that we were purchased by "*the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*" If you are sinful and die, you would need someone to die for your sins.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



By claiming Jesus became sin on the cross (some say He took the very nature of Satan), HE would need redemption. But he couldn't redeem himself, since he was no longer the unblemished lamb, but sinful, and neither could he redeem any of us. He then would need a redeemer. Furthermore Deuteronomy 15:21 teaches if any sacrifice had a fault or blemish it was not accepted. Becoming sin would make Jesus sinful and He could not redeem anyone with a nature that was just like mans. That's why this teaching is from hell.

A sin offering was to be pure without ANY DEFECT! What made Jesus' offering acceptable to God was that He was a sinless, a holy and unblemished offering to God. How could Jesus have literally become sin when Hebrews 9:14 tells us that he offered himself "without blemish to God"?

Hebrews 13:21 calls this sacrifice the "*blood of the everlasting covenant.*" The atonement came by the blood of a sinless man. It is the blood that atones. God saves us on the basis of his Son's sacrifice of his life, by His blood.

Greek Scholar A.T. Robertson states, he made to be sin (*hamartian epoieôsen*). *The words "to be" are not in the Greek. "Sin" here is the substantive, not the verb. God "treated as sin" the one "who knew no sin." But he knew the contradiction of sinners (Hebrews 12:3). We may not dare probe too far into the mystery of Christ's suffering on the cross, but this fact throws some light on the tragic cry of Jesus just before he died: "My God, My God, why didst thou forsake me?" (Matthew 27:46 Robertson's Word Pictures).*

"knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1:18-20). NO corruption, a Lamb without spot or blemish. Just as 1 John 3:5 states, in him was NO SIN. This is what Biblical Christianity teaches.

The Bible says he went to Hades, he did not spend three days in hell; there is a difference. He was raised because he had no sin, which would prevent him from going to hell as Branham taught.

"When Jesus died at the cross to fulfill ... That was Jesus, not the Holy Spirit in Him. See? When He died at the cross and His soul, not God's Spirit, but His soul went to hell, 'cause He had to ... The Bible said He would. But Jesus believed that He'd raise up again in three days, 'cause He knowed three days corruption would set in." (54-1219M, Divine Healing, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Branham taught man's soul was a part of God, here he contradicts this saying Jesus soul could be corrupted unless it is raised in 3 days.

Branham says, He "died there as a sinner on the cross, and His soul descended into hell. And God, not suffering His holy One to see corruption, raised Him up on the third day for our justification." (54-0512, The Seven Church Ages, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Again Branham is wrong on a crucial doctrine, and this has to do with the gospel.

If he died a sinner and his soul entered hell, there is corruption.

The Bible-Acts 2:27, "*For you will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will you allow your Holy One to see corruption.*" Peter repeats himself just a few verses later in v: 31: "*His soul was not left in Hell (the actual word is Hades), nor did his flesh did see corruption.*" Notice it says neither soul nor body saw corruption. That means he was not made a sinner.

Branham's view is that Jesus died as sinner, in sin, so how did the Father accept his sacrifice? His last statement to the Father on the cross was, "*Father, into your hands I commit my Spirit.*" (Matthew 27:50; John 19:30).

Did the Father say to the Father into your hands I commit My spirit? First: how does he commit his

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



spirit into the Father's hand if his Spirit is the Father? Second: Jesus dismissed his own spirit controlling the time of his death.

The separation Jesus had was only on the cross, and it was only temporary. He was totally restored before He died. His Spirit was committed into the Father's hand. If any part of him was put in Hell this means the Father did not accept His sacrifice, but instead rejected it; which is what Branham is conveying. So he was not exalting the victory at the cross the Bible teaches but instead defeat.

To sum up Branham's teaching, God was not always God, his Son came from him as a thought. That thought was spoken and became a theophany that had a human form, even flesh before the incarnation.

Branham had people believe his doctrine was pure, apostolic, the true intent of Scripture. The fact is, it was corrupted, polluted and inexplicable when compared to the Bible's actual words.

Ex: 1) Jesus never called himself the Son of God

Ex: 2) the son was spoken into existence from a thought.

Ex: 3) Jesus had no human lineage according to Branham which disqualifies him to be Mashiach (Messiah of Israel).

Branham had a different Jesus, not fully human (which is nearly as important as his deity), not from the lineage of the Jews in his humanity, nor the eternal Son of God. His deity was the Father who is the Son who is also the Holy Spirit. What a dish of theo - illogical spaghetti he served to the people to eat.

So then Jesus, the word that became flesh was a created being from a thought. This is proof that his supernatural power, the manifestations could NOT EVER be from God. He couldn't even speak right about God's nature though he claimed his revelation was from God himself (actually by his angel.)

Can someone who is a prophet speak what is correct and then falsely in this manner, have such abusive theology on the nature of God and still have the true God do the so called mightiest miracles the church has seen through him? I don't think so! God would then have to contradict his own nature and ways.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 19

Branham's Denial of Jesus' true humanity and being a Jew (Hebrew)

"Jesus was created. When the Holy Ghost come upon Mary He created within her the cell that would multiply and become the body of our Lord. That cell was created. It was the beginning of the creation of God. That is who Jesus is." (W. M. Branham, An Exposition of the Seven Churches pp. 19, 21,137)

"Now, He couldn't take an Angel; He had to have a man, because we're not kin to the Angel; we're kin to one another. The Angel never fell. He's a different kind of a being, got a different body. He never sinned or nothing; he's different. But the law required a Kinsman Redeemer, and every man on earth was born of a sex." (p.87 The Revelation of the Seven Seals).

"Now notice. Now, it must be kinsman. So, you see, an Angel couldn't do it; a man couldn't do it; it must be a man, but he can't be born of a woman-a sex act. So the virgin birth, the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary, therefore, Jesus was not a Jew. Jesus was not a Gentile. Jesus was God, exactly. His Blood didn't come from any sex act. He was the holy created Blood of God. And we're not saved by Jewish blood, neither are we saved by Gentile blood." (p.88 *ibid.*)

"we find, God all ages has had skin on It. See? God has been hid behind a veil." (The Mighty God Unveiled Before us p.20). "And we find out here that God has always had skin on Him. When Moses seen Him, He had skin on Him; He looked like a man." (ibid. p.21)

If God always had flesh than why would a cell be needed to create a body? What did he do with the body he already had way back in Moses day or before? If Branham is making the point that God always having flesh to being in the church today, in

us, then he means God was a human (today being in many humans).

Branham saying God always had flesh (skin) is more akin to Mormonism than Christianity. The God Branham describes is not the God in the Bible. If God ALWAYS had skin on him, then he is denying the one incarnation fulfilled in the New Testament through a virgin. If God "always was man," then the uniqueness of the incarnation by a virgin conception is lost. The Bible says God is spirit, meaning that is his essential nature. To say God always had SKIN MAKES HIM A MAN BEFORE HIS INCARNATION. One cannot excuse this as only one false statement, as he supports it with others. Nor can one excuse this because at other times he said what is correct. This is a qualifying statement that cannot be overlooked; because it deals with a core doctrine; the nature of God. God is Spirit and did not always have flesh. He took up flesh the first time at the incarnation through a virgin birth. This happened ONLY ONCE. Appearing as man in the Old Testament and actually becoming man are two very different matters.

Branham makes it clear: *"before the promised son showed up, God manifested Himself there at Sodom as a prophet, being a man, in flesh, God. Elohim, as I heard someone speak It a while ago, which the Godhead bodily was in Him. He was the fulness. Elohim is the fulness of the Godhead, bodily."* (This day This Scripture is fulfilled, p.7)

Jesus in flesh is the fullness of the godhead BODILY, Branham had this backwards. Branham is saying Elohim is flesh.

"Abraham said He was Elohim, God manifested in flesh. Jesus promised that God, before His coming, would be manifested in human flesh again. That's

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



the Holy Spirit (there is only one God) manifesting Himself, separating, again, Lot from Abraham [Luke 17:29-30].” (64-0121, God's Word Calls For A Total Separation From Unbelief, Ramada Inn, Phoenix, AZ)

Branham is clearly teaching that God did not appear in human form but actually *was flesh* before his incarnation. We see from the Bible the only way for God to have skin would be to be born through humanity as Jesus did by the virgin conception.

To say God became or was manifested in the flesh before Jesus is a serious error; it is heresy. John calls it is the spirit of antichrist. 1 John 4:1-2 says, “*Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God.*”

Jesus is the God who came in the flesh ONCE, He took up flesh, died and rose in the flesh and is still in the flesh (now glorified). Verse 3 then states, “*that every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God.*” To say God came in the flesh (incarnate) in another man at another time is denying Christ is the **only God come in the flesh**. This is the denial that John addresses “*every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God.*” It is an exclusive statement to mean **Jesus alone** in his incarnation. John is referring to the Virgin Birth as recorded in Matthew and Luke. And this denial “*is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.*”

Heb. 2:14 “*Inasmuch then as the children **have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death.***”

He became flesh so that he can purchase us from sin “*He has reconciled **in the body of His flesh** through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight.*” (Col. 1:21-22)

“*God was manifested in the flesh* (1 Tim. 3:16). God was revealed in the flesh means that He (God the Son, not the Father) has come in the flesh? The Bible term *en sarki* in flesh. “*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us*” (Jn. 1:14), means Jesus took a human nature, 100% humanity. *Became* in Greek is *ginomai*, means to become what it was not before. That he who had pre-existence as God

assumed a human body for the first time. He became united with humanity as Jesus, that He had blood and a physical body, He was fully human. There is no other man that is God come in flesh before Jesus or after Jesus. He who became man is alone called the Lord (Yahweh), as the angel said He would be called “Emmanuel” (Mt.1:23).

1 Jn. 4:2 says, “*that every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God.*” John is writing after the resurrection, he uses the *perfect tense* in the Greek language that denotes a past action with continuing results into the future. Jesus came in the flesh. He rose in the flesh and is still in the flesh (sitting at the right hand of the Father). Verse 3 then states, “*that every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God.*”

Those who deny that Jesus came in the flesh and is still in the flesh are of the anti-Christ spirit. This is one of the ways to discern a false teacher from a true one. But there are many other tests needed to be applied.

Jn. 2:21-22: “*I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth. Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ.*”

Jesus is the only man that is God in the flesh, having the same nature as the Father. 1 Tim. 3:16: “*God was manifested in the flesh,*” only once; that is Jesus. The nature of God is shared with this man alone and it took a virgin conception for him to be flesh, as promised he is “*the seed of the woman*” (Gen. 3:15).

“*For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is **come in the***

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist" (2 Jn.7). In this epistle John uses the *present tense* in Greek which focuses specifically on the future coming of the Lord. People that deny that Jesus rose in the flesh or is not coming back in the flesh, by saying He rose as a spirit or is coming back as a Spirit or in some other form other than His physical body, are of the spirit of anti-Christ. (1 John 4:2 focuses on

the past; 2 John v. 7 focuses on the future). Jesus' flesh is a physical body eternally glorified.

Branham denied this in two ways: He claimed the Holy Spirit is Jesus. He was sent back to earth as the Holy Spirit whom he said was the Son of God.

"But on the day of Pentecost He changed Himself from being the Son of man to the Son of God. He came, not with the people, He came in the people" (The Mighty God Unveiled Before Us, p.15)

He expanded the concept of the incarnation in that the same way Jesus was inhabited with God by the incarnation, we, as the body of Christ are today.

"Our hands are His hands. Our eyes are His eyes. Our life is His life. He puts His Life in us. We live the life that He would live if He was here on earth in a physical form, while the body is sitting at the right hand of God making intercessions for us all the time." (57-0226, Sirs, We Would See Jesus, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ)

This was something Kenneth Hagin said as well, by saying we are just as much an incarnation as Jesus.

A Denial of his humanity and Jewish lineage

Branham denied the Son of God's preexistence and he also denied his humanity.

"Notice, how people now can look and see that's how we believe so supremely in the Blood of the Lord Jesus. Jesus, I used to think was a Jew, or He was Jewish blood. He was borned of a Jewish mother, but He wasn't Jewish blood. Neither was He Gentile blood; He was the Blood of God. See? God the Father overshadowed the virgin Mary and

created a Blood cell in the womb, that brought forth the Son Christ Jesus." (54-1203, *The Law Having A Shadow*, Faith Tabernacle, Binghamton, NY)

"Now, the woman doesn't have a seed." (64-0816, *Proving His Word*)

"He wasn't even a seed from Mary" (64-0119, *Shalom, Ramada Inn, Phoenix, AZ*)

"Eve didn't have a seed. You know that. The woman doesn't have a seed, the female. She has an egg, but not a seed." (65-1031M, *Power Of Transformation*, Pine Lawn Trailer Park, Prescott, AZ)

The body of Jesus came from Mary. That is whole point of him being called the SEED of the woman, which Branham denied.

Of course one cannot have Branham teach any subject without contradicting himself.

"Jesus Christ was foreordained the Son of God. He was the woman's Seed." (53-0213 *My Angel Shall Go Before Thee Tallahassee, Florida*)

"Look at Jesus, He was the woman's Seed from the garden of Eden." (55-0611, *What Is That In Thy Hand?*, Porter Stadium, Macon, GA).

"My brethren, I am the One that you think I am. I am the Seed of the woman. I am the Son of David. I am the Son of God." (57-0420, *The Entombment*, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN) All of these he denied.

He repeated this inaccuracy of Mary numerous times *"and she was just a woman, an incubator, that bare this Son. Wasn't nothing of her."* (62-0624, *Super Sign*, Great Western Exhibit Center, South Gate, CA)

It was the Gnostics that believed God could not become human ... They believed that Jesus only appeared to be human, but did not have a real human nature.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Hebrews 2:17-18 *“Therefore, He (Jesus) had to be made like His brethren in ALL things.”*

God entered the world by being born, not conceived like everyone else so that He could be a genuine human and be sinless. If he had come with no relation to human parentage then He could not claim to be an authentic human. What would be different is that the Messiah was to be born of a virgin, born without a man's seed, as the promised seed of the woman (Isa. 7:14). The Bible makes the

point that it is in Adam we all sinned, not Eve. Romans 5:12 tells us sin entered the world through one man. In Luke 1:35: we find the Holy Spirit generating life to Mary's seed. Jesus was placed into the womb of Mary without the normal means of conception but by a supernatural act of God. The life of the already existent Son of God was transferred into the womb of Mary, no normal conception of a male sperm with the female ovum of Mary took place to form the body.

This is why he is termed the last Adam, he was supernaturally made (1 Cor. 15:45), like Adam.

In the Old Testament the flesh and blood of animals was used in sacrifice. He was introduced by John as the lamb of God. A sinless man whose purpose was to be *“a Lamb without blemish”* to be the last sacrifice.

In Acts 20:28 it states *“God purchased the Church with his own blood.”* With his own blood (dia tou haimatos tou idiou). Whose blood? Through the agency of (dia) His own blood. The blood is the very reason there had to be a virgin birth. It's not that God has any blood, but that the life that was in the son was pure, sinless. Only His blood can cleanse, the blood type of the Son of God was a separate and precious type, but it was still human. It is called the blood of God because it was given for our sins, it was supernaturally made.

Acts 20:28 [With his own blood] With the sacrifice of his own life; for blood is often put for life, and to

shed the blood is equivalent to taking the life.
(Barnes' Notes)

God supernaturally created the life from Mary's egg; it does not say the seed of God, but the seed of the WOMAN. The life of the flesh is in the blood, if his is not human blood than he was not fully human.

The blood which forms in the child's body is formed in the embryo itself and only as a result of the contribution of the male parent. In conception the blood which is in that child is produced within the child itself as a result of the introduction of the male sperm. When God designed woman He made

her so that no blood would be able to pass from her to her offspring. The blood is the result of the male. Since Adam was the federal head of the race, it is his (corruptible) blood which transmits Adam's Sin. God provided a way where a human body formed would not have any of Adam's sinful blood, that being through a virgin conception bypassing the natural process.

Hebrews 2:14 *“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood. He also himself likewise took part of the same.”* Human children are partakers of FLESH and BLOOD, and He, Jesus, *“took part of the same.”* The word *“took part”* as applying to Christ is an entirely different word than *“partakers”* as applied to the children. It implies *“taking part in something outside one's self.”* The Greek word for partakers is *“Koinoneo,”* it means *“to share fully.”* All of Adam's children fully shared in Adam's flesh and blood. When we read that Jesus *“took part of the same”* the word is *“metecho”* in like manner; which means to take *“part”* but not all. Christ took in the flesh part, while the blood was the result of supernatural conception.

Rom 8:3 *sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh.”*

“that is, a human body like ours, but not sinful as ours” (from Adam Clarke's Commentary).

“[In the likeness of sinful flesh] That is, he so far resembled sinful flesh that he partook of flesh,

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



or the nature of man, but without any of its sinful propensities or desires. It was not human nature; not, as the Docetae taught, human nature in appearance only; but it was human nature Without any of its corruptions.” (Barnes' Notes)

Jesus was a perfect human being after the flesh. The only way the Virgin could conceive was accomplished by the Holy Spirit. Sinless blood was produced in a body that was the seed of the woman. Mary contributed the body of Jesus and He became the “seed of David according to the flesh.”

The egg is released from the ovary, human conception begins when fertilization occurs. When the egg is fertilized, these chromosomes join together to form 46 chromosomes (complete genetic material), and the egg proceeds to divide by a process known as mitosis to become an embryo.

He, Jesus is not flesh of flesh (Father and Mother) but the Holy Spirit generated Mary's egg to life so that his humanity began. The fetal blood and the mother's maternal blood are not mixed. In Jesus' conception it bypassed the normal means by male and female. At conception there is no blood, just a single cell which is a fertilized egg.

The egg will attach itself to the woman's womb. The fertilized egg gets its blood supply from there. Then it implants into the uterine wall and grows a placenta. The fetus makes its own blood from its liver and spleen, and starting at 21 weeks, from its bone marrow.

The baby's blood comes from the mother through the placenta. Oxygen and nutrients from the mother's blood are transferred across the placenta to the fetus. But the mother and child's blood *never mix*.

The placenta allows blood cells and nutrients through, it keeps most (but not all) bacteria and viruses out of the womb Waste products and carbon dioxide from the fetus are sent back through the

umbilical cord and placenta to the mother's circulation to be eliminated

As the baby's heart matures it will help out but the mother's blood and heart are the primary givers. After the baby is born the umbilical cord is cut, the baby breathes on its own and its heart takes over.

<http://www.stanfordchildrens.org/en/topic/default?id=blood-circulation-in-the-fetus-and-newborn-90-P02362>

The Bible says the life is in the blood; we now know blood is a mixture of cells and a watery liquid, called plasma that the cells float in. The main function of blood is to supply nutrients (oxygen, glucose) and constitutional elements to tissues and to remove waste products (such as carbon dioxide and lactic acid) the genes (DNA) are inherited property. A child gets both DNA genes from the

parents equally but Jesus' human make up would be from His mother. Without Mary being involved (including making the blood), He could not be truly human.

Branham insisted *the Blood was God's own Blood*. What Branham stated denied his true humanity as well as Mary's Jewish lineage, eliminating numerous Scriptures that would qualify the Messiah as taken from humanity.

“He was neither Jew, nor Gentile. He was God. His Blood came from God's own creative power, and the created the Blood cells. Mary was just an incubator. That was all. The woman produces the egg. The man produces the germ of life. He had no man, male as sexual, but His heavenly Father created the Blood cells, so the Blood was God's own Blood.” (57-1213, And Then Jesus Came, Essex Theater, Newark, NJ)

If a women is only an incubator why do children inherit traits from both parents not just the male. The genetics of blood type etc. is a mixture representing the genetics of both father and mother.

“There was no sexual feeling when the Holy Ghost overshadowed her, not a bit. But God Almighty, the Creator created the blood cell and the pollen.” (62-

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



0121M, And Thy Seed Shall Possess the Gate Of His Enemy, Faith Tabernacle, Phoenix, AZ)

This is said because Branham taught that a woman's egg would not descend without her being aroused sexually. Branham taught that the sexual act between husband and wife was impure, even evil. He said God intended humans to be produced by speaking them into existence and will in the future eliminate the way humans are produced today.

"God created the baby, both egg and blood. Both cell of woman and man God created." (62-0123, Forsaking All, Full Gospel Church, Tempe, AZ)

This why he taught that Jesus could not be from the egg of Mary and be human.

Branham: *Somebody said, "Oh, Jesus was a Jew."* **He was not a Jew.** *"Oh, we're saved by Jewish*

blood." No, we're not. If we were saved by Jewish blood, we're still lost. Jesus was not Jew, neither was He Gentile. He was God: God the Father, the Spirit, the unseen One." (57-0908M, Hebrews, Chapter Five And Six, Branham Tabernacle).

"... Now, as some people said, "Oh, I was saved by Jewish--I... Jewish blood saved me." No, Jewish blood didn't save you. God's Blood saved you. He wasn't either Jew nor Gentile; He was God." (56-0225, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, Gospel Tabernacle, Sioux Falls, SD)

So then the Bible in Jn.4:22 is wrong, salvation is not of the Jews. His blood was from his humanity. Here in this quote Branham he denies his humanity and then makes Jesus' humanity into God.

*"Jesus was God, **not a Jew.** ... And **He was not no man, Jew or Gentile, He was God created in flesh.** We're not saved by the blood of a Jew or blood of a Gentile, we're saved by the Blood of God. He was God, nothing less. He wasn't Jew nor Gentile."* (63-1214, Why Little Bethlehem, Ramada Inn, Phoenix, AZ)

This position that Branham taught of him being God goes directly against his other teaching that Jesus

had God unite with him at his baptism, not at his conception. There is only two classifications of humanity according to the Bible, Jew and Gentile. If Jesus is neither than he not a man.

"His Own Blood was God. We're saved by "the Blood of God." He wasn't Jew, neither was He Gentile." (63-0412E, God Hiding Himself In Simplicity, Western Skies Motel, Albuquerque, NM)

"he has purchased with his own blood. Who purchased? Whose Blood was that? The Bible said it was God's Blood. God, with His own Blood ... Is that right? ... The Bible said we're saved by the Blood of God." (60-1205, The Ephesian Church Age, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"We wasn't even saved by human blood. We were saved by the Blood of God." (60-0731, Show Us The Father And It Will Satisfy Us, Eisenhower High School, Yakima, WA)

While one may first find this an acceptable statement it actually denies the humanity of Jesus. His blood came from his humanity not His deity. Nowhere does the Bible teach God has blood, when it says *"He purchased (the church) with His own blood"* (Acts 20:28), it is referring to humanity, as only creatures have blood. It is spoken of in Scripture as the blood of Christ or Jesus Christ (being God in human flesh). The Blood was not God's blood (who is Spirit) but the blood from the human Gods life was in by the incarnation of the Son of God.

The communion statement proves it is of his humanity, *this is my body, this is my blood* (1 Cor.11:25, 27).

1 Peter 1:19 *"but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."* His body being the lamb of sacrifice, it was not common blood but pure, without sin (Heb.10:29). Neither his body nor his blood were God (though at times Branham mistakenly said they were).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



A.H. Strong states “two natures are organically and indissolubly united, yet so that no third nature is formed thereby. In brief, to use the antiquated dictum, orthodox doctrine forbids us either to divide the person or to confound the natures.” (Augustus H. Strong, D.D., *Systematic Theology*, Judson Press, 1985 reprint, p. 673).

John Gill comments: “which he hath purchased with his own blood; which being the blood not only of a pure and innocent man, but of one that is truly and properly God as well as man, was a sufficient ransom price to redeem the church and people of God from sin, the law, its curse and condemnation: so that this is no inconsiderable proof of the true and proper deity of Christ.”

Heb. 9:14 explains this “how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God.”

Because the life within was deity, this can be said, but not the way Branham explained it. The reason Jesus blood does not just cover sin as animals blood did in the Old Testament is because he was the eternal God that was the life within. This is why it is called *the blood of the eternal covenant* (Heb.13:20), he is “*the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel*” (Heb.12:24).

God as Spirit does not have blood. The Bible says of all life, the life of the flesh is in the blood, this being in reference to Jesus being a priest who brings the blood into the Holy place (Heb. 9:12). Hebrews 10:6 “*Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me”* (this being the end of the continual sacrifices by his own).

“*Now notice. Now, it must be kinsman. So, you see, an Angel couldn't do it; a man couldn't do it; it must be a man, but he can't be born of a woman-a sex act. So the virgin birth, the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary, therefore, Jesus was not a Jew. Jesus was not a Gentile. Jesus was God, exactly. His Blood didn't come from any sex act. He was the holy created Blood of God. And we're not saved by Jewish blood, neither are we saved by*

Gentile blood.” (The Revelation of the Seven Seals, p.88)

True, His blood did not come from a sexual act but this does not mean he cannot be fully human.

Branham challenged the Bible by saying, *now, you've heard people say, “We were saved by Jewish blood.” We could not be saved by Jewish blood. It's just as sinful as any other blood. “We were saved by the blood of Gentile?” No, sir. We wasn't even saved by human blood. We were saved by the Blood of God, God's Blood. The--the germ of life comes from the blood cell, and the Blood Cell here came from God the Creator, Who created a Blood Cell that brought forth the Son of God.*” (60-0731, Show

Us The Father And It Will Satisfy Us, Eisenhower High School, Yakima, WA)

Branham would occasionally say the right thing and contradict his wrong doctrine when it suited him. “*She Samaritan woman, well, she was a--a lady, just like any other woman. **But Jesus was a Jew, and she was a Samaritan.***” (54-0320, *Faith Cometh By Hearing*, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL).

“*Jesus was a Jew; she was a Samaritan.*” (59-0815, *As The Eagle Stirreth Up Her Nest*, Miami Valley Chautauqua Campgrounds, Chautauqua, OH)

In this matter he said the right thing by mistake. A true prophet does not emphatically teach something one way and then contradict themselves by teaching the opposite.

“Son of”

The phrase “Son of” is used among the Hebrews to refer to one who has the same nature (or characteristic) as the one it is attached to. Son of God means Jesus is God just as the Father is God. When the Son of God took on human flesh He added another nature to His deity, humanity. He was one person, with two natures. Prior to this He was one person (the Son) with one nature, divine.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



The Son of Man - The Son of Man in the Old Testament carries the meaning of one born of humanity. He is a man coming from within the lineage of humanity. When used of Jesus it can show his humanity accompanying his deity (as it was a Messianic title in the book of Daniel).

The Bible says God sent forth His Son, *born of a woman*" (Gal. 4:4) and that he was indeed a Jew in the flesh, (Jn.1:11, 4:9) Mt.2:6 God came to us "in flesh" as the Bible teaches. The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: (Matt 1:1) she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus (Matt 1:25 also Lk.3:23-38). You cannot be the son of any of these unless there is a lineage. This becomes a denial of his full humanity with deity. "*Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh* (Rom. 1:3). He could not be called the Son of David, unless he was the seed of the woman. Nor the Son of Man unless he was born into humanity, specifically the Jewish lineage.

Branham says "*But remember, when Nathanael came to Jesus, ... Jesus said to him when he was in the prayer line, said, "Behold, a Israelite in whom there is no guile." He said, "When did You know me, Rabbi? Whence knowest Thou me?" Said, "When you were under the tree before Philip called you, I knew you." And he said, "Thou art the Son of God, the King of Israel."* (50-0711, Ministry Explained, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN)

How confused is Branham? An Israelite is Hebrew, a Jew (as Paul makes clear in Romans 11:1).

John 1:45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "*We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote-- Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.*" Clearly Moses spoke of the Messiah being a Jew, not some new type man that was neither Jew nor Gentile.

Christ being the "Son of David is found all through Scripture (Matthew 9:27; 12:23; 21:9; John 7:42).

The Seed of David

He is from the Tribe of Judah and is not assigned this because he was born in Israel, but because of lineage and Matthew and Luke both trace the genealogy.

Luke's genealogy traces the line of Mary proving Jesus was in the Davidic line, 3:31-32. Luke wrote his history for the instruction of the Gentiles, extends his genealogy to Adam, to show that Christ was the seed of the woman (Luke 3:21-38). Matthew wrote to the Jews, and extends his genealogy to Abraham (the Father of the Jews) through whom the promise of the Messiah was given to the Jews.

Matthew 1:1 begins with "*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son*

of Abraham:" and in v.31-32 "*the son of Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse, the son of Obed.*"

If Jesus is not a Jew He would have no claim to be the Messiah. He could not fulfill the Davidic covenant and His genealogy would not be accurate. Psalms 89:3-4 "*I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: Your seed I will establish forever, And build up your throne to all generations.*"

The King of Israel was to come from David's SEED. It was a covenant promise. Therefore Branham is extremely wrong on this and this affects many other doctrines. 2 Samuel 7:12 "*When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.*"

It was necessary for Mary to be a descendant from the House of David for Jesus to be a legitimate heir to the Throne of David. The Lord establishes this promise in 1 Chron. 17:11-12 as the Lord sends the prophet Nathan to David, "*I will set up your seed after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever.*"

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Isaiah further elaborates that it is from David's loins the Messiah comes. Isa. 9:6-7: "*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever.*" Isaiah speaks of both His humanity - a Child is born; and His deity - a Son is given.

John 7:41-42 but some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? *Has not the Scripture said that the*

Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?"

Jesus asked "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David" (Mt. 22:42-43). They spoke correctly.

Referring to God's approval of David "From this man's seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior—Jesus" (Acts 13:23-24). Romans 1:3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh" 2 Tim. 2:8 "Remember that Jesus Christ, **of the seed of David**, was raised from the dead according to my gospel."

Notice he is called the seed of David, which could only come through humanity, specifically Mary.

All these Scriptures refute Branham's statement of Jesus having no connection to Mary. "*And He was not no man, Jew or Gentile, He was God created in flesh.*" (63-1214, *Why Little Bethlehem*, Ramada Inn, Phoenix, AZ)

John 2:13-15 "Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem." He goes into the temple which would be impossible unless he was a Jew. In fact we constantly see Jesus going up to Jerusalem for the Feasts as was required of Jews (John 5:1-2; 7:11).

Matt 2:2 records the Magi saying, "*Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?"* Mark 15:12-13 "*What then do you want me to do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?"*

Matt 27:11 Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, "*Are You the King of the Jews?"* So Jesus said to him, "*It is as you say.*" Could a non Jew be their king? Would not Jesus know who he is?

Luke 23:38 "*And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.*" It was the Jewish leaders in rebellion that did not recognize Jesus, one of their own brethren as their king.

Deut 18:15 "*The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren, Him you shall hear.*" V.18-19 "*I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.*"

We read of those who identified Jesus as the prophet Moses spoke of. John 6:14 Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "*This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.*" John 7:40 "*Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, 'Truly this is the Prophet.'*"

Just as it says in John 1:11 "*He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him,*" meaning his own ethnicity.

Jesus said "Go and tell *My brethren* to go to Galilee" (Matt 28:10). John 20:17 to Mary "*go to My brethren.*"

John 4:9 Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "*How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?*" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans? V.19-20 The Samaritan woman said to Jesus ... "and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." V. 22 Jesus said to her, "*You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.*" How could Jesus say

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



this unless he was one of them? Salvation is of the Jews is not possible unless the one who brought salvation was a Jew.

Branham's Jesus was not a Jew, then when Scripture states "salvation is of the Jews" is false. God promised "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 22:18; 28:14). Then this promised seed through Abraham is false and Peter is then a false preacher since he quoted this in Acts 3:25, as did Paul in Acts 13:23. Yet Paul makes it clear in Gal 3:16 Abraham and his Seed is Christ, v.19 Jesus is the fulfilled promise. Jesus descended to Abraham through Jacob, John 1:11 "He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him." His own what? Ethnic group, people.

"I kindly throw my hands a whole lot. I'm a little Jewish, so I better move this before I break it for the company. Jewish? Sure, I am a Jew. Somebody said not long ago, said, "Brother Bran-ham, are you any relation to Father Abraham?" I said, "He was my father." That's right, isn't it... we're dead in Christ, take on Abraham's seed, and are heirs according to the promise. (54-1204, God Perfecting His Church, Faith Tabernacle, Binghamton, NY)

Branham's semantics with his name are used to make himself Jewish but then insists Jesus was not? To be of Abraham does not mean you are a Jew, Gentiles can be related to Abraham; one must be of Jacob's line to be a Jew. From Abraham through Isaac to Jacob to be Jewish.

God has no nationality as Spirit but He became a man. And the Bible says He came through the lineage of David. If He did not He would have no right to the throne of be the King of Israel. Jesus' Genealogy shows he was a Jew.

Mt. 2:6 "*But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.*"

The fact that Jesus went and read in the synagogue and was allowed in the temple proves he was a Jew.

In the last week before the Passover when Jesus entered Jerusalem they "*took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! The King of Israel!"*" (John 12:13) You could not be the king if you did not come from the Hebrew lineage.

Pilate called him a Jew (John 18). Jn. 18:35 Pilate answered, "*Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me.*" Mark 15:12 at the Trial Pilate asked the people, "*What then do you want me to do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?*" "*We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.*" (John 19:7) The Jews could only

ask Pilate this if he was one of their own. Pilate wrote in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "*Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, "I am the King of the Jews."*" (John 19:20-21; Mk.15:2) The same thing the wise men said to Herod when they were seeking out the child (Mt. 2:1-2).

John 19:40 "*Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.*" Jews did not bury Gentiles, non - Jews according to their custom. And they certainly would not use Joseph of Arimathea's tomb.

Heb. 7:14 "*For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah*" Rev. 5:5 "*Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.*"

Jesus himself says, "*I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.*" (Rev.22:16-17).

Yet Branham would say the opposite at times and agree, "*for He was the Root and the Offspring of David.*" (55-0118, This Great Warrior, David, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

If Jesus is not Jewish why does it say he is of the tribe of Judah? The scripture makes the point that

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Jesus a Jew and Branham is very wrong on two crucial points, denying his humanity and denying his lineage. The real question is why would Branham take this position?

A Gentile prophet who does not believe Jesus is a Jew is not a true prophet.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 20

Is Jesus the Holy Ghost, an angel?

"The Holy Spirit is Christ in another form. That's right. Notice, it is a Lamb that opened the Book, and the Lamb is Christ; and Christ is not seen any more from then, but He is seen in the Book of Revelations the 19th chapter, coming on a white horse." (63-0318, The First Seal, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham is saying God changes from being a human to leave heaven as spirit to be in many human form[s].

Consider Branham's teaching, does the Holy Spirit go back to heaven to mount a horse as a human?

"I believe that He returned back in the form of the Holy Ghost the second, third Person of the trinity, come back as the Comforter, and is with us, working the same thing that Jesus Christ did when He was here on earth. Now, that's either right or wrong." (52-0720E, Who Has Believed Our Report?, Civic Center, Hammond, IN, 1952)

It's not right, it's wrong. The Bible says Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, not became the Holy Spirit.

The angels said the apostles gathered to watch Jesus leave *"This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."* (Acts 1:11)

He was physically seen and taken and will return physically not invisibly as another.

Branham taught devils are nearly powerless until they can get into a person, they operate through a person, He then applies this same limitation to

"the Holy Spirit is--covers the earth but It is almost helpless until It gets into you and to me ... The earth is full of the Spirit of God, but It's poured out. But It--It cannot operate until It comes into us, we

human beings, to operate." (59-1223, Questions And Answers, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Almost helpless? Did not the Spirit of God create without man in Gen.1? Job reflects on this very fact,

"By His Spirit He adorned the heavens" (Job 26:13). *"The Spirit of God has made me"* (Job 33:4). No. It's not necessary for God's Spirit to operate by a body. God's Spirit and the spirits he created are not the same in nature.

Is Jesus the Holy Spirit an angel?

Is Gabriel the Holy Ghost? Do we have an angel living in us? Braham certainly confused them as he stated *"You say God doesn't send angels anymore. The Holy Spirit is that angel The Holy Spirit is that person."* (60-0328, Is There Anything Too Hard For The Lord?, Municipal Auditorium, Tulsa, OK)

Are we to believe we have the Holy Ghost - an angel living in us? The same angel that is Jesus?

"Now, and before God sent Jesus to the earth, He sent an Angel." (53-1205, The Resurrection, American Legion Hall, West Palm Beach, FL) Was that an angel with no name?

Not THE Angel of the Lord but an angel, which means he is not God because Branham insisted God is only "one in person." Therefore he cannot be sent by God.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"And it was the Holy Spirit came to him in the form--or Gabriel it was, the archangel." (54-1024, The Unpardonable Sin, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Angels are created beings. Branham says the Holy Spirit (which he also called a manifestation) is a creature, an angel. And this Holy Spirit had a name according to Branham, *"The Holy Ghost, the great Gabriel it was, came down and told Mary to call His Name Jesus."* (47-1221, Experiences, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

Luke 1:35 we find this same angel (Gabriel), of whom Branham speaks of *"the angel answered and said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you."*

It was not Gabriel that overshadowed her. God specifically says he did NOT use angels to create anything. In Mt.1:20 the angel tells Joseph *"that which conceived is of the Holy Spirit."* Do you believe Jesus was conceived by an angel whom Branham called Gabriel? Nowhere does the Bible identify the Holy Spirit as an angel, which is a spirit creature. The Spirit is also attributed to being the author of Holy Scripture. Do do you believe an angel inspired the Scripture when the Bible says it was God inspired?

It was Gabriel who told Mohammed he was the messenger of God. Islam teaches that Gabriel is the Holy Spirit, not Christianity. According to Branham's confusion, if the name of the Holy Spirit is Gabriel, it cannot be God. Nor can he be Jesus whom Branham called all three (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

Branham said the Holy Spirit was the angel, but his angel was not Jesus or God; but he also said he was Jesus and God!

"God's gift is the Spirit of God that came down in the form of an Angel. Now, He didn't have wings. He looked like a man." (50-0713 Obey the voice of an angel)

Here Branham is stating his angel is the Spirit of God, which he also taught was Jesus.

"...is the same One here tonight I believe that that same Angel anoints us, because It was God. Do you believe it?" (62- 0610 Convinced Than Concerned).

Yet he also said *"See, when the Angel of God, the Holy Ghost, God Himself."* (55-0228, Separation From Unbelief, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

Branham would say at times *"the Holy Spirit is God."* (53-1112, Demonology, Sport Center, Owensboro, KY)

Which is hard to reconcile with calling him being called the angel Gabriel; which means like God.

This angel he waited for is described *"this great Spirit that's among us is the Holy Spirit."* (59-1004E, *Why Cry? Speak!*, Faith Assembly, Clarksville, IN.)

But it couldn't be because he said numerous times the Holy Spirit is Jesus, and that his angel is NOT Jesus. He said the angel never told him his name.

"I believe, from the Holy Spirit. The Angel of the Lord that comes is not the Lord Jesus." (55-0117, How The Angel Came To Me, And His Commission; Footprints on the Sands of Time, p.60).

So he was confused in his own doctrine *"...stood the Angel of the Lord with His--that Man Who comes to me. Who He is? ... I don't know what His Name is. He's never told me."* (48-0302, Experiences, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"I do not pray in the name of the Angel, or even know His name. But if you'll check the Scriptures, when God sends His people, it's an Angel that directs them." (48-0304, The Angel Of God, Phoenix, AZ)

His statement that the angel is not Jesus, but an unidentified angel (who he happened to identify and call Gabriel) should make anyone consider that something else is operating here. He told people Jesus came back as the Holy Spirit and that he was the same pillar of fire (Jesus) who was in the Old Testament. Contrary to his use of Jesus' name, with this much confusion on the identity of his angel, it

should prompt those who have real Holy Spirit discernment to see that something other than God is operating.

Furthermore, this angel who is Jesus is the Father according to Branham's Modalistic view.

"In the 1st chapter of Saint John, after the Father had come upon Him in the form of a dove ... the Father represented Himself as a bird." (58-0501, We Would See Jesus, Manhattan Center, New York, NY)

The Bible says it was God's Spirit (Mt.3:16; Mk.1:10; Lk. 3:22; Jn.1:32)

So the Father who is supposed to be in Jesus from conception was the Father that spoke from heaven and the Father came upon him as a dove. That does not make any Biblical sense.

This only proves that if you begin with a wrong premise as your foundation you cannot arrive at the right interpretation (conclusion).

Waiting for the angel

Branham spoke of his waiting for the angel to operate in the gift.

You say, "Brother Branham, you're stalling." I know it. That's exactly right. I'm waiting for Him... If He doesn't help, come to me, I'll just dismiss the audience with prayer or...?... I'm

waiting for Him." (58-0207, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, South Bend Gospel Tabernacle, South Bend, IN)

"I'm waiting for the Angel of the Lord; which I'm absolutely, perfectly helpless without Him. But I know with Him, I can do all things. And I know, when He comes here, then a little while I become unconscious." (53-1109, Africa Trip Report, National Guard Armory, Owensboro, KY)

The Bible teaches that we can do all things through Christ, not an angel. We do things consciously not unconsciously, especially when we are ministering for God.

Branham would explain how it works,

"I'm waiting for that Angel of the Lord to come ... how could I do anything. I can't. It's Him... It's not me. He is using my voice, but it's not me. It's Him.... Now, at this time through Jesus Christ's Name, I take this group of people under my control for the glory of God and every spirit in here to be subject to the Holy Spirit." (56-0427, Faith, Abundant Life Center, Charlotte, NC)

"He is using my voice. If He uses my voice to tell sickness, afflictions and things" (64-0213, Then Jesus Came And Called, Elliott Auditorium, Tulare, CA)

That would be considered channeling when a spirit uses our vocal chords. He described this early on, *"the time has come perhaps for Him to speak Himself. ... And I pray that You'll speak Yourself now, Lord; and may this poor, unworthy man, just be so completely yielded to the Spirit of God, until the Holy Spirit will stand here and take the body, and the lips and speak with His own voice."* (54-0403, The Hand Of The Lord Came Upon Him, The Church Of The Open Door, Louisville, KY)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Giving any spirit control over their voice and mind is what is called channeling. Furthermore, no one should have control over the people, especially when using Jesus' name.

Branham also confused the angel with the anointing which is the Holy Spirit. "I'm waiting for His anointing, the Angel of the Lord..." (58-0523, We Would See Jesus, City Auditorium, Concord, NH)

Branham said his anointing came from his angel. "What are you stalling for, Brother Branham?" "I'm waiting for Him. That's exactly... If He doesn't come, I can't do nothing. But if He does anoint me, I can do it." (60-0713, Blind Bartimaeus, City High School, Klamath Falls, OR

"and I know He's here at the platform. But I--I'm looking for His anointing." (55-1003, Faith In Action, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL) "I'm waiting for that anointing to come down, that blessed Holy Spirit to do the anointing." (57-1229, Faith, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN; 59-

0329E, The Sign Of The Messiah, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

So he, the angel is present, but the anointing which Branham understood as the activity was not taking place until he began to move. Branham would confuse the anointing from his angel with the Holy Spirit.

An interpreter asked Branham: "Do you think your power to heal comes from the Holy Spirit?" "No." Branham replied, "my Angel does it." (Kurt Koch, "Occult Bondage and Deliverance" (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1972), p.50

"Years ago (William Branham) told his interpreter, Pastor Ruff, "If my angel does not give the sign, I cannot heal." Ruff noticed several features of spiritism in the work of Branham, and therefore stopped working with him. These "angels" of whom (Harry) Edwards

and Branham spoke are evil spirits masquerading as angels of light. As in many areas of the occult, we are here reminded again that the devil appears as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14) Another evidence is the fact that neither Edwards nor Branham were able to perform cures when faced with born-again Christians who had committed themselves to the protection of Christ. In the case of Branham, I have experienced this myself. When he spoke in Karlsruhe and Lausanne, there were several believers among the audience -- including myself -- who prayed along these lines: "Lord, if this man's powers are from You, then bless and use him, but if the healing gifts are not from You, then hinder him." The result? On both occasions Branham said from the platform, "There are disturbing powers here. I can do nothing." (Kurt Koch, Occult ABC, 1978, p. 235)

Jesus came back as the HOLY SPIRIT

Branham spoke of three manifestations in different dispensations "the Fatherhood, the Sonship, and the Holy Spirit dispensation." (53-0607E, A Testimony, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN, no audio)

"He was manifested in the Fatherhood; He was manifested in the Sonship. He's manifested now in

the dispensation of the Holy Spirit. We're living not in the Christian dispensation, but in the Holy Spirit dispensation. It's the--the Acts of Holy Spirit in the church." (53-0216, My Angel Shall Go Before Thee, Pentecostal Holiness Church, Tallahassee, FL)

The Holy Spirit, not an angel, began the age of the church at Pentecost. The actual name of the book of Acts is "the Acts of the apostles" not the acts of the church. We are in the same dispensation that began at Pentecost, not another.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



“The Holy Ghost dispensation come in, and continued on, and will continue on, by the administration of Angels to the Church. Truly. But they're ordained Spirits of God, sent from God, to--to carry the--the things out.” (50-0227, *God In His People*, Robinson Coliseum, Little Rock, AR)

Angels have always been sent to minister to people and the church from the Old Testament onward.

Branham confused the Holy Spirit with The Angel of the Lord, a Christophany that was only in the Old Testament. Furthermore, why does an angel not come to us as it did with Branham if he is the Holy Spirit, why does an angel not anoint us?

“If it was the Angel of the covenant, then it was the Lord Jesus; It was God the Holy Spirit.” (53-0216, *My Angel Shall Go Before Thee*, Pentecostal Holiness Church, Tallahassee, FL)

So this angel is not Jesus the Son but is Jesus the Holy Spirit. Which he dubbed to be the Son of God only when he returned at Pentecost.

Speaking of the Angel of the Lord *“... By the way, night before last, I seen Him again in the room for the first time for about six months ... But He never spoke to me. He was just standing by the door looking at me when I turned around. Kinda quickly, I fell on my face. But when I raised up, He was gone again.”* (47-1123, *The Children Of Israel*, Shiner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

Falling on your face is an act of worship. It's not like Branham did not know who this angel is, he said he was NOT Jesus. So who was he prostrating before?

Why did this angel not correct Branham who told us *“And a true angel would not stand to be worshipped. No. The angel of God will not stand to be worshipped. He'll say, “Worship God,”*

every time. And he'll declare Jesus Christ to be the Son of God every time. And he'll give all praise and all glory to God, take none for himself.” (54-0401, *God's Preparation*, The Church Of The Open Door, Louisville, KY)

Subtleties are part of discerning when one pays attention. Branham denied throughout his ministry that Jesus was the Son of God. He insisted he was the Son of man and became the Son of God when he returned as the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

What does the Bible say about worship of angels? Col. 2:18-19 *“Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind...”*

At times he would treat the angel as deity and prayed to him as you would God, though he denied that he was praying or worshipping the angel.

“I bow to ask You with all my heart. Angel of God, You Who came into the room that night, and told me these things...” (48-0302, *Experiences*, Shiner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

He led others to pray *“Father, I confess my sins. I want the Angel of God to cleanse me from that by the Blood of Jesus.”* (62-0909E, *In His Presence*, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

What confusion presented to the people that are gathered.

“The Holy Spirit is hovered ... Here's the Angel of God standing right ... the very Angel you see on the picture, standing right here above them right now (That's right.), just ready to pour Hisself into every believer ... raise up your hands and thank Him for it. Say, “Thank You, Lord Jesus. I'm so grateful that

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



You give me the baptism of the Holy Spirit," and you'll feel the power of God surge through your

body." (53-1129A, The Faith That Was Once Delivered To The Saints, American Legion Hall, West Palm Beach, FL)

Considering that this the angel of God is not Jesus, he is called Gabriel (but he says he does not know his name) He is to be poured into the believers (that will certainly fill you with power), calling it the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Are we to be filled by an angel? Exactly where does it say this in the Bible?

He also taught the Holy Spirit is the Father that indwells us, therefore we pray to the *indwelling* Spirit.

In a discussion with someone *I said, "Then Who do you pray to? Where is He at when you are praying to Him? When, you claim you have Him, and yet you're praying to Him." See?* (63-0804E, Calling Jesus On The Scene, Marigold Center, Chicago, IL; 62-0118, Convinced Then Concerned, Full Gospel Church, Tempe, AZ)

Someone asked me, said, "Well, then how could He pray to the Father, if the Father was in Him?" I said, "How do you pray to the Father, if the Father's in You?" See, there you are. You pray to the Holy Ghost so ... You sure do. See?" (Someone asked me, said, "Then how did, who did He pray to in the Garden of Gethsemane?"

Where does the Bible say we pray to the Holy Ghost that dwells within you? Or pray to the indwelling Christ. This contradicted Jesus Who said while he was on earth, "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven..." (Mt. 6: 9).

The Bible teaches that we are still to pray to the Father who is in heaven (not to the Holy Spirit) who according to Branham apparently is a non-existent manifestation.

Jude 20 "But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit." Not praying TO the Holy Spirit!

"the Holy Spirit is here now which is the Lord Jesus Christ in His resurrection." (53-1129E, Testimony, American Legion Hall, West Palm Beach, FL)

"What did Paul see Him after His resurrection? What did He look like? A Light, on his road to Damascus. ... Who was He? The Pillar of Fire that led the children of Israel. ... And when Paul seen Him, He was the Logos. That's what He is tonight." (57-0125, Hear Ye Him, Memorial Hall, Lima, OH)

Some of the terms He described the Logos were: a little white Light, a Halo, a theophany, the only visible form the Spirit had, which is a body shape, a man, and the father.

The logos is a spirit that looks like a man according to Branham, which means Jesus was no longer in a physical body. According to Branham Jesus changed back into the logos, a theophany. Which means he discarded use of his physical body came as the Holy Spirit whom Branham called the Son of God.

*"MY REVELATION by the Holy Spirit is: **Christ, and the Holy Spirit is the selfsame person, only in a different form** ... Now, that is one of the mysteries of the last days, how that Christ can be the three persons in One. It is not three different people--Father, Son, and Holy Ghost--being three gods as the trinitarians try to tell us it is. It's three manifestations of the same Person, or you might call it three offices ... Notice now, the Holy Spirit and the revelation and Christ is **another form That's right.**"* (The Revelation of the Seven Seals, p.156-157)

The Son "comes back in the form of the third Person of the trinity, the Holy Spirit, and dwells in us, and moves, and proves Himself to be the same Lord Jesus." (58-

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



0208, The Queen Of The South, South Bend Gospel Tabernacle, South Bend, IN)

So the Holy Spirit revealed to him he is Jesus, who is the Father. Branham insisted "The Holy Ghost is the Son of God; ... You don't believe He's the Son of God, you're lost." (64-0427 A Trial)

This brings even more confusion on God. According to Branham He was not the Son of God when He incarnated as man but is now the Son of God AFTER the resurrection when he returned as spirit. That is a reverse of the Scripture. He was the Son of God before he became man, he was the Son of God when he incarnated and He still is.

Branham's Oneness view on this is no different than the Jehovah's Witnesses view of Christ coming secretly in 1914. If Jesus is the Holy Spirit appearing around the world, then we have no future Second Coming? He came again, as the Son of God. So then we have an invisible second coming of Jesus at Pentecost. This means we have already experienced the 2nd coming of Christ, by the sending of the Holy Spirit almost 2,000 years ago at Pentecost. Are we to believe the Spirit will leave again and take his body in heaven to come back bodily in the flesh as Jesus? Branham did.

The Bible has a different view. Acts 1:11 "This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." The Holy Spirit is not Jesus. He left in his body seen by his disciples and will return to earth in the same body in which He ascended in, descending just as he ascended bodily.

Luke 21:27: "Then they will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." In the book of Rev.1:7 "Behold, he is coming with the clouds and every eye will behold him, even those who pierced him." This is the same Jesus that will come back. To say he came back

already as the Holy Spirit is to have a DIFFERENT Jesus, because the Holy Spirit is not Jesus.

He left physically and will come back to earth physically by descending from the sky and seen by all, there was no invisible coming to earth as Spirit (Mt. 24:30).

Exactly who is changing God's Word? Branham. The Scriptural way Christ is to come back is physically, not as spirit. The Bible says He comes and sets up his kingdom on earth. Jesus did not say He would come back as the Holy Spirit. I do not know of anyone who taught that this same Jesus returned to be in us, only Branham.

Jesus not only says he is not the Holy Spirit that returned, He proved this by His glorified body sitting at the right hand of the Father in heaven. In Lk.22:69, "Hereafter the Son of man will sit at the right hand of the power of God."

Branham said "I believe that He will come physically in a body form someday, the same Jesus, went away. The Spirit will be taken from the church back to the body of Christ, and He will return again in physical form, just as He went away..." (54-0724, A Personal Experience With God, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

What Branham is implying is that the physical Jesus does not have the Spirit in heaven, because he returned to earth as the Spirit.

There are times he would say what is accurate "The Holy Spirit is here now on earth, but Jesus Christ is setting at the right hand of the Majesty on high." (54-0720A, The Maniac Of Gadara, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

The Bible teaches that the Son came in a human body, he died in a human body and rose in a human body that was glorified before He ascended (1 Jn.4, 2 Jn.7-9), which he continues to be in for all eternity. For now he is sitting at

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



the right hand of God (the Father) interceding as the God-man.

1 Tim. 2:5 *“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.”* Heb. 10:12 *“But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God”* (also Heb.12:2; 1 Pt. 3:22).

This is emphasizing Jesus as being man in heaven. Priests are taken from humanity. As a mediator there must be two other parties He is mediating for. There are three separate parties, Jesus, mankind and God. Jesus is the advocate for one party (humanity) towards the other party (God), having the nature of both parties, being both human and divine. Therefore Jesus to mediate necessitates him being God and still in a human body.

Heb. 8:1: *“We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.”* Jesus is now functioning in His high priestly ministry in heaven (Romans 8:34; Heb.4:14-16, 7:24-25). He was received up to the Father and sat down next to Him continuing to function in His high priestly office. What this entails is hearing everyone who prays and answering their prayers, which would be impossible if he is just a man, a human shell.

God was revealed in the flesh, and is still in the flesh according to the Bible, at the right hand of the Father. Of course Branham did not believe this because that means there is a Tri-unity, so he redefined it.

Branham explained how man was first made, *“a word is just a thought manifested. God had us, in the beginning, in His thoughts.”* (64-1205, The Identified Masterpiece Of God, Stardust Motel, Yuma, AZ)

“a word is a thought manifested.” (63-1229M, There Is A Man Here That Can Turn On The Light, Branham Tabernacle)

Which means it became physically existent after it is spoken.

He would deny: *“Christian Science says the Holy Ghost is “a thought.” And the Bible said, “He, the Holy Ghost.” And He is a personal pronoun. It's a Person; not a thought. It's a Person.”* (57-0915M, Hebrews, Chapter Six #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville)

Branham then denied the identity of the Holy Spirit as God, telling us *“The Holy Spirit is the Word-Manifested Thought.”* (W. M. Branham, An Exposition of the Seven Church Ages, p. 155).

Branham is saying God manifested himself by thinking. This becomes problematic on many levels. If Jesus is the Holy Spirit this means he was created. But who created him? (And we should not forget that he taught God is a spirit in human form.)

He later said *“The Holy Spirit is not a thought; It is a Person. “When He, the Holy Ghost, is come...” And He is a personal pronoun, so it--it's absolutely... It--it's a Person of Christ in the form of the Holy Spirit living in you.”* (61-0519, Sirs, We Would See Jesus, United Church, Dawson Creek, BC; 62-1231, The Contest, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN; 64-1221, Why It Had To Be Shepherds, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ)

Yet he taught Jesus is the logos who was first a thought then spoken to become human form, a theophany.

If the Holy Spirit is a person then who was he sent by God since there is only one person of

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



God being manifested at a time? Was he sent by another manifestation?

Answer: he was sent by another (person), which means they are not manifestations but three eternal persons simultaneously existing as the ONE God.

So Jesus the Son of man is a manifestation, the Holy Spirit who is Jesus when he came back at Pentecost then became the Son of God whom Branham called a person. Not too confusing is it?

Heb.1:3 "Who being *the brightness of His glory* and the express image of His person."(KJV) The Greek word for person is *hupostasis* which means *what has actual existence; a substance, a real being the substantial quality, nature, used of a person or thing*. When Scripture says Jesus is the exact image of God (who is called a person), it means as a person he has the nature of God. The image is a person who is exactly like the one He is the image of. The Father is another who is a person (the Son being the image - meaning non - physical). Therefore if Jesus is a person who is the exact image of the Father, he is then another person. Furthermore, He sends "another *like Himself*" (Jn.14:16.) This makes the Holy Spirit another person as well. That makes three persons as far as I can count.

The Holy Spirit is not the Father or Jesus A Biblical explanation

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is how the nature of God, which is the nature of Jesus lives in believers. The Holy Spirit represents Jesus on earth basically the same way Jesus represented the Father on earth, but each are not the same in person.

In the gospel of John we find Jesus speaking of the Holy not as himself, but another.

"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit - the Father will send Him in My Name - will teach you all

things and remind you of everything I have told you." (Jn. 14:25-26)

Having the Father send him certainly makes the distinction of the Holy Spirit not being Jesus, especially when he is sent in "Jesus' name."

The Greek meaning to come in the name, means the authority of or a representative of another. John 5:43: "*I have come in My Father's name*," Greek- *ego erchomai*- I come, means to come from one place to another; it is used to describe persons: as in two different persons. The Father sends the helper "in my name." Jn.20:21-22: "*As the Father sent me, I also send you*." Just as Jesus sends out the disciples who are different than Himself, so the Father sent the Holy Spirit as a person different from himself. The simple rules of language do not permit any other conclusion.

In Jn.14:16 "*And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*"

Here Jesus says he will pray the father, and he will give us another (like himself) (Greek- *Allos paracletos*) which means **another** of the same kind, (stock, generation), not the same one. Does someone ask himself to do something? Who is speaking, and who is being sent? One has to do some theological gymnastics to make them the same in person. Consider also, if Jesus is speaking as a human, then the Spirit would by necessity also be human (since it is to be of the same kind).

Arndt and Gingrich defines the word *allos* as different from the subject. The word *allos* 'another' is used 34 times in John's Gospel; every time it is used personal subjects are in view showing distinction and differences. This shows a difference between one speaking and the other he is speaking of, or asking.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



In Branham's teaching God is a manifestation/attribute and each time he appears he is that (one person). So if Jesus is speaking about how he will ask *another* (the Father) to send *another* (the Holy Spirit) how can the one sent be the same person? Why ask another if he is the Father, who is also the Spirit? In Jn.14:16 how can he send another, if there is only one of him at a time? How does Jesus or the Father send the Spirit, if He is the Spirit? Is He sending an office or a manifestation of himself? How can He send another manifestation who no longer exists (as another)? Remember Branham said He becomes the Spirit, and these are modes, which He fills one at a time. According to Branham all the roles are Jesus.

Biblically Jesus sends the Spirit from the Father who is to testify of Him. The Spirit reveals Christ to us, not himself. The Holy Spirit is clearly presented as another person, distinct from Jesus, he show us things that Jesus has said, not the things he himself said. Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit as different from himself "*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you*" (John 14:26).

Yet Branham taught the Father sent himself. "*You're going to have to admit that the Holy Ghost is His Father*." (1961-0119A, *The Water Baptism*, Golden Arrow Restaurant, Beaumont, TX)

According to Branham the Holy Spirit who was sent by the Son is the Father who is called the Son of God. What did the Lord say in Deuteronomy about a different God? Prophets do not teach contrary to God's word, especially on God's nature. They do not adjust the Bibles descriptions. When one looks at the multiple distorted doctrines that Branham insisted were true coming from his mouth, the only conclusion we can reach is that he God did not send him as a prophet.

Notice all the distinctions Jesus himself made as he explained who is being sent and who is sending.

John 15:26 "*But when the Comforter (the Spirit) is come, whom I (the Son) will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me.*"

We should see that these are three identities as individuals, unless we ignore the language. But how can they be three if they don't exist simultaneously? Jesus goes on to say the Spirit of truth proceeds from the Father and will testify of *another*. If they are not different then Jesus is wrong, and he is testifying of himself, which is really no testimony at all, it would not be accepted. Are we to believe one role, or manifestation was sent to testify of another role and manifestation?

Jn. 16:5-7: "*Unless I go away, the counselor will not come to you, but If I go away I will send him to you.*" What he does not say is that he will become him and return. "*When He comes, He will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in Me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see Me; and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.*" (John 16:8-11)

So we find the Spirit is to be sent to take the place of Jesus on earth as Jesus leaves to be in heaven at the Father's side. Throughout, the Bible uses the relational pronouns of "I" and "you" to distinguish differences among persons, it does the same between the persons who are God. The Holy Spirit is identified as a Person by John, using in the Greek the masculine *ekeinos* in jn.16:13

Jn.16:13: "*However, when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will tell*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



you of things to come." The spirit will not speak of himself but what he hears he will speak.

Who is he hearing from if it's not from another? How can he be hearing from another manifestation if the other does not exist at that time? How can he not speak of himself if there is only one person as God? Doesn't this portray that the Holy Spirit is different from the Son and Father when it says what he hears he will speak. V.14: He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall take of what is mine and declare it unto you." How can he glorify Jesus if he is the same person, then he is glorifying himself! Scripture says he will glorify *another*, not himself.

The illusory circle of manifestations is seen for what it is. "Whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give to you." How can you ask the Father something when he no longer is existent? Remember Jesus became the Spirit who is now the Son of God. Branham said we can be inwardly.

Branham taught God's persons are not eternal because they are just manifestations. According to the Oneness doctrine, God exists as one person at a time. If he came back as the Spirit then the Father (role) or the Son no longer exist, since he is only one person at a time. So we can see how the nature of God is distorted if they are not all eternal as personal identities. It can't be any clearer that what Branham taught was wrong.

Jn.16:27-28: "For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God. I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father." If Jesus is the Father, how can one go to someone that he himself is? He's already there, and is that person. Everywhere he goes He is that person. Jesus separates himself from the Father in person and position, but not in nature.

Jesus said he would send ANOTHER, not himself.

Branham interpreted Jn.14:18, Jesus states "I will not leave you orphans, I will come to you" And He said, "A little while and the world seeth Me no more, yet ye shall see Me." Yeah, He's come in the form of the Holy Ghost, that same Jesus." (65-1128M, God's Only Provided Place Of Worship, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA)

Branham gives the typical Oneness view as the proof that he is the Spirit who comes back.

Let's look at this carefully. And Jesus the Son said John 16:16 "A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father" (Which makes no sense if he is the Father).

This obviously can't be the Spirit because no one can see the Spirit and previously Jesus said no man has seen the Father so this excludes him also. Because I live clearly is saying they will not be left alone because he will be raised up from the dead and be with united with them again physically. And he was, for 40 days after his resurrection as Acts 1 describes.

His disciples at the time could not understand the resurrection and Branham had the same problem with this scripture afterwards.

Later in John 16:20-29 Jesus tells them your sorrow will be turned into joy. "A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you."

He is telling them they will see him resurrected before he leaves to be with the Father. V.25 "These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father." His disciples said to Him, "See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech!"

This is why it is so important to read the portion of scripture through, for now they understood because he is not speaking with a figure of speech.

Mohammad's angel Gabriel

Mohammed had encounters with an angel called Gabriel, where he received revelations over a 23 year period that became the Qur'an.

Mohammad suffered greatly every time he received a revelation from that spirit. Al-Imam (cleric) Al-Bukhary quoted Aisha, Mohammad's wife, when she said: Harith Ibn Hesham asked the messenger of Allah: "*Messenger of Allah, how do you receive the revelation?*" "*Sometimes it comes to me like a ringing bell, and this is the hardest. When he leaves me I remember what he said*" Muhammad answered. Then he continued, "*Sometimes the angel appears to me as a man, he speaks to me and I remember what he said.*" ... *Every time the spirit came with revelation I thought I would die,*" Muhammad answered. Ibn Saad quoted Aisha when she said: *When revelation comes down to Muhammad, he submerged his head in water, his face turns pale, he feels that he is very cold and he sweats with large drops of sweating.*" (Al-Helal Magazine, December 1970, p. 73)

Mohammad had first doubted that he was being called to be a prophet by Allah. His wife and a cousin, counseled him by saying that Allah would only be truthful to him and would not

allow him to be deceived. Convinced of his angels message he wrote in the Qur'an, "Say: *"Whoever is an enemy to Gabriel-for he brings down the (revelation) to thy heart by Allah's will, a confirmation of what went before, and guidance and glad tidings for those who believe"* (2:97).

In these encounters with the angel Gabriel, sometimes he would see the angel, other times he would only hear him. Mohammed saw in human form the angel Gabriel, and a voice said to him "*You are the Messenger of God*" and *I am Gabriel.*"

The similarities with Branham cannot be overlooked.

Who is the Holy Spirit to Branham?

"and the Holy Spirit is a Light. How many knows the Bible says that? How many knows that Jesus Christ is in the form of Light now." (56-0420, When Their Eyes Were Opened, Spindale House Recreation Center, Spindale, NC) "*the Holy Spirit is a Light. I watch It.*" (63-0606, Show Us The Father, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ)

Satan is a powerful angel of light who can do miracles but what he can't have is right doctrine. Branham rarely mentioned an angel of light as a warning from the Bible because his ministry was guided by one. He believed this Angel of the Lord sent to him was an Angel of light. However Jesus never said he would send us an angel of light.

He spoke of his angel of light favorably from the beginning. *You said, "Don't you never smoke or drink, or defile your body. There will be a work for you to do when you get older." Here it is. You confirmed it by an Angel of Light.*" (56-0108, God Hath A Provided Way, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN; 56-pl-01, Prayer Line)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"what we lack in education, You make up in grace; by sending Your Angel of Light, by manifesting His power, confirming the Words to those who are poor and illiterate as we." (57-0901M, Hebrews, Chapter Three)

"There is the Angel of Light, the Spirit of God." (58-0508, The Expectations, Memorial Auditorium, Burlington, VT)

"How many knows that Jesus Christ is in the form of Light now." (56-0420, When Their Eyes Were Opened, Spindale House Recreation Center, Spindale, NC)

When ministering *"And I seen that Angel of Light standing right over the woman."* (59-0406, New

Ministry (William Branham), Angelus Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

"Between me and the lady is the Holy Spirit. It's--look like a Light to me." (55-0819, Being Led By The Holy Spirit, Unknown, Karlsruhe, Germany)

"Let the Angel of Light overshadow the child, so I can speak THUS SAITH THE LORD." (59-1115, My New Ministry, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

And he said the Bible says, *"It's a dishonorable thing for a woman to cut her hair." She does it; she dishonors her head. She dishonors the angel, the angel of Light."* (62-0705, Jehovah-Jireh #1, Municipal Auditorium, Grass Valley, CA)

"... I was setting in the room, been in prayer. And just then, the Light begin to gather up. And It gathered up to the Angel, and It got into the Angel. The Angel went up into that little Light, Pillar of Fire that you seen tonight." (50-0813E God revealing himself to His People)

"Notice, this is the Angel of Light. Remember, the last Angel, it's the Angel in the church age to the Laodicea. It's the Laodicea messenger,... Because the very next chapter is the 19 chapter, which is the coming Bride. And this is in the Scripture, the last Angel that came to bring Light before the coming of the Bride to go meet Christ. It was the Laodicean church age then. What was the Laodicean church age messenger? Calling them out of Babylon. Look. Churches caught in her cage with her, with her dogmas, denying the Word and accepting dogmas. This is the Angel of Light to the Laodicean church that had rejected Christ and His Word for dogma and had put Him outside." (62-1111E, Why I'm Against Organized Religion, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

And we are told the angel to Laodicea is Branham, who happened to form his own denomination that is not to be called a denomination.

Branham attributes his angel to be an angel of light yet on rare occasions he would say accurately what the Bible said *"Why, Satan come down in the garden of Eden as an angel of light."* (60-0626, The Unfailing Realities of The Living God, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

The Bible was referred to *"go with me now over to 2 Corinthians 11:14, the Bible said he transformed himself into an angel of light. You just underestimate Satan; that's all. See? Yes, sir. He made himself into an angel of light."* (61-0216, The Mark Of The Beast And The Seal Of God #1, First Assembly Of God Of Long Beach, Long Beach, CA)

Exactly who underestimated Satan and his ability to deceive?

2 Cor. 11:15 goes on to clarify *"Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works."

This is the only place in the Bible the term angel of light is used, and it is for Satan and his ministers who disguise themselves. Yet Branham applied it to his angel. Do you receive Paul's warning, or ignore it.

Remember he has told us this light is his angel, the gift sent, and it is not Jesus. He did not know the angel of light's name. Yet he also mistakenly taught it was the pillar of fire who was God, Jesus in the Old Testament. And he would also name him Gabriel and said he was not Jesus.

"When the devil would appear like an angel of light. But you watch, he'll be a little bit off the Word. He appeared to Eve as an angel of light, told her, "Sure, the Lord said this, the Lord said this," but he disagreed with God right at the end." (62-0204, Communion, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

By Branham's own admission this angel of light IS Branham's angel.

"And now, Father, come. Send the Angel of God, that upon whom the kings of the earth, potentates, monarchs, around the world, in great revival, has seen the great mystic thing of that supernatural Being, standing. Knowing that He's standing right here at the platform this minute, will you let Him, Father, in the presence of this audience, come into the service, get into every heart out there, and take over Thy servant here." (55-0227E, The Healing Of Jairus' Daughter, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

How dangerous is it to not know the name of this spiritual being and give him control over oneself.

Let's sum this up, the Holy Spirit is called Gabriel, is Branham's personal angel who never said his name to him since he was a child. He is the Father, he is the Son, both whose name is

Jesus. Let me ask you does this clarify or confuse the matter?

Branham insisted that for those who claim to have the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth. "Oh," he said, "we've got the Holy Ghost." I said, "Let me tell you, brother, if you had the Holy Ghost you'd believe that message." (53-0508 God commissioning Moses, Jonesboro, AR)

I can unequivocally tell you that if you believe this confusion, the message of William Branham the Spirit of truth is quenched. For his message is not from the Holy Ghost who testifies of Jesus, for it testifies of his unknown angel.

Branham's cryptic theology was the Bible plus. He added Mysticism, Gnosticism and his own imagination which makes it all his own revelation, we can title it "Branhamology."

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 21

The Trinity according to Branham or the Bible

There is probably no other doctrine defended with vigor in unison by the early church writers than the Trinity. Those who were connected to the original apostles to those far and wide in the early church's expansion to other continents, the majority believed this to be the revealed biblical definition of God's nature.

When one does not have a proper perspective on God's nature as triune they can come up with just about any explanation. Branham certainly did.

Branham later launched his own campaign against the Roman Catholic Church and included all of Christianity by attacking the Trinity, the doctrine that was held from the early church, long before Roman Catholicism was formed by Constantine.

Branham condemned the Trinity but at the same time he had no problem using people that were believers in the Trinity to insure himself into the line of the prophets, specifically his teaching of 7 angels to the 7 churches (all but him were Trinitarians, really).

While he *claimed to believe in the Trinity*, he defined it as ancient oneness does; he never understood it as a Tri-unity, three persons (not human or physical) existing simultaneously as the one God. There were times when he did describe God in a Trinitarian fashion either by mistake or to ingratiate himself to the audience that he spoke before.

The early church spoke against the first offenders of the nature of God, the modalists (as

Branham). They later also spoke against the Arians who claimed Jesus was created (as Branham did).

There refutes were from Scripture, not ad hominem attacks like

Branham's were. One would think after 1,800 years the modalists arguments would be more refined but they are recalcitrant, the same ones refuted in the first centuries of the church are recirculated.

The main promoters who were holding the Monarchian (modalism, oneness view) were Noetus, Praxeus, Sabellius, Cerinthus, Paul of Samosata. Other names were Epigonus, Cleomones, Commodian, Ebion, Theodotus of Byzantine, Hermogenes, Carpocrates, Valentius, and Eunomius. We also have Callistus and Zephyrinus were two Roman bishops.

Sabellius said, "*the existence of a divine monad (which he named the huiopater) which by a process of expansion projected itself successively in revelation as the Father, Son, Holy Spirit*" (Elwells Evangelical Dictionary of Theology p.727).

Hippolytus, (early 200's) a defender of the Trinity tells us that Zephyrinus supported Cleomenes, who was a leading Roman supporter of the Monarchian heresy. Monarchians held that the unity or "monarchy" of the Father did not imply the independence of the Son. Sabellius, one of the main proponents of the Modalists, spoke of the Godhead being differentiated only by successive modes or operations; that Jesus was God by derivation, that is, by an influence from the Father on his human person; and that the Father suffered as the Son.

A. Harnack in his book the History of Dogma actually states that "*Modalism...was for almost a generation the official theory in Rome*" (3:53). This certainly proposes a problem for those who claim a

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Roman origin for the concept of the Trinity. Rome did not promote the Trinity, it is the very opposite.

Zephyrinus (210 AD.) and Callistus (220 AD.) were the first bishops to claim Mt.16:18 (supreme Pope) to themselves, both were Modalistic in their view of God.

Early modalism was dealt a deathblow in the early church by the pastors who were apologetists. They defeated it by explaining the Trinity from the Bible, not by philosophy.

Branham may have one time professed a Trinity but there is no showing that he truly understood it in its biblical definition. Once he met the oneness Pentecostals he was fully convinced that it was untrue. There were times where Branham made it look like he believed in the historic Trinity when he in fact did not.

"See, you believe in God; you believe in the Son, believe in the Holy Ghost; that's the Trinity. We believe in that. See?" (51-0506E, At Thy Word, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA).

"I John 5:7 said there are three that bear record in heaven: the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and-- Father, Word, and Holy Ghost, which was the Son, and these three are one. And there's three that bear record in earth: the water, Blood, and Spirit, and they agree in one; not one, but agree in one. You can't have the Father without having the Son; you can't have the Son without having the Holy Ghost, for they are inseparable, one. The trinity is in a one." (53-0608A, Demonology, Physical Realm, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN)

"You live in a three room house in your body: soul, body, and spirit. God lived in a three room house: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Everything is in a three. And a three is a triangle." (60-0630, God's Provided Approach To Divine Fellowship, Abundant Life Building, Tulsa, OK).

I do not believe Branham was a random in his reference of a TRIANGLE symbol, he mentioned it

many times. As we will see his concepts of God and his nature came from others, Gnostics and mystics.

First mentioning of the Trinity Branham said he believed in it long after he conceded to oneness. But this was not the trinity that historic Christianity describes, it was only the same in word. So either he made a mistake, was confused or purposely misled people because he denied this doctrine dozens and dozens of times.

Branham would call the Holy Spirit the third PERSON of the TRINITY *"We love Him, that great, third Person of the trinity."* (52-0713A, Early Spiritual Experiences, Civic Center, Hammond, IN).

"... for we who've accepted the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the trinity." (51-0929, Our Hope Is In God, St. Nicholas Arena, New York, NY).

"And may the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, come in now, the Promise, the Comforter, that You said You would send." (51-0729A, The Resurrection Of Lazarus, National Guard Armory, Erie, PA).

He was consistent to continue to call the Holy Spirit the *third person*: (53-1212, The Inside Man, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL; 53-0405E, Witnesses, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN; 54-0902, South Africa Testimony; St. Nicholas Arena, New York, NY, 56-0225; Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, Gospel Tabernacle, Sioux Falls, SD; 58-0316E; Door To The Heart, National Guard Armory, Harrisonburg, VA; 58-0208, The Queen Of The South, South Bend Gospel Tabernacle, South Bend, IN).

However, later in 1952 still calling the Holy Spirit the third person he began to introduce his confusion: *"Now, if Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and do we believe that the Holy Spirit is on earth today? How many believes that? Well, that Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit of God. Is that right? The third Person of the trinity, Jesus Christ."* *"... And I believe when it said that "Jesus was the same yesterday, today, and for ever." I believe that Jesus made a way that He could be with*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



us, as He said, "A little while, the world seeth Me no more; yet you shall. For I will be with you, even in you, to the end of the world." I believe that He returned back in the form of the Holy Ghost the second, third Person of the trinity, come back as the Comforter, and is with us, ... Now, that's either right or wrong. Now, that's the way you got to take God." (52-0720E, Who Has Believed Our Report? Civic Center, Hammond, IN).

So he began to teach Jesus IS the Holy Spirit. At times he would sound awkward using Trinitarian language.

"Then that theophany was made flesh in the Person Christ Jesus. And then all the fullness of the Trinity dwelt in Him, both Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." (57-0602, Life, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

"You can't have the Father without having the Son; you can't have the Son without having the Holy Ghost, for they are inseparable, one. The trinity is in a one." (53-0608A, Demonology, Physical Realm, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN, 1953).

He was not speaking about persons, but manifestations. And Branham taught these were each manifestations of a different dispensation. If they are inseparable, then they can't be manifestations in different ages as he taught. Furthermore, they can't all dwell in Jesus if two do not exist at the time. You can't have the Father and the spirit as simultaneous manifestations; especially when you separate the Father, the spirit and the son to different dispensations.

He then became more vocal and would confuse the persons, *"Is He a third Person of the trinity, or is He the entire trinity? He is the entire fullness of the Godhead, bodily."* (57-0825E, Hebrews, Chapter Two #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Even though Branham insisted there is no word trinity in the Bible, he used it for his own belief. How is one person, a manifestation the entire

Trinity if all three do not exist at the same time? Apparently Branham wanted to appease the Trinitarians with his language at times.

"Jesus was God. He was not no third person, fourth person, second-person; He was Person. He was God, see. He was God Emmanuel. God came down from His glory, revealed Himself ..." (The Revelation of the Seven Seals p.89).

"that this Jesus is God, Jehovah God, not a second person or a third person; it's the same Person all the time making Himself manifest..." (53-0729, Questions And Answers On Genesis, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Here we have presented the ancient heresy of modalism.

"The second man couldn't have come, the second person of the Godhead couldn't have come, the third person of the Godhead couldn't come, the fourth person. The Angels couldn't have come. God Himself come down, the highest, to be made the lowest to take away sin." (54-1024, The Unpardonable Sin, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Branham called himself a Trinitarian and change the meaning to his own unique interpretation.

*"And I know that I'm talking in here even to trinitarian ministers. And my brethren, I do not say this; I do not say this to hurt. **I'm a trinitarian too; I believe in the trinity, the--the three attributes of God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, but not three Gods. See? I believe there to be three attributes, absolutely; I do that with all my heart: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but they are not three Gods. They're just three attribute. Or other, three offices of God.** God lived once in the Fatherhood, Sonship, and now the Holy Ghost. It's the same God in three offices.... And Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, is not no Name of God. God has one Name, and His Name is Jesus. The Bible said the family in heaven is named Jesus, and the family in earth is named Jesus. That's right. So God had one Name, human Name. He was--had a name called Jehovah-Jireh,*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Jehovah-Rapha, that was His titles of Deity. But He had one Name, Jesus." (Manifested Sons Of God May 18, 1960 Branham Tabernacle Jeffersonville IN).

Where in the Old Testament is the Father or the Holy Spirit called Jesus, (before he was even incarnated and given the name by the angel?)

"We bless ... We believe in the holy trinity." You're way ... You're not even over on the paper now (See?), 'cause there's no such a thing as trinity ever mentioned in the Bible. Find the word "trinity" in the Bible ..." (60-1211M, The Ten Virgins, And The Hundred And Forty-Four Thousand Jews, Branham Tabernacle).

Try to find the word manifestations for all three in the Bible; it's not there either. This kind of convincing is meaningless. Everyone knows we use certain words to describe what a teaching is. He used the word Bible which is not found in the Scripture.

"No prophet will ever talk about three gods. You'll never hear that, no, that's pagan and heathen as where it come from." (Foot Prints Book - p.173)

No prophet spoke of three manifestations either, nor *'The Holy Spirit being the 'Word-Manifested Thought.'* Neither do Trinitarian's say they are three gods.

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever," both Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He's just the same. God isn't three people. It's a--it's a three foot rule that you let out. The same God the Father was made manifest in flesh, and now in the Holy Spirit. That's the reason the baptism is in the Name of Father, Son, Holy Ghost (See?) the trinity--the trinity, not three gods, but three persons in one God, one ... One person in three dispensations. See?" (53-0829, The Testimony Of Jesus Christ, Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, Chicago, IL).

Here Branham confused one being with the three persons of that one being. Where does the Bible say the Father was manifested in the flesh? Consider him saying God is one person in three dispensations

"God, working in three dispensations, that's the reason He spoke about calling Him "Father, Son, and Holy Ghost." See? Not three different Gods. That's where you get mixed up. It's not three different Gods. It's one God in three manifestations, see, of--of the one God. We only got one God. We're not heathens. See? But we--we got one God, but three manifestations. That's the reason Matthew said, "Baptize them in the Name of Father, Son, Holy Ghost," because, see, It was One. That same God: was in the Old Testament; was the same God was made manifest; and the same God that's here today. Jesus Christ, the same." (63-0608, Conferences, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ).

Most of his words of accusation would have been more apropos to Mormons. Three gods is what is believed by Mormons on the Trinity. The Oneness accusation is similar, as they reinterpret what Trinitarians believe, calling them three gods. Trinitarians do not believe they are *three Gods* but this is how (oneness and others) have always confused and even demonized the teaching on God's nature.

Branham used the same argument of the cults, claiming that Trinitarians believed in three gods.

The three Manifestations

"So, God is complete in the tri-unity of a Being; not tri-unity of beings, but One Being in a tri-unity. Father, Son, and Holy Ghost is one true manifested God. God!" (65-0815, And Knoweth It Not, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

This is a perfect example of Branham's lack of knowledge on the difference of being and person. So God manifested himself to be different titles and offices, but it was not just three, remember he is the pillar of fire and a cloud, both are manifestations. Why do they not count?

"God was confirmed in the trinity of Father, Son, Holy Ghost, not three gods, one God confirmed in three manifestations. God manifested Hisself as a Father, then He manifested Hisself in the Son, then He manifests Hisself in the Holy Spirit, the same

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



God every time. So ... That's not hard to see." (56-0930, Hear Ye Him, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL).

"Not three gods, not... Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, isn't three different gods. It's one God in three manifestations." (63-0804E, Calling Jesus on The Scene, Marigold Center, Chicago, IN).

"It is not three different people--Father, Son, and Holy Ghost--being three gods as the trinitarians try to tell us it is. It's three manifestations of the same Person, or you might call it three offices." (p.156 Revelation of the 7 seals)

The Bible teaches that God was manifested in the flesh and identifies that person as the Son. It's not God manifested in the flesh as the son, but *"the Son of God was manifested"* (1 Jn. 3:8). And it is not manifestations, plural. The word "manifest" is only used in reference to the person of the Son. You will not find the Scripture say the Holy Spirit or the Father were manifested in the flesh; because they were not.

Neither the Father nor the Spirit are spoken of as manifested in the flesh. Branham even changed the meaning, *"He was manifested in the Fatherhood: He was manifested in the Sonship. He's manifested now in the dispensation of the Holy Spirit. ... If it was the Angel of the covenant, then it was the Lord Jesus; It was God the Holy Spirit."* (53-0216, My Angel Shall Go Before Thee, Pentecostal Holiness Church, Tallahassee, FL).

"The same Person in a different office: not three gods; three offices of one God." (62-1014E, A Guide, Branham Tabernacle).

"All one God, in three manifestations, of three attributes of one office, or three offices in the one Godhead." (65-0218, The Seed Is Not Heir With The Shuck, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN).

"Now, Who is this great Guy, this great Fellow? Christ. Here, God in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, it's not ... It's a trinity, but It's not a trinity of people. It's a trinity of office, of one God." (57-0821,

Hebrews, Chapter One, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

This is what ancient modalism taught, one person (monad?) and three roles (offices).

Church history of the first heresy

To understand this heresy and why it was rejected we need to go to its inception.

Modalistic Monarchianism is derived from the Greek word *monarchia* which means the rule of one man. The Monarchian's principle was that God is only one. Early Modalism did not recognize these as independent identities (called persons) but the incarnation was the Father manifested.

The Trinity of Modalism is three manifestations the Father, Son, and Spirit are God under three different titles, offices or modes. Which made the New Testament inconsistent and confusing in its words and meanings.

One of the main promoters, Praxeas, taught that the Father and the Son were one identical person and that the Father became man. This became popular in Rome. Noetus held the same views as Praxeas approximately 200 A.D., teaching that *"Christ was the Father Himself, and that the Father Himself was born and suffered and died.* Callistus, who later became Pope Callixtus I (From 218 to his death 222), adopted and advocated the doctrine of Noetus, declaring the Son to be merely the manifestation of the Father in human form.

In this view they said it was the Father who suffered on the cross. So it was the Father who became incarnate through the virgin birth and suffered and died. Noetus said, *"I am under necessity, since one {God} is acknowledged, to make this one the subject of suffering. For Christ was God, and suffered on account of us, being himself the Father, that he may be able to save us."* (Hippolytus against Noetus 1)

Praxeus attempted to reconcile this unity of persons by making a distinction between Christ who is the Father and the Son who was only his humanity. Thus it was the Father who co-suffered with the

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



human Jesus. Whatever happened to the Son also happened to the Father, since they were numerically one.

The Noetians were called Praxeans, Sabellians and Patripassians. Noetus and Praxeus are attributed as saying the Father became his own Son, although historically this can be traced to Sabellius.

By the 3rd century Sabellius originally from North Africa, resided in Rome and made this into a sophisticated system ironing out any kinks. Thus the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all one and the same being, the one God who manifests Himself in different ways. In other words the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit do not have a simultaneous existence.

He claimed "*the existence of a divine monad ... by a process of expansion projected itself successively in revelation as the Father, Son, Holy Spirit*" (Elwells Evangelical Dictionary of Theology p.727).

So each appeared in different periods of time having no simultaneous appearance. The Father was the creator and law giver, the Son was the redeemer and the Holy Spirit was the giver of grace and the regenerator. Thus they are three "masks," persona in Latin, for the one who is God revealed in different roles through the ages

The majority of the church at this time rejected the teaching of Sabellianism (and modalism). This was shown to be heresy by the many pastors and apologists. According to Sabellius' teaching (name Patripassianism), it meant 'the father suffered.' Sabellians teaching of Modalism and singular name baptism was also accompanied by glossolalia and prophecy.

Branham's teaching is directly a descendent of them

Consider what John Gill writes of Simon Magus the magician in Samaria (Acts of the Apostles 8:9) *the people said had the great power of God. He professed conversion and was the first to propose this idea of Oneness teaching. He stated that there was only one person in the Godhead. The twist was that he was that person. Claiming to be the Father in Samaria, the Son in Judea, the Holy Spirit in the*

rest of the nations (from John Gill, sermons and tracts vol.3 p.513).

Manifestations are explained by Branham as, "He was manifested in the Fatherhood; He was manifested in the Sonship. He's manifested now in the dispensation of the Holy Spirit." (53-0216, My Angel Shall Go Before Thee, Pentecostal Holiness Church, Tallahassee, FL)

Before we go to more quotes, we need to understand what Branham is teaching by three manifestations and denying them as persons (different identities, consciousness). He said God is one person, but three in manifestations, which actually means NONE of them are persons.

Three manifestations instead of persons

Branham said "Jesus could not be His own father, and neither can Jesus have a father and Him being--be three gods. It--it could not work. Because if He's got a father, and a father is another man besides Him, then He had--and the Holy Ghost is another one, He's a illegitimate child." (1960-1205, The Ephesian Church Age, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

So if we are to apprehend Branham's position. Jesus, the son is a manifestation that was made by another manifestation, but they are all the same person in manifestation. That's understandable.

Then he would say the opposite.

"You're going to have to admit that the Holy Ghost is His Father. Is that right? Is the Holy Ghost His Father? Does the Bible say so? Let me read it again. That's right. Well, then, if the Bible says that the Holy Ghost is His Father, the Holy Ghost and God is the same Person, or He had two fathers. Is that right? ... Now, now either God was His Father or He wasn't His Father. And the Holy Ghost was His Father, or it wasn't His Father, or the Bible tells a lie." (1961-0119A, The Water Baptism, Golden Arrow Restaurant, Beaumont, TX).

Since all three are manifestations to Branham, how could there be a Father, especially if these

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



manifestations are reserved for different dispensations. He called all three offices. How does two or all three appear in the same dispensation? So the Holy Spirit fathered himself as another manifestation called the son?

Maybe it's not the Bible that's confusing after all.

And to the Oneness he was closely associated with in this doctrine he said, "*And you Oneness brethren ... He can't be His Own Father*" (59-0823, Palmerworm, Locust, Cankercworm, Caterpillar, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville IN).

"There's only one God. And I different agree with the organization of Pentecost that calls the Oneness like your finger is one. That's wrong. Absolutely, it's wrong. God ... Jesus couldn't have been His Own Father... If He's one like your finger's one, then what? Then He was His Own daddy. How could He have been? That's wrong. He had a Father, Jesus did." (53-0907A, Lord, Show Us The Father And It Sufficeth Us, Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, Chicago, IL).

The problem is using human wisdom to describe an infinite God. It would have been more accurate to say that our 5 fingers are what makes a hand than to say what he did.

Then in typical Branham fashion he would also say the opposite, "*You're going to have to admit that the Holy Ghost is His Father.*" (1961-0119A, *The Water Baptism*, Golden Arrow Restaurant, Beaumont, TX).

"The Holy Ghost was the Father of Jesus Christ." (60-1211M, *The Ten Virgins, And The Hundred And Forty-Four Thousand Jews*, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Then he would say, "*that Eternal One was the Father manifest in flesh, and thereby gained the title of Son.*" (The Revelation of the Seven Seals 3/17/63 A.M. Branham Tabernacle Jeffersonville, IN).

So then according to Branham Jesus is his own father, he fathered himself? The Father is his own

son? Yet if we go to other statements on God, Branham's description of Christ's deity (the son) is only an office, which was a manifestation of God.

Let's consider this, does a manifestation send another manifestation? That's what Branham taught. How is the Holy Spirit not a manifestation when Branham said all three are manifestations of the Spirit? The Bible says God is spirit, who is he a manifestation of?

"God the Father lived in the Son, which made Him God the Son, same God, expressed image of God, the seed of God manifest." (The Spoken Word is the Original Seed).

This is the oneness teaching of today, the Son is strictly his humanity only. But this statement goes against *Jesus could not be His own father*, then Branham would say "*the same God the Father was made manifest in flesh*" (53-0829, *The Testimony Of Jesus Christ*, Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, Chicago, IL)

Some questions on his teaching. Did a manifestation (the Father) send the Son or become the Son? Did the Father send the only one who is not a manifestation, or a manifestation? Did Jesus teach us to pray to a manifestation called the Father in heaven while he was the Father on earth?

When manifestations were not used Branham would substitute it by calling all three attributes, that there is a trinity of attributes called Father, Son and Holy Spirit in God. And he then says the attributes are three offices. But the offices he claimed were each in different dispensations. Which means they cannot be there simultaneously.

What an attribute is. Since this word is not found in the Bible but is used to describe aspects of God. No one says the Father and Son are attributes, and here's why.

An attribute is a quality, character, or characteristic associated with a specific person, thing or being. On this topic it is God revealing who he is.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"...it's three attributes of the same God. Not three gods--three attributes of the same God. See?" (The Revelation of the Seven Seals 1963)

"They're just three attribute. Or other, three offices of God. God lived once in the Fatherhood, Sonship, and now the Holy Ghost. It's the same God in three offices." (60-0518, Manifested Sons of God, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

He defined these three attributes as three offices of God, each are seen in different ages. So why is this wrong? Because we see all three together in the Bible, not separately manifested at different times, they are the same from eternity.

Changing the words Father and Son to fatherhood and Sonship makes them impersonal, non persons; offices. Why is there no Holy Ghosthood?

Branham changed the term persons to manifestations (offices and roles) and to attributes. So we need to see how he used these terms to understand how this so called prophet propagated a false distorted view of the nature of God that the early church defeated.

Branham took the early modalism and formed his own unique "oneness" type teaching. God as one person who manifested Himself as three different "attributes": the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, *"And in him was attributes. What is an attribute? A thought."* (The Spoken Word, Vol. III, p. 79)

So then all three, the Father, the Son and the Spirit were thoughts! None were God, but in God. Exactly who were they in if they are not God? Whose thoughts are they?

"and then in Him was attributes of Father, Son, Holy Spirit: not three gods, three offices in Him that He was to live in those dispensations. He was a Saviour; He was a King; He was a God. All these things displayed theirselves. It's the attributes of God (See?), but in that, in Him at the beginning..." (60-0626, The Unfailing Realities Of The Living God, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

So then God is not any of these, these are in him like any other attribute. If the Spirit is an attribute than we must consider that Branham said the Spirit is a thought to be made by it being spoken. Is the Holy Spirit an attribute, a manifestation of God, is that what we have in us?

"What I mean, attributes was His "thoughts." And a--a word is "a thought expressed." And then that was in His thinking." (64-0205, God Is His Own Interpreter, Kern County Fairgrounds, Bakersfield, CA)

Since the attributes are thoughts and were made how can God be a person that is that attribute?

Branham explained this in no uncertain terms, *"so He was just the great Eternal. But in Him was attributes. And attributes is thoughts. Just like you have to think of anything before you speak it; then when you speak, it becomes a word. And then He is the Eternal, and in Him was attributes. And He spoke it, and It was the Word, and the Word is made manifest. And as the Word is made manifest, it's God becoming material."* (64-0415, Christ Is Identified The Same In All Generations, Mckay Auditorium, Tampa, FL)

"in the beginning God dwelled alone, with His attributes, There was nothing, just God alone, but He had thoughts. Just like a great architect can set down, in his mind, and draw out what he thinks it's he's going to--to build. Create, now... But he gets in his mind what he's going to do, and that's his thoughts, that's his desires. Now it's a thought, and then he speaks it, and it's a word then. And a--a word is... A thought expressed is a word, but it has to be a thought first. So, it's God's attributes; then it becomes a thought, then a word." (65-0221E, Who Is This Melchisedec?, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN)

So if the Father was an attribute, a thought like the Son was, then was the Father spoken to exist? Then not only does Branham teach there is no eternal son, but there is no eternal Father. What God is he speaking about?

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Father and Son are in God as attributes

He would say this over and over:

“And in this great Being called God there was attributes. There was an attribute to be Father, an attribute to be God.” (61-0519, Sirs, We Would See Jesus, United Church, Dawson Creek, BC)

Does it make sense that an attribute in God was to be God.

“And in Him was attributes to be Father; in Him was attribute to be Son; in Him was attributes to be Saviour; in Him was attributes to be Healer; in Him was attributes to be God.” (60-0709, God's Provided Way Of Approach To Fellowship, City High School, Klamath Falls, OR)

“and then in Him was attributes of Father, Son, Holy Spirit: not three gods, three offices in Him that He was to live in those dispensations. He was a Saviour; He was a King; He was a God. All these things displayed theirselves. It's the attributes of God (See?), but in that, in Him at the beginning...” (60-0626, The Unfailing Realities Of The Living God, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Why are these only three offices when he had an attribute of savior and healer and others?

“Now, inside of this--this person God... The inside of--of this Person was a--there was attributes. And them attributes was to be Father, was to be a Healer, was to be a Saviour; that's what was in this great Person now ...Now, in there was attributes to be Father, to be a Son, to be a Saviour, to be a Healer, to be all those things” (61-0808, Thy House, House Meeting, Tifton, GA)

Inside of God who he says is a person there are attributes that will be Father, Son, savior, healer?

“Now, the three attributes of God makes one God.” (61-0119A, The Water Baptism, Golden Arrow Restaurant, Beaumont, TX)

But he says there are more than three attributes, in fact he calls the Holy Spirit and angels attributes.

“I believe, that even the Holy Spirit and Angels, and all are just attributes of God; it's just a part of God. It's His make-up; it's part of it that went off, His Spirit and so forth, that He created to be His helpers...” (51-0928, At Thy Word, St. Nicholas Arena, New York, NY)

To equate the Holy Spirit who is the eternal God to be like angels who are created shows an utter lack of understanding of God's nature. Want more proof...

“But Angelic Beings Who are attributes of God, sent forth to minister to the Church, through the people.”(52-0810A, I Am The Resurrection And The Life, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL)

Angels came out of God as attributes? No wonder he thought of the angel Gabriel to be the Holy Spirit.

Branham went on to explain that people are God's attributes also.

“In God before there ever was a world. You are a part, a son of God, an attribute of God.” (65-1204, The Rapture, Ramada Inn, Yuma, AZ) This is what is called Pantheism and it has nothing to do with what Christianity teaches.

It was Finis Dake who taught this concept of *“man, in reality, is simply a miniature of God in attributes and powers.”* (Dake's Annotated Reference Bible, Finis Jennings Dake, Old Testament, p. 587.)

“there is only one form of Eternal Life, that's God. And we are attributes of Him.” (64-0620B, Who Is Jesus?, Holiday Inn, Topeka, KS)

“the Church Itself, an attribute of God's thinking before the foundation of the world, ... So those which are in Christ was in Christ at the beginning, that was His thoughts, and His thoughts is His attributes.” (65-0429B, The Seed Shall Not Be Heir With The Shuck, Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles, CA)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



So it is clear Branham taught the attributes in God are God's thoughts. They become manifested when spoken, materialize. This is not Christianity but what would be better identified as "new thought" new age teaching. The Bible says nothing like this. Branham filled in what was not written with his own imagination and speculation.

Consider what he says of creation, "For the world is one of His attributes just the same as you are one of His attributes. The world becomes one of His attributes, because it was God's thinking in the beginning to have a world, to be on a throne, to be a King, to be a Redeemer, to be a Healer. That's His attributes, just like an attribute of you." (64-0802 Future Home Jefferson, IN)

So the world is an attribute of God just as the Father, Son and Spirit are an attribute. This diminishes the meaning of the terms, confuses creation with what the Bible teaches is uncreated making it all equal, as part of God. In other words this is another way to express pantheism.

"You're a part of God, and I'm a part of God, see; but I'm not all of God, and neither are you all of God. See? See? It's attributes of God upon us, as sons adopted by Jesus Christ." (63-1110M, Souls That Are In Prison Now, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

First, none of us are a part of God we are creatures made by him. Branham came up with some connect the dot theory convincing people of this mystical concept of man in God as an attribute before the world began.

"if we are sons and daughters of God, we are God's children, then we are attributes of God ... got Eternal Life. And God is the only Eternal Life there is. Then, we were in Him from the beginning. And when Jesus became all that Word, then we were a part of Him then." (65-0822M, Christ Is Revealed In His Own Word, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Did Jesus become the word or IS the word. Were we part of Jesus, who was an attribute?

"Did not it say in your laws, ye are gods?" Because you're an attributes of God. And then God Himself." (53-0829, The Testimony Of Jesus Christ, Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, Chicago, IL)

So if being an attribute makes you God then by the same measure the world becomes God because it too is an attribute. Anything that Branham called an attribute is God.

According to the Bible all God's attributes are eternally part of in his nature, and three persons share in the qualities of His infinite eternal nature. God does not develop nor grow in any capacity. God is not deficient but complete (Ps.139:116). God does not change (Mal.3:6)

These attributes are not thoughts that become a person[s], but are characteristics of his infinite eternal nature. His attributes reveal something of His nature. God had 72 names in the Old Testament where attributes / characteristics were associated with his name YHWH. But these are not considered manifestations or become a person each time they are used. For example he is YHWH rapha, God the healer. He is YHWH Jireh, God our provider, these are expressing characteristics of his nature in action which all attached to his name. It is the same God expressing his characteristics to man. The idea that God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit are attributes as they are roles, offices brings only more confusion to understanding his nature the way the Bible has written on it.

We are told to worship the Father, to worship the Son. Do we worship an attribute? Pray to an attribute? Because that is what he said they are.

There are communicable and uncommunicable attributes of God. These are some seen in the Bible.

So we see God does not have only three attributes which Branham secluded to be Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



| Uncommunable (qualities exclusive to God) | Communable (man can exhibit these qualities to a certain limited extent) |
|---|--|
| <i>Omnipresence</i> | NA |
| <i>Eternal life- always existing</i> | <i>Man is given Eternal life, it has a beginning but no end</i> |
| <i>Omniscience</i> | NA |
| <i>Omnipotence</i> | NA |
| <i>holiness</i> | <i>Man's holiness has a limit</i> |
| <i>truth</i> | <i>Truth can be told by man</i> |
| <i>Immutability</i> | NA |
| <i>Faithfulness</i> | <i>Faithfulness can be practiced</i> |
| <i>Perfection</i> | NA |
| <i>Righteous</i> | <i>Righteousness can be practiced</i> |
| <i>sovereign</i> | NA |
| <i>Self- Existent</i> | NA |
| <i>unchanging</i> | NA |
| <i>Grace</i> | <i>man can give grace to others</i> |
| <i>Mercy</i> | <i>man can give mercy to others</i> |
| <i>Love</i> | <i>Man's love has a limit, only God has a perfect love</i> |

“the triunity of God manifested in one Man. He was complete God and complete Man. And the trinity of God, the trinity of the attributes of God, as being Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, was represented in that one Man, Jesus Christ.” (63-0601, Come, Follow Me, House Meeting, Tucson, AZ).

Notice he describes them as representative in Jesus, which is means as an example. He even calls the human body of Jesus an attribute *“The body, Jesus, was the body of God, an attribute.”*(65-0119, The God Who Is Rich In Mercy, Westward Ho Hotel, Phoenix, AZ)

By reading Branham's explanations we can assured of one thing, Branham had presented a different nature of God than anyone else throughout church history. The only similarity is Gnosticism. His explanation of God having 7 spirits, (a heptad) were also attributes.

“And the trinity of God, the trinity of the attributes of God, as being Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, was represented in that one Man, Jesus Christ. So, there, He was the Word.” (63-0601, Come, Follow Me, House Meeting, Tucson, AZ).

Branham disagreed with both sides, oneness and Trinitarians. *“there is a group of people, call themselves the "Oneness" or the "Jesus Only." I don't agree with them upon their theory. Neither do I agree--agree with that trinitarian group that says that there are three different Gods, the extreme of the trinitarian. But I believe that the three, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, is One, that they are three offices of one God.”* (Foot Prints Book p. 372)

Trinitarians have always avoided the definition of three Gods, stating one God and three in persons.

Branham promoted that Trinity as tritheism (3 gods) and we would agree with him IF that is what the Trinity is. But there was no convincing him otherwise, because he knew how to count.

Branham's view on God certainly was more toward the Oneness slant, yet he would say he is not oneness and they were wrong too. He refused to be included in their beliefs.

“Many of you people listening to this would say, "Brother Branham is a Oneness." I am not. I think you're both wrong, both oneness and trinity. Not to be different, but it's always the middle of the road. Like Isaiah said, Isaiah 35 said, "There shall be a highway." And you Nazarene brothers, and so forth, you say." The grand old highway of holiness." I beg your pardon. it doesn't say the highway of holiness. It says, "There shall be a highway and ("and" is a conjunction) and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness." Not the highway of holiness. The way is in the middle of the road. Each side is where the off-falls is found. That's where you Oneness brethren went to on one side, Trinitarian went on the other side, but the true message lays in the center of the road.” (61-0119A, The Water Baptism, Golden Arrow Restaurant, Beaumont, TX).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Branham's always the middle of the road philosophy is preposterous. The Bible words are not a highway you choose what side to be on. It's either interpreted correctly or you are wrong. The center which he offered is his own unique position (since he fully disregarded and demonized the Trinity), he was as wrong as the Modalists were. It is Modalism that is on one side of the extreme, and Tritheism on the other extreme. He rejected these two heresies and formed his own middle ground to make his peculiar heresy.

Though he scolded Oneness, the fact is many of Branham's statements read like they were taken from the Oneness Pentecostals (Jesus only) doctrinal statements. "*The HOLY GHOST is not the third person in the Godhead, but rather the manifestation of the Spirit of God and of the resurrected Christ There are not three GODS, but three manifestations of the ONE God.*" (S. R. Hanby, *The Apostles' Doctrine* (Hazelwood, Mo. Pentecostal Publishing, n.d), 5.)

The Holy Ghost is a manifestation of the Spirit of God? What happened to God is Spirit?

Branham said, "*He wasn't no third Person, or second Person; He was the same Person...*" (54-1003M, *The Word Became Flesh* (India Trip Report), Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

"*the mystery of Who Jesus Christ was--not a third person, not the second person, not the third person, but "the" Person of God.*" (61-0730 Sixfold Purpose Gabriel visit Daniel Jefferson. IN)

"*MY REVELATION by the Holy Spirit is: Christ, and the Holy Spirit is the self same person, only in a different form ... how that Christ can be the three persons in One. ... It's three manifestations of the same Person, or you might call it three offices.*" (The Revelation of the Seven Seals, p.156-157).

What he did not realize is that his own view he called revelation was called ancient heresy and unsubstantiated from Scripture.

The trinity of manifestations dwelt in Jesus?

"*The entire Godhead was in Him. He was both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, but dwelt in a human form*" (57-0420, *The Entombment*, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

How is that possible when his explanation is that each separate manifestation is for a different dispensation, age? How can this be accepted when he claims the Father was in Jesus! He is proposing all three manifestations were in Jesus simultaneously but were not outside him in eternity before creation. Besides the Bible, his own *theological* position refutes him.

Where did Branham learn his concepts on the nature of God? When you have similarities of other teachings, matching words and concepts, than we logically come to the conclusion he was either influenced by reading or he was being taught by the same spirit that misled others.

But some of his views we do not have to speculate on, we can hear his own explanation where he learned.

"*And when Dr. Lamsa, a friend, my personal friend, was translating the Bible, that is the old Hebrew symbol of God in the true trinitarian way that He is: not three Gods, but three manifestations of the same God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Light is one complete circle of Light in a triangle shape, which means that God will dwell in three offices, the Fatherhood, Sonship, and Holy Ghost dispensation, all the same God.*" (64-0112, *Shalom*, House Meeting, Sierra Vista, AZ).

What Triangle shape? Where is this found in the Bible?

Branham not only called him friend, but also "*The great Doctor Lamsa, who translated the Bible from the Aramaic unto English.*" (60-0417M *Go Tell* Jefferson IN). Branham endorsed only one scholar – Lamsa.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Lamsa said "*The Peshitta is the only text through which we can ascertain the ancient Bible text.*" The Lamsa Bible is an English translation of the Aramaic Bible which Lamsa presented as an Aramaic primacy.

After meeting Lamsa, Branham mentioned him numerous times to endorse his position and his view of the Godhead. Why? Because Lamsa agreed with him (at least on the positions Branham was against).

Branham speaking of Lamsa, "*A few days ago, talking to the great Doctor Lamsa, who translated the Bible from the Aramaic unto English ... And I seen that little sign, God's sign on there, with three little dots in it. I said, "Doctor Lamsa, what is that?"*

He said, "It's God, with three attributes."

And I said, "You mean, God living in three offices, such as, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost?"

He raised and looked at me, tears come in that Jew's eyes; he said, "Do you believe that, Brother Branham?"

I said, "With all that's in my heart."

He threw his arms around me and said, "I wondered when I seen that great things going forth, and the signs that you were doing." Said that, "They told me you was a prophet. I didn't believe it till now. Now, I know you are." He said, "That's it. That's the message." (60-0401E Queen of Sheba, Tulsa, OK).

Lamsa's background is in the Nestorian church. In A.D. 431 the Council of Ephesus declared that the patriarch Nestorius was teaching a false view of Christ which are reflected in Lamsa's writings. Nestorius viewed Christ as a prophet inspired by the indwelling Logos. He promoted the Nestorian view that Jesus Christ was actually two persons — Jesus and Christ — who, in a manner of speaking, were glued together like two boards. Jesus, Lamsa says, began His existence at birth in Bethlehem, while "*Christ existed from the very beginning. He was neither born nor did he die, but he lives forever. This belief is still held by Christians in the East....*" (New, 150; see also 177)

For instance, Lamsa said "the Eastern Christians believe in one God with three attributes, instead of three persons." Other Nestorians also preferred the Aramaic word "attributes" (kenomey) to the Greek concept "persons" (prosopon), even though these held to the doctrine of the Trinity. (For more on the influence of Nestorianism on Lamsa, see Douglas V. Morton, "The Lamsa Connection: The Origin of Wierwille's False Christ," Quarterly Journal, Jan.-Mar. 1989, 1, 7, 9.)

Lamsa wrote that Nestorians teach that "... God, being the Eternal Spirit, life, and truth, cannot be born from a woman whom He had created, nor is He subject to death, nor can he be divided into three persons". He considered the term "three persons in God" as implying "three gods" to the average Semitic mind. He wanted rather to use the phrases "there is one God with three Kenomey attributes, instead of three persons". Lamsa then explained that the word "'Kenomey' is an Aramaic word, the nearest English equivalent for which is 'substance.'" (Lamsa, The Shorter Koran, p. 15. Referenced from the article THE LAMSA CONNECTION: THE ORIGIN OF WIERWILLE'S FALSE CHRIST by Douglas V. Morton (July 8, 2017)

"few days ago when Doctor Lamsa come to me, and never knowed nothing about that, and brought me a picture, which brother's got it there with him now... Have you got that picture? Have you got the Bible with you, laying there; it was in your book? All right. There was a picture of the old ancient Hebrew sign of God, just exactly that that existed in the days of Job, before the Bible was ever wrote. God in His three attributes, not three gods; one God in three attributes, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three offices that God worked into. Not three gods, three attributes. And there It was" (60-0515E, Adoption #1, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

This is completely false since the Triune nature was not fully revealed to the Hebrews until Jesus, the Son of God was incarnated. They knew nothing of a sign of any kind for God. To say it existed in Job's day before the Bible was written is even more

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



absurd a statement. How can he have proof of what was not written?

When the scribes were copying the Scripture when they came to write the name of God, it was so holy they would stop and wash their hands. It was not a symbol of three dots, nor a triangle.

It gets even worse as Branham extrapolates "*does anybody know the old Hebrew sign, even before there was a Bible written? Was a triangle shape, or an oval shape of a cosmic light, exactly right, the Logos. Now, Doctor Lamsa has that in his Bible, on the cover on the outside.*" "*Now we notice that Moses was attracted by this sign, and this sign spoke to Moses with a Scriptural voice. See, the sign attracted him.*" (64-0214, The Voice Of The Sign, Elliott Auditorium, Tulare, CA).

Which is it? A triangle shape, or an oval shape. And before there was a Bible written Moses had this sign speak to him? There is no such symbol, especially to claim it was there before the Bible was written, or Moses encountering this sign. Where is the proof for this?

The Bible says Moses was attracted because a bush was on fire and did not burn (Exod.3:2-3). Nothing of the sort is mentioned as Branham describes. Branham presents a historical paralogism that he cannot defend, one just has to accept it.

Then he would say the opposite, "*Now how was this trinity expressed? It was expressed by an equilateral triangle even as it is expressed in Rome today. Strange, the Hebrews did not have such a concept.*" (Church Age Book).

The trinity (a triangle) is Rome's symbol. But Branham then agreed with Lamsa that three dots, a triangle shape are an ancient Hebrew symbol contradicting himself that they did not have such a concept?

A circle of Light in a triangle shape, a triangle form of God coming down at Jesus' baptism are all acceptable, then why is Rome's triangle unacceptable?

As stated prior, the concepts to describe God's nature that Branham used came from outside the Bible.

For example The Masons spoke of the triangle: "*The doctrine of the trinity is an after-creation of the old mystical Law of the Triangle.*" (Rosicrucian Manual, H. Spencer Lewis)

Rosicrucianism teaches "*the sacred triangle was part of the secret symbolism of the original Christian sect, during the lifetime of Christ, and that it had been a sacred symbol for centuries before the birth of Christ, and is still a sacred symbol of a very great and essential doctrine of many mystical religions.*" (p.117 the Secret Doctrines of Jesus by H. Spencer Lewis)

God's sign - three little dots

"*If any of you have the Lamsa Bible translation, if you'll notice over the cover of it, is a triune, trinitarian light, a three-cornered light like a halo. ... The Light is one complete circle of Light in a triangle shape, which means that God will dwell in three offices, the Fatherhood, Sonship, and Holy Ghost dispensation, all the same God.*" (64-0112, Shalom, House Meeting, Sierra Vista, AZ).

Only Branham can make a circle into a triangle. Now we know why he changed the Bible's words of the Spirit coming from above at Jesus Baptism to be a triangle. "*Whom thou shall see this triangle form of God coming down and remaining on, He is the One that'll baptize with the Holy Ghost and Fire.*" (63-1201M, An Absolute, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA).



This is the symbol at the top on the Bible Translated by Lamsa. Branham claimed this symbol is a lamp with the real trinity symbol above.

The only three dots clustered together in the Hebrew language is a vowel underneath letters. Used with the letter T –in Hebrew pronounced

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Tav, it is then pronounced tavee or with a B (bayit) ב, the three dots underneath make a short e sound - be.

The three dots do not represent the Trinity. Vowels were not used in ancient Hebrew, they were added to the modern Masoretic text for readability. And the vowel is not a pyramid shape, the three dots of the vowel form an upside down triangle. It is one of many vowels in Hebrew language called niqqud, (a vowel sign). It is called a sign because it is underneath a letter. There is no Hebrew triangle facing upward, nor above a letter. Branham is wrong!

Furthermore, if the dots are to represent the trinity of manifestations that Branham taught, there could not be all three at the same time. Clearly any consistency of logic in his teaching is not present.

"I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Lamsa, today, the translator of the Lamsa translation of the Bible. And such a privilege ... You know, I would rather you'd give me a little rose bud, right now, than a whole wreath after I'm gone. I think maybe he'd think the same thing. I certainly can prescribe to his translation, for meeting him and finding such a lovely spirit of a real true Christian believer. God bless his gallant soul. I don't know as I've ever met any more spiritual man than Dr. Lamsa. May the Lord richly bless Him." (60-0417M Go tell, Jefferson IN)

Why is Dr. Lamsa called great and a true believer? Because he agreed with Branham, so Branham recommended his Bible translation to all. So we can assume that Branham used it and referred to his other writings also.

Lamsa's translation is a distortion of the Bible that was written in Greek by the Hebrew apostles. There is no Hebrew symbol for the Trinity, so we know that is made up. Lamsa did not produce the manuscripts that he translated from. Jesus communicated only a few of these teachings in Aramaic, we know this because they are recorded in our Greek manuscripts of the Bible.

We need not cover everything at this time of what was wrong with Lamsa's view there are a number of points one needs to know. Lamsa founded the Christian Mohammedan Society in 1921 to pursue unity by emphasizing common ground. Lamsa desired to unite nations into a universal state led him to avoid matters of dogma and make many concessions to the beliefs of other faiths, seeking the lowest common denominator among religions. He interpreted Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (in his book appropriately titled *The Kingdom on Earth*) as a commandment for world peace, international understanding, and the overthrow of enslaving governments by meekness and love.

He sought a "new world order" in which *"the light of the gospel would be shared, racial and class barriers would be eliminated, and national boundaries would be eliminated."* (George M. Lamsa, *The Kingdom on Earth* (Lee's Summit, MO: Unity School of Christianity, 1966), 106-107 (hereafter, *Kingdom*). Lamsa credits Islam with achieving this goal. (*The Secret of the Near East* [New York: Orientalia, 1923], 101 [hereafter, *Secret*]).

What Lamsa wrote in his Aramaic Bible Translation was not as explicit as when he spoke of his personal beliefs that he wrote in his other books. He interpreted John 1:14, 18 that Jesus was *"the first-born."* The Bible says; He is the ONLY son, only begotten Son of God, not the first born (unless it is referring to Mary).

1 Timothy 3:16 says "God was manifest in the flesh;" Lamsa wrote, "it [the "divine mystery"] is revealed in the flesh." Jesus was a mystery in a body. No, He was God seen in flesh.

Micah 5:2 "whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting," Lamsa writes "whose goings forth have been predicted from of old, from everlasting." Which changes its meaning.

Lamsa's view, Jesus did not claim to be equal to God, nor did He want to be worshipped. (*Gospel*, 353, 369). He denied that Jesus Christ ever

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



physically rose from the dead. He claimed that Christ rose with a "spiritual body," Lamsa compares Jesus' life to a mere glass of water and His death to its evaporation into the air and ocean. (George M. Lamsa, *My Neighbor Jesus: In the Light of His Own Language, People, and Time* (New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1932), 139 (hereafter, Neighbor).

"The ascension of Jesus was a spiritual transformation. Jesus rose up from death and was taken up into the heavenly realm in a spiritual body, freed from all physical limitation [i.e., nonphysical]. He was seen alive and ascending to heaven only by those whose spiritual vision had been strengthened by faith in him." (Reference – George M. Lamsa: Christian Scholar or Cultic Torchbearer By: John P. Juedes)

Once again Branham's words find solace with someone who was cultic in his interpretation and denied the core teachings of the faith (Jesus being God in the flesh and rose physically from the grave).

And most importantly, Lamsa spoke of psychic involvement in a speech given to the Association for Research and Enlightenment (A.R.E.), (based on medium Edgar Cayce and the pursuit of psychic phenomena. *"He encouraged use of the "talents" of Creative (psychic) Power manifesting through men and spotlighted his native Near Eastern people's claim to a "sixth sense": the ability to become aware of God through dreams, visions, intuition, and clairvoyance."* (Robert W. Krajenke, *Stand Like Stars* (Virginia Beach, VA: A.R.E., 1970) Sounds like Branham who also called faith a sixth sense.

Understanding Branham's position on the nature of God

There are various forms of modalism but all agree God is strictly one [person]. The original ancient version is that God was the Father who then became the Son, and then the spirit in different dispensations (different periods of time). Another version is that there are three manifestations of the

one Spirit who is God that shares the titles of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, they are roles, offices.

The Oneness view denies that the distinctions are real, saying that they are only roles God uses for His different functions (today known as roles/modes and manifestations by the Oneness Pentecostals). This became more accepted and popular than the first view of dynamic modalism.

Modern oneness considers the son to be human and what makes him God in the flesh is the Father being in him. Branham held to this as well as ancient Modalism, he used both.

"that Eternal One was the Father manifest in flesh, and thereby gained the title of Son." (63- 0317M The Revelation of the Seven Seals. Branham Tabernacle).

According to the Bible both the Father and the Son existed at the same time, and are the eternal God.

Modalism defines God as one who temporarily exists in one of three different modes (manifestations) as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Since God is presented as eternal in His nature, unchanging, He reveals Himself as who He is, not as who He is not! Branham called the persons manifested modes, they change. In other words, God can't be revealed in three persons unless in truthfulness that is who he is permanently.

Then all the knowledge of God we have gathered is transient. No one ever got to know God for who he is except through the role he played. What undergoes a change of nature cannot be God. Change describes something **not** retaining its own being, only something that is created is subject to change. Isaiah 43:10: *"Before me there was no God formed nor is there after me."* In fact one could just as easily make the point that three manifestations are three different gods, not one God.

Something that has an eternal (infinite) nature never comes into or out of existence, nor changes.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Otherwise it has a beginning, which means it did not always exist. It also means it has an end, since it changes to another mode, the former manifestation is non-existent. The Bible actually portrays these three persons as simultaneously existing. There was never a time when the three were not.

If one believes in the changing manifestations they have to accept there is no eternal Son or Father because they cease to exist. They are only temporary roles dispensed with after they are used by the one "person" who is God. These roles are like clothes one wears for different occasions to fulfill an activity.

To have these *manifestations* of God constantly changing without any explanation from his word, contradicts his word. If there is a time they disappear to reappear in a different person, then neither the Father or Spirit are *eternal*. Which proves they are not the God of the Bible who is eternal, unchangeable, indivisible, and unquantifiable, who cannot change. These manifestations would be better described as *manifrustrations!* What is at stake here is the authenticity of God's revelation to man of who he actually is. How can one know or understand who he is if he has temporary roles changing back and forth indiscriminately into one another.

The Modalistic concept was always treated as heresy in the church, as were numerous other distortions of the nature of God. Epiphanius, who was a defender of the triune nature of God states that "*they derived their entire heresy from certain Apocryphal books, especially from the Gospel of the Egyptians.*" (Schaff-Herzog religious Encyclopedia)

In fact what Branham taught is far more conducive to the Rosicrucian's: "*In the pages of the Bible, the One, True, Eternal God has revealed Himself in three ways, as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*"

Prior to this quote it is prefaced with "*Truly, the Rosicrucian trinity is not the Christian Trinity.*"

(The Rosicrucian Cosmo Conception" pp. 376, 252).

Emmanuel Swedenborg a clairvoyant and a well-known medium known to have communication with spirits, said the Trinity is "*only three modes of manifestations and not a trinity of eternal persons.*" (The Four Doctrines, E. Swedenborg, p.243).

Why does a psychic teach the same unorthodox view on manifestations as Branham?

Roman Catholicism is the culprit

Branham often said how his parents were not religious and went to church twice a year, yet he would also say, "*Now, my parents and my both--before me were Catholic. But brother, you see there's not much Catholic left in me as the triune beings. That's right. Yes, sir. They believed in the Eternal Sonship, or there's three actual individual being: God the Father, an old man with long white beard; God, the Son, a middle age man; and the Holy Ghost was a mascot boy like.*" (53-0907A, Lord, Show Us The Father And It Sufficeth Us, Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, Chicago, IL).

Can anyone find where Catholics describe the Trinity like this? I can't, and I certainly do not agree with them. But we can find statements like these among the mockers. The fact is, Branham also said his parents were not religious and knew nothing of Catholic religion, so where did he get this information?

Branham blamed the early church council at Nicaea, which was really about defending Christ as being God against the challenge of him being a creature or not being God.

"*According to history it did not take long for a change to be made in this concept of a Father and a Son and the Holy Ghost. Satan took them a step at a time away from the truth. The evolved concept of Deity was now: 1. The eternal father, 2. The Spirit of God incarnate in a HUMAN mother. (Does that*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



make you think?) 3. A Divine Son, the fruit of that incarnation, (Woman's seed). (Church Age Book)

Not only did Branham challenge the son as pre-existent deity, but denied his true humanity, that he had a human mother.

"Catholics believe in many gods, and they broke down the one true God into three different gods" (58-0928M, The Baptism of The Holy Spirit, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"people wonder where the three came from. It became a foundational doctrine at the Nicene Council in 325 A.D. This trinity (an absolutely unscriptural word) was based upon the many gods of Rome ... Ever since then people have failed to realize that there is just one God with three offices or manifestations." (An Exposition of The Seven Church Age)

Branham's oneness teaching on God's nature was labeled as heresy in the early church long before the Nicene council was convened. Because the church's apologetists, men who studied the scripture agreed on the trinity well over 100 years prior to it.

It sounds like Branham was reading and believing inaccurate Jehovah Witness material who oppose the Trinity.

History teaches that the Catholic Church has not always been Trinitarian, the doctrine of the Bishop of Rome, Callixtus I, who was canonized as a saint by the Catholic Church, and Pope number 16 is summarized below.

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12272b.htm>

This summary is by Hippolytus, an early trinitarian and dissenter of the Church of Rome:

"For," says (Callistus), "I will not profess belief in two Gods, Father and Son, but in one. For the Father, who subsisted in the Son Himself, after He had taken unto Himself our flesh, raised it to the nature of Deity, by bringing it into union with Himself, and made it one; so that Father and Son must be styled one God, and that this Person being one, cannot be two."

"And Callistus ... acknowledges that there is one Father and God, viz., the Creator of the universe,

and that this (God) is spoken of, and called by the name of Son, yet that in substance He is one Spirit. ... And he is disposed (to maintain), that He who was seen in the flesh and was crucified (2) is Son, but that the Father it is who dwells in Him." (Hippolytus, the Refutation of all Heresies: Chapter XXIII)

Sounds like Callistus is agreeing with Branham.

Hippolytus says in Against the Heresy of one Noetus, "a Oneness promoter" (ch.14, 190 AD.) After quoting part of Jn.1:1 *"If then the word was with God and was also God what follows? Would one say that he speaks of two God's? I shall not speak of two Gods but of one; of two persons however and of a third economy, the grace of the Holy Ghost. For the Father is indeed one but there are two persons because there is also the Son; and there is the third the Holy Spirit. The Father decrees, the word executes and the Son is manifested, through whom the Father is believed on. The economy of the harmony is led back to the one God, for God is one. It is the Father who commands and the Son who obeys and the Holy Spirit who gives understanding; The Father is above all the Son is through all and the Holy Spirit who is in all. And we cannot think of one God, but by believing in truth in Father and Son and Holy Spirit."*

The Bible says the "Son of God" was manifested in the flesh; it's not manifestations, plural, like Branham taught. In fact he said God always had flesh on him which diminishes the one incarnation of God the Son becoming flesh.

1 Tim. 3:16 *"God was manifested in the flesh"* (appeared in). The Greek word manifest is *emphanizo-1*) to manifest, to exhibit to view. 2) to show oneself, to appear. 3) to indicate, to disclose, to declare, to make known.

1 Tim 3:16 Was manifested efaneroothee (NT:5256). First aorist passive indicative of faneroo (NT:5256), to manifest. Here used to describe the incarnation en (NT:1697) sarki (NT:4508) of Christ (an answer also to the Docetic Gnostics). (from Robertson's Word Pictures in the

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



New Testament)

And who was it that was made known?

The Father and a Son are real persons, identities, not manifestations. To say Jesus the Son came as a manifestation of God to reveal another manifestation, is absurd!

So how does one arrive at this conclusion of manifestations? By misunderstanding the nature of God, which concludes with denying who God actually is.

Mal.3:6: *"I the Lord do not change."* The God of the Scriptures is presented as eternal in His nature, unchanging. Duet. 33:27; Ps.90:2 *"From everlasting to everlasting you are God."* God is unchangeable, eternal, immutable, always existing. He reveals to us what He is eternally. All his attributes are eternal in his infinite nature. None of his attributes which are part of his nature change, nor do they become the Son or Father. God the Father says in Heb.1:10 about the Son *"And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands... and they shall be changed: but thou art the same"* (quote of Psalm 102:25)

Offices of change – Modalism

"He is Supreme, and He is wigged, or--or covered. The Bible said that He changed His countenance, or He changed Himself, en morphe. The word comes from the Greek word, en morphe, which means a Greek actor that plays many parts; today he is one thing, in the next act he is something else. He was God, the Father, in one act; God, the Son, in another act; and then God, the Holy Ghost, in this act. See?" (65-0711, Ashamed, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham explained it like this *"Changing Himself, en morphe, from one person to... One person; the Greek word there, en morphe, means... It was taken from the stage act, that one person is changing his mask, to make him some other character. [Hebrews 7:3]*

Speaking of his daughter graduation, *"they had one of Shakespeare's play. And one young man had to change his clothes several times, because he played two or three different parts; but, the same person. He come out, one time, he was the villain; and when he come out next time, he was another character. And now the Greek word, en morphe, mean that he "changed his mask."*

"And that's what God did. It's the same God all the time. God in the form of the Father, the--the Spirit, the Pillar of Fire. The same God was made flesh and dwelt among us, en morphe, brought out so He could be seen. And now that same God is the Holy Ghost. Father, Son, Holy... not three Gods; three offices, three acts of the one God. [John 1:14]." (65-0221E, Who Is This Melchisedec?, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN)

"And He just changed His mask, in otherwise. It's like a drama. He was acting. And in the Greek, when they would change their mask"... "And the one boy that I know, played about four parts, but he would go behind the stage and change his--his mask, in order to come out, to impersonate another character." (64-0629, The Mighty God Unveiled Before Us, Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia, PA)

So God does impersonations? This is certainly not how the apostles expressed God becoming man.

Branham called it all acting, *"Christ, acting the part as He did when He become from a Spirit to man, He only put on an actor's garment, human flesh."* (63-0318, The First Seal, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

A statement like this sounds like it came from someone who does not understand the words of the Bible.

The problem is that God cannot change. He is unable to change (Mal. 3:6) as God. For example, He did not change his identity when he became man. He took to himself another nature, of man. His

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



deity, who he is eternally did not change. He was the Son before He came to earth and was the Son while He was on earth, and is the Son at the Father's right hand today. As with any Scripture we need to read it in context to get a correct understanding.

Phil.2:5: "Who being in the form of God did not consider it robbery to be equal with God." V.7: "But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men."

The form of God is Spirit; that is His eternal essence of being. The Greek word for "form" is *morphe*, meaning that quality, the essential character that makes something what it is. Whatever the Father is in nature so is the Son. The Son did not consider it to be robbery to be equal with the Father who is God when He took on another form, human to serve under the Father on earth.

The word teaches us that God does not change. That all three persons of the Godhead are eternal; belonging to the order of eternity. **The Father** is eternal James 1:17. **The Son** is eternal Hebrews 13:8; Micah 5:2 speaking of Jesus "whose goings forth are from old (eternity) **from everlasting** (from eternity)." **The Holy Spirit** is eternal Heb.9:14; Jn.2:24 and that God is Spirit. Furthermore, we see all three involved in creation. These are identities of persons (not physical, or human form).

The term "*persons*" may not be a fully adequate term to describe the inter-relationship of the different identities within the Trinity. The term *persons* was used to emphasize an individual's personality, identity, consciousness. Three places of consciousness, who have a mind and will and converse with each other.

He changed Himself, He "poured Himself into," (Amen!), into another mask, into another form. Not another person went out of Him, called the Holy Spirit, but It was He Himself. You get it? (64-0614M, The Unveiling Of God, Branham Tabernacle)

So how does he explain when two or more are seen together in Scripture?

The Bible says the Son who is a person (personal identity) became man "God with us," NOT a manifestation, a role with us. Branham says they are "*manifestations of God rather than persons.*"

"*See, the same God, in three different manifestations, but the same God all the time.*" (64-0320, God Identifying Himself By His Characteristics" (Denham Springs High School, Denham Springs, LA).

If God is *manifested* in three ways, they are no different than a fire or a cloud.

With all this stated Branham said, "*Yes, sir. I am a person, but my name is not Person.*" *I am a person, see? My name is William Branham, but I am a person. The Holy Ghost is a person; that's what it is. It's not a name; it's a title of the person of God, see? It's a title to the personality of God--what He is.*" (The Revelation of the Seven Seals God Hidden and Revealed in Simplicity Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, Indiana)

What a display of inconsistent flawed logic. What father or son is not a person? These titles are of persons. Branham calls the Holy Spirit a person but insists it is a manifestation, which is also an attribute inside God.

He admits the each manifestation is a person, he just can't admit they all are distinct persons existing at the same time, they are not the same person, but the same being.

Dispensations of modes

"*It's three dispensations. That's the reason they was baptized the Father, Son, Holy Ghost.*" *I said, "For the three dispensations of God, the same God. We have one God."* (54-0217, Jesus On The Authority Of The Word, East Alton -Wood River Community High School, Wood River, IL).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Sorry, that is not why they were baptized with the three titles that are persons.

Branham had three manifestations for different ages, but he excluded other manifestations to make it a trinity. Branham believed the Father, Jesus, was the pillar of fire (which also would include the cloud) and used this for Jesus in the Old Testament, so where exactly does the dispensation of the Father begin and end? After all the Father became the son and then became the Spirit.

Branham tells us, *"The Fatherhood under Moses, the Sonship under Christ, the Holy Ghost under this dispensation. Three dispensations of the same God; not three Gods. The mystery's finished now."* (62-1230E Is This The Sign of the end, Sir? Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham over and over said they are assigned to different dispensations. *"the Fatherhood, the Sonship, and the Holy Spirit dispensation?"* (53-0607E, A Testimony, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN)

"But I believe that the three, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, is One, that they are three offices of one God. He lived in the Fatherhood, in the Pillar of Fire; He lived in the Sonship, in Jesus Christ; and He lives now in the Holy Ghost." (61-0827, The Message Of Grace, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN; Foot Prints On The Sands Of Time p.372, The Autobiography of William Marrion Branham)

"When this Pillar of Fire was made flesh, God coming from the Fatherhood, [Blank.spot. On. tape -- Ed.] ... Sonship, and when He come into this attribute. The three attributes; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." (63-1114, Influence, Marc Ballroom, New York, NY)

The pillar of fire is the Father, who is Jesus before he was born. Branham was confused on the person of God and the glory seen.

The pillar and the cloud were manifestations of his glory. All kinds of theological gymnastics were

done to avoid the obvious, He was the son, not an office or a role or an attribute.

If God the Father becomes the Son, as in dispensations described by modalism, then two of the manifestations did not exist before, and two others cease to exist afterwards. This means you can't have Jesus as a whole person speaking to his Father, He is only speaking to himself.

Furthermore, why would God change after 33 years of being human to become another manifestation and begin another dispensation, which has lasted over 1,900 years? And then to change to the Son of man again for 1,000 years in the Millennium? There is no reason, no explanation for God to change, and even go back and forth as described by these manifestations.

The Crucial Trinity

Denying an eternal Son always leads to denying a Tri-unity. It opposes the interrelationship of the Father and the Son throughout eternity. Jesus always spoke of the Father as someone other than himself. In Jn.17 *"And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."*

According Gen.1 the first thing God created in the universe was the heavens and the earth. So if the Son had glory with the Father before the world was, he pre-existed **as God**; for only God existed at that time. Jesus has then told us that He existed with God (the Father), as God the Son before anything was created (as described in Jn.1:1-2). And he explains this in no uncertain terms elsewhere as well.

Long before the council convened in Nicaea, Athenagoras in 160 AD., representing the church's belief said that, *"they hold the Father to be God, and the Son God, and the Holy Spirit, and declare their union and their distinction in order."* (A plea for the Christians.10.3.)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



The doctrine of the Trinity was not developed, but the explanation of it. Men such as Hippolytus, Athenagoras, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Athanasius, and many others opposed other views that diminished the deity of the Son in a series of public forums, debates and councils throughout history. From these gatherings we have their writings on the nature of the one God (the Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and how they relate to one another. Christology became the key to having a clear understanding of who the Son is in relation to the Father and the Comforter.

Branham's view of the Trinity

"The polytheistic religion of the enemy began with the trinitation doctrine - - - Our modern theologians - - -duped by Satan still believe in

three persons in the Godhead." (An Exposition of the Seven Church ages pp. 18-21,184. Yet he denied the personality of the Holy Spirit.' *The Holy Spirit is the 'Word-Manifested Thought.'* (W. M. Branham, An Exposition of the Seven Church Ages, p. 155)

What he did make clear is in his most famous declaration, that Trinitarianism is of the Devil.

*"Now, my precious brother, I know this is a tape also. Now, don't get excited. Let me say this with godly love. The hour has approached where I can't hold still on these things no more: too close to the coming. See? Trinitarianism is of the devil! I say that **THUS SAITH THE LORD.**" (61-0108 "Revelation Chapter 4)*

In other words it is a Satanic doctrine (one really needs to hear the audio to hear the animosity he expressed). Did the Lord condemn the Trinity and approve of Branham's oneness view? I do not know of anyone except cults that claim the Trinity is of the Devil, but Branham went further stating *thus saith the Lord*. Speaking as a prophet, he condemned himself.

Maybe he was reading literature produced by the Jehovah Witnesses, *"The doctrine originated from Satan"* (Make Sure of all Things, 1953 p.386).

He found this originating in Babylon *"Well, it was brought out that Cush introduced a three god worship of father, son and spirit. Three gods who were all equal."* (An Exposition of The Seven Church Ages)

Many ancient religions had what appears to be similarities to the trinity (and other teachings). A careful examination on what they taught reveals that they had no resemblance to the Biblical Trinity, they were not the same in concept or substance. They were all separate gods, and almost unanimously had a mother involved, as in a heavenly family. Their beliefs were conducive to polytheism, tri-theism and henotheism. Concepts which have more in common with Mormonism than the triune God of the Bible.

We would not agree with ancient religions on this anymore than we would agree with those who had monotheistic view of God like Islam, or Bahai.

"They look back to the Nicaea Council at Nicaea, Rome, where the trinity was born at. Notice where they come from. Notice. And the trinity of frogs came out of an old trinity, give birth to a new trinity, their mother. What'd it come out of? A trinity, "the dragon," see, "the beast," and "the false prophet." A trinity, new." (65-0725M, The Anointed Ones At The End Time, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

This is an obnoxious interpretation on an event that is yet still to happen in the future tribulation period.

Rev. 16:13-14 *And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. "They are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."*

Apparently Branham saw three in number and purposely attached the Trinity to this future event, yet ignoring that there were also miracles done. Miracles that Jesus warned of in the last days in

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Mt.24:24 and Paul warned in 2 Thess.2:9 that would precede this.

He used his flawed modalism interpretation: "*Now, remember, the antichrist and the Beast is the same self spirit. There is the trinity. Yes, sir. It is three stages of the same devil power. Remember, Nicolaity, see, it had to be incarnate before it could be crowned. See? Now, watch this! Three stages: first stage he's called antichrist; second stage, he is called the false prophet; third stage, he is called the beast.*

"He had three powers or three jurisdictions: the earth, heaven and purgatory. He is himself a trinity. That's what he's made up of, and he rides in a trinity. His power is in a trinity. His crown is in a trinity. His horse is in a trinity. That what he is?--a trinity, a power of trinity, a crown of trinity, a horse riding of trinity--that's of offices--a four again. See, a four again." (God Hidden and Revealed in Simplicity Mar. 17, 1963 A.M. Branham Tabernacle)

Sounds more like his modalism than anything that one can pin on Trinitarians, as we can see Branham applied this word with the worst of interpretations possible even though he insisted the word was not in the Bible. His calling the Trinity unclean is blasphemy.

Branham would chastise Christians for believing the Trinity but lacked any credible and biblical explanation that made sense. His unbiblical and antagonistic view on the Trinity should have put the brakes on his healing campaign but there were too many on board, invested in his ministry, accepting his prophet's claims to oppose this.

"So, God is complete in the tri-unity of a Being; not tri-unity of beings, but One Being in a tri-unity. Father, Son, and Holy Ghost is one true manifested God. God!" (65-0815, And Knoweth It Not, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

This is a perfect example of Branham's ignorance on the difference of one in being and three in person. He changed the eternal persons to temporary manifestations calling them different

titles, roles and offices. But it was not just three, remember he called the pillar of fire and a cloud Jesus, they are manifestations also. So we have ~~three~~, five (or more) manifestations of God if they are all counted.

But this manifestation of a light and cloud is not a person. The Bible describes the pillar of fire as a manifestation of God's glory but if it is a manifestation of the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit then according to Branham we have a manifestation of another manifestation.

"The word trinity is not even in the lids of the Bible. But, yet, when you look at Jesus, you regard Him as the third person or the second person of a trinity, and that's the reason you don't get nowhere." (63-1229E, Look Away To Jesus, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Can you find me the word Bible in the Bible? Nowhere can you find where Scripture has the words for three manifestations called the Father, Son or Holy Spirit? Or offices or roles, arguments like this only show Bible ignorance.

"You say, 'The blessed holy trinity.' Find me the word 'trinity' anywhere in the pages of God's Bible. It's a man-made scheme, an old dirty church rag wrapped around to take the place of the sap Line of God's Holy Spirit. There's no such a thing. There's no such a thing. You find it and come to me. You're duty bound to do it as a Christian, if you find it. It's not in God's holy Writings. And the 'Father, Son, and Holy Ghost' is hatched out of hell; there's no such a thing as three Gods." (59-0823 Palmerworm, Locust, Cankerworm, Caterpillar).

I agree there is no such thing as three gods. But his animosity toward the triune nature of the one God blinded him, which brought him into being in agreement with the cults.

Jehovah Witnesses "*the Trinity made up of three Persons? How could one Person be three?*" (booklet The Word: Who Is He? p. 6).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"It is difficult to love and worship a complicated, freakish looking, three headed God." (Let God be True 2nd ed. p.101-102).

"If he is one Jehovah, then could he be three gods, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost, as the Trinitarians teach?" (Watchtower, April 1, 1970. p.210)

Christian Science (Mary Baker Eddy): *"The theory of three persons in one God (that is, a personal Trinity or Tri-unity) suggests polytheism, rather than the one ever-present I Am"* (Science and Health, p. 256).

Mormons (Joseph Smith): *"Many men say there is one God the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost are only one God. I say that is a strange God anyhow-three in one, and one in three. Jesus speaking... For behold I Am the Father."* Ether 4:12 (*a note of interest, Mormonism taught modalism at first before they departed into polytheism).

Christadelphians: *"We reject that God is 3 persons. We reject the doctrine of the Son of God was co-eternal with the Father. ... "Jesus Christ did not exist as a person from eternity as one of the triune Godhead."* (Christadelphian messenger no.46, the word made flesh p.3).

Islam Sura 5:72-73, 5:75 *"They do blaspheme who say: "God is Christ the son of Mary." They do blaspheme who say: God is one of three in a trinity: for there is no God except one God Allah."*

Arnold Murray: Shepherd's Chapel- *"understand that there are three offices of the Godhead. Like this little lady said. She said, 'To my husband I am a wife, to my children I am a mother, that's my office. To hundreds of third graders I am their teacher and have been down through the years. That's a different office; none of them the same, but I'm still the same person."* (The Shepherd's Chapel, broadcast June 4, 1991)

The Jesus only baptism challenge

On Trinitarian baptism Branham *"Why don't you examine your baptism of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and that false 'trinity' it's so-called..."* ("Revelation Chapter Four #3, Throne of Mercy and Judgment," Voice of God Recordings, Inc., 1961, audiotape 61-0108, side 2)

He insisted, *"show me one place where that was ever done in the early church. That's right. It's--it's not in the Bible."* (54-0514, The Seal Of God, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, In).

One can use the same argument for the name Jehovah that Branham often used. There's no J in Hebrew which is why the pronunciation of his name YHWH -Yahweh is more accurate. It was a name made by a Catholic monk in the 12th century.

William Branham insisted that *"believers baptized by a Trinitarian formula must be rebaptized in the name of Jesus only."* (Burgess and McGee, Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements, 95-96)

Branham *"Anyone who was not baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus had to be baptized over again."* (An Exposition of The Seven Church Ages).

"But no one in the Scripture was ever baptized in any other way but the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. And those who were baptized was commanded by St. Paul who said, "If an angel preached anything else let him be accursed," commanded to them to come and be rebaptized again in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ." (58 - 0728 The Serpent's Seed, Branham Tabernacle Jeffersonville, IN).

The problem is his reinterpretation of what Paul said in the first chapter of Galatians. Baptism is not found in the Scripture he cited (Gal.1:6-9). Again Branham is changing the word to mean what he wants it to mean. Baptism is NOT the gospel, Jesus' death and resurrection is the gospel. Baptism is a work man does after salvation, so his point fails. Besides, there is not one place in Scripture that tells us that anyone was rebaptized for this reason.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



“Show me one place where God ever had anybody baptized in the name of the Father, Son, Holy Ghost. Find those things. And yet we constantly do them.” “You show me one place where one person was baptized in the name of the Father, Son, Holy Ghost, I'll raise my hands and say I'm a false prophet.” “... I challenge anybody to show me one place where anybody was ever baptized in the name of Father, Son, Holy Ghost. Now, are you going to listen to false prophecy or the truth? Search the Scriptures. It's up to you.” (58-0928E, The Serpent's Seed, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

“Would it be possible for one minute for the apostles to be led astray from a direct command of the Lord to baptize in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost and then find them in willful disobedience? They knew what the Name was, and there is not one place in Scripture where they baptized any other way than in the Name of Lord Jesus Christ. Common sense would tell you that the Book of Acts is the church in action, and if they baptized that way, then that is the way to baptize.” (An Exposition of the Seven Church Ages).

This argument comes from the oneness teaching that distorts Mt.28. The name Jesus refers to the Son only, which was given by the angel to Mary when she was to conceive. We find the Father calling Jesus his Son; there are no exceptions to this. Jesus did not call the Father or the Spirit by his name of Jesus. Nor did the Father call the Spirit Jesus.

We do not see any command from Jesus in Scripture to baptize in his (Jesus') name. No Scripture implicitly tells us what was said over anyone “in the act of baptism.”

Titles and names

“See, Father, Son, Holy Ghost, is the Lord Jesus Christ. ... So them are titles...” (61-0119A, The Water Baptism, Golden Arrow Restaurant, Beaumont, TX)

Titles of what? Persons, different identities. Nowhere does the Scripture call the Father or The Holy Spirit Jesus, nor do we see Jesus call the Father and the comforter by the name Jesus.

“Now, in the great Divine trinity of God, in the day... It's all the One God, God in a trinity: the Fatherhood, the Sonship, and the Holy Spirit dispensation.”(53-0607E, A Testimony, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN, no audio, 1953).

He used these terms often, but where are the words fatherhood, Sonship found in the Bible? This is changing the titles of persons to offices, from personal to impersonal.

Can the “sonship” loves the “fatherhood” or vice versa. Can an office communicate with another office? Only persons engage in communication, attributes, offices cannot.

Branham insisted that these are titles, *“And Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, is not no Name of God. God has one Name, and His Name is Jesus.”* (60-0518, Manifested Sons of God, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

He said they are not names but titles, yet he would make the mistake and say they are names, *“He came in three names. He came as Son of man, which was prophet.”* (65-0125, This Day This Scripture Is Fulfilled, Ramada Inn, Phoenix, AZ; This Day This Scripture Is Fulfilled p.7)

“He came in three names, three sons' names. He came in the Son ... name of the Son of--of man, the Son of David, and the Son of God; three sons' names.” (64-0614M, The Unveiling Of God, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN; also Foot Prints Book - page 512)

“anybody that thinks that "Father, Son, Holy Ghost" is a name, it shows there's something wrong with their education, They're titles that goes to the NAME, (of Father, Son, Holy Ghost), which is Jesus Christ.” (Revelation, Chapter Four, January 8, 1961 Foot Prints Book - page 608)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



I would say in response anyone who thinks that a son or father are not titles of persons has some something wrong with their education! Do you know any father or son that is not a person? It's also hard to justify them speaking to each other, something only persons do. So his argument is a moot point.

Branham did not know that in the Greek language titles and names are indistinguishable. In Rev.19:13 it says *His name* is called "the word of God." Scripture calls it a name, proving names and titles in the Greek are used interchangeably; this again points to a certain person.

Jn.19:19 "Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross, and it said Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews." Is Jesus a name or a title? Here a name is called a title, but more importantly it points to a person.

His argument of not being names hits the wall and falls to the ground because everyone knows that a father is a person and a son is a person. And if one is called a helper, a comforter, like the Holy Spirit then he is a person as well.

Where did Jesus name baptism come from?

From Mr. R.E. McAlister at a "world-wide camp meeting" of Pentecostals in the year 1913. This new baptism was not immediately accepted and, in fact, McAlister was even taken aside at the time and told not to preach the "Oneness" theory about the "baptismal formula." However, his statement on that occasion seemed to be the "spark to light the fire" and thereafter the theory began to take root among many of the Pentecostals.

What Mr. McAlister introduced in 1913 was a "new thing," namely a *new baptismal formula* "in Jesus name," with no mention of the Father and the Holy Spirit. At that time, it was not the *entire* "Oneness" theology that McAlister introduced, *only* the "baptismal formula." Foster *claims* an earlier practice by *Parham*, but it was abandoned (Foster, p.121.) (portion reprinted with permission from Bob

Ross' book "The Trinity and the Eternal Sonship of Christ." A defense against "Oneness attacks on Historic Christianity (Pilgrim Publications, 1993.)

In Mt.28 water baptism is commanded by Jesus with the words "*baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*" (v.19).

Branham considered it invalid (as does oneness) despite that this is commanded by our Lord explicitly in Scripture. Oneness had claimed that the church baptized in Jesus name only and by using his name they were obeying Mt.28:19.

Branham went further, "*I baptize in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. ... Not in "Jesus name"; but in the Name of "The Lord Jesus Christ"; that's Father, Son, Holy Ghost."* (59-0823, Palmerworm, Locust, Cankerworm, Caterpillar, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville IN).

When one comes to the book of Acts we find statements like "baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus", or "in his name," or "Jesus Christ"; no two times are exactly alike. What this means is that this was not a formula to be spoken (Acts.2:38-8:16-10:48-19:5 also 22:16).

The name of Jesus is used throughout the book of Acts to proclaim a Christian baptism. Mt.28 is then reinterpreted as saying the name is Jesus is used for all three. Does this mean that we disregard the plain reading of Mt. 28:19 passage? There is overwhelming evidence throughout the whole body of Scripture there is a distinction of these three as persons. Jesus did not say, baptize in Jesus name, naming all three as himself. Jesus knew the Father as another than himself before his incarnation and during it.

Matthew 28:19 "*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*" (KJV)

Notice it does not say baptize them in my name "Jesus." This would be the perfect opportunity to command it, if this is what Jesus meant.

Branham's lackluster argument was, *Well, "Father" is not a name, neither is "Son" a name, and neither is "Holy Ghost" a name. It's titles that goes to one*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Name. See, there's one Name. Then if the revelation that we are trying to bring to you, surely must've been the same revelation that the apostles had when they stood by Him, listening at Him give that commission." (59-0329M, Water Baptism, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"Baptizing them in the name" is singular. "In the name" is an expression of their unity of essence (nature) in which they all share in as the one God. "The name" (ha shem in Hebrew) was used throughout the Old Testament as one calls upon God (see Rom. 10:13). If there is one name that they all share in, it is Lord – in Hebrew - Yahweh Elohim (YHWH), which is consistently found in the Old Testament.

The name Jesus refers to the Son ONLY, it is given by the angel Gabriel who tells Mary to name him Jesus when she conceived. His name Jesus - Yeshua "God is savior" was expressing his mission.

The point of saying "in the name" is to show that all three are the ONE God. If all three are one person as Branham claims, then why mention the other two, especially if they are for different dispensations, only one exists at a time? How can we literally be baptized into all three, if three do not really exist simultaneously as persons but are manifestations?

Do we baptize into a role that God plays temporarily, are we baptized into manifestation of an age? If one takes the position that the Son is human (as Branham did, son of man) then you have one human and two manifestations who are God you are baptizing in.

If God is only one person at a time, why use this language distinguishing them at the same time? The answer is simple, because these are three persons, and are not roles, or offices, or manifestations, or attributes in different dispensations.

The three are descriptive of persons, not a single person. The Greek word for name is used 228 times in the New Testament. In only four places name

does not refer to persons, (Mk.14:32; Lk.1:26; Acts 24:13, 28:7). Why say it this way, if there is only one person? Why is it limited to only three titles when there are numerous other titles, offices and attributes?

For example in 1 Cor. 10:22 we are told "*all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.*"

How does the Bible explain this? In the Greek the word for "name" is *onoma*, it means authority, character, which refers to one's nature. A.T. Robertson says, name stands, "for power or authority." As stated, names and titles can be indistinguishable in the Greek language.

Thayer's Greek Lexicon states about a name -- means to bind anyone to recognize and publicly acknowledge the dignity, or authority of one, to do a thing in one's command or authority, acting on one's behalf. According to Webster's dictionary, in the name of, means authority of in reference to, as a representative of: Name is a title of anything or a person designated.

"*Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*": in the Greek there is a definite article before each title. The article "*of the*" is used to make distinctions between each name. In Greek, (tou)" *the*" is used for each title, and each is separated by (kai) "*and.*" This clarifies that these are not the same person but three distinct persons he is speaking of. The use of the definite article for each person separates them as personal and distinct from each other. The emphasis of this portion of the passage is on the three because the definite article appears before each. Yet this verse has united them into a singular entity by use of the singular form "the name of." The singular name of God known to us from the Old Testament in Hebrew is YHWH - Yahweh. *The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit* share that name because they are all God.

There are a number of ways one can interpret this verse but the one way you can't interpret it is by saying they are three manifestations, titles or roles as Branham did.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



To give a practical example of this Scripture, suppose I went into a restaurant and asked the waiter to bring me a cup of coffee, tea, and milk. If he responded to what my language literally instructed as one cup. He would bring me coffee, tea, and cocoa all in one cup. However, if I told the waiter to, bring me a cup **of the coffee and of the tea and of milk**, then it would be absolutely necessary for him to bring me three separate cups, because of the specific instructions of the language used.

Here is an example of a similar language structure used in Scripture.

John 19:19-20 *"Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then many of the Jews read this title, ... the plaque over Jesus was written in "Hebrew, Latin, and it was in Greek."* The Bible calls it a title, written in three different languages of mankind.

Branham challenged *"Nowhere was we ever commanded to baptize, "In the name of the Father, and in the name of the Son, and name of the Holy Ghost," not nowhere in the Scriptures. It's a Catholic creed, and it's not for the Protestant church. I'll ask anybody to show me one Scripture where any person was ever baptized any other way than in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Come, show it to me, and I'll put a sign on my back, "A hypocrite, and a false prophet, a false teacher," and go through the streets. There's no such a thing. Never was anybody baptized that way."* (57-0825E, Hebrews, Chapter Two #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Branham insisted that *The Bible didn't say, "Go baptize in the name of the Father, name of the Son, name of the Holy Ghost." Said, "Go baptize," Jesus said, looking back, "the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost." Not "name of the Father, name of the Son," that'd make them individuals; but It's not. "In the Name of the Father, and..." And is a conjunction, with your same subject. "In the Name*

of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Not "in the name of the Father, name of the Son, name of the Holy Ghost." But, "In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost." See? (59-0823, Palmerworm, Locust, Cankerworm, Caterpillar, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville).

No I don't see, because this is not how it is written.

As we have read they were instructed to baptize, immerse in water in the name OF THE FATHER, OF THE SON; and OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The way to baptize in Mt. 28 is a reminder of what happened when Jesus was baptized by John (Mt.3). He as the Son of God went into the water, the Father spoke from Heaven about his Son and the Holy Spirit came from heaven and descended resting on him. This is why the Matthew 28 statement by Jesus is crucial. In Mt. 28 Jesus commissions the disciples to instruct, to teach (make disciples) and baptize. He gives them a baptism in which all three were involved. Should we not consider it a reminder of what took place at his baptism, giving recognition to all three?

In the name of ____ we baptize

What are we to make of the name of Jesus used in water baptism in the book of Acts?

Why is there no record of any Apostle baptizing in the titles Father, Son and Holy Spirit? We find there is no passage in the New Testament that records what was actually said over anyone in the act of any baptism, such as, 'he said I baptize you in the name of Jesus Christ' when the candidate was being baptized. The closest thing we have is Mt. 28, which is attributed to Jesus' own words.

The phrase "baptized in the name of Jesus," was used as a declaration to the hearers to distinguish it from the other forms of baptisms of their day.

In plain English, the disciples were commanded by Jesus himself to baptize in the triune manner. The recipients of the baptism were then said to be baptized in Jesus' name, meaning they underwent a

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Christian baptism, distinguishing it from other baptisms.

To say one is to be baptized in Jesus's name is equal to a public profession.

A.T. Robertson explains, "*on the authority of the Lord Jesus as he had himself commanded (Matthew 28:19) and as was the universal apostolic custom.*"

Joseph H. Crehan resolves the conflict by drawing a distinction between the status and the function of the two statements. The disciples were authorized by Jesus to use the Trinitarian formula, but the language of Acts refers to the partaking in the ceremony by the candidate. Crehan makes a point that the active voice is used in Matthew 28:19, but the passive voice is used where we find baptism in or into the name of Jesus is mentioned both in Acts or the writings of Paul. What he concludes is the disciples were commanded to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, whereas baptizees were commanded to be baptized in the name of Jesus." (*Early Christian Baptism and the creed; a study in ante-Nicene Theology, p.76, 88*).

In other words the name of Jesus was their authority to baptize, as in all the Christian activities we do. But in the act the three - Father Son and Holy Spirit were spoken in reference to persons.

Baptism in the early church

"Holy Ghost is titles that belong to the Name of Jesus Christ. All the early church baptized, until the birth of the Catholic church, they all baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ. Take "The Nicene Council", "The Fathers" and so forth, the history and you'll find. But then they went to using titles instead of Name." (61-1105, The Testimony Of A True Witness, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Branham refers to his assigned angels of the 7 churches all baptizing in Jesus' name, "*Irenaeus, Martin, all those men, held tight to that water*

baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ" (63-0804A, Once More, Marigold Center, Chicago, IL)

Did they?

"The voices of the seven messengers will be heard loud and clear. Those faithful preachers who preached the saving power of Jesus, who preached water baptism in Jesus' Name." (An Exposition of The Seven Church Ages Church Age Book)

His angels of the Church theory include "messengers" like Martin Luther (Sardis) and John Wesley (Philadelphia) who not only believed but defended the Trinity. Too bad these other messengers did a Trinitarian baptism, is that loud enough to hear!

Branham stated the early church did not baptize in a trinity. Let's take a quick look at church history to see if this is true. Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch 110 AD wrote against oneness, "*There are not then either three Fathers, or three Sons, or three Paracletes, but one Father, and one Son, and one Paraclete. Wherefore also the Lord, when He sent forth the apostles to make disciples of all nations, commanded them to "baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," not unto one [person] having three names, nor into three [persons] who became incarnate, but into three possessed of equal honour"* (*Letter to the Philadelphians, 2*).

History all shows that Branham and Oneness are wrong in their Jesus only baptism. The Didache one of the oldest recorded documents of the New Testament period outside the Bible written as early as 60-80 AD. (J.B. Lightfoot states the internal evidence proves this) or possibly as late as 100 (dated to the 1st cent, found in 1056 A.D), was used as a church manual which says, *As regards baptism, baptize in this manner, having first given all the preceding instruction baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and immerse 3 times in running water."*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



So we can see that the Trinitarian baptism was present early on, hundreds of years before Nicaea where Branham said it originated from. And their statements made it clear that they saw the three as persons, not manifestations of one person.

Branham's claims of history are wrong. *"there is nobody ever baptized using the titles of "Father, Son, Holy Ghost." It's a Catholic creed and not a Bible Doctrine. No person in the Bible was ever baptized, or three hundred years after the death of the last apostle..."* (65-0418E, Does God Ever Change His Mind About His Word?, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Nobody?

Justin Martyr in his apology: *"I shall now explain our method of dedicating ourselves to God after we have been created anew through Christ ... for they make their ablution in the water in the name of God the Father and Lord of all, and of our savior Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit"* (**First Apology**, 6, 1.3.)

Actually it is the opposite of what Branham stated. It wasn't until 300 AD that this issue was raised by Eunomius, an anti-Trinitarian (Arian) who said *the Father and Son do not share a divine essence*. He was the first to openly reject Mt.28 trine immersion as the command of Christ, altering the baptism. History shows the exact opposite of what Branham and his Oneness compatriots claim as true history. The early church interpreted and practiced baptism consistently in the way it is found in Mt.28. They understood the command that Jesus gave the apostles was in reference to all three as persons, not manifestations of one person called Jesus.

Baptism in Jesus name for sins to be forgiven

Branham would correct the oneness position on the meaning of baptism *"Now some of you Oneness people baptize wrong. You baptize for regeneration as though being immersed in water saved you. Regeneration does not come by water; it is a work of the Spirit. The man who by the Holy Ghost gave the command, "Repent and be baptized every one in the Name of the Lord Jesus," did not say that water*

regenerated. He said it was only an evidence of a "good conscience toward God." That was all. I Peter 3:2" (65-1207 An Exposition of The Seven Church Ages)

Branham is correct, we do not get regenerated by water baptism. This was said in his last year of ministry. But in true form Branham was contradicting himself all the years before.

"God, may they go to the water now, before the audience, be baptized in Jesus Christ's Name, for the remission of their sin." (60-1218, The Uncertain Sound, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

The Bible teaches we are forgiven by the shed blood in the crucifixion of Jesus, not by water. These are two different substances.

Branham states, *"Peter told them, about how they had to repent, and to be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, and receive the Holy Ghost."* (54-1231, Everlasting Life And How To Receive It, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

"That's where we baptize the people into the water for remissions of their sins." (59-1220E, Identified With Christ, Branham Tabernacle)

"If you been baptized a dozen times, they'll baptize you in the Name of Jesus Christ for remission of sin. See?" (65-0725M, The Anointed Ones At The End Time, Branham Tabernacle)

It was later that same year he said the opposite: *"Neither do I believe that the baptism of Jesus Christ (in the Name of Jesus Christ) in water does forgive your sins.... you see, I--I do not believe that the water forgives sins. Or, if it was, then Jesus died in vain. See? I believe that it's only an ordinance of God, see, to show that you have been forgiven. But to be baptized for regeneration, no, I--I--I don't believe that. I don't believe that water forgives sins."* (65-1212, Communion, Tucson Tabernacle, Tucson, AZ).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



So the angel of the church of Laodicea (Branham) changed his mind years after he taught what he insisted the early church taught.

And his position was in opposition to Irenaeus who Branham called one of the angels of the church. Who said unequivocally, "*And when we come to refute them, that this class of men have been instigated by Satan to a denial of that baptism which is regeneration to God, and thus to a renunciation of the whole [Christian] faith.*" (Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book One, Ch. 21)

For Irenaeus, to deny baptismal regeneration is to deny all of Christianity! In his polemic against views of baptism and regeneration among the heretics, he makes a very strong statement that denial of the baptism, which is regeneration, is a renunciation of the whole Christian faith. He attributes any such a denial instigated by Satan (CCEL Irenaeus, Heresies:I.XXI.1).

Irenaeus refers to Paul as still needing baptism by Ananias, even after his personal encounter with the risen Christ (Heresies: III.XII.9). Lastly, regeneration is stated more explicitly once again in Irenaeus' exposition of the Matthean Great Commission (Mat 28:16ff). Jesus charged the disciples in order to give them "the power of regeneration into God" for the nations (Heresies: III.XVII.1).

My point, even though I disagree with Irenaeus on this matter of baptism for salvation Branham was wrong by stating the church taught what he did on baptism all those years. And he himself changed his position on it being efficacious.

The Oneness view vs. the Bible's view

The concept of "modes of being," each for a different dispensation in contrast to persons was an ancient heresy. Which Branham claimed IS his revelation and he is restoring in these last days.

Branham's teaching is a variation of a second century heresy taught by Sabellius know as Modalistic Monarchianism or Patripassianism (Evangelical Dictionary of Theology, pp. 727-28)

In this modalistic concept, when God is the Father, the Son and Spirit modes are no longer functional (nor existing). This is disproved by the Scripture where there are several times Jesus is called **the Son** by the Father in an audible voice. At **his baptism** Mt.3:17 a voice from heaven speaks, "*This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*" He calls Jesus his Son and identifies himself as his Father. Notice from where the voice comes from (each time it is spoken) heaven. This statement in Mt.3:17 has no meaning if one ignores the subject to object relationship portrayed. The idea is to declare and bear witness to the Son, who is not the Father.

When the Son is baptized, the Spirit descends upon and rests upon Jesus as the Father speaks from heaven which shows that these three are different subjects, and are present at the same time, three identities that simultaneously exist.

What would be the purpose to have one person be seen as three? This cannot be attributed to his omnipresence as the voice at the baptism is identifying another, not himself.

According to Branham Jesus talks to himself using different titles to make John think he is more than one. Attributes, manifestations do not dialogue with each other, persons do!

How is it explained which one is not a person? According to Branham they were assigned to different dispensations, so what are they all doing together in the same dispensation.

Should the Bible read at his baptism, Jesus came from heaven upon Jesus on earth as Jesus spoke from heaven?

If all three are manifestations instead of persons why is there communication? They are supposed to be the same in person. God is a person, how does a non - personal manifestation reveal that? God revealed himself for who he is. This is what is conveyed in Heb.1:3, he the Son is the exact image of his person, he is not the exact manifestation of another manifestation.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



What we believe happened at his baptism is that there are two actual persons communicating, with a third person silently resting upon him. Inter communication requires more than one mind and person.

At the Transfiguration (Mt. 17:5, Mk.9:7. Luke 9:35) 2 Pt.1:17 *"For he received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* They heard the voice come from heaven saying, *"this is my beloved Son hear him."* Notice he does not say hear me, (the Father). If the Father dwelt in him as the son as they claim, then the voice should have come from Jesus, as there is only one manifestation (person) at a time.

Branham interprets this as, *"God adopted His own Son when He took Him up; took Peter, James, and John, as a witness. "... And God Himself said, "This is My beloved Son; hear ye Him." ... And then He was given equal... And of course, It was God, but God in the flesh of Jesus Christ, manifesting Himself to the people."* (54-1231, Everlasting Life And How To Receive It, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Not only does Branham assume the son is only a man but that it was at this time he was adopted to become God manifested in the flesh. Branham ignores all three are simultaneously active in this event. The Holy Spirit and the Father spoke from heaven. Again, manifestations do not communicate with each other, personal identities do.

John 5:20 *"the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does."*

Is this saying he loves himself? Does a manifestation love another manifestation?

John 10:17-19 *"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to*

take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

How do you receive a command to do this if you are the Father? Certainly Jesus is not speaking of his humanity raising his body from death.

John 3:35 *the Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand."*

All these examples show us they are persons. If "Father" and "Son" are only titles or manifestations of the same person, it makes these statements absurd.

Praying to whom?

Was Jesus praying to himself from the cross, *"Father (Jesus), forgive them for they know not what they do?"* (Luke 23:34). Branham taught the spirit left Jesus before the cross and he was only man. To say Jesus' human nature prayed to the Father not make any sense, he prayed by *his spirit*.

Branham would also use the word person, he spoke of the Holy Spirit as a third person many times.

"Now remember, the Jesus I'm talking about is the third Person, which is the Holy Spirit, which is in us, God in us." (60-0729, What It Takes To Overcome All Unbelief: Our Faith, Eisenhower High School, Yakima, WA).

How can he be a third person if there is only one person? To be accurate he should say the third title as he taught.

"I want every one that raised their hand to come here and personally pray to the Lord Jesus." (55-0123A, The Approach To God, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL)

"I would pray to God, and the Holy Spirit" (53-0609A, Demonology, Religious Realm, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



How is that possible if God is only one person and is the Holy Spirit? How this can be said when he taught that Gods person is singular.

"Someone asked me, said, "Well, then how could He pray to the Father, if the Father was in Him?" I said, "How do you pray to the Father, if the Father's in You?" See, there you are. You pray to the Holy Ghost so ... You sure do. See? God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. Great Jehovah God dwelt in Christ." (62-0118, Convinced Then Concerned, Full Gospel Church, Tempe, AZ)

Does this answer clarify the question or does it bring more confusion? So the direction that one is to pray is toward themselves. Did not Jesus raise his eyes toward heaven and pray to the Father? When did He pray to himself? So God now dwells in you – that is now the direction Branham instructed you to pray. He said this a number of times.

Kenneth Copeland likewise says *"Pray to yourself, because I'm in your self and you're in Myself. We are one Spirit, saith the Lord."* (Believer's Voice of Victory)

New Ager Benjamin Creme representing Matreiyah an Anti christ says, *"One doesn't pray to oneself, one prays to the God within. ... Prayer and worship as we know it today will gradually die out and men will be trained to invoke the (inner) power of deity"* (The Reappearance of Christ and the Masters of Wisdom, pp. 135-136)

Branham explains, *Someone asked me, said, "Then how did, Who did He pray to in the Garden of Gethsemane?" I said, "I'll answer you that when you answer this: Do you believe you have the Holy Ghost?" "Yes" I said, "Then Who do you pray to? Where is He at when you are praying to Him? When, you claim you have Him, and yet you're praying to Him." See?"* (63-0804E, Calling Jesus on The Scene, Marigold Center, Chicago, IL)

Which direction did Branham pray since the Father is the Son who is the Holy Spirit that he said is IN US?

Since he taught God was within us, he would teach at times *"If you pray loud, pray loud; you pray to yourself, pray to yourself."* (64-0415, Christ Is Identified The Same In All Generations, Mckay Auditorium, Tampa, FL)

Pray to yourself! Are we God? So when he prayed to God, it was within himself. *"And just pray to yourself in your heart for whatever you want God to do. Yeah."* (60-0403, As The Eagle Stirreth, Municipal Auditorium, Tulsa, OK).

Pause and consider what he is saying, we should be praying toward ourselves. Branham would also say to pray to the Father, however, Branham focused on the God within which developed and became part of *the manifested sons of God* error of the Latter Rain.

Branham would also pray *"And now, Father, come. Send the Angel of God..."* (55-0227E, The Healing Of Jairus' Daughter, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ).

If the Holy Spirit is his angel then he is asking the Father whose manifestation does not exist any longer to send the angel? And from the quotes of how we are to pray he is asking himself this.

Branham quoted and referred to Isa.9:6 numerous times. *"Lord, we are grateful. Thou art the Everlasting Father."* (59-0424E, Hear Ye Him, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, San Jose, CA)

Not so everlasting if he is no longer the Father manifested but has changed. Branham could not believe in an eternal sonship but there was no eternal father either because they were all manifestations.

Then the Bible is wrong for us to call God Father, if he is no longer the everlasting father? Confusing? Yes, as it should be because it is not truth.

Two or more witnesses

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



According to Jewish law one must have two or three witnesses to have a valid testimony of truth.

Branham himself said numerous times *"In the mouth of three--two or three witnesses, let every word be established."*

If they are all titles of the same person, how can they bear witness of one another? Especially if they are manifestations and two do not exist at the same time. According to Branham's modalism there is only one person at a time. Two are abandoned for a new manifestation or mode. A mode cannot bear witness to another mode, we need persons for this.

A father who is also a son is not two witnesses by himself but only one. There must be different fathers and sons.

1 John 5:7 *"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."*

On this scripture which Branham cited a few times he had nothing of significance to say except *the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, are One. You can't have the Father without having the Son; you can't have the Son without having the Holy Ghost.*" He missed the point.

Notice it says in heaven, they are all located in the same place. Why would we need 3 manifestations there? If we believe the Bible then we cannot ignore the meaning of "witness." The Trinity is not a series of manifestations nor can they be three offices or roles in heaven but personal identities that are eternal distinctions in the nature of the one God for each bear witness of the other. Otherwise there is no true witness.

Jesus states in John 5:37: *"And the Father who sent me has testified of me."* Again, it is the deity of the Son being testified of. This cannot be possible by Modalism, for it would say I send and testify of myself.

Jn. 8:16-18 *"And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who*

sent me. It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me."

Jesus refers to God the Father testifying who the Son is, for he was sent by the Father. This is not a witness of his humanity because the people already believed and accepted this. It was to bear witness of his deity as the Son. In v.13 Jesus says he was sent from heaven and that he is bearing witness of himself. In v.18 he repeats it and then adds his Father also bears witness of him. If he is the Father who came from heaven he could not say this. Then his testimony is not of two persons and is untrue. Jesus' whole argument is that He and the Father are two in person, not one in person. According to the Old Testament legal law (Num. 35:30; Duet. 17:6, 19:15) one must have another person to bear witness so that a testimony is verified.

Jn. 5:31-32 Jesus says, *"if I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true, there is another (allos) who bears witness of me, and I know that the witness which he witnesses of me is true."*

Thus he refers to John the baptizer as a witness as the next passage explains. Jesus defines this as the testimony of two individual men, John and himself. Why would this refer to two individuals, and Jesus' reference to the Father and Himself not also refer to two persons? The Gr. Word 'allos' (another) means someone different from the subject that is speaking.

Choosing Irenaeus

"now, the Smyrna age, I believe with all the--that I have been able to find, was Irenaeus. And now, I want to give you the reason why that I chose Irenaeus instead of Polycarp. Now, most all clergymen wants to think (and Bible teachers) that that angel was Polycarp. Now, Polycarp was a disciple of Saint John; that is true.... The reason that I chose Irenaeus: because I believe that Irenaeus was more closer to the Scripture than Polycarp was. Because Polycarp leaned kindly towards the Roman idea of setting up an

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



organization. And--and Irenaeus was firmly against it; he absolutely denounced it. And then, as we all know, the great issue was coming at the Nicene Council; one of the great issues was whether God was three or God was one. And Irenaeus took the side that God was God now and just One.” (60-1206, The Smyrnaean Church Age, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

This is a very poor reason to choose Irenaeus, considering some of the other things Irenaeus believed (which we will briefly look at). History tells us that Irenaeus was a disciple of Polycarp, who was a disciple of John.

Branham in 1960 preached a sermon series on the seven church ages at his Branham Tabernacle in Jeffersonville.

The church ages was a theory a few dispensationalists used from the Book of Revelation, mainly popularized by Clarence Larkin whom Branham was more than familiar with. Most understand the seven Churches of Asia mentioned in the book of Revelation to be both historical and types that exist throughout history. Branham chose men out of church history and made them angels to the church, we know this because the Bible does not mention Irenaeus, but does mention Paul (Branham's first angel to the Church of Ephesus). Paul was an apostle, chosen by Jesus, he is not mentioned as an angel to the church. Branham chose Irenaeus as 2nd one of the 6 other angels of the early church after Paul. Because he did not mention the trinity by name, Branham assumed he was not Trinitarian. He was wrong.

“So Irenaeus certainly-a real student of the Scripture always believed in election. And so Irenaeus was one of angels of the church ages, as we seen, as we studied, we believe. Of course now they were all mysteries. They were all hid right here in these Seals, and they are to be revealed in the last days. Now they started off with Paul and Irenaeus and Martin and so forth and come on down to the last age” (Revelation of the Seven seals p.179).

But Irenaeus did not agree with Branham on a number of his main teachings, least of all the Son not being eternal. He is well known for his refutation of early [Gnosticism](#). He said, (The Gnostics) *“transfer the generation of the uttered word of men to the eternal Word of God, attributing to him a beginning of utterance and a coming into being ... In what manner, then, would the word of God--indeed, the great God himself, since he is the Word--differ from the word of men?”* (Against Heresies 2:13:8).

This identifies and addresses the revelation Branham gave of the logos as being Gnostic.

“first it was a thought. And it has to be a thought; then, when it's expressed, it becomes a word. And then, "In the beginning was the Word.” (62-0609E, Letting Off The Pressure, Bible Tabernacle, Southern Pines, NC).

“A word is a thought manifested, a thought spoken forth. God, first He perceived the thought and spoke it, and it meant--became a word, and the word became material.” (55-0113, “The Fundamental Foundation For Faith,” Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL).

Irenaeus did espouse Trinitarian thought, *“For with him [the Father] were always present the Word and Wisdom, the Son and the Spirit.”* (Against Heresies 4:20:1 A.D. 189). *“The Word, that is, the Son, was always with the Father.”* (Against Heresies, Book IV, ch. 20, section 3)

Notice that the word is not created by being spoken in contradistinction to Branham, that He is the Son that was ALWAYS with the Father, which goes directly against Branham said in his agreement with the Gnostics.

Irenaeus, *“But the Son, eternally co-existing with the Father, from of old, yea, from the beginning, always reveals the Father to Angels, Archangels, Powers, Virtues...”* (Against Heresies, Book II, ch. 30, section 9. 180 AD.)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Irenaeus may not have used the word *trinity* but when you teach an eternal Son and Spirit with the Father you have a Trinity.

Irenaeus had much to say on this subject, he makes it clear that the Church did not believe what Branham taught, that *the Father* became man: "*In one God, the father almighty, maker of heaven, and earth, and the sea and all things in them; and in one Christ Jesus, the Son of God, who became incarnate for our salvation and in the Holy spirit,..*" (Against Heresies X.1)

That is what Trinitarians have always believed and believe today. He also refuted Branham stating the Son had a beginning, that there is no eternal son. He explicitly said the Son became incarnate, not the Father.

*"Now it has been clearly demonstrated that the word which exists from the beginning with God, Therefore we can set aside the objection of them that say, 'If he was born at the time it follows that Christ did not exist before then. 'For we have shown that the Son of God did not then begin to exist since he existed with the Father always:" (Irenaeus *The 'Recapitulation' in Christ: Adv. Haer. III xviii*)*

So Irenaeus taught *against* what Branham taught, he used the language of the Trinitarians. But Branham was not clever enough to see it. Notice also, Irenaeus calls him the Son, not just the word.

Clear, isn't it? The Son was always God the Son with the Father. So we have Irenaeus actually speaking against what Branham taught because what Branham taught is what the Gnostic Christians taught. Irenaeus if alive today would call Branham a Gnostic.

According to Irenaeus the Son always existed with the Father which means they are not believed to be manifestations as Branham claimed.

Branham stated, "*that's why I think Irenaeus, because (You see?), he had the same faith that Paul*

and the disciples had handed down. That's why I believe that he was the angel of the church of Smyrna, because he was--he had the same Scriptural teachings; and the same Scriptural teachings upon the basis of God's Word will produce the same thing every time. ... And that's what Irenaeus did." (60-1206, The Smyrnaean Church Age, Branham Tabernacle)

Branham said Irenaeus agreed with Paul who gave us the Scripture, which means the Bible disagrees with Branham.

Branham does not speak much on the early church apart from Irenaeus and Nicaea, which were 170 years apart from each other.

Branham said, "*I've read both 'Pre-Nicene Fathers,' 'The Nicene Council.'*" (60-0522M, Position in Christ, Branham Tabernacle)

Certainly if he read of Irenaeus, he read Athenagoras, Hippolytus, Origen, Tertullian and others. These were some of the vocal apologists that fought vehemently against what Branham himself taught on God's nature. The church contended vigorously against any type of Modalism - the concept of one God as a singular person that came in assorted forms and manifestations in different ages.

The makers of the Athanasian Creed understood tritheism (three Gods), stating that, "*they are not three Gods, but one God.*" (Schaff, Vol.II, p.67.) As Athanasius said at Nicaea, "*Not dividing the substance nor confusing the persons.*"

Branham certainly confused the person[s], as well as other characteristics of God's nature.

Irenaeus' *Against Heresies* is written in five separate volumes refuting Gnostic heresies in the church and defending the orthodox faith. *Adversus Haereses (Against Heresies)* is a detailed rebuttal on Gnosticism, which he considered a serious threat to the Church. We do not possess a complete version of *Against Heresies* (in original Greek). We possess

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



the full ancient Latin version, probably from the third century, as well as thirty-three fragments of a Syrian version and a complete Armenian version of books 4 and 5. (reference: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irenaeus> - cite note-31)

The church historian Eusebius attests to other works by Irenaeus which are lost. This includes *On the Ogdoad*, an untitled letter to Blastus regarding schism, *On the Subject of Knowledge*, *On the Monarchy* or *How God is not the Cause of Evil*, *On Easter*.

Irenaeus' works were first translated into English by John Keble and published in 1872 as part of the Library of the Fathers series.

We will have much more to say on Irenaeus when we cover in detail the 7 church ages taught by Branham near the end of the book.

I can assure you Irenaeus did not teach at all what Branham did on God nor man. He may not have used the word Trinity but he certainly did teach the concept of eternal persons.

Branham makes it clear why he chose Irenaeus "*Irenaeus, yes, I had a note here on Irenaeus, about "read this history." That the reason Irenaeus was chosen is because that he had the signs of the Pentecostal original church following him...*" (60-1206, The Smyrnaean Church Age, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"But Irenaeus was a man that spoke in tongues, and had the power of God, and signs followed him. That's it. He was God's angel light"... (60-1205, The Ephesian Church Age, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

So it was really more about the spiritual gifts than doctrine. How could it be about doctrine? As we see Irenaeus contradicted Branham on the nature of the Son of God.

According to Branham Martin Luther was another angel sent to the church. Luther certainly did believe and used the term trinity.

Martin Luther's small Catechism:

91 "*...The Creed is Trinitarian because the Scriptures reveal God as triune. Christians are baptized in the name of the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

94. *Who is the only true God?*

The only true God is the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three distinct persons in one divine being (the Holy Trinity).

Branham makes all the people throughout history, even Martin Luther (as idolaters worshiping three gods).

Let's consider the ramifications of Branham's statements. If wrong he is blaspheming God's nature. If he is not wrong the church worldwide has blasphemed God and have worshiped incorrectly for over 1,900 years. This is something that cults will say.

Irenaeus certainly expressed the concept of the Trinity as did Martin Luther (Sardis age) and John Wesley (Philadelphia age) who spoke of it.

Yet Branham (angel of the Laodicean age) denounced the Trinity. Branham stated although he was a church messenger like them he claimed he was a "prophet-messenger," and he thus was able to correct Luther and Wesley, who were "not prophets." Branham found a platform to give himself a greater position of authority as he claimed he was sent from heaven to reveal the word for the church today.

He later said of the Trinity "*This mark in the head means that they will have to take the doctrine of the world church system which is trinitarianism,... and the mark in the hand which means to do the will of the world church*" (Church Age book).

An obvious problem with this interpretation is that this mark is not made available until the middle of the Tribulation period and it is for finance and commerce for the whole world, not the church. Once again Branham was wrong.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



For someone who used the argument you can't find the word Trinity in the Bible, he used numerous words not found in the Bible to support his theoretical musings. The nature of God is fatherhood, sonship, roles, offices, attributes, even calling them all manifestation which is a word only used for the Son becoming human.

"how can three persons be in one God? Not only is there no Bible for it, but it shows even a lack of intelligent reasoning. Three distinct persons, though identical substance, make three gods, or language has lost its meaning entirely." (An Exposition of The Seven Church Ages)

He never could explain from the Bible how an attribute becomes God or that three attributes became three manifestations. Or explain that *"In the beginning God was not even God just a thought."* (The Spoken Word, Vol. 3, p.79). If God was only a thought, he did not exist yet as God. Who had the thought? How was the thought made God? The Bible says God always existed.

Branham's teaching is that Jesus the Son came as a manifestation/ attribute of God to reveal another manifestation. In Trinitarian belief God is personal, a person (the meaning of person is not a physical human form but someone who has an identity, consciousness, intelligence, will). According to Branham God is *manifested* in these three ways - then none are original eternal persons!

In the end we can add Branham to the list of prominent modalists that began distorting the nature of God in the early church. Noetus, Praxeus, Sabellius, Cerinthus, Epigonus, Cleomones, Marcellus of Ancyra, Commodian, Callistus and Zephyrinus, the two Roman bishops who taught modalism. Others were Ebion, Hermogenes, Carpocrates, Valentius, Eunomius. They were ALL pronounced as aberrant, teaching heresy because of their distorted doctrine on the nature of God and who Christ is. I have yet to find any teach in such detail what Branham did explaining that the Word was first a thought, that became a halo, that was a

theophany, that was in the shape of a man before he came to be a man on earth.

A true prophet would accurately describe errors that people hold to and give the correct interpretation. Branham repeated early church errors, he continually misrepresented Trinitarians saying they believe in "three gods," (using the oneness and Jehovah Witnesses arguments) when in actual fact, Trinitarians always confessed there is only one God. One God (in being) with three persons. Branham taught one God and three manifestations. If Branham was a true prophet, he wouldn't have misrepresented the historical teaching of Christianity, nor would he have taught a false alternative.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 22

The Melchizedek Mystery

The confusion of when God became flesh

William Branham taught “*God, all ages, has had skin on It. He, God, has been hid behind the veil.... God has always had skin on Him. When Moses seen Him, He had skin on Him, look like a Man. When God was behind the curtains, He had skin on Him.*” (64-0629, The Mighty God Unveiled Before Us, Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia, PA)

Is this true? No, it is not. The Bible says God is spirit, not human flesh. He became human at a certain time in history, and it is not until the New Testament that we read He became flesh by a virgin who conceived. This does not uphold the idea he ALWAYS had flesh on him. “*God, in the beginning, was Spirit. And then, from God, went out the Logos, or the theophany, which was a form of a man, called the Son of God, prefigured. He came in earth, in a body of flesh, even before He came in Jesus Christ. Now swallow that one once, brother.*” (57-0901E Hebrews, Chapter Four)

You mean choke on it. Because that is not at all what the Bible teaches. Where does Scripture tell us God is always in the flesh or came to earth as a man in the flesh?

Referring to Abraham and his group, he “*Saw God manifested in a body of flesh, of human flesh.*” (63-0630M, The Third Exodus, Branham Tabernacle)

“*before the promised son showed up, God manifested Himself there at Sodom as a prophet, being a man, in flesh...*” (This day This Scripture is fulfilled, p.7) In flesh was used numerous times (58-0619B; 59-0416)

Branham first taught something different on Melchisedec “*the same Lord Jesus: a figurative type of*

course. He was Melchisedec that met Abraham.” (55-0119, This Great Warrior, Joshua, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

Many teachers see Melchizedek as a type of Christ, or a pre-incarnate Jesus who is the son, Branham did not.

“*We'll find Him out here meeting Abraham before that, in the order of Melchisedec, a body of flesh, which was God. Sure, it was. He was God in flesh ... You say, "Then, Brother Branham, why would He have to come back and be born?" He wasn't born then. He was just created, a body that He dwelt in. Melchisedec was the King of Salem, which is the King of Jerusalem, which is the King of peace; which had neither father nor mother, beginning of days or ending of life. Jesus had both father and mother, and a beginning of days and ending of life. But He was made "after the order" of Melchisedec, which had no beginning of days or ending of life.*” “*Melchisedec was God Himself. Melchisedec was Jehovah God, the same One that met Abraham, years later, in front of his tent.*” (57-0915M, Hebrews, Chapter Six #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham does not answer why would He have to come back and be born? Only that he created a body out of nothing to be the king of Jerusalem. He also says to be made after the order of *Melchisedec* means you are eternal. But the Bible does not say this for the Melchizedek that met Abraham.

Several years later Branham tells us, “*Notice, this Melchisedec, ... The mystery of God now being made known. Who was He? Nobody ... They can't find any history of Him, because He didn't have any father; He didn't have any mother; He never had any time He began; He never had any time He'd ever die; so ever*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Who He was is still alive. He never did have a beginning, so He couldn't have been nobody else but El, Elah, Elohim; self-existent, self-abiding, Almighty God. Jesus had a Father; Jesus had a Mother; Jesus had a beginning of days; Jesus had an ending of earthly life. But this Man had neither father nor mother (Amen.), no father nor mother. Jesus had both Father and Mother. This Man had neither father nor mother. Amen. ... (60-0522E, Adoption, Branham Tabernacle)

Branham completely reversed his teaching on Jesus not having a mother or father to prove who Melchisedec is. Now he is saying Jesus did have a mother AND a father. So this Melchisedec is not Jesus, the Son.

"Who is this Man?" Theologians has had different ideas. But since the opening of the Seven Seals, the mysterious Book that's been mysterious to us ... According to Revelations 10:1 to 7, all the mysteries that's wrote in this Book, that's been hid down through the age of the reformers, is supposed to be brought out into view by the angel of the last church age." (65-0221E, Who Is This Melchisedec?, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN)

Here Branham tells us since he opened the 7 seals he will reveal what was not previously known, on Melchizedek... *which is the correct way to write the name, it's not Melchisedec for a good reason.

Here is why it is written Zedek, not sedec. *"This a Jebusite dynastic name for the kings of Jerusalem. In Joshua 10:1, where the king of Jerusalem then was named Adonizedek, which means the "lord of righteousness", yet this was a wicked, idol-worshipping, Canaanite, Jebusite king." (Reference: Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum Genesis Commentary)*

Branham goes on *"And the Person is Eternal. If you notice, "He had no father. He had no mother. He had no time He ever began. And He had no time He ever ended." And ever Who it was is still alive tonight, because the Bible said here, that, "He had neither father, nor mother, beginning of days, or ending of life." So It would have to be an Eternal Person. Is that right? [Congregation says, "Amen."--Ed.] An Eternal Person! So it could only be one Person, that's God, 'cause He's*

the only One that's Eternal. God!" (65-0221E, Who Is This Melchisedec?)

So he was an eternal person that manifested *in the flesh*? That's hardly close to what is meant. God is eternal in Spirit, otherwise one has to concede that God was always human flesh eternally. Which would present contradistinction to the whole Bible.

The Bible says Melchizedek was a priest "of" the most high God. All priests were taken from humanity. Which means they were born.

Heb. 7:3 *"without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life."* The author does not say he had no beginning nor end, he is conveying that there is no way to find the beginning or end in the biblical record because he has no genealogy; there is no mention of a father or a mother in connection to genealogy. There is no record of when he was born or died. This does not mean he was never born, nor never died but that he is man with no record.

It is referring to his human lineage since all priests were taken from humanity. The author is making the point that there is no record of his ancestry, no information biblically or orally pertaining to who he was. Noted Greek scholar A.T. Robertson states, *"he is not to be understood as a miraculous being without birth or death. Melchizedek has been made more mysterious than he is by reading into the interpretation what is not there."* (Word pictures in the New Testament)

If he had no father or mother he could not be a man to be a priest, so it must mean something else other than the way Branham presents it. All priests were taken from mankind. Heb. 5:1 *"For every high priest taken from among men"* In other words they are human, born of a woman. Which refutes the idea that God manifested himself in flesh as this priest. To Branham's point that he is *"Without father and a mother,"* it does not mean he is not from humanity. In context means the **Bible has no record of this man**, there is no human parentage that is known.

Not to be confused Branham clears all this up by saying we are told Melchisedec *"was in the form of theophany. ... He was the Word."* *"now the true revelation of*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Melchisedec comes into view. What? He was God, the Word, before He became flesh; God, the Word. Cause, He had to be; no one else could be immortal like Him. ... Jesus had father and mother. "But this Man had no father, or had no mother." Jesus had a time He started; this Man didn't." (65-0221E, Who Is This Melchisedec?, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN)

Not only is he eternally alive in the flesh but that he is the Word whom Branham claims was created by the Father, and IS the Father. "the Father ... And then this God become bodilized down to the Logos." (51-0729A) According to Branham, "His Father was the great Logos Itself." (65-0429B)

Branham is saying the Father is Melchisedec, that he always had flesh, that the Father, not the son is "the word," the logos, "the Father is the Son." (64-1221)

That clears up nothing. Not to make this even more confusing, but he also taught the son is the word: "the Logos, which was the Son of God that went out of God." (51-0729A, The Resurrection Of Lazarus, National Guard Armory, Erie, PA)

According to Branham the "Son--Jesus, Holy Ghost -- the Logos that went out of God." (The Salutation Church Age book. Chapter 1; 53-0611 Show Us The Father And It'll Satisfy Us)

So the Son went out of the Father as the Father? Make sense? Of course not.

So who was Melchisedec as God? Branham reveals "He wasn't the Son of God. He was the God of the Son. He wasn't the Son of God, Melchisedec wasn't, but He was the Father of the Son of God." (57-0915E, Hebrews, Chapter Seven #1, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"**He is the Father**, which was the first; Son; and Holy Ghost, the Spirit."King of righteousness," the Spirit attribute; theophany, "King of--of peace," theophany; and in flesh He was "King of kings," same Person." (65-0221E, Who Is This Melchisedec?, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham used his false modalism concept and applied it to the Melchisedec priesthood which yielded further confusion on the nature of God.

Consider what Branham is saying, the Father became actual flesh BEFORE he became flesh as the Son through the virgin conception. Both which are wrong. God (the Son) became flesh only once.

And he answers the question "How could God be made flesh?" I said, "Same as He was when He was in Jesus Christ. He was made flesh." Certainly He was. When He was in Melchisedec He was made flesh." (61-0312, Faithful Abraham, Lyric Building, Richmond, VA)

To be made flesh the same as Jesus means a virgin conception and grew in the womb and was born by a woman. No, it is not the same as Jesus Christ. According to Branham's interpretation there is not one incarnation, (God becoming flesh) but more. Branham states, "He never had any time He began; He never had any time He'd ever die; so ever Who He was is still alive. He never did have a beginning, so He couldn't have been nobody else but El, Elah, Elohim; self-existent, self-abiding, Almighty God." (60-0522E, Adoption, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

What he is saying is that God the Father is still walking around on earth in the same flesh today! This presents a problem of God becoming man by the virgin Mary. Do we then have two eternal Melchisedec priests? One is the Father (Branham's teaching) the other is the Son, Jesus who is also the Father. Is there a Melchizedek who took flesh in the Old Testament and is still in the flesh? Did the Father become a Melchizedek priest by the New Covenant? If the Father is the Son how is Jesus appointed a Melchizedek priest when he already is? If the Father is Melchizedek an eternal priest there would not be a need for another priest. Furthermore, Jesus is appointed as high priest after the resurrection not when he was born.

"God isn't without a body. God's got a body, and it looks like a man. Moses saw it." (57-0420, The Entombment, Branham Tabernacle)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Not only did Abraham see this human priest, Branham claims Moses did too. The Bible does not say this. "*And Moses said It was the back of a Man. Hallelujah. Who was It? The Melchisedec that come down.*" (57-1006, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"I'm convinced that the same Angel that come down in the form of a Man and talked to Abraham ... the same One here tonight. ... I believe that that same Angel anoints us, because It was God." (Convinced Than Concerned, June 10, 1962).

An angel anoints? Is the Father an angel? Is the one that anoints us today, Melchizedek? Is Melchizedek the angel who is in the flesh forever the one who visits Branham? Then how is it no one sees him in the flesh?

The Bible says it was "The Angel of the Lord" who visited both Abraham (Gen.22) and Moses (Gen.3, 14), and he was not Melchisedec but the preincarnate son of God. If Melchizedek was around since Abraham (or before) and he was still here on earth with Moses then exactly when did he disappear? If you manifest a flesh body and dispose of it then it no longer exists. Exactly when did it go out of existence? He says it didn't. Then when Jesus is appointed the high Priest we have two high priests in the flesh.

This confusion can only come from one who cannot grasp the meanings of words in the Bible. The Angel of the Lord visits Abraham but he is not Melchizedek, there are not two manifestations of God at the same time.

We do not hear of this priest of Salem after Abraham. No person past Abraham met Melchizedek according to the Bible. Yet Branham says he appeared to Moses 500 years after Abraham (which the Bible says absolutely nothing on). Not only that, but nearly 3,500 years later Branham says of himself, "*But I met Melchisedec, and He give me communion, and since then it was settled forever. Hallelujah! I've went on His side.*" (57-0915E, Hebrews, Chapter Seven #1, Branham Tabernacle)

According to his story telling pattern which exhibits his own interpretation of this priesthood, he inserts himself as one who met Melchisedec, like Abraham (and Moses). He was even served "communion" by him, this before he is a believer. That is more than adding to the

Scripture, it is a self – promotion, inserting himself into a scripture. What a fantasy. For we have only Abraham who met this high priest, and he was not served communion. Communion can only come AFTER the crucifixion, the actual event.

How can Branham meet him in our time if his body is at the right hand of the Father in heaven? (Remember this high priest is in the flesh). Are we to believe that Jesus who is at the right hand of the Father left heaven and visited Branham in the flesh? Is this the first Melchisedec, the Father who is still on earth? Then he did not meet Jesus the high priest of the new covenant who is Melchizedek. Both of these would be wrong.

Will the real Melchizedek priest be made known?

Heb. 5:5-6 The Father said to Him: "*You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.*" Which is what the Father said to the Son in the beginning of the book of Hebrews. 1:5. And also "*I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son*"? Hard to do if they are the same in person, the father being the son.

He also says in Heb. 5:6 "*You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.*" He is not the Melchizedek that was the king of Salem who met Abraham but Jesus who died for our sins who can never die again.

There are not two Melchizedek priest's, only one at a time. Heb. 5:10 he is *called by God as High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek.*"

It says Jesus is the ONLY "eternal" high priest appointed by the Father. That means the first Melchizedek was not eternal nor the Father.

Why is his interpretation on Melchizedek wrong?

Previous to Moses' time period, the sacrifices were offered by the head of the family. Abraham's time period is near the same time era as Job. The priestly role was done by the father, or grandfather whoever was the oldest in the family line, which means there were

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



children. As the family grew to be a tribe, the head came to be the priest (Job.1:5).

Melchizedek held two offices: king and priest, He is the king of the city and he is priest of a family, a tribe. What this account shows is that he knew the true God among those who worshipped pagan deities in the Land of Canaan. As a priest of God Most High he is among other believers living in this period besides the House of Abram.

He ruled as the priest/king of their tribe, in the city they dwelled in, Salem. Some claim Melchisedec is Shem (Hebrew tradition). Shem was still alive at the time of Abraham. Abram was one of "the children of Heber," whom came from Shem's line after the flood. Abraham lived to approximately 2121 B.C., Shem lived to 2156 B.C. But we are also told Melchizedek he has no genealogy, we know Shem's. A better alternative is that the Melchizedek priesthood order was either from one of Shem's sons, or better yet, someone taught by Shem, who had passed to them the way of God, (the true knowledge and worship of God) after the flood.

All this is confirmed by Job who lived in the land of Uz, which is one of the names of Shem's grandsons. Gen. 10:22-31. V 31 "These were the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands, according to their nations."

In that time, they often named a land after a parent or child (Gen.4:17; 24:10). So, Job is living in a territory of one of the sons of Shem (the land of Uz), a few generations after the flood and he is sacrificing for his family as the head of his family (Job 1:5). The official duty of a priest consisted in the offering of animal sacrifices. This would be the same approximate period or before Melchizedek.

It was ancient Job who cried out for a mediator in the midst of his suffering. Job 9:32-33: "For He is not a man, as I am, That I may answer Him, And that we should go to court together. Nor is there any mediator between us, Who may lay his hand on us both." Job knew of no one who could bridge the holy one and himself into reconciliation.

Gen. 14:19-24 when Melchizedek meets Abraham he says: "*Blessed be Abram of the Most High God, the founder of heaven and earth; and blessed be God, the Most High, who hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand.*"

This makes it difficult to claim Melchizedek was God the Father.

Heb.7:4 states "*now consider how great this man was.*" Yet Branham says, "*this great man called Melchisedec, Who was the Possessor of both heaven and earth.*" (62-0506, Possessing All Things, Branham Tabernacle)

One of the requirements for being a priest is that one had to be of human ancestry (Heb. 5:1). Which means Melchizedek was a man in Abraham's time who lived among the people in the city of Salem. He was called in Heb.7:1 the "*priest of the Most High God,*" (not that he is God the most high). This priest was known as the King of Salem, (meaning king of peace), a title given to a historical person as the priest of the city, which in those days was a Jebusite city.

We need to get the full context of Abraham meeting Melchizedek to understand.

Gen. 14:8-9 "*And the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, along with other kings joined together in battle in the Valley of Siddim against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of nations.*"

V.10-12 the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled; some were killed, they also took Lot, Abram's brother's son. Abraham hears of Lot's capture by someone who escaped and then went with three hundred and eighteen trained servants (V.14) to get him back.

Gen. 14:16-18 "*So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people. And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him. Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High.*"

Abraham is first congratulated by the kings who went out to meet him. The first is the king of Sodom then the

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



second king, v.18-20, the king of Jerusalem. This is the first time in Scripture a priest is mentioned. Melchizedek, the priest of the city Salem joins them, he is the priest of the most high. He sees Abraham as God's servant, as a believer in the same God and blesses him. Abraham gave him a tenth of all. This should not be a mistaken as a tithe, it is a tenth of the spoils of war, not of his income.

We see no Melchizedek priests continuing after Abraham's time. After this encounter he is no longer being spoken of, having no more recorded history after this brief encounter recorded in Genesis.

God later appoints a Levitical priesthood under the law through Moses. Unlike Melchizedek, the Mosaic Law did not allow a priest to be both priest and a king at the same time.

Branham states, *"the Word, an en morphe body. He came in and lived in that, in the Person of Melchisedec. Then, later, we never heard no more of Melchisedec, because He became Jesus Christ. Melchisedec was the Priest, but He became Jesus Christ."*

Branham has it backwards, Jesus became appointed to the priesthood after His resurrection; not the priest became Christ! The Father said to Him: *"You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"* (Heb. 5:5 is quoting Ps.2:7 where the nations are given to him as his inheritance, after the resurrection. (Acts 13:33)

Only Jesus is appointed as an eternal high priest. The first Melchizedek of Salem, is not an eternal high priest in Abraham's time.

Hebrews 6:20 says, *"[Jesus] has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."*

In Heb.7:15 the author states *"And it is far more evident, if in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of the fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life."* Here is the comparison of the second priest (Jesus) to the first that Abraham encountered. There are some similarities paralleled in ministry in the typology, what is stressed is the former is in relation to the fleshly

commandment, the later related to an endless life as a high priest for all mankind.

Heb. 7:21-24 *"...You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek', by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant. Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood."*

To be a priest Melchizedek had to be human. Jesus the Son of God did not become human until the Incarnation. Branham's concept of him being the Father manifested in the flesh is completely misconstrued. If he can manifest in the flesh as Melchisedec then there is no need for a virgin conception to be human.

Branham taught God ALWAYS had flesh, which means he was human BEFORE he came by a virgin conception. So why did he need to come through Mary to become man if he is already man for thousands of years.

? Why did Branham deny his humanity came from Mary, but taught the Father materialized a body of flesh in the Old Testament? Are we to accept that every time God met someone He was in human flesh? When angels appear they do not become flesh but become physical.

When Jacob wrestled with the Lord was he flesh or had become physical?

Was God always in the flesh? Where in the Scripture does it say this? Let's go back further than Jesus, before Moses or Abraham. When God met Adam in the garden was he flesh? When he created the animals before man was made was he flesh? When he created the heavens and the earth was he flesh? When exactly did God get flesh for the first time? Branham says he was made a man when the logos was made.

This becomes more than a major flaw in Branham's belief system. Some would certainly be justified to call it heresy, that God always had flesh. There is nothing to point to in the Bible to support this. NOTHING!

If this (first) Melchisedec is an eternal high priest, than we have two high priests. But Jesus is appointed to be Melchizedek because he resurrected and lives, never to die again.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



The only time we are told God became flesh in the Scripture was in Jesus Christ. He became flesh ONCE to die for our sins.

“In all things He had to be made like his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in all things pertaining to God” (Heb.2:17).

He is now our High Priest, sitting at the right hand of God, the Father.

Heb. 10:12-13 *“But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God.”* That man is the Son who became incarnate as Jesus. The Father did not incarnate, the Bible says he sent His Son from heaven.

The priesthood of Jesus has its basis on the New Covenant, which is eternal. Melchizedek is an Eternal priesthood order by the only eternal priest of that order is Jesus. We do not have two Melchizedek Priests. The Bible makes it clear that there is only one high priest and Jesus the Son of God is our only high Priest for eternity.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Section 3

Chapter 23

His Own Angel

The Healing commission from the angel in the year _____?

Branham had received two main commissions; the first occurred at the Ohio River in 1933, the 2nd commission was in 1946. Both dates have their set of problems but clearly the 1946 date carries more. This voice and light from childhood that followed him finally revealed itself. It was now to be understood as an angel, a gift that would control his worldwide healing ministry. It was after this visitation that Branham's healing and deliverance ministry grew to worldwide proportions and touched thousands of lives (All Things are possible pp. 27-40; 159-164).

The story is that he was praying in a secret cave in the woods when the angel appeared to him. His followers think they have discovered the location of the cave in recent years. But is this cave the actual location of this supposed event in 1946? In the sermon "How the Angel Came to Me and His Commission," tape #55-0117, Mr. Branham describes the incident as occurring in "a little old dilapidated cabin." not a cave. He tells of praying, pacing back and forth on the floor of wooden boards, and an old drum stove setting in the corner. As he sat on "a little old box, he said that he saw a light begin to flicker in the room.

This is probably the most important subject in the book that pertains to Branham's experiences. The pattern like the other tales Mr. Branham told have the details change over the years, sometimes in a month's time. His story of the angel visiting to

commission him has more tentacles than an octopus. The place, the time, the people all

converge with contradictions. One wonders how anyone accepts what he says when he is constantly telling conflicting tales such as these.

Let's begin by looking at what Branham called "the crises" and how it led to him receiving the commission and authority to heal from the angel. This is the most complete version that is written. The points that are underlined will be discussed. This may be tedious to read similar accounts but it is necessary to understand how they changed.

"I must tell you of the angel and the coming of the Gift. I shall never forget the time, May 7, 1946 ... I was still working as game warden. I had come home for lunch, and was just going around the house taking off my gun, when a very dear friend of mine approached me and asked me to go to Madison with him that afternoon. I told him it was impossible as I had to patrol, and while walking around the house under a maple tree, it seemed that the whole top of the tree let loose. It seemed that something came down through that tree like a great rushing wind ... I staggered ... they ran to me ... my wife came from the house, frightened, and asked me what was wrong. Trying to get hold of myself, I sat down and told her that after all these twenty odd years of being haunted by this strange feeling, the time had come when I had to find out what it was all about, or I would never return anymore. The crisis had come. I told her and my child good-bye, and warned her that if I did not return in a few days, never to look for me. And here, dear reader, is the part of

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



this mysterious experience which has to do with your healing, so read prayerfully and carefully. That afternoon I went away to a secret place to pray and read my Bible. I became deep in prayer; it seemed that my whole soul would tear from me. I cried before God ... I laid my face to the ground ... I looked up to God and cried, "If you will forgive me for the way that I have done, I'll try to do better I'm sorry that I've been so neglectful all these years in doing the work you wanted me to do will you speak to me someday, God? If you don't help me, I can't go on." Then along in the night, at about the eleventh hour, I had quit praying and was sitting up when I noticed a light flickering in the room. Thinking someone was coming with a flashlight, I looked out of the window, but there was no one, and when I looked back, the light was spreading out on the floor, becoming wider. Now I know this seems very strange to you, as it did to me also, but remember, your healing depends on whether or not you believe it, as you will see later on. As the light was spreading, of course I became excited and started from the chair, but as I looked up, there hung that great star. However it did not have five points like a star, but looked more like a ball of fire of light, shining down upon the floor. Just then I heard someone walking across the floor, which startled me again, as I knew of no one who would be coming there besides myself. Now, coming through the light, I saw the feet of a man coming toward me, as naturally as you would walk to me. He appeared to be a man who, in human weight, would weigh about two hundred pounds, clothed in a white robe, had a smooth face, no beard, but with dark hair down to his shoulders, rather dark-complected, with a very pleasant countenance, and coming close, his eyes caught with mine, and seeing how fearful I was, he began to speak. "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 divine healing to the peoples of the world. IF YOU WILL BE SINCERE, AND CAN GET THE PEOPLE TO BELIEVE YOU, NOTHING SHALL STAND BEFORE YOUR PRAYER, NOT EVEN CANCER." Words cannot express how I felt. He told me many things which I do not have space to record here. He told me how I would be able to

detect diseases by vibrations on my hand. He went away, but I have seen him many times since then. He has appeared to me, perhaps once or twice within the space of six months and has spoken with me. A few times he has appeared visibly in the presence of others. I do not know who he is, I only know that he is the messenger of God to me." (Personal testimony of the coming gift; also Branham's testimony to Gordon Lindsay William Branham - A Man Sent from God by Gordon Lindsay, Editor of the Voice of Healing)

I want to also include this other story because of the details. "and just above me hung a great Star. And the Light was kind of a, more of a green, between green and yellow, shining on the floor. And coming walking through this Light, came a Man ... Who He is, I do not know." (47-1102, The Angel Of God, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

In his "personal testimony" he describes a ball of fire of light but no color. In his sermon "The Angel of God" a man comes walking through this green light/yellow light. This is the color Branham describes as the glory of God. He commissions Branham to heal even cancer but the angel is still unidentified?

There are numerous points that become contradictory to his other stories when he tells of the same event. First is the date, May 7, 1946. This is not always the same date he gives but it is ultimately significant because of what he attaches to this date.

Let's look at some of his points in his "personal testimony." "twenty odd years of being haunted by this strange feeling." This should be far more years than that, since he became aware of it as a child, from age 3 or latest 7.

Branham apparently didn't believe the message given by the orb of light that supposedly came over him in baptism on the Ohio River in 1933. He tells of becoming distraught and conflicted by not joining the oneness Pentecostals, a guilt which could have led to his crises.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"Maybe I have been wrong. I should've embraced it; I should've said something." But I knelt on my knees and I said, "God, if I have been wrong, and I've turned down something that I didn't understand, trying to listen to what preachers was telling me ... Maybe, if I've been wrong, then, Lord, I don't understand it according to the Bible. But if I've been wrong, You forgive me." (52-0713A Early Spiritual Experiences)

"standing in a little old room one night, cold, praying with all my heart, here come the supernatural Being, His august Being lit the room like the morning sun shining. He spoke to me, in a scream. "Come, fear not. I'm with you." (Hallelujah.) "You're to take a message of Divine healing to the peoples of the world." (50-0819, Show Us The Father, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH) The morning sun is not the color green.

Another story Branham described him as having a *"peaceful looking face, and very calm."* (51-0717, The Manifestation of The Spirit) *"looking right at me, just as pleasant."* Then why would he scream to Branham? Speaking loudly and screaming are not the same.

Branham describes when he first met him *"I couldn't speak.... I just sit there. And He said, "Fear not." (47-1102, The Angel Of God, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)*

"And I was so scared that I-I was biting my fingers. Just imagine, standing face to face with something like that. I was biting my fingers." (50-0300, Gifts And Callings Are Without Repentance, Carlsbad Air Base Recreation Center, Carlsbad, NM)

"and I was biting my fingers until I was bleeding almost. ... I couldn't get up. I ... Honest, I was so scared. I-I just couldn't move." (50-0821, The Angel And The Commission, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

Branham also says *"I could not move; I was just shaking so." (51-0501, Exhortation of Divine Healing, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA)*

This sounds like all the other times he heard the voice speak to him and how he was paralyzed with fear.

"When I seen the Man, ... When He spoke, I didn't know Him. ... was the first time I'd ever seen Him, human form." (50-0711, Ministry Explained, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN)

A month later he says, *"I knowed that was the same Voice. First time I'd seen Him as a Man. I'd seen Him in that whirl of fire; I'd heard Him in the--the whirlwind in a bush." (50-0821, The Angel And The Commission, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)*

Why does he first say *When He spoke, I didn't know Him* and later he says he immediately recognized his voice? *"As I heard that voice I knew it was the same voice that always spoke to me"* ("Twentieth Century Prophet" video).

These may be small contradictory points but they mount up as there are so many others like these.

This time the voice appeared to him in bodily form and apparently gave him a commission to heal. The official date is supposed to be May 7, 1946. Branham's angel revealed himself and he received what he called his "charge" from the spirit, the angel's commission of the healing ministry was at the same time God restored Israel as a nation.

His commission to heal at the Cabin:
"And then all along down through life I'd see that, see that moving, see that visions, how those things would happen. Then, a little later on, It kept bothering me so much, and everybody telling me It was wrong. ... No matter how much I'd keep praying for That not to come, It come anyhow. ... I was game warden in the State of Indiana. ... I said, "Honey, I can't go on like this, I'm a prisoner." I said, "All the time, when this thing keeps happening, and things like that, and these visions a-coming, and so forth like that, or whatever it is." I said, "Them trances like," I said, "I don't know what that is. And, honey, I-I-I don't want to fool

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



with it, they—they tell me it's the Devil. And I love the Lord Jesus.”

And I said, “Meda [his wife], I'll never come out of that woods until God promises me He'll take that thing away from me and never let it happen again.”

...

And I went up there that night and went back in the little old cabin floor. (Ed. the other story he says he went in the afternoon) ... Where I used to trap when I was a boy, had a trap line through there and go up there and fish and stay all night. Just a little old dilapidated cabin sitting over there ... And I set down on this little stool....

And, all at once, I seen a Light flicker in the room. And I thought somebody was come up with a flashlight. And I looked around, and I thought, “Well ...” And here It was, right out in front of me. And old wooden boards on the floor. And there It was, right in front of me. And a little old drum stove sitting in the corner, the top was tore out of it. And—and right in here there was a—a Light on the floor, and I thought, “Well, where's that?

Well, that couldn't be coming.”

I looked around. And here It was above me, this very same Light, right there above me, hanging right like that. Circling around like a fire, kind of an emerald color, going, “Whoossh, whoossh, whoossh!” like that, just above It, like that. And I looked at That, and I thought, “What is That?” Now, It scared me.

And I heard somebody coming, just walking, only it was barefooted. And I seen the foot of a Man come in. Dark in the room, all but right here where It was shining right down. And I seen the foot of a Man coming in. And when He come into the room, walked on up, He was a Man about ... looked to weigh about two hundred pounds. [Branham also described him as dark of complexion, with shoulder length hair.] He had His hands folded like this.

Now, I had seen It in a Whirlwind, I had heard It talk to me, and seen It in the form of a Light, but the first time I ever seen the image of It. It walked up to me, real close.

Well, honest friends, I—I thought my heart would fail me. ... So I was sitting there and looking at Him. I—I kind of had my hand up like that. He was looking right at me, just as pleasant. But He had a real deep Voice, and He said, “Do not fear. I am

sent from the Presence of Almighty God.” And when He spoke, that Voice, that was the same Voice that spoke to me when I was two years old, all the way up. I knowed that was Him.

He said, “I am sent from the Presence of Almighty God, to tell you that your peculiar birth...” He then repeats what was said in the first story account.

And He said, “As the prophet Moses was given two gifts, signs to vindicate his ministry, so will you be given two.” He said, “One of them will be that you'll take the person that you're praying for by the hand, with your left hand and their right,” and said, “then just stand quiet, and there'll be a physical effect that'll happen on your body. Then you pray. And if it leaves, the disease is gone from the people. If it doesn't leave, just ask a blessing and walk away.”

He said, “And the next thing will be, if they won't hear that, then they will hear this. Then it'll come to pass that you'll know the very secret of their heart.” This they will hear.” He said, “You were born in this world for that purpose.” (55-0117; How the Angel Came to Me, and His Commission (“Lindsay, Branham, p.77.” William Branham, “The Angel and His Commission,” Phoenix AZ, 11/30/47)

In his personal testimony he says nothing about the color emerald or the sound of whoosh.

Timing Conflicts

This is to have happened when he was a game warden, he was also a pastor at the Baptist church at the time.

“I will never forget ... I was still working as a game warden.” (A Man Sent From God – p. 76)

Branham states he, “was still a Baptist pastor.” (57-0806, God Projecting His Love, Edmonton Arena, Edmonton, AB)

If that is correct than his dates of his stories are all wrong. That would have this occur in the year 1943.

The majority of statements in his sermons says he spent 7 years as a game warden.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"I was a game warden here in Indiana for about seven or eight years." (53-0609E, Make The Valley Full Of Ditches, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN; 55-0610, Do You Now Believe?, Porter Stadium, Macon, GA; 56-1215, Hear Ye Him, Apostolic Hour Of Faith Tabernacle, Parkersburg, WV; 57-0305, Divine Love, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ; 57-0106, Jehovah-Jireh, Arnold Memorial School, Cleveland, TN; 57-0519E, Love, Saskatoon Arena, Saskatoon, SK; 57-0126E, When Divine Love Is Projected, Sovereign Grace Takes Its Place, Memorial Hall, Lima, OH; 62-0721, Behold, A Greater Than Solomon Is Here) However we have other stories that conflict and make it an even earlier time.

"Then when that Magi told me these things when I was just a boy, game warden (or before that, I believe it was), about these things." (62-1230E, Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir?, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham has told us he was 12 at this time he met the astrologer. In fact he refers to the astrologer again in another sermon when he was game warden (63-1222, God's Gifts Always Find Their Places) He also tells us of being game warden when his first wife died (1937) and he became depressed that he tried to take his life. *"I had been game warden. I reached in there and got my gun, pistol, out from the holster. I said, "Lord, I-I can't go this anymore, I'm--I'm dying. I'm--I'm so tormented."* (59-0419A, My Life Story, Angelus Temple, Los Angeles, CA) Which make the year 1944 at the latest.

Speaking of before he was converted or went to church *"I'd been a woodsman all my life, game warden for years, lived in the woods, trapped and hunted all my life. ... I was going to write me a letter and tack up on a tree in the woods"* (55-1119, Redeemer, Redemption, Tent Meeting, San Fernando, CA)

"I was a game warden for seven years just before coming into the ministry." (60-0110, The Queen Of Sheba, Tift County Courthouse, Tifton, GA)

I assume this means the healing ministry. This causes another conflict. This means it is the year

1940 that he became a game warden. That does not fit with his life story.

Davis' church burned down in 1934 after which he never returned as pastor. The church was later rebuilt and WMB took over as pastor. <http://searchingforvindication.com/2013/06/30/First-Appearances-Of-The-Pentecostal-Tabernacle/>

He could not be a game warden as a Baptist, as he was no longer at the Baptist church. If it took place in 1946, Davis already moved from there and Branham had his own church for years, not as a baptist. Branham's crises of conscience had to take place before 1946. So this stories timing of the angel's commission is brought into question.

Though he claimed to be a game warden when he was commissioned by the angel in 1946, it does not fit the other parts in his life. What makes sense is that he was a game warden during his teen years.

The crises comes

In his personal testimony Branham says, he was working as a game warden and had come home for lunch, *and was just going around the house taking off my gun.* *"Prod Wiseman, a brother to my piano player in the church, approached me and asked me to go to Madison with him that afternoon. I told him it was impossible as I had to patrol, and while walking around the house under a maple tree, it seemed that the whole top of the tree let loose. It seemed that something came down through that tree like a great rushing wind ... they ran to me ... My wife came from the house frightened, and asked me what was wrong. Trying to get hold of myself, I sat down and told her that after all these twenty odd years of being conscious of this strange feeling, the time had come when I had to find out what it was all about. The crisis had come."* (A Man Sent From God p. 76)

This is the only story that mentions Prod Wisemen. In his sermon "The Angel and The Commission," Wisemen is not the person who asks for him to go to Madison. *"Her--her brother came up and said,*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"Brother Branham, ride up to Madison with me." I said, "I can't, I've got patrol today."

Brother Broy is not in any other stories of what took place before he left to the Cabin. This is Roger Broy, his wife Meda's brother.

Branham describes *"Seemed like every leaf on that tree fell on me." ... I said, "... I don't know what that is, Brother Broy." I said, "It's followed me all the days of my life." And I said, "I--I believe that being that people has told me that it was the wrong thing..." I said, "I remember lots of times in the Bible, that when the demons had to testify of the power of Christ ... When a lot of times a clergyman said, 'Why, He's Beelzebub. He's this, that, or the other.' Demons said, 'We know Who You are. You're the Son of God, the holy One of Israel.'"*

I seen when Paul and Silas was up there at Antioch when that little old fortuneteller, when all them ministry up there said, "Aw, they're impostors." And that little fortuneteller run out, said, "These are the men of God to tell the way of life." See, them demons recognized that gift in those men, before, sometimes, religious teachers did. And I said to my wife; I said, "Honey, call them up. Tell them I don't know when I'll ever be back to work again, for I am now going to find out what that is or die." (50-0821, The Angel and The Commission, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

We should take note that Branham said nearly the exact same words that his angel told him before he went to the cabin and heard them from his angel.

What brings this whole early story into question is that he is telling Broy the very same things the angel tells him later that night of why he is misunderstood. This is something he is supposed to be waiting for as an answer.

Why did the angel say the same words?

Further conflicts are the witnesses, two different men asking to go to Madison with him that afternoon at his house.

So we are expected to trust Mr. Branham because he's a prophet, even though the details of who was there, what happened and when are all mixed up. Hardly acceptable.

The proof that was given by the angel

Branham's crises of whether this was the Devil or not was finally settled. He says *"but my ministering brother told me, "It was the Devil." And I--I couldn't understand it. ...when the Angel of the Lord walked across the floor and stood there, and proved it by the Scripture."* (57-0828, Hebrews, Chapter Two #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"... I was trying to get rid of the very thing that God give me to fight with, the visions, when they was telling me It was of the Devil. Then He come, telling me, referred back to the Scriptures, "Didn't they say the same thing about the Son of God, and so forth?" I had a V-day. No more of that for me." (63-0421, Victory Day, House Meeting, Sierra Vista, AZ)

"He referred to the Scriptures that I many times do, about Jesus of Nazareth, knowing that He was misunderstood, and let me know that I would be misunderstood. And I am misunderstood by many. But I am very thankful that many have believed the Message. And Jesus was misunderstood." (51-0505 My commission)

So apparently his being misunderstood is just like Jesus. But Branham being misunderstood also took place before he knew of Jesus. Was Jesus misunderstood? Or did the religious leaders understand him enough and were in rebellion? The people rejoiced, it was a small group of religious leaders threatened by Jesus that held influence; they misled the people.

I said, "That's what's always puzzled me; my minister brothers said it was wrong." And He spoke straight then. He said, "As it was in the first coming of Jesus, so is it at the second. The ministers did not know their day of visitation." Then He referred to Scriptures in the Bible to show that that's what Jesus did." (55-0621, The Roman Nobleman, Unknown, Zurich, Switzerland)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



It is the Pharisees who openly spoke against Jesus. Isaiah 10:3 speaks of the day of visitation but this day is strictly for judgment. This reference in the New Testament is only found in Lk.19:44, called the "Time of visitation." Luke 19:41-42 "*Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it.*" In context to his overall ministry it was said to the people who were being misled by their religious leaders. As he was challenged in the temple led by the religious leaders. Luke 19:47-48 "*And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy him, And could not find what they might do: for all the people were very attentive to hear him.*"

Jesus always made a distinction of those purposely misleading and those misled. An angel of God would not make this kind of mistake and generalize the Scripture.

Apparently the angel gave him numerous examples. He referred to unbelievers, demons, demon possessed as his proof. That is not what one would expect to hear from God's angel.

"Now listen to what He said, this One who's hanging over there in the picture. He said, "As it was then, so is it now." And He begin to refer to me, that when the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ began to take place, the ministers said He was Beelzebub—the devil. But the devils said He was the Son of God, the Holy One of Israel. Devils." "And look at Paul and Barnabas when they was up there preaching. The ministers said, "These men turn the world up-side-down. They're evil, they're the devil." And a little old fortuneteller out on the street, recognized that Paul and Barnabas was men of God, said, "They are men of God who tell us the way of life." Is that right? Spiritualists and soothsayers, demon-possessed people." (55-0117 - How The Angel Came To Me, And His Commission)

Branham sets this up by using a questionable picture. This was not at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, but halfway through. This is Mt.12 where the people were asking could he be the son of

David? The Pharisees heard this and immediately reacted saying that he "*cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.*"(Mt. 12:24)

The Devil knew he was the Son of God, and tempted him. "*the unclean spirits, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, "You are the Son of God."*" "*But He sternly warned them that they should not make Him known.*"(Mark 3:11-12)

Why did they cry out who he is? In Mt. 8:28-29 where he met *two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, ... And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"*

We need to keep the story in context. They were in fear of judgment. Apparently Branham's angel said to him is that were *testifying of the power of Christ.* No, they were afraid and spoke this to only Jesus.

The indictment of turning the world upside down came from the Jews at Thessalonica that were not convinced. This reference is found in Acts 17:1-7. When they came to Thessalonica, to a synagogue of the Jews. *Paul, spoke for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ."* And some of them were persuaded; these were the Greeks.

"But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason,... (Jason had Paul and Silas into his home) *they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too."*

Nowhere does Scripture say "*They're evil, they're the devil.*" Would an angel of God make such a mistake? Would he add to the Scripture? I think not. But man would.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



It did not take much for his angel to explain and convince him how he was misunderstood like Jesus. "He said, "As it was back there, so is it now. When they were arguing on what kind of buttons they should wear on their coats, and things like that, ... But it was a — a evil spirit that said, 'These man are servants of God, that turn the world upside down.' That Paul and them said. And the evil spirit testified that they were true servants of God." He told me, said, "Don't you remember, in the Scriptures, that's the thing our Lord did? And that's what He promised, He said it would happen again in the last days." (64-0405 A Trial)

Here's an argument from the word that the Devil would use, that they argued about buttons (which we do not see at all in scripture), and that an evil spirit said they are servants of God is acceptable. Besides, functional buttons with buttonholes for fastening or closing clothes appeared first in the 13th century.

That's the proof from his angel? Branham was looking for answers so this was acceptable. Let's now look that story in Acts 16:16-18:
"A slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination followed Paul and his companions around, crying out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her."

Her goal is not to bear testimony but trying to interfere with the work of God as she was among the people that knew her as a diviner, she scammed the people. Paul put up with her interference for only so long, it says he was greatly annoyed. So he casts the demon out of her, he does not allow her to keep "testifying."

Barnes' Notes makes a sensible point "*her presence was troublesome to him; (2) Because it might be said that he was in alliance with her, and that his pretensions were just like hers.*"

Once the masters saw this they seized Paul and Silas and took them to the authorities. They accused them of troubling the city; teaching customs not lawful for us Romans and had the multitude rise up against them. The magistrates commanded them to be beaten with rods and they threw them into prison,

This was Satan's scheme from the beginning with the girl, to stop there ministry. So we can see how he used her testifying to arrive at his goal.

This reasoning used of the angel sounds familiar, much like the way the devil quoted the scripture to Jesus in the temptation. "*For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.*" (Ps. 91:11-12)

Satan can tell a portion of the truth to get you to believe a lie. Just as He quoted the scripture correctly to Jesus, only he misapplied it so he would act on it.

The angel's justification for Branham's unusual life comes from those who were unbelievers, who deny and oppose Jesus, both human and the demon possessed (the demons knew who Jesus is, the Son of God on earth, something Branham denied.) The angel is telling Branham about him being peculiar and misunderstood. But he is the cause of it!

The angel does not cite those who believed and confessed who Jesus is, but uses what is demonic. "*Spiritualists and soothsayers, demon-possessed people.*" By saying what he did he connected Branham to the statements of the astrologers that spoke to him years before. The conclusion Branham came to – the astrologers can witness the truth so can other occult teachers.

Further Discrepancies of the Commission

William Branham's most complete testimony about the angel came to him is found in the sermon, "How The Angel Came To Me, And His Commission" (tape #55-0117).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Before he went into the woods where he would eventually meet the angel that was to commission him, he said to his wife, *"I'm going to my place in the woods. I got about fifteen dollars; you take care of Billy." Billy was a little bitty boy then, a little bitty fellow. I said, "You--you take... That's enough for you and Billy to live on awhile."*

This is also described in Gordon Lindsay's book, *A Man Sent From God* (printed in 1950): *"... The crisis had come! I told her and my child good-bye."* (*A Man Sent From God* p. 76; William Branham, "What Hearest Thou, Elijah?" April 12, 1959).

Branham's oldest daughter, Rebekah was born on March 21, 1946 yet he does not mention her at all in the accounts but mentions his one child Billy (who was born in Sept 13, 1935). One can only conclude since she was not born yet when this took place which means his crisis point did not come May of 1947, but earlier, 1945, or before ... or, not at all. Therefore we must question the date of this account of an angel commissioning him to pray for the sick which he claimed occurred on May 7, 1946.

In fact he states *"Ten years ago, He stood by me as a man dressed in white, with hair down His long, white robe, and told me I was to pray for sick people, and told me that this was gift that was given for God."* (54-0724, *A Personal Experience With God*, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

That means the date was 1944, not 1946. More details with serious discrepancies surface as we look at the stories of Mr. Branham's angelic commission that thrusts him into his worldwide healing ministry.

In the study, at home

"Here's what's happened, when the time I met Him, when He appeared as a Man, I was setting in my study. He came ... I seen the Light spread out on the floor. He came walking to me. He looked like a Man that weighed two hundred pounds. And this Light was just above me." (50-0300 Gifts and callings are without repentance)

How many know there is a difference between a cave, a cabin and a study?

In the video called "Twentieth Century Prophet" made in 1953, William Branham is giving his testimony on video to brother's Leroy and Copp at his home.

He tells them at the age of 37 years *"one night I was praying in my room"* (insinuating his room at home) *and when I raised up I noticed there was a light on the floor."* He explains it was *coming from above, the pillar of fire.* As soon as I heard that voice I knew it was the same voice that always spoke to me, when he said people say this is of the devil he referred to him many scriptures. He gave him many scriptures such as when Philip found Nathaniel, he came to Jesus and Jesus told him where he had been, under the tree where Nathaniel found him. And the woman at the well. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnBWRru8w_Q If this is accurate than it was 1946 (1909 + 37= 1946, not 47)

He also describes *"Three years ago an Angel met me in the realms that are ... in the room."* (50-0716 Believest thou this Minneapolis, Minnesota)

What he means is not exactly clear. The word *Realms* was a word he often used for the supernatural, the spirit realm, another dimension.

In his earliest sermons there is no cabin or cave mentioned, *"and may the Angel that Thou did send into the room that night to speak to Thy servant"* *"May the Angel that spoke to me that night in the room be near Thy servant's side" there was an Angel came down into the room ...He came and told me in the room one night that God had sent the gift."* (47-0412 Faith Is The Substance Oakland Municipal Auditorium in Oakland, California)

That same year speaking of the angel *"But in the room that night when He came..."* *"A little over two years ago now I was sitting in the room. I was reading my little Scofield Bible, and I heard something. First, I saw a Light. And I thought it was an automobile that turned the corner. But it turned,*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



but it got brighter. And I looked out the door and there was no automobile.” (47-1102, The Angel Of God And His Commission, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

The mention of an automobile is important because it would not make sense of it being driven in the woods where the cabin was located. He said the cabin is a mile and a half from any road. Also a door is mentioned, which is equally important for it being a room. In Branham's testimony to Gordon Lindsay he states *“I looked out of the window.”* Which also implies a home not a cave.

“May the seventh in the room, an Angel of the Lord came into the room.” (50-0711, Ministry Explained, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN)

A few days later he says, *“And one day I just come from patrol, and I walked into the... my place, and I was praying that night about one o'clock, between one and three. And I noticed in my room, a Light begin to spread across the floor.” (50-0713, Obey The Voice Of The Angel, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN)*

A number of details are changed and missing. There is no tree shaking, no crises, he does not go anywhere but apparently inside his home.

In my reading the various stories it is hard to put them in sequence and know when or what occurred. There are numerous conflicts of how they are told, the contents and details do not match.

As we continue to read his own words we cannot know if this occurred at his home, in a cave, in a cabin, or possibly not at all?

The Cave testimony

“Well, one night up yonder in Green's Mill, Indiana, to a cave where I was at in a place, the Angel of the Lord appeared and said, "You're to go pray for sick people.” (53-0509 The Pillar of Fire)

“At Green's Mill, Indiana, here, at the scout reservation; I was back in an old cave where I go to pray.” (53-0609A, Demonology, Religious Realm, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN)

“All of us have a place we go to when we get in those troubles. I've got a little cave that the FBI couldn't find that I get into. I'll stay in there for two or three days. I have to wade up a Creek, and go up over a hill; and through a branch, go under a tree and go down into a cave.” (William Branham, “What Hearest Thou, Elijah?” April 12, 1959).

This presents a problem because he states a number of times he thought an automobile was outside. An automobile in the middle of the woods? The cave was back in the hills (mentioned in The Angel of God audio).

The Cabin testimony

I think we all can agree that Branham knows the difference between a cave, a cabin and a room. So why the discrepancies?

Branham mentions the cabin at Green's Mill numerous times 60-0210m the revelation that was given to me; 61-0318 Abraham's covenant confirmed 51-0923; The Principles Of Divine Healing; 52-0810A I am the Resurrection and the Life; 52-0713A, Early Spiritual Experiences, 52-0900, God's Way That's Been Made For Us, 52-0810A, I Am The Resurrection And The Life, 54-0329, Redemption By Power)

I said, 'Great God of heaven, Who met me out there in the cabin, sent His Angel to declare this.” (60-0210M The revelation that was given to me)

“But when the Angel of the Lord appeared to me out there on Green's Mill bank, out there in that little cabin that night, He told me to go, and I'd be praying for statesmen, and great men, and kings, and monarchs. It would sweep around the world, and now, there's a revival sweeping the world, originating in Jeffersonville, Indiana.” (51-0923 The Principles of Divine healing)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"Now, You promised that. You confirmed it to me by an Angel that night at Green's Mill, standing in that cabin." (61-0318 Abraham's Covenant confirmed; 51-0502 The Angel of the Lord)

So why does he also say in another account of the angels commission, *"One night, at a little camp where I was fishing, way back in the mountains, I was laying back there. About three o'clock one morning, I seen a Light coming. I had just been reading the Bible. I thought it was somebody coming, shining it through a knothole, a lantern or something. It was way in the wilderness. And I thought somebody was coming up. The Light was on the floor; It spread greater and greater. I heard of Somebody walking. When It did, It was a Man. He was barefooted. He had hair to His shoulders, and He had on a robe. And I like scared me to death."* (64-0405, A Trial, 4-H Club Barn, Louisville, MS)

In this story he says he was fishing at the camp. He wasn't in intense prayer but relaxing. A light is seen first from outside through a knothole which insinuates a door, which does not make this a cave. A man walking barefoot does not make much sound on the ground as he described.

What's he doing fishing when he went there in the midst of a crises and was praying all afternoon into the night?

"But one night, up here in Indiana, I was praying at an old fishing camp, where I used to go fishing. I'd go back in there many times to pray. And He had come to me. Under this Light, stood a Man, around six foot tall, hundred and — two hundred pounds, big arms, dark hair to His shoulders. And He was standing under that Light. And He told me I was borned in this world, to pray for sick people." (53-0612 Palmerworm, Locus, Cankerworm, caterpillar)

The supposed Angel of the Lord came to him in May 1946, the visitations took place in a ranger's cabin, other times he said it was in a cave. (William Branham: A Man Sent From God and "How the Angel Came to Me and His Commission").

At time he said the Angel met him in a ranger's cabin. In "The Acts of the Prophet," "you'll discover that he really met the Angel in a cave." (Peary Green, The Acts of the Prophet (Tucson Tabernacle, 1969), p. 68. Also, "The Pillar of Fire," 1953, May 9).

Branham himself says, *"I got a cave I go into, and it'll be way back in the hills. But this is a little old log cabin where I used to trap."* (50-0821, The Angel And The Commission, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

We have a cave, a cabin, a study, and a fishing trip? One story he is there for hours earnestly praying in another he sits down and is immediately visited. In another he's fishing and relaxing, this almost as confusing as his dates.

The descript terms he used *a little old dilapidated cabin sitting over there, old wooden boards on the floor. A little old drum stove sitting in the corner,* would imply a shack, a cabin.

Another bothersome point in the story titled "The Angel and His Commission," the angel says to pray and if nothing happens bless them. Is that what Jesus did?

Branham is to have a physical effect happen on his body in relation to their sickness. There is no Biblical reference point to such an occurrence and it has no relationship to Moses.

In another story he speaks of two sources of light *"And I raised up and I was crying. I set down, looked around. I seen a Light flash in the room, like that young fellow that flashed that bulb. And I thought, "Somebody must be coming." And here on the floor was a big Light, coming around. Right above it stood this halo, Pillar of Fire, moving along, and come walking through there came an Angel of God. ... "I've been sent from the Presence of Almighty God ... (52-0713A Early Spiritual Experiences)*

So in this account he has two lights, a big light and then a pillar of fire that he often said was Jesus in

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



the Old Testament with the angel walking through it.

The Gift

The angel gave Moses as the example

Why would the angel use Moses, a leader for the Old Testament covenant, an event that took place 3,500 years ago as the reference for a believer in the new covenant?

And I said, "But they won't believe me, Sir." He said, "As the prophet Moses was given two signs to vindicate his — his calling, so will you be given two signs." He said, "These visions you've seen down through your life will be given to you. First you'll take people by the hand, and don't have nothing to say myself," but said, "It'll tell the people what's wrong, what's the diseases they've had. And if they won't believe this, it'll come to pass, that you'll tell them the very thing and the secret of their heart. And by this, they will believe." (51-0717 The Manifestation of the Spirit)

"here was an Angel came down into the room and told me that way back, back fore I was born, was foreordained to have a gift of Divine healing. And He came and told me in the room one night that God had sent the gift, and it was a gift of Divine healing for the people. And if I could get the people to believe me (believe me), and would be sincere when I prayed, that nothing would stand before the prayer." I said, "Therefore, speaking face to face with this supernatural Being, I believe it with all my heart. And if I can get you to believe me with all your heart, that's what moves God, and then you're healed." (47-0412, Faith Is The Substance, Oakland Municipal Auditorium, Oakland, CA)

The angel that told him this was lying and not from God because it is the angel that is the gift. "He's the gift. He's the One that God sent down." (50-0713, Obey The Voice Of The Angel)

"He gave me a gift when I was just a little boy. When I was born." (55-0610 Do You Now Believe? Porter Stadium in Macon, Ga)

"God's gift is the Spirit of God that came down in the form of an Angel." (50-0713 Obey the voice of an angel)

Where does the Bible teach of such a gift? A true Spiritual gift come from the Holy Spirit who is within the person. Here Branham is saying the Holy Spirit is this angel that came at birth, whom he saw as a man; that operates outside of him.

"If the Angel of the Lord comes to me, it's God's gift." (50-0300, Gifts And Callings Are Without Repentance, Carlsbad Air Base Recreation Center, Carlsbad, NM)

No angel had ever appeared to give any believer a spiritual gift. Some may say just because it did not happen before does not mean it can't happen, all things are possible. This is not like any of the spiritual gifts the Bible describes coming from the Holy Spirit that indwells a believer. Branham himself says "*there's nine spiritual gifts in the church.*" (50-0821).

Here Branham points out this gift came when he was born. He believed and taught everyone is born with spiritual gifts. Clearly it was not resident in him, nor was it given by the Holy Spirit but it accompanied him as an assumed "angelic" presence that scared him. The reference seems to mean the light that came through his window at birth. The being in his encounter identifies itself as *sent from almighty God* which according to Branham's theology means he, the gift, cannot be God. Yet he claims he is Spirit of God that came down in the form of an Angel.

The angel offers him power. But he can't enact it without the angel's presence so this has nothing to do with the Holy Spirit who is resident in ALL believers who is always with us.

"God sent the gift nearly forty years, about forty years ago. It's been in the world ever since. ... Now, the thing I was to do, was to pray for the sick and be sincere when I pray, and nothing would stand before the prayer. "If you can get the people to believe you..." See the order now? See?" (50-0821 The angel and the Commission)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Here, Branham points out this gift came when he was born, meaning the light that came at his birth.

To say he is to get the people to believe him, not God, not the word. This shows something is seriously wrong with the angel's message.

"that I was to pray for the people. And if I could get them to believe me, to believe that God heard my prayer, and I was sent to pray for sick people, that they would be healed of whatever disease they had." (51-0503, As I Was With Moses, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

The angel tells Branham the message is to believe him, he becomes the focus. This is repeated continually. He is to have them believe that God hears HIS PRAYERS. He is then made to be an intermediary for the church.

"How many's ever seen the picture?... That's the One that does the healing. Not I myself; I'm just a channel. Like the pool of Bethesda, it--it wasn't the water that healed; it was the Angel on the water that done the healing." (50-0711, Ministry Explained, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN)

Here Branham admits it is his angel that heals. So when the angel told him *God has sent you to take a gift of divine healing to the peoples of the world.* It meant the angel, who comes as the light.

Also the statement "to believe me with all your heart" should be a flashing red light. The faith that a person is to exercise toward God is then focused toward him and the angel. Branham is saying all he needs to succeed is sincerity in prayer to have them believe.

He is focusing faith that a person is to exercise toward God toward himself and the angel.

Branham states "your healing depends on whether or not you believe it." Believe what? The story of this angel. To make this clear let me interject another quote:

He is told "The thing is, is to get the people to believe that this is the truth. ... Now, you got that

part, have you? The gift is not to the discernment; the gift is to pray for the sick, and get them to believe you." (50-0821 The angel and the commission)

Notice the message is to believe him, not pointing to God and his Word. To believe him gets to move God? That's not faith in God. This is a subtle shift not to be overlooked. Also he is sent to deliver divine healing, but Jesus never sent anyone for this. He sent them to preach the gospel, the word (and sometimes signs would follow). Where does it say the requirement to do miracles is sincerity on the part of the one who prays?

Speaking of Jesus *He said, "As you believe in God, believe also in Me." Did He say it? "As you have belief in God, you believe in Me." That's the only way He could help them, 'cause they believe..." (50-0300 Gifts and callings are without repentance)*

Believing in Jesus and believing in Branham are two completely different things.

"You have to believe in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost in order to be a Christian. But believing that still won't help you in this gift. You've got to believe that I've told you the truth, not believe me as Them, but believe that They have sent me for this purpose. Now, you could be a renowned Christian, and fail to believe what I've told you to be the truth, and you'd never be able to reap a bit of benefit from it. Now, I'm sorry to have to say that, but it's the truth." (50-0713, Obey The Voice Of The Angel, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN)

Branham is saying you must have more than a belief in God. To be healed one must believe Branham's truth (even when it is contrary to the Bible) or you will not reap the benefit of his personal angel. Branham is representing himself to be another mediator to God when Christ is our mediator.

"I have nothing to do with the healing. I'm just a mouthpiece for your prayer to God. See? If your prayer has reached God, and He's told me that you're healed, then I believe it, and I speak it to you. If you believe it, then you're healed... No matter

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



what the symptoms are now, you believe it." (50-0821, The Angel And The Commission, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

There is no "spiritual gift" of prayer like this. We all have equal standing before the God who saved us.

"Not as my--as I have power to heal, I do not. But I have power of prayer." (60-0515E, Adoption #1, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

The two signs like Moses

"As it was with the prophet Moses, He gave him two signs to a vindicate his ministry, so will you be given two signs."

Branham is the only other one in history that claimed to be given two signs like Moses. Did any of the apostles have two signs accompany them their whole ministry? No. So we are to accept that Branham is told by this SAME angel that came to Moses that his two gifts are likened to Moses' two gifts. But nowhere are we told Moses was given "two specific gifts." He was given two tablets of the law for Israel which certainly has nothing to do with this. The only place one can remotely find relative of this angels statement to Branham is in Exod. 4:1-9, when Moses asked the angel of the Lord at the burning bush *"But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.'" The lord had him cast his rod to the ground and it turned into a snake and then take it up by the tail and it became a rod again. The LORD had Moses put his hand in your bosom and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous when he Put your hand in your bosom again and drew it out it was restored like his other flesh."* V.8-9 *"Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign. "And it shall be, if they do not believe even these two signs, or listen to your voice, that you shall take water from the river and pour it on the dry land. And the water which you take from the river will become blood on the dry land."*

This was to happen before the Pharaoh when Moses first appealed to him to let his people go from

bondage. These were signs of judgment for unbelief. How is this what Branham had or did?

We see this exercised in Exod. 7:19-20 when *"Aaron, took the rod and stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt 'all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood."*

This was the first plague and it was a judgment on one of the false gods of Egypt. The Nile was virtually the "life blood" of Egypt. All the fish died. The Egyptians had used the Nile to exterminate the Hebrew babies. This was payback from God. In Exod. 8:1 the command to Pharaoh let my people go so they may serve me precedes each judgment. How the same angel can liken this to Moses is hardly justified or accurate to the Bible. What it does reveal to us that it is not the same angel, The Angel of the Lord as Branham claimed.

As the angel did for Moses he will do for Branham *"He sent the Angel to speak through the voice of a man. God always used man for His work. (47-1102, The Angel Of God, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)*

Exactly where does the Bible say the angel spoke through Moses?

Is it like Moses? *"And I'm sending you, and you'll be My voice."* (64-0401, *The Identified Christ Of All Ages*, 4-H Club Barn, Louisville, MI).

So Branham will be the voice of this angel who commissioned him, an angel who is not God, nor Jesus. An angel he does not know the name of. Someone who Branham said, *"I do not know who he is. I only know that he is the messenger of God to me."* (From "A Man Sent By God" by William Branham)

This is nothing like what happened to Moses. This angel is using a historical Biblical event for a non-biblical activity.

Branham attributed this power to the pillar of fire, the angel of the Lord being present. Again this is not Jesus, though at times he mistakenly (or purposely) said it was.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



“And as I take them one at a time as they come up here, begin to tell them, talk to them, and so forth like that, tell them all about their diseases ... Never did one of the apostles do that. Never did Jesus do that. They did not do that. Yet the gift is here to do that.” (50-0821, The Angel And The Commission, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

Branham knew there was no biblical precedent to what he was doing but he was more pragmatic than biblical. Apparently so was his angel.

So he prayed to the angel *“Angel of God, I do not see You. But I know that You are standing near. Please, Thou knowest my heart, and know how I love these people. Stand by me tonight. ... And I know that Your Words have been true. I've took You at Your Word, for You said You were sent from God. I believed You. And You've stuck by me. You have confirmed the Word with signs following ... may You stand now and heal every one. Grant it.” (48-0305 At thy Word Lord)*

With all the visitations he still is puzzled who this being is, yet he trusts him. Why? Even though the angel says “fear not” there was a great deal of apprehension that accompanied the presence time after time. He said *“every time It comes near me, It alarms me, ... You never get used to It.”*

Here is what we must settle. Branham was not faking. He was able reveal things to people and about them that he got supernaturally. The real issue becomes the source. Not just the accuracy. Since there are only 2 possibilities then, (1) they were from God or (2) they were from the devil and his angels.

Since he is the only one who ever had an accompanying angel that could heal (No one is ever mentioned in Scripture as having a healing angel), we can assume it is the later. No other Biblical prophet or apostle needed an angel for this, why did he?

Since familiar spirits can reveal things, (they do with psychics) and can do supernatural, “signs and wonders,” these spirits can seemingly give one abilities as spiritistic manifestations.

We are left to confirm what Branham did is from God by his doctrine. And this is where it fails ALL the tests.

While conducting healing services Branham would often fall into a trance during which his angel would work through him. Branham could not do a single healing until his personal angel showed up. Branham assumed at times this angel was Jesus (he called him The Angel of the Lord) the one who was with him through his life since his childhood. But Jesus is no angel and he did not personally show up at Branham's meetings.

Further contradictions

“He said ... Then He explained the Scriptures to me. And oh, from that time, the Bible become a new Word to me. I had a different look on It, a different view of It. Something happened. Then a little later, He said, “Then if you'll be sincere, stay humble, keep away from money and stuff,” said, “then It'll just keep blessing you, and you'll keep climbing.” (59-1115 My New Ministry)

In other words he will continue to (climb), become famous if he does these things. We can see how his relationship with this angel developed from the time he materialized and sent him as he interpreted the Bible.

Explanation of the vibrations in the hand

How does this work? First he is to **take their hand**. Is there an example of any of this anywhere in the New Testament?

The validation of these signs that accompanied him was a vibration in his left hand by which he could detect illnesses, and his gift of what was believed to be knowledge and discernment was to reveal the secrets of people's hearts.

“.. He told me many things which I do not have space to record here, He told me how I would be”

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



able to detect diseases by vibrations on my hand."
(From "A Man Sent By God" by William Branham)

"when I was praying for them, I was using my right hand. Then on the left hand showed vibrations." (55-0311, *The Seal Of The Antichrist*, Great Western Exhibit Center, Los Angeles, CA.)

Vibrations from an angel, *He said, "You take the person by the hand, the right hand." And that goes to my heart, by the left hand. And you see there's something happens there.*" (51-0727, *The Church Of The Living God*, National Guard Armory, Erie, PA)

"The minister claimed to have a mysterious vibration in his left hand by which he was able to distinguish cancer, T.B., and other germs." (A Man Sent From God - Page 162 *The Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*).

"Well, as soon as I took hold of her hand, there showed ... When I was praying for them, I was using my right hand. Then on the left hand showed vibrations. And a few moments, the deaf spirit was cast from the lady" (47-1102, *The Angel Of God*, Shriners Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

And He said, "It'll come to pass that you'll tell the people their diseases from a vibration over your hand. Then if you will be reverent long, then you'll tell the people the sins of their life, and the things that they have done." Dear friends, with the Bible before me this afternoon, it has come to pass." (47-1102 *The Angel of God*)

*"there'll be a **physical effect that'll happen on your body.**" And He said, "Then you pray. And if it leaves, the disease is gone from the people. If it doesn't leave, just ask a blessing and walk away." (Branham, *Footprints*, p.75)*

Branham was deceived in this method being from God. It was real, just not from God. How do we know this? He describes himself as oppressed and the only way out was to give in to the oppressor.

The Angels who appear

In the new age movement Jesus is called an ascended master along with others. There is also an ascended master Saint Germain who is called the Lord of the Seventh Ray who materialized himself to Guy Ballard.

Branham described his angel materialize physically with an accompanying light, he could touch him if he wanted to. That he heard an audible voice. He had a smooth face dressed in a white robe and turban.

The Ballard's became Adepts of the "I AM presence" in 1932 and released his message of the Ascended Masters to the public.

The "I AM" Discourses (Volume Three) is a series of thirty-three Discourses, with 3000 dictations in the Ballard's home by the Ascended Master Saint Germain through the 1930's. His Voice was physically audible to everyone that was in the room. At times, His visible, tangible presence also stood within the room.

Saint Germain taught Ballard about the "Great Creative Word" (I AM) and the importance of the "I AM Presence," the Mighty Presence of Light, who is God in Action everywhere. *"Christ is called the cosmic Christ with a legion of light to accompany him."* (I Am healing decrees Saint Germaine press 1976 p.30-31)

Followers of the I Am discourse were given affirmations of light so that they can attain invincible youth and health, and escape the ravages of old age. By the *"presence of these healing violet flame angels, the closer, they will come and the greater their strength and power of that sacred fire wrapped around you."* ("I Am healing decrees," p.6)

The Ballard's taught that old age and infirmity can be reversed using the I AM decrees. We are told their followers can materialize things out of thin air. They can live perfect harmonious happy lives

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



untouched by all the common negativities that are part of the human condition. Followers can raise their bodies into an Ascension without dying. We are told St. Germain comes to bring the gift of prophecy and the gift of the working of miracles.

And like so many others she said *"I assure you I am telling the Truth and will never tell you anything but the Truth."* (Mrs. G. W. Ballard, 1940. The Voice of the "I AM". Saint Germain Press, pp. 26-27, 31).

Different dates again and again!

Branham was more often unclear than sure about the day and even year of the Angel's commission.

If an angel visited you and commissioned you to heal would you remember the details, would you remember the day? Of course you would.

An example of numerous wrong dates, *"Ten years ago, He stood by me as a man dressed in white, with hair down His long, white robe, and told me I was to pray for sick people, and told me that this was gift that was given for God."* (54-0724, A Personal Experience With God, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

That makes it the year 1944. In a pamphlet in 1945, titled "I Was Not Disobedient to The Heavenly Vision," Branham describes a vision from the Lord that he claims to be commissioned to heal the sick. How is that possible at this date? As Peter Duyzer points out we will likely not see a reprint of this pamphlet for obvious reasons.

"A little over two years ago now, I was sitting in the room. I was reading my little Scofield Bible, and I heard something. First, I saw a Light." He then proceeds to tell the same story (47-1102, The Angel Of God, Shriners Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

Notice the date. Over two years ago, not a few months ago which makes the date of the commission 1945 not be 1946. But how can the year be 1945 when he continually stated it was 1946.

"Ten years ago, He stood by me as a man dressed in white, with hair down His long, white robe, and told me I was to pray for sick people" (54-0724 AA personal experience with God)

That would make the date be 1944 not 1946-47. The angel must have grown his hair because Branham says his hair was shoulder length which means it barely would touch his robe, but we can ignore the conflicting "little details" because there are so many large ones. Details from other stories that should make any biblically thinking person question his angelic experience. As we put them together side by side, the many references do not seem to align well with his personal testimony of the coming gift.

Early on he could not get the dates right, and it would become worse as the years went on. What is even more astounding is his claim of connecting his angel's visitation with the date of Israel becoming a nation.

"The very day that Israel was declared a nation again for the first time for twenty-five hundred years, that same night the Angel of the Lord sent me out to pray for the sick, the very same time, May the 6th, 1946." (54-0809E, The Manifestation Of Thy Resurrection To The People Of This Day, Shriners Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

"The Jewish flag, that six-point star of David, never flowed for twenty-five hundred years, since the carrying away of--of Babylon. And now, because the Roman Empire took them over, and the Messiah come and they rejected It, and they was scattered to the four winds of the earth. But did you know, on May the 6th, 1946, that flag come back over Jerusalem again? Did you know on May the 7th, 1946, the Angel of the Lord appeared to me (the next day) up here, and sent me into all the world to bring forth a revival, the very next morning? When that flag raised in Jerusalem, as the going down of the sun that afternoon, the Angel of the Lord appeared here in the United States at the same time." (57-1002, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville,

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



IN, also 61-0730M, Gabriel's Instructions To Daniel, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

The next day? He is saying Israel's time is before us in America.

Branham made a huge spiritual significance to the timing of this angels visit connecting it to Israel.

1946: "Later on in life It kept appearing. It would show me things; I'd say just what It told me. It never has failed to come to pass yet. 1947, '46 Rather, on April the se--or May the seventh in the room, an Angel of the Lord came into the room. (50-0711, Ministry Explained, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN)

"And a strange thing of that, that you might not know, the very day the Angel of the Lord called me out, May the 6th, 1947, and issued the gift to pray for the sick, was the very same day that Israel become a nation for the first time for twenty-five hundred years. Oh, I believe there's something in it." (54-0718A The Great coming Revival and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit)

Is it May 6, 1946? Branham said it is? "the very day the Angel of the Lord called me out, May the 6th, 1947, and issued the gift to pray for the sick, was the very same day that Israel become a nation for the first time..." (54-0718A)

"the vindication of a commission, when He spoke to me that night fourteen years ago, the seventh of May." (60-0802 El Shaddai)

That would be 1946, not 1947. There is no vindication with a wrong date. Mr. Branham can you please make up your mind?

He said this statement in 1948, prior to Israel becoming a nation "Now, my mind is going back to around two years ago, when in the room that night, that Angel of God came walking in there..." (48-0305, At Thy Word, Lord, Unknown, Phoenix, AZ)

The fact that he is saying this the very year Israel became a nation, except it is months before does

sever his whole testimony of it being connected to Israel.

He says this over and over "The very day that Israel was declared a nation again for the first time for twenty-five hundred years, that same night the Angel of the Lord sent me out to pray for the sick, the very same time, May the 6th, 1946." (54-0809E, The Manifestation Of Thy Resurrection To The People Of This Day, Shriner Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

"Remember the Jewish people was declared a nation 1946, on April, May the sixth, on 1946, and the Angel of the Lord appeared to me on April, on May the seventh, 1946."(57-0811A, The Greatest Gift In The Bible, Edmonton Arena, Edmonton, AB)

It's amazing how wrong this "prophet" can be. Israel is in a day later time zone, yet Branham is saying America is in the later time zone. If Israel became a nation on May 6, then it would be May 5th the angel appeared (it is 7 hours earlier eastern time). But Branham was clueless, because they didn't become a nation on May 6th or May 7th!

"on May the 6th, 1946, that flag come back over Jerusalem again? Did you know on May the 7th, 1946, the Angel of the Lord appeared to me (the next day) up here, and sent me into all the world to bring forth a revival, the very next morning? When that flag raised in Jerusalem, as the going down of the sun that afternoon, the Angel of the Lord appeared here in the United States at the same time." (57-1002, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #2, Branham Tabernacle)

In this same sermon he then reminds people of the Star that came at the Ohio River baptism, (1933). It was said, "Your Message will go forth as a forerunner for the second coming, just like John went forth as a forerunner for the first coming." Confirming the 2nd appearance by the first.

He said "It's a — the vindication of a commission, when He spoke to me that night fourteen years ago, the seventh of May." (60-0802 El Shaddai)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



As usual Branham's recollection is dim. The angelic commission is said to have occurred on May 7, 1946. Gordon Lindsay who wrote *A man sent from God*, Julius Stadsklev who wrote *A Prophet Visits South Africa*, and Pearry Green who wrote *The Acts of the Prophet*, all mention and agree on this date which came from Branham himself. So this would be the settled date.

"Israel returning to their homeland, Israel... Let me just say this. .. The very hour that Israel become a nation... The reason I've always believed ... that there was something, that I'd have a part before I die of getting Israel back to the Lord, ... it was that very same hour, exactly to the hour, that the Angel of the Lord met me up yonder and sent me to the — with the Gospel — the very same thing: May the 7th, 1946." (61-0730M Gabriel's instructions to Daniel)

The date is later changed to the 7th of May. It does not matter that numerous times he said it occurred on "May the 6th" (57-1002, Questions And Answers On Hebrews #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN; 54-0718A, The Great Coming Revival And The Outpouring Of The Holy Spirit, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL; 54-0809E, The Manifestation Of Thy Resurrection To The People Of This Day, Shriner Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

So how sure is he that it is on May the 6th 1946.

Well maybe not so sure, ...

"1947, '46 Rather, on April the se--or May the seventh in the room, an Angel of the Lord came into the room." (50-0711, Ministry Explained, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN)

"Now to see whether this Message that we got is connected with it or not. The very hour that Israel was signed in to be a nation, it was the very same hour, very same day, very same month, everything else: ... after He had met me down on the river and told me what would take place, then commissioned me eleven years later at the same hour that Israel was signed in as a nation. It's all connected

together." (60-1211M The Ten Virgins and the hundred and forty thousand Jews)

So the first commission as being Elijah is tied into this date[s] of the 2nd commission by the angel.

11 years after 1933 (the baptism at the river) would make the date 1944 that the angel visited him. Some of you may say, okay he's terrible at dates. Consider the details and repetition in other portions, it does not sound like he is mistaken. There is something more insidious going on when someone's details and dates *always* change. It often means they are lying. There I said it. Now can I prove it? I wouldn't say it unless I could.

"But did you know, on May the 6th, 1946, that flag come back over Jerusalem again? Did you know on May the 7th, 1946, the Angel of the Lord appeared to me (the next day) up here, and sent me into all the world to bring forth a revival, the very next morning." (Question & Answers Hebrews pt 2. Jeffersonville IN)

So the flag flew over Israel before they were declared a state? And now he says it was the next day, which means it was not at the exact same time! The flag of Israel (made many years before), was officially adopted on 28 October 1948, five months after the establishment of the State of Israel. *"On May 14, 1948, when David Ben Gurion read the Israeli Declaration of Independence in Tel Aviv, Zionist banners hung from the ceiling on both sides of the podium, but no flag for the new state had yet been adopted."* (The story behind Israel's flag by Dr. David R. Reagan)
<http://christinprophecy.org/articles/the-story-behind-israels-flag/>

Not only did Branham insist the angel visited him on the same day Israel became a nation, but the very hour.

"the very night that Israel was made a nation, that was the night the Angel of the Lord appeared to me right yonder. That's right." (63-0901M, Token, Branham Tabernacle)

No that's wrong.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



“And last week, you know what taken place in Israel, the last sign. Israel became a nation in 1947 on the same night the Angel of the Lord visit me. When It came at me at twelve o'clock, it was noon when they signed the — that peace pact with the world and the League of Nations and so forth, overseas.” (59-1004M Who is This? Faith Assembly, Clarksville, IN)

Wow, how significant that it was at the very same time they signed the pact.

Too bad it didn't happen the way he tells it. And let's not overlook this is years after Israel was made a nation that he is saying this.

Israel became a nation at **midnight May 14th 1948**, not at noon.

We know Israel is 7 hours difference of Eastern Time, so his calculation on the time is wrong and so is the date. <https://www.worldtimebuddy.com/est-to-israel-jerusalem>

If Branham is right on his date of Israel, everyone else is wrong, even Israel. But if he is wrong on this date then what are we to make of his other dates of his supernatural experiences?

Let's return back to the cabin (cave or room) *“And I went to a little cabin... And while praying there that night, about, around two--between two and three in the morning,...”* (51-0717, The Manifestation Of The Spirit, Civic Auditorium, Toledo, OH)

He says here it was two or three in the Morning, which means it was the same date here in America that it was in Israel (being 9-10 in the morning there).

In Branham's testimony to Gordon Lindsay he states on the angel *“about the eleventh hour, not 3 in the morning. So how does this different time and day become the exact time Israel becomes a nation? One would think that by 1950 his personal*

testimony in a book that all the facts would be accurately written, that this would be the umbrella over all the other stories he told. But it is not.

Is the year of Branham's commission 1945, 1946, or 1947? Or even earlier?

It does not matter because it was not 1948 when Israel became a nation. So his spiritual connection falls dead to the ground. His presumption of importance, that *“I'd have a part before I die of getting Israel back to the Lord,”* did not take place.

Branham's testimony to Gordon Lindsay *“I must tell you of the angel and the coming of the Gift. I shall never forget the time, May 7, 1946.”* (William Branham - A Man Sent from God By Gordon Lindsay, In Collaboration with William Branham) Somehow he did forget. He then changed the time from 1946 to 1947.

“Now, to see whether this message that we got is connected with it or not. The very hour that Israel was signed in to be a nation; it was the very same hour, very same day, very same month, everything else: I was at Green's Mill, Indiana, when that Angel there appeared to me and sent me out on the field with this; after He had met me down on the river and told me what would take place, then commissioned me eleven years later at the same hour that Israel was signed in as a nation. It's all connected together.” (60-1211M, The Ten Virgins, And The Hundred And Forty-Four Thousand Jews, Branham Tabernacle)

There is so much wrong with this it's hard to know where to begin. It is not the same hour, not the same day, not even the same year, so it is not connected at all. Eleven years later after the baptism of 1933 is 1944, not 46, and it certainly is not 1948 when Israel became a nation. So if he being met at the river and the angel coming to him on the day Israel is made a nation is all connected then we must come to the conclusion the whole matter is a hoax.

Israel becoming a nation on the day of his commission is not even close to accurate.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



If Israel became a nation May, 6, 1946, or May 7 1947 – why does Israel celebrate its nationhood on **May 14, 1948**? Because THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL was on **May 14, 1948**, not on May 6 of 1946, or May 7, 1947.

Not only is his day wrong but he is off by one or two years depending on which sermon you listen to. Branham is a prophet who does not know the date of the most important event to happen to Israel, but he is willing to insert himself into it. He couldn't get the right date for Israel's birth which he told numerous times yet he made this date significant because the angel visited him on that same day.

History -- On May 14, 1948, near 12 midnight David Ben-Gurion, the head of the Jewish Agency, proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel. Israel become a nation on May 14, 1948, the day before the expiration of the British Mandate.

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/state-of-israel-proclaimed>

Branham tried so hard to connect himself to significant events but failed miserably. God's messenger to the last day's church did not know that his commission had no connection to Israel's modern birth, but he wanted to convince you that it did. Branham tried to relate his life to significant events but it was obvious that God himself prevented him.

All these different times and places certainly bring into question the veracity of his angelic commission.

To claim he was commissioned on the same day of Israel's new birth as a nation is especially audacious after the fact of Israel becoming a nation is known.

It bears repeating that he is saying his commission took place at the exact time of Israel's new birth years later, when everyone knows what the date really is, ... everyone except this prophet.

If this does not show the inaccuracy that Branham operated in then I do not know what would. He insisted on this date for himself and Israel and it did not happen. And he is saying this date repeatedly after the fact of Israel becoming a nation in 1948. He never changed this date but insisted on it. This

gives insight in how he convince himself something is true.

So what did happen on May 6 of 1946, or May 7 1947, the days he gave for this visitation?

On May 6th 1946? A Pulitzer prize was awarded to Arthur M. Schlesinger (Age of Jackson).

What happened on May 6, 1947 - nothing of significance.

May 7, 1946 Tokyo Telecommunications Engineering (later renamed Sony) is founded with around 20 employees.

May 7. 1947 "Kraft Television Theater" premieres on NBC.

What didn't happen? Israel became a nation.

More Confusion

To bring even more confusion to this date of May the 7th "*And yonder, some fifteen, fourteen, fifteen years ago (in 1937, May the 7th, 1937, I think it was), that God made a covenant with me saying, "You were born in this world to pray for sick people. If you can get them to believe you..." (60-0911M, As I Was With Moses, So I Will Be With Thee, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)*

This statement brings the whole visitation story into question, it's now May 7, 1937. Branham continued to give different timings to this event. Once again he cannot remember such an important visitation, he's off by many years. What is more important is that he now says God made a covenant with him! Which is Incredible! He is the only individual person in history after the New Covenant that God did this with. Are we really to believe this along with story?

To bring this whole matter to a close, let me quote a few other stories that implode the whole matter!

When Dr. Roy Davis, that ordained me in the Missionary Baptist Church. And when the angel of

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



the Lord come to me and told me I was to take this message around the world, he said, "Billy, you need some rest. You'd better go home." I said, "Dr. Davis, that Angel stood there and told me that." (58-0325, Faith By Experience, Middletown High School, Middletown, OH)

Exactly when did this take place? He is talking to his pastor that left Jeffersonville. This is something that Branham attributes taking place later in 1946, thirteen years after the baptism at the Ohio River when he was no longer attending the *Missionary Baptist Church*.

"Later I become a minister to serve the Lord. At Green's Mill one night ... My pastors had just told me ... I'd tell them about going, having a ... being able to see things, and they told me it was the Devil. And me being a Christian, I didn't want nothing to do with the Devil, not at all. So I went up there, said, "Lord, I can't ... go through life like this." And I set up there in a little place way back at a fishing camp, praying. And one night there, as Lord had spoke to me, and at a tree, like He did to Moses. Then here on this Green's Mill, there come a Man in and told me that, not to try to ask to get rid of This, but It was a gift sent from God, that was to be taken to the peoples of the world, and to let me know by the Scriptures that all these things that had been promised according to the Bible must be fulfilled, that the time was at hand.

And I went back and told my pastor. I went down and told him, and he said, "Billy, what have you eat? Did you have a dream, was that a nightmare?" But, to me, it was Malachi 4. He said, "How you going to do it?" It was Luke 17:30. It was also Revelation 10. It was also all these Scriptures that's been promised for the last days." (64-0419, The Trial, McKay Auditorium, Tampa, FL)

This means the commission was not 1947, not 46, nor 45, but before he left the Missionary Baptist church of Pastor Davis. And this next 2 stories confirms this early date.

"He narrated this Angelic visitation to his Pastor Dr. Roy Davis, who only made fun of it, and

ridiculed him by saying, "Billy, go on home, you've had a nightmare."

Brother Branham said, "If that's the attitude of the Baptist Church, I give up my fellowship card. I don't appreciate that. If you are through, if you don't want me, all right, here's my credentials. I will follow God, led alone; I don't have to follow the Baptist church." (Bethlehem India presents word made flesh India trip report)

Again this confirms it to be the very same reaction he says his pastor had of the angel of light at the Ohio River baptism. Apparently he is saying he quit the Baptist church (this is long before 1946) because of the angelic commission.

The answer is found in another story which completely disproves a 1946 date of the commission.

"So I began to pray for the baptism of the Holy Ghost. One day about six months later God gave me the desire of my heart. He spoke to me in a great light telling me to preach and pray for the sick and He would heal them regardless of what disease they had. I then started preaching and doing what He told me to do." (A Man Sent From God - p. 41-42).

Remember he said his baptism of the Holy Spirit was just after his conversion.

"and I got away, and started crying and praying, one night. I said, "Lord Jesus, You know my heart. I love You. Let me die. Don't let me have any ... the Devil to have anything to do with me. I'd rather die than be a false witness of You."

"And it was at that time when this Light returned again and showed me the Scripture, that in this day this thing is supposed to happen. Here it is laying right here in the Scripture now. It's been thirty-three years since that time, but I'm a witness that it's the Truth. I'm a witness of these things that it's Truth." (64-0427, A Trial, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ).

This makes the Angels visitation the year 1931! Which produces another conflict. This is 2 years before the supposed light came at baptism on the Ohio River for is first commission as the forerunner. All these conflicts make this whole string of stories

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



questionable. Apparently all this took place before 1947 and had absolutely nothing to do with Israel.

William Branham's life experiences certainly have parallels to Josephs Smith's. While all the same similarities are not found in Branham's story at this particular encounter, they both did come to the same conclusions, that the church is in apostasy and that none of their denominations or sects were right, and that they are called to restore the church.

It becomes quite clear in Branham's writings that he was conversing with and was bestowed powers by an angel of light; the color green.

What does Paul say about an angel with another gospel? This all sounds too similar to how Mormonism started. Notice Branham said he was paralyzed. This is exactly what Joseph Smith said happened to him when he was confronted with the angel of light" *I was seized upon by some power which entirely overcame me ..." he was ready to sink into despair and abandon himself to destruction-... to the power of some actual being from the unseen world, who had such marvelous power as I had never before felt in any being. I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head ' (Joseph Smiths History.1:16)*

Cavemen revelations

This is also nearly the same experienced that happened to a man named Mohammed in 610 AD. He was alone in the cave of Hira when a spirit appeared to him at the door of the cave. That spirit grasped him suddenly and squeezed him until he thought he would die and commanded him, "Read." *"I cannot read," Muhammad answered, because he was illiterate. The spirit squeezed him again so tightly he that thought he would die, and commanded him again, "Read." "I cannot read," he answered. The spirit tightened his grasp and squeezed him more and said for the third time, "Read." Afraid that he might die, Muhammad said, "What shall I read?" The spirit said: Read: in the name of thy Lord who Createth. Createth man from a clot. Read: and thy Lord is*

the Most Bounteous, Who teacheth by the pen, Teacheth man that which he knew not (Surat Al-Alaq 96:1-5 MPT) (Qur'an 96:1-5). (Khan, Sahih al-Bukhari, Hadith 9:91-92; 87.1.111.)

He was shown a scroll on which words were emblazoned with fire. Although he had never previously read a word, Mohammed miraculously read the scroll. He left the cave fearing that he had gone mad, but he heard the voice again. Looking up, Mohammed saw in human form the angel Gabriel, a voice said to him *"You are the Messenger of God" and I am Gabriel."*

From this time forward a series of angelic visitations occurred. Mohammad reportedly received frequent revelations. Sometimes while receiving these messages Mohammad would sweat and enter a trance state. Ibn Saad quoted Aisha when she said: *When revelation comes down to Muhammad, he submerged his head in water, his face turns pale, he feels that he is very cold and he sweats with large drops of sweating."* (Al-Helal Magazine, December 1970, p. 73)

Later revelations came through many forms including visions and dreams, through angels. Muhammad had little education, he could neither read nor write so he was instructed to memorize the words given to him by Gabriel. This complete recitation Muhammad received over a 23 year period is now known as the Qur'an.

As Muhammad's preaching of this new monotheism spread, the people and he became convinced that he was a prophet of God.

Thus we have two major religions started with angels after Jesus ascended (Islam and Mormonism) that have many similarities. One can certainly make a case that what Branham developed was also a different religion started from an angel. Though many of the words of the Bible stayed the same, many of its interpretations were changed; enough that it departed from the apostolic teachings laid down as the foundation by the apostles and prophets appointed by Jesus.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 24

Is the Angel of the Lord the angel that visited Branham?

Branham claimed the light and voice was the angel of the Lord visiting him to do the supernatural works; this angel was the power of his ministry. God's gift to him was the Angel. "Now, he didn't have wings. He looked like a man ... Walked right over, just as normal as any man, and talks just like any man. He comes, time after time, through the room and different places when I'm fasting and praying." (50-0713, Obey The Voice Of The Angel, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN)

Branham's first mention (that we know) of calling this creature the Angel of the Lord was in 1947 "I know the Angel of the Lord came to me that night and spoke to me." (47-1221, Experiences, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

"You ever hear the story of how it come? The Angel of the Lord came to me? Yes. ... Since a boy, I had a calling on me. And I was setting in the room ... A supernatural Being come walking into the room. An Angel said He was sent from the Presence of God. He said, If you get the people to believe you, would be sincere when you pray, nothing shall stand before your prayer, not even to cancer." (48-0304, The Angel Of God, Phoenix, AZ)

After all the years of hearing him, Branham describes his personal visitation:

"So I was sitting there and looking at Him. I-I kind of had my hand up like that. He was looking right at me, just as pleasant. But He had a real deep Voice, and He said, "Do not fear. I am sent from the Presence of Almighty God." And when He spoke,

that Voice, that was the same Voice that spoke to me when I was two years old, all the way up. ... He said, "I am sent from the Presence of Almighty God, to tell you that your peculiar birth" (as you know what my birth was up there; that same Light hung over me when I was first born). And so He said, "Your peculiar birth and misunderstood life has been to indicate that you're to go to all the world and pray for the sick people." And said, "And regardless of what they have ... if you get the people to believe you, and be sincere when you pray, nothing shall stand before your prayers, not even cancer." And He said, "As the prophet Moses was given two gifts, signs to vindicate his ministry, so will you be given two. He said, "One of them will be that you'll take the person that you're praying for by the hand, with your left hand and their right," and said, "then just stand quiet, and there'll be a physical effect that'll happen on your body. Then you pray. And if it leaves, the disease is gone from the people. If it doesn't leave, just ask a blessing and walk away." He said, "And the next thing will be, if they won't hear that, then they will hear this. Then it'll come to pass that you'll know the very secret of their heart. This they will hear." He said, "You were born in this world for that purpose." (William Branham, How the Angel Came to Me, and His Commission (Edmonton: End Time Message Tabernacle), pp. 18-22.

There are a number of things said that need clarifying. The angel said "I am sent from the Presence of Almighty God" He distinguishes himself from being God almighty, yet Branham says this angel is "the Angel of the Lord," whom is Jesus. "And, now, that was the Pillar of Fire that led the children of Israel, was the Lord Jesus Christ

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



in Spirit form." (65-0221M, *Marriage And Divorce*, Park View Junior High School, Jeffersonville, IN).

Branham understood what it meant to call his visitor "The Angel of the Lord" (since he compared it to the angel at the burning bush with Moses) but he went ahead and customized the meaning to fit what took place in his life.

In the Old Testament *The Angel of the Lord* is unique, He is distinguished from all other angels who consistently appear. This *Angel* is not a created Angel, Cherub, or Seraph. In Hebrew He is called *Malach Yahweh* (The messenger of Yahweh). A Theophany in the Old Testament (*theo-* God, *phanies-* appearances) is the means by which the invisible God became visible. The Angel of the Lord is God who appears (is seen) in a temporary physical (body like) form.

When the Angel of the Lord came there was an awe and worship. Because this Angel is an ambassador who has God's name attached to his title. He is called the Lord Himself. This messenger is called the Angel of the Lord (Yahweh) 50 times and the Angel of God (Elohim) 5 times. Distinguishing him from created angels.

Let's look at the two clearest examples. One of the most important prophetic accounts of this angel is found in Gen. 22:1-16: "where God is testing Abraham, and instructed him *"Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah"* to sacrifice him. After Abraham binds Isaac on the altar he begins to lift up the knife to slay his son as instructed. *"But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."*

In Ex.3:2 that the identity of this angel becomes absolutely clear when Moses encounters the Lord at the burning bush. *"And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush"*V.4: *"God called unto him out of the*

midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And He said, Here am I." In v. 6 This angel then identifies himself to Moses as **being** *"the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."* In vs.14-16 He then calls **Himself "I am who I am"** and sends Moses to the people of Israel to tell them **their God has visited them.**" I am who I am, Hebrew- *eye* asher eye, the self- existing, self-sufficient one, the cause of all things (Ex.3:14-15). Both *eye* and YHWH (Yahweh) are of the root, meaning, underived existence (see Gen. 32:24-30; Ps. 34:7; Judg. 2:1-5; Judg. 6:12-14). The Angel of the Lord speaks to men as Yahweh and is to be obeyed as God speaking. In Ex.23:20-22 God speaks of this angel (messenger) as His representative. He identifies Him as "My Angel" (Exod. 32:34).

This sent messenger appears as a man in the Old Testament; in the New Testament he is sent as Jesus, He becomes a man through the birth of a virgin named Mariam (Mary). This fulfillment in Lk.2:22 is foretold in Isaiah 63:8-9 God is speaking *"So He became their Savior."* V.9: *"In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the Angel of his Presence saved them."* The Angel of the Lord is the messenger of God's presence, the covenant maker. God becomes mankind's Savior in the incarnation (Isa.53:4). The Angel of His presence means a messenger who reveals God to man.

In Mal.3:1: we are told of two messengers, one is John the baptizer and the second: *"and the Lord, whom you seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom you delight in."* This messenger, the one who made covenant[s] with Israel in the Old Testament visits His temple personally. That is Jesus Christ.

Hosea states in 1:7 that the house of Judah will be saved *"by the Lord their God."* In Titus 2:13 Jesus is called our great God and Savior. "God our Savior" (Jude 1:25; 1 Pt.1:1). But this creature (an angel) says to Branham "I am sent from the Presence of Almighty God." So it is made clear he is not Jesus, he is not the Holy Spirit, he is not deity.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



In the New Testament God became man by birth and grew up among them and at the approximate age of 30 (Lk. 3:29) revealed Himself to Israel. *The Angel of the Lord* (Yahweh) that is from the Old Testament no longer is mentioned in the New Testament because He no longer appears, why? Because of the Incarnation, He became man. God who came as a theophany in the Old Testament no longer does. The Bible teaches that the Angel of the Lord is no more because the Son of God now lives in an immortal resurrected body FOREVER as Rom. 8:34 and 1 Tim. 2:5 say, He at the right hand of God, He is in a human body as our mediator (Rev.1:17).

William Branham may have been convinced himself by what he saw and heard but the Bible says otherwise. No one in the New Testament mentions the Angel of the Lord. The Angel of the LORD did not appear anymore since the Son was incarnated. Jesus was resurrected in a body and does not continually make special trips from heaven before gathering his saints together at the last trump.

"He appeared to me in an Angel. You've read my book." (59-0815, As The Eagle Stirreth Up Her Nest, Miami Valley Chautauqua Campgrounds, Chautauqua, OH).

Branham also said he was *"an Angel of God* (50-0227, God In His People, Robinson Memorial Coliseum, Little Rock, AR; 52-0726, Experiences, Grace Missionary Church, Zion, IL). *"Since that time, It's been with me. It's an Angel of God.* He met me in person a few years ago. Down through my life" (52-0726, Experiences, Grace Missionary Church, Zion, IL). *"an Angel of the Lord came into the room"* (Ministry Explained 50-0711, Ministry Explained, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN).

An angel of God is far different than THE Angel of the Lord, the unique envoy of God in the Old Testament. One is a creature the other is the Lord Himself as a messenger. Yet Branham continued to teach confusion. *"Minor Angels will come. Say for instance, the One that come visit me, a minor Angel."* (50-0115, *Believest Thou This?* City Auditorium, Houston, TX.)

By his own admission, if he is a minor angel then he is not The Angel of the Lord. Yet he continued to call him this.

"And I pray that You'll send Your Angel" (50-0100, Diseases And Afflictions, Church Of The Open Door, Louisville, KY).

Branham also taught that Jesus pre-existed as Michael the archangel before He incarnated probably influenced by 7th day Adventism. *"Michael was Christ,* of course, who fought the angelic wars in heaven with the devil" (55-0109E Beginning and Ending of the Gentile Dispensation). Referring to Lucifer and what he built *"a greater kingdom than Michael, Christ had"* (Christ is the Mystery of God Revealed, p. 71). Even though Daniel describes Michael as one among the other chief princes, Branham interpreted this as *"He's the Archangel, standing at the right hand of His Majesty in glory."* (53-0607A, The Ministry of Christ, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN).

Branham also said, *"the great Archangel, Gabriel, Who is the messenger of the covenant to the Jewish people, Who stands at the right hand of God, one of the highest order of Angels in the heaven."* (60-0304, *Thirsting For Life*, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ; 52-0810 I Am the Resurrection and Life; 53-0607 Ministry of Christ).

He said, "I'm Gabriel that stands at the right hand of God, and in His Presence of God." (52-0727, Led By The Holy Spirit, Grace Missionary Church, Zion, IL)

The Bible does not have anything to say about any other angel[s] at the right hand of God (Lk.22:69; 1 Peter 3:22) this is exclusively reserved only for Jesus, who is not an angel. In fact, Heb. 1:13 addresses this very thing asking *"But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool?"* The answer is none of them! Scripture does not call Gabriel an archangel nor is He the messenger of the covenant. Jesus, The Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament was the only Messenger of the covenant, the covenant maker.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Who is the visitor?

All this creature ever said to William Branham to identify himself was, "I am sent from the Presence of Almighty God." (William Branham, *How the Angel Came to Me, and His Commission.*) He never identified himself by name. "I don't know what His Name is. He's never told me" (48-0302, Experiences, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ).

Branham assumed he was *The Angel of the Lord* and attributed Jesus to him. In fact one of the red flags is that this angel never mentioned God's name, nor Jesus Christ in reference to him being sent. Therefore, He is not Jesus but someone else.

The angel came for years never giving him the gospel nor mentioning to serve Jesus Christ, nor not once identified himself by name.

Consider that when you meet someone new you normally ask their name. If you meet them again you would want to address them by their name. If you continue to meet them numerous times and still do not know their name it becomes awkward. This is especially important if this is an angel from God. Most angels introduce themselves by name, especially when they return. Branham said he was never told his name and there is no mention of him inquiring it.

"The Holy Ghost, the great Gabriel it was, came down and told Mary to call His Name Jesus." (47-1221, Experiences, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ; 47-1214, Experiences #2, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ).

Speaking of Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist "And it was the Holy Spirit came to him in the form-or Gabriel it was, the archangel ... the archangel Gabriel come to him" (54-1024, The Unpardonable Sin, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

If Gabriel is the Holy Spirit then he is God. According to the Bible and even according to Branham's own teaching.

"Watch when the Angel of the Lord met Zacharias and told him up there he was going to have a son by his wife Elisabeth.... Then when the Holy Spirit, the Angel of God, Gabriel goes down into the city of Nazareth to little Mary..." (52-0727, Led By The Holy Spirit, Grace Missionary Church, Zion, IL).

The Holy Spirit is the angel Branham says is Jesus, who he also said is Michael, who he also said is Gabriel. That is not accurate Bible teaching. That is confusion.

The Bible does not say Zacharias was visited by The Angel of the Lord, but an angel of the Lord, who is Gabriel.

Branham was theologically confused by his own beliefs of who the Holy Spirit is. He is not an angel who is a creature.

Mohammed said it was Gabriel the Holy Spirit who gave him the Quran. Why would Branham agree with what Islam says on the Holy Spirit?

The Bible teaches that Holy Spirit is eternal (Heb. 9:14); angels were created. The Bible also teaches "God is Spirit" (Jn. 4:24), meaning, uncreated and eternal spirit, not a spirit creature like angels that he created.

He continually confused the identity of his angel by saying "And that Pillar of Fire, or the Angel, was the Angel was the covenant ... it was the Angel of the covenant, then it was the Lord Jesus; It was God the Holy Spirit." (53-0216, *My Angel Shall Go Before Thee*, Pentecostal Holiness Church, Tallahassee, FL).

"And I claim that it's the same Pillar of Fire that led the children of Israel through the land of the wilderness to the promise.... the Holy Ghost, this Angel of God." (51-0930, *Expectation*, St. Nicholas Arena, New York.)

Is the Holy Ghost the Angel of the Lord who is Jesus? He said the angel is not Jesus. Why would you tell people that your angel is the Holy Spirit

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



when you state the Holy Spirit is God? The Angel himself said he was sent by God which means he is not the Holy Spirit who is God.

“And may You send the Angel of God that came to me that night, up there at Green's Mill. And as He promised that He would do these things, may He come and manifest the Lord Jesus tonight in all the power and deity that He was when He was here on earth ...” (54-1205, We Would See Jesus, Faith Tabernacle, Binghamton, NY)

Clearly he is saying this angel is Jesus. Branham made it sound like Jesus is present as the Holy Spirit who is his angel.

Branham would also say, *“He is here, but He's in a Spirit form. And this is Him you see in the picture there. See? It's He, the Lord, the Logos, the Angel of the Covenant. And He's standing present.”* (54-0301, The Angel Of The Covenant, Assembly Of God, Phoenix, AZ).

This would mean that angel was indeed the Son, Jesus, who is God. The fact that he says this and also denies it makes the claim irreconcilable.

Branham imposed on him an identity that was guesswork on his part. He gave different identifications to this creature that visited him to find meaning. Sometimes an angel; other times THE Angel of the Lord; the Holy Spirit; Michael; Gabriel or *“an Angel of God.”* (52-0726, Experiences, Grace Missionary Church, Zion, IL).

All of them were not Jesus. Not once did this creature identify itself as Jesus but said he was sent from almighty God. Which should be questioned because of all the things said. Because Branham read the Bible and became an ordained minister he adopted a Biblical identification of this creature that was visiting him all through his life. But in stating this was the Angel of the Lord he was completely wrong, having no bearing on the Bible.

“Now, many people misunderstand. Now, this is in no means, friends, an Angel worship. It is not. I do not pray in the name of the Angel, or even know His

name. But if you'll check the Scriptures, when God sends His people, it's an Angel that directs them. Moses ... You say, “Well, how about the New Testament?” Certainly. It was always the Angel of the Lord.” (48-0304, The Angel Of God, Phoenix, AZ).

So then we must conclude Branham's angel whom he called the angel of the Lord is Jesus or is a creature, not God. It depends on what you are reading at the time. And yet he couldn't be Jesus because Branham said he did not know his name and said Jesus was a different person than his angel. Why would anyone want to enter into fellowship with his confusion?

Branham would explain *“I don't believe in worshipping angels. And a true angel would not stand to be worshipped. No. The angel of God will not stand to be worshipped. He'll say, “Worship God,” every time. And he'll declare Jesus Christ to be the Son of God every time. And he'll give all praise and all glory to God, take none for himself”* (54-0401, God's Preparation, The Church of The Open Door, Louisville, KY).

Here we learn two things, the angel that came to Branham, he did not believe it to be God, he was not called the Son of God. He claimed he did not worship the angel that was present with him. Since Branham denied worshipping this being he named “The Angel of the Lord,” how can it be Jesus? Biblically, The Angel of the Lord (Angel of God) was worshiped because He is God (Ex. 3:2; 14:19). We are left with only one other category, *this is a creature* (angelic possibly), which means this is the only time in history someone had a personal angel of light that taught them and personally did the healings.

But what of his prayers to the angel and stating what could only be attributed to God?

“Angel of God, I do not see you. But I know that you are standing near. Please, thou knowest my heart, and know how I love these people. Stand by me tonight. ... And I know that your Words have been true. I've took you at your Word, for you said

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



you were sent from God. I believed you... this Memorial night, may you stand now and heal every one. Grant it." (48-0305 At Thy Word, Lord)

Branham is praying and asking an angel to heal people.

"And that same Angel of God is right here in this building tonight. Oh, how I love Him." (59-1217, What Was The Holy Ghost Given For?, Branham Tabernacle)

He loves the angel? So much so that he asked him to forgive his sins.

"The Angel of the Lord appeared to me last night. He forgive my sin for listening to them preachers and not God." (54-0902, South Africa Testimony, St. Nicholas Arena, New York, NY)

The angel forgave his sins? So there are only two choices here. He is Jesus or he is not Jesus Remember he said, he is NOT Jesus, (which is already established). Then he is asking an angel to forgive his sins.

He led others to pray *"Father, I confess my sins. I want the Angel of God to cleanse me from that by the Blood of Jesus."* (62-0909E, In His Presence, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

He would also ask the angel for power *"come forth now, and help to give power over this demon."* *"And I pray that You'll give power over this demon."* (47-1102 The Angel And His Commission, the Shriner Temple in Phoenix, AZ)

He prayed to this angel whose name he did not know, which is very unwise.

This angel he prayed to he also called the Morning star. *"O Morning Star, guide us and direct us. Forgive us of our sin and help us to be Your servants, Lord."* (53-0327, Israel And The Church, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville.)

Only God is to be prayed to, as this is part of worship. Yet Branham said the same thing to this creature that one would to God. Branham would ask

"Give us the Morning Star, the Pillar of Fire to lead us." (53-0509 The Pillar of Fire Jonesboro AR.)

When Branham spoke of the baptism where he was commissioned he inserted, *"We were singing that when the Morning Star, the Angel of the Lord made Its first appearance over where I was standing in public, for the first time in my life, at the foot of Spring Street in the Ohio river in June '33, ... there baptizing."* (55-0123A, The Approach To God, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL)

He often spoke this way, *"floating down through the room, came the Morning Star, coming right up to where I was."* (50-0714, At Thy Word, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN)

Yet he would identify it as *"Jesus "He's the Morning Star."* (55-0118, This Great Warrior, David, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL.)

Where did this teaching of him as the Morning Star come from? The astrologer Branham met who told him *"You remember when the morning star come, that led the wise men to Jesus Christ?" they followed the morning Star to Christ."* (54-0306, The Unconditional Covenant That God Made With His People, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ).

He would contradict himself and explain the morning star was not Jesus *"He came to the earth, as soon as He did, the morning star declared Him to be the Son of God."* (57-0825E, Hebrews, Chapter Two #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

"O Lord God, Who sent the Morning Star, Who gave us Jesus Christ in the resurrection" (59-0411E, Watching His Star, Angelus Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

"On Easter morning, when the sun was about ready to shine, the morning star come from the skies and rolled back the tombstones." (57-0808, The Mighty Conqueror, Edmonton Arena, Edmonton, AB).

The Bible says an angel rolled back the stone (Mt.28:2-6). So the morning star is not Christ? To further complicate the identity of this creature

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



whom he called his angel, Branham said, "*He's called the Morning Star. He's called Father: He's called Son; He's called Holy Ghost.*" (60-0522E, Adoption, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Branham applied the three manifestations who he said are God to the Morning Star, which makes his teaching even more convoluted.

Biblically, the Morning star is not Jesus; not the Father nor the Holy Spirit. The Bible says the "bright Morning star" is. We should not be confused by the difference of the two. Before the fall all the angels were called morning stars, collectively (Job 38:4-7). In the Hebrew, the name Satan is used 19 times in the Old Testament, 36 times in the New Testament. His actual original name in the Hebrew is *Day Star* (not Lucifer). The word describes his original state as "the shining one." Even though his nature is changed from its original state (Ezek. 28:15), Satan can still transform himself into an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14) for appearances sake. His inner nature is changed, corrupted, but he is still able to look outwardly beautiful, so he is very deceptive in character because of this charade.

Branham should have identified the visitor as an angel of light, as described by Paul in 2 Cor. 11:4. For only a disguised fallen angel would bring this much confusion on himself and God.

Isa. 14:12 The Septuagint renders it, [Heosforos], and the Vulgate, *Lucifer, the morning star* (from Barnes' Notes). According to Isa. 14:12 Satan is the called *the morning star*; the term son of the morning separates him from the other stars.

Lucifer is the Latin name given to the Devil. The King James Version unfortunately uses the Latin for one of its texts and translated the name to "Lucifer" (Isa. 14:12). Scholars that translated the King James Bible were influenced by Jerome's Latin Vulgate Bible from the fourth century and did not use the original Hebrew texts for all of the Old Testament. In this passage they mistranslated the Hebraic metaphor, "Day star, son of the Dawn," as "Lucifer," and it is now is the accepted terminology, yet it still confuses people.

Albert Pike and other Masons believed in the "energies of Lucifer," referring to the morning star, the light bearer. In the third degree the Mason is given a substitute word and told to look "*to that bright and Morning Star ...*" (Waite, op. cit., Vol. I, p. 424). Albert Pike speaks of *Lucifer as the Light-bearer*. Lucifer is called Morning star, *he is the great Angel, above all others. "Lucifer, the Son of the Morning! Is it he who bears the Light!"* (Morals and dogma p. 321; See also A Ralph Epperson, The Unseen Hand: An Introduction to the Conspiratorial View of History, Tucson, Arizona, Publius Press, 1985, p. 224).

Branham's own definition of what the light was: "*I believe that It is the same Pillar of Fire that led the children of Israel from Egypt to Palestine. I believe It's the same Angel of Light that come in the-in the jail and come in to Saint Peter and touched him, and went forward and opened the door and put him out into the light. And I believe that It's Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever. Amen! He's the same Jesus today that he was yesterday. He will be forever the same Jesus.*" (William Branham, How the Angel Came to Me, and His Commission, p.88 (voice of God recordings) Jan. 17, 1955).

How can he say he does not know the angels name but identify him as Jesus?

He states the angel who went to free Peter in jail is Jesus himself. But Peter who would know said "*And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel."*" (Acts 12:11).

So it was not Jesus. An angel of the Lord is not the same as "THE Angel of the Lord" of the Old Testament, a Christophany before The Son of God took on human flesh.

The problem is a biblical one; the Pillar of Fire stopped appearing in the Old Testament, even before the Angel of the Lord stopped appearing. It was strictly for Israel's wilderness journey and the Tabernacle.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Neh. 9:12 *"You led them by day with a cloudy pillar, and by night with a pillar of fire, to give them light on the road which they should travel."* (Neh. 9:19, referring to Exod. 13:21 when it first appeared). It had a purpose; to lead the nation of Israel to the promise land and before Christ came this light (God's glory) was seen only by the high Priest in the Holy of Holies, in the Temple.

Yet Branham claimed this same pillar appeared exclusively to him and was photographed. *"If this is the Holy Spirit, and this Angel of God that they--science took the picture of."* (60-1126, Why?, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA)

"A Pillar of Light. A Light blinded Paul. Here it is. The same exactly Jesus, photographed and on paper." (56-1209E, Jehovah-Jireh, Brooklyn Academy Of Music, Brooklyn, NY)

Another biblical problem is that it was a pillar of fire to Israel *at night ONLY* and was a cloud during the day.

"Now, anyone knows that the Pillar of Fire that led the children of Israel was the Angel of the covenant. Is that right, Bible readers? Which was Jesus Christ." (53-0603, God Commissioning Moses, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN; also 53-0326, Israel and The Church)

Branham contradicted himself as he later said *"the great Archangel, Gabriel, Who is the messenger of the covenant."* (60-0304, Thirsting For Life, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ; I Am the Resurrection and Life, 52-0810; A; Ministry of Christ, 53-0607A).

How can the messenger be Jesus and also a different angelic creature named Gabriel at the same time? Who is the angel of God that Branham does not know the name of, but calls him Gabriel? Try and make sense out of this.

"And I looked, and there was my wall opened up, and I seen Jesus.... I seen Jesus twice in my life in a vision." (60-0417M, Go, Tell, Branham Tabernacle)

This is a strange thing to say since he says the angel is Jesus who showed up all the time.

"Now, to my meetings, it's a supernatural Being, that's--that's absolutely in the meeting, and you can see It moving. And I ask you to have faith and believe it's Jesus Christ, the Son of God." (52-0720 Who Hath Believed our report. Hammond, IN)

How could Branham believe this, the fact is he already told us the angel is NOT Jesus, but he wants others to believe this. He already said Jesus is not the Son of God

This being was definitely supernatural but it should be clear that this is NOT "The Angel of the Lord" that he stated was the pillar of fire who was also Jesus. Branham describes Jesus as *"... there stood the Lord Jesus, the first time I'd ever saw Him in a vision ... He had on a white garment with fringe around the side of it. He had hair down to His shoulders, and He looked to be about--a man about what the Bible said He was, about thirty, but a small, thin built Fellow, very small. Looked like He wouldn't weigh over a hundred and thirty pounds."* (65-0218 The Seed is Not Heir With the Shuck)

Branham was a man confused, he would implicitly say the exact opposite: *"And I one night saw our Lord Jesus. I'm saying this with permission, I believe, from the Holy Spirit. The Angel of the Lord that comes is not the Lord Jesus. It doesn't look like him in the same vision. For, the vision I saw of the Lord Jesus, he was a little man."* (Footprints on the Sands of Time, p.60).

"one night saw our Lord Jesus. I'm saying this with permission, I believe, from the Holy Spirit. The Angel of the Lord that comes is not the Lord Jesus. ... For, the vision I saw of the Lord Jesus, He was a little Man ... And there, standing not over ten feet from me, stood a Man; white garment on, a little Fellow; had His arms folded like this; a beard, kind of short; hair down to His shoulders." (55-0117, How The Angel Came To Me, And His Commission, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL.)

Branham also said the closest to what Jesus looked like was a picture of Jesus called *Hoffmann's Head of Christ at Thirty-Three. He did not have beard*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



over His face, like Christ's picture does. Who He is, I do not know." (47-1102, The Angel Of God, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

What does a picture have to do with what Jesus actually looked like? He also had visions of Jesus.

"For, the vision I saw of the Lord Jesus, He was a little Man," as he later went into the field, "And there, standing not over ten feet from me, stood a Man; white garment on, a little fellow; had His arms folded like this; a beard, kind of short; hair down to His shoulders ... I thought, "I believe I'll call Him." And I said, "Jesus." And when He did, He looked around like that. That was all I remember, He just reached out His arms." (p.60 Footprints on the Sands of Time, My life story)

No Jew would have a short beard, certainly not according to the Mosaic Law. So again this is proving he is not really Jesus.

Here Branham is claiming to get permission to say this from the Holy Spirit whom he said was (also) Jesus, who is denying HIS angel being *The Angel of the Lord* who is supposed to be Jesus. That's about as convoluted as you can get. Is the Holy Spirit witnessing against himself who He is!

An experience with *the Angel of the Lord who took him to a real bright stream of water. ... He said, "I will make you a fisher."* ... *And I was straightening out my line, and the Man which was talking behind me, walked around in front of me, dressed in Palestinian clothes and a turban on His head. He had a white robe. He said, "Brother Branham, that's it."* (56-0101, Why Are People So Tossed About? Branham Tabernacle).



A turban on his head? Nothing in Scripture is even hinted at as to what Branham described as a turban on the head.

This sounds much like the new age Christ figure, Maitreya, who appeared in a white robe with a turban in Nairobi on June 11, 1988.

This picture was taken in front of thousands of witnesses. Did Jesus look like this to Branham? Did his angel?

He said his angel was not Jesus even though the dressed similar, *"And as I turned my head, there He stood, standing there, that Angel, big Man, not like the Christ, He's great big fellow, dark skin, brown, dark hair to His shoulder, white robe on, arms folded like this."* (56-0421, What Visions Are, Spindale House Recreation Center, Spindale, NC)

Yet he had said his angel is Jesus "It is the same Pillar of Fire that led the children of Israel from Egypt to Palestine ... "It's Jesus Christ." (How the Angel Came to Me, and His Commission, p.88.)

These two opposite statements cannot be reconciled. Not only is confusion found when the devil is involved but he eventually cannot cover all his lies.

He further described his angel as different from Jesus in many ways. *"He appeared to be a man who, in human weight, would weigh about two hundred pounds, clothed in a white robe. He had a smooth face, no beard, dark hair down to his shoulders, of rather dark-complexion."* (A Man Sent from God p.78; Personal Testimony of the Coming of the Gift)

Branham was consistent on his angel's description. *"He weighed about two hundred pounds, and kinda dark complected, kinda more like a--a Mexican's complexion, you know, like the Spanish, or some dark complected person, smooth face, no beard, had dark hair down to His shoulders, had a white robe on."* (50-0821, The Angel and The Commission, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

Branham described this unnamed creature he called the angel of the Lord (53-0510, Testimony, Bible Hour Tabernacle, Jonesboro, AR; 48-0302, Experiences, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ).

"He had a smooth face, no beard, dark hair down to his shoulders, of rather dark-complexion, with a very pleasant countenance" (G. Lindsay, William Branham - A Man Sent from God).

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



When he appeared he *“has His arms folded, white robe and barefooted.”* (51-0720, The Angel Of God, Civic Auditorium, Toledo, OH).

We know angels can have long white robes (Mk. 16:5), but so do saints (Rev. 3:5). Twenty four elders are in white (Rev. 4:4). A white robe is given to martyred saints in heaven (Rev. 6:11), and to the tribulation saints (Rev. 7:13).

Branham's Jesus

In many messages Branham spoke on how Jesus would not have been recognized because Jews *“all dressed alike, beards and turbans.”* (57-0226, *Sirs, We Would See Jesus*, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ.) *“Jews, all look the same, them long beards and garments.”* (56-1215, *Hear Ye Him*, Apostolic Hour Of Faith Tabernacle, Parkersburg, WV).

Speaking of not being able to single out Jesus *“Now, it wasn't His dress. They all dressed alike. Wasn't the way He wore His beard, or combed His hair. They all wore it the same.”* (62-0724, *Sir, We Would See Jesus*, Legion Auditorium, Port Alberni, BC)

According to Branham in one of his stories of seeing the crucifixion he described Jesus as *“a little Man with a white robe.”* (60-1125, Conference, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA) *“a little bitty, frail Fellow.”* (60-0611B, Fellowship, Manchester Hotel, Middletown, OH)

“All Easterners wear those turbans. They dress alike.” (65-0427, Does God Change His Mind?, Embassy Hotel, Los Angeles, CA) *“they all dressed with turbans and their long robes just alike.”* (58-0619E, Can We See Jesus?, Textile Hall, Greenville, SC)

Speaking of Philip he stated, *“All the Eastern people dress alike, with turbans and sandals, and--and free-swinging garments, had beard. He said, “Behold an Israelite in whom there is no guile.” Now, he could have been a Mohammedan, he could*

have been a ... he could have been a Turk.” (64-0304, *Sirs, We Would See Jesus*, Soul's Harbor Temple, Dallas, TX)

Israelites do not look like Mohammedans or Turks, nor do all eastern people dress alike. Even the Pharisees dressed different than their fellow Jews. *“They make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,”* (Mt. 23:5) all to be noticed. Jewish men would wear prayer shawls that they would cover their head with, not turbans.

Swamis are known to wear turbans. Branham was aware that *“The Sikhs, they wear a turban.”* (54-1003M, *The Word Became Flesh* (India Trip Report).

But Jesus had no turban. Yet His angel did not have a beard like Christ, so Branham surely did not know who this was, though he would say at times he was Jesus. Which certainly is more than being mistaken, its blasphemy.

Branham knew this angel was not the Jesus he saw. Branham's Jesus was described as *“He wasn't a great big six footer. He was a little frail Fellow. He straighten His little frame up, stooped in the shoulders as He was. Said He was gray in His beard before He was thirty years old.”* (51-0729A, *The Resurrection Of Lazarus*, National Guard Armory, Erie, PA)

“If we went tonight, down into the city to find Jesus, what type of person would we look for? I just want to see if He's the same yesterday, today, and forever.... Will you--we look for some person dressed different from other men? Someone, maybe with a great big turban on top of his head, and great long gowns a flowing from him, walking down the street? If He's the same yesterday, today, and forever, He wouldn't be dressed like that, 'cause He dressed like common men; walked among them, and they couldn't tell Him from anybody else.” (57-0104, *Sirs, We Would See Jesus*, Arnold Memorial School, Cleveland, TN)

Jews did not wear turbans, and the long flowing robes were on the Pharisees.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"I was going to the room to minister some people, there stood a man with a towel over his head. Looked something on order of this lady sitting here now, with that towel across her head. He was kind of dark complected, and his nose was kind of flat in the front. And I said, "How do you do, sir?" I thought he was one of the patients at the house. He just raised his eyes and said, "Brother Branham, don't go overseas until September." I looked... I--I started to ask... He was gone. He was vanished. " (54-0307E, Do You Now Believe?, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ)

Occultist Helena Blavatsky also spoke of a man appear to her in a white robe with a turban, describing him as great stature an Oriental clad in white garments, Long raven hair hung from under his turban to the shoulders. "

"In the month of April 1881... in the open verandah of the upper bungalow, a man, six feet in height, clad in a white robe, with a white [turban] on the head, made his appearance on a sudden, ... we heard Madame and he talking for a minute with each other in an Eastern language unknown to us"....on another occasion "another Brother, clothed in a white dress, was suddenly seen as if standing on a branch of a tree. We saw him then descending as though through the air, and standing on a corner edge of a thin wall. Madame then rose up from her seat and stood looking at him for about two minutes, and—as if it seemed—talking inaudibly with him. Immediately after, in our presence, the figure of the man disappeared, but was afterwards seen again walking in the air through space, then right through the tree, and again disappearing. (Source: Hume, A. O. Hints on Esoteric Theosophy, No. 1: Is Theosophy a Delusion? Do the Brothers Exist? Calcutta, India: Calcutta Central Press, 1882, 103, 104–105).

"Immediately after I saw the tall figure of a man apparently more than 6ft. in height, clad in white, near the trees. It was a clear moonlight night. The figure was well-built. I could not distinguish the features very well, saw something like a beard, but not very distinctly. A white turban was on the head. The figure began to walk backwards and forwards for two or three minutes. Madame Coulomb joined

the group, and the figure disappeared, making the same kind of sound, like stirring of leaves, which I heard before the appearance of the figure." (Case 32 J.N. Ghosal November 1882 Bombay, India) [whoosh, whoosh?]

"[S]o imbued with the majesty of moral strength, so luminously spiritual, so evidently above average humanity, that I felt abashed in his presence, and bowed my head and bent my knee as one does before a god or a godlike personage." (Olcott, Henry Steel. *Old Diary Leaves: The True Story of the Theosophical Society*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1895. Vol. 1 (1874–1878), 377, 379–81.)

Edgar Cayce reported being visited by a being wearing white robes and a turban. (Harmon Bro, *A Seer Out of Season*, p. 391)

Apparently this kind of angelic like creature, has been appearing to numerous Mystics, Occultists, theosophist's all over the world for some time.

Koot hoomi (Kuthumi) and El Morya can fit the description as Branham's Jesus or his angel minus the beard. According to Theosophy, Kuthumi is considered to be one of the members of the Spiritual Hierarchy called the Masters of the Ancient Wisdom.



Koothoomi

El morya

Apparently these same entities (and others) have been appearing to many seekers throughout time. And Branham's angel clearly was not a biblical angel so when we compare the pictures of these ascended masters it is uncanny how similar they are in dress.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



The New Testament testifies

How many times do we see an angel appear in the New Testament to give a message or teaching? Their visits and messages are not common but rare. Angels are mentioned 165 times in the New Testament and have 18 appearances. Only the epistles of John and James have no mention of angels.

Let's look at the times angels appeared or communicated to man in the New Testament to see what occurs. An angel appears to Zacharias the priest telling him his prayer was heard, he will have a son who is to be named John (John the Baptizer) Lk. 1:5, 7, 11-13. The angel identifies himself by the name Gabriel.

An angel tells a virgin named Mariam she will give birth to the savior in Lk. 1:26-28: we are told in v.26 it is Gabriel. An angel of the Lord appears three times to Joseph, in a dream whom Mary was betrothed to (Mt. 1:18-20; 2:12-13, 20-21), once in regard to marrying Mary and twice concerning the protection of their child, Jesus. We can assume it is the same angel, Gabriel.

Angels appear twice to shepherds regarding the birth of Jesus (Lk. 2:8-10.13-14). Angels came and ministered to Jesus after his temptation in the wilderness. (Mt. 4:1-3, 11.) God sent an angel to Jesus to strengthen him in his suffering preparing for death (Lk. 22:39-40, 43). Two angels appear both outside and inside of Jesus' tomb telling the disciples he has already risen from the dead (Mt. 28:1-2, 5-6; Mk. 16:5-6). The same two angels appear to the disciples as Jesus ascended to heaven, telling them that he will return to the earth in the same manner (Acts 1:9-11). An angel of the Lord frees the apostles from prison (Acts 5:17-20). An angel appears to Cornelius directing him to send for the apostle Peter so that he and his household can be saved (Acts 10:1-5.) Acts 12:8: An angel sets Peter free from prison. As the apostle Paul is being brought to Italy on a boat with prisoners an angel tells the apostle Paul that he and those with him should stay on the ship so they will not lose their

lives at sea (Acts 27:1-2, 21-24). Each of these times an angel appears they are succinct in their mission and leave, There is no angel who follows an apostle and heals.

The New Testament records 18 different time's angel[s] make an appearance. These appearances primarily occurred in two ways: seen by the eyes or in a dream/vision.

To Cornelius: (Acts 10:3-7,11:13) *devout man who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.*” He sees a vision of an angel of God who instructs him where to find Peter in Joppa so they can all be saved. This become a door of salvation opened for all Gentiles.

The only time we see an angel act to an unbeliever is to Herod, and he did not appear: (Acts 12:21-23 Herod is arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne the people shouted, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" *Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God.*”

The only time we see an angel teach doctrine is taking place directly from Jesus to an angel and then directly to the apostle John who is to write it down for the church. Rev. 1:1: *“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants--things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John.”* John was isolated; no one else saw the angel or heard him. It is this book, the last doctrine/prophesy that completes the revelation of Scripture to the church.

“Angels are ministering Spirits, usually come in the form of lights. And I truly, personally, as I started to say awhile ago, with my Bible over my heart, I believe that the Angel of God... I've seen It since I was a little boy.” (51-0502, *The Angel Of The Lord*, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

When angels do appear, they most often appear in the form of man, not as lights. The Bible teaches that you can't trust every angel or their message, as Paul warns in Gal. 1 about the gospel itself. There

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



are angels under the leadership of [Satan](#), known as [demons](#), the fallen angels that oppose [God](#) that are called angels of light. How do we know an angel is from God? There will always be a harmony between the teachings of the Lord and his messengers, not confusion or contradictions.

If he is not the Angel of the Lord, Jesus, then who is he that appeared to Branham and stood by his right side? Paul writes in 2 Cor. 11:14-15 *“For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness.”*

Transform in Greek is *Metaschematizo*, it means to change the figure of, to alternate or disguise (Strong's and Thayers). He is able to alter his form to be a messenger of light both literally and figuratively to make himself look like he is of God or an appearance of God himself.

If we consider what Branham taught on his dependence on this creature we can understand what is taking place. *“You know what I'm waiting for, the angel of the Lord, I can't start without him.”* Gradually, he would say something like, “Now he's here”, this was sensed by a felt presence and through visions, which Branham thought Jesus operated in as well.

“I'm waiting for the Angel of the Lord; which I'm absolutely, perfectly helpless without Him. But I know with Him, I can do all things. And I know, when He comes here, then a little while I become unconscious.” (53-1109, Africa Trip Report, National Guard Armory, Owensboro, KY)

“Although I've seen It since a child, it ... every time It comes near me, It alarms me. He almost puts me in an unconscious condition. You never get used to It. You can't: It's too sacred.” (63-0322, [The Fifth Seal](#), Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

Being unconscious is often a byproduct affecting those who channel spirits.

You say, “What are you doing, Brother Branham?” I'm waiting for His anointing, the Angel of the

Lord.” (58-0523, We Would See Jesus, City Auditorium, Concord, NH).

“I'm waiting for Him. If I--if He don't come to me,... The anointing isn't on me. I know it's here at the platform.” (58-0301E, [Hear Ye Him](#), Memorial Auditorium, Chattanooga, TN)

The angel had to be present for the anointing. *“I'm waiting for that Angel of the Lord to come ... how could I do anything. I can't. It's Him. I can't do it... I can't see visions unless it's your faith that does it ... only thing I do is just keep yielding myself, and as I get myself completely yielded to the Holy Spirit, then He starts talking. It's not me. He is using my voice, but it's not me. It's Him. See? That's just the Scripture exactly. See? ... Be real reverent. Now, at this time through Jesus Christ's Name, I take this group of people under my control for the glory of God and every spirit in here to be subject to the Holy Spirit.”* (56-0427, [Faith](#), Abundant Life Center, Charlotte, NC).

This is more like channeling than the way Scripture teaches that the words of the prophets or apostles came to us.

Branham explained how the angel needed to be present in his services for his instructions, to give him the words to speak and for there to be power thus showing it was not by the Holy Spirit but another entity. He could not speak without the angel present and neither could he heal. So he had the people wait and prepare themselves for the visitation.

“And when He comes, ... I'll just humble myself. He will speak through my lips.” (57-0810, [Jehovah-Jireh](#), Edmonton Arena, Edmonton, AB)

How does the angel do this? Branham explains the angel indwells him. *“that same Light that's on that picture is on... standing not two feet from where I'm standing right now. That's right. I can't see It with my--my eyes, but I know It's standing here. I know It's settling with inside of me right now.”* (55-0117, [How The Angel Came To Me, And His Commission](#), Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



An angel settling inside him! That's not a good thing. The only angels that indwell human bodies are fallen ones.

Even if we are to accept this is God and not an angel, God does not come in and out of an individual, he dwells in us.

He further explains, "He came from heaven down to enshroud, or inclothe an earthly vessel to speak to earthly people (You see?) that--that they--you would believe on Him." (51-0505, My Commission, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

Unless this angel is God Branham is being inhabited by an angel, a fallen angel, who would want people to believe on him as if he was God as Branham stated.

"Everybody be real reverent. Be just as quiet as you can. Say, "What you stalling about, Brother Branham?" I'm waiting for Him." (56-0615, An Exodus, Cadle Tabernacle, Indianapolis, IN).

"Now, be reverent and pray with all your heart and be in one accord. I'm waiting for His Presence to anoint me. The Holy Spirit has to anoint. I have to submit myself in a way, that the anointing takes me over, and then the visions come" (54-0720E, It Is I, Be Not Afraid, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL).

You say, "Brother Branham, what are you stalling about? I'm waiting for Him. Exactly. And I'm just testifying or doing something till I know that His Presence is near. And then I ... Then when It does, then it'll be different." (55-0610, Do You Now Believe?, Porter Stadium, Macon, GA).

This is not how the Holy Spirit relates to us in the new covenant. We don't wait for him, He resides in us. And if there is a task that God is leading us into He will be with us. Yet Branham a different perspective than what is in the new covenant, "I'm waiting for Him. If I--if He don't come to me, ... The anointing isn't on me. I know it's here at the platform. And I--I just from preaching like that I can't enter into it." (58-0301E, Hear Ye Him, Memorial Auditorium, Chattanooga, TN)

The Holy Spirit is supposed to present everywhere, he is residing within us as believers, yet Branham is waiting for an angel who he said is God, is the Holy Spirit. Branham's connection to the angel was strictly a wait for an appearance for the angel to arrive before he could say or do anything supernatural i.e. miraculous. Branham's descriptions were more like those of a New Age channeler rather than a prophet.

Branham was promoting an Old Testament model in his gift operating, calling him The Angel of the Lord. But how could he know this; the angel never told him this. The creature never identified himself to Branham by name or title. It was Branham that assumed it must be The Angel of the Lord; or an angel. He reinterpreted this as the Holy Spirit and Jesus, he had no choice, so he assigned an identity to the visitor.

"I can say nothing in myself. But what He shows me." (William Branham, Footprints On The Sands Of Time, p. 214).

Branham developed a dependent relationship with this angel. One evening, just before a meeting, Branham told his interpreter, "Don't stand to the right of me because my angel stands there." "Branham described the angel as a well-built man, dark hair with folded arms. The angel supposedly stood next to Branham, and what the angel said, he had to obey" (Carl Dyck, William Branham: The Man and His Message (Saskatoon: Western Tract Mission, 1984), p. 16).

His friend Peary Green contended "that he always carried his right shoulder lower than his left. The anointing was always on his right, where the angel of the lord stood." (p.88 Acts of the Prophet by Peary Green).

Branham said, "That's the reason I bring the people to my right, bring them to the platform; it passes Him first." (56-0421, What Visions Are, Spindale House Recreation Center, Spindale, NC)

"It always is to my right. And when I turned towards the right, standing there stood the Angel of

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



the Lord--that Man Who comes to me. Who He is?... I don't know what His Name is." (48-0302, Experiences, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ) His This angel indwelled him, spoke though his lips and healed people.

A HEALING Angel

"During healing services Branham would often fall into a trance during which his angel would work through him. Asked once if the healings were done by the Holy Spirit, Branham replied, "No, my angel does it." (Kurt Koch, 'Occult Bondage and Deliverance' (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1972), p.50

"And may the Angel of God, Who's guided me through my life, fed me since I was born, be here tonight to heal the sick and afflicted." (50-0405, Expectation, Glad Tidings Tabernacle, New York, NY)

The Bible has no record of Jesus doing His miracles, healings by the assistance of any angel. There was no need, for He did his miracles by being God the Son and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Neither do the *Acts of the Apostles* have any record of healings by an angel; they did it all by the power of the Holy Spirit. Why does Branham have an angel when no other Biblical prophet or apostle in history had need of one to accomplish Gods work?

Some might point to the pool of Bethesda, Jn. 5:4-9: *"For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had."* At a certain time the multitudes gathered, something took place in the water that the people could see and those who entered first received healing from it. This does not have any human interaction; the angel came and stirred the water and left, he did not speak to anyone and it does not imply the angel healed them, but the healing came by their going into the water.

V.6-9: We find a paralytic man unable to get to the water *"When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?' The sick man answered Him, 'Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.'* Jesus said to him, *'Rise, take up your bed and walk.'* And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked."

Jesus sees that the man is desperate and has lost hope. He does not help the man into the pool but instead offered to heal the man himself. We can see the emphasis is not on an angel that heals but instead Jesus that heals. Jesus' healing has absolutely nothing to do with the pool or an angel.

Again Branham says he couldn't do anything without his angel being present! When he showed up he was able to heal. Kurt Koch confirms this, *"While conducting healing services Branham would often fall into a trance during which his angel would work through him. Asked once if the healings were done by the Holy Spirit, Branham replied, "No, my angel does it." (Kurt Koch, Occult Bondage and Deliverance, p.50, 1972).*

In 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, the gifts, and especially the gift of healing (all gifts) is given by the Holy Spirit, not by an Angel. Calling your angel the Holy Spirit does not make it so.

"The healings and prophecies purportedly came through an angel that was always with Branham on stage and continually gave him counsel and revelations." (William Branham: His Life and Teachings, Kathie Adler; Narrow Way Ministries, Holbrook, N.Y., 1986; pp. 3-5).

Here we find the angel was necessary for him to operate in his gift of prognosis and give explanations of Scripture despite the fact that there is no Biblical evidence that any apostle or Jesus

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



healed or had gifts by an angel, much less The Angel of the Lord.

Why does Branham have a personal angel when no other Biblical prophet or apostle in history had need of one to accomplish God's work?

At best his experience with this angel is extra-Biblical and thus more than suspect. We do not have to guess what this angel was, for Branham himself said he was an angel of light. Yet Branham assured himself: *"I'm convinced that the same Angel that come down in the form of a Man and talked to Abraham with His back turned to the tent (yet knowing the thoughts in Sarah's heart), is the same One here tonight. He promised it would be. I believe that that same Angel anoints us, **because It was God.** Do you believe it?"* *"I believe that that same Angel anoints us, because It was God. Do you believe it? That Angel met me up there and told me what he did. I stood before heathens by the thousands and tens of thousands. You say, 'Aren't you afraid?' No, sir! I'm convinced that It come from God! I'm convinced because it was Scriptural! I'm convinced that It's the Angel of the Lord."* (Convinced Than concerned June 10, 1962).

Why should anyone be convinced when he also said the angel was not Jesus, not God? If the angel is God how can he be sent by Almighty God and deny he is God; especially since Branham denied the Trinity of God's nature. Anointing angel? The former chief cherub over the throne was anointed (Ezek.28:14) and all the angels have tremendous ability and power. Something to consider after seeing all his confusing and contradictory statements and words he used from the Bible.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 25

Branham's Pillar of fire and light

A synopsis of God's glory appearances in the Old Testament

What was God's manifestation before the pillar of fire? Branham said he always was a pillar of fire. The problem with what Branham taught is that the Bible says God appeared to Israel as this at night and as a cloud by day.

It didn't matter what time of day Branham saw him, he was always a pillar of fire, both day and night. We need to have a biblical background on this before we hear from Branham to see if he spoke correctly on this matter

The omnipresence of God is localized in his Glory. It is the visible presence of God. Throughout most of Old Testament history, the Glory took on the form of a light, fire or cloud or a combination of these things.

Abraham had God appear to him as a smoking torch at night when the covenant was made in Gen.15:7. The greatest manifestation of the God's Glory in the Old Testament occurred during the time of the Exodus, specifically at Mount Sinai, with the giving of the Ten Commandments. Exodus 19:16-20: in verse 16, there was the appearance of *thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount;* in verse 18, *"God descended upon it in fire."*

Light, fire, cloud, lightning, thick darkness, all were the visible manifestations of God's presence to Israel. This visible presence of God brought fear to the people. At one point

when he spoke they requested to not hear the voice of God any more (Exod. 20:18-21).

God first appears to Moses in the wilderness in a bush that is on fire. (Ex.3:2) He speaks of sending him to deliver the people from bondage. We read why God gave the pillar of fire and cloud. Ps. 105:39 *"he spread a cloud for a covering, and fire to give light in the night."*

This pillar of cloud and fire first appeared for Israel as they left in their exodus from Egypt.

Ex. 13:21-22 *"And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people."*

The light was for the people to see as they traveled.

The Bible is very specific; the pillar of fire was only at night. It was SEEN until it was changed to a pillar of cloud. Neh. 9:12 *"Moreover You led them by day with a cloudy pillar, And by night with a pillar of fire, To give them light on the road Which they should travel."*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Both were seen 24-7. The cloud was seen in the daytime all day, only when night came the pillar of fire was seen (all through the night).

The word for pillar in Hebrew is *`ammuwd* - a pillar, a column. The pillar was not the Lord Himself but a manifestation of his glory for Israel to know they were safe and to light their way as the Lord guided them at night. During the daytime in their journey at this particular time it was a cloud (Neh. 9:19).

Unger's Bible Dictionary writes it "was a symbol of the zeal of the Lord and therefore was enveloped in a cloud that protected Israel by day from heat, sunstroke, and pestilence Isa. 4:4-5; 49:10; Ps. 91:5-6; 121:6. At night it lighted up Israel's path by its splendor and defended it from terror and calamity Ps. 27:1-3; 91:5-6.)

Exod. 14:24 "Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians."

Ex. 40:36-37 "*Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up.*"

Num. 9:15-22 we see all of Israel encamped where the cloud settled. In v.21-22 "*So it was, when the cloud remained only from evening until morning: when the cloud was taken up in the morning, then they would journey; whether by day or by night, whenever the cloud was taken up, they would journey. Whether it was two days, a month, or a year that the cloud remained above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would remain encamped and not journey;*"

but when it was taken up, they would journey."

Nothing like this ever happened with Branham's pillar of fire or cloud. Why is there no cloud? We find the pillar of fire is mentioned with the pillar of cloud (or cloudy pillar). This glory was strictly for their exodus, their wilderness journey, but more often the cloud was mentioned.

These two specific manifestations from God ceased once Israel came into the land. It was there to help them travel to it. At a certain point "the pillar of fire" stopped appearing and was in the form of a cloud over the tabernacle with the appearance of fire by night. It is no longer described as a pillar, but was the same glory.

Once the Tabernacle was finished, the Glory resided within the Tabernacle (Exodus 40:34-38).

Deut. 31:14-15 Moses and Joshua. "*Now the LORD appeared at the tabernacle in a pillar of cloud, and the pillar of cloud stood above the door of the tabernacle.*"

The pillar of fire did not continue after Moses and Joshua were at the Tabernacle.

Ex. 33:9-10 "*when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door.*"

Lev. 16:2-3 "*Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat.*"

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



It is important to understand that God did not appear as fire but as a cloud to the High Priest within the tabernacle. The Holy of Holies was what contained God's Glory, a visible manifestation of the presence of God. The high priest entered only once a year, the Glory appeared between the two cherubs over the Mercy Seat.

Lev. 16:2 "Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat." (Lev. 16:13) The high priest was allowed to enter once a year and see God's glory. Everything had to be done right or he would die.

The visible manifestation of the presence of God lived among the people of Israel in the Tabernacle (Exodus 40), until the time of Ezekiel. Any special manifestations of the God's Glory did not continue. Ezek. 1:28 "And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spoke. Ezekiel's response was: *I fell upon my face*; this is the natural response of those seeing a visible manifestation of God's presence.

Solomon's temple: *When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the temple* (2 Chron.7:7;1 Kings 8:1-13, and 2 Chronicles 5:2-7:3). The Ark of the Covenant was brought into the Holy of Holies V.10, *the cloud filled the house*; V.11, *the Glory of God filled the house*. "*the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.*" (2 Chron. 5:13-14). This is similar to what happened at the time the Glory made its abode in the Tabernacle in Exodus 40. In verse 12, the Glory began to *dwell in the thick darkness* of the Holy of Holies. This

became God's *habitation*, where His visible manifestation of Glory would continue to reside. The Glory dwelt in the Holy of Holies; first, in the Tabernacle, and later in Solomon's Temple.

The departure of God's glory from Israel Ezekiel 11:22-23: "*the glory of the God of Israel was over them above. And the glory of Jehovah went up from the midst of the city, and stood upon the mountain which is on the east side of the city.*"

From the east side the Shekinah Glory moved onto the Mount of Olives and left Jerusalem. God's Glory left Israel and was no longer seen. After the Jewish captives return from Babylon, the Second Temple is built. But the Glory was not in the Second Temple as it was in the prior Temple.

Haggai 2:3: *Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes as nothing?"*

Branham's presentation of the pillar of fire is unbiblical and becomes a self-focused promotion of being special.

The birth of Jesus

A star was seen in the form of a light. The Greek word for star means "radiance" or "brilliance. So to be accurate it is the appearance of God's Glory, not a literal star (a sun), or many stars aligned as Branham taught.

Branham who saw nearly everything in threes said, "*I think, that we believe there were three wise men, because they travel in three's. And they said, "We have seen His Star in the East and have come to worship Him." In other words, "We have seen His sign for this age," that they were living in. It was prophesied so.*" (63-1216, We Have

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Seen His Star And Have Come To Worship Him, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ)

The sign for his age was not the star that disappeared after the magi found the young child Jesus. Branham spoke this way because of what he was told by the astrologer[s] of a sign "*You were born under a sign.*" And he said, "*You... that sign, that constellation, when they crossed way out in there, the day of your birth*" (62-1230E, Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir?, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"*Now, three wise men came to see Jesus. The astronomy says that they followed three different stars, and these three stars came together and made the one star.*" (61-0119A, The Water Baptism, Golden Arrow Restaurant, Beaumont, TX; 62-0319, The End-Time Sign Seed, Tifton Junior High School, Tifton, GA)

"*way back in the East some magis, or stargazers... I believe they'd noticed the prophecy of Balaam, that a Star of Jacob would rise. And they would... they was watching for that star to arise. And we're told by historians that the three magi... They come from different parts, not followed one star, as the Christian tradition has it, but they followed three different stars.*" (54-0220 Expectation)

The Bible says star (singular), Branham turns it into stars. Why? Because of an astrologers statement to him about his birth, "*When they three stars, when they ... They come from different directions and they met at Bethlehem. And they said they found out and consulted, and one was from the lineage of Ham, Shem, and Japheth, the three sons of Noah.*" (55-0117, How The Angel Came To Me, And His Commission, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL; also in p.78 Footprints on the Sands of Time)

How does he know these three wise men were from the genealogy of Ham, Japheth, and Shem. The Bible does not mention this. Again Branham is inserting his own interpretation into the word that he heard from the astrologer. The Bible does not tell us there were only three men, but three gifts. There could have been a dozen men or more.

"*when them three stars lined up, it was a sign the Messiah was on the earth? They knew it. They believed it. And they was the one who saw the stars. The rest of them didn't see them. They were in their right constellation, but they saw them in the way that God had presented them to them.*" (63-1129, The Super Sign, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA)

Looked towards Jerusalem, and knowing that they saw those three stars from each one of their--their birth-path, of Ham, Shem, and Japheth, of which race they come from, each, and they seen them stars in their birth-path. That was a sign to them, that when those stars were in line, the Messiah was on earth." (63-0818, The Uniting Time And Sign, Branham Tabernacle Jeffersonville, IN)

This is what is called astrology, which Branham mixed with the Bible. He has made it clear that these were celestial bodies that aligned.

A Horoscope is defined as: "*The aspects of planets and stars at a given moment, such as the moment of a person's birth, are used by the astrologers as an astrological prediction of a person's future, based on a diagram of aspects and relationships between planets and stars.*" (American Heritage Dictionary)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



The Magi in Babylon

Who are these gift bearing men? The King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, had a dream that bothered him and called before him "the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams." (Dan. 2:2) They all failed and were facing execution. Dan 2:10). Daniel volunteered to interpret the dream, and does so accurately, Dan. 2:19-20 "*Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision...*" Nebuchadnezzar recognized Daniels ability came from God. (Dan 4:18). Since Daniel correctly interpreted the dream, and he saved them from execution, he was promoted.

Daniel was able to teach certain men in Babylon the correct knowledge of the God of Israel. Centuries had passed after Daniel taught these Babylonian's as to how "the star out of Jacob," would appear.

These astronomers (magi) were trained in the scripture during the captivity of Israel in Babylon by Daniel. Wise men - *chakkiym* (Aramaic) Magi (mentioned in Dan.2:12,13,14,18,24,27,48; 4:6,18; 5:7,8,15) these were converted Gentiles who learned from Daniels writing, and this sign, the star, by reading of a gentile prophet Balaam, who was an astrologer from the city of Pethor, on Euphrates River in Babylonia (Num. 22:5; Deut. 23:4). His Messianic prophecy that pertains to this: Numbers 24:17: "*I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not nigh: There shall come forth a star out of Jacob, And a sceptre shall rise out of Israel, And shall smite through the corners of Moab, And break down all the sons of tumult.*"

It was by knowing the Scripture's prophecies that had them look to the heavens and prompted them to travel from their home in Babylon. They saw this unusual light, (a radiance) which looked like

a star appear over the land of Israel (a star, which would rise out of Jacob), it was a sign that Israel's king was born, this is why they knew what gifts to bring (Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh). Gold for him as king (the ark of the covenant was covered in gold). Frankincense for deity, (the incense was burned in the tabernacle to God that permeated the structure) and Myrrh which is used in embalming, (for the purpose of his coming, to die for our sins).

"And finally, as they went along, rejoicing and praising God through the night, led by the hand of the Lord till finally the Star come to a little stable, which was a little place in the side of the hill, a cave, and there the Star rested over the cave. And these mighty Magis, over a year and six months in their journey on their road, traveling, watching, following nothing, no other direction but the Star... And when It rested, they went in and there they found the Babe, Joseph and Mary. And they brought gifts from their treasure chest." (57-1222, The Great Shining Light, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Nice story but he was in a home then, not the stable he was born in.

It was at the birth of the Messiah a light appeared that looked like a star in the heavens. But its actions proved it was not a star. It led the group to where the Son's residence was as a child at least 2 years later.

This star came in the familiar form of a light; the appearance of Glory in the sky looked like a star (the same glory that appeared with the angel for the shepherds in the fields). It has nothing to do with astrology or astronomy, but God himself.

When the astronomers saw this new star (Glory in the sky), a visible manifestation of the presence of God, they understood it as a

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



signal that the King of the Jews, the Messiah, had been born.

These were not stars or planets aligning, they do not behave in this manner. The word star in Greek is *aster* (from the base of 4766; a star. literally or figuratively- Strong's concordance). It is not the same property as a star which is a sun. This Greek word for star means "radiance." It "went ahead of" the magi who were seeking the Messiah and led them to him. It "stood over where the child was." Stars continually move as the earth is in rotation, they appear in the east and set in the west.

Luke 2:3-6 Jesus was born in Bethlehem which in the south, about 5 miles south of Jerusalem. At this time this star then moves from north to south. And the star stayed over the house where Jesus as a young child is now living in Bethlehem years later. No actual star can do what this star did, to lead these watchful men from Babylon to the child that would be king.

The presence of God was now dwelling among men in human form. Emmanuel, God with us. Here again we have a conflict with Scripture. According to Branham, Jesus was just a man until his baptism at 30 years old. So the wise men who traveled from the east came and worshiped a man.

The Transfiguration

In the New Testament the greatest manifestation of Glory seen by man is of Jesus at the Transfiguration. (Contained in 4 accounts: Mt. 17:1-8; Mk. 9:2-8; Lk. 9:28-36; and 2 Pt. 1:16-18.) The glory of God is now permanently residing in a human being. Jesus will be the light of the future New Jerusalem (Rev.21:23.)

Each gives us different insights to this special event where the Glory that was

veiled by the human body showed through for his three closest apostles.

Matthew 17:1-8 "*his face did shine as the sun, and his garments became white as the light* (v. 2). A bright cloud overshadowed Him, and the Voice of God spoke out of the cloud, authenticating him as his beloved Son, who is the Messiah (v.5). This description was similar to manifestations that were seen in the Old Testament at Mount Sinai. The cloud, the Voice of God showing him to be the God/man, the Messiah. Again it is not a pillar of fire but a cloud.

"...Now, it's (Pillar of Fire) circling the building. The whole building's anointed, the whole place. I'm convinced that the Presence of Jesus Christ will heal every person here. Are you convinced the same? You convinced that I tell you the Truth, God vindicates I'm telling you the Truth?" (Convinced Than Concerned, June 10, 1962).

Being convinced of something by an experience does not mean it's actually true. Many people are convinced of many different things this way. Does this glory appear as the same pillar that protected Israel in the wilderness, as a fire at night and as a cloud in the day? Branham says the light which is only seen by him is the Holy Spirit. Biblically, this light was the glory of God, that Saul and those who accompanied him on the Damascus road was stopped by. Saul was then converted. He said it appeared brighter than the sun at midday. Does this seem like the same glory at Branham's meetings?

"And if it was ten o'clock at night, two o'clock in the afternoon, there was a thousand trumpets blasted at once; every

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Israelite took down his tent, pulled up his stakes,... They followed the Pillar of Fire. And then where the Pillar of Fire stopped, they built under. That become lost to the church." (53-0329, Israel And The Church #5, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"And It's in the church today. It's here tonight, the same Pillar of Fire." (50-0820E, Believe Ye That I Am Able To Do This?, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

It was never taught to the Church, but to Israel. So how can it be lost? Furthermore, all of Israel saw this fire AT NIGHT, The people at his crusade did not see the pillar of fire with their eyes.

Branham states, *"Thousands times thousands has seen It. It's appeared visibly..." (51-0718, The Angel Of The Lord, Civic Auditorium, Toledo, OH)*

The fact is, he had to use a questionable picture to prove it was there.

"And during that time they took a picture of the Angel of the Lord standing there, and there was that rainbow color. Many of you people have seen the picture." (62-0630B, It Wasn't So From The Beginning, Villa Motel, Santa Maria, CA)

The fact is no one at the meetings saw the light, they had to wait for the negatives. (50-0110, Moses, City Auditorium, Houston, TX; 50-0115, Believest Thou This?, City Auditorium, Houston, TX)

Branham understood what people perceive makes reality and used his tongue to convince them. Don't let his inability in language fool you. He was both clever and shrewd.

"Here. Right here. Can't you see that Light? Looky here. Hanging right here, It's right over a colored woman, setting right here." (59-1127, Blind Bartimaeus, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, San Jose, Ca)

Apparently only Branham could see the light that appeared in his meetings, except for that picture he used to have people believe. With so many photographers present there were no newspaper photos with this light over his head. In fact it showed up on the negative, there is no evidence anyone who was present saw it.

Branham said the Logos is *"a little white Light. We'll call it, like, a Halo."* (53-0403, The Cruelty Of Sin, And The Penalty That It Cost To Rid Sin From Our Lives, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Then why did he say it was a rainbow color or a green light?

Branham tells us the color of the pillar of fire *"It looked like a white Light, like a cloud."* (56-0420, When Their Eyes Were Opened, Spindale House Recreation Center, Spindale, NC)

Why is it a white light and Branham's is green?

He also says the picture shows it's big. *"And now look. The picture. We'll have one here tomorrow night to show you. It's a big Pillar of Fire. How many has seen it? A...?... Probably many of you has seen it. It's copyrighted, big thing goes with it. A big Pillar of Fire, about that big around. They said in their research it looked like emerald light, flaming, burning. You can watch it. I hope it appears here tonight. Many, many times It's appeared right in the meetings while I was having services. Has anybody ever seen it literal with their eyes in the meeting? Is there anybody present who's seen it? Sure, there they are. See? It comes right down many times, right literal while*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



we're praying." (53-0603, God Commissioning Moses, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville)
Branham tells the people there are those who saw it when in fact they did not. People see lots of things when you give them permission to, especially when they are bent toward having a supernatural experience.

"Standing here, and this whole room seems to be one big Pillar of Light now" (54-0404E, God Has A Provided Way, Memorial Auditorium, Louisville, KY)

But no one present ever saw a large pillar of fire than what showed in the picture.

"there's where the Shekinah Glory, where the Light, that Halo, that little Ball of Fire, that come in behind the altar, and went down, and settled on the mercy seat, where the Blood was. And there that Light lit up the room." (55-1007, The Power Of Decision, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

God never describes his glory as a halo, a ball of fire. But Branham consistently mentioned this is how he appeared.

"When God came down at Pentecost, He came down in a ball of fire like He did on Mount Sinai, like He did to the first shepherd, Moses. And when He come down, He separated Himself in tongues of fire that set upon each of them." (64-1221, Why It Had To Be Shepherds, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ)

Pillar of fire over Israel and over the church

The pillar of fire appeared and was seen by all of Israel, every day, until it dwelt in the tabernacle of God (not Branham's) and was seen only by the high priest. This same glory then indwelt the last high priest, Jesus.

When Jesus ascended to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father, He sent the Holy Spirit to live in all believers, who is the hope of glory (in the event of the resurrection).

"The Pillar of Fire returning back. Amen. That's the thing that is supposed to take place, and we see it." (62-1230E, Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir?, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN; Foot Prints On The Sands Of Time The Autobiography of William Marrion Branham p. 416)

Does the Bible say anywhere of a pillar of fire returning, or the angel of the Lord is over the church? No, not a single Scripture anywhere. It certainly did not reappear in the New Testament seen with the church as it did with Israel.

"Israel knowed something was coming. So did Luther know it, so did Wesley know it, so did Finney, Knox, Calvin, know it. This is It! They knew there would come a time that the Pillar of Fire would return back to the Church. They knowed there would come a time that these things would happen, but they didn't live to see it, but they looked forward to it." (63-0901M, Token, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

They did? When did any of them say this? Branham tells us the pillar of fire (angel) came when he was born. So it is not for the Church. It followed him, not anyone else. It talked to him, not anyone else. It appeared to him and at his meetings, not anyone else's meetings. If the pillar of fire is for the Church where is it today? Why is it gone after Branham is gone? It hasn't shown up again. So what he is saying is contradicting what actually happened.

"There they seen this Pillar of Fire fall among them and separate itself. And tongues of fire, forked tongues of fire set

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



upon each one of them, the same Pillar of Fire that come with the Israel through the wilderness.” (62-1123 The way back Shreveport LA)

But we have Branham claiming that he as a single individual had this light appear at his birth and follows him throughout his life. This does not fit the Biblical profile of the Pillar of fire. Nor what happened at Pentecost.

Acts 2 and *“there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.”*

Branham says, *“It was God in this Pillar of Fire, the Logos, separating Himself among His people”* (64-0418B, A Paradox, Morrison's Cafeteria, Tampa, FL)

Tongues of fire *“That was God separating Himself from the Pillar of Fire into each member of His church: God separating Himself so He could be universally all over everywhere at one time”* (61-0208, Sirs, We Would See Jesus, First Assembly Of God Of Long Beach, Long Beach, CA; 61-0425B, The Godhead Explained, Holiday Inn, Chicago, IL)

God by His nature was always omnipresent. He did not need this event to make that possible.

Why is this not the Pillar of Fire separating itself, *God separating Himself from one Being to being in His Church*, as Branham taught. God is not by nature a pillar of fire that is only a visible manifestation. God is spirit (invisible). Yet Branham said *“That's the same God that we look to see today.”* But we do not see tongues of fire appear over everyone who is saved, in fact it did not appear over the 3,000 people at Pentecost that got saved by their preaching. Both the wind and the visible fire was a unique

onetime event that occurred in the upper room.

Let hear how Branham describes this event. He says *“tongues of fire fell from heaven”* (56-1004, Witnesses, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL). *“When God came down at Pentecost, He came down in a ball of fire like He did on Mount Sinai, like He did to the first shepherd, Moses.”* (64-1221, Why It Had To Be Shepherds, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ). *“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.”* (The Messenger to The Laodicean Church Age)

“At Pentecost the fire came in a cloud and separated over each of them like a tongue, and fell on each one.” (Church Age Book) *“It's not on them yet. It's there in the room, circling around like in this wind”* (59-1219, Questions And Answers On The Holy Ghost, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Each one of these are different descriptions. But the Bible says nothing of the sort. Branham adlibbed to the Bible, reinterpreted it to conform to his own life.

The tongues of fire that appeared were not a pillar, a ball of fire, nor blown around by the wind. The wind came first and then the fire appeared above their heads.

This was a unique, onetime event for all who were in the Upper room (some say to the apostles only) who were waiting for the Holy Spirit to come. He did as wind. It was not repeated ever in history to a single person or a group of people.

Here we are over 1,900 years later and are told by a man born in Kentucky that the pillar of fire is with him his whole life as an individual, when it was not with any single

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



man in all of history, not Jesus, nor the Jewish apostles in Israel. So if this actually is the pillar of fire as Branham said why is he the only one that had it throughout out his life, even before his conversion? That alone should be troubling for those who want to make this a biblical event.

Branham says of the upper room "*They screamed. ... it so quickened their body, till they couldn't even speak in an earthly language anymore.*"(65-0410, The Easter Seal, Ramada Inn, Phoenix, AZ)

Actually the languages they all spoke were languages of men, earthly languages, languages they did not learn.

And Branham's pillar of fire is the size of a hand. The pillar of fire for the nation Israel which had nearly 2 million in the exodus were looking at a light at least a few hundred feet in diameter if not larger in the sky to be seen by this many people. So these claims become laughable in respect to the proofs of a picture Branham bragged on as supernatural.

His pillar of fire analogies to Paul are not applicable either. No other apostle had pillars of fire, not even John the Baptist. One cannot extrapolate his descriptions from the Bible.

"... Angels are ministering Spirits, usually come in the form of lights. And I truly, personally, as I started to say awhile ago, with my Bible over my heart, I believe that the Angel of God... I've seen It since I was a little boy..." (51-0502, The Angel Of The Lord, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA).

Branham is saying the angel of God is an actual angel. That becomes very convoluted with all the things he attributes to this angel.

"And I claim that it's the same Pillar of Fire that led the children of Israel through the land of the wilderness to the promise. Was it a Pillar of Fire? Well, when the Holy Ghost, this Angel of God, permitted His picture to be taken, that's exactly what It was, a Pillar of Fire, the same thing." (51-0930, Expectation, St. Nicholas Arena, New York)

Branham now says the Holy Ghost is the Angel of the Lord? Which is he, a creature or God?

Is it the same manifestation? A small light behind his head that no one saw that was present but showed in a picture compared to a light that lit up the ground for nearly 2 million people to see and walk in the dark?

"And He is here, but He's in a Spirit form. And this is Him you see in the picture there. See? It's He, the Lord, the Logos, the Angel of the Covenant. And He's standing present." (54-0301, The Angel Of The Covenant, Assembly Of God, Phoenix, AZ)

Branham said this angel, this light was not Jesus. Now he says he is Jesus. He will continually go back and forth with these explanations. "*Here it is. The same exactly Jesus, photographed and on paper. He's appeared again.*" (56-1209E, Jehovah-Jireh, Brooklyn Academy Of Music, Brooklyn, NY)

So the angel is Jesus (when he specifically denied he was Jesus.)

The color of God's glory

Branham described the light of God's glory as *like emerald light, flaming, burning, a yellowish, green, amber looking color, a green, yellowish-green, emerald like Light, an amber Light.*

The Bible never tells us the color of God's glory; Branham did.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



The apostles did not describe God's glory as a color, they said it was white. Matt 17:2 "*His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.*" As the glory engulfed him even his clothes were affected, Mark 9:3-4 "*His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.*" Luke 9:29 "*His robe became white and glistening.*" Saul when converted described the light as brighter than the sun at midday.

The color of the sun is NOT green, nor amber.

Emerald is listed as the fourth stone in the Breastplate of the High Priest in the book of Exodus. If it were the 3rd color Branham would have used it as he did with other threes. Rev. 21:19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: ... the fourth is emerald. It is one of many colors.

The zodiac of the ancient Greeks and Romans dedicated Emerald to the month of June, associated with the Zodiac sign of Cancer. The oldest known gemstone mines were made near the Red Sea in Egypt (3000 and 1500 B.C. later referred to as 'Cleopatra's Mines). In ancient Egypt, emeralds were considered a symbol of eternal life. Is it coincidental that Branham was also using the Zodiac?

Ancient Egyptians have been recorded to have been using color for cures and ailments. The ancient Egyptians and Chinese used green as the primary color of healing. The Vedas of the Indians, say green gems have healing properties. In New Age traditions, tourmaline is used to amplify positive psychic energies and neutralize the negative ones.

Since the glory was from the angel that moved around among the people in his

gatherings, Branham was saying he had a green angel of light.

The color Green, or Amber?

"and told you how the emerald Light looked, and there It come right down on the river where I was baptizing." (63-0319, The Second Seal, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

A "light, right there above me, ... Circling around like a fire, kind of an emerald color, going, "Whoossh, whoossh, whoosh." (William Branham, How the Angel Came to Me, and His Commission)

"And I felt the Angel of the Lord near, and I raised up. Shining right down through a little dogwood bush was a yellowish green Light." (50-0816, Looking To The Unseen, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

Branham told us the color of his light visitor *"Here It comes. Can't you see that Light, mystic Light moving there, yellowish, green, amber looking color?"* (58-0328, Hear Ye Him, Middletown High School, Middletown, OH)

"You, that man sitting there with the black tie on, looking at me right here. Now look. See that Light? Can't you see That? Just a amber, goldish-green Light down here!" (57-1212, The Door Of The Door, Essex Theater, Newark, NJ)

"He's standing now, that Light; the Pillar of Fire, the emerald Light, the Shekinah Glory of the Presence of God." (57-0125, Hear Ye Him, Memorial Hall, Lima, OH)

Branham could know by the light around the person what was being healed. He called it a mystic Light. *"Can't you see that Light, mystic Light moving there, yellowish, green, amber looking color? It settle down to the*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



man. (58-0328, Hear Ye Him, Middletown High School, Middletown, OH)

"You've got a little green something over your shoulder. Your faith has healed you now." (54-0809E, The Manifestation Of Thy Resurrection To The People Of This Day, Shriner Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

"Around the man seems to be coming a real emeraldish, greenish looking Light, as he's very well aware that something's taking place." (57-0303E, What Think Ye Of Christ?, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ)

"I-I tell you the Spirit is moving on. Everything is becoming more like a emerald color, around me." (52-0726, Experiences, Grace Missionary Church, Zion, IL)

"Many of you seen that picture laying out there. And that's not--that's of that Light. That's exactly what's hanging right here between me and that woman right now. Can't you see that kind of a--kind of a green, yellowish-green, emerald like Light, as you call it." (62-0422, The Restoration Of The Bride Tree, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

This is an important detail that is left out of the Bible. What this means is that the Spirit of God is the color green. Since Branham assigned 7 colors to the 7 spirits of God mentioned in the book of Revelation, this is not unusual.

Branham said the light at the baptism was emerald but he also said it was amber? These happen to be two different colors.

"The Holy Spirit, the Angel of God, is moving like an amber Light around over this audience." (53-0606, An Ensign, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN)

Branham says it came into their church: *"I said, "Can you see it?" Everybody begin screaming and falling. And there it was --the*

big amber Light of the Pillar of Fire, just as perfectly round, standing there." (61-0117, The Messiah, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA)

"An amber light is moving around the woman." (62-0123, Forsaking All, Full Gospel Church, Tempe, AZ) Another woman *"I'm looking right straight at It. It's that Light, amber Light hanging from the woman.* (65-0124 - Birth Pains, Ramada Inn, Phoenix, AZ)

Speaking of the picture *"It's a little Light, about so big around, amber light burning. And that's the One that always talked to me."* (62-0129, Explaining The Ministry, Ramada Inn, Phoenix, AZ)

The color amber is a pure chroma color, located on the color wheel midway between the colors of gold and orange.

Emerald color is a shade of green. It is light and bright, with a faint bluish cast. Yellow green as Branham described is not emerald. The color chartreuse is the color precisely halfway between green and yellow, so it is 50% green and 50% yellow. It is one of the tertiary colors of the HSV color wheel, also known as the RGB color wheel. Another name for this color is chartreuse green. <http://www.workwithcolor.com/yellow-green-color-hue-range-01.htm>

Branham gave two different colors for the picture *"How many's seen the picture of it? ... See, they got it back there. It's in Washington, DC, the only supernatural Being was ever proved by--that it... And see, and then when the Light of the Angel comes down, it's just a great Light, kind of a yellowish-green-looking Light."* (58-0112E, The Door To The Heart, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Throughout his career he is saying it is emerald in real life.

Referring to what Mr. Lacy said, "The mechanical eye of this camera, Rev. Branham, .. He said, "The Light struck the lens. And it's a leaping, flaming, emerald fire, a burning." Many times It comes right into the meeting. You can see It. thousands times thousands have seen It at a time." (52-0817E, Do You Now Believe?, Kellogg Auditorium, Battle Creek, MI)

He then corrected himself "This one, of course, was taken with the black and white, and it just shows It as white. But It really is an amber Light. ... it was a--I said a greenish yellow. I didn't know what amber was, so I just said a greenish yellow." (61-0118, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, American Legion Hall, Beaumont)

So he changes his revelation and says amber is green/ yellow, which it is not.

"Notice the color of the Spirit of God which was above the likeness of these four Creatures, was amber. Amber is yellowish green. Now, watch: yellowish green, amber... Oh, He's the same yesterday... He revealed Himself to Ezekiel in the midst of Ezekiel's vision. This Light that he saw coming above the four living Creatures was yellowish green. When He come to John, He appeared in the emerald which is also yellowish green. He comes now to the revelator in yellowish green. He comes to us in yellowish green, the Light. Walk in the Light; He is the Light." (61-0101, Revelation, Chapter Four #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Now he tells us what color it was to Ezekiel when the Bible does not.

Then he speaks of it as amberish green, "That's the same color of the Light that's with us today, as the scientists has took Its

picture: yellowish green, amber. When a little boy, and I seen It for my first time, you remember, the old-timers here. I always told you before the actual picture was taken, "It was yellowish green, which is amber." (ibid.)

Color blind would not come close to Branham describing his dysfunctional identification or explanation of colors.

Again, Amber is not green, it is a variable color averaging a dark orange yellow (Merriam-Webster). American heritage Dictionary: Having the color of amber; brownish-yellow.

Branham knew the succession of colors "It started off with red, red. After red come orange, which is a reflection of red. After orange was... After--after orange come yellow, which is red and orange mixed together, makes yellow. Then green. Green and blue makes black. Then come indigo. And then from indigo comes violet, which is part of blue." (61-0101, Revelation, Chapter Four #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

But he continued to confuse everyone saying, "So we see Him in the circle bow of green, amber color. This greenish, what does green represent? Life. Green is the evergreen, always stays green, is life. What does it mean? That God has promised, as He took a oath back there in Genesis, that He would no--put the rainbow in the sky, that He would no more destroy this world by water." (61-0101, Revelation, Chapter Four #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

The Visitation of the Golden Cross

Crosses of light have been showing up throughout history all over the world, they are described by other religions and with new age adherents. These are hardly is to be considered a sign from God, unless one

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



wants to accept statues crying, and images of Jesus and his mother appearing as well.

I "had the vision of standing in the West, and seeing that gold cross coming down upon me." (63-1110M, Souls That Are In Prison Now, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

When Branham had his second operation at Clark County Memorial Hospital, "And at that time, when I come out, I thought I was standing out in the West. I had another vision. And there was a great golden cross in the skies, and the Glory of the Lord flowing off of that cross. And I stood with my hands out like this, and that Glory was falling into my chest....as that what that vision was give me, as a little bitty boy out yonder? And I have went West, and there is the golden Cross of the Gospel shining down, has declared the sign from the Heaven, just exactly. Remember, the Cross was in a panoramic, like a--like a pyramid, also, built. See?" (63-1110M, Souls That Are In Prison Now, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

The gospel has nothing to do with a golden cross. The cross was wooden instrument of crucifixion used by the Romans.

In another physical visitation later in life "and I looked, and I seen something make a flicker over to one side. And I looked, and there was my wall opened up, and I seen Jesus. How many of you ever heard me say that I seen Jesus twice in my life in a vision? ... Now, I looked, and the skies was right out there, just looked like I looked through the wall. And there was the Bible standing right like this, great big Bible standing in the skies. Well, there's something got light around the Bible, and out of the Bible come

a real pretty golden cross. And it stood out like this, and the lights coming from all around it, and out of that cross He walked. The Bible reflected the cross; the cross reflected Him. And He come walking out, and walked right down to where I was at. I can see it just as plain; I can see the--that cross reflecting His hair standing there, hung down over His face." (60-0417M, Go, Tell, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Again there is no such thing as a cross of light except for manifestations in spiritism and the occult. Branham is not alone in his cross of light experience. In AD 312 Constantine saw a "vision" in which the sign of the cross was emblazoned across the sky surrounded by the words "In this, conquer," this "vision" was almost certainly apocryphal. (See Ramsay MacMullen, *Constantine* (New York: Dial Press, 1969), 73.)

What is perplexing is that when Branham spoke of Constantine's vision he used him as a good example. "Sometime ago I was standing where the great Constantine stood when he was going over into Rome to liberate the church. The church had been under cruel persecutions for many years. And while Constantine on his road over there, one night he was wakened out of his sleep by a dream. And in this dream, something spoke to him and told him to paint a white cross on his shields of his men and by this they would conquer. And he arose at midnight, and got all of his man up, and painted white crosses on their shields. And by that [Blank.spot.on.tape--Ed.] to become conquerors. And if you are ever going to be a conqueror, you're going to have to come by the cross." (57-0808, The

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy

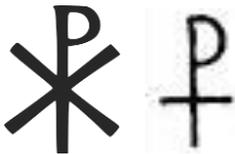


Mighty Conqueror, Edmonton Arena,
Edmonton, AB)

"And some time ago I was standing where Constantine was on his road to Rome,... And that night while he was asleep, the Lord must've appeared unto him. And he dreamed that he saw a white cross. And a voice spoke to him and said, "By this you shall conquer." When I first read that it just thrilled my soul. "By this ye shall conquer." And he roused up all of his soldiers at twelve o'clock at night, and had them to paint white crosses on their shields, for it was by the cross that they were going to conquer." (58-0329, The Mighty Conqueror, Middletown High School, Middletown, OH)

Well it wasn't the Lord that told this man to conquer others and use a pagan symbol of the cross to do it. Branham totally misrepresents the event. The real story is that Constantine had them make "a spear overlaid with gold, with a cross which was formed by a transverse bar and a wreath of gold and precious stones enclosing a monogram of the letters Chi and Rho for the name of Christ."

CHI RHO



The sign of the cross Constantine had them use on their shields.

Constantine has a Vision before Battle of the Milvian Bridge. On Oct. 27, 312, assuring him of victory in the name of the Christian God.

Eusibius writes, "*about noon,... he saw with his own eyes the sign of a cross of light in the heavens, above the sun, and bearing the*

inscription, "By this symbol you will conquer."

Eusibius writes in Chapter XXVIII: *How, while he was praying, God sent him a Vision of a Cross of Light in the Heavens at Mid-day, with an Inscription admonishing him to conquer by that.*

Was Constantine praying to God? Which one?

Eusibius records later in his sleep, "*the Christ appeared to him with the same sign which he had seen in the heavens, and commanded him to make a likeness of that sign which he had seen in the heavens, and to use it as a safeguard in all engagements with his enemies. Which became a military standard. which the Romans now call the Labarum.* (Eusibius Chapter XXXI) underline mine

Historians question whether Constantine was a Christian at all. Some consider him a power broker for peace in the Empire. From his victory came "The Edict of Milan," a letter signed by the Roman emperors Constantine and Licinius in 313, ending the persecution of Christians by the emperor Diocletian. He did not make Christianity the only religion of the state but Christianity was made legal. The religion within time became a blend of paganism and Christianity for his political purposes. At the end of his life he was baptized an "Arian" believer by Eusebius of Nicodemia (337 A.D), his friend. Arian's believed in the doctrine of Arius, who taught that Jesus was created. "Constantine being Rome's first Christian emperor" rejected the Trinitarian view of Jesus being God that was settled by the council of Nicea in 325 A.D. where Arius' teaching was condemned and he was banished.

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Branham states *"You Masons, I'll call your attention. You remember the sign of the cross? Now, you—you know what I'm talking about."* (63-0322 - The Fifth Seal)

Within the order of the Knights Templar of the York Rite of Freemasonry the Christian cross and the crown are almost always combined. It is often surrounded by the phrase "In Hoc Signo Vinces," which is Latin for "By this sign thou shalt conquer," which was spoken to Constantine.

There is a zodiac cross in Masonry, and variations of the Sign of the Cross occurs in many of the ancient mystery religions.

"It appeared to me many times in a form of a--of a star." (47-1102, The Angel Of God And His Commission, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

Branham spoke of God appearing to Abraham in different forms. Branham says that when he was a little boy, *I knew there was a God, because I had seen His Person in different forms."* (61-1105, The Testimony Of A True Witness, Branham Tabernacle)

The Photo proof of God's glory



With all the claims of the pillar of fire, light and halo throughout his ministry there is a certain event that became the fulcrum to his healing ministry, the picture at the Houston Coliseum.

The picture was not taken directly in front by the photographer but from the side, on stage. Notice that the light is a bit blurred, because it is further away in the background. What's supernatural is that no one saw this pillar of light in the room, only the camera picked it up.

Baptist minister, Dr. Best, challenged Branham on the Scripturalness of Divine healing being in the Bible. He challenged Branham and put it in the paper, January 24 1950, at the Sam Houston Coliseum in Houston, Texas.

Bosworth who was about seventy-three, he stepped in to represent Branham *"He couldn't stand that. He said, "Brother Branham, let me go over there." Mister Best is a young man, about thirty. And I said, "Brother Bosworth, you may go if you don't argue." Said, "I'll not argue."*

From what I read on the debate I certainly do not agree with Mr. Best's view or attitude. Mr. Bosworth held his ground on God healing today.

W.E. Best of the Houston Tabernacle Baptist church had hired two photographers to take photographs during the debate. A photograph was taken by the Douglas Studios by an Orthodox Jew, named Ted Kipperman. Mister Ayers who worked with him was a Roman Catholic.

Branham said he would not go to the meeting *"they keep me away in the room, 'cause I must be by myself and pray through the day. If I don't, I don't see visions. I don't see what's going to happen. And then, that day, I'd been in prayer ... it's just that I must*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



spend my time with Him if I must meet His people." (50-0714, At Thy Word)

Branham in a turnaround decision showed up at the debate, and sat up in third balcony. "Best kept saying, "Let me see this miracle worker." Mister Bosworth said, "Brother Branham doesn't claim to be no miracle worker." Said, "I'd like to see him come forth and perform." He said, "He doesn't clown for people," and just like that. Said, "He spends his time praying." And he said, "Well, I'd like to see him." Just kept on like that." Mister Bosworth said, "Well, he's in the building. If he wants to come to the platform, all right." And setting there, up there with my brother, and with the four guards that taken me in, with the wife and baby. Just then, I felt something just come down over me. I raised up and started down. "I felt It again going, "Whew," Something moving. ... I felt Something moving. I raised up." (52-0713a Early Spiritual Experiences)

Branham tells us "I walked to the platform, I said, "I have preached to many millions of people, direct or indirect. Literature has traveled over the world. I've preached before thousands by radio and by person. Never one time did I call myself a Divine healer." I said, "I'm not a Divine healer. Preaching Divine healing doesn't make you a Divine healer no more than preaching salvation makes you a Divine Saviour.... And if I tell false ... something false, then God will not honor anything false. He will always honor the truth." I said, "I tell the truth, and God knows the truth." And about that time, why, the glory of the Holy Spirit came down." (ibid.)

Meaning, the angel IS THE LIGHT. It is at this time the picture was taken. When developed later we are told all the negatives turned out blank except for this one picture taken of Branham. In his

photograph, a fuzzy ragged column shaped light seems to be above his head. When the story is related by Branham it is called almost always a halo. First: it is not a halo, which is defined as a circle of, or, from light. Afterwards he constantly used this picture to vindicate his claims and ministry. As Harrell suggested "the photograph became perhaps the most famous relic in the history of the revival."

As many have pointed out, if the pillar was a light above his head - why is there no shadow or light cast in the picture? That is because the light is not over his head as claimed. It makes more sense it is in the distance. If this light is the same pillar of fire that all of Israel saw and followed at night, it gave light on the ground (Neh. 9:12.19). No one present saw this light appear above him, it showed in the picture because the film on the camera captured something, a light in the background of the Coliseum. The examiner, Lacy stated that "*the light streak appearing above the head in a halo position was caused by light striking the negative.*" That is all he said. Branham reinterpreted it to be much more and added his own words.

Branham stated that the "*Angel permitted me to have his picture taken with me. "This was the first time in history, Branham declared, that a supernatural being was photographed."*

The Devil is clever and as the prince of the air and the temporary ruler of this world, having dominion he can affect all kinds of machines, least of all a camera.

There is no need to consider it being supernatural when we look at some of the pictures provided of the lighting inside the Houston coliseum. (These pictures are hard to go by since they are over 50 years ago and the coliseum is no longer there.)

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Why does Branham's picture taken in the coliseum look like the lights on the ceiling at the coliseum? The similarity in shape is not coincidental. These lights were all over the coliseum. Notice also the two lights are not exactly the same.

And streaks of light can be seen in other pictures, such when the Beatles played there. Are these pillars of fire too? Certainly if this was above Branham it would be considered to be supernatural.



Owen Jorgenson a follower of Branham wrote of this picture, "A halo of light was photographed at Houston, Texas in 1950, over the head of Brother Branham documented as the only Supernatural being ever photographed in history and is in the Hall of Arts, Washington DC USA. This photograph can be seen in a book written by Gordon Lindsay entitled "A Man Sent From God". Included is a photocopy of a statement of scientific examinations done by Mr. George Lacy, Investigator of Questioned Documents for the FBI, who carefully examined the negative in his laboratory and pronounced it absolutely genuine. This is also reproduced in "Book Three - Supernatural (Life of William Branham)" where the author quoted him as saying, "To my knowledge, this is the first time in all the world's history that a supernatural being has been photographed and scientifically validated." (Supernatural -

The Life of William Branham by Owen Jorgenson 5 volumes)

Branham repeated this phrase numerous times "The first time in all the world's history that a supernatural Being was ever photographed."

But there is no proof that Lacy said this.

Speaking of the Light in the picture "that's been proven to be a Supernatural Being by scientific research..." (62-1230E, Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir?, Branham Tabernacle)

"But the scientific research, the late George J. Lacy, when he examined, when they took the picture of It, ... It showed in the picture. Scientific proof proves that It's right." (63-0127, An Absolute, Ramada Inn, Phoenix, AZ)

What a change of position. Branham taught science cannot be trusted, that it's all the Devils domain, "Knowledge, science, education, is the greatest hindrance that God ever had. It is of the devil." (65-0801M The God of This Evil Age).

And yet here he is using science to prove the supernatural in his ministry! That is a big turnaround, especially when he spoke against science for years, right up to the year of his death.

What would be far more believable is a light seen in a room with no lights, but this was not the case at the coliseum.

This photograph is now passed around as the verification of his ministry and that everything he said was the truth. He considered this light the same "light" that had been with him since birth. That it is the same pillar of light that Paul encountered,

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



which is the same pillar of light that Israel saw.

The FBI and George Lacy

We are told this photograph was examined and pronounced authentic by Mr. George J. Lacy, who was the *Examiner of Questioned Documents*, in Houston, Texas. But Branham added many more details into his story.

"Mr. Lacy said ... He ought to know; he's a government man, head of the FBI, the fingerprint and documents of the fingerprints and so forth." (61-0212E It is I be not afraid; 60-0329 It is I be not Afraid)

"It's been taken and examined by a government examiner. It's at the table back there. Here, I believe it's ... Here it is when It was caught in the picture. Now, that is tested by the G. Edgar Hoover outfit, of fingerprint and photography." (50-0820E Believe ye that I am able to do this)

"The first time Mr. Lacy said it was the first time in all human history that a--a supernatural Being was ever photographed. ... "It surely must have been there, for that optical lens--mechanical lens of a camera won't take psychology. It was... It was there. "And I'm very thankful tonight, to know that that same Pillar of Fire and--and Cloud, and whatever It is..." (50-0714 At Thy Word Minneapolis MN)

What does he mean *whatever it is*, is he not sure? This is not just a picture of a supernatural being, this is supposed to be a picture of GOD! ... the glory of God not seen by man for thousands of years. Branham said over and over the Pillar of fire is God's original form.

He taught, *"the Pillar of Fire came out of the heavens and dropped down into a bush. And Moses looked, and the bush was on fire..."* (51-0502, The Angel Of The Lord, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

In other words fire is the original form of God before He came to earth, dropping down from heaven into a bush.

"The Angel of God was there, and the Light struck the negative." There it was. There he signed... wrote out a big document, signed his name to it. There it is right back there. You can look at it yourself. There's the Angel of the Lord." (51-0502 The Angel of the Lord, Los Angeles CA)

"How many ever seen the picture that the government taken of the Angel of the Lord right in the house of...? George J. Lacy's examination, the head of the FBI, said it was an Angel of the Lord." (59-0708E, Be Certain Of God, Mayfield Elementary School, Cleveland, TN)

Lacy NEVER said it was an angel of the Lord. We have his official statement on the paper he signed. There is no signature on this or any other paper saying it was a supernatural being. Branham knew exactly how to manipulate the circumstance to his advantage.

Telling this story years later he said others were there that heard Lacy say this, but no one ever said this.

Meeting in the Shell Building... Lacy said, *"whose name's Branham?" I said, "Mine."* Bunch setting there, a lot of the newspapers and things wanted to see what his report was. ... *And here's what he said. Said, "The old hypocrite..." (he meant the unbeliever)... "The old..." (unbeliever) "has always said, that there was no scientific way to prove a supernatural Being. Now, they can't say that*

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



no more. Here's absolutely, scientific proof that there is a supernatural Being." And scientifically proved by this mechanical camera here that took the light of that Angel standing there, and said, "It's absolutely is the truth." (Testimony," November 29, 1953 p.m., West Palm Beach, Florida)

If this is what took place why is Branham's statement so different from Lindsay's:

Lindsay: *"I want to show you this picture that we happened to get a hold of just now, one that Brother Branham was talking about, which shows the supernatural Light over his head. As soon as that picture was taken, I made arrangements to have the negative taken to the Examiner of Questioned Documents, Mr. George Lacy, of Houston, Texas. And I asked him; I said, "You have all means of science at your command, can you tell me if there's any fake about that particular negative? Can you tell if there's a superimposure? Can you tell if there's been a double exposure? Can you tell if the film has been "doctored with," in any way?" He says, "Absolutely, I can." So he took it-- cost us a considerable sum because he was a scientist engaged in that work-- and examined it many hours in his laboratory. And then, with his own name signed underneath it, he declared that the negative was absolutely, absolutely, positively genuine." (50-0714 At thy word Minneapolis MN)*

In other words it was not double exposed or doctored, he did not say anything about a supernatural being, the angel of the Lord. Lindsey says as soon as the picture was taken he made arrangements? How is that possible when they had to develop it and only then in the dark room did they see a light on the photo, it was then "Mr. Ayers called the others of the studio to look at the negative."

Branham states, *"It was rushed to Washington, DC, copyrighted, sent back and give to George J. Lacy, J. Edgar Hoover, examiner."* (51-0502 The Angel of the Lord Los Angeles.CA)

"Call George J. Lacy You've heard of him. He's one of the Edgar Hoover outfits, one of the best there is in the United States." (50-0820E Believe Ye that I am able to do this Cleveland OH)

"because he's a FBI agent today, the best they got." (52-0713A Early Spiritual Experiences).

"It's right there. It's a copyright. From George J. Lacy, the head of the FBI." (62-0628 A Greater Than Solomon is Here).

I repeat these statements of Branham to make a point. Because George Lacy was not the head of the FBI, nor an employee of the FBI, nor the head of fingerprint and documents division. Peter Duyzer in his book on Branham "Legend of the fall," has a letter stating that Lacy never worked for the FBI but for the local sheriff's office (p.124 Legend of the fall, Duyzer). The FBI had nothing to do with authenticating the picture.

In Branham's day, the FBI investigated Public Corruption. Organized Crime, White-Collar Crime, Violent Crimes -- domestic, federal. Such as kidnapping, Bank fraud, international terrorism, along with foreign counterintelligence. In other words "crimes" not pictures of supernatural events. (*today some these are expanded) <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate> <https://www.justice.gov/jm/organization-and-functions-manual-10-partial-list-federal-matters-investigated-fbi>

They did not do is what Branham claimed. Nor do they come to conclusions that he

A Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



claimed. The FBI had nothing to do with this. But Branham continually said they did.

Lacy did sit on the board of The American Society of Questioned Document Examiners, which was occasionally used by the Bureau. Yet Branham would often state “*What did George J. Lacy, the head of the FBI say,*” making it sound like he is in charge, or that the FBI was involved in authenticating it. They were not!

Writer/researcher John Kennah a former Branham follower writes:

George J. Lacy was a freelance examiner of questioned documents and was never on the payroll at the FBI. A letter I received from the FBI, dated June 5, 2002, confirmed that Mr. Lacy was never an employee of the FBI. At the time the photograph was taken, he was working closely with the Harris County Sheriff's Department in Houston, Texas. <http://people.delphiforums.com/johnk63/Lacytext.htm>

“Here's George J. Lacy the head of the FBI. There's his signed signature that It was a supernatural Being.”(53-0507, Expectations, Bible Hour Tabernacle, Jonesboro, AR) Contrary to Mr. Branham's claims of Lacy stating it was a supernatural light or being, Mr. Lacy's report concluded that the light was the result of a light source actually being photographed and not the result of a double exposure or any other photographic anomaly (to read a reproduction of Mr. Lacy's actual report, [Click Here](#)).

The photo was taken at the debate on the 24th of January. Notice that he received it on Jan. 28, 4 days after the photo was taken. Lacy took only one day to examine it and released it back on the 29th.

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Here is George J. Lacy's report:

George J. Lacy Examiner of Questioned Documents,

Building Houston, Texas

January 29, 1950

REPORT AND OPINION

Re: Questioned Negative

On January 28, 1950 at the request of Reverend Gordon Lindsay, who was representing Reverend William Branham of Jeffersonville, Indiana, I received from the Douglas Studios of 1610 Rusk Avenue in this city, a 4x5 inch exposed and developed photographic film. This film was purported to have been made by the Douglas Studios of Reverend William Branham at the Sam Houston Coliseum in this city. during his visit here the latter part of January. 1950.

REQUEST

Reverend Lindsay requested that I make a scientific examination of the aforesaid negative. He requested that I determine, if possible, whether or not in my opinion the negative had been re-touched or "doctored" in any way, subsequent to the developing of the film, that would cause a streak of light to appear in the position of a halo above the head of Reverend Branham.

EXAMINATION

A macroscopic and microscopic examination and study was made of the entire surface of both sides of the film, which was Eastman Kodak Safety film. Both sides of the film were examined under filtered ultra-violet light and infra-red photographs were made of the film.

Report and Opinion - Page 2 - January 29, 1950

The microscopic examination failed to reveal retouching of the film at any place whatsoever by any of the processes used in commercial retouching. Also, the microscopic examination failed to reveal any disturbance of the emulsion in or around the light streak in question.

The ultra-violet light examination failed to reveal any foreign matter, or the result of any chemical reaction on either side of the negative, which might have caused the light streak, subsequent to the processing of the negative.

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



The infra-red photograph also failed to disclose any thing that would indicate that any retouching had been done to the film.

The examination also failed to reveal anything that would indicate that the negative in question was a composite negative or a double exposed negative.

There was nothing found which would indicate that the light streak in question had been made during the process of development. Neither was there anything found which would indicate that it was not developed in a regular and recognized procedure. There was nothing found in the comparative densities of the highlights that was not in harmony.

OPINION

Based upon the above described examination and study I am of the definite opinion that the negative submitted (or examination, was not retouched nor was it a composite or double exposed negative.

Further, I am of the definite opinion that the light streak appearing above the head in a halo position was caused by light striking the negative.

Respectfully submitted

George J. Lacy

GJL/U

MEMBER AMERICAN SOCIETY OF QUESTIONED DOCUMENT EXAMINERS

So we can see how Branham embellished what was said by Lacy.

What was the source of the light, Lacy does not answer. Branham answered it for him, saying that it was a supernatural light, a pillar of fire, an angel, a halo and Jesus.

It is common sense that if the light was directly over William Branham's head or shoulder, it would have cast light on top of his head and a shadow over the pulpit. Remember this is supposed to be the same light that gave light on the ground up for Israel to travel at night in their wilderness journey.

Branham further wedded his imagination to how this event unfolded.

"I run from it and tried to get away from it and everything. It was Him Who brought it. If I tell the truth, God will testify the truth." And I no more than said it, Something went, "Whew!" Here He come,

sailing right down where I was. And this photographer run out and took a picture, when he seen me turn white in the face. And he took a picture. I said, "God has spoken." And that's all. Catholic people and all setting there saw It, looked at It. Many of them begin to scream and fainting. Come right down, a Pillar of Fire, moved right down to where I was at. He shot the picture." (54-1129 Testimony, p.m, West Palm Beach, Florida)

Branham insinuates that the photographer ran up to take the picture, when he saw Branham react, that Branham himself was aware of the lights coming.

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



That the Catholics as a group saw it and reacted, as did others.

No one saw the light, in fact Branham did not know it was there until it was developed and then he said he was not surprised.

Branham telling this story in his book *"The following morning the photographer sent word to Rev. Branham to inform him of the strange phenomenon that had occurred in connection with the photograph he had taken the night before. Brother Branham then explained to the young man that he was not greatly surprised over the circumstances, as a number of times before, similar things had happened in his ministry."* (A Man Sent From God p. 151)

Branham does not respond saying he felt or saw the light come down as he went to the podium there. Nor is there anything said of people screaming or fainting, surely this would have made the papers. What is most disturbing is how Branham later embellished the report year after year.

"And then when this Angel came down, that photographer had that great machine set, and he shot the picture. And when He come down, people screaming, I said, "I will have to speak no more. He speaks in my place." I went out. The policeman helped me to the car." (60-0210M The Revelation that was Given to me)

This is not at all what happened at the meeting. People screaming from seeing the light and being escorted by a policeman to his car. Furthermore, Branham adds details to the event that gives even more intrigue by saying, Mr. Lacy said, *"The mechanical eye of this camera, Rev. Branham, won't take psychology." He said, "The Light struck the lens. And it's a leaping, flaming, emerald fire, a burning."* (52-0817E, Do You Now Believe?, Kellogg Auditorium, Battle Creek, MI)

"George J. Lacy... Read his little article on It there. He will tell you what it is. He said it looked like an amber of light through the violet rays and so forth like. It was about this wide, about that long, rather,

and about that wide..." (53-1129E, Testimony, American Legion Hall, West Palm Beach, FL)

Exactly how did Lacy see color on a black and white photograph? Again, Lacy never said what the light was nor did he ascribe color to it. This is Branham putting his own words in Lacy's mouth. Which makes him a false witness.

Branham later says *"... of course, was taken with the black and white, and it just shows It as white. But It really is an amber Light."* (61-0118, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, American Legion Hall, Beaumont)

I see, so it was a black and white photo but Lacy saw both the colors emerald and amber? I would say that is a supernatural picture!

Of this photograph Branham states, *"when It was taken before thirty thousand people."* (53-0507, Expectations, Bible Hour Tabernacle, Jonesboro, AR).

10 years later he again states the same, *"the Angel of the Lord appeared before around thirty thousand people, and come down, and the picture was taken."* (63-0319, The Second Seal, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

The Houston chronicle reported there were 8,000 in attendance at the debate. Branham exaggerates the attendees to be almost 4 times the size. Not unlike his other exaggerations of attendees.

This should basically sum up what Branham does by his story telling, this is what he had been doing all along.

Religious Hall of Art in Washington DC

"How many ever — never did see It, let's see your hand, never even seen a picture of the Angel? Here It is. This is by the American Photographer Association, hangs in the religious hall of art in New York City, the only supernatural Being that was ever taken in all the world's history. You can see the Pillar of Fire. Here's George J. Lacy the

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:
A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



head of the FBI. There's his signed signature that It was a supernatural Being there." (53-0507, Expectations, Bible Hour Tabernacle, Jonesboro, AR)

As we have read Lacy's statement, he never signed his signature to any paper saying it was supernatural being. He signed only one document on the picture. This shows us the way Branham made up his own reality out of circumstances. This becomes a teachable moment for those followers who use the phrase "believe the sign" referring to the picture.

He also says the picture hangs in the religious Hall of Art in DC.

"It hangs in Religious Hall of Art, the only supernatural Being ever photographed." (62-0628 A Greater Than Solomon is Here)

Numerous times he stated, "This picture goes to the Religious Hall of Art. For the first time in all the world's history that a supernatural Being was ever photographed..." (50-0820E Believe Ye that I am able to do this Cleveland OH; 51-0718 the Angel of the Lord; 53-0603 God commissioning Moses; 56-0414 Blind Bartimaeus; 61-0212E It is I be not Afraid)

He even went as far as to say the picture "is in Washington, DC, in the religious Hall of Art, with a note under it, "The only supernatural being was ever photographed in the history of the world." (63-0606 Show us the Father Tuscon, AZ) Which he said were the words from Lacy who examined the picture.

Branham claimed this photograph hung in the religious Hall of Art in Washington D.C. at least 20 times. But there was no Religious Hall of Art in Washington DC then? This is a [List of museums](#) in Washington, D.C. from Wikipedia.

There are a number of art museums in DC but no religious art museum then, or now.

There is one other time he gave another Religious Hall of art. "This is by the American Photographer

Association, hangs in the religious hall of art in New York City." (53-0507, Expectations, Bible Hour Tabernacle, Jonesboro, AR)

Once again Branham tried to make his own reality, or maybe he was seeing a vision. If Branham was this loose with details in of his life, how do you think he handled the word?

The photograph is stored in the Library of Congress. Douglas Studios has copyright protection. <https://www.loc.gov/item/95512174/>

Branham's ministry released a statement where they had permission to use the picture, however at the last moment Douglas Studios refused to let William Branham use the photograph for the book's cover, "William Branham's life story" written by Gordon Lindsay.

Further Conflicts in his story - the timing

As with any story Branham tells, there are inner conflicts of time, dates and details that did not coincide with each other, or the original story.

"The next morning, they flew the picture away to Washington, DC for a copyright. Before it could be released, it had to go before the FBI examinations. And when they did, they went and got the best, George J. Lacy, the best there is in the United States." (50-0714 At thy word Minneapolis MN)

"There that night, even yet at eleven o'clock that negative went to Washington, DC by plane, to be copyrighted, brought back. And George J. Lacy, the best there is in United States, on research was brought from California to Houston, Texas, for to take the negative under consideration. He kept it for days." (52-0713A Early Spiritual experiences)

Compare this what we have in the letter, they received the picture 4 days later on January 28th.

"Two or three days later, the negative was flown to Washington DC that night, at eleven o'clock, and brought back. And George J. Lacy, the head of the FBI on fingerprint and documents was flown there to take a test of this picture, to see if it was

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



something had been painted on there, a double exposure, or something wrong.” (60-0210M The revelation that was given to me)

“George J. Lacy at--at the Shell Building in Houston, Texas, was the one who had to examine it for two days.” (50-0820E Believe Ye that I am able to do this Cleveland OH)

“They took it before, to send it here to Washington, DC, and copyright it, brought it back, and called George J. Lacy. He's the head of the FBI on fingerprint and documents. And they took it and examined it for about five days. And we met in the Houston Shell building there. And they ... And so they said, "Whose name is Branham?" And I told him, "Mine." and stood up. Said, "You are going to pass out of life like all men." I said, "I'm ... I know that." But said, "As long as there's a Christian civilization, this picture will never die." (61-0312 Jehovah Jireh)

Two days, five days. We see by Lacy's own letter he examined it for only one day, he got it on the 28th and returned it on the 29th. It was not flown to Washington DC.

Picture Perfect



"THIS IS NOT HEAVEN ON EARTH" shows Rev. W. E. Best, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church, as Rev. F. F. Bosworth, an individual evangelist, sits quietly listening. The debate between the two preachers centered around whether any man has the power of miraculous healing.

Branham said that the first 6 photographs on the roll of film could not be developed, they were all blank, including Rev. Best shaking his finger at F.F. Bosworth. *“And he shaking his fist in that old saintly man's face, and saying, "Now, take my picture. And now take my picture," like that. 'Cause he wanted six pictures taken; he could publish it in his paper in such positions as that. And Almighty God would not permit one of them to be developed. Every one of them was perfect negative.” (54-0720E, It Is I, Be Not Afraid, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)*

Here is a picture that was printed in the Houston Press on January 25, 1950 of Best doing what Branham said God would not allow to be photographed. Not a bad picture for a “perfect negative.”

You would think Branham would at least rescind his story with this printed but he didn't. Years later he is saying *“God wasn't willing that His servants should be taken with a picture like that, and every one of them was blank. Not a one of them showed up.” (55-0608 Abraham Maco.GA)*

What is more concerning is the reports of strange occurrences from the picture being retold by Branham.

“A lady in the hospital recently had one setting on her desk. She was looking at it, not at me, but the Angel of the Lord, in this form of a halo like. And she said, the picture begin to mill, the... come right out and hung over her. She got up and went home, well. So it was a ... It was ... It's not ... It--It's Him. Now, I'm only stating facts and truth.” (50-0714 At Thy Word Minneapolis MN)

So the light came off the printed page and was above her? Sure it did. And Branham insinuates she was healed. And you wonder how they get supernatural stories today, the anointing coming through the TV or by objects sent to you in the mail. Look no further than Branham.

Branham tells a story of a woman whose husband is dying of cancer *“She went and got that picture, and set it down on the floor, and knelt down. And she said, "Oh, Angel of God, Whose picture is on this paper, send Brother Branham to me, right quick.” (58-0330A, A Missionary Talk, Middletown High School, Middletown, OH)*

God told Israel not to make an image of him (remember this is picture of God in his glory), so how is it was okay to pray to a picture of the pillar of fire, how is this not idolatry?

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:
A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



An interesting point, in his Church called "Branham Tabernacle" he had a picture of himself with the pillar of fire behind him on the pulpit. Why would someone do this? He referred to this photo as the ultimate proof of his claims. As Harrell suggested "the photograph became perhaps the most famous relic in the history of the revival."

This picture became iconic for those who subscribed to Branham's supernaturalism. Not only is this picture behind many of their pulpits, many have this picture hanging in their homes thinking it shows the pillar of fire.

The majority of Christian churches have a cross reminding them of what Jesus did. In his Tabernacle he had his picture hung.



This is not unlike New Ager Elizabeth C. Prophet who had poster of the "I Am presence" behind her. This is the light that is supposedly every one has as their higher self that is to be their guide in life.

Other pictures of the light:

During his ministry the light was supposedly photographed several times where the light the size of hand is said to be the "pillar of fire."

"Mystic Light..." Now, the scientific world has taken It. Now, they got It three or four different times. Germany has taken It. They taken It down here in California not long ago. That is real men with real cameras. The German cameraman said, "Wonder if our camera could catch It?" I said, "You're welcome to try." And when the Spirit was coming down, they took It coming down, took when It was discerning, and taken It descending back up again." (60-0716, From That Time, City High School, Klamath Falls, OR)

"And here a few weeks ago (Maybe a stranger is here never seen it.), they caught another one. I got it at home. It's the profile of the Lord Jesus standing right behind where I was standing. And His hands are out and tongues of fire are flying off from His hands, while I was speaking on the subject, "Say To This Mountain Be Moved And Don't Doubt In Your Heart, But Believe." And we've got it. It's in Techni-Kodachrome colors. And we've got it at the home now. And they're making... It's been examined now by science and so forth in laboratories. It'll be out pretty soon. Another one, which makes about six of them now in different places that's been took. This is the most outstanding of all of them." (58-1130, Watchman, What Of The Night?, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Just another story Branham used to promote his super-duper special relationship to God. He gave himself permission to use science that lies to tell us the truth. Understand, he produced no such picture to anyone, with any examination by a laboratory. No such thing EVER happened in the Scripture by Jesus as described by Branham. By the way did I say there is no such picture produced? It does bear repeating.

As for the picture of pictures, "One hangs in the Religious Hall of Art in Washington, DC as the

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



only supernatural Being was ever photographed. It's been seen on the platform. The saints know it; they've watched it. Millions times millions around the world has watched It move, seen It personally appear on the platform." (60-0716, From That Time, City High School, Klamath Falls, OR)

This is clearly not true, not millions. Perhaps a few were convinced that this was occurring, but if what he said is true we would have hundreds of pictures and he would not have made such a big whoopdoo about this one photo at the debate.

The fact is, he had to use a questionable picture to prove it was there. He would refer to the picture because it did not appear physically.

"And during that time they took a picture of the Angel of the Lord standing there, and there was that rainbow color. Many of you people have seen the picture." (62-0630B, It Wasn't So From The Beginning, Villa Motel, Santa Maria, CA)

The fact is no one at the meeting saw a light, much less a rainbow color light (neither emerald nor amber) they had to wait for the negatives. As they developed the pictures a light showed up on one of the negatives, there is no evidence anyone who was present saw it. (50-0110, Moses, City Auditorium, Houston, TX; 50-0115, Believest Thou This?, City Auditorium, Houston, TX)

Branham said after the picture was taken, *"Thousands times thousands has seen It. It's appeared visibly..."* (51-0718, The Angel Of The Lord, Civic Auditorium, Toledo, OH)

The fact is, he had to use a questionable picture to prove it was there. He would refer to the picture because it did not appear physically at meetings.

The same pillar?

Branham was asked about the light that was photographed and accompanied him in ministry *"What do you think It is then."* *"Now, the mechanical eye of the camera shows over us that*

that Pillar of Fire is the same Pillar of Fire that led the children of Israel. Now, it's got to do the same things it did when it was in Him. or it is not the same Pillar of Fire. But if it does the same things, how can you doubt it? It's Scriptural." (61-0121, Mary's Belief, American Legion Hall, Beaumont, TX)

"that same Pillar of Fire that followed the children of Israel, here It is. And It'll do the same work that It did." (62-0724, Sir, We Would See Jesus, Legion Auditorium, Port Alberni, BC)

Is it the same pillar? Branham's own definition is that it must do the same things or it is not the same Pillar of Fire. Consider this Scripture Deut. 29:5-6 *"And I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn out on your feet."* (also Deut. 8:4 their garments did not wear out, nor did their feet swell for forty years).

Did Branham have his clothes or shoes wear out? Did Branham's pillar of fire speak to anyone but him, (audibly)? Does the Bible teach the Pillar of fire is an unseen angel he called Gabriel and the Holy Spirit? It is not the same Pillar of fire.

Deut. 5:22-29 *"These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice;"* v. 24... *"and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire."*

No, it is not the same, nor is it Scriptural. Branham had a flashlight size light that is seen in a photo that he wants everyone to believe is the same pillar of fire that appeared with over a million the Israelites at night. On that point alone it becomes absurd.

"But, now, here was Jesus as a big Light. Now, if you remember, in the beginning, Jesus was a Light.... So if He came from a Pillar of Fire, into a Man, then if He went back to where He was, He went back to a Light again." (57-0825M, Hebrews, Chapter Two #1, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



“Apparently it was only with Branham. Does anyone else see or hear it? No.

“And if we'll read the Scripture, we find out that it was a Pillar of Fire that led the children of Israel. That same Pillar of Fire, I believe, was over Jesus Christ... And it's that same Pillar of Fire that's over the Church right now, the same Angel of God, that same Presence.” (53-1109, Africa Trip Report, National Guard Armory, Owensboro, KY)

Yes, read the Scripture. Where does the Bible say anywhere that a pillar of fire or the angel of the Lord was over Jesus and is now over the church?

Who is the Pillar?

Exod. 14:24 Tells us *“the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud.”*

What did Branham teach on the Pillar of Fire *“God the Father was in the Pillar of Fire. That was God the Father.”* (53-1104, Deep Calleth Unto The Deep, Sports Center, Owensboro, KY).

Branham taught *“God the Father was a God that lived in the Pillar of Fire”* (62-0318, The Spoken Word Is The Original Seed, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

“Three times He took off His mask. Took off His mask from a Pillar of Fire and become what? A Man to take away sin. Then took off His mask as a Man, and went back again to be a Spirit called the Holy Ghost; the Ghost of a Man to come back and be on you, and in you, and the very same works.” (60-1218, The Uncertain Sound, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Jesus said, *“I come from the Father and I go to the Father.”* When He was come ... When He was God in the wilderness, He was a burning light... Pillar of Fire. And He come here on earth, and He said, *“I come from the Father and I go ... I come from God and I go back to God.”* (58-0928E, The Serpent's Seed, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

I thought Branham taught the Father is the pillar, and that Jesus is the Father (and the Spirit)? So how does he come from the Father and go back to the Father? He is saying that Jesus is now a Pillar of fire as the Holy Spirit.

The “Pillar of Fire is the Logos that went out of God, the Logos.” (64-0823E, Questions And Answers, Branham Tabernacle)

“Christ is the Logos, of course, the One that went out of God in the beginning, which was the Pillar...” (53-0509 The Pillar of fire Jonesboro AR)

Speaking of Jesus Branham explains *“...He said, “I came from God, and I go back to God.” So if He came from a Pillar of Fire, into a Man, then if He went back to where He was, He went back to a Light again. And there He was when Paul saw Him, He was a Light.”* (57-0825M, Hebrews, Chapter Two #1, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

That is not how the Bible describes this. But Branham had his own religious system to interpret the supernatural.

Who saw what when?

“A Pillar of Light. A Light blinded Paul. Here it is. The same exactly Jesus, photographed and on paper. He's appeared again.” (56-1209E, Jehovah-Jireh, Brooklyn Academy Of Music, Brooklyn, NY)

Then why is no one blinded like Paul? He wants us to accept that his light is the same glory that both Peter and Paul described as brighter than the sun? (Acts 26:13; Mt.17:2). It was not.

“Paul (Saul was his name then), on, of Tarsus, on the road down to Damascus, was struck down by that same Pillar of Fire. That ... Nobody else saw It. All of them standing around, they didn't see It, but Saul saw It. And a Voice said, “Saul, Saul, why persecute thou Me?” Said, “Who are You, Lord?” He said, “I'm Jesus.” See? “I come from God, I go to God.” (62-0218, Perseverance, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

How does he come from God if God is one person and God came already as the Holy Spirit?

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Why does Branham say *He said, "I'm Jesus. I come from God. I go to God,"* when the Scripture actually has him say, *I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.* (Acts 9:5) Because he taught when he went back to God he turned into a pillar of fire, what he was before he came.

"And right in the middle of the day, that big Pillar of Fire appeared before him, and knocked him down, and put his eyes out. And a voice said ... Now, nobody saw the Pillar of Fire but him. ... Now, Saul was struck down. They--they--they didn't see no Pillar of Fire, but it was so real to Saul till it put his eyes out. And a voice come from It, said, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" He said, "Who are You? Who is this Pillar of Fire?" He said, "I'm Jesus. I come from God. I go to God." (62-0726, It Is I Be Not Afraid, Legion Auditorium, Port Alberni, BC)

It does not say anything about a pillar of fire? Paul describes it as, *"Suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me"* (Acts 22:6.) Acts 22:9 *"And those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they did not hear the voice of Him who spoke to me."*

Once again Branham changed the Scripture, because he knows people are not seeing a light around him. In fact Paul describes the light as, *"brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me."* (Acts 26:13-14).

His pillar of fire analogies to Paul are not applicable. No other apostle had pillars of fire, not even John the Baptist. One cannot extrapolate his descriptions from the Bible.

Saul telling his testimony to King Agrippa says *"at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language ..."* (Acts 26:13-14)

It was the middle of day. It would not be a pillar of fire but a cloud. Oops. So Jesus is not associated

with the Old Testament pillar of fire but with Jesus Christ and his glorification.

This was a spiritual intervention for Saul, to convert and appoint him to be an apostle as he was on his way to eliminate more Christians. The fact that Branham's light occurs from birth consecutively throughout his life many times before he was converted when Paul was chosen to see the resurrected Jesus in glory to become an apostle. This one time of seeing Jesus in glory converted him. He went from being a persecutor to a promoter. He became an apostle who later wrote most of the New Testament. The light showing up many times before he is converted and hundreds or thousands of times in Branham's life makes him more important than even the apostle Paul.

Peter: *"And when he was in jail that night, ... Who was it come in like a big Pillar of Light and shined in on him, and loosened him up? Was it the Holy Ghost? No, sir. It was the Angel of the Lord."* That's right." (55-0612, The Presence Of The Lord Jesus, Porter Stadium, Macon, GA)

Branham now he says the Angel of the Lord is not the Holy Ghost who was Jesus. But the Pillar of fire was Jesus who was the Father who came back as the Spirit. Again I ask, who is he?

The New Testament has NOTHING to say about a pillar of fire, nor of the Angel of the Lord, and for good reason. God had come as man, taking on a human body that he will forever live in. How is it that the New Testament does not mention the pillar of fire or the cloud by day when Branham insisted that it did?

The pillar of fire followed Israel

"the same Pillar of Fire that followed the children of Israel. That was Jesus." (63-0412E, God Hiding Himself in Simplicity, Western Skies Motel, Albuquerque, NM)

More often Branham would say that the light followed Israel, when it was the opposite. God appeared to the nation Israel for the 40 years of their

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



wilderness journey. Then the appearances of his glory became more infrequent.

"When Moses the prophet came down and vindicated the Word of God was at hand, that God Who made the promise was there to deliver the people; they moved from the camp that they were in, into the camp of God's promised Word of the hour. They believed that prophet, because the sign of vindication was proving that it was exactly the Word of God. And the things he did proved that it was right, and the Pillar of Fire followed him along, proved that it was the Word of God" (64-0719E, Going Beyond The Camp, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

The pillar actually kept Israel in the wilderness wandering until the last of the unfaithful generation that came out of Egypt died. Then they were led into the Promised Land.

The pillar was leading them, not following them. Only a few times did Branham say this correctly. For the most part he said it followed Israel, and a few times he may have corrected himself. *"Maybe it's the same Angel that followed the children of Israel, that led them, rather, in a sign of a Pillar of Fire."* (51-0501, Exhortation Of Divine Healing, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

Far more he said *"Let me tell you, any scholar here knows that that Angel Who followed the children of Israel through the wilderness was the Angel of the Covenant. And the Angel of the Covenant was Jesus Christ."* (53-0326, Israel And The Church #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

The other times he said the pillar of fire followed Israel were as follows. The list is in sequential order (far more times than he said it led them): 51-0502, The Angel Of The Lord, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA; 51-0414, The Angel Of The Lord, Shriners Temple, Phoenix, AZ; 53-0800, The Twentieth-Century Prophet, Branham Home & Unknown, Jeffersonville, IN & Chicago, IL; 54-0301, The Angel Of The Covenant, Assembly Of God, Phoenix, AZ; 54-0301 The Angel Of The Covenant Assembly Of God in Phoenix, Arizona;

54-0809E, The Manifestation Of Thy Resurrection To The People Of This Day, Shriners Temple, Los Angeles, CA; 56-1208, Abraham, Maranatha Temple, Brooklyn, NY; 56-0200, Contending For The Faith, Georgetown High School, Georgetown, IN; 56-1209E, Jehovah-Jireh, Brooklyn Academy Of Music, Brooklyn, NY; 56-0426, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, Abundant Life Center, Charlotte, NC; Prayer Line 56-01; 56-1004, Witnesses, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL; 57-0127E, Blind Bartimaeus, Memorial Hall, Lima, OH; 57-0306, God Keeps His Word #1, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ; 57-0901E, Hebrews, Chapter Four, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN; 58-0312, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, National Guard Armory, Harrisonburg, VA; 59-0812, Discerning The Body Of The Lord, Miami Valley Chautauqua Campgrounds, Chautauqua, OH; 59-0416, El-Shaddai, Angelus Temple, Los Angeles, CA; 59-1125, From The Beginning It Wasn't So, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, San Jose, Ca; 59-1121, Thy Seed Shall Possess The Gate Of His Enemy, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, San Jose, Ca; 59-1004E, Why Cry? Speak!, Faith Assembly, Clarksville, IN; 60-0403, As The Eagle Stirreth, Municipal Auditorium, Tulsa, OK; 60-0303, Former And Latter Rain, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ; 60-0716, From That Time, City High School, Klamath Falls, OR; 60-0709, God's Provided Way Of Approach To Fellowship, City High School, Klamath Falls, OR; 60-1126, Why?, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA; 61-0213, It Is I, Be Not Afraid, First Assembly Of God Of Long Beach, Long Beach, CA; 61-0118, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, American Legion Hall, Beaumont, TX; Prayer Line 61-01; 62-0724, Sir, We Would See Jesus, Legion Auditorium, Port Alberni, BC; 62-1123, The Way Back, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA; 63-0412E, God Hiding Himself In Simplicity, Western Skies Motel, Albuquerque, NM; 64-0418B, A Paradox, Morrison's Cafeteria, Tampa, FL; 64-0304, Sirs, We Would See Jesus, Soul's Harbor Temple, Dallas, TX; 64-0304, Sirs, We Would See Jesus, Soul's Harbor Temple, Dallas; 64-0802, The Future Home Of The Heavenly Bridegroom And The Earthly Bride, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN; 65-

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



0125, This Day This Scripture Is Fulfilled, Ramada Inn, Phoenix, AZ).

Why would he say over and over the pillar followed Moses or Israel and not correct himself? For 24 years he said the Pillar of fire followed Israel. This was no slight mistake. Why would Branham say it followed them and not be able to correct himself for this long? Because the angel (light, pillar) followed him throughout his life and he had to give evidence it was biblical. This was purposeful. So the first thing sacrificed at the altar of his supernaturalism was the word of God to support his lifelong experience.

We should know that leading and following are two very different functions. Israel followed the pillar of fire, Moses followed the pillar. The Pillar of fire was unique as it appeared ONLY at night. Exod.13:21 *"And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: (The fire was at night and the cloud in day). v.22 "He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people."* Clearly it is not the same thing Branham describes.

One is a light that led nearly 2 million people in the dark (and was a cloud by day to keep them cool). With Branham no one saw this light at the time, or only few say they did. Only when the photograph was developed in 1950 that is now passed around as the verification of his ministry. He considered it the same "pillar of light" that had been with him since birth. Branham was asked about the light that accompanied him in ministry and said it is *The same Pillar of Fire that led the children of Israel from Egypt to Palestine*. Branham wants us to believe that Israel's pillar of fire is the same one in his picture, which is a foot long which no one saw when he was speaking but it appears on camera in a dark room?

The pillar of fire for the nation Israel which had nearly 2 million in the exodus were looking at a light at least a few hundred feet in diameter if not larger in the sky to be seen by this many people to

follow in the dark. So these claims become laughable in respect to the proofs of a picture Branham bragged on as supernatural.

How big was that pillar of light?

"Years later, strange that the camera takes the same picture, looks the same thing, just exactly what I told you there on the river. Now, I may be mistaken in a lot of things, brethren, but I don't want to be a hypocrite. I want to be honest and straight with you" (Taking Sides With Jesus, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN, 1962)
"He says at his birth the light come whirling through the window was about the size of a pillow. bout the size of a, oh, I guess about like a pan."
Which is basically the size the picture showed.

Telling the same story *"When I said that, Something struck me and said, "Look up." And as I turned to look, after the third time It said it, a place about fifteen-feet-square was churning up-and-down in them brassy skies. And down from there came that same Pillar of Light that come in when I was a little baby, that spoke to me in the burning bush, or the bush back there that day, and come into that bush, and come hung over where thousands of people."* (64-0427, A Trial, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ)

Is this a slip of the tongue, or is he implanting thoughts in people to convince them? What burning bush? Seems he is confusing himself with Moses. Maybe he was referring to this story *"And I felt the Angel of the Lord near, and I raised up. Shining right down through a little dogwood bush was a yellowish green Light."* (50-0816, Looking To The Unseen, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH). A light shining and a fire are two different things, especially when it involves a bush burning and Moses is told that he is on holy ground.

"about as big as this platform, where the blue skies churning like waters... It looked like a milling fire of Light, moving right down and stood over where I was. Then went right back up into the heavens again. The waters let up. I've often wondered if that wasn't the Angel that was on the waters (See?)."

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



(50-0813E, *God Revealing Himself To His People*, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

*"Coming right down out of there came a big thing, like a star, whirling around" (50-0813E, *God Revealing Himself To His People*, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)*

Yet he told us how large it was, "and it was not the size of a hand as it was in the picture. *"He swept down there in that big Light."* (62-1230 *The Absolute*)

Why is it they all saw the blazing star at the baptism according to Branham, but not at his meetings? Yet he claims it was seen thousands of times. Why is it that Branham's pillar of fire is not anything close to the size it was at night for Israel? Could it be the Devil can only counterfeit so much?

Pictures of a light circling over one's head is not proof they are sent by God, but this seemed sufficient for his followers and those who look for signs.

Bob Larson writes of William Branham, *"Many of his contemporaries were concerned about the spiritualistic overtones exhibited by Branham's gift of healing. The presence of a disease would set off vibrations, causing his hand to swell. Sometimes he would see a fiery ball dance about the room and then hover over those upon whom he would pronounce healing."* Bob Larson was actually present during a 1965 Branham meeting when the ball of fire was claimed to have appeared. On page 157 Larson points out, *"No visible phenomenon was evident to the audience, but many of those present accepted Branham's explanation without question. But despite persistent warnings from fellow ministers that his visions might be demonic, Branham was undeterred."* ("Larson's New Book of Cults," pages 156-157)

Again, Branham understood perception is reality. If he shows he is convinced others will be also.

The Halo, the Pillar of fire, the light, or the Morning star

Branham states, *"And it happened to be, the photographer standing there shot a picture. And he almost had a heart attack when he found out. It's come in the meetings many times like a big whirl of fire, moving. ..."*

He speaks of a young boy with polio holding him in his arms

And while I was praying, the Light got real bright in my face. And I said to myself, "The custodian must've turned the light on." ... I just kept on praying. Got brighter and brighter. And everyone very reverent, with their heads down. I raised my head. Come floating down through the room, came the Morning Star, coming right up to where I was. I was holding the little baby. It settled right down to where I was." (50-0714, *At Thy Word*, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN)

The morning star? Hmm. Where in Scripture does it say we see the Morning star?

"He came to the earth, as soon as He did, the morning star declared Him to be the Son of God." (57-0825E, *Hebrews*, Chapter Two #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Exactly where is this found in Scripture? If the morning star declared him to be the Son of God (which Branham did not believe him to be) then the morning star cannot be Jesus.

Branham further elaborates on who the Morning star is *"On Easter morning, when the sun was about ready to shine, the morning star come from the skies and rolled back the tombstones."* (57-0808, *The Mighty Conqueror*, Edmonton Arena, Edmonton, AB)

"when the little baby Christ was born, three stars went together and made the one morning star, that reflected the coming of a infant Christ, a perfect One..." (62-0319, *The End-Time Sign Seed*, Tifton Junior High School, Tifton, GA)

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Was the morning star 3 heavenly bodies that became one? Then the Morning star definitely cannot be Jesus.

Branham states here that the star of Bethlehem were 3 stars that became one, the Morning star. He is referring to heavenly bodies not a being, an angel or otherwise.

According to Branham the morning star was very involved with Jesus' ministry. Then Christ cannot be the morning star. This is proven by Branham who said, "The three ancient fathers coming to pay tribute as they followed the morning Star to Christ..." (54-0306, The Unconditional Covenant That God Made With His People, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ.)

Yet Branham said "Christ be the Morning Star." (57-0326, Jehovah-Jireh, Oakland Municipal Auditorium, Oakland, CA)

And he prayed to the Morning star, which he sometimes taught is Jesus. "O Morning Star, guide us and direct us. Forgive us of our sin and help us to be Your servants, Lord." (53-0327, Israel And The Church #3, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville)

As usual Branham is confused on who and what he said about the Morning star. Branham then states the opposite, "may they now come to that place where the Morning Star is hanging at the cross now." (58-0112A, His Wonders To Perform, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

Branham certainly leaned toward the interpretation of it being an angel as he said, The "Morning Star, the Angel of the Lord made it's first appearance ... in public, ... at the foot of Spring Street in the Ohio river in June '33." (55-0123A, The Approach To God, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL)

Now we find Branham saying the angel of the Lord is the MORNING STAR. This compounds the problem he already has in identifying God. "He's called the Morning Star. He's called Father: He's

called Son; He's called Holy Ghost." (60-0522E, Adoption, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Now we can add morning star to the many masks. Because Branham said he did not know the angels name.

Furthermore, Jesus is not called the morning star, but the **bright** morning star.

Branham said of this light, "We follow the Day Star, we follow the Light until It leads us to that perfect Light, the Gift of God, Eternal Life, by the baptism of the Spirit." (60-1225, God's Wrapped Gift, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

The Bible does not teach that there is a light we follow that leads us to a perfect light. As believers we have the light, there is only one light. It is the word (Ps.119:105), it is not something we see.

Furthermore, Day Star is the original Hebrew name of Satan. Isaiah 14:12-14: "How are you fallen from heaven! O Lucifer, son of the morning."

The Hebrew stresses him as "the shining one," his original state before the fall. He was a light bearer, a morning star that has fallen from his position he was appointed to. He then became known as Satan, the adversary to God.

It is *Day Star* who the Bible calls the anointed cherub who covers (Ez. 28). This is an angel of the highest order who was first in power and authority over all the other creatures. This position was given to him by God, as the arch Cherub. He was a canopy over the throne while the other angels were under it and around it.

Scripture points out that this fallen Cherub called Satan is now the prince of this world, (John 12:31) the God of this world (2 Cor. 4:4) and the prince of power of the air (Eph. 2:2), also the prince of demons (Mt.12:24) as they are the Devils angels (Mt.25:41).

All the angels are called morning stars (collectively Job 38:4-7). According to Isa. 14:12 Satan is addressed when he fell as Day Star, the son of the

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



morning (singular), which separates him from among the other morning stars who are angels.

2 Cor.11:13-15 *"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works."*

As Branham himself said, *"Satan can impersonate any thing almost; he is a impersonator, and he can impersonate."* (60-0710, The Queen Of Sheba, City High School, Klamath Falls, OR)

Albert Pike speaks of Lucifer as the Light-bearer. Lucifer is called Morning star. he is the great Angel, above all others. *"Lucifer, the Son of the Morning! Is it he who bears the Light!"* (Morals and Dogma p. 321) Pike and other Masonic scholars referred to the morning star, the light bearer speaking of the "Luciferian path," or the "energies of Lucifer." *"Lucifer is divine and terrestrial Light, 'the Holy Ghost' and 'Satan' at one and the same time."* (ibid. p. 539)

To have light appear does not prove whether it is from God at all, it just may prove the opposite. Joseph Smith saw pillars of light and angels constantly. Should we accept his message is from heaven? Those involved in supernaturalism, spiritism, and the occult often have experiences with light and fire.

Even if one concedes the light was a supernatural being it does not mean it was what Branham said it was, an angel, the Holy Spirit or Jesus etc. Let's just take it for face value, it was an angel of light.

Being influenced by a supernatural masquerade is the oldest con in the book. Literally! Genesis tells us that Satan came disguised and in Hebrew it says he was shining. Eve certainly was bedazzled and bewitched by this light, not just his words.

John the Baptizer had no fire above his head ... the only ones who did where those in the upper room. It happened only once, and it was temporary. They didn't have this fire or light following them throughout their life. Its purpose was to show that God sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in people as promised, it began the Church. Just because some guy named William Marrion Branham has been seen with pictures of a light taken above his head, this became the convincing proof to certain Pentecostal followers. So is the stigmata, the blood coming from the hands and feet of the Catholic mystics to the Roman Catholics. Are we to ignore the false doctrine that he was led into by his angel (of light)?

Consider this portion of his testimony *"And while I'm talking about It, that same Light that's on that picture is on ... standing not two feet from where I'm standing right now.... I can't see It with my-my eyes, but I know It's standing here. I know It's settling with inside of me right now."* (How the Angel Came to Me, and His Commission p.88)

That does not sound good at all. If the light is his angel and his angel is not Jesus and it is coming within him ... That would mean what according to the Bible?

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:
A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 26

The Many Healing ways of Branham

Branham proclaimed *"and I do not see how that clergy could say and could preach the Gospel without including Divine healing in the atonement, because He was wounded for our transgressions; and with His stripes we are healed."* (49-0718, I Was Not Disobedient To The Heavenly Vision, Grace Missionary Church, Zion, IL)

The priority of the atonement is about forgiveness of sin (transgressions), to reconcile our severed relationship with God, it is the cure that God did through His Son. The atonement is the new covenant, it includes physical healing but does not have the guarantee of our living in divine health. There is a difference between divine health and healing.

By his stripes you were already healed

When Jesus died at the cross, He said, "It's finished." What? "He was wounded for our transgressions; with His stripes you were healed." The work is completely done. It's your faith in the finished work. The Word should be sufficient." (59-0410, Looking At The Unseen, Angelus Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

"when you follow the commandments of God and take God at His Word, these signs shall follow them that believe. God sent gifts and everything else and proved to us that He's with us. When we lay hands on you, believe it with all your heart. Go off the platform. It's a finished work. God said so. Amen. Said, "You're paralyzed and can't even move a finger." Say, "I'm already healed." "How do you know?" "God said so. God said so." "Brother Branham said so." No, I never. God said so. God said so, and God's Word is true. Nothing else can

stop it." (60-0724, The Unchangeable Word Of God, Lake County Fairgrounds, Lakeport, CA)

Of course he believes that is what God said to everyone, but, God DID NOT say this. The finished

work is the New Covenant which is for the forgiveness of sins. What needs to be settled is

whether the crucifixion heals us from all the things that sin brought or does to us in this world now.

"I was healed nineteen hundred years ago, but I've got to accept it....Christ paid your healing and your salvation....You ain't going to heal nobody, but you're going to cast the devil away from them so they can accept the healing I've already done." That's right." (52-0224 Believing God)

Branham would often proclaim that *"God is here to make well, and to heal all."* (53-0906E, The Living Jesus Christ, Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, Chicago, IL)

This was the motto of the healing revival he began in the later 40-50's.

"As early as 1950, over 1,000 healing evangelists gathered at a Voice of Healing convention to acknowledge the profound influence of Branham on the healing movement." (Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements, Zondervan, 1988, p. 372).

"Remember, if I never see you again, I've told you the truth. And now, God will heal, and will heal everybody here, if you'll just believe it.... Now, I've asked Him to do that tonight. And I--I believe God. I believe that He's going to do what I've asked Him to do." (50-0405, Expectation, Glad Tidings Tabernacle, New York, NY)

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Though many claimed of being healed at these meetings there has never been every ill person who came left well.

Branham taught (...) *Sickness is an attribute of sin. And Jesus died for our sins. And sickness, iniquity, and all was included in His death for our sins. You see it? Then when He died for the sins of the world, there at Calvary He healed you, you, you, you, every one of you. And you're already healed. You're already forgiven of your sins if you'll just accept it.*" (50-0716 Believeest Thou this? Minneapolis, MN)

Branham proclaimed that just as Jesus died for your sin, he died for your sicknesses.

"My Blood has been shed up there on the cross for the remission of sin and for sickness." (53-1112, Demonology, Sport Center, Owensboro, KY)

Jesus himself said, *"This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."* (Mt. 26:28). I would like someone to offer a scripture that Branham has stated that includes healing, it's not there. Salvation is about the remission of sins (Lk 1:77; 24:47; Acts 2:38; 10:43; Heb. 10:18). That is what we are guaranteed by the New Covenant. 1 Cor. 15:1- 4 Paul tells us the gospel: that "Christ died for our sins; Period. Not sins and sickness.

Branham refused this, stating *"He could not die for sins, without dying for sickness. Sickness is an attribute of sin."* (56-0200, Contending For The Faith, Georgetown High School, Georgetown, IN)

So is death, and yet we all still die. No one has prevented their death by faith or confession.

"Now, when you receive the inspiration that Jesus Christ died for your sickness, it's that very hour that you're healing has come." (54-0719A, God's Provided Way Of Healing, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

Branham connected healing of our sicknesses to the Atonement just as forgiveness is in the Atonement.

Where does God promise healing to all in this life as he promised forgiveness by the gospel?

With all this said, Branham gave what is now the most famous cliché "Now, there's no one can heal you, because you're already healed. How many knows that? The Bible teaches that? You're already healed. By His stripes you were healed." (62-0724, Sir, We Would See Jesus, Legion Auditorium, Port Alberni, BC)

So your healing stays invisible until you believe it? If healing was already done in the past than you will not die either, because you were already resurrected. That is part of our healing. You just need to believe it. See how that works.

"What about the sickness? Your price is already paid. Every one of you is already healed of your sickness. Is that right? [Congregation says, "Amen."--Ed.] For that ... Every one of you is forgiven, but you have to accept it. Every one of you is healed, but you have to accept it." (63-1110E, He That Is In You, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"And now, there's no one, Brother Jagers, Brother Roberts, or myself, or no one else, that can heal another person. There's none of us claim to. We don't heal people. We only try to get them to look to the Man that's already healed them: Jesus Christ, and get them to accept it by faith, and that settles it.... When Jesus healed them back there ... I believe that every sick person was healed when Jesus died at Calvary. I believe I can prove that by the Bible. That by His stripes, we were (past time, tense,) we were healed. And every sinner in the world was forgiven when Jesus died at Calvary. But it'll never do you any good until you accept it. See? You've got to accept it, then it becomes your personal property." (53-1107, How The Angel Came To Me, Sports Center, Owensboro, KY)

This is an absurd concept. If it is as he says, sickness is because of sin and our sin is healed by the Atonement then everyone should be whole in body and Spirit when they first believe in the Atonement, because it's a packaged deal. But

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Branham goes further saying every sinner was forgiven by the death of Jesus. This is completely untrue. No one is forgiven UNTIL they believe.

Branham consistently said "You're the high priest of my confession. Now I'm confessing that by Your stripes I was healed. Thank You, Lord." Go right on. See, then He can go to work on it, and start healing you." (61-0128 Westward Ho Hotel in Phoenix, AZ; 53-0216 Works I Do Bear Witness)

"Now, mean it in your heart. Just keep saying it, over and over. Say ... If you don't believe it altogether, keep saying it until you do believe it. Just keep saying it over. "I thank You, Lord, for my healing." 'Cause what is He? "Christ is the high priest of our confession." Is that right? Hebrews 3. All right. He's the high priest of our confession. Then He cannot do one thing for you, can make no intercession, until first you confess that it's done. Now, is that Scriptural? High priest of our confession. Then he can only act when we confess. [Hebrews 3:1], [Isaiah 53:5]." (61-0128 Westward Ho Hotel in Phoenix, AZ)

By repetition you will convince yourself (something we are told not to do). And it is not scriptural, he is reversing the meaning of the scripture.

Say, "By His stripes I'm healed, and I go believing it. Then You're the High Priest. You'll start confessing that in heaven just when we confess it here. But You can't do it, until we first say You've done it. For it's a confession, and that means "say the same thing." We have to say what You say about it. We've already been healed, so we accept it." (53-0511E We have found him, come and see, Jonesboro AR)

Here we have Branham disseminating the word faith teaching we hear today, say it and it will occur. Confess it to possess it. You speak it on earth and God will speak it in heaven. Then YOU have become the high priest over your life, not Jesus.

No one stood before Jesus and claimed their healing by confession nor did they recite "by your stripes I'm healed" as a promise of Scripture for their healing before or after the resurrection. There is NO account of any person saying this. Neither Paul nor

any other apostle used Isaiah 53:5 as a cure of sickness to be apprehended by faith. They did not teach this to the church. If it were a promise to the church we would see examples of this in the apostle's ministry. The Scripture itself stands contrary to the teaching of using Isaiah 53 as a stand-alone text for healing. But this was one of the main themes in Branham's healing revivals.

"Your testimony will bring you right into it. If you believe in healing, and believe that God has healed you, confess it, and God will make your body obey your confession, for He's the High Priest of your confession; setting at the right-hand of the Father now with His own Blood to make intercessions for any confession upon anything that He died for. And He died to rid sin. And sickness is the result of sin." (50-0815, Who Is God?, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

Branham would also say at meetings "God, I pray that You will heal." Why pray when you are already healed, you receive it by your confession?

"Lord, I accept You as my Healer. I'll never say nothing else but what I'm healed from now on. Amen. That settles it. He can't do nothing for You till you first confess it. He's the High Priest of your confession. In that case not even to your faith. And even couldn't be faith until you confess it. You got to accept faith, believe it, and confess that it already is done. For faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (51-1003, Believest Thou This?, Unknown, New York, NY)
Borrowing from Branham, Benny Hinn likewise says 'If you say it, I'll do it, that's what God says.... So when you confess it you are activating the supernatural force of God. Do you know that confession activates heaven? Confession releases the spirit world ... Words activate heaven." (Benny Hinn Praise the Lord, Dec. 6, 1994).

Branham taught "Jesus, the High Priest, can't do a thing for you till first you confess it and act on your confession. Hebrews the 3rd chapter said He's the high priest of our confession. The word's "profess" but "profess" and "confess" is the same word. "High priest of our confession." (56-0428, God's Covenant

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



With Abraham, Abundant Life Center, Charlotte, NC)

The application is not whatever we confess (by faith), the Lord will do. What it means is that all believers say the same thing, agree, to confess, to profess Jesus. He is the apostle and high priest whom we confess. 1 Tim. 6:12 "*and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*" What is the confession? Rom. 10:9-10 "*that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*" You are agreeing with the gospel message, it is not about healing or anything else we confess by our words using faith.

Furthermore, it says He is the apostle and high priest of *OUR confession*, not MY confession. Branham made it to be what we personally wanted by confession, ripping it from its context. It is about what the church confesses together, we confess the same thing. Heb. 3:1 "*consider the Apostle and High Priest of OUR confession, Christ Jesus.*" He is our confession, it's about Jesus. And because of what he did "*Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast OUR confession.*" (Heb. 4:14) our confession - The apostle and high priest is the Son of God.

Heb. 10:23-24 "*Let us hold fast the confession of OUR hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*" What He promised to all in salvation is a resurrection, eternal life. That is our hope.

So we can see from the Scripture that confession is not applied to whatever we say, but what the Scripture says of who Jesus is, our high priest.

"You accept Him as your Healer, renounce your feelings. It's not by feelings; it's by faith. Say you're healed; believe you're healed; act like you're healed; associate with those who believe in healing; and God will bring you right out to a perfect

soundness of health: will not fail." (53-0219, Accept God's Gift, Pentecostal Holiness Church, Tallahassee, FL)

This is why when Branham questioned them after, they would say I'm healed, because he told them they had to confess it and act it, even if it didn't occur. This is what "Word Faith" teaches today. Now you know where it came from, Not from Hagin, not Copeland, but Branham.

Charles Wesley Emerson was an adherent of New Thought metaphysics. Emerson joined Christian Science in 1903 and remained in that religion until his death in 1908. E.W. Kenyon attended the Emerson College School of Oratory, where he learned New Thought philosophy. Kenyon's teaching about "the power of Thought words" accompanied a warning never to make a "negative confession, that we create our own reality with the words of our mouths: '*what I confess, I possess.*'" E.W. Kenyon, *The Hidden Man. An Unveiling of the Subconscious Mind* (Kenyon, 1970), p. 98.)

"It is not Gods will for any to be sick" (Healing the Fathers Provision p.9) "*...I state boldly that it is not the will of God my father that we should suffer with cancer and other dread disease and reap pain and anguish. No, its Gods will that we should be healed.*" Hagin repeats E.W. Kenyon in his book *the Hidden man* on p.99. "*I know that I am healed because he said that I am healed and it makes no difference what the symptoms may be in my body.*"

It was Branham who used these same concepts of Kenyon and Kenneth Hagin and others further developed them. Whether Branham got these from reading Kenyon or came to the same wrong conclusions because of new thought influence may never be known.

"Symptoms, they're lying vanities. Don't receive them. Don't have nothing to do with them. If you look to them, you're looking away from God. We look at the unseen, not at what we see. No one could look at what they see and be a Christian. You've got to believe the things that's unseen, for it's by faith are you healed, not by sight or by feeling." (50-0810, Expectations, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"My, get away symptoms. You're a lying vanities. I won't believe you any more. Jesus Christ healed me when He died at Calvary." (53-0907A, Lord, Show Us The Father And It Sufficeth Us, Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, Chicago, IL)

So symptoms were not reality, which is similar to Christian Science.

"Somebody told me not long ago, said, "Brother Branham, you was lying." No, I wasn't. No, I wasn't. They was asking me how my body was feeling. And I was answering how my faith was, it was wonderful. ... I don't care how I felt. If I'd still been belching up, I'd still say, "I'm healed!" Amen! That's right, sure, because God's Word is right." (47-1214 Experiences; Foot Prints Book p. 97)

What does *by his Stripes we were healed* actually mean?

The issue shouldn't be "does God heal today," he does. But will He heal – how and when. No believer is without *the possibility* of divine healing, God interjects His power in our lives daily by grace.

Before one uses this scripture as a promise for healing one should read the whole scripture in context to understand the meaning it is conveying. Isa. 53:5-6 "But He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

Isaiah is speaking of the lamb being the sin bearer, using the words transgressions, iniquities both have to do with sin. The word "iniquity" is found four times in Isaiah 53 and is the emphasis in its discourse.

Peter also uses these words and *defines* its meaning and gives its *application*. 1 Peter 2:24-25: "who Himself bore **our sins** in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for

righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed." He then repeats the ending of Isa.53:6 "For you were like sheep going astray," and then says of those who believed in him "but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."

Peter, when quoting Isaiah's passage (53:5) on whose stripes you were healed, refers back to "Who himself bore our sins in His own body ON THE TREE" (Peter is referring to Isaiah 53:12). The stripe is related to sin. He bore our sins on the cross, not our sicknesses. The context is that of *spiritual healing* from sin not physical healing of all sicknesses. The New Testament reference to this verse does not even mention illness, (Gr. *laomai*) means to cure, it is in the past tense, "you were healed" by Jesus' death. We believed in Christ's crucifixion that took place nearly 2,000 years ago. This atonement Peter applies to our sins; he says nothing about the healing of diseases in our present mortal bodies.

While sicknesses can be caused by sin, there is no inclusion for them. Death is a disease that terminates life, just as sicknesses limit our quality of life now. If our sicknesses were all to be healed now, none of us would die, for death is also a consequence of sin. "The wages of sin is death." The reality is, if God has not removed physical death as sins consequence then he has not removed all our sicknesses.

The Bible states that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin, There is no mention of healing for sickness. Revelation 1:5: "To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood." It is always our *sin* we are promised to be healed from in the atonement.

When we read "By His stripes we are healed." We see that Branham claimed this as a guaranteed promise of physical healing. If it was written like this we could apply it, but it is NOT.

Many interpret the stripes as Jesus being whipped. So this needs to be n addressed.

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



How did the New Testament writers interpret it? The Hebrew word for stripes is *chabbuwrah*—meaning bound (with stripes), i.e. a weal (or black-and-blue mark itself). The root word *chabar* means to unite, to bind together, to be coupled, to have fellowship with, and to join oneself to. When the Scripture says by His stripes we were healed it means our healing came through being united to Christ spiritually by his crucifixion. We once were astray but now have fellowship. W.E. Vine explains the word stripes (Gr. *Molops*) is a wound that is bloody (from the Septuagint of Isaiah 53:5), used in 1 Peter 2:24, lit., in the original “by whose bruise,” is “not referring to Christ's scourging, but figurative of the stroke of divine judgment administered vicariously to Him on the cross (Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words and The Collected writings of W.E. Vine) other students of the Bible agree.

The word “stripes” is in the singular, relating to his being struck once in his crucifixion (remember Moses was to strike the rock only once to give water.) Jesus is the rock that was struck only once to cure our sins, by dying for sins once. This is especially important as many claim we were healed from his stripes (whippings, etc.). But the whipping was from men (before the crucifixion). If these stripes heal us physically, then Christ did not need to go to the cross. The atonement cannot be divided into sections, the first part (stripes) deals with sickness the next part deals with sin, it is a complete atonement “Christ died for our sins, according to the scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3).

In the history of the Church it has never been considered a guarantee that God has to heal your body as he saved you from the penalty of sin. The atonement brings redemption from sin but has not eradicated sin. Neither should we think it eradicates illness so that we live in “Divine health.”

Numerous verses teach that our physical bodies are continually running down and suffer various ailments. Paul wrote, “*our outer man is perishing*” (2 Cor. 4:16). Our present bodies are weak in a state of decay. Death and disease will be part of our

human condition until we receive our resurrected bodies (1 Cor.15:42-44, 51-55). We have not yet received the redemption of our bodies. Scripture tells us we are to wait for the redemption of our bodies, which occurs at the resurrection, not before. Death is the last enemy to be dealt with. “*Even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body*” (Romans 8:18-25). Paul says the redemption of our bodies is a future event. He reminds us that we will not receive our glorified state until the rapture/resurrection occurs. It is this final event that will change our bodies to eliminate once and for all the effect of sin. We still die because we are not cured physically from our sickness of sin. It is not until sin is fully removed from our existence that any of us receive a complete permanent physical healing and total restoration of the body. At that time it will be permanent. Until then, we are subject to illness and death of this sin-cursed world.

Sickness is a facet of sin, but so is death. Paul teaches that we have a sinful nature in our body. So according to what Branham taught no one should die, or stay dead. Why? Because all our sins are forgiven. Furthermore, if you were dying and accepted the gospel you would be prevented from dying, because that too is connected to sin. Scripture tells us we wait for the redemption of our bodies, it is our spirit that is healed now, not the body.

Some points one needs to consider. If sickness comes from sin then if our sin is forgiven we should not be sick? If you are forgiven past, present and future and healing is in the atonement you would also be healed past, present and future also. You would not need to have faith or confess. Once healed, you would never get sick again.

If the Atonement has healing accompany forgiveness of sins, it would all take place together at the same time. The idea of it being separate in its application, when both came from the Atonement, is not feasible. If your sins are forgiven then you sickness is also healed at the same time because Branham said, sickness comes from sin.

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Then you would not have to pray for healing separately from your salvation. Why would we have to ask for healing separately if all is caused by sin? When we exercised faith in the gospel we would also be healed. You wouldn't need to have faith or confess it. Once healed you would never get sick again because it's divine healing. Everyone would be physically healed at the same time they are spiritually saved. Why didn't those who are sick receive a physical healing when they first believed? The same faith we used to be saved spiritually certainly would be enough to be healed with.

The Bible does not teach eternal life in the body now, so why should we think we would be free of all sicknesses? Christians age, have pain, their eyesight fails, and death comes to believers like anyone else. In fact most people get ill before they die. Have you seen anyone survive death yet? So looking at reality, history and the Scripture it can only mean we are forgiven and cleansed in a legal sense but not in a completed sense, which is reserved for the day of our resurrection. Then sin will be dealt the deathblow and we will forever live in an immortal body. We are presently clothed in Christ's righteousness but one day we will personally be made righteous.

Physical healing in this life is not guaranteed by Christ's death but a provision of grace within the atonement itself. God has provided healing for the shared disease of sin by the shed blood, and *that* is what Peter is talking about in 1 Peter 2:24. He is not saying that physical healing of the body is guaranteed to every believer with salvation. The possibility of physically healing is always present, but not guaranteed to all. There is still God's will involved. To teach that healing is guaranteed can be just as detrimental as to teach that God no longer heals!

What is the context in 1 Peter 2:24? **Salvation**, there is no other way to interpret it and make sense. He "bore our sins in His own body on the tree."

Two major errors

Within the framework of healing Branham had two errors that were crucial which misguided his conclusions.

"he was slain from the foundation of the world, from the very beginning. He was slain before He even come to the earth." Is that right? He was God's Lamb slain from the foundation of the earth." (54-0103E, Questions And Answers #2, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham taught the earth was a reflection of heaven, thoughts in God were attributes before it materialized into reality. He said four thousand years later it materialized. Four thousand years later He was actually slain." *He slayed Christ before the foundation of the world when He spoke the Word, four thousand years before it was manifested.*" (59-0423, Abraham's Seed, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, San Jose, CA)

Branham would also say "*When was the Lamb slain? Two thousand years ago? Maybe a hundred million years ago. Before the foundation of the world was ever formed Jesus Christ died for our sins."* (58-0928M, The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

This was a plan in God's mind and what God decides will happen. Branham inserted his idea of actualized predestination. In other words, he believed this already took place before Jesus incarnated as man and was crucified.

The teaching of healing fits in with his predestination view. This interfered with understanding the difference of the actual event and the plan that was yet to commence from God. He needed to actually become incarnate. This was a plan that God prepared because of his foreknowledge that Adam and Eve would sin. If Jesus died for all our sins before he became man one would have to also conclude he died before Adam and Eve sinned, before they were created. Which would mean animal sacrifice to cover sin was not necessary. Furthermore, If Jesus did this

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



before the foundation of the world there would no need for him to become man and be crucified, or that would mean he died twice.

We must understand Rev. 13:8: "... And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

When it states Jesus was slain from the foundation of the world (before the earth was made). He was appointed to die because God saw the end, before He began to create. It has to do with all things being known to God who is infinite in his nature, and is omniscient. God's foreknowledge knows the future of everything He creates. God knew of the world's history even before he even created the world. Acts 15:18: "Known to God from eternity are all His works." When the Scripture states Jesus was "the lamb slain from the foundation of the world" it means that God's plan of redemption was decided before anything was made.

If Branham's teaching were true the Lord would not have had to make clothing for Adam and Eve from animal skins: personally doing the first blood sacrifice as a covering for their sin because Jesus already previously died. Again, what would be the purpose of God becoming man?

Acts 2:23 would also not be true: "... Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, you have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain." He was not slain twice!

The other error of Branham's predestination is a universalist viewpoint.

"Now, we realize, heavenly Father, that when You died for our sins, then every sin in the world was forgiven." (62-0724Sir, We Would See Jesus)

No, every sin was paid for, not forgiven. There is a huge difference between each. If what he says is true then no one needs to believe to be saved. And no one is going to be judged. Sin is only forgiven by one placing trust in the crucifixion, we are told to

believe the gospel to be forgiven. Again if healing which he believed was a guarantee in atonement would mean healing for all as well.

The right kind of attitude heals

"When you receive it, the revelation, something slips out of the unseen ... If everybody in this building, at this time, would get in that kind of an attitude, every person would be perfectly healed. Now, how do we get people that way? Some can receive it. Some cannot receive it." (54-0719A, God's Provided Way Of Healing, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

Here we have the teachings of the healing already existing in some spirit realm waiting for you to claim it. This is metaphysical teaching, not Christianity.

"with the right mental attitude, speaking the right words, believing the right things." (51-1003, Believeest Thou This?, Unknown, New York, NY)

"The right mental attitude towards any divine promise of God will bring it to pass." (50-0822, Faith Without Works Is Dead) ... God's under obligation to see that you get it. That's right, because He promised it." (62-1027, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, Unknown, Edmonton, Ab)

"He can't do nothing for you until first you confess He's done it. See?" (53-0216 Works I Do Bear Witness)

Branham's methodology; with a right mental attitude, and speaking your confession, you are healed. This is what word faith teaches today and it is completely false. He answers our requests in prayer not our professions, our declarations from a certain state of mind.

"Here's a statement that I usually make in the healing services, 'The right mental attitude towards any Divine promise of God will bring it to pass.' See? 'Cause it's a seed. It has to." (53-1213M, What Think Ye Of Christ?, Philadelphia Church, Chicago, IL)

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Here we have the beginnings of seed faith teaching. This attitude was a mental capacity that he considered faith. But Biblical faith is not a mental attitude, something of the mind. It is a complete trust in God. Prov. 3:5 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding."

Faith involves an ascent to what is true, not what is false. To believe the Word of God, we must make sure we are interpreting it correctly. Faith requires knowledge but not knowledge alone. There must be an intellectual ascent from the mind that a certain proposition is true, then one is persuaded and convinced of the truth and affirms it. One must believe in both the heart and the mind. The heart cannot believe what the mind is not convinced of.

"no man can heal you. You're only healed by faith." (51-0717, The Manifestation Of The Spirit, Civic Auditorium, Toledo, OH)

"This healing, you must have faith. It's called faith healing." (56-0108, God Hath A Provided Way, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham was emphatic that all healing comes through faith, which is defined by him as a right mental attitude, which he called a 6th sense.

Who does the healing?

"I'm not a healer. I'm your brother. Please understand, I never come here to heal people, I come here to point them to One Who's already healed them, Jesus Christ. By Divine ... but if He was here Hisself, He could not heal you, could He? He can't do what He's already done. ... And now, the same Blood, and mingled in there through His stripes, you were healed. If you believe it, accept it, no matter how you feeled." (53-1109, Africa Trip Report, National Guard Armory, Owensboro, KY)

"Jesus didn't claim to do any healing. He said, "What the Father shows Me I don't do nothing. I can heal nothing, but just--I do just what the Father shows Me by vision; that's what I do." And you know that's the truth, isn't it? Every Bible reader,

scholar knows that's the truth. (53-1129E Testimony)

"Now, no man can heal you. And you can't.. If Jesus stood here Himself, He couldn't heal you. He's already done it. See? That's exactly right. You'd have to believe it." (62-0724, Sir, We Would See Jesus, Legion Auditorium, Port Alberni, BC)

Branham taught Jesus couldn't heal you because He's already done so, so why do it again. That you need to confess it to receive it by faith. Then one asking the Lord to heal in prayer would be invalid, which he also said to do.

"If He were standing here Himself with this suit on, He couldn't heal her. He'd tell her that He already did it when He died. Did Jesus die to heal us? to save us? Then that's complete. See?" (55-1003, Faith In Action, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

After Branham would say at meetings you are already healed, or that Jesus is the same today and will heal, he would also say *"Jesus didn't heal people; He only healed as God showed Him to heal. How many knows that? Saint John 5:19. "The Son can do nothing but what He sees the Father doing." And then, when He stood before the people, why, He could tell them ... The reason they knowed that He was the Son of God, and was the prophet that Moses spoke of, because He was a God-prophet."* (59-1127, Blind Bartimaeus, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, San Jose, CA)

Branham said this because of his view of Jesus being the fully anointed (prophet) man that God used.

"There's no man can heal, not even Jesus. Jesus didn't claim to be a Divine Healer. He said, "It's not Me that doeth the works; It's My Father that dwelleth in Me; He doeth the works." (50-0405 Expectations; 53-1129E)

Branham viewed the Son as a man, a vehicle that the Father used. When people came to Jesus to heal them, what happened, did He say I can't heal you, but my Father will?

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:
A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Jesus did what the Father led him to do as a submitted servant. Jesus made it clear that "*My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.*" (Jn. 5:17)

How convoluted is it to teach Jesus could not heal? The Father instructed him yet he as servant certainly possessed the power to heal. If Jesus is unable to heal then he is not God, but then the angel could heal, which makes the angel God.

Mt. 12:22 *Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him.*"

Mt. 14:14 confronted with a great multitude *He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.*"

Matt 15:30 *Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them the lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus' feet, and He healed them."*

Mt. 21:14 *and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.*"

Mk. 1:34 *Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases."*

Lk. 4:40 *and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.*"

Lk. 9:11-12 spoke to them about the kingdom of God, *and healed those who had need of healing."*

Mt. 8:2-3 *a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed."*

Matt 8:7-8 Jesus is asked to come to a centurion's house to heal his child *And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him" (not my father will heal him).*

The Bible acknowledges Jesus healing people, before the crucifixion. Jesus not only healed but forgave sin. In Mark 2:9-11 with the paralytic "*Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"--He said to the paralytic, *I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go your way to your house."**

Jesus used the term *the Son of Man* for himself making it clear he as a man before them healed and forgave him. V:7 the Scribes that were present thought in their heart "*why does this man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone.*" Which was exactly the point he was making, that he is God in the flesh.

Branham says, "*Now, He--He did not do the healing Himself then. He only did as the Father showed Him. It was a vision. Find any of the prophets in the Bible, Elijah on Mount Carmel, anywhere else. Every prophet, every Divine man that come from the Presence of God, always worked under certain inspirations which was directed by God.*" (54-0228E, Looking For Jesus, Assembly Of God, Phoenix, AZ)

Exactly how many divine men are there? These he insinuated as prophets. According to Branham, who slips up at times to actually tell us what he *really believes*, there were other men sent from heaven (where the presence of God is) and are divine. Is there more than one son who incarnated as God to be man?

"*Jesus didn't claim to do any healing. He said, 'What the Father shows Me I don't do nothing. I can heal nothing, but just--I do just what the Father shows Me by vision; that's what I do.' And you know that's the truth, isn't it?"* (53-1129 Testimony)

Nowhere does the Bible teach that Jesus' instruction came from the Father by seeing a vision, look it up. It's not there. Branham said this because he saw things in his mind, a communication of visualization that told him people's illness. Jesus said "*I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father.*" (John 8:38).

Were the Pharisees also getting visions from the Devil to instruct them as Jesus was from his Father?

John 8:28-29 Jesus said to them, "*... I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things*

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



that please Him." He came as a servant but he is able to do these things because *"I and My Father are one"* (John 10:30), they are one in nature.

"And--and if Jesus was here, He could not, only if you'd believe. Look. That sounds strange, that Jesus could not heal unless you'd believe. When He went to His Own country, the Bible said, "Many mighty works He could not do, because of their unbelief." (55-0817, Jehovah-Jireh, Unknown, Karlsruhe, Germany)

That's partially true, he also healed many without faith present. Branham is teaching that healing is always dependent on us, on our faith. So we have healing several explanations which are not conducive; healing comes from within you, your healing was already done by Jesus you just confess it - by faith you confess healing. This becomes man centered, the Bible teaches no one was healed by just their own faith but by faith exercised in Jesus.

The Bible shows us that Jesus healed many people without them having faith.

Lk.8:26-39 the demoniac of Gadarene was healed without asking or expressing his faith.

Lk.2:50-51; Jn.18:10 When Peter cut off the ear of Malchus Jesus healed him without any faith present. The Bible records Jesus doing more miracles without anyone exercising faith then with their faith. He fed the 5,000 when they could not believe. (Lk.9:13-14 Mt.14:17).

The Bible names three people Jesus healed from death, none of them had faith to have this occur; Jairus' daughter; the young man from Nain and Lazarus. It wasn't Lazarus who had faith, he was dead. It was done so they could believe.

With all this said, Branham would have people repeat *Lord Jesus, I accept You as my Healer.*"

He would also include them accepting the angel by his side. *"I want you to repeat this and watch my hand. Repeat this as I say, from your heart... Lord Jesus, [Lady repeats after Brother Branham. — Ed.] I believe You; I accept You as my Healer; I believe that there was a supernatural Being said*

these things to Brother Branham. I believe His Presence is here now. I accept my healing. Now, what happened? Something changed there, didn't it? Vibrations stopped, didn't it? Your faith has made you whole, sister, your cancer is dead and gone." (51-0729E The second Miracle)

The Source of Healing

"But nature has to do the healing, and nature is God. God is nature." (49-0718, I Was Not Disobedient To The Heavenly Vision, Grace Missionary Church, Zion, IL)

The definition of nature is what God created and that which is created cannot be God. If it is nature that heals, which is God according to Branham, then does that mean you control nature by your confession? Where is Jesus in this?

Branham said *"Healing only comes by the--the power that's within yourself to build back the--the tissue that's been torn from the place it's been taken out. And therefore, healing is in you. Now, listen close, and think hard now before you pass your thought of this."* (60-1218, The Uncertain Sound, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

If all healing come from within than belief in Christ for healing is meaningless. When we are speaking of a broken bone or tissue that is damaged the body heals slowly (with or without faith), for unbelievers and believers. When we pray and have a supernatural healing that is instantaneous that would not be a healing from within.

"A healing comes from the inside. Let that healing come from the Spirit that's in you." (65-1031M, Power of Transformation, Pine Lawn Trailer Park, Prescott, AZ).

He then makes the point that *Man in the beginning, when he was made, is a god.* And this is why healing comes from within, we have an eternal spirit.

"we don't know what the germ of life is 'cause it's a spirit, and there's no glass can see a spirit. There

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



you are. So that's the One that does the healing." (61-0224, Be Not Afraid, Fairgrounds Auditorium, Tulare, CA)

So you do your healing by the human spirit!
Does healing come from an *eternal spirit* that was within all mankind? That is what Branham taught. But does the Bible teach healing comes from within a person? What Scripture can be used for this? None. If healing comes from within does forgiveness come from within also, since he included healing in the atonement? If healing comes from within why does it say virtue went out from Jesus to the woman to heal her?

Branham would also say "it's the Spirit of God on the man that does the healing." (50-0711, Ministry Explained, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN)

Does healing come from the Spirit within or on a person? It can't be both.

The Healing Gift

So who REALLY did the Healing? Branham said numerous things on this and they all can't be true.

"My gift is to pray for the sick and the afflicted. It's healing, and not miracles." (47-1123, The Children Of Israel, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

"My gift is not miracles; my gift is healing." (48-0304, The Angel Of God, Phoenix, AZ)

This is what the Angel said, he "told me I was to pray for sick people." (54-0724 A personal experience with God)

"I am not a healer, but I have a gift of healing." (60-0911M, As I Was With Moses, So I Will Be With Thee, Branham Tabernacle)

"My gift is to pray for the sick and the afflicted. It's healing, and not miracles." (47-1123, The Children Of Israel, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

Then he would deny his gift "I couldn't heal you. It's impossible for me to heal you." (50-0813E, God

Revealing Himself To His People, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

"my gift of God is only to tell you what is wrong with you, and what you can do to be healed." (50-0813E, God Revealing Himself To His People, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

"fore I was born, was foreordained to have a gift of Divine healing."

"I just merely have the gift of Divine healing, which I humbly say, it comes from God." (47-0412, Faith Is The Substance, Oakland Municipal Auditorium, Oakland, CA)

Does Branham have this gift or is it his angel?

"there was an Angel came down into the room and told me that way back, back 'fore I was born, was foreordained to have a gift of Divine healing." (47-0412, Faith Is The Substance, Oakland Municipal Auditorium, Oakland, CA)

Instructed by his angel "You was borned into this world to take a gift of Divine healing to the peoples of the world." (52-0717 Get the people to Believe; (50-0821, The Angel And The Commission, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

And he would also say the Divine Gift of healing was his angel. His angel told him "preach and pray for the sick and He would heal them regardless of what disease they had." (P 41-42 Gordon Lindsay 1952 biography of Rev. Branham's early life and ministry).

"And may the Angel of God, Who's guided me through my life, fed me since I was born, be here tonight to heal the sick and afflicted. For we ask it in the Name of Thy beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen." (50-0405, Expectation, Glad Tidings Tabernacle, New York, NY)

Consider that he did not say his angel was Jesus; instead he had a healing angel.

He also said "How many's ever seen the picture?... That's the One that does the healing. Not I myself; I'm just a channel.... it's the Spirit of God on the

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



man that does the healing." (50-0711, Ministry Explained, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN)

He is saying the angel does the healing. So he channeled his angel, who was definitely not the Holy Spirit. Do we have any example in Scripture of a person being controlled by an angel like this who heals? No we do not.

So what we have heard is that Branham claimed only God can heal, yet his angel healed and he had the gift of healing.

He would say *"I never claimed I could heal anybody, never thought I could. There is one Divine Healer, His Name is Jesus Christ!* (The Voice of Healing, p. 19 April 1952)

Then if his angel heals, he is Jesus, something we have already settled is not possible.

He would also speak of them as not the same *"the Lord Jesus, and His healing Angel at the platform ... Do you believe God has Angels of healing commissioned."* (51-0505, My Commission, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

Do angels heal? Not only does he teach his angel is a healing angel but there are other angels as well.

"But many times, the Angel of God will perform miracles." (48-0304, The Angel Of God, Phoenix, AZ)

He would also equate this angel at his meetings as being the Holy Spirit who he said was Jesus.

"And I know the Holy Spirit is here now to heal the people. I do not understand all of His works. I remember the first time ... Just after the Angel of the Lord had appeared and told me to go pray for the sick people, and He'd make--make them well, if I could get the people to believe me." (51-0413, The Works That I Do Bear Witness Of Me, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ).

Why would the Holy Spirit have him get people to believe him when the Holy Spirit's ministry is to point to, lift up and bring attention to Jesus? Getting

people to believe him becomes a human work because faith is to be toward God alone.

"I believe that it's God, the Holy Ghost flowing over this building right now, that it's the same, and heal every person in here. God is in His people." (50-0227, God In His People, Robinson Memorial Coliseum, Little Rock, AR)

So let's try to understand Branham's presentation. Branham had to wait for the angel to show up to be healed but Branham would teach that they didn't need to pray to Jesus (who Branham says is the Holy Spirit) because they already were healed by Jesus 2,000 years ago? This is tragic how confused he is, and confusing others.

He taught the Holy Spirit is Jesus, now we find Jesus can't heal but the Holy Spirit who he says IS Jesus can heal all? Branham could not get his own teaching straight.

The angel ... *That's the One that does the healing.*" (50-0711). It is clear that Branham claimed his angel healed *"And may the Angel of God, ... be here tonight to heal the sick and afflicted."* (50-0405)

In typical Branham fashion he gave an alternate explanation that directly contradicts his other explanations. He also said the angel of the Lord does not heal.

"...This Angel of God has nothing to do with the healing... The Angel does not heal; It only shows and sees visions. It's a messenger sent from God." (51-0720, The Angel Of God, Civic Auditorium, Toledo, OH).

Then we have Branham healing people from what? The Spirit within, by his stripes we are already healed, by a mental attitude called faith and by the Holy Spirit, who is his angel. Each of these are a different source he attributed healing to. Branham further divulges another way to be healed that can be added to the others.

"Now, listen. I want to tell you a secret of praying for the sick. I'm not a healer. God knows that. But

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



God has answered prayer for me many times. And the only way it can be done; you've got to enter into the fellowship of their suffering." (59-0424E, Hear Ye Him, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, San Jose, CA)

I have heard of entering into the fellowship of Jesus' sufferings as we follow him but not another person's suffering. Especially with a result to heal them.

And to annul everything he said *"It doesn't take gifts of healing to heal sick people, any person in here has a right to meet Satan anywhere, if you're a Christian, and defeat him on any grounds that he could stand on."* (50-0405, Expectation, Glad Tidings Tabernacle, New York, NY)

So then why did Branham teach of his gift?

"And as I take them one at a time as they come up here... tell them all about their diseases... Never did one of the apostles do that. Never did Jesus do that. They did not do that. Yet the gift is here to do that." (50-0821, The Angel And The Commission, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

Of course they didn't, they didn't have the healing angel.

Shhh, listen, do you want to know a secret?

In one of those transparent moments Branham tells us something that he did not divulge ever again, *"Have you noticed, always, after I ask or rebuke over a spirit, I'm always perfectly silent for a few moments? Who's noticed that in the meetings... Now, here's what it is. There's three words that I have to repeat at that time. See? And it's the three high words of the Bible. No mortal on earth know it. See? And when I ask that, and then I feel that drop, then it comes shakes back to a place in return of that spirit. Then the ...?... healed. That's the reason you hear me say that. See? That's what takes place" ... I stand still just for a few minutes and repeat these three words that the Angel of the Lord told me to repeat. Then if I feel it come back, then I*

know it's done." (48-0302, Experiences, Shriners Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

Branham spoke of these *three secret words* only once. Secret words that no one but him can know that are from the Bible? "This is the essence of the occult, secret knowledge. There are no three secret words.

Branham often used phrases of three words from the Bible, such as *from the beginning* or the last portion in a text, "*Hear Ye Him,*" or "*From That Time,*" or "*It Is I,*" or "*Be Not Afraid.* He said, "*Three words, I use them a lot of times.*" "*Believest thou this?*" and, "*Come, See A Man.*" But none of these were the three words that no mortal can know.

Consider this testimony by someone who was present at the meetings. Branham said, "*The reason I ask you to close your eyes is so you will not read my lips when I say those words.*"

Well, you know, when he said that--and I'm right in front of him, no mistaking, I heard this; I was so close to him.; I wasn't way back in the audience, or anything; I'm right there--I said to myself, "Wait a minute. What is this?" Publicly he said, "In the name of Jesus Christ, I command thee, thou foul, deaf and dumb spirit, come out of this woman." You know, he said it really loud, and with authority, but in the name of Jesus Christ. But that didn't do it. Obviously there was something else that was needed. And under his breath he said--well, you name it, whatever it was, something like "hocus. pocus", something that was given to him that was superior to the name of Jesus Christ, in his line of thinking.

This is what the angel told him. And this is the only thing that would do the job. Well, when he said that, that just hit me so hard. I said to myself, "There's something wrong here. Is there anything greater than the name of Jesus Christ?" What can be greater? To me, the name of Jesus Christ is all powerful, it is the authority, the final authority. There's nothing greater. And here he had something else that was greater. The name of Jesus Christ didn't do it; he had to go resort to some other statements, some hocus pocus stuff that did the job.

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Well, immediately I said within myself that this is occultism, this is spiritism, this is witchcraft, this is not Christian. It can't be. If the name of Jesus Christ doesn't do it, then it's something else. And that's what it was. So I became very suspicious."

(WILLIAM BRANHAM HEALING MEETING Eyewitness Report By A.H. Pohl O TIMOTHY interview

https://www.wayoflife.org/reports/william_branham_s_bogus_healings.html

Secret words have nothing to do with Jesus' teaching who said **"in secret I have said nothing"** John 18:20. Echoing Isa. 48:16 *"Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; From the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord GOD and His Spirit Have sent Me."* The "me" that was sent is the Son, Jesus.

Not only are there secret words found in Occultism but in Masonry also.

How do we get sick?

Branham taught germs are devils because he thought Jesus called diseases that.

"Jesus, when He come to destroy the works of the devil, He--that sickness is directly the work of the devil." (51-0501, Exhortation Of Divine Healing, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

He believed sickness is an attack of the devil, not from sin affecting the world. This error goes back to his view of what caused the fall recorded in Genesis.

"How many's heard me explain how diseases are germs, and germs are life. You're a germ yourself; you come from the germ of life. Is that right? Well, if you come from your--by your father and mother, a germ of life... A cancer is a germ; a cataract is a germ; a tumor is a germ; tubercular is a germ. Is that right? Where did they come from? What kind of life are they? The doctors call ... That's medical names, saying, "cancer, cataract," so forth like that. Jesus called them a devil. Is that right? And that's

what they are. And anyone knows "a devil" means "a tormentor." And it's something that's tormenting your body." (47-1102 Angel and his commission Phoenix, AZ)

So germs are devils, all sicknesses are caused by the devil not by the natural occurrences of our existence in a sin fallen world, and, according to Branham you are a germ as well.

"make sure teaching, 'cause you got to know what sickness is, and what the results, and how to get rid of it. If you don't, it'll leave you right here. I'll assure you that. But if you don't know how to fight Satan, it'll come right back to you. I seen men who...?... heal and read this Bible, being totally blind for twenty years, and in two or three days come back just as blind as they was in the first place. You don't understand. Got to know how to do it, how to take ahold, how to hold to God, and what diseases are. They're devils." (53-1104, Deep Calleth Unto The Deep, Sports Center, Owensboro, KY)

Not all sickness and disease are from demons. Branham lacked understanding of the sin that began in Genesis and how it affected the world, you cannot connect all illness to the devil.

"just recently, even cancer has been declared to be a fourth dimension disease, that it's in another dimension, sure, it's demonology. Every disease is a fourth dimension disease, the beginning of it." (55-0724, Enticing Spirits, Branham Tabernacle)

Diseases come from the fourth dimension where the demons live?

Branham did Mass exorcisms *"Come out, Satan. I adjure thee by Jesus Christ, the Son of God that you depart from this audience, of these people."* (60-0802, El-Shaddai, Eisenhower High School, Yakima, WA)

Any deformity was blamed on the Devil and ignored the world's fallen condition *"Will you come give testimony if these deformities straightens out? God, I lay my hands upon this baby, knowing that*

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



You're the One Who made the baby, and the devil has interrupted the seed of God that was planted. And now, we charge this devil in Jesus' Name, that Jesus come to correct all the mistakes that Satan did and come out of the baby." (55-1007, The Power Of Decision, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

Any sickness was the devil "Satan, thou demon of tuberculosis, I come to meet thee in the Name of Jesus Christ. Come out of the boy. I adjure thee to leave him, in the Name of Jesus Christ." (47-1207, Experiences, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

Apparently all Christians who were ill had demons of all kinds in them.

Branham also warned to those unbelievers "*if you're critic, and don't believe, I wouldn't stay in the meeting any longer. See? Because remember, diseases are demons, and they go from one to another, unbelievers. See? 'Cause I've seen some horrible things happen in the meetings. And you know what I'm talking about.*" (54-1205, We Would See Jesus, Faith Tabernacle, Binghamton, NY)

"I was just listening to a program, not to criticize anybody. But on the road here this afternoon, I was listening to a Doctor of Divinity, one of the most brilliant speakers in America, speaking on suffering. And maybe I'm wrong. If I am, God forgive me. But how can a brilliant mind like that be twisted up so in the Scripture, after being a teacher for years and years in great schools and seminaries. And he said, "Sickness was of God. That..." Said, "That we should welcome rheumatism, arthritis. If God gives it to us, just testify and spit dust in the devil's face, and say, 'I can stand and bear it, for God put it upon us for His glory.'" Whew. I can't see that. And I don't say ... And I don't believe that's intelligent. I don't believe that's ... That's not the Gospel of my Lord Jesus Christ. And God is not the author of sickness." (52-0726, Experiences, Grace Missionary Church, Zion, IL)

Branham must have missed reading a few scriptures that show God will use sickness for the Saints, that he will even chastise them with sickness. Not ALL sicknesses and trials come from Satan, nor are they

all contrary to the will of God. If this were so, there would be no divine chastisement for God's children. There are times, rarely, when Branham spoke accurately what the Scripture does on this topic.

"Now, sometimes, I will admit this, that our heavenly Father sometimes chastens us with sickness, permitting Satan to do it, to try us sometimes to--to bring us back. If we go out of the way, then our heavenly Father might let something happen to us to bring us back. But it'll only be for the good. See?" (51-0501, Exhortation Of Divine Healing, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

Branham completely discounted God's judgment or correction in extending to use sickness or circumstances. It is God who is in control and He is the one these will come from, directly or indirectly. Exodus 15:26: "*If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you.*"

God told Israel to be obedient because it was He who afflicted the Egyptians with their sicknesses. If his people (Israel) obey him He will refrain from afflicting them for chastisement, and they will stay healthy.

God does afflict and there were conditions in the Old Covenant to be healed. Remember the God of the Old Testament is the same of the New Testament.

Deuteronomy 32:39: "*Now see that I, even I, am He, and there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal.*" Exodus 15:26 and Deuteronomy 7:15, 28:60, 30:19-20, and 32:45 all teach that God can afflict people for chastisement. Consider Exodus 4:11, where the Lord speaks to Moses: "*Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD?"*"

There are too many examples of God exercising His control and can afflict man.

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



In 1 Chronicles 21:15 God sent an angel to destroy Jerusalem. 2 Chronicles 21:14-15 says: "Behold, the Lord will strike your people with a serious affliction—your children, your wives, and all your possessions; and you will become very sick with a disease of your intestines."

Heb.13:8-9 "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." This was used numerous times by Branham and is still used today for an emblem that all will be healed. But this has to do with his nature, showing he is God. That God does not change in his nature, He is the only unchangeable thing that exists. We know this is the meaning because there are all kinds of things God has changed toward man through the covenants in history. For example food, we were not allowed to eat meat but it was later permitted. He has also changed the way we interact with God without a temple and Levitical priesthood.

"Now if He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, then He will be just as He was then. Is that right? (63-0627, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, Associated Brotherhood of Christians Campground, Hot Springs, AR)

To claim God heals everyone today because Jesus healed everyone when he was on earth is no different than saying God has given us eternal life so we should not die in this life. The Bible teaches that we have to wait for this renewal of the body for us to be permanently healed of any illness in the body which comes by the resurrection. Then we receive the eternal bodies that will never die.

His personal Healing Angel

"Now, He's here now at the platform. It--it is true, dear friend. I don't know how to make you believe it, but it--it is true. And if you will not look at the man, your brother, but if you will look to what I'm speaking about, the Lord Jesus, and His healing Angel at the platform ... Do you believe God has Angels of healing commissioned." (51-0505, My Commission, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

So Jesus cannot heal but angels can? And the angel heals because he is speaking about Jesus, but Jesus who he is speaking about could not heal? How convoluted is this?

To emphasize who heals he used the Bible story of the pool at Bethesda. "And He walked by that pool and saw that great multitude of people bound by the devil: blind, halt, withered, twisted, laying there waiting maybe year after year, waiting for that Angel to come out of heaven and trouble the water.... But those who believed It was an Angel of God, It was an Angel of God for them, healing for those. So is it tonight." (50-0811, The Pool Of Bethesda, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

"That's the One that does the healing. Not I myself; I'm just a channel. Like the pool of Bethesda, it--it wasn't the water that healed; it was the Angel on the water that done the healing. It's not man that heals; it's the Spirit of God on the man that does the healing." (50-0711, Ministry Explained, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN)

So now it's the angel, who Branham calls the Spirit of God.

"And on the pool of Bethesda, ... ever who stepped in there believing, they received their healing. Is that right? ... No, it was the Angel on the water that done the healing, not the water, the Angel." (50-0227, God In His People, Robinson Memorial Coliseum, Little Rock, AR). (This was said many times by Branham)

This a bad example but his only one. And he misrepresents what the Bible says happened only once a year, it was not to everyone who stepped in. Only one person was healed, whoever got into the water first. The angel came by himself, with no human accompanying him. There is no correlation to this except for an angel being mentioned, biblically trained believers know this.

In fact this Scripture shows us that God does not heal all. Jn.5:1-15 at the pool of Bethesda were "a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame,

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water.” but when Jesus showed up he only healed one man vs.7.

“I believe that it was an Angel, not a superstition, not somebody's theology; it was an Angel that God sent down from heaven to minister to the sick and the needy. Now, if God made a provision in the--every age, would it not be no more than just that God would make a provision in this age for the sick? Well, He has.” (51-0923, The Principles Of Divine Healing, Jeffersonville High School, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham transfers this unique event of an angel to be incorporated as part of a New Covenant healing. He used this as proof for his healing angel. He also used another unusual event,

“ ... now, remember, these handkerchiefs, you've wondered about them. "Now, Brother Branham, what about them?" Your letter might be a form letter. Your answer to your letter might be a--from the secretary, but your ribbon has been personally prayed over by myself. Now, if you'll notice, many people anoint letter--anoint handkerchiefs. But if you'll examine the Bible, they wasn't anointed, they taken from the body of Paul (Is that right?) handkerchiefs or aprons. ... You say, "Well, Brother Branham, how do you ever do that?" Well, when I'm in meetings, I go down, and they send me hundreds of yards of half inch white ribbon. And I take those and go to myself in the daytime, take each one of them in my hands and pray for them, and pray that God will heal the person. And then send them back to the secretary and the different offices, and they rush those right out to the sick. The letter is a form letter, but the--the ribbon has been individually prayed over, praying with all the sincerity that I know to pray.” (47-1221, Experiences, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

So was birthed the healing handkerchief ministry. But this is not what Paul did. These were handkerchiefs Paul had on his person. To believe Branham we must ignore that it says *“God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul.* That this a unique miracle by him as an apostle that was not repeated by the other apostles. Branham would

dismiss the context and say *“and I know I'm not Saint Paul the apostle, but Jesus is still the same Lord. Bless these handkerchiefs for their intended purpose, the people that wear them, may they get well, Father. Bless us together, heal the sick, save the lost tonight.”* (53-0512 Speak to the Rock Jonesboro AR)

So Jesus could not heal but Paul could by handkerchiefs, and Branham could by handing out handkerchiefs! Among the many contradictions, this goes contrary to him teaching that you were already healed.

“And little prayer cloths is commemoration of Divine healing. Many of you believe in that, don't you? sending a handkerchief one to another?” (50-0823, Testimony, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

Did the apostle Paul teach the church is to do this for healing? Why is there no other example of it being used, why is it missing from the teaching in the church? Apostolic miracles like these are unique. After Branham it was Oral Roberts who picked up on this, as did Paul Yonggi Cho, merchandising it to the church.

The sign, The vibrations of the hand for healing

It was in the year 1946 that Branham said the Angel visited him to commission him to heal. He said to Branham *“There'll be two signs given to you, to have the people to believe you, as it was to the prophet, Moses.” Said, “First, you'll be able to detect diseases by contacting the--the person by their hand.” Said, “If you be reverent and sincere, it'll come to pass that you'll tell them the things that they've done in their heart, and the secret sins that they had, the diseases, and everything.” Said, “By this they will know then that your work is true.” (50-0713, Obey The Voice Of The Angel, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN)*

Branham described a burning hand, spots on his hand, and his hand turning white, blue or red as a detection of what ailment they had.

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"I raise my hand and it turned blue around the woman." (58-0127, Jehovah-Jireh, The Hippodrome, Waterloo, IA)

"Now, my hand...?... laid hand on her hand, which is red slightly over this...?... and the little white pimples like stopped when it healed, coming across my hand. Is that right, sir? And my other hand is normal and fine. I never moved my hand.... Never moved it up or down, exactly where it was. And my hand's absolutely white. Now, something visible happened of it, something that you could see with your eyes." (Prayer Line 47-01)

"Now, put my hand on yours. See how it swell up and turned red? See them little white things running over it? That shows that your condition is a tumor. ...Put yours on; there it is. Swells up, turned reddish black, little white things running over it, going, "Htrrr, htrrr." That's that tumor." (60-0724, The Unchangeable Word Of God, Lake County Fairgrounds, Lakeport, CA)

"you took your hand off, my hand turned normal just a way, didn't it? Now, move your hand, ..., look here; there it goes. See, see? See what I mean? Now, just lay your hand right back again, so the palm will hit on it. There it comes, see it coming again? There it is, see it swelling again, turning black." (51-0729E, The Second Miracle, National Guard Armory, Erie, PA)

In the paper (El Paso Herald - Post Dec. 17, 1947) it was reported William Branham claimed that God could not heal cancer patients unless their hands turned red or purple. (John Kennah seek ye the truth ministries)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71BWrumE1c>

The Vibrating hand

"Friends, it comes by vibrations, you can see it over my hand. My hand turns real bloody red, and white pimples jump up on it according to the disease. People don't tell me what diseases they've got. That Spirit goes down and tells them what kind of a disease they got." (47-1123 The Children of Israel)

"... Can you see those places on my hand. That's what we call vibration. Now, that's the name that I give it. It just feels like my hand getting numb. See how it looks? Now take my hand off of yours; I'll put my own hand on. Doesn't look like that now. I'll put Mr. Baxter's hand on it; still doesn't look that way. Now, put your hand right back here again. There they are. See those little white things running over my hand? That's how I knew what was wrong with you." (49-0718, I Was Not Disobedient To The Heavenly Vision, Grace Missionary Church, Zion, IL)

"But all of a sudden my hand, the one which the gift comes through, the vibrations, got real hot.... And I had on a watch, and I took hold of a woman there first that had a tumor, and the tumor stopped ... The vibrations stopped my watch. I can't pray for people with a watch on. ... It'll stop it every time, vibrations over that brand new Longines watch. It'll — it'll stop; the vibration would stop it." (47-1102 The Angel of God)

This tells us a lot about what is taking place. A hand getting hot is what is described in occult healing arts like Reiki.

His manager Frank Bosworth described "A strange sign about Branham, he had vibrations in his left hand. When the afflicting spirit would come in contact with the gift, it set up such a physical commotion that it became visible... and so real it would stop his wrist watch instantly... like taking a live wire with too much current in it. After the oppressing spirit is cast out in Jesus' name, his red and swollen hand returns to normal condition." (F. F. Bosworth, *Voice Of Healing*, March 1950, p. 10)

If this is supposed to be the power of God then we would expect any time someone is healed their watch would stop. But this took place only with Branham. This tells us something else operating, a strong electromagnetic field can make a watch stop.

"I can only heal when God says heal. I can only tell you the vibrations is gone when God stops the vibrations. Now, I can't stop them. I'm no healer; He's the Healer. But when I see them stopped,

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:
A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



they're not stopped my me; they're stopped by God."(47-1123 the Children of Israel)

"I detect vibrations. Sometimes I can ask the vibrations, and God will honor my prayer. He will send it away. That's true." (48-0302 Experiences)

Think about how he is describing how this gift from the angel functions. Nothing like this is ever described in the Scripture. What kind of healing uses hand transference? We do find these activities among those who are associated with Occultism and Mysticism. Similarities can be found by those reading of auras and the use of their hands.

In Metaphysical Occult healing it is said one hand receives energy the other hand sends it out. Occultist Alice A. Bailey spoke of occult healing practices through the hands *The hands are powerful symbols in occult healing. "It is an occult fact that the hands of a disciple ... become transmitters of spiritual energy."*

Dr. Usui discovered Reiki in the early 1900's, Reiki is the Japanese word for Universal Life.

This energy appears as a "spiritual" force that coincides through a pantheistic/ occult belief system and, only seems to "work for" those who submit themselves to it.

Many metaphysicians try to find justification with the Bible. William Lee Rand, founder of the pro-Reiki International Center for Reiki Training suggested Jesus sometimes laying hands on people to heal may have been using Reiki.

Reiki practitioners depend on "spirit guides" for healing. Healings are called attunements.

One Reiki master who has enrolled hundreds of other masters spoke of her interaction with the spirit guides: *"For me, the Reiki guides make themselves the most felt while attunements are being passed. They stand behind me and direct the whole process, and I assume they also do this for every Reiki Master, When I pass attunements, I feel their*

presence strongly and constantly. Sometimes I can see them."

Peter Duyzer points out that the vibrations was something that was found in many Indian tribes as well as psychic healers.

Branham's great grandmother *was a full blood Cherokee. He would go with her to the reservation and attend snake dances and corn dances and such. He observed witch doctors first hand."* (p.167 Legend of the Fall by Peter Duyzer)

Walter Martin was an evangelist to the cults and equipping the church with answers to the varied religious landscape we face. He had a small reference to Branham as a popular Pentecostal "prophet." *"William Marrion Branham (1909-1965), was an American psychic healer who traveled from one end of the country to the other, preaching a variety of gospels and laying hands on people in an effort to heal them."* (Walter Martin, Jill Martin Rische, Kurt Van Gorden, The Kingdom of the Occult, Thomas Nelson, 2008, p. 241)

To many who know the difference, this method of healing employed by Branham was anything but Biblical.

I'm picking up bad vibrations

Branham further explains how this works.

"First, I have to get the contact of their soul. And then when it begins to vibrate against you, then the power of the Holy Spirit just discerns right out down through their life, and you see the picture of it before you." (50-0714, At Thy Word, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN)

He even knew someone was true believer by the vibes he got. *"But I feel your spirit vibrating. It's true. You're a Christian."* (64-0401, The Identified Christ Of All Ages, 4-H Club Barn, Louisville, MS)

"Now, take this other hand, and feel it, touch that hand here. See? See what I mean? Now, it's just ... That comes right to my heart. It kind of like a "brrrr." That's that cancer. It's alive." (51-0721 - Life Of Demons, And Visions)

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"I know a man setting right in the building right now that's afflicted. ... I know he's here in the building. I feel his spirit is coming from the left side of me, over here." (47-1102 The Angel And His Commission Shriner Temple in Phoenix, AZ)

That is Spiritism not Christianity.

"Only way I knew the people, was when they had a germ disease. It would vibrate over my hand. Remember me telling you that it'd come a time where the people secrets of their heart would be known?" (51-0413, The Works That I Do Bear Witness Of Me, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

*"Knowing this stomach trouble bothers him and this demon is now vibrating against my hand, for he knows that his hour has come to depart from." (50-0810, Expectations, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)
"So this demon that's now vibrating against this gift of God." (55-1008, The Results Of Decision, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)*

So Branham is picking up vibrations from demons. Is there such a gift mentioned or demonstrated in Scripture? No, and one should consider this type of interaction by the Bible.

He would explain to audience exactly what happens with this hand *"There'd be a germ of death on her to kill her. And it would vibrate if I have the anointing of the Holy Spirit here with me. Yes, sir, it's positive. You got stomach trouble. That's right, isn't it? Raise your hand if that's right. Here it is. She got an ulcerated stomach. You see well? I want to show you something. I want you to look at my hand here. See how that hand looks swollen, them little white things bouncing on it there, running over it. See? Now, take your other hand over here, so that you'll see; turn this hand over. Now, it isn't there, just normal, white, not swollen, just an ordinary man's hand, isn't it? All right, now put your other hand right over on it. Now, look at it. See the difference in it how it swells, see them little white things running over it? That's how I knew you. It's a vibration... [Brother Branham illustrates.--Ed.] a germ. See?" (60-0720, Be not Afraid, It Is I, Lake County Fairgrounds, Lakeport, CA)*

"Laying hands on sick, anointed, it's not me that's doing these things. I don't know them. I don't know the people. I don't know you. But see, there's something in you that would kill you. See? And that is the devil, a spirit, a lie something, eating, a life that's trying to take your life. That's the reason it vibrates back. Now, you just watch so you be sure to look. Now, look here. It ain't the way I move my hand, 'cause them--them white things look... See my hand here. See? Now, look, I'll take this hand of yours. See? I take your left hand. Now, it doesn't do it there. Now, put this one here. Now, there it is. See?" (61-0424, The Greatest News Flash In History, Stephen Mather High School, Chicago, IL)

Apparently Christians had demons in them (that are germs) and Branham connected with the demon that affected his hand by vibrations (going numb) and spots showing up. He would use the name of Jesus to convince people this was a gift from God.

Feelings in the hand were also described by both Oral Roberts and Kenneth Hagin contemporaries of Branham. Like Branham Kenneth E. Hagin went on to claim: *"He went on instruct me that when I would pray and lay hands upon the sick I was to lay one hand on each side of the body. If I felt the fire jump from hand to hand, and evil spirit or demon was present in the body causing the affliction. I should call him out in His name and the demon or demons would have to go. If the fire, or anointing, in my hand does not jump from hand to hand, it is a case of healing only ... When the fire, or the anointing, leaves my hands and goes into his body, I will know he is healed."* (Hagin, Kenneth, I Believe In Visions, p. 51.)

Today's mimics of Branham

"as I pray for you all. And you'll be healed, every one of you, right now, every one that will believe it." (64-0415, Christ Is Identified The Same In All Generations, Mckay Auditorium, Tampa, FL)

To present a guarantee of healing to all the people who believe they will be healed was never said to anyone. Scripture says Jesus healed them all. He just did it. He did not say he would do it.

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



No one has emulated Branham's crusades and teachings in our day more than Benny Hinn, "There will be no sickness for the saint of God.... If your body belongs to God, it does not and cannot belong to sickness." (Rise and Be Healed! pp. 14, 62 1991.)

"He promises to heal all - every one, That means-not even a headache, sinus problem, not even a toothache - nothing! No sickness should come your way" (Rise and Be Healed! p.32)

"The day is coming, I tell you this, I knew it like I know my name, the day is coming there will not be one sick saint in the body of Christ. Nobody will be, nobody's gonna be, no one will be raptured out of a hospital bed. You're all gonna be healed before the rapture." (Benny Hinn, "Praise the Lord," 7/8/96)

Actually it is the transformation event of the rapture/resurrection that heals us all. We can see that Hinn learned his doctrine from Branham who said the same things. Hinn, being a big proponent of the healing movement, did all he could for a continuance of the healing movement associated with Oral Roberts and others.

The god who heals ANYONE by faith

"there's not one speck of medicine ever did cure any sickness. And there's not one doctor, now 'less he's some quack, but a real doctor will tell you that they do not claim to be healers." (53-0608A, Demonology, Physical Realm, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN)

"Medicine doesn't heal. Doctors don't say it heals." (53-0613, God's Provided Way, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN)

Branham would later say something different. "God heals by music. God heals by love. See? God heals by medicine. God heals by prayer. God has many ways of healing." (63-0428, Look, Jesus Name Church, Phoenix, AZ)

For the most part he taught "We have nothing that'll heal. No medicine heals; God heals." (61-0224, Be Not Afraid, Fairgrounds Auditorium, Tulare, CA)

Branham had the view much like Christian Science that only God heals; doctors and medicine do not. But God is not against medicine, otherwise the Holy Spirit would not have titled Luke "the beloved physician" (Col. 4:14).

Medicines are chemicals or compounds used to ease symptoms, to halt or prevent disease; it has the intention of maintaining and restoring [health](#) to the body. When Branham takes the position that all medicines are a placebo and it is God that heals. It goes contrary to what he taught about having only faith and its source being the atonement.

"Now, there's not a medicine in the world can heal you. Now, remember that. There's no medicine, no doctor, no clinic, ever healed one person. All healing comes from God. Could you hear that? All healing is from God. I believe that God's Word is so infallible that there is not one iota of It that's wrong." (58-0312, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, National Guard Armory, Harrisonburg, VA)

When an atheist goes to a doctor and gets antibiotics or some medicine, Branham wants us to accept that these are all placebos and that God healed them. Really? If you take a Tylenol for pain, that didn't actually remove the pain? If medicine does not heal in any way than you can give someone a placebo and as long as they believe it heals, when healed it was God who healed them. We know that is simply not true.

He went further in his own belief system. He even stated that those in the occult, witch doctors, sorcerers and other religions, are healed by God; that whenever someone is healed it's really God doing it. That was his position that was certifiably unbiblical.

He spoke of mental healing (known as mentalism)

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



A "man getting up from a wheelchair, that could be mental healing." (60-0302, From That Time, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ)

"Think of that. It's more of a challenge than to walk down to this woman in a wheelchair and say, "Stand up and walk." Certainly. She could actually do that through psychic power. That's right: mental. She could do it in Christian Science faith. It's been done." (61-0205E, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, Central Assembly Of God, Tucson, AZ)

Branham admits one can be healed from false spiritual beliefs. That is some of the worst logic spiritually applied, it is a teaching that can deceive a person. Can psychic, mental abilities heal, but Jesus can't? God's Word read in context did not mean that God heals everyone, even unbelievers.

Mary Baker Eddy who founded Christian Science called it *The Principle of divine metaphysics*, which is God. She concluded the Mind governs the body; that Jesus demonstrated the power of Christian Science to heal mortal minds and bodies. She taught this power that was lost must again be spiritually discerned, taught, and demonstrated according to Christ's command, with "signs following."

"There's no one can heal you outside of God. God is the only Healer. Psalms 103:3." (1958-0301E, Hear Ye Him, Memorial Auditorium, Chattanooga, TN)

Let's understand what he is proposing, if psychic, mental abilities can heal, then they are from God, or at the least approved by Him.

Branham went as far as to say a person's faith could be placed in an idol, and they would still be healed by God, because of their faith; as God is the only healer.

But I said, "I seen witch doctors in Africa. People go to idols and get healed." "Over in France there's an idol setting up that people go by, goes by that idol, and the doctors go by, and look at the people as they go by, and they get healed. That

wooden or stone idol doesn't heal them. Neither does the witch doctor heal them. Neither does the divine healer heal them. Those people think they are approaching God. And upon the basis of, not your salvation, but on the basis of your faith, God has to honor that faith." (57-0226, Sirs, We Would See Jesus, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ)

Does this sound like the God of the Scriptures, to heal those who believe in idols, or false gods? Will an unclean spirit, a demon leave because of faith in an idol, or a false religion? Remember Branham taught demons caused all sickness. What minister of the gospel would say such folly on faith and idols? The Devil must have done a Pentecostal jig when he heard this. So if you believe you will be healed, you will be healed. Then it doesn't matter what god you believe in, in fact what would be the advantage of believing in the true God? What kind of prophet would say such nonsense?

Can one be involved in false worship practices and God still respond to their (false) faith which is placed in an object or another god? If one is healed by faith in an idol, God had nothing to do with it. An unbeliever, an idolater does not have faith in the true God but a false god.

The Bible itself tells us this is not so. 1 Cor. 10:14 Paul says to flee from idolatry, which is listed as a work of the flesh, fallen man. In Col.3:5 he says the wrath of God is coming upon those involved with the practices of idolatry.

Benny Hinn came to a similar conclusion as Branham. He said that the Holy Spirit told him about faith words "...that if witches and occultists can speak death by the supernatural power of words, then Christian can speak life and prosperity by the same power." (Benny Hinn, sermon Dec. 1, 1990, Orlando Christian Centre, WACX-TV Channel 55. Quoted from *The Facts on the Faith Movement*, J. Ankerberg & J. Weldon, Harvest House, 1993, p.23.)

Kenneth Hagin repeated what Branham taught "*It used to bother me when I'd see unsaved people getting results [miracles], but my church members*

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



not getting results. Then it dawned on me what the sinners were doing- They were cooperating with this law of God-the law of faith." (Kenneth Hagin, *Having Faith in Your Faith* (Rhema, 1980), pp. 3-4).

Branham even quoted the Bible to validate this teaching "*Psalms 103:3 said, "I'm the Lord Who heals all your diseases." If there could be anything else heal you besides God, then God told something wrong.*"(58-0312, *Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever*, National Guard Armory, Harrisonburg, VA)

Could it be that it is his own flawed understanding of what God said? Maybe he should have looked at the portion of this scripture prior. Ps. 103:3 "*Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities.*"

How can this be applied to all who are healed, to those who do not believe and deny Christ when the Psalmist is blessing the Lord as the source.

In v. 7 the Psalmist also says "*He made known His ways to Moses.*" What was it He made known? Ex. 15:26 "*If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you.*"

So we see that God afflicts AND heals, it's not just Satan who afflicts. But God has a different purpose when this is done, Satan destroys, God builds faith.

Branham came to his conclusion because he taught Satan can only afflict. Therefore only God is the healer. Everyone agrees Satan can afflict an illness, a disease, but what if he lifts that affliction? He can at times remove what he himself put on the person where they no longer have that illness or disease. It does not mean Satan actually healed the person but his influence was removed which makes it look like the person was healed by God. It would look like a

healing, that is why his miracles are called LYING signs and wonders. It looks like it came from God, it deceives the undiscerning. Discernment is an absolute necessity when it comes to the supernatural. It means you can distinguish the truth from error, the counterfeit from the genuine.

God does not heal those who do idol worship. Here is why so many in the signs and wonders movement are confused; they listen to this kind of teaching like Branham's.

Before he spoke this statement on seeing witch doctors heal and people go to idols and are healed, *But I said,*(to a Lutheran minister) "*I want to ask you something, my dear brother. On your condemning me for saying the devil could--couldn't heal, the devil cannot heal.*" *And I said, "Jesus said he could not heal; and if Jesus said he could not heal, that settles it as far as I'm concerned."*

Exactly where did Jesus say Satan could not heal? Branham insisted, "*Jesus said, 'Satan cannot heal.'*" (60-0731, *Show Us The Father And It Will Satisfy Us*, Eisenhower High School, Yakima, WA)

So why are we warned by Jesus about great signs and wonders counterfeited by Satan, would these not include healing? Did not Jesus' signs and wonders included healing?

He insisted Satan cannot heal, yet he said Satan can impersonate any gift. "*Divine healing is a gift of the Holy Ghost, and here Beatles are doing it. See? Satan can impersonate any of those gifts.*"... "*Look at these Beatles now going to impersonate Divine healing.*" (64-0823E, *Questions And Answers #2*, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN,

Which becomes a major contradiction within his own teaching framework.

Another response, *But I said, "Then you were, keep pushing me about me--my theology, saying, 'That a devil could not heal.'" I said, "I'll give you Jesus." [Blank.spot.on.tape--Ed.] You can't make the Scripture, get all bundled up, you got to keep it clear and straight. That's right. I said, "Jesus said, 'Satan cannot heal,' and you said, 'He healed.'" Now, I said, "Now, if you'll pardon me." I said, "I--I*

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:
A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



will give what, about your witch that you've got in your neighborhood." I said, "If ... 'Course those people get healed." Because, I said, "In Africa, I've seen them go to idols and get healed. In Las Alderaines they got a monument there of some dead woman, in a Catholic church. They go there and look at that dead woman, say a 'Hail Mary,' and get healed. Sure, because the people think they're approaching God through that, and God heals on the basis of faith, and wherever faith's met God's got to meet that requirement." That's right.. (60-0731, Show Us The Father And It Will Satisfy Us, Eisenhower High School, Yakima, WA)

Faith in what? True faith has an object. Jesus said to have faith in God, not just have faith. If your faith is not in the true God then it is not genuine faith. But to Branham, faith was a mental attitude, in essence a force. And if you think you are approaching God, he responds. So truth has nothing to do with the faith Branham taught. It's what you think, mentalism?

Is God always the healer no matter what! God tells us to avoid idolatry, he does not wink at it. Branham describe witches and idolaters having God heal through them, which is detestable. He excuses those in Roman Catholicism that are healed by Mary and icons and dead saints. Again, Benny Hinn follows in Branham's footsteps "*People have been healed going to Lourdes and Fatima. There was a pool, even in the Bible, the pool of Bethesda, where the angels stirred the water -- people were also healed. So God has given us many avenues of healing. He wants us to be healed.*" (April 23, 1998 Larry King Live)

To consider that Branham would say healings by faith are genuine when one prays to Virgin Mary statues or goes to these apparition sites is beyond credulity.

Branham even spoke of people being healed by his photograph with the light over his head. "*A lady in the hospital recently had one setting on her desk. She was looking at it, not at me, but the Angel of the Lord, in this form of a halo like. And she said, the picture begin to mill, the... come right out and hung*

over her. She got up and went home, well." (50-0714 At Thy Word Minneapolis MN)

Isn't that like the Catholic or Greek orthodox icons?

Branham tells another story of "*a Baptist, if I'm not mistaken, ... he was in the hospital with a real bad case of cancer. The doctor's had give him up. And his lovely, sweet wife, she said, "Lord God, I don't know where Brother Branham is." She went and got that picture, and set it down on the floor, and knelt down. And she said, "Oh, Angel of God, Whose picture is on this paper, send Brother Branham to me, right quick."* Branham says she left the room to the street, "*And just as she got to the corner, I was at the corner. There it was. She told me about Brother Burns, and the Lord God brought him from the hospital. Here he stands today, after witnessing?*" (58-0330A, A Missionary Talk, Middletown High School, Middletown, OH)

This doesn't seem to bother his followers that this icon, like the Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholics. Now we know how we have those who claim to be Pentecostal sending trinkets, handkerchiefs, and "holy" water to people to release their faith.

James explains what kind of faith results in salvation. If it is true faith it is alive. And to be alive, faith must be in the true God. So if we take Branham's teaching and apply it elsewhere, if they come to be forgiven a different way, God is obligated to forgive them?

Branham describes faith as some power in us (our soul) that overrides idolatry. He called it a sixth sense. But the Bible has a lot to say against Branham's humanistic philosophy. Branham's faith healing did not require faith in God, it just required faith. This kind of faith is aptly called "faith in faith itself."

"It's God that's got the faith. And just as you're filled with God, you're filled with faith." (56-0722 All Things Are Possible to Him That Believeth Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA)

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Then how do unbelievers have faith where God responds with a miracle of healing? There is not a genuine faith. This contradicts what he said of God healing those who do not know him. If God heals those who exercise faith in idols then he is not the God of truth, of his word. Furthermore, if what Branham said is true why would God care that Cain brought the wrong sacrifice? He truly believed it was sufficient. These were his spiritual gymnastics to explain his gift.

Branham's view "*Satan can impersonate, but he can't heal.*" (54-0809E, The Manifestation Of Thy Resurrection To The People Of This Day, Shriner Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

2 Cor. 11:14-15 "*For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness.*" (Branham never taught on this; not once)

What about transforming oneself to look like they or their spokesman have the power of God?

"*If Satan can heal, God told something wrong. Jesus said Satan cannot heal.*" (58-0126, Hear Ye Him, The Hippodrome, Waterloo, IA)

Jesus never said Satan can't heal, or do miracles. He (and Paul) made it very clear Satan can do signs and wonders that look like they are from God but he is not the source. (Mt.24:24; 2 Thess. 2:9)

And Jesus warned us that lying signs would be increased in last days.

Matt 24:23-24 "*For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.*"

Paul also said in 2 Thess. 2:9-10 "*The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders.*" This certainly includes healing. He can make a counterfeit look like a genuine healing from God.

If only God heals than the people healed by worship of an idol and false gods has God heal them. Then God's word become meaningless.

There is a limit to the Devils ability but he can exercise spiritual power, he can do miracles he can even give visions as he did to Jesus Matt 4:8-9 showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. Clearly these were the present and included the future.

The temporary healing of God

Not all who were promised to be healed were, many died. Branham had an excuse for this; that one can lose their healing if they do not keep the faith. Ever hear of this today? Of course you have, from Benny Hinn.

Once the diagnosis was uttered by Branham the recipient left the platform to accept their healing. And on their way out, they could purchase a pamphlet written by Gordon Lindsay entitled "Divine Healing in the Branham Campaigns," which described how their sickness would return if their faith wavered. (Gordon Lindsay, Divine Healing in the Branham Campaigns) https://www.google.ca/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=2ahUKEwjto8CEiY_dAhXGz1MKHWt9AwgQFjAAegQIABAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.livingwordbroadcast.org%2FLWBPublications%2FOtherBooks%2FDivine_Healing_in_the_Branham_Campaigns.rtf&usq=AOvVaw05oWaOB0vymdeFtRPdv310

"the gift of God will drive it from you. See? But in order to obtain and remain with it, you must have faith to believe and just keep it.

"I've seen people come to the platform that was totally blind, couldn't even see their hands before them. And in less than five minutes, take this same Bible and read a chapter out of it. And so three or four days more, come right back just as blind as they was in the first place. They get out amongst unbelievers, and get out, and let Satan stand right... If you can read it here before the gift, you can read it out there anywhere, for God covers the whole earth. Just keep faith in Him. You say, "Well, that's strange." ... A man can be here tonight and receive

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and be a real Christian right here tonight, and tomorrow be a real Christian, and a week from now, be in a barroom drunk. Isn't that right? It's when he loses faith in God and goes back. Same thing is by healing." (50-0714, At Thy Word, Tent Meeting, Minneapolis, MN)

Someone said, "Does the healings last?" They last as long as faith lasts. But when faith fails, then your healing will fail." (50-0100 Diseases and Afflictions)

"Divine healing lasts just as long as faith lasts (That's right.), just as long as faith last." (58-1002, From The beginning It Was Not So.) It is up to your belief to keep it.

Remember, to Branham faith is a right mental attitude. So it's up to you to heal yourself and keep the healing. Thank God for his grace and we don't have to depend on ourselves in these matters. I'm so glad it's not up to me to keep a healing or salvation but it's through Him, His grace. And He has grace to those who stumble. Branham speaks of the New Covenant as a conditional covenant like the Old covenant.

Does God use someone this confused with several explanations of how healing occurs. It should be obvious to any careful observer that he waited for the angel to come, and if he did not show up he could heal no one. Therefore healing in Branham's meetings did not come from faith, nor from within.

Branham forged the new outreach as "Healing revivals" that were basically for believers. Unlike a gospel meeting that would center on salvation by the message Jesus told us to give as priority.

Branham expected those present at the meetings to accept his gift as authentic. If one questioned it then they were not using faith. This is why when asked they would say they were healed.

Sometimes Branham would use the fear of God on his followers to NOT test him.

Apologetic/Researcher John Kennan reports: *Branham would frequently tell his congregation about a man who tried to prove him to be false by writing fictitious illnesses on his prayer card, and then would stand in the prayer line expecting Branham to correctly identify his illnesses as mentioned on the prayer card. Every time Branham told this story, the outcome of what happened to his man would change:*

"The man received the diseases that he wrote on his card and was still suffering from them (1953).

The man had died from his diseases (1954).

The man was bedfast "to this day" (1956).

The man ran screaming from the auditorium when Mr. Branham publicly exposed his plan (1956).

The man died a year after the incident (January 1957).

The man was still in "serious condition" (June 1957)

The man died 6 months after the incident from cancer (1958).

The man was carried from the auditorium paralyzed and is still paralyzed (1958—note that in 1956 Mr. Branham said he ran screaming from the building).

The man died on the platform sixty seconds after Mr. Branham exposed him (1961).

The man died six weeks after the meeting (1962)."

—

<http://people.delphiforums.com/johnk63/teachings.htm#urevealed>

Three reports of the same incident are a conflict, but when you have 7 or more reports it becomes convoluted.

One must decide whether the Bible or Branham is telling the truth because there is no agreement but conflict on how, or from whom healing comes from.

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Chapter 27

The Operation of Occultism - The Gift

This probably the most important section of this book. As we examine Branham's gift and how it functioned and compare to other spiritual systems.

"Branham does recall as a young man, he was approached more than once 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. She was able to give his exact date of birth even to the time of 5 o'clock in the morning. She said that when the planets cross again as they did in Christ's time. "He sends another gift to the earth." And said you were born on the crossing of that time ... that is the reason I knew it" (Footprints on the Sands of Time, p.78).

How do those Astrologers trafficking in the Occult know what the Bible does not say? Why would Branham believe this? Because his angel told him that even the devil has to acknowledge God.

Branham spoke about having this gift from birth *"Now, to me, gifts and callings of this type is not by laying on of hands. You're born with these gifts. See? You come in the world with them. Now, just as natural for me to see a vision as it is for you to take a drink of water when you're thirsty. See?" (55-0228, Separation From Unbelief, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)*

He came to this conclusion by believing you existed before you were born. Apparently no one else had this gift in all of history.

Branham made it a point to say *"I had a dream, the other morning. I don't dream very often. I'm not a dreamer."* (65-112 Works is Faith expressed Shreveport, LA)

What's the point of saying this if you supposedly have thousands of visions when awake?

"I'm forty-seven. I have seen thousands of the visions by the grace of God. And I have never at one time ever seen it wrong." (57-0301, Blind Bartimaeus, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ)

It's not about what he sees but what the source of the vision is. He even saw a vision before he was born which according to his own philosophy he was not alive. *"It's by a vision that God gave me, when I was a little baby in my mother's womb."* (52-0720E, Who Has Believed Our Report?, Civic Center, Hammond, IN).

Before he was alive? Branham taught we are not alive until we are out of the womb. So this is not possible.

In explaining his gift, *"It's something you're born with. Now, visions to me, the first thing I can remember, I wasn't two years old, I guess, when I saw my first vision. And there's been tens of thousands of them and not one of them has ever been wrong (See?)."* (60-0720, Be not Afraid, It Is I, Lake County Fairgrounds, Lakeport, CA)

The visions never being wrong was something he repeated. He had more visions than any single prophet had, more visions than all the prophets throughout Biblical history had combined.

In his first vision the details do not match.

"At about fifteen, eighteen months old I had my first vision. I was standing near a little branch and something spoke to me from the bush and said you're going to live near a city called New Albany." (53-1104, Deep Calleth Unto The Deep, Sports Center, Owensboro, KY; 57-0421E, And Their Eyes

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Were Opened And They Knew Him, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

"When I was about three or four, between three and four years old, He spoke to me. I was in the mountains of Kentucky, said, "You'll live near a city called New Albany." (57-0811E, Expectations And Leadings Of The Spirit, Edmonton Arena, Edmonton, AB)

At seven years old: "...and there, One spoke to me from out of a tall poplar tree, that said, "Don't you never smoke, drink, or defile your body, for there's a work for you do when you get older." ...Then a few days after that, setting... That was my first vision." (52-0713A, Early Spiritual Experiences, Civic Center, Hammond, IN)

Now he has three first visions at different ages.

"One of the first things I can remember, it seems strange, but I remember when I was yet crawling. ... And I was crawling on an old cabin floor, way in the mountains of Kentucky where I was born. And I was eating snow off of some man's foot. That was the first thing I can remember. And the next thing I remember was God speaking to me in a vision, and telling me that I'd spend a bigger part of my life near a city called New Albany." (54-0719A, God's Provided Way Of Healing, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL).

Exactly how many times was he told he would move and spend his time at a city called New Albany? And this one is at an age where he can barely speak or understand words.

His first vision recollection sounds similar to Joseph Smith's recollection, with several different accounts.

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"And I begin to see these visions and things that always happened. It would scare me.

My brethren said to me, said, "That's of the Devil." My Baptist brethren said, "That's of the Devil."

I said, "You know, I'll just be standing, and," I said, "the first thing you know, it'll go into like a trance, like, or something." I said, "I see things that always happen." (64-0427, A Trial, Ramada Inn, Tucson, AZ).

The devil can predict disasters, after all he causes many of them. This is the basis of how psychics predict or see by remote viewing. Clairvoyants are said to be able to see and hear these records. Psychics are also able to give accurate details of peoples past or present. How? They are in touch with familiar spirits.

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Branham was helpless in discerning or contending in a battle that was not of flesh or blood. The Devil wants us to accept his words as God's word, as the truth. It may sound logical and even similar to what the scripture says, but what Branham had been experiencing is far beyond the Scripture.

The fact that Branham had visions before he was "converted," and there was no change in them except that he now attributed them to God and his angel, does not make it so. Branham used Jesus' name as proof what he was experiencing was of God or what they would receive was Biblical. As we look at his descriptions of how and what occurred it will become evident that some other supernatural power was at work.

If we go back to the night the angel commissioned him what he described is disconcerting, "*And I prayed and I prayed. And I was setting there praying, holding my mind with a power that reaches the spheres on in, beyond the moon and stars, and the fogs, gets a hold of God way in yonder somewhere. Setting there meditating, thinking on God...*" (50-0821, The Angel And The Commission, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

Seems he was implementing some other type of spiritual exercise liken to pray but was more powerful. The results does seem connected to this exercise. However the descriptions Branham gives of going into other realms and dimensions may explain it better.

Spirit realms

"During time of these services like this, I'm under a very much of a nervous strain; anyone knows that, especially when visions are seen. You're living in two worlds at the same time. You're in a dimension that the world knows nothing about; there's no way to explain it." (53-0830A, Why I Am A Holy-Roller, Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, Chicago, IL)

However, Branham does explain it.

"when it comes time for God to use me, He takes me somewhere I don't know nothing about. And then

when I'm coming back, I lose all sight and thoughts of places, time, and where it is. If there's a place where here on earth, we can rise into that spirit realm there; there's a place there where we go when we leave this body." (51-0720, The Angel Of God, Civic Auditorium, Toledo, OH)

Branham is describing where he goes during his trance is the same place where we go when we die, but it is not heaven, but called the spirit realm and it is right next to or integrated to our dimension.

"it puts me in another dimension. To the scientist it's the--the other dimension. To you Christians, it's in the Spirit." (54-1207, At Thy Word, Lord, I'll Let Down The Net, Endicott Johnson Recreation Center, Johnson City, NY)

What Branham describes as being in the Spirit is a whole other explanation than the Bibles. "*I will become unconscious.... You go into another conscience, another dimension.*" (54-0314, Why I'm Praying For The Sick, Southland Theater, Columbus, OH)

"Maybe you're in just the three dimensions. This is another dimension. It's moving in on me. But it's a spirit. You see? It's in another world." (55-1115, Blind Bartimaeus, Tent Meeting, San Fernando, CA)

Branham continually described in these terms: "*going into another world, another dimension, another realm.*" "*in another world, in a dimension, another world.*" (60-0731, Show Us The Father And It Will Satisfy Us, Eisenhower High School, Yakima, WA)

When he was seeing a vision he described it as "*I am living now in another dimension in a spirit world.*" "*I'm looking at something else; it's another dimension.*"

And he would ask others "*Now, I honestly, my dear brother, sister, if you would just enter into that other--that other dimension now, enter that realm...*" (51-0928, At Thy Word, St. Nicholas Arena, New York, NY)

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"See? It's the Angel of the Lord. See? I am living now in another dimension (See?) in a spirit world. Now, I want to pray for you while this anointing." (56-0200, Contending For The Faith, Georgetown High School, Georgetown, IN; also Prayer Line 56-01)

"When you move, each one's a spirit. And with you moving, it interrupts the contact that I have with the spirit world, which is the Angels of God and the Holy Spirit, in the audience." (56-0611, Hear Ye Him, Cadle Tabernacle, Indianapolis, IN)

"Last night, what caused me, I lost two or three visions. See, people behind you, it's spirit everywhere. See? And each one of you has a spirit or you'd be dead. And those spirit is what we contact." (56-0428, God's Covenant With Abraham, Abundant Life Center, Charlotte, NC)

So he contacts man's spirit. He explaining having interference in his visions because of so many spirits in the audience.

The spirit world is more associated with psychic's metaphysicians, the Bible does not speak of a spirit world describing someone going in and out of it.

Other worldly visions

"It's all in the spiritual realm." (53-0609A, Demonology, Religious Realm, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN)

Someone asked *"What are you watching, Brother Branham?"* *I'm watching Him. It's another world; it's another dimension, if you want to call it that. It's in the spirit world."* (58-1221M, Where Is He, King Of The Jews?, Branham Tabernacle)

Being in another dimension is descriptive of astral travel and other metaphysical practices in the Occult. The spirit world according to spiritualism, is a world or realm inhabited by spirits that cause various spiritual manifestations to take place in our world.

Speaking of a vision of a man " I never seen him in my life. Just now, I couldn't tell you what was told him. It's something another about an operation; I know. But now, you wonder what happened. See? It was breaking into another dimension, ever-which you want to call it that. I call it into another world. It perhaps told him things of what he did in his life, what's taken place, maybe years and years ago." (53-0607E, A Testimony, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN)

Remote viewing is where the "viewer" is seeing something that is inaccessible to ones normal senses. For example, a viewer might describe seeing an event that happened in one's past.

"You break into another dimension. See? Sometimes I don't know how loud I'm talking. Just imagine standing here now, talking, and something that happened back yonder forty years ago, and in spirit I'm back there with them, where that's a happening. And knowing I'm talking, don't know where my voice is ... I know I'm supposed to be here in this tabernacle." (53-0512, Speak To The Rock, Bible Hour Tabernacle, Jonesboro, AR)

Branham spoke of this as being in two worlds, here and a different dimension. *"You're in--you're in two dimensions at one time, two phases. You're here and you're looking at something that's happened maybe back when you was a little girl, something that went on in your life somewhere. And then--and then you're at two places the same time. And I'm talking, yet I'm somewhere else, yet I'm conscious that I... In body form I'm standing on the platform."* (53-0606, An Ensign, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN).

"And now, after a bit, of course, the anointing gets on me. I become in something like subconscious, it's a dimension. Let me explain it one more time. If you'd go into another world, you're not in this world; you're in another world, and yet you know you're here, and yet you're somewhere else. ... Just put yourself there one time tonight; like you set there, went to sleep and dreamed something and it was really real, and here it was right with you, why,

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



it'd scare you to death. See? And now, time after time, remember where it takes you to.” (53-1206e, Do You Now Believe?, American Legion Hall, West Palm Beach, FL)

“when that anointing once strikes,... Just looks like It's near all the time. There's something; it's another world, like two worlds, you break over into this world and this world, and you--you stay in it too long, you hardly know just ... Now, when leaving the platform, when It comes on, I feel like, oh, I was up in the heavens. But when It's off of me, I feel good. But in-between those times, it's seems like you're just stepping off the world. You--you can't walk, and you--you hear pe... I don't know how you do feel. No need of me trying to explain it. You can't explain God; you got to believe God. It's not ... You can't explain it; it's by faith.” (53-1106, Do You Now Believe?, Sports Center, Owensboro, KY)

The question that needs to be addressed is whether this anointing is from God he is describing or the intrusion of supernaturalism from an angel of light who also has an anointing that produces mystical experiences.

“My --ministry is praying for the sick. And in order to do that, I must come into another world that the people know nothing about. There's just no need of trying to explain it; you--you can't do it. And I go to fasting about three days before my service, and it lifts me up into a sphere there,... That's just it. It goes into another dimension that sees things and so forth.” (51-1003, Believest Thou This?, Unknown, New York, NY)

Branham thought of himself as having special abilities that no one in the church had nor could understand (especially the way he would explain it). This certainly put him in a separate category from the prophets.

“You remember Elijah down at Dothan that morning, when the boy said, “Oh, the armies of the Syrians are upon us.” He said, “There's more with us than there is with them.” He couldn't see nobody.

He said, “God, open this young man's eyes.” And when He opened his eyes, around that old prophet was--was Angels of fire and chariots of fire.... Then there's more with us than there is with them. And that's the dimension now, by being born.” (55-1115, Blind Bartimaeus, Tent Meeting, San Fernando, CA)

Branham used the story of Elisha (mistakenly calling him Elijah) when he and his servant were surrounded by the enemy chariots, he prayed for the young man's eyes to be opened (recorded in 2 Kings 6:17). The “young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire.” He saw what Elisha knew was there by his trust in the Lord. This was a one time occurrence that cannot be used except in its historic background. Neither one of them continued to see the chariots nor did they go to where the chariots were located. So Branham's point fails.

“Now, a seer, his subconscious is like that. He stands there; he doesn't go to sleep. He's got both eyes wide open, but he's in another world. And when he comes out of that, he remembers what he seen back there for a time perhaps. And then--then the first thing you know, he goes away again. And seeing visions, he has nothing to do with it. God does it alone. But that's just exactly the same thing that Jesus Christ did when He was here on earth.” (54-0620E, Divine Healing, K.R.N.T. Theater, Des Moines, IA)

Is that how Jesus operated? Seeing a vision being carried away into another world, a different dimension? Do you believe Jesus went into another dimension by a vision to be instructed by the Father? Scripture please?

He described it as “just cold wave after wave; then here comes faith moving in, here comes a cold wave moving in. Waves, channels, just like this radio or whatever, television. Television is waves, it materializes as the waves are brought in on a certain kind of a crystal, or whatever it is.

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



“And so does the power of Almighty God materialize. Vision materialize in front of you just like radio, and just like television...” (51-0929, Our Hope Is In God, St. Nicholas Arena, New York, NY)

“and now in this dimension which is now, it just keeps breaking like a breath. I see It look real milky before us. Now, It just moves out. And here it just like a fading in, coming in. That's the way you can feel it, just like waves. Now, here It comes again, in like that, moves back.” (54-0331, The Resurrection Of Jairus' Daughter, The Church Of The Open Door, Louisville, KY)

“When you receive it, the revelation, something slips out of the unseen world yonder, comes rolling down through a mystical channel somewhere into your soul, that says, “Now I see it.” (54-0719A, God's Provided Way Of Healing, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

Enter the Spirit Matrix

“Howdy do, sir? [Blank.spot.on.tape--Ed.] You are sure that you're in contact with is not your brother. It's something in a spiritual realm. Isn't that true? Now, that very same fire that's on that picture that the mechanical eye of the camera caught, is right now moving between me and you. Being in another dimension, or another world, I see It and you feel It. Now, if that's true, raise up you hand. Then if that is the Holy Spirit, and now being in another world, and yet knowing there's somebody in front of me, fading and moving around, then God is able to make known to me what is your trouble, or what you're desiring.” (54-0403, The Hand Of The Lord Came Upon Him, The Church Of The Open Door, Louisville, KY)

He encouraged others to experience the same *“I want everybody to be reverent; I want you enter right in now to the spiritual realm. I want you to believe, and pray, and hold with me now while I'm here. This is a church house; the meetings are to raise up into a place now to where it be far beyond*

the other place.” (51-0928, At Thy Word, St. Nicholas Arena, New York, NY)

More than 4 dimensions

“... there is a true representation in the spiritual realms of the other dimension. From being in the three dimensions, then the sixth dimension has its representation.” (62-0909M, Countdown, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham taught of another dimension within reach of ours that has people living.

“But now, I don't know what I'm saying. I can hear myself, but I'm in another world--another... It's a--it's a sixth sense, or a fourth dimension, it's--or whatever it is. It's in the dimension that these pictures and things ...?.... Or the voices, that's coming through here, even taped singers, singing now; there's people screaming; there's all kinds of things going on, air waves going through here, but you can't pick it up. A radio could. These pictures coming through here; you can't see that.... but the television would show them.” (55-1004, Come, Let Us Reason Together, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

“well like television, that's in another dimension.... People are moving right through this room now singing; there's colors also, but the eye is only subject to the five senses.” (65-0221E Who is this Melchisedec)

Branham taught that one transverses into a 4th dimension (or more) by faith.

“Maybe you're in just the three dimensions. This is another dimension. It's moving in on me. But it's a spirit. You see? It's in another world. People, they're not gone, they're-they're near us; Angels and everything else.” (55-1115, Blind Bartimaeus, Tent Meeting, San Fernando, CA)

What Branham is describing are ghosts, spirits of the dead.

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



“After you go out of this body, out of cosmic light and petroleums, and what you're made up of, you go into the fourth dimension, out of that, into the fifth dimension, then the sixth dimension. Then God's in the seventh. You're right under His altar. ... Comes out of the sixth dimension, into the fifth, cosmic light; come out of the light, into petroleums; out of petroleum, into the senses. And here you are back on earth again, a brand new person, not old and broke down, never to be sick. ...That's what you've got this morning because you heard the Word of God.” (55-0403 Fellowship By Redemption)

Branham was fully convinced this is the Holy Spirit at work, or he would not be giving out so much detail on its operation.

Some of his descriptions sound like scripts from the Twilight Zone series. However, this is also explained by Theosophy and Anthroposophy. Known as the etheric plane, a non-physical plane of existence where etheric records store all human events; our thoughts, words of the past, present and future are preserved encoded in this non-physical plane known as the Akashic records.

Levi Dowling was born in a log cabin in Bellville Ohio, in May 1844. His father was a Disciples of Christ minister, Levi began preaching at 16. He later began a search to find the primitive and pure religion that was buried under the dogma. This pursuit led him away from Christianity to new thought, metaphysics. He became a member of Occult Science Society and was learning metaphysics and became involved in Theosophy.

One experience led to another. He received a vision as he was meditating, was “in the silence.” He believed he was contacted by Christ and commissioned to write a new Scripture. The “whole” truth about Jesus was to be revealed explaining with it the transition from the “Piscean Age” into the “Aquarian Age.”

He entered a transient state of consciousness, which allowed him to tap into a vast reservoir of arcane knowledge which in esoteric circles is known as the

Akashic Records. He was able to transcribe from “The Book of God's Remembrance” (Akashic records) the Aquarian Gospel of Jesus Christ,” a metaphysical text on Jesus' early life. It was Dowling who was probably more responsible for popularizing this concept that is with us today.

The Premier Occultist Alice A. Bailey wrote: “The akashic record is like an immense photographic film, registering all the desires and earth experiences of our planet. Those who perceive it will see pictured thereon: The life experiences of every human being since time began.” (Light of the Soul on The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali – Book 3 – Union achieved and its Results (1927)

Branham must have been familiar with this as he described “*every time you move your finger, that goes around and around the world, never will stop. Every move you make, you'll see it at the judgment. Television proves that it's here, the fourth dimension. 'Cause the television doesn't manufacture that picture; it only channels that wave into a tube, and you see a picture. Color, everything, every moving object that's happening in the world is going right around through here now, making a record. Someday your record's going to be closed, and you're going to answer to that record.*” (65-0117 A Paradox)

Branham speaks about a play that was on TV to prove his point of a 4th dimension.

“There she was on television, the same girl that I seen, and been dead a year. But there, every move she made was right there, acting out, her voice alive. Now, that's in a--like a fourth dimension. And that same thing will be to every one of us at the day of judgment.”

What he says next confirms that he read about the Akashic records

“And then, when Jesus Christ spoke these words, they never die. Science claims in twenty years from now they can pick up the literal voice. They'll be able to pick up the literal voice of Jesus. It's still in

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



the earth. 'Cause, see, it's a sending post, you are. Then there has to be a receiving post. And if you can be the receptacle, see--receiving post to receive the Word of God, then It's real to you, and It'll live just like it was then. Amen." (63-0606 Show us the Father)

"But there is another dimension that can be seen by a transformation by television. Now, television does not manufacture a picture. A television only channels it into a circuit, and then the television screen picks it up. But the picture's there to begin with. Television was here when Adam was here. Television was here when Elijah set on Mount Carmel. Television was here when Jesus of Nazareth walked the shores of Galilee. But you're just now discovering it. They wouldn't have believed it back there. You'd have been crazy to have said something like it. But now it's become a reality. And so is it that Christ is here. The Angels of God are here." (65-0221E Who is this Melchisedec)

Again this is a reference to the Akashic records always recording everything that we do. This may be what he referred by his visions.

As far as a 4th dimension where we will see a video of our lives and be judged, the Bible says no such thing. What it says is *"And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books." (Rev. 20:12)*

The vibrations from visions

His explanations are the key to his experiences with the angel, these are directly connected to his vibrations and how he healed.

The angel said, "That you might know, it'll come to pass that you'll take people by the right hand in your left." And said, "You'll feel the results of it" (Now, I call it vibrations.) "upon your hand. You'll become familiar with that. And you'll tell people all of their diseases, and what they've got in their

body..." (50-0110, Moses, City Auditorium, Houston, TX)

Branham said *"Being in another dimension, or another world, I see It and you feel It."*

Can anyone point to any prophet who operated like this in their gift of healing? Vibrations, feelings are basically how those in the Occult and New Age Movement receive their impressions. The occult works this way, not Christianity.

"Now, bow your heads, every one. We're going to pray for brother here who's paralyzed. Dear Father, I--I feel those vibrations from the man." (47-1207, Experiences, Shriner Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

New thought writer William Atkinson wrote *"Some masters of mental science have attained a wonderful proficiency in the art of Telepathic Volation and some of the results secured by them would be deemed incredible by those not familiar with the laws of directed thought vibration."* (William Walker Atkinson, Thought Vibration or the Law of Attraction in the Thought World p.35 subject -Law of Attraction 1906)

William Atkins is one of many who practiced and wrote books on new thought concepts. Author of "Thought Force;" the "Law of the New Thought;" called his discovery, *"a marriage of the Ancient Occult Teachings to the latest and most advanced conceptions of Modern Science. The magnetic qualities of a body may be increased or decreased by motion affecting the relation of the Molecules.*

"Be it Gravitation, Affinity or Attraction, on the one hand--or Light, Heat, Magnetism or Electricity on the other--it is all mental force.'

The phenomena grouped together under the general subject of "Thought-transference. Hypnotism, Mesmerism, Suggestion, Thought-transference, Telepathy, etc., as well as of Mental Healing, Magnetic Healing, etc., all of which are manifestations of "Dynamic Thought."

Others like Charles Fillmore were known for being a mystic by his unique Bible interpretations. He

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



formed the Unity school of Christianity that taught the power of the mind.

He said, "*Divine metaphysics has discovered the moving power to be the thought and word of man, and is proving the truth of this principle through results in a multitude of directions.*"

14. *The spoken word carries vibrations through the universal ether, and also moves the intelligence inherent in every form, animate or inanimate. It has been discovered that even rocks and all minerals have life. This is proof of the omnipresence of the one animating substance. Man, being the highest emanation of Divine Mind, has great directive power and is really co-operator with God in forming the universe.*" (Page 67- 68 Christian Healing Charles Fillmore Unity school of Christianity)

Branham agreed with the concept by his teaching of the God within all, pantheism.

Ernest Holmes spoke of *This medium is Universal Mind; and it is through this medium that all thought-transference or mental telepathy takes place*" (The Science of Mind). He was not alone as Madam Blavatsky in her "Secret Doctrine" wrote of "thought-transference."

Ernest Holmes in his book "Science of Mind" wrote, *After all, these things are mental attitudes, and the best way to heal them is through mental treatment.*"(Science of Mind p.250, 1926)

Mind science teacher Robert Collier "*There is no limit, you know, to Mind. Visualize this thing that you want. See it, feel it, BELIEVE in it. Make your mental blue-print, and begin to build!*" (Robert Collier, The Law of Higher Potential, p. 368 (1947).

Describing the Law of Mentalism: "*Everything is mental; the Universe is a mental creation.*" This means that the universe exists inside of the mental realm. Everything you see, hear and touch is part of this realm. There are 7 Hermetic Laws (Universal Laws). Seven Universal Laws govern everything in the seen and unseen universe. These laws govern you as a psychic. ... The first law states, "All is

mind— The universe is mental." The Law of Vibration states that everything in the Universe vibrates. The same principle of vibration in the physical world apply to our feelings, desires, thoughts, dreams and will.

"Unseparable from magical speculation about words is the theory of vibrations, which supposes that certain sounds have a powerful acoustic impact on both the spiritual and astral worlds. Like the spiritual world and astral plane can in some circumstances be affected by sound, so that verbal magic may be said to derive its power not only from the idea contained in certain words, but from the peculiar vibrations these words create when spoken." (Magic: an Occult Primer, pp. 74-75).

The concept of materialization was ingrained in his life. Branham taught thoughts were to be spoken before it materialized into reality.

"He changed my soul, changed my thoughts; and then my thoughts become so real till they become words in my lips; and they materialize, and now I am a Christian." (54-1003M, The Word Became Flesh (India Trip Report), Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham said, *'Say what you will.' Just say it, and your words will materialize.*" (59-1115, My New Ministry, Branham Tabernacle)

Occultism is a "general designation for various theories, practices, and rituals based on esoteric knowledge, **specially alleged knowledge about the world of spirits and unknown forces of the universe.**" (Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol. 7. p. 469).

An adept occultist has learned how to raise their energy, to direct and control the power of their thought operating upon objects, or on people. Those involved in metaphysical healing arts will manifest powers of clairvoyance, clairaudience, psychic healing abilities, and travel outside their body. As one would expect spirit guides are often involved in this healing energy.

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



A manifestation is one of the forms, guises, or appearances in which an individual a spirit is manifested. This is an occult phenomenon which is called materialization.

"If I have told you the Truth, God is obligated to answer me. He will. He puts His Words in your mouth and They materialize. That's right, It's His Words, It has to do it." (64-0206E, God's Provided Way For This Day, Kern County Fairgrounds, Bakersfield, CA)

In 1906 William Atkinson published the book "Thought Vibration or the Law of Attraction in the Thought World."

Chapter I The law of attraction in the thought world
"Thought is a force - a manifestation of energy - having a magnet-like power of attraction." "It's all in the Mental Attitude".

This is what Branham was saying by the right mental attitude which he said was faith.

To an Occultist- *Word magic is the art of communicating using sacred sounds and symbols to direct and control energy to produce certain desired effects. All words have magic properties Through Word Magic: The Powers & Occult Definitions of Words, you can explore a hidden world that shows you how words shape your reality."*

"and you receive It spiritually into your heart, and believe It, and It'll materialize and bring just exactly what God said It would do. Every seed will bring it's kind.... The right mental attitude towards any Divine promise of God, will bring it to pass.... But it's up to you, it's to each individual." (53-1109, Africa Trip Report, National Guard Armory, Owensboro, KY)

"Many times out in the building you'll hear me call people, say things. I see it materialize; the very life before me materializes. Maybe I start here and look out yonder, I see a little girl, say, and it'll start materializing. I see the way she's ... I'll just start speaking what I see." (51-0720, The Angel Of God, Civic Auditorium, Toledo, OH)

"It's a Light, and I watch the Light when it goes out. Then the Light stands there, then It just materializes, and I see what's taking place; that's how I call that. I see the person. And it's God answering your prayer. Don't be suspicious; that's what the Bible said. Did Jesus Christ perceive their thoughts? Is that right?" (53-1106, Do You Now Believe?, Sports Center, Owensboro, Ky)

Apparently Branham knew exactly how Jesus operated, because what he did was the same. He superimposes his misunderstanding of what is taking place with him to explain how Jesus knew peoples hearts.

"When a vision starts to break, it materializes before me, then I have to look and see if I can see the person." (53-0612, Palmerworm, Locust, Cankerworm, Caterpillar, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN)

Remember that his visions are taking place person after person as he is entering another dimension.

"here come the man down in the blue suit on, a white hat, and wanted me to go up. And now except something materializes in front of you, It speaks here at the platform, It speaks wherever God desires It to speak; I have no control of It...." (51-0928, At Thy Word, St. Nicholas Arena, New York, NY)

"I can't say nothing. Or in the meeting, there I just walk into the platform. And as I walked in, I looked, I saw a stack of hay, just materializes in front of me. I begin to speak about that stack. I seen a little boy get hurt on a hay frame. I seen him years later, selling books from a wheelchair or something." (51-0923, The Principles Of Divine Healing, Jeffersonville High School, Jeffersonville, IN)

Branham implied that a person's spirit could interfere with the gift operating if they are not in agreement. "See you shaking and know that you're nervous. And it's a little more than ever now, because it's--it's the Presence. Now, be in prayer Brother Richey, see that coming from back in there, interfering with me here. ... sometimes, not as I'm trying to say you people don't believe, but you're

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



human beings possessed with--with a spirit. And when it's coming this way, that waves coming this way and the vision won't materialize right." (51-0930, Expectation, St. Nicholas Arena, New York, NY)

Branham would also describe how it looked, *"It looks like it's a milky haze hanging over this audience."* (53-0614E, I Perceive That Thou Art A Prophet, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN).

Branham explains what takes place as he the gift unfolds. *"While the Angel is moving here on the platform, and then It leaves me, and It goes over the audience, and I have to watch. And then it--that Light spreads out when I'm in that other world as we would call it, in the vision. Then I see what's taking place, and then I'm in that place with the person. And when I'm speaking, I'm conscious, maybe that I'm standing in a hospital in one world, and standing on this platform in another world. So you understand, it's just right now I'm just getting so weak I ... And the ... You see the perspiration running off the back of my hands. It's just about to take my life standing here. See?" (53-0907E, Healing Line, Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, Chicago, IL).*

"Then It--It appeared many times, and in different forms. I've seen It many times. I've seen It come into my room and speak to me. ... It gets me up sometimes at night. I'm up all night at a time, many times, praying. I can feel It near me. It'll come real near, then It'll go away. I can feel It now. It's near. Then when I go to praying for the sick, It'll come down like this, and go like go, whew [Brother Branham illustrates--Ed.] Then It'll leave. Then when It--It's down, that's when I see; that's what detects.

Then if I use my own voice, my own opinion, It--It won't say. But when I just let myself alone, It does the talking Itself. That's what tells the diseases." (50-0813E, God Revealing Himself To His People, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

He is describing what is happening to him, which sounds a lot like channeling. That is not how the Holy Spirit operates. He did say it is the angel that comes into his body and uses it.

"Did you hear that Voice? That wasn't me. That wasn't me. That was Him. Do you believe Him now?" (55-0116E, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IN)

Apparently people were hearing God speak audibly, (but really was an angel).

"Did you hear that voice? That wasn't me. I had nothing to do with that. ... I don't know what He said was wrong with her, if--what it was, it'll be on the tapes back there." (57-1229, Faith, Branham Tabernacle)

"Now, did you hear that voice? That--that wasn't me, but what it said the truth. Is that right? ... Now, you see what that makes me do? See? That's just the Holy Spirit taking my voice. I don't t... I just look and what I see, I say." (57-1211, Sirs, We Would See Jesus, Essex Theater, Newark, NJ)

If it sounds like channeling, that is because it is channeling. No apostle ever said God's voice was heard through them audibly.

"And you're suffering with a heart trouble. Isn't that right? And you've had a--a another ailment; you're extremely nervous, too, ... getting weak quickly, very weak, weak spells like. I see them. But you've prayed much about this to be healed. Isn't that true? What do you think of that now? Now, did you hear that voice speaking? That was my voice. But it wasn't me speaking it; that was something else. I heard it."

"Now, was that the truth, what I told you? Is that the truth? No way in the world I would know that, only through God. Is that right? Now, do you accept me as His servant? All right. Will you ob--obey and do what I tell you to do in the Lord then? ... Now, you go home, and just don't even say you ever had a heart trouble, and you're going to get well--well." (51-0509, Testimony, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Is that what the Lord said to do, deny your symptoms, don't have a negative confession?

The more details Branham gives of this gift operating the more it sounds like a mystical / metaphysical exercise. There is no gift of visions that operates like this, but there is this kind of reaction one gets when they are involved in the occult.

Branham also led people into subjective spiritual experiences.

"Now, everybody be in prayer, please. Now, just look this a way, sister. I just want to talk to you (See?), just order to contact your spirit. I seen a vision coming up from a child, from a little girl. And I--I ... It just ... I have to speak it as it's coming (You see?), or I--I don't get it. Now, just keep praying." (51-0415E, The Hour Is Come, Shriners Temple, Phoenix, AZ)

Are we to contact a person's spirit? That's a very strange thing to say. This is something spiritists try to do. Branham would go into another dimension and see peoples past and diagnose them.

"I want you to imagine standing before you, in here somewhere, Christ, raised up from the dead; come right through the walls one time, eat bread, said, "Feel Me, I'm flesh and bones," and disappeared right before them." (64-0403, Jehovah-Jireh #2, 4-H Club Barn, Louisville, MS)

This is leading people into soft visualization, a technique that is used to become open to other unbiblical spiritual activity.

Mystics speak of experiences, of trances of being relocated elsewhere, entering another realm.

"get away from this earthbound senses, move out into the realms of the supernatural." (51-0509, Testimony, Calvary Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

"God, take us away from this sense bound existence; carry us out there in those realms where all things are possible."(51-0729A, The

Resurrection Of Lazarus, National Guard Armory, Erie, PA)

"His supernatural Presence, maybe in the realms that may be a little strange to some of us." (51-0717, The Manifestation Of The Spirit, Civic Auditorium, Toledo, OH)

"now, if you'll notice in the Pentecostal realms, and in the realms of all religions, there's supposed to be in the body of Christ, nine spiritual gifts." (51-0728, Three Witnesses, National Guard Armory, Erie, PA)

Not sure why he would say *in the realms of all religions*, but there is no such thing, How his gift was used to diagnose sickness and disease is what gives away the source. Only other spiritual systems have healing operate like this.

"Although I've seen It since a child, it ... every time It comes near me, It alarms me. He almost puts me in an unconscious condition. You never get used to It. You can't: It's too sacred." (63-0322, The Fifth Seal, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

God brings peace. If there is no peace it is not of God. He is not describing the first time this took place but every time. Branham thought it was God because it was supernatural, he interpreted what he was experiencing as sacred when in fact it was not.

"Sometimes I pass out here in the pulpit, friends. The other night when I was with you here, I passed completely out among you. I passed out for as many as twenty four hours at a time." (53-1206A, Life Story, American Legion Hall, West Palm Beach, FL)

"When they got me out of the meeting, and I was about to pass out myself." (54-0307E, Do You Now Believe?, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ)

Branham was clearly suffering from spiritual oppression which often accompanies spirit type involvement in the Occult.

The effect on him was devastating at times. *"Cause after hundreds and hundreds of times of visitations,*

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:
A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



it paralyzes me when He comes near. It sometimes it even makes me I almost completely pass out, just so weak when I leave the platform many times. If I stay too long, I'll go completely out. I've had them ride me around for hours, not even know where I was at." (William Branham, How the Angel Came to Me, and His Commission Jan.17, 1955, pp. 73-75)

Notice he said he was paralyzed. This is exactly what Joseph Smith said happened when he was confronted with the angel of light "I was seized upon by some power which entirely overcame me..." he was ready to sink into despair and abandon himself to destruction-..... I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head." (Joseph Smiths History.1:16)

The similarities found in Branham's story cannot be ignored, his life experiences certainly parallel Joseph Smith's. And from it they both came to the same conclusions. That the church is in apostasy and that none of their denominations or sects were right, God rejects their creeds and appointed them as new leaders to the Church.

Branham's visions made him very weak, dazed, confused, disoriented; he could not relax. "Because after a few nights I get so weak and tired. If you only knew it, the last two nights, I've slept about five minutes each time. See? It's just got me in such a place, so tense." (53-0829, The Testimony Of Jesus Christ, Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, Chicago, IL).

On very rare occasions he would say the opposite about how the visions affect him. "it's a vision. It has--it has to be perfectly materialized.... Now, that's when God's a-using His gift. That doesn't weaken me. That doesn't bother me." (56-0408A, What Is A Vision?, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

"And I wondered why that was. I couldn't not understand; I get so weak sometimes I'd pass completely out, you know. Had them take me out, may be hours before I'd even come to myself and knowed what was wrong." (Experiences #2).

"I watched over the audience. And where the heavenly Father would show me something, I'd speak that. And I'd speak this. And the first thing you know, it's just a very few gets to the line. And I'm just so weak, that they just take me out." (52-0717, Get The People To Believe, Civic Center, Hammond, IN)

"Many times it gets you so weak.... I realize I can't last many years like this, friend. It burns your life right out of you.... The human part's gone; the supernatural comes in and works through human flesh, not the human flesh, but the supernatural working through. Just like the light coming through that bulb. It isn't the bulb; it's the light, the current going through it. See? They could turn off; it's dark. Same as the human is." (51-0930, Expectation, St. Nicholas Arena, New York, NY).

Do we find any kind of description when the apostles did an exorcism or healing or miracle that affected them like this? Not at all.

I want to present a number quotes for this to be perfectly clear how his life was adversely affected by the operation of his gift.

"I'm so weak I can't hold myself. Lord, my breath is about to leave me, visions tearing me down ..." (53-1108E, Expectancy, Sports Center, Owensboro, KY).

Branham was under some kind of spiritual oppression that drained him bringing him close to what felt like death.

Every time this gift was exercised he was affected the same ways "the visions make me so weak, (53-1121, A Greater Witness, Sports Center, Owensboro, KY) "Visions make you so weak." (54-0404E, God Has A Provided Way, Memorial Auditorium, Louisville, KY) "I was so weak; them visions just weaken me." (53-0508, God Commissioning Moses, Bible Hour Tabernacle, Jonesboro, AR). "The visions is what kill me off nearly. Just makes me so weak." (53-0907A, Lord, Show Us The Father And It Sufficeth Us, Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, Chicago, IL).

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"My services, I don't hold them long, as you notice, because it's under vision. And vision makes me so weak" (53-0217, Only Believe, Pentecostal Holiness Church, Tallahassee, FL).

Actually his services were often 1 1/2 to over 2 hours or much longer.

"If I go to looking close to it, then it's just one vision from another. And then I get so weak I can hardly go through the meeting." (53-0902, Testimony, Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, Chicago, IL).

"usually when them visions are so many, it makes me so weak." (56-0726, Love, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA)

The more visions the weaker he got.

"And this week ... I've been so close to--to the blacking out, as I would place it, till I was almost beside myself." (59-1216, What Is The Holy Ghost?, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN).

"...I'm getting so weak, the audience is beginning to get blinded out, like to me." (58-0625, A Greater Than Solomon Is Here, Southern Pines High School, Southern Pines, NC)

Branham was suffering from a spiritual oppression from the visions, which apparently came from his angel. There was not peace and tranquility of the Holy Spirit or the fruit of the Spirit being under the influence. Spiritual exhaustion often accompanies contact with spiritual powers that are not from God.

If these visions affected him physically like this, after years it would have taken its toll.

"I'm just so weak I can hardly stand here. ... And the whole room just looks like kind of a--a ... If one little woman touching Him made virtue go from Him, what, if that the Son of God, what about me a sinner, saved by grace. And what's doing these visions? Not me, it's you. It's your faith a touching Him, and He's answering back. Do you understand?" (57-0305, Divine Love, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ)

This is so convoluted, they have faith and he gets a vision delivered for them.

He was asked "Brother Branham, what makes you so weak? What makes you fall out so?" *You ought to stand in the place one time. See? It's the people's faith that's a doing it." (56-0421, What Visions Are, Spindale House Recreation Center, Spindale, NC)*

It is people's faith that brings the visions, and it is the people faith that makes him this weak? Genuine faith is to trust in God, without any man as a mediator, he should not be affected by their faith if their faith is in God. People's faith has nothing to do with his weaknesses.

Faith to Branham was a "right mental attitude." Very early on Branham explained it as a "*sixth sense, known to some people as you want to as mental telepathy or--or whatever you want or wish to call it, many of them call it names, but to me it's faith.*" (47-0412, Faith Is The Substance, Oakland Municipal Auditorium, Oakland, CA)

That's his opinion but this is not faith according to the Bible no matter what you call it.

Branham in the beginning made a mistake of saying this and tried to correct it throughout his ministry, saying it is not mental telepathy. He made it a point of denial to what he is doing.

In one of those rare moments Branham challenges a sister, telling her point blank -- you do not have faith." She insisted "*Oh, Reverend Branham, I have faith to believe anything.*"

Branham then gives an example of the power of faith that he himself possesses.

"If you have faith, I want to ask you and show you, rather, that--that you do not have faith.... Hanging in the room from a chandelier was a string, and on the end of that string was a little bracelet,... It was a white bracelet with little red sets in it where a child probably been playing with it ... I said to the young lady; I said, "How far are you away from that bracelet?" She said, "Prob--approximately fifteen feet." ... I said to the young lady; I said, "Now, you tell me you've got faith to believe for all things." She said, "I have, sir."

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



... And I said, "Now, if you believe with all your heart, and you prove to me now that you've got faith ... Now, you look right directly at that bracelet," and it hanging there in mid-air, "and you make that bracelet swing around and around in the room. Then you make it swing back and forth in the room, and then stop it, and I'll believe you have faith." She said, "Oh, Brother Branham," said, "my, why ask me something like that?" I said, "I wanted to see if you had faith." I said, "Jesus said, 'All things are possible if you believe.... Now, that's just pure faith, friends. Magicians use it many times to play pranks and so forth, burst glasses and things. It will, if you believe. But I'm trying to base your--the thought on faith so you know what I'm talking of....

(ed. Note: indeed we do know what you are talking about, and it becomes even clearer as he goes on.)

She said, "Why, Brother Branham, no one could do that." I said, "Oh, yes, anyone can that believes." And she said, "Well, I don't believe that anyone could do that." I said, "I thought you said you believed for all things." See how she was caught right there. I said, "You said you believed all things. I want you to prove it." And she said, "I don't believe there's anyone can do that; that's material, Brother Branham." She said, "Could you do it?" I said, "Yes, ma'am." And she said, "Well, could I see it done?" I said, "If you desire." And she said, "I desire."

Then of course, putting my mind on it, and having her to watch that and not me. As many times in a meeting, I'll take any cross-eyed child you've got in this meeting, you bring it up here without even praying for it, and just let me look at it straight in the eyes like that, I'll make its eyes come straight. "

(ed. Note: If this is true than what is the need of a healing angel? To believe for all things is trusting God for results, not producing them by your own will and power.)

"Now, then of course, fastening my eyes to that bracelet, which you can yourself, if you won't doubt it in your heart, and it started moving around. And then it moved back and forth, around, crossways, and stopped it. She said, "Brother Branham," she

said, "that's spiritualism." I said, "I--I thought maybe you'd say something like that." My, isn't it strange how people that profess they know God, and know so little about Him. Isn't that right?"

(what god is Branham referring to? The one of nature that he met before decided to be a Christian ... a god that acts like a force in metaphysics?)

His example of faith is not over, Branham uses the example of Jesus passing a tree and finds no fruit on it when there should be. He put a curse on it, and the tree began to wilt. He said, "If you would say in your heart for this tree to be plucked up and cast into the sea and wouldn't doubt it, it would obey you." ... "He said, 'If you'd say to this mountain, 'Be moved,' and doubt it not in your heart, by and by it would come to pass.'" Did He say it? Sure He did. ... And He said, "If you had faith, size of a mustard seed..." I said, "Now, if the faith the size of a mustard seed would move that mountain, how much more smaller faith would you have to have just to move that bracelet?"

He then explains pure Mustard seed faith that is not mixed with something else, "ask what you will; it'll be given to you. But it can't be wavering... she said, "Looky here, I want to ask you something." She said, "Did God move that or did the devil move that?" I said, "Neither one moved that." She said, "Then how in the world did it move?" I said, "I moved it." She said, "Well, you're fifteen feet or better away from it." I said, "No, it's my faith that moved it." See? If you ask anything and don't doubt it... See what I mean?" (47-0412, Faith Is The Substance, Oakland Municipal Auditorium, Oakland, CA)

Here we have Branham explaining faith as a force that one possesses. Branham's admission that neither God nor the Devil moved it, he did. This explains his belief in a latent power called faith. He can call it faith but it was not, it was mentalism.

His explanation that Jesus used this same faith is voided by Jesus instructing us to ask in prayer, and that we are to have faith IN God (Mt.21:22; Mk.11:23). To ask in prayer is leaving the way and

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



timing up to God. The contradiction is doing this by your own "faith" as Branham explained. The testimony of Scripture itself is against this explanation of faith, which is a trust and reliance in God. There is no example of the apostles showing faith in this way.

The right mental attitude Branham said was to any divine promise, which I do not see includes moving a bracelet. Apparently the bracelet moved, or she thought it did. This explanation Branham gave of how he exercises what he called faith, the sixth sense, which he considered a mental attitude reveals all. This practice certainly fits with practices outside Christianity, metaphysics. Actualizing his mental power to influence an object, manifesting a power from within oneself that controls what is outward is what he called faith. In metaphysics this is called thought control.

What a judgmental accusation to say to someone, that you do not have faith because you cannot move a physical object. His own manager would not be able to do this, nor would any Christian there be able to do what Branham supposedly did.

The woman recognized and told Branham that what he has done is spiritualism. Here is what Branham said of those who "... see signs and wonders, and something another accompanied in the spiritual realm, like perceiving thoughts of the people, quickly, the unregenerated heart says, "Spiritualism." But when you see the sign following that Spirit of healing, and blessings of God, you realize that it's coming from God." (54-0718E, To See Jesus, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

So it only operates and looks like spiritualism, but if you say it is spiritualism you are unregenerate. Which is just like saying to someone you have no faith. Which should make anyone more than uncomfortable with his conclusions.

Just one more example that should make what he is saying evident to all. "Here the other night I saw on a telecast of a man with psychic mental faith set a glass of water and stood back and kept concentrating on that glass of water till it bursted it,

just by concentration, watching that glass of water. And the glass cracked and the water run out: just pure mental consecration. If he can do that--got a power in him by mental thinking that can break a glass of water, and him being a sinner, that shows that there was something made in that man. He's in a fallen--fallen, perverted condition. But if that man can only get back to God, and let God get into him, why, with that power turned loose of the Kingdom of God." (61-0117, The Messiah, Life Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA)

Weakness from his visions

"But this way, by this Divine gift and His Presence, just a few times and I'm about finished. It just makes me so weak; I can't out of the building hardly. Sometimes do pass completely out under It. And one time was out eight months and better." (54-0719A, God's Provided Way Of Healing, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

"And after while I get so weak, they come take me (See?), 'cause I go in subconsciousness." (55-1008, The Results Of Decision, Lane Tech High School)

"Every time I'd start it, just as soon as It would strike me, I'd just ... That's the reason I would get so weak; they'd lead me off the platform. It was because after two or three of those visions, I was so out, I--I hardly knew where I was at." (59-0406, New Ministry (William Branham), Angelus Temple, Los Angeles, CA)

"The anointing's getting so heavy in the audience, and I'm getting so weak, I can hardly stand here." (55-1004, Come, Let Us Reason Together, Lane Tech High School, Chicago, IL)

We have the same descriptions from admirer Benny Hinn when he speaks of the anointing. He says he is not under control, gets dizzy, falls out, and is paralyzed. Speaking to Paul Crouch, Hinn stated the same "I am not the same man under the anointing that I am now." "Believe me when I tell you, I do not even identify with the Benny Hinn you see on Television. Because it's a different man its not me." My children are afraid of me under the anointing

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



What they do not know is that I'm afraid of the anointing too." ... "I'm very frightened of what God often does in those meetings." (TBN with Paul and Jan Crouch Sept. 13 1999)

That's a strange thing to say about the one called the comforter.

But he should be frightened, because it is the same as what occurred in Branham's meetings.

Hinn *"Even now my own wife will say I can the moment the anointing comes upon you and you literally transform into another human being, but that's what the anointing does."* (Aug. 24, 1999 This is your day, TBN)

Branham described his condition, *"When the anointing strikes me, I don't know why--what I'm saying."* (56-1207, Gifts, Maranatha Temple, Brooklyn, NY)

This is far more typical when people are influenced by strange and different spirits than the Spirit of God. Considering how Branham spoke when he was under its influence, his divulging of great weakness and paralysis were probably far more devastating than he described to the people. These all describe being drained from an unearthly supernatural power that overwhelmed him. He was so convinced it was God that he continued in it no matter how it hurt him.

"The visions make me so weak I stagger under it. You see, I just have to stop for a minute. All right." (59-0614, Balm In Gilead, Lakeview High School, Chicago, IL).

"I believe that boy's got a future. I seen something. I couldn't make out what it was, 'cause I'm so weak right at this time." (53-1112, Demonology, Sport Center, Owensboro, KY).

"Remember, I do not control visions; visions control me." (60-0720, Be not Afraid, It Is I, Lake County Fairgrounds, Lakeport, CA).

How long Branham could keep up with the affects from these visions is hard to say, but he could not last under this pressure.

This effect on Branham went on for years, other places it is mentioned: (54-0900, Have Faith In God, St. Nicholas Arena, New York, NY; 54-0328, Sirs, We Would See Jesus, The Church Of The Open Door, Louisville, KY; 54-0624, The Deep Calleth To The Deep, Constitution Hall, Washington, DC; Every year he spoke of his becoming weak; 59-0815, As The Eagle Stirreth Up Her Nest, Miami Valley Chautauqua Campgrounds, Chautauqua, OH; 59-0708E, Be Certain Of God, Mayfield Elementary School, Cleveland, TN.)

The Holy Spirit does not have gifts operate in turmoil. These were not producing the fruit of the Spirit because it came from outside Branham, by his angel's power. Again, God's gifts bring peace, if there is no peace, it is not of God.

"That's what makes me so weak and tears me up. See, see? You remember the prophet Daniel who had a vision one day and was troubled many days over it, of his head? And Jesus ... Remember that Angel that came down on the pool and the first person that got healed, why, all the virtue went off of the--the water. And they had to wait for a month or more, maybe, for it to come back, another season whatever was considered a season. You remember that in the Bible?... Branham later says "So much of that gets me so weak that I get swimmy." (53-0606, An Ensign, Roberts Park Amphitheater, Connersville, IN).

Is this what the Bible says about the pool of Bethsaida? The water had virtue like Jesus had virtue? That it needed to get replenished? This is how Branham interpreted the supernatural power that was at work through him.

Here's how Branham explained the visions, try and compare them to anything in the Bible.

"Now, quickly to a vision. ... It happened two years ago. I was in my room right after a big meeting. And I seen a rocky, hilly country, just as natural...."

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:
A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Now, not a dream, friend. A dream is a dream. A vision is something you're looking at, like I'm looking right now to you, or you looking to me. Sometimes, I'd be standing right like this; I'd set in my room, been setting in my room talking to my family, and move completely away, be gone for a hour and a half or two hours. And I'd set perfectly still, without a speck of breath. That's what medical science can't understand. Where it done not even a speck of breath. You could put a ... as fine a thing as any you want to around my nose, and not a bit of breath, they tell me. But my respirations, heart beats just the same. But they don't understand it. Fading out into another country, another world ... And when you return, you have just exactly what God had said. And it's never failed. And it can't fail; it's God." (50-0818, It Shall Be Even As It Was Told Me, Tent Meeting, Cleveland, OH)

That's quite a story that is unprovable. Can we be sure that an experience of this sort is of God? This same experience is similar to the deep meditation practices that are described among the Hindu gurus that do Yoga and appear as if dead. They too travel to other worlds.

Branham described his visions as "*it's like the--the Daniel, a prophet, in the Bible, he saw one vision. He said he was troubled at his head for many days. In other words, a vision causes you to be in two worlds at the same time. You're in this world here now, yet you're in another world; and you're speaking over there knowing that your voice is heard back here. Place your yourself there once and just see what it'll do for you.... Then after while it gets to a place you can't tell you whether you're over here or over here. You just ... And just--it's just about that place for me." (53-1204, At Thy Word, American Legion Hall, West Palm Beach, FL)*

Is that what happened to Daniel or anyone else? They became disoriented? Not at all. From these explanations we get insight into what he actually believed and experienced.

Like the Prophet Daniel

"I don't know when I--where I'm at when I'm doing this so many times, when It comes upon me. How many knows that that's Scriptural? Why, Daniel saw one vision; he was troubled at his head for many days. Is that right?" (51-0923, The Principles Of Divine Healing, Jeffersonville High School, Jeffersonville, IN; 51-0930, Expectation, St. Nicholas Arena, New York, NY).

"This is certainly subconscious; you realize that. And it makes you weak. If it--if one vision made the prophet Daniel so weak that he was beside himself nearly, troubled at his head for several days, what would it do to a person like me? If one vision from God would make Jesus feel virtue going out of Him, why, what would it do to a man like me? So you understand." (55-0806, Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today, And Forever, Methodist Campgrounds, Campbellsville, KY).

He basically used these examples of Daniel, the woman who touched Jesus in the crowd or when Jesus slept on the boat with the disciples to refer to the visions making him weak. So we need to verify if each of Branham's examples are a valid use of explaining his visions from Scripture.

Daniel: 7:15-17 "*I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things.*"

The visions were about his people Israel and their future. Four great beasts, which are four kings and the saints of the Most High receiving the kingdom, for his vision was horrifying. He was cut to the heart with what he saw in the future. This is hardly the same kind of vision Branham supposedly saw for individual people as he prophecies over them. Branham instead saw the past of people. Daniel saw the future history of the world and Israel.

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings: A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Dan. 7:28 *"This is the end of the account. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed; but I kept the matter in my heart."*

There is no mention of weakness overriding his body like Branham experienced. Daniel did not get disoriented, or fatigued or exhausted by his vision. He was distressed because of what he saw as the future. These are two completely different matters.

The word 'vision' singular occurs over 80 times in the Old Testament (KJV), approximately 17 times in the New Testament. The book with the most occurrences of visions is the book of Daniel (32 times) followed by Ezekiel (18). Zechariah had a series of 8 "night visions" (1:7-6:15). Daniel saw several visions and the latter ones troubled him because of what he saw. It did not do what Branham described as happening to him. So his verification from Scripture fails.

None of the visions to any prophet compare to the frequency or the manner Branham received his visions from an angel. What other prophet spoke of extreme weakness, exhaustion, paralysis from their visions? Even the New Testament, with all the Spiritual gifts, does not have one example like Branham's. So what are we to make of his descriptions? They are not Biblical in their operation

The woman with the issue of blood

Branham said this often... *"How many remembers when a woman touched Jesus' garment, and He got real weak."* (51-0930, Expectation, St. Nicholas Arena, New York, NY).

How can you remember what Jesus did not say? Jesus did not become weak from the woman touching his garment. Check your Bible. This is changing the word. Power that goes out from God

does not make him weak. Jesus is God and God does not have a LIMITED supply of POWER.

Mark 5:27-30 *"When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.*

For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?" KJV

The NKJV says *"immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him."*

As does Luke 8:46 *Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me."* (NKJV)

Mark 5:30 *"that the power proceeding from him had gone forth."* (Vincent's Word Studies of the New Testament)

Mark 5:22-43 *"Power to heal. The word in the original means power."* (Barnes' Notes)

Mark 5:30 Perceiving in himself epignous (NT:1896) en (NT:1697) heautoo (NT:1423). She thought, perhaps, that the touch of Christ's garment would cure her without his knowing it, a foolish fancy, no doubt, but one due to her excessive timidity. Jesus felt in his own consciousness. The Greek idiom more exactly means: "Jesus perceiving in himself the power from him go out" teen (NT:3543) ex (NT:1517) autou (NT:839) dunamin (NT:1395) exelthousan (NT:1804)... So here Jesus means to say: "I felt in myself the power from me go" (from Robertson's Word Pictures in the New Testament)

Derek Prince speaks of William Branham. *"I had a little association with William Branham at the closing period of his ministry. I was on the same platform with him two or three times with the Full Gospel Businessmen...."after exercising his gift two or three times, he just collapsed and his men came*

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



and gathered him up and carried him away. He explained that by the statement of Jesus that "power has gone out of Me." But Jesus did not collapse. I do not believe that was the Holy Spirit. I believe it was demonic." (Protection from Deception Navigating Through The Minefield Of Signs And Wonders, by Derek Prince November, 1996. Chapter Five Movements that Went Astray)

"And Jesus, when a woman touched His garment, He said, "I perceive that virtue has gone from Me." Got so weak, He laid in the back of a boat and didn't even know the storm was on." (51-0923, The Principles Of Divine Healing, Jeffersonville High School, Jeffersonville, IN; 51-0930, Expectation, St. Nicholas Arena, New York, NY).

Branham tried to connect two events that were not sequential to explain the weakness in Jesus. He is scrambling the word.

Mark 5:35-40 "while He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, "Your daughter is dead." V.37-38 he takes Peter, James, and John with him to the house of the ruler of the synagogue and raises the dead child. There is no boat! That event took place before Mark 4:38 and it describes him asleep in a storm, not disoriented that he passed out not knowing a storm was taking place as Branham describes. Jesus did not become weak from any vision, in fact he saw no vision here.

Nowhere in the Bible is there recorded what Branham says of visions making Jesus weak. Jesus in his body, his humanity grew tired, (Jn. 4:6) and got thirsty (Jn. 19:28). Jesus became hungry in the body from fasting 40 days and 40 nights (Mt. 4:2). After being whipped 39 times, beaten unmercifully the Roman in charge of crucifying him compelled Simon a Cyrenian (Mark 15:21), to carry His cross. This implies that he was weakened. Jesus kept himself alive on the cross for 6 hours until he dismissed his own spirit, which certainly was an uncanny feat of bodily strength.

Jesus on the boat

Branham "He was a man when He laid on the boat that night, when virtue had went out of His garment; till He was so weak till even, a mighty sea roaring, ten thousand devils of the sea swore they would drown Him that night." (52-0900, God's Way That's Been Made For Us, Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

The Bible: Luke 8:22-25 *And He (Jesus) said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out. But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm. But He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!"*

I do not see a hint of what Branham said of weakness from a vision. Clearly Branham's use of Bible references were an overreach to approve what took place with himself.

In fact visions are only mentioned three times in the Gospels. Zacharias, John's father came out of the temple after seeing the angel Luke 1:22 "they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple," but it was angel that spoke to him of his son he would have. They were mistaken on the vision.

At the resurrection on the road to Emmaus the disciples told Jesus Luke 24:22-23 and certain women went to the tomb early, and did not find His body, they came "saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive."

After Jesus showed his three closest disciples his hidden glory, proving who he really is.

Matt 17:9-10 "Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Their whole experience on the mountain was not a vision but a portion of it; with Moses and Elijah appearing to all of them. He is saying to them not to tell anyone what they had seen. It was a revelation of the afterlife and what Jesus was to do. There is not one time where it says Jesus had a vision from God, or was spoken to by God in a vision. Yet Branham taught this is how Jesus was instructed by the Father daily and this is how he was instructed.

No prophet, including Daniel describes this kind of effect on them. It was mystics who have visions that go into other states of consciousness and are affected like this.

Consider the similarities of Branham in the story of Teresa of Avila who was a Carmelite nun who was born in Spain in 1515.

“And still they told me my visions were the work of evil spirits! For six years, I was on trial . . . six years! So many prayers and masses said, I grew weary of them all! Yet still the trances and favors have become more violent and frequent . . . oh, I am in distress, such great distress. I am weary, and so tired . . . so very, very tired . . .”

Her voice was weaker now as she shifted her weight from one aching knee to another on the cold, stone floor. *“Yet I fear there is more sorrow ahead . . . I fear delusions . . . already they are calling for me . . . more inquiries to tell me I am deluded. How can they be sure they aren't deluded and deceived as well? Every one of my examiners tells me something different! Oh! My soul is plunged into darkness! How I long to be alone . . . oh, when will this life ever become more than a never-ending dark night for my soul! I hear them coming even now demanding answers to unanswerable questions. How can I bear it? I want only to be alone. I just want to be . . . oh, please let me be . . .”* (Teresa of Avila)

As the years passed, Teresa's headaches and visions began to take their toll. She was counseled by the Jesuit Fathers to give up her “interior” prayer, but that didn't help.

One day, she cried out, *“Oh these visions! What tortures I have endured . . . how can I bear it?”* she

wailed. “I even gave up mental prayer. I . . . I gave it up. I did! First I waited to be free of sin, but they found no fault in me. Not a fault! Yet I was visited again, more visions . . . more revelations . . . to this most miserable sinner as I.” As the years passed, Teresa's headaches and visions began to take their toll.

Some said the voices she heard in her head were of the devil. But Teresa was desperate to explain that these revelations she received were from the Lord! She was convinced it was the Lord who granted her these great favors and visions which she called ecstasy.

How could she even speak of the intense pain that accompanied the sweetness of her visions and revelations, the great shocks she would feel when her Lord threw her into a trance, or the indescribable desire, which pierced her soul until it rose above itself. The days that followed such ecstasy never failed to make her feel as if all her bones had been pulled out of joint.

During one such time of obedience, her spirit was carried out of her body in such a state of ecstasy that she heard words instructing her not to have conversations with men, but with angels.

She described the angel she had seen in bodily form . . .

“He was not large, but small of stature, and most beautiful—his face burning, as if he were one of the highest angels, who seem to be all of fire: they must be those whom we call cherubim. I saw in his hand a long spear of gold, and at the iron's point, there seemed to be a little fire. He appeared to me to be thrusting it at times into my heart and to pierce my very entrails; when he drew it out, he seemed to draw them out also, and to leave me all on fire with a great love of God. The pain was so great, it made me moan; and yet so surpassing was the sweetness of this excessive pain, that I could not wish to be rid of it. The soul is satisfied now with nothing less than God. The pain is not bodily, but spiritual; though the body has its share in it, even a large one.”

(Resource: Teresa of Avila: An Ancient Mystic Who Helped Shape Today's Spiritual Formation Movement by Carolyn A. Greene)

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



She also wrote that it felt like she was being torn apart, and the aftermath of the detachment was so severe that at times she lost consciousness, being racked with torment, her bones disjointed. How similar is this to Branham describing what his visions did to him and what he encountered? Too similar to overlook.

Emanuel Swedenborg was born in 1688 and died in the year 1772. He was a Swedish scientist, a Christian mystic, and was a renowned clairvoyant. At the age of fifty-six, he entered into a spiritual phase in which he experienced a 'spiritual awakening', accompanied with dreams and visions. He claimed he was appointed by the Lord to write a heavenly doctrine to reform Christianity.

He wrote a five volume work containing the private accounts of his spiritual experiences which he underwent in full waking visions over a 27 year period. The Diary contains a chronological account of what he saw and experienced. This includes his dialogue with angelic beings, in heaven and hell, and discussions concerning the theology of true Christianity.

These were later incorporated into Swedenborg's systematic theological works, published into the multi-volume work, *The Divine Revelation of the New Jerusalem: Expanded Edition* (39 volumes).

Swedenborg, like Branham said "*The old, false idea of God was that he was, is, and ever has been, a trinity of three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, all existing side by side since before the creation of the universe. The theory is that at a certain point in time, one of these three persons, the Son, came into the world as a baby, grew up here to adult status, was crucified, was buried, and then ascended back to Heaven, to rejoin the Father and the Holy Ghost; after which everything was as it had been.*" underline mine

Swedenborg a psychic said there is no "Son from Eternity."

"The main error here is the supposition that the Son of God existed as a second person of the Holy Trinity since the beginning. We have seen that everyone is a trinity, consisting of three essentials in one person." (Chapter 12-The Trinity: Aspects of One Divine Essence, Inner light from Brian Kingslake, "Inner Light: Swedenborg Explores the Spiritual Dimension (J. Appleseed & Co.: Boston, MA 1991)

Branham described the Trinity with the same basic concept of Swedenborg (who also believed in three manifestations). Swedenborg "*Three oranges do not make a trinity; but one orange does, if you consider its skin, its flesh, and its pips or seeds. Three people do not make a trinity; but one person does, if you consider his soul, his body, and his influence or outflowing life.*"(ibid.)

This is nearly identical to Branham's teaching of man being made a trinity.

Swedenborg was of the same opinion that The Trinity is not three persons, *it is the emanation of the one Divine from the eternal down to us.* That there is no Son of God. At the baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:2) the Holy Spirit entered him. The apostles only baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. The soul is a finite vessel containing God's life. In fact when one reads Swedenborg's works there are too many uncomfortable similarities, including visions and visualization. Swedenborg was a medium.

Branham was well aware of what he is describing is different than the Bible as he further explains, "*Now, of course, there is things that God has revealed, and I'm not wanting you to think that I'm a mystic; I am not a mystic. I am a child of God by faith in Jesus Christ. But there's things in the spiritual world that you can't speak out to people. The closest person to me, I guess, in the world is my son and my wife, as I know of, my mother. And they don't know no more about it, and I've told them no more than I tell you, because it's an individual affair." (52-0713A, Early Spiritual Experiences, Civic Center, Hammond, IN)*

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



Clearly Branham kept secrets about the angel and the other things he saw and heard.

Say the secret word

'Have you noticed, always, after I ask or rebuke over a spirit, I'm always perfectly silent for a few moments? Who's noticed that in the meetings, let's see your hands. Have you noticed that?'

*"Now, here's what it is. There's **three words that I have to repeat at that time.** See? And it's the **three high words of the Bible. No mortal on earth know it.** See? And when I ask that, and then I feel that drop, **then it comes shakes back to a place in return of that spirit.** Then the...?... healed. That's the reason you hear me say that. See? That's what takes place." He says I "repeat these three words that the Angel of the Lord told me to repeat." (Experiences, Phoenix, AZ, 48-0302 (emphasis added)*

*"No mortal on earth know it," but they are words from the Bible? He is the **only one on earth** that knows these "secret" words. He also appears to indicate that if he doesn't say these secret words, what is supposed to happen will not.*

Is there such a thing as "high words" in the Bible? No there are not. Are there words God has given that have power like this?

John 18:19-21 *"The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing."*

Secret words that no one can know from the Bible – is a practice found in Occultism. This is similar to those who claim to say God's Hebrew name accurately brings power. There are no secret words from the Bible. But Branham was told these by his angel. What does that tell us? That he was trafficking in an Occult worldview and the power and experiences he received, though he believed

they were from God and tried to explain it as from Bible, they were indeed not!

Branham used the concept of three words in his teaching but apparently these words were not as powerful as the ones from the Angel, but they were not secret. Branham used a phrase, a text of three words from the beginning or the last in a text "From That Time," "It Is I," "Be Not Afraid. He said, Three words, 'I use them a lot of times: Believeest thou this?' and, "Come, See A Man." (that's 4)

For example: "Hear Ye Him." *I go back again tonight with a very small text for such an audience, three words. But they're ... If we can have obedience to those three words tonight, you'll see a repeat of Pentecost in this building." (60-0313, Hear Ye Him, Madison Square Garden, Phoenix, AZ)*

No wonder he taught everything of God is in three's, God's always in threes, God does everything in threes. Wow, speak these three words and Pentecost is repeated! God never said such a promise.

Consider this story from an eye witness:

"So Branham was getting pretty tired, praying for one after the other. And he was trying to cast a deaf and dumb spirit out of this woman. He prayed and nothing happened. At least to him, nothing happened. And then we just waited a bit, and then he said, "Folks," he said, "I want every eye closed this time. I'm going to pray again. We want this woman healed." He said, "I want every eye closed." And he said, "I can't do this unless every eye is closed."

At this time I was standing right in front of Branham with the person he was praying for between us ... Branham on the little platform there and the person between us he was praying for. I was, say, six feet from Branham, five or six feet from him. And while I was waiting for him to finish up praying for this lady, he asked the people,

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



"Please close your eyes." He was going to pray for her the second time, which he did. And once again he said, "This woman can't be healed like this. Somebody is still looking." He said, "I want every eye closed." Now I thought the reason was in reverence to God, respect to God, wanting prayer answered, and so on; but here he came out with something else. "The reason that I want every eye closed is that the angel that gave me this gift gave me some words that I must say to cast off this deaf and dumb spirit; and I'm not suppose to reveal those words to any human being."

He said, "The reason I ask you to close your eyes is so you will not read my lips when I say those words."

Well, you know, when he said that--and I'm right in front of him, no mistaking, I heard this; I was so close to him.; I wasn't way back in the audience, or anything; I'm right there--I said to myself, "Wait a minute. What is this?"

Publicly he said, "In the name of Jesus Christ, I command thee, thou foul, deaf and dumb spirit, come out of this woman." You know, he said it really loud, and with authority, but in the name of Jesus Christ. But that didn't do it. Obviously there was something else that was needed. And under his breath he said--well, you name it, whatever it was, something like "hocus, pocus", something that was given to him that was superior to the name of Jesus Christ, in his line of thinking.

This is what the angel told him. And this is the only thing that would do the job. Well, when he said that, that just hit me so hard. I said to myself, "There's something wrong here. Is there anything greater than the name of Jesus Christ?" What can be greater? To me, the name of Jesus Christ is all powerful, it is the authority, the final authority. There's nothing greater. And here he had something else that was greater. The name of Jesus Christ didn't do it; he had to go resort to some other

statements, some hocus pocus stuff that did the job.

Well, immediately I said within myself that this is occultism, this is spiritism, this is witchcraft, this is not Christian. It can't be. If the name of Jesus Christ doesn't do it, then it's something else. And that's what it was. So I became very suspicious."

WILLIAM BRANHAM HEALING MEETING:
EYEWITNESS REPORT By A. H. Pohl O'
TIMOTHY

https://www.wayoflife.org/reports/william_branhams_bogus_healings.html

So we have an eyewitness to the secret words Branham spoke.

Further Occult metaphysical connections Edgar Cayce, a psychic reader

Ern Baxter ministered with Branham several months each year from 1947 until 1953. Whenever Ern Baxter was given a card containing information on the individual's medical history, he testified "*that he never saw Branham's diagnosis miss once,*" in every case he correctly diagnosed the disease without ever knowing what was on the card in his hand. Branham attributed it to his angel who he also called the pillar of fire.

One needs to look no further than the psychic Edgar Cayce to see another similar gifting in operation. Cayce could diagnose someone's sickness he never met, some who were thousands of miles away at the time. Again, accuracy does not always prove something is from God.

Like Branham, Edgar Cayce was also born in Kentucky, in 1877, and lived around the same time. Cayce, who was brought up in Christianity, became a psychic, allegedly cured people while in a TRANCE, also being unconscious.

At age 13, while sitting at his regular reading place in the woods, an "angelic" woman appeared in white clothing with wings on her back who told him, "*Your prayers have been heard. Tell me what you would like most of all, so that I may give it to you.*" Frightened, he said he "*wished to help others,*

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



especially sick children." The woman then vanished. The similarity of the gift to Branham's experiences should not be overlooked.

At his 16th birthday, he was able to diagnose and prescribe remedies for illnesses. He would enter a trance state and be given the diagnosis. In this induced state he was diagnosing illnesses and prescribing treatment for physical problems that he was completely uneducated on, on both medicine and anatomy. He had no idea what he was saying while he was asleep and this earned him his title: "The Sleeping Prophet."

After 22 years of readings that were devoted to health issues (1923) Cayce was asked by Arthur Lammers to do a reading for him. Lammers probed the sleeping Cayce about spiritual topics like astrology, theosophy, mysticism, reincarnation, yoga, alchemy, the cabala, the mystery religions, and various other things subjects to the Occult. When the reading was over and Cayce read the answers he had given to the questions by Lammers he was both amazed and frightened. These new readings supported all sorts of occult beliefs. Cayce said to Lammers: *"But what you've been telling me today, and what the readings have been saying, is foreign to all I've believed and been taught, and all I've taught others, all of my life. If ever the Devil was going to play a trick on me, this would be it."*
Underline mine

Cayce said this because he was raised in strict nineteenth century Bible tradition of Christian fundamentalism. He then became deeply concerned about all this and especially about what he said on reincarnation. The years of him reading the Bible were being directly challenged. When he discovered his subconscious (or as some interpreted as the universal consciousness) spoke of the ancient mystic religions to be true he was repulsed. But instead of listening to his immediate instinct, which could have been discernment, Cayce accepted the various explanations on the spiritual matters he spoke while in a trance. He allowed himself to be influenced and turned away from a literal interpretation of the Bible to a mystical spiritualized reinterpretation. He believed that if the health readings were true, that the new information coming

from what he called "life readings" must also be true.

Over the course of forty three years (1901 to 1944), Cayce gave a total of 14,246 psychic readings, while in a trance. Although the majority (70 percent of his readings) were medical diagnosis and advice on their health, other subjects pertained to philosophy and religion. The majority of Cayce's "readings" were transcribed and catalogued and stored at A.R.E. (The Association for Research and Enlightenment founded in 1931) in Virginia Beach, Virginia. A sleeping prophet he WAS NOT- Whatever was using and speaking through Cayce we know it was not God's Spirit for it denied the prophets and the word of God, a good portion of his information was channeled, especially about the future. Yet it is said he was right on all his readings.

Cayce's readings explain that the light of Christ first incarnated in Poseidia in Atlantis around 106,000 B.C. to help souls who had lost their conscious connection with God and were trapped in matter.

Q. Please give the important re-incarnations of Adam in the world's history.
A. In the beginning as Amilius, as Adam, as Melchizedek, as Zend [?], as Ur [?] as Asaph [?] as Jesus [Jeshua] - Joseph - Jesus. 364-7 April 5, 1932

According to Cayce, Jesus and Adam were different incarnations of the same soul, as were Eve and the Virgin Mary (Jesus' twin soul). Thus was Jesus able to atone for the "sin of Adam."

Q. When did the knowledge come to Jesus that he was to be the Savior of the world?

A. When he fell in Eden. [2067-7]

Clearly he is referring to Adam as an incarnation.

Cayce also had revelations and visions, He said Jesus' message was that "ye are gods" (John 10:34). *For ye are gods. Find self.* (2583-1)

That all humans can be as God in body, mind and spirit, just as Jesus was. *"For ye are a corpuscle in the body of God; thus a co-creator with Him, in what ye think, in what ye do."* (Edgar Cayce reading 2794-3)

The readings explained that Jesus was the Son of God, and stated the same thing about each of us. In

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:
A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



other words: Jesus was like each one of us and, ultimately, each one of us is destined to be like Him. Cayce made Christ to be the ideal for man and a pattern toward which everyone should aspire: a living presence to guide people toward their "at-one-ment" with God. This Christ pattern he described as "*the awareness within each soul, imprinted in pattern on the mind and waiting to be awakened by the will, of the soul's oneness with God.*" (5749-14)

According to Cayce's readings Jesus was the created being. It is where the divine and human unity was attained.

Q. *Jesus was made perfect, God came into His Own. We are men not yet perfect, god not yet equal to God. He represents our so-called future, the path to the Throne?*

A. *Correct. He is the path to the throne, in that we, man, must become as the One as directs the way.*

Q. *... Like us, Jesus was both God and Man until He became God alone?*

A. *Correct.* (Edgar Cayce Reading 900-100)

"For the Master, Jesus, even the Christ, is the pattern for every man in the earth, whether he be Gentile or Jew, Parthenian or Greek. For all have the pattern, whether they call on that name or not; but there is no other name given under heaven whereby men may be saved from themselves." (Edgar Cayce Reading 3528-1)

What we find is that false prophets and teachers always have the nature of God and Christ wrong but they will use Biblical terms as much as possible to disguise their errors.

"Christ [the spirit] is the Universal Consciousness of love that we see manifested in those who have forgotten self, as Jesus [the man], give themselves that others may know the truth. He [Jesus] came into the Earth that we, as soul-entities, might know ourselves to be ourselves, and yet one with him; as he, the Master, the Christ, knew himself and yet one with the Father." (Readings 1376-1 and 3003-1)

Cayce predicted the beginning and end of both the First and Second World Wars, and the lifting of the Depression in 1933. In the 1920s, he first warned of

coming racial strife in the United States, and in 1939 he predicted the deaths of two presidents in office.

In October 1935, Cayce spoke of the coming holocaust in Europe. The Austrians and Germans, he said later the Japanese would take sides.

The object lesson learned from Cayce is that he became convinced by his spiritual experiences. They began when he was a child and continued through his adult life. He had fallen for the idea: *if its real- it must be true.* He never tested his experiences to see if they were from God or from another spiritual source, unfortunately he became an example of what not to do.

Branham has many similarities from his childhood. Branham gave accurate words of people's lives, which then were understood as being from God. The Biblical test was ignored. Branham did not attribute the supernatural works, miracles and words of knowledge he manifested to a gift coming from the Holy Spirit. He attributed them to his angel (whom he also called the Holy Spirit and Jesus); his gift was at work even before he was professed Christ.

Like Cayce, Branham has his own view on reincarnation. Speaking of Abraham and Sarah laughing at the message of her conceiving "*See the nature of the Angel? Who was that Angel? It was God. Remember, Abraham called Him, "Lord." And the translation there is Elohim, the great mighty Jehovah. It was Jesus Christ reincarnated.*" (58-0309E, Will The Church Go Before The Tribulation? Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, IN)

To be reincarnated means one takes another body after the other is disposed of, usually by death. In other words this was God in a body after occupying another body. His conclusion was arrived at because he said God always had flesh.

Branham did not believe in reincarnation of species but he had no problem applying it to God's Spirit forming other human bodies to dwell in.

"And several hundred years later, He come out in John the Baptist. Is that right? And is predicted to

Man and his Angel

A Biblical examination of William Branham's Practices and Teachings:

A Compendium of the Prophets legacy



come out again in the last day. Is that right? God takes His man, but not His Spirit. His Spirit remains here.” (51-0717 The Manifestation Of The Spirit, Civic Auditorium, Toledo, OH)

Branham may have denied reincarnation but transmigration may be a better description for what he just explained for John the Baptist being Elijah.

“Many times it gets you so weak... I realize I can't last many years like this, friend. It burns your life right out of you. Many of you might not understand why that sometimes they have to pack me off this platform. That's one case of that demon leaving that man just then, that's got me reeling, staggering. See? The human part's gone; the supernatural comes in and works through human flesh, not the human flesh, but the supernatural working through. “See, you got to break into a sphere that people know nothing about. There's no need of trying to explain it; you don't know it; it won't be known. After I'm gone this will come upon someone else. All right.” (51-0930, Expectation, St. Nicholas Arena, New York, NY).

Was this slip of words that it will come upon another after he is gone? Was it a warning to others? Remember he was physically overcome by this gift, he was not in control. Look at how Branham described how he felt under the influence of the visions, *“I realize I can't last many years like this, friend. It burns your life right out of you.”*

There are many through history like Emanuel Swedenborg, Edgar Cayce and Joseph Smith. Satan has many firebrands lit hoping that one will rise in prominence to darken and pollute the truth. Though there may not be one as William Branham today, there are many with the same spiritual endeavors.

You can expect in the last days many who would want this prominence and power.